Minutes of the Maryland State Library Board Meeting

Monday, March 15, 2021

Virtual Board Meeting

Opening

The Maryland State Library Board met in regular session on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. virtually using Google meeting software. The following members were in attendance:

Ms. Sharan Marshall, Chair, Ms. Heidi Daniel, Mr. James Fish, Ms. Laura Hicks, Ms. Sharon Maneki, Mr. Al Martin, Ms. Morgan Miller, Mr. Wilson Parran, Ms. Brittany Tignor, Ms. Lynn Wheeler, Mr. Rob Windley, and Irene Padilla, State Librarian.

Dr. Brian Butler, representing board member Dr. Keith Marzullo, Mr. Stephen Miller representing CALD, and the following staff members were also present: Ms. Nini Beegan, Dr. Tamar Sarnoff, Mr. John Owen, and Ms. Donna Liberto.

Ms. Marshall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and introduced the representative from the Congress of Academic Library Directors (CALD), Mr. Steven Miller.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the State Library Board meeting of December 10, 2020 were considered. Mr. Martin moved to approve the minutes; Mr. Fish seconded. The motion received unanimous approval.

MSL Statement on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

- Ms. Padilla introduced Ms. Nini Beegan, Organizational Learning & Innovation Coordinator, PLSNB, as the representative for the MSL Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force to present the Maryland State Library Agency's proposed Statement of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Statement (EDI). Ms. Beegan reviewed each part of the statement along with each member of the task force's interpretations. Ms. Beegan also presented to the board the definition of anti-ableism. Ms. Marshall and Mr. Martin thanked Ms. Beegan for providing the definition of anti-ableism.
- Mr. Fish moved that the MSL EDI statement be approved by the board; Ms. Morgan seconded the motion. The motion received unanimous approval by the board.
- Ms. Beegan thanked the board and stated that the next phase of the task force will be EDI training. Ms. Padilla stated that most Maryland Library Systems have EDI statements. The University of Maryland's EDI statement can be found at the following link: https://www.lib.umd.edu/about/deans-office/diversity.

Regional Resource Center Analysis

Sharan Marshall presented the board with the Regional Resource Center Analysis. Ms. Marshall asked the questions, "Why are we doing this?" and "What applies to the regional

libraries versus the library systems?" Ms. Marshall explained that the analysis was done to clean up the statute. Library statute clearly defines the county library boards but does not adequately address the regional library boards. The statute needs to clarify the benefits of the regional libraries for the state legislators. One possible item would be that the State Library Board should appoint the regional board members. Although there are no recommendations at this time, Irene Padilla, State Librarian, offers the following analysis:

- This revised statute will increase the profile of the regional libraries
- The elements of the statute that need to be addressed
- Meeting individually with the regional library directors
- Working with the Assistant Attorney General for the State Library Agency
- Proposal for the Board at the June board meeting
- Forward changes to the legislation by late August 2021 for consideration in the 2022 session of the General Assembly.

There were no questions from the board and no action required of the board at this time. Mr. Martin stated that he is looking forward to the recommendations.

State Librarian's Update
Personnel
Positions pending hire include:
- Administrative Specialist II, Finance (under a hiring freeze)

Employee Work Status:
- Ten MSL emergency essential employees continue to report to the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD) facility, as needed, to process delivery, send out books to patrons, and maintain the facility. The remaining staff continue to telework.
- Per a directive from Secretary Brinkley, DBM, on January 26, 2021 the names of MSL employees interested in receiving the vaccine were forwarded in priority order to the MEMA State Continuity Program Office. The first tier, consisting of key agency staff (those who come into the office), have all either received their vaccines or are scheduled to do so. Tier two, consisting of employees successfully teleworking, don't expect to receive the vaccine until March or later. Tier three consists of the people who don't want the vaccine at this time. At this time, approximately 50% of the staff are in the process of receiving the vaccine!

Reopening Maryland Libraries
- All libraries are providing 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, virtual programming, and a "smiles/kindness/connection".
- As of March, more libraries plan to offer a combination of services. 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 (requirements generally include wearing a mask or face covering for the duration of the visit, temperature checks at the door, completion of a health screening, provision of the patron's name and contact information for COVID-19 contact tracing and an agreement to maintain social distancing). There are no in-house programs scheduled yet but systems are thinking about how to accommodate summer programs outdoors.

- Garrett County has already reopened for full service and some libraries are on target to reopen fully by June. Overall, community support has been immense.

