



Minutes of the Maryland State Library Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Virtual Board Meeting

Opening

The Maryland State Library Board met in regular session on Tuesday, June 29, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. virtually through Google Meets. The following members were in attendance: Ms. Heidi Daniel, Ms. Laura Hicks, Mr. Jim Fish, Ms. Sharon Maneki, Ms. Sharan Marshall, Mr. Albert Martin, Ms. Morgan Miller, Mr. Wilson Parran, Ms. Lynn Wheeler, Mr. Robert Windley and Ms. Irene Padilla, State Librarian.

Dr. Brian Butler, UMD iSchool, Mr. Elliott Schoen, Principal Counsel, Office of the Attorney General, and the following MSL staff members were also present: Ms. Donna Liberto, Mr. John Owen, and Dr. Tamar Sarnoff.

Ms. Marshall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the State Library Board of March 15, 2021 were considered. Mr. Martin moved to approve the minutes; Mr. Fish seconded. The motion received unanimous approval. The minutes of the State Library Board Special Meeting of April 22, 2021 were considered. Mr. Fish moved to approve the minutes; Mr. Parran seconded. The motion received unanimous approval.

Board Nominating Committee Report

The Board Nominating Committee put forth the following board officer names for consideration for fiscal year 2022:

- Ms. Marshall, Chair
- Ms. Wheeler, Vice-Chair

Election of State Board Officers

Mr. Martin opened the discussion of the election of State Library Board officers and the candidates were considered. Mr. Martin moved to accept the Board Nominating Committee's recommendations to elect Ms. Marshall as Chair and Ms. Wheeler as Vice-Chair for fiscal year 2022. Ms. Maneki seconded. The motion received unanimous approval.

Legislative Issues

§23-107 Maryland State Library Board

The State Library Board reviewed and discussed the legislation in regard to representation on the board. The question is to replace a representative from the Maryland Higher Education Commission with a representative from the Congress of Academic Library Directors. Ms. Wheeler moved to change the representation;



Mr. Fish seconded. The motion received unanimous approval.

§23-206 Cooperative Library Corporations

Proposed changes to the document for corporation for §23-206 were discussed. Mr. Parran asked if there would be changes to §23-202. Ms. Marshall answered that the State Board was only reviewing §23-206 at this time. Ms. Padilla acknowledged that §23-202 would need further discussion however, she advised that compliance is a big issue and that it needed to be included in the law as soon as possible. Mr. Martin requested that §23-206 be revised to reflect the removal of the reference to §23-202. Mr. Martin moved to accept §23-206 as amended. Mr. Parran seconded. The motion received unanimous approval.

Board Members Travel Reimbursement Policy

Ms. Liberto reviewed the Travel Reimbursement Policy with the State Board. Ms. Liberto provided the board with Memo dated May 10, 2021. She advised the board of the forms needed for each board member to be entered into the State of Maryland General Accounting System for payment. She also advised the board that scanned copies of receipts were appropriate and that once the federal and state forms were filled out and submitted to MSL, the need to resubmit the forms is not necessary.

State Librarian's Update

Personnel

We have welcomed the following new staff:

- Korie Harrison, Administrative Specialist II, Administrative Specialist II, Finance and Support Services

Employee Work Status:

Effective June 1, the State moved from Elevated Level II - Flexible Operations to normal Level II of the Pandemic Flu and Other Infectious Diseases Policy. With this movement, mandatory telework is no longer in effect; however, flexible operations and telework are still permitted where appropriate.

- We anticipate moving back to Level I - Normal Operations of the Policy on July 1.
 - Of course, what we now consider "normal operations" will be changed by our successes working under the constraints of a worldwide pandemic. Our new normal will include flexible operations and schedules and more expansive telework options because the market will require us to keep pace with other employers in order to recruit and retain high caliber employees.
 - Screening procedures in state owned facilities will continue until further notice.
 - In general, Maryland state employees are no longer required to wear masks while working in state owned and leased facilities.
 - Additionally, visitors to these facilities are not required to wear masks.
 - While the continued use of masks will be voluntary, anyone who is unvaccinated (state employees, staff, and the public) are strongly encouraged to continue to wear masks in state owned and leased buildings.
 - For fully vaccinated employees and visitors, physical distancing is no longer required.
 - Physical distancing is strongly encouraged for non-vaccinated employees and visitors.
- MSL intends to implement the return of LBPD and Charles St. employees to the office



beginning July 1.

Reopening Maryland Libraries

- All libraries are now open to the public in a variety of ways. Some are offering appointments during limited hours and putting their bookmobiles back on the road. Others plan to reopen for limited browsing and computer access. Libraries continue to offer a combination of services including contactless/curbside services at their branches in addition to providing WiFi hotspots, WiFi -enabled devices such as Chromebooks, contactless printing services, 3D printing pickup, activity kits, virtual reference, and virtual programming.
- Systems are thinking about how to accommodate summer programs and how to open
- Garrett County has already reopened for full service and some libraries are on target to reopen fully in June. Overall, community support continues to be immense.

State FY 2022 Operating BUDGET

- The Governor's FY 2022 Operating Budget was approved as presented by the General Assembly during the 2021 session. This funding includes additional State funds to support the increases to the Public Libraries–Aid to Education program (Education Article, §23-505 of the Code of Maryland Regulations) and the Regionals. SLRC is flat funded pending outcomes of the FY21 legislative session (Education Article, §23-205 of the Code of Maryland Regulations).
- This budget also includes a slight increase for LBPD to reflect 25% of the amount budgeted for the State Library Resource Center, \$235,000 for the Deaf Culture Digital Library, \$3 million to continue the increased operating hours at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, funding for the Library Associate Training Institute (LATI) program and funding for the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) program.
- The FY22 Final State Aid calculations were issued to the library systems in May.