State FY 2022 Proposed Operating Budget

- The Governor's proposed FY 2022 Operating Budget 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 LATI program and funding for the ILL program.
- The FY 2022 preliminary draft calculations were issued to the library systems on January 27, 2021. Pending the approval of the budget by the General Assembly, the public libraries will receive an additional 27 cents per capita and the regional libraries will receive an additional 20 cents per capita. However, the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) is currently flat funded for FY 2022.
- MSL's Operating Budget hearing was held on February 8 during a joint session of the House Education & Economic Development Subcommittee and the Senate Education, Business & Administration Subcommittee.

Federal FY 2021 Budget

- IMLS informed MSL of the FFY 2021 LSTA Award in the amount of $3,124,301. This is a $27,384 increase over FFY 2020.
- We are very pleased that IMLS has changed the reporting deadline for the final State Program Report (SPR) from December 30 to January 30! This end of the year report is an overview of all LSTA-funded grant programs with feedback, outcomes/outputs, and statistics. We rely on the timely submission of Final Grant Reports and deliverables in order to provide our funders with an informative look at how LSTA funds support Maryland Libraries.

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)

Libraries are included in this plan!

- The bill includes $200 million for IMLS.
  - Maryland's portion of this funding is $3.3.million. This is more than we generally receive in LSTA funding for a whole year.
  - 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 next step is for the FCC to promulgate rules within the next 60 days for eligible libraries and schools to obtain this funding. At that point, we'll have answers to the questions currently being raised as to what exactly will be covered and what the application process for those funds might look like.
- 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.
- We also know that 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.
- And, to be clear, these funds are appropriated funds for this purpose; 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.
- While we wait for more specificity about the program, we can tell you that 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."
- We will learn how that language will be further interpreted once we see the FCC's rules.

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; Carroll - Westminster renovation; Harford - Abingdon HVAC replacement; and Queen Anne's - Kent Island expansion and renovation.
- Design is underway for projects in two library systems: Calvert - new Twin Beaches and Frederick - new Middletown. Design of the Catonsville Library renovations is nearly complete at 90% construction documents and Baltimore County expects to begin construction in late spring.
- The new Northeast Library in Cecil County is at substantial completion of construction, and the dedication ceremony is scheduled on April 23, 2021. **This will bring the total number of new libraries supported with State funds since the program's inception in 2008 to 19.**

- Using funds from a recent LSTA grant award, Somerset County is currently updating its master facilities plan focusing on the expansion and renovation of the Princess Anne Library.

FY 2022 Capital Budget

- The Governor's Capital Budget for FY 2022 was released on January 20, 2020 and included $5,000,000 as mandated for the program. The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) concurred with the proposed amount of $5,000,000. However, while reviewing the Budget Analysis for factual corrections, the Department of Budget and Management's (DBM) Capital Budgeting Office directed MSL to request a supplemental State funding increase of $323,000 for the LaVale Library renovation and expansion in order to cover the State share of 90% of the cost increases and complete the project.
- Six awards are included for projects in six counties: Allegany - $1,637,000 (plus $323,000 requested in supplemental) to complete construction and furnish the LaVale Library expansion and renovation; Anne Arundel - $163,000 to complete construction and furnish the new Riviera Beach Library; Calvert - $2,000,000 to begin construction of the new Twin Beaches Library; Caroline - $70,000 to start design for renovations of the Denton Library; Frederick - $1,000,000 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.
- MSL's Capital Budget hearing was held on February 23 during a joint session of the Senate Capital Budget Subcommittee and the House Capital Budget Subcommittee
  - Testimony supporting $5,323,000 in program funds was presented by the State Librarian at MSL's Capital Budget Hearings on February 23, 2021.
    - In addition to the mandated $5,000,000 included in the Governor's Capital Budget for fiscal 2022, during the capital budget hearing MSLA requested approval of supplemental funds totaling $323,000 for the LaVale Library expansion and renovation. MSLA was notified of a shortfall in total project funds following the award of the general construction contract, but after the proposed budget was forwarded to the Governor by the Department of Budget and Management's Capital Budgeting Office. This amount is a fraction of the $2,500,000 increase authorized in the **Building Lifelong Library Learners Act of 2020** (HB 1000/SB 524). While the General Assembly passed this bill during the 2020 Session, it was vetoed by the Governor. A veto override of the bill has just been approved by the General Assembly during the 2021 Session. Without this modest supplemental funding increase, completion of the project will be delayed nearly three months, from May 2022 until August 2022, while waiting for additional State funds to become available for furnishings after the new fiscal year 2023 begins on July 1, 2022.
  - At the hearing Delegate Beitzel asked for more information about why the Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County has not received any State funding over the lifetime of the County Library Capital Grants Program. We shared the following response:
    - While the library system does require several major improvements to their facilities, including the replacement of the existing Friendsville Branch, Garrett

County has been unable to meet the 50% local match requirement in current statute. Therefore, they have been unable to submit a single request for funding since the program's inception.