Federal FY 2021 Budget

- MSL's FFY2021 LSTA Award is \$3,124,301. This is a \$27,384 increase over FFY2020.

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)

- Maryland's portion of this funding is \$3.3 million.
- ARPA funds are intended to be used much like the CARES Act funds from FY 2020. There is no match requirement for these funds.
- IMLS sees this funding opportunity as a logical extension of the rapid and intentional roll-out of CARES Act funds last year, which helped address digital inequities, respond to COVID-19, and stimulate the economy in communities across the U.S.
- We have to use the ARPA funds within two years.
- The other provision of this bill is the **State Broadband Deployment and Broadband Connectivity grants** to bridge the digital divide and ensure affordable access to broadband during the COVID 19 pandemic.
- The Act contains appropriations of **\$7.17 billion** to be used to support the E-rate program for "Emergency Educational Connections and Devices."
- The FCC has promulgated rules for eligible libraries and schools to obtain this funding. We are working with our E-rate consultant, Linda Schatz, EdTech Strategies, and plan to offer a webinar on the program as soon as we have more information.
- Unlike the current E-rate program, the Recovery Act calls for 100% of the costs associated with eligible items under this program to be covered with the exception that such a request for a reimbursement is "reasonable."



- In the meantime, the legislation states that support for libraries will be for use by “patrons of the library at locations that include locations other than the library” and we know that these funds are available for the “Covid-19 Emergency Period” which is defined as the date the Secretary of HHS declared that a public health emergency exists. It will end on the June 30 that occurs 1 year after the date on which that emergency declaration (and any renewals of such declaration) exist.
- These are additional funds, and are not from contributions that fund the existing E-rate program which we understand will continue to function as it has in the past.
- The legislation specifically defines the following terms:
 - “**Connected devices**” are defined as “a laptop computer, tablet computer, or similar end-user device that is capable of connecting to advanced telecommunications and information services.”
 - “**Eligible equipment**” means “Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers, devices that combine a modem and router and connected devices.
 - “**Wi-Fi hotspots**” means a device “that is capable of (A) receiving advanced telecommunications and information services; and (B) sharing such services with connected devices through the use of WiFi.”

Capital Grants Program/ Facilities Development

Current Projects

- Construction is underway on libraries in six counties: Allegany - LaVale expansion and renovation; Anne Arundel - new Riviera Beach; Baltimore - Reisterstown renovation; Queen Anne’s - Kent Island expansion and renovation; Harford - Abingdon HVAC replacement is scheduled for completion this month; and Carroll - Westminster renovation is scheduled for completion in late September.
- Design is at 30% construction documents (CD) in Frederick County for the new Middletown Library and at 100% CD in Calvert County for the new Twin Beaches Library. Design of Baltimore County’s Catonsville Library renovations is at 90% CD, but the project is delayed due to a slope issue with the sanitary line. Baltimore County now expects to begin construction in the fall.

FY 2022 Capital Budget

- The Capital Budget for FY 2022 was adopted with \$2,500,000 in supplemental funding in addition to the \$5,000,000 mandated for the program.
- Six awards in six counties totaling \$7,500,000 will be taken to the Board of Public Works for final approval on July 7, 2021: Allegany - \$1,960,000 to complete construction and furnish the LaVale Library expansion and renovation; Anne Arundel - \$1,000,000 to complete construction and furnish the new Riviera Beach Library; Calvert - \$2,000,000 to begin construction of the new Twin Beaches Library; Caroline - \$101,000 to design renovations of the Denton Library; Frederick - \$2,309,000 to begin construction of the new Middletown Library; and, Queen Anne’s - \$130,000 to complete construction and furnish the Kent Island renovation and expansion.

FY 2023 Capital Grant Cycle

- 6 library systems submitted requests totaling \$10,957,000 for 6 projects on May 21, 2021: Calvert - new Twin Beaches; Caroline - Denton Library renovation; Frederick - new Middletown Library; Harford – Bel Air Library renovation; Prince George’s - new Baden



Library in a different renovated facility; Talbot - St. Michael's Library expansion and renovation.

- The MSL appointed review team met on June 7, 2021 and applicants are currently responding to questions from the committee.
- A funding recommendation will be presented to this Board at the September meeting.

Build America's Libraries Act (S. 127)

- An Op-Ed in support of the proposed legislation appeared in the *Capital Gazette* on 5/4/21.
- Renee Croft is working with ALA's Washington Office to support additional advocacy efforts.

Congratulations to Maryland's 2021 LJ Movers and Shakers!

Library Journal has announced [this year's Movers and Shakers](#). Among the 46 recipients, four award winners are from Maryland's library community:

- [Nini Beegan](#), Maryland State Library Agency, was recognized for her Innovative work.
- [Kathryn Funk](#), National Library of Medicine, was recognized for her Innovative work.
- [Brenda Johnson Perkins](#), Baltimore County Public Library, was recognized for her work in Advocacy.
- [Jennifer Sturge](#), Calvert County Public Schools, was recognized for her work in Education.

Congratulations to each of them!

Public Libraries and State Networking Branch (PLSNB) Programs and Events

- MSL is thrilled to share that four Maryland Librarians were among this year's **Library Journal's Movers and Shakers**, including MSL's own Nini Beegan!
- MSL is preparing for our **IMLS Site Visit** in late August. We're excited to have the opportunity to talk about what we've accomplished as an agency and as a state since our last site visit in October 2017.
- MSL is also ramping up to work on the **LSTA Five-year Strategic Plan**. We are finalizing negotiations with the consultant to help the agency build the plan, and we are working with our neighboring State Library Agencies to find a consultant to conduct the evaluation of the current plan.
- The next **Library Associate Training Institute (LATI)** virtual graduation is scheduled for Wednesday, June 16th.
- Small statewide work groups have been formed to look at **Tuition Reimbursement and Board Training**.
- LSTA Grants Coordinator Mary Rayme held an online Q&A on Tuesday, May 11 for Maryland libraries about the opportunities of **Television White Space (TVWS)** with [Gigabit Library](#) co-founder, Don Means. Driven by one of the goals of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the new Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) and changing guidance for E-Rate, the main purpose was to explore ways for libraries to bridge the digital divide by extending internet access into the communities they serve.
- Mary Rayme held a special E-Rate webinar on Tuesday, May 25, on the **Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF)** and the potential benefits for Maryland public libraries. Aleck Johnson of EdTech Strategies presented about [ECF](#) which has launched a \$7.17 billion program to close the homework gap.
- Maryland State Library was one of five state libraries selected to participate in the national **Transformation for Libraries** pilot project hosted by the Connecticut State



Library with grant funding from the IMLS. Thirty Maryland library staff participated in a three-day accelerator program focused on future thinking and foresight tools. To prepare for this project, MSL sponsored *Executive University: Strategic Foresight* to engage library administrators in the project.

- *What's Now: What's Next* webinar series continued with Kristin Fontichiaro, iSchool, University of Michigan, presenting **Communicating Impact 2: Helping Stakeholders See the Data in Your Story** during May with 92 registrants. It was very well received.
- Webinars to support **library staff resilience** were offered during April, including *Re-envisioning Resilience*, *Become the Narrator of Your Story* and *Responding to Mental Health Crisis*. Registration for both reached capacity.

Grants

- The **ARPA-LSTA Competitive Grants Cycle** opened recently. There are over 50 grant applications on the new grants portal with a request value of almost \$9 million.
 - MSL is planning on announcing grant awards at the end of June. The grants will be available from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.
 - Dozens of innovative and creative proposals have been submitted. Generally, they fall into the following categories: Outreach Vehicles, Digital Equity, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Space Planning.
- Tamar Sarnoff, Director, held two **brown bag webinars** in May for people interested in applying for funds to support outreach vehicles and another session on issues on Digital Equity.
- Mary Rayme, Grants Coordinator, and Kevin Middleton, Computer Network Specialist, took the new, Salesforce based **Electronic Grants Management System (EGMS)** live in May. This new EGMS allows MSL to have a one-stop-shop where grantees may manage all components of their grants, including creating and submitting applications, reimbursement requests, and all reports. The goal is to streamline the grants process for customers and MSL staff, and to have a central repository of grant documents for library users and MSL. All applicants were able to submit their applications without incident!
- On Thursday, May 20, Mary held an online webinar to train library users on **how to apply for a grant** using the new EGMS. Research & Evaluation Coordinator Yana Demireva also introduced outcomes and output worksheets for grantees to use when reporting on grants.
- MSL is currently managing **four separate IMLS awards**: Grants to States Federal Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021, CARES Act, and ARPA.
- MSL was able to provide more than \$70,000 for staff to attend the **2021 MLA Conference**, and more than \$90,000 for the 2020 MLA Conference during this past year.

Statistics

- The **FY2020 Maryland Public Libraries Survey** has been submitted to IMLS. This is the data set we use to tell the story of Maryland public libraries to stakeholders, and is shared with the Governor's office. For FY2021, the PLS will include new national-level data elements that will provide more detailed data regarding in-person and virtual programs. This will help communicate libraries' impact on their communities in a more nuanced way.



- Research & Evaluation Coordinator Yana Demireva has been developing **new reporting requirements for ARPA grant funds**. This template will help libraries to better communicate the outcomes of their grant-funded projects, allowing stakeholders to see the impact that ARPA and LSTA funds have for libraries and communities. She has also developed assessment tools to complement the [“Re-imagining Youth/Library Services in our Communities in Times of Crises”](#) learning series initiated by Carrie Sanders, which supports re-envisioning library services.
- MSL is developing a **Tableau dashboard for MSL** to assist administrative staff with decision-making around budgets, grants, and PLSNB programming. The first project is the development of a dashboard to assist with visualizing Measuring for Results (MFR) data (MSL’s key performance indicators for the Department of Budget and Management, DBM).

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- MSL has completed the statewide virtual study of the [Project Ready](#) curriculum for working with Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) children. The response has been extremely positive, and we are working with libraries to identify a strategy to offer the program again next year.
- The **Dismantling Institutional Racism** program continued with 1,014 staff members enrolled in the online training and 644 completions to date. Live sessions on supporting topics with representatives from Widerstand Consulting were held including EDI teams training and EDI Audit training. A [free webinar](#) is available that describes the program.

Youth Services

- Carrie Sanders (PLSNB) and LaShawn Myles (LBPD) will be extending their relationship with the **NASA@ My Library** program as members of the National Advisory Panel.
- The animal-themed **2021 Maryland Summer Reading Program**, “Tails and Tales”, includes virtual participation for families and/or physical game boards provided at libraries or via outreach at community meal sites. The Summer Reading Advisory Council prepared a set of Customer and Staff Survey templates for library assessment purposes as well as a “Can-Do” document to support youth service coordinators and youth library staff during these times of continued challenges. The Youth Services Coordinators held their Spring Meeting on April 15, where they shared details regarding summer reading plans; received updates about STEM, Teen Services, and Early Literacy; and discussed ways to continue meeting community needs in months ahead.
- The 2021 **Virtual Teen Connect Week occurred April 6-9**, with sessions every morning and afternoon to highlight programs and foster discussion amongst library staff regarding programs, spaces, partnerships, and advocacy supporting teen services. Over 150 library staff participated throughout the week. Presentations and resources shared are available on the [Teen Connect website](#).
- Carrie Sanders and Kelsey Hughes (PGCMLS) led a 5 week eCourse in April-May on Youth Development through the Young Adult Library Services Association’s (YALSA) **“Transforming Teen Services: A Train the Trainer Approach”**. They are preparing to lead another eCourse this summer on Educational Equity in youth services.