- The library cost share formula has evolved over time. When the library capital grant program was implemented in FY 2008, the local match was 50% for all library systems. Difficulties with the match requirement became evident early on, and the Capital Budget of 2012 was adopted with language directing the agency to work with the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators (MAPLA) to develop a wealth adjusted cost share formula *similar* to the public school construction formula so that more libraries could participate.
- We subsequently submitted a Joint Chairman's Report (JCR) that brought about the existing formula for grants awarded since FY 2014. The report also explained why the library formula (based on per capita) is different from the school formula (based on number of students). This resulted in the General Assembly's adoption of the current wealth based match formula that was implemented in FY 2014.
- While the revised formula has enabled 23 of the 24 library systems to benefit from the grant program, Garrett County's local match requirement remained at 50%. Therefore we share Delegate Beitzel's concern about the absence of funds awarded to the 24th library system in Garrett County.
- MSL understands the **Built to Learn Act of 2020** outlines criteria that permit an adjustment to a county's State and local share for the Public School Construction Program.

- A follow up letter regarding the questions about projects in Allegany and Garrett Counties was sent to the Capital Budget Subcommittees on February 24, 2021.
- Subsequently, Senator Edwards has encouraged MSL to convene a meeting with MAPLA to discuss recommendations for the revision of the capital grant match formula. He recommends that we consider bringing forward proposed changes during the 2022 legislative session.
- In light of this, we will reexamine the public library formula in cooperation with MAPLA and deliver a similar report to the one compiled in 2012 for consideration by the General Assembly. This effort could benefit 100% of Maryland's public libraries beginning in FY 2023.
- Approval of the Capital Budget by the General Assembly typically occurs in mid-April following the Conference Committee.

FY 2023 Capital Grant Cycle

- An invitation to submit a notice of intent to request State capital funds for projects in FY 2023 was posted on the MAPLA listserv on February 1, 2021 with a due date of February 26, 2021.
- 12 library systems indicated they will prepare proposals for 12 projects: Baltimore County - Lansdowne expansion and renovation; Calvert - new Twin Beaches; Caroline - Denton renovation; Cecil - Elkton renovation; Charles - new LaPlata; Frederick - new Middletown; Garrett - new Friendsville; Harford – Bel Air renovation; Howard - new Central; Prince George's - new Baden in a different renovated facility; Talbot - St. Michael's expansion and renovation; Worcester - Pocomoke expansion and renovation. In the event that supplemental funds are not provided to Allegany County

in the FY 2022 Capital Budget, a request for funds to furnish the LaVale Library will also be necessary.

- Training sessions targeted to the type of project (renovation or new construction) and level of expertise or construction management experience of the grant writer(s) are being delivered remotely through mid-March to each applicant.
- The grant application submission deadline is May 21, 2021.

State funding increase for the Capital Grant Program, FY2023

- A provision in the **Building Lifelong Library Learners Act of 2020** (HB 1000/SB 524), which was passed by the General Assembly but vetoed by the Governor, will increase mandated funding for the Public Library Capital Grant Program. The General Assembly overrode the Governor's veto in February 2021.
- The amount mandated for the program will increase from $5 million to $7.5 million annually, to be included in either the operating or the capital budget beginning in FY 2023

Build America's Libraries Act (S. 127)

- This act was re-introduced by Senators Jack Reed (D-RI), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and Ron Wyden (D-OR). The legislation would provide $5 billion to support long-term improvements to library facilities, including addressing needs that have arisen due to COVID–19, to enable libraries to better serve rural, low-income and underserved areas, as well as people with disabilities and other vulnerable library users.
- Senator Van Hollen is one of the major sponsors of the bill. I sent him a letter a few weeks ago reminding him about what this will mean for Maryland libraries.
- The bill provides funding for construction of new facilities and renovation/upgrades to existing facilities, including improving HVAC, energy efficiency, internet access and connectivity, and accessibility, and addressing the vulnerability of facilities to natural disasters.
- The bill proposes $5 billion to be administered by IMLS to state library agencies, with a minimum allotment of $10 million per state and $500K per territory plus an additional amount based on population. States may reserve up to 4% for administrative costs and to provide technical assistance. **We have been told that Maryland's portion of this funding will be approximately $88 million!**
- Eligible entities include public libraries, tribal libraries, and state libraries and archives, with a focus on libraries serving underserved and distressed communities, low-income and rural areas, people with disabilities, and vulnerable library users including children and seniors.
- For those states that already have a program, this bill would add to their program, not be a replacement for it. There is no match requirement, but states must meet LSTA maintenance of effort as required for Grants to States.
- **The funding would have to be used within a two year period** so we are already reaching out to library systems without a current facilities master plan with offers of assistance to help them either establish a plan or update their current plan.
- MLA is working with Maryland library staff to request co-sponsors for the bill.

Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD)

Programs and Events

- The National Library Service issued Operations Alert 21-19 titled **Change in Certifying Authorities** on February 17, 2021. It states that people with a reading disability applying for LBPD service can have their application certified by a professional other than a doctor of medicine. Previously, a doctor of medicine was the only certifying authority for a reading disability. This policy makes it easier for potential patrons with reading disabilities to apply for service and will increase the number of patrons for LBPD.
- LBPD has updated its **application for service** to reflect the above change, as well as changes in regard to the Duplication on Demand model.
- The **Duplication on Demand** project has moved into its next phase with all new patrons being served through customized cartridges as of February 8. LBPD continues to add existing patrons to the service as well.
- As part of the **Braille e-reader pilot** with the National Library Service (NLS), LBPD distributed 123 devices to patrons, and circulated 2145 electronic braille books in December and January.
- The **Maryland Accessible Textbook** program has added five new students for the spring 2021 semester. In preparation for the semester they completed 1053 chapters in January alone.
- **Youth Librarian LaShawn Myles** has been collaborating with Bedtime in a Box to create accessible versions of their materials. Bedtime in a Box supports the health and educational development of children prior to entering school by providing families with the materials, tools, and training they need to enact a comprehensive bedtime routine, seven days a week. Ms. Myles and Assistive Technology Specialist Jerry Price met with high school students at the Maryland School for the Blind to talk about trends in technology.
- **Outreach and Marketing Librarian Ashley Biggs** hosted programs with the University of Maryland Extension and Maryland Legal Aid. Ashley continues to collaborate with MSL staff to improve the functionality and accessibility of our website. LBPD is now on Instagram, along with our existing Facebook and Twitter accounts.
- Jerry Price's **Technology User Group** was highlighted in the January/February edition of NLS's Braille Book Review and Talking Book Topics.
- A new volunteer for the **recording studio** will be recording entries from the LBPD blog in her home recording studio to increase the formats available to patrons.
- Throughout the **pandemic**, most staff continue to telework, providing reference and information services, patron services, assistive technology training, programming, textbook conversion, IT and administrative support. A limited number of staff are on-site daily to primarily process delivery and circulation, as well as manage the maintenance and safety of the facility and staff. All staff and any contractors coming to the building are verbally screened for COVID-19 according to DBM guidelines. All materials continue to be quarantined. Masks, gloves and physical distancing continue to be part of daily requirements.
- Staff from LBPD participated in the January 29, 2021 MLA Conversations. If you haven't seen the talk with Joe Thompson, please take a look.
- LBPH currently serves **6,700 Active Patrons** in every county in the State of Maryland.

Public Libraries and State Networking Branch (PLSNB)

Programs and Events

- The next **Library Associate Training Institute** (LATI) virtual graduation is scheduled for Wednesday, March 17th. There is an additional graduation ceremony on Wednesday, March 24th.
- Irene Padilla participated in the January 8, 2021 **MLA Conversations**. If you haven't seen her talk with Joe Thompson, please take a look.
- Small statewide work groups have been formed to look at **Tuition Reimbursement** and **Board Training.**
- MSL and the Sailor Advisory Committee are building a **WiFi map of Maryland**, which will geotag all free library-hosted WiFi locations around the state.

Grants

- MSL is distributing about $70,000 in LSTA Grant funds to support staff attendance at the **2021 MLA conference**. Since there are no travel costs or early bird rates, this amount will support slightly more participants than previous years.
- In addition to supporting most of the ongoing projects, MSL has set aside $300,000 for the **FY 2022 Competitive Grants** cycle, which we will begin distributing beginning July 1, 2021.
- The **FFY19 State Program Report,** submitted to our federal grantors at the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), was approved on February 23, 2021. Previous years editions are available for public viewing via the IMLS website.
- MSL is currently managing **121 grants** between our standard LSTA award and the CARES ACT funding. It's quite a bit more than in previous years, but the MSL staff has all worked together to help Maryland Public Libraries in this way.