- During the month of June, over 40 library staff are meeting in a **learning series** to review the document, [“Library Staff as Public Servants: A Field Guide for Preparing to Support Communities in Crises.”](#), designed to help public library staff prepare for crises by carrying out four essential tasks: learning about community, co-creating with community, assessing and iterating with community, and designing structures for community. The findings of this project and the suggested tasks in the Guide are applicable for all library staff. The facilitators of the co-design work, Dr. Mega Subramaniam, Associate Professor at the College of Information Studies, University of Maryland, and Linda W. Braun, Learning Consultant with LEO, are participating in the first two sessions of this learning series.

Statewide Programming Update

- A [Maryland Libraries Together](#) webpage has been added to the MSL website featuring the most recent shared statewide programming sponsored in partnership with Maryland public libraries.
 - The second event of the year was held on April 1 with two programs offered.
 - A COVID-19 and Vaccine Information Session was hosted by the Enoch Pratt Free Library.
 - Prince George’s County Memorial Library also hosted [“Viva Latino: Own Voices Writers in Conversation”](#). There was a “live” attendance of 740 and the total number of people who viewed the event as of June 9th was 2,163.
- Virtual Connection and Engagement Training was held for programming staff statewide. MSL sponsored a subscription for each library system to [Play on Purpose](#), which is a database of engaging activities that can be used with staff and community.
- The Statewide Programming group continues to meet bi-weekly to share learning and best practices. A presentation on Volunteer-Led Learning with [Peer-To-Peer University](#), was presented by the Carnegie Library of Philadelphia. A presentation on Outdoor Programming best practices is planned for June.

Library for the Blind And Print Disabled (LBPD) Programs and Events

- LBPD staff is **transitioning to regular work schedules** as the daily impact of the pandemic decreases. Reference desk staff are already on site to take direct calls for a two-hour shift daily (with all desk trained staff continuing to respond to voicemails and emails remotely as has been the model through the pandemic). Technical Services and maintenance staff continue to perform core functions daily. LBPD introduced curbside service on June 7. All staff will return to a regular work schedule by July 1, which in several cases will include hybrid telework. By July 15 at the latest, LBPD anticipates welcoming patron visits, events and meetings. All staff and any contractors coming to the building continue to be verbally screened for COVID-19 according to DBM guidelines.
- LBPD and its patrons encountered **acute mail delays** through April and May, with some patrons experiencing delays of five to six weeks for books and equipment. The issue was brought to postal liaisons in Baltimore. Patrons and library advocates also have contacted post office branches and legislators. Irene Padilla sent a letter to Senators Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin outlining the concerns of the library. John Owen participated in a Zoom meeting hosted by NFB with Senator Van Hollen’s office.



- The **Books on Demand** project continues forward with 275 unique patrons served with this method so far. The LBPD is awaiting a supply order from NLS in order to ramp up the transition.
- The **Maryland Accessible Textbook** program experienced an unsurprising decrease in the student census over the 2020/21 academic year due to the pandemic's effect on universities. Still the program did serve 62 students, converting 4,914 chapters. Present trends in student requests for summer and fall semesters suggest at least a 10% increase in students.
- **Youth Librarian LaShawn Myles** presented to the KLAS User Group Conference on June 8 on the interactive website she created "Enter the OPAC" which teaches youth how to use the KLAS online catalog. She is working on a charter for the Inclusion and Accessibility Community of Practice, composed of library staff members interested in creating accessible programming and spaces for patrons with disabilities. She is also preparing for the Summer Reading Programming around the theme of Tails and Tales, including virtual programs with the National Aquarium. LaShawn also completed leading groups of library staff through Project READY.
- **Outreach and Marketing Librarian Ashley Biggs** has completed revised brochures and fliers for LBPD, reflecting the new name. She has also presented virtually for the Low Vision Support Group, the Montgomery Stroke Association, Maryland Nonprofits and other groups. Ashley has been active along with Mary Rayme in leading a plan to redesign the MSL website. Ashley is also preparing for the adult Summer Reading Programming which will include a virtual program with the International Spy Museum.
- **Assistive Technology Specialist Jerry Price** participated on a panel discussing Accessibility in Virtual Programming on June 8. He has also been working with select patrons on a pilot of Bookshare's new Alexa skill on the Amazon Echo. LBPD offers its patrons free Bookshare accounts. The Technology User Group continues to meet monthly.
- The **Clyde Shallenberger Recording Studio** has obtained five microphone kits to enable more volunteers to record Marylandia content remotely. Studio Manager Andrew Russell and Collection Development Library Jordan Farinelli are also exploring podcasting for LBPD.
- LBPD contributed to the **Sensory Story Path outside Storyville at the Woodlawn Branch** of Baltimore County Public Library. LBPD was approached by Storyville Coordinator Christine Kamt about providing braille overlays in English and Spanish for the book *The Black Book of Colors*. LBPD staff Kevin Middleton and Jerry Price used the Index Braille Embosser to create the clear braille overlays. Storyville held a launch celebration on June 26 for the Sensory Story Path.
- LBPH currently serves **over 6,600 Active Patrons** in every county in the State of Maryland.

Updates

Citizens for Maryland Libraries

Ms. Lynn Wheeler reported to the board that CML board meeting will be held on September 26, 2020 and the annual trustee meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2020.

Ms. Wheeler announced the award winners:

- Alex Daly, Worcester
- Jen Bishop, Carroll County
- Margaret Carty, posthumous
- MCPL Sidewalk Service
- **Stephanie Petruso and ??**, Virtual Programming



- Susan Grant, SMLA, as interim director

Ms. Wheeler announced that she will be stepping down as Executive Director sometime between the next CML conference and the end of the year.

College Of Information Studies (iSchool)

Mr. Brian Butler presented the following iSchool update:

MLIS Program Updates

- The MLIS Program and PhD Program hired an Academic Program Specialist in August 2020. [Jillian Scarson](#) has a BFA in Illustration and a Master's of Library and Information Science from Syracuse University.
- The Program is planning Career-focused Virtual events for current students and friends of the College. Currently an [event on Music Librarianship](#) has been scheduled for 9/25/2020. Lisa Shiota from the Music Library Association will introduce us to music librarianship. Please [register here](#) if you would like to attend. Future events on academic librarianship and working in the government sector are being planned. Please check the [iSchool Events](#) page for updates.
- Faculty are developing and exploring new courses on Race and Gender in North American Libraries and Archives; Critical Theory & LIS, and Race, Gender, & Identity in Academic Libraries.
- A course on “Outreach, Inclusion, and Crowdsourcing” was developed by new assistant professor, Victoria Van Hyning in partnership with the Driskell Center. Students are learning about accessibility and inclusivity, and creating a new text transcription crowdsourcing project featuring the papers of the late artist and professor of art history, David Driskell, who largely defined and expanded the field of African American and Black art.

Student Awards and Recognition

- Tannaz Motevalli (MLA/NLM Scholar) received a 2020 ALA Spectrum Scholarship. [The Spectrum Scholarship Program](#) actively recruits and provides scholarships to American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Middle Eastern and North African, and/or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students to assist them with obtaining a graduate degree and leadership positions within the profession and ALA.
- [Jane Behre](#) and [Sarah McKenna](#), current MLIS students, regularly contribute to the [Hack Library School](#) blog. Sarah also serves as an editor.

Innovations & Service to the State of Maryland

- [Counted In Project](#) led by **Dr. Ana Ndumu** provided \$1000 mini-grants to connect libraries and immigrant organization to provided Census 2020 outreach; partnered librarians in Montgomery County and PG County with Haitian, Ethiopian, Dominican, and other immigrant advocacy groups
- **Dr. Ana Ndumu** and Michele Villagran (SJSU) were awarded an ALISE Community conn@CT Mini-Grant on “Integrating Immigrants into the LIS workforce: A pilot, collaborative project” to provide self-paced mini-course to attract potential librarians to the profession. This is a partnership between REFORMA National’s Education Committee (Ndumu & Villagran), the REFORMA Mid-Atlantic Chapter, and the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System
- PhD student **TJ Rainsford** led an iSchool student team to create a geographical data visualization tool to support Prince George’s County's initiative to fully eliminate traffic



fatalities and serious injuries by 2040. <https://ischool.umd.edu/news/maryland-today-visualizing-vehicle-safety-featuring-tj-rainsford>

- **Dr. Jen Golbeck** appeared on the Netflix series “Connected” discussing data patterns in social media and what they reveal. <https://ischool.umd.edu/news/netflix-series-connected-featuring-jen-golbeck>
- The University of Maryland’s College of Information Studies (iSchool), in collaboration with the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSOS), are launching a Social Data Science Center (SoDa) to help researchers better access, analyze and use powerful social science data. <https://ischool.umd.edu/news/university-maryland-launches-new-social-data-science-center-support-facebook>

Select Research Grants

- **Dr. Jessica Vitak** (PI) received a \$5000 grant from the SSRC Rapid-Response Research Grants 2020 for how COVID-19 is changing workplace surveillance and American workers’ experiences & privacy expectations when working from home. (with Zimmer, M. (Co-PI)).
- **Dr. Vanessa Frias-Martinez** (PI) and **Dr. Jessica Vitak, J.** (Co-PI) received a \$2.35M grant from the National Science Foundation for an inclusive public transit toolkit to assess quality of service across socioeconomic status in Baltimore City. (Erdogan (Co-PI), S., Iyer, S. (Co-PI), & Chavis, C. (Co-PI)).
- **Dr. Mega Subramaniam (Co-PI)** & PhD student **Kelly Hoffman (Co-PI)** received a \$427,062 (sub-award to UMD: \$142,803) grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for connecting small and rural libraries to connected learning (Davis, K. (PI) & Coward, C. (Co-PI)).
- **Dr. Susannah B. F. Paletz.** (PI) received a \$616,700 grant from the Army Research Office for human-agent teaming on intelligence tasks (Porter, A. (Co-PI)).

Faculty Awards / Recognition

- **Dr. Mega Subramaniam** and PhD students **Shandra Morehouse** and **Nisa Asgarali-Hoffman** were [winners of the ALISE/Bohdan S. Wynar Research Paper Competition](#) for their paper about examining vulnerability in youth digital information practices scholarship published in *Children and Youth Services Review* (116).
- **Dr. Jonathan Lazar** is the recipient of the *ACM SIGACCESS Award for Outstanding Contributions to Computing and Accessibility*, and will be giving the keynote speech at the ASSETS conference in October 2020.
- **Dr. Eric Hung** has been appointed to the Editorial Board of *The American Archivist* (2020-23).