Statistics

- MSL has **submitted the FY2020 State Library Administrative Agency (SLAA) survey to IMLS**. This survey, completed every two years, provides a snapshot of State Library budgets, grant-making, programming, and services, and is part of a national collection effort that informs policymaking at the federal, state, and local levels.
- Data from the **FY2020 Maryland Public Libraries Survey** is currently being processed for submission to IMLS in March. 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.
- MSL will hold our second *virtual* **Introduction to Tableau training**, in partnership with Icimo Analytics, our Tableau partner. This training will make use of the IMLS Public Libraries Survey datasets, tailoring the curriculum to libraries, and furthering data competency while promoting the use of library data for decision-making.
- Yana Demireva, Research & Evaluation Coordinator, worked with PGCMLS to provide new **data and statistics competencies for LATI's winter cohort**. Data competencies have now been added to the LATI curriculum.
- Two presentations scheduled as part of the new **What's Now - What's Next Series** beginning in March will bring training opportunities to libraries that enable staff to communicate the impact of programs and initiatives, especially during the Covid-19 state of emergency.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- MSL is about halfway through the statewide virtual study of the **Project Ready** curriculum for working with 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.
- 688 library staff from around the state participated in Tobin Miller's **Dismantling Institutional Racism** course to support an understanding of issues about racism, and actions that can be taken to stop racism. A [free webinar](#) is available that describes the program.

Youth Services

- Planning is underway for the animal-themed **2021 Maryland Summer Reading Program: "Tails and Tales"**, which includes virtual participation for families or physical game boards provided at libraries or via outreach at community meal sites. Much outdoor programming is being planned, either on library grounds or in community spaces, through partnerships. The Summer Reading Advisory Council is preparing a "Can-Do" document to support youth service coordinators and youth library staff during these times of continued challenges and limited access.
- The 2020 **MD Teen Connect** Conference will occur virtually April 6-9, through a series of asynchronous/synchronous sessions providing learning and discussion opportunities surrounding teen spaces, programs, partnerships, and advocacy for teens.
- Carrie Sanders and Kelsey Hughes (PGCMLS) concluded a 5 week eCourse in January-February on Computational Thinking through the Young Adult Library Services Association's (YALSA) *"Transforming Teen Services: A Train the Trainer Approach"*. Twenty library staff participated in this eCourse, combining asynchronous study with a weekly synchronous meeting to share and discuss. Two additional eCourses will be offered this spring and summer, Youth Development and Educational Equity.
- A 2-day **Maryland Media Mentorship Forum and Workshop** was held on March 4 & March 11. Public and school youth library staff came together to hear new findings and data about media mentorship, media literacy, and media/digital equity and inclusion and talked about new ways to explore application, discussion, and action-planning.

Statewide Programming Update

- The first program in the new series titled **"Maryland Libraries Together"** was held on January 15th. The event, hosted by Howard County Public Libraries, had a presentation by Isabel Wilkerson, author of "Caste". The next event, ["Viva Latino: Own Voices Writers in Conversation"](#) will be held on April 1.
- MSL has purchased the advanced edition of **KnowBe4**, a platform to support cybersecurity awareness in public libraries. This advanced subscription includes more training to target social engineering, which can greatly support the reduction of successful phishing attacks.

Ms. Padilla discussed the ARPA Funds. The University of Maryland has students and alumni who can now onboard quicker and less expensively through the partnerships with three federal agencies (Agriculture, etc.). Ms. Tignor discussed in Wicomico County, which issues are socio-economic and which are geographic regarding broadband and

high speed map. Mr. Parran stated that in Calvert County, we know where the internet is not available. Ms. Tignor would be interested in participating in a discussion group about these issues. Mr. Martin advised that new technologies should be in this discussion.

State-Wide Public Opinion Poll

Mr. Steven Raabe presented to the board the State-Wide Public Opinion Poll. Mr. Windley stated that it is exciting that the main perceptions of the public are that libraries are not just about books but are also about safety, job skills, etc. Ms. Marshall stated that she liked the Matrix of the poll.

Updates
Citizens for Maryland Libraries (CML)

Ms. Lynn Wheeler stated that the next CML meeting will be held on March 30th. They are continuing to work on the October conference and are suggesting the date for the conference be October 16th in Annapolis. Ms. Wheeler stated that they are requesting more information regarding awards. She also announced that Mr. Albert Martin will be receiving the Distinguished Service Award on May 3rd at the MLA conference