Faculty Presentations / Workshops

- **Dr. Susannah B. F. Paletz** along with Auxier, B. E., & Golonka, E. M. gave an invited talk on sharing information online: a multidisciplinary framework for HACK (Helpful Applied Cyber Knowledge) 2020: Adjusting the Lens on Cybersecurity at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Cybersecurity Conference Hosted by the Office of the Chief Information Officer.
- **Dr. Ana Ndumu** coordinated and presented on census outreach for the Black Caucus of the American Library Association's 3-Part Series on “A Critical Moment: Libraries, Civic Engagement, and Black Communities and UMD McKeldin Library Associate Librarian, Tahirah Akbar-Williams moderated the session on Critical Dialogues in Libraries



- Dr. **Ana Ndumu** served as the committee chair for The Serving Refugees Immigrants, and Displaced Persons Committee (SRIDP) of the American Library Association (ALA), which formally partnered with [Welcoming America](#) on the Welcoming Week movement. The [Celebrating Welcoming Week: A Guide for Librarians](#) toolkit was released and was on course to be presented at ALA Annual before COVID-19
- UMD iSchool faculty discussed having confidence in government and institutions despite growing mistrust caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in a panel discussion titled “Confidence in Institutions in a Time of Mistrust”
- **Dr. Eric Hung** will be giving invited talks at the University of Hartford on November 9 (“Documenting Life Beyond Suffering: Recovering the Legacy of the Kim Loo Sisters”), and at Binghamton University in February 2021 (“Beyond Tokenism in Curriculum Revisions”).
- **Dr. Eric Hung**, along with Dr. Nancy Yunhwa Rao (Rutgers University), gave a talk entitled “Chinese American Entertainment During the Exclusion Era” in a talk sponsored by Alexandria Library and the 1882 Foundation.

Faculty Publications

- **Dr. Doug Oard**, along with Tetsuya Sakai and Noriko Kando (eds.), published a book titled *Evaluating Information Retrieval and Access Tasks: NTCIR's Legacy of Research Impact*. Open access: <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9789811555534>
- **Dr. Jessica Vitak**, along with Zimmer, M., published an article titled, “More than just privacy: Using contextual integrity to evaluate the long-term risks from covid-19 surveillance technologies” in the journal *Social Media and Society*.- <https://doi.org/10.1177/2056305120948250>
- **Dr. Jessica Vitak** and **Dr. Yla Tausczik**, along with Huang, X., published a paper titled, “You don't have to know my past: How WeChat Moments users manage their evolving self-presentations” in the *Proceedings of the 2020 Annual Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems* (Paper No. 468). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1145/3313831.3376595>
- **Dr. Jessica Vitak**, along with Wisniewski, P., Badillo-Urquiola, K., & Ashktorab, Z., published a paper titled, “Happiness and fear: Using emotions as a lens to disentangle how users felt about the launch of Facebook reactions” in the journal *Transactions on Social Computing*. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3414825>
- PhD Student **Priya Kumar**, **Dr. Mega Subramaniam**, **Dr. Jessica Vitak**, and **Dr. Tamara Clegg**, along with & Chetty, M., have a publication titled, “Strengthening children’s privacy through contextual integrity” in press with the journal *Media and Communication*.
- **Dr. Mega Subramaniam**, PhD student **Shandra Morehouse**, and PhD Student Nisa **Asgarali-Hoffman**, along with Pang, N., published a paper titled, “Examining vulnerability in youth digital information practices scholarship: What are we missing or exhausting?” in the journal *Children and Youth Services Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.105241>
- Adjunct instructor **Linda Braun** & **Dr. Mega Subramaniam** published an article titled, “The right and wrong way to make decisions in a crisis.”. Available at:



<https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=the-right-and-wrong-way-to-make-decisions-in-a-crisis-reimagining-public-libraries-covid>

- **Dr. Mega Subramaniam** and adjunct instructor **Linda Braun** published an article titled, "Wake up, Libraries – Curbside pick-up is not the answer" in the *School Library Journal*. Available at: <https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=wake-up-libraries-curbside-pickup-is-not-the-answer-reimagining-public-libraries-youth-services>
- **Braun, L.W. & Dr. Mega Subramaniam** published an article titled, "Retire those legacy approaches. It's time to be bold and innovative" in the *School Library Journal*. Available at: <https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=retire-those-legacy-approaches-its-time-to-be-bold-and-innovative-reimagining-libraries>
- **Dr. Mega Subramaniam** and adjunct instructor **Linda Braun** published an article titled, "COVID-19 is an opportunity to rethink youth librarianship: Reimagining libraries" in the *School Library Journal*. Available at: <https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=covid-19-is-an-opportunity-to-rethink-youth-librarianship-reimagining-libraries>
- **Dr. Beth St. Jean, Dr. Ursula Gorham, and Dr. Beth Bonsignore** have a publication titled, *Understanding Human Information Behavior: When, How, and Why People Interact with Information*. in press with Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
- **Dr. Beth St. Jean, Dr. Paul Jaeger, Dr. Gagan Jindal, and PhD Student Yuting Liao** have a publication titled, "Introduction: Libraries and Librarians as Agents of Health Information Justice" in press with *Roles and Responsibilities of Libraries in Increasing Consumer Health Literacy and Reducing Health Disparities (Advances in Librarianship, Volume 47)*. London: Emerald Group Publishing Limited.
- **Dr. Beth St. Jean, Dr. Gagan Jindal, Dr. Paul Jaeger, and PhD Student Yuting Liao**, along with Barnett, B., have a publication titled "Libraries and Librarians as Agents of Health Information Justice: Concluding Thoughts" in press with *Roles and Responsibilities of Libraries in Increasing Consumer Health Literacy and Reducing Health Disparities (Advances in Librarianship, Volume 47)*. London: Emerald Group Publishing Limited.
- **Dr. Gregg Vanderheiden, Dr. Jonathan Lazar, Dr. J. Bern Jordan, and PhD Student Rachel Wood**, along with Ding, Y., with a publication titled "Morphic: Auto-personalization on a global scale" in the *Proceedings of the ACM 2020 Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)*.
- **Dr. Joel Chan, PhD Student Jonathan Brier, Dr. Zarah, Farhadi, Dr. Myeong Lee, PhD Student Shawn Janzen, PhD Student Wei-Wei Chi, Faculty Research Specialist Andrew Fellows, and Dr. Susan Winter** have a publication titled, "A theoretical analysis of independent businesses owners' preferences for informal information sources" for the *Association for Information Science and Technology 83rd Annual Meeting*.
- **Dr. Ana Ndumu and Dr. Paul Jaeger**, along with Dickinson, A. C., have a publication titled, "A critical moment: US Public libraries, public trust, and the 2020 Census" in the journal *The Political Librarian*.
- **Dr. Ana Ndumu** has a publication titled, "Disrupting Digital Divide Narratives: Exploring the US Black Diasporic Immigrant Context" in the journal *Open Information Science*.



- Professor of the Practice **Jason R. Baron**, along with Armstrong, K., have a publication titled, “The Algorithm in the C-Suite: Applying Lessons Learned and Information Governance Best Practices To Achieve Greater Post-GDPR Algorithmic Accountability” in press in A. Taal (Ed.), *Privacy, Technology, and Compliance in an Era of Accelerating Change* with London, Taylor & Francis Group.
- **Dr. Doug Oard** and **Dr. Katie Shilton**, along with Lin, J., Milligan, I., and Ruest, N., have a publication titled, “We could, but should we? Ethical considerations for providing access to GeoCities and other historical digital collections” published in *CHIIR '20: Proceedings of the 2020 Conference on Human Information Interaction & Retrieval*.
- **Dr. Katie Shilton**, Lecturer **Donal Heidenblad**, and Dr. **Susan Winter**, along with Porter, A. & Kendig, M., have a publication titled, “Role-Playing Computer Ethics: Designing and Evaluating the Privacy by Design (PbD) Simulation” in the journal *Science and Engineering Ethics*.

New Faculty Hires

- Jason R. Baron, J.D. (Boston University) hired as professor of the practice in archival science and policy
- Zubin Jelveh, Ph.D. (New York University) hired as an assistant professor in data science and criminal justice with a joint appointment in the UMD College of Behavioral & Social Sciences Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Diana Marsh, Ph.D. (University of British Columbia) hired as an assistant professor in archives and digital curation
- Ryan O’Grady, MLIS (University of Maryland) hired as a lecturer in libraries, information science, and the future of work
- Ido Sivan-Sevilla, Ph.D. (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) hired as an assistant professor in socio-technical aspects of cybersecurity and privacy
- Naghmeh Momeni, Ph.D. (McGill University) hired as a lecturer in data science and social networks
- Victoria Van Hying, Ph.D. (University of Sheffield) hired as an assistant professor in library innovation

Academic Program Facts and Figures

- This fall, we have a total of 1,768 students (36% growth from last fall with 1300 students)
 - BS in Information Science (InfoSci) Shady Grove has 87 students (53 new)
 - InfoSci College Park has 1,211 students (72 new Freshmen and external transfer students)
 - Master of Information Management (MIM) has 46 students (17 new)
 - Human Computer Interaction Masters of Science (HCIM) has 78 students (43 new)
 - MLIS + HILS has 280 students (67 new)
 - PhD in Information Studies has 66 students (20 new)

Dr. Butler advised the board that enrollment in the iSchool has increased. Dr. Butler also discussed the Data Challenge Program (data analytics) for college and high school students. He stated that MSL/MLA handles a lot of professional development that other library schools are managing. The iSchool will be researching the ways that the iSchool can help. Ms. Morgan Miller suggested that Data Challenge focusing on social justice and activism is very exciting.



Enoch Pratt Free Library

Ms. Heidi Daniel provided the following updates:

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Council is developing new programs and training.
- EPFL has a new website and the mobile site is very responsive
- Digital connectivity is creating mesh networks in the Highland Town and Penn North communities.
- The library is advocating long term digital divide solutions.
- The library is hoping to reopen some of the locations, however, there is a custodial staff shortage.
- Health Guidelines means that we will not have enough staff to fully open, but we do have plans to reopen fully by September.
- MILO is now up and running.
- The library has decided to have an outside expert interpret the REALM studies.
- Although most staff is back to work, they are working on an A/B day schedule.
- SLRC/EDI symposium will be held at the end of the month. Roosevelt Weeks and Tonya Aikens will be the key note speakers.
- Three Part Trauma informed care will be in August.
- Delivery Study – Pratt met with the regional libraries and are working on the RFP.
- SLRC Strategic Plan – the group will be working with Harry Christiansen
- SAILOR – the Comcast rates are lower with increased bandwidth for some Eastern Shore systems.
- There is a new vendor for the secondary ISP.
 - Master Facility Plan – we are looking at potential for joint services with other Baltimore City Agencies.
 - Summer Program – The summer program box is available at libraries and recreational centers and also by mail. The box includes t-shirt, books and cards.
 - Surveys regarding databases were sent out for the vendor symposium being held August 31st through September 2nd.
 - MILO/MARINA – Relais' contract has been renewed for Inter Library Loan.
 - Digital Maryland has a new Star Spangled Banner exhibit, Somerset vertical, African-American funeral collection and the Reginald F. Lewis museum collection.
 - Fall Speaker Series – This will be a hybrid for bigger speakers with branch programming and for virtual series.

Maryland Library Association (MLA)

MLA Operations

- All new division officers and leaders were onboarded over the summer. Paula Singer engaged the Executive Board in a professional development session aimed at board effectiveness.

COVID Response

- MLA Offices have been closed since March 14, 2020. Staff continue to work remotely and are doing so very effectively. Their reentry into the MLA office building will be coordinated through Pratt.



- Programs, meetings, and networking events have made a successful shift into the virtual realm and are seeing excellent participation from membership as well as non-members throughout the state. MLA's Membership committee is developing outreach initiatives that leverage the many new opportunities to connect with these potential members.
- MLA continues to deliver a popular weekly series called *MLA Conversations*, hosted by Joe Thompson via Blackboard. The hour-long segment features interviews and conversations with Maryland library leaders.
- Regular Division and Interest Group meetings focus on COVID-related topics and support for members throughout the pandemic.

MLA Conference

- The **2020 Conference** has shifted to a virtual format and launches October 6th. A wide variety of online programs will take place from October-January. Information can be found on the MLA Conference site, <https://www.mladacon.com/conference>. We are extremely grateful for MSL's continued support of MLA conference grants to library systems.
- The **2021 Conference** committee has been actively working to plan the next conference and have selected the theme, "Libraries Without Limits." Conference proposals are currently being accepted. We are planning for the **2022 Conference** to be held in person.
- Susan Cohen won the MLA President's Award.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism Initiatives

- In response to racial violence and unrest throughout the country, MLA issued a statement against racism that can be found here: https://www.mdlib.org/files/docs/mla_statement_against_racism.pdf.
- The current MLA President and Past President sponsored the program "Black Authors Matter," presented by the Readers' Advisory Interest Group (RAIG) in order to make it free for all members. Additional programs have been offered and are being developed by multiple divisions/groups on racial and social justice, diverse literature, and community engagement.
- Under the leadership of Michelle Hamiel, MLA's Equity Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force has been reactivated and will hold its first meeting of the year on September 21st via Zoom. Michelle Hamiel and Morgan Miller provided training on planning inclusive events and activities to all MLA leaders responsible for program development.
- Ms. Hamiel has become an official member of the ALA Black Caucus.
- Executive Leadership Orientation was held on June 23rd and June 30th.

Library Legislation

- The Legislative Panel held its first meeting of the year on September 11th. Andrea Berstler, past president of MLA, was appointed Chair. In addition to identifying legislative priorities for the year, the panel is also working to develop new platforms and strategies for engaging with legislators. At this point, it is likely that the annual Maryland Library Legislative Day in February will become a virtual event.
- Any additional federal aid to libraries as part of a COVID relief package will likely be delayed until after the November presidential election.



Other News

- Divisions, Panels, and Interest Groups have already hosted a number of outstanding programs this year. Some highlights include the Library Advocacy Interest Group's two-day Advocacy Academy (in partnership with ALA) and Black Eyed Susan Tapestry book discussions through the Children's Services Division. The Intellectual Freedom Panel will offer "Defend Intellectual Freedom: A Challenge Response Toolkit for Libraries" in October.
- Ms. Miller stated that MLA's goal is to be "anti-fragile." In other words, to be beyond agile.

MLA Legislative and Advocacy Issues

Ms. Miller reported that MLA is moving to new platforms and forming new relationships. They are working on developing new library champions. She also stated that MLLD may not be held in person and will most likely be held virtually.

School Library Media

Ms. Hicks presented the following MSDE updates:

- The focus of the school librarians is in supporting the teachers. She also shared that the School Media Recovery plan has been published. Ms. Hicks shared that NC State's Friday Institute is offering a six week, one credit class on teaching online.
- The new Superintendent, Mohammed Choudhury, will start on Thursday, July 1st.

Ms. Hicks presented the following MSDE updates:

- **School Library Media (SLM) Online Reporting** – The Annual Survey closed June 30th. The summary report is available on the [MSDE SLM Publications and Resources Page](#). 98% of the expected schools were able to complete a report, despite school closures.
- **New Learning Management System (LMS) / Position** - A contract for the LMS has been extended but is not yet finalized. Interviews for the LMS administrator position occurred last week with second interviews to come later in September.
- **Continuity of Learning** -
 - [School Library Media Together Recovery plan](#) - Through a collaborative effort and input from Maryland's Local School Systems, the Office of Instructional Technology and School Library Media developed a comprehensive recovery plan to support all school library media specialists, educators, and administrators. This plan includes return-to-school scenarios (face-to-face and remote) that address the multiple roles of the librarian as well as activities that can strengthen daily instruction and provide additional support to the classroom teacher.
 - *Teaching Remotely: A Practical Guide* - This one-credit course is offered by the Friday Institute at NC State University in collaboration with MSDE. During this six week course, participants will learn best practices, resources, and strategies related to successfully setting up distance learning classrooms.
 - *Professional Learning for Remote Teaching Portal* - In response to teachers' identified professional learning needs, the Office of Instructional Technology and School Library Media created the [Professional Learning for Remote Teaching Portal](#). This portal offers professional learning webinars, courses, and activities contributed by Maryland's local school systems, individual educators, and quality educational organizations.
- **Upcoming meetings and important dates:**



- The first combined OITSLM meeting for the 2020-2021 school year will be held virtually on October 29th. The School Library Media Supervisors will be meeting monthly to discuss topics of interest.

MDK12 Digital Library

- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).** The updated MOU has been signed by 22 of the 24 LSSs and 17 private schools to date.
- **Upcoming meetings:**
 - Vendor Day - October 19th
 - Follow up meeting Nov 5th
 - RFQ reviews - Feb 4
 - End of the year meeting May 6

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS (MASL)

Ms. Hicks presented an update on behalf of Ms. Tignor and Melissa Daggett:

- October 19th conference will be a full day event and will be recorded. There is a \$35.00 registration fee and the recording will be available for one year.
- Their key note speaker is a Lilliad fellow, Ann Weeks from IMLS.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jim Fish will not seek reappointment. He has agreed to remain on the board until a replacement is found.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were submitted.

STATE LIBRARY BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES

Ms. Padilla will be sending invites to all of the board meetings for FY2022.

FY2022 MEETING CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Monday, March 14, 2022

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

MEETING ADJOURNED

Ms. Marshall adjourned the meeting at 12: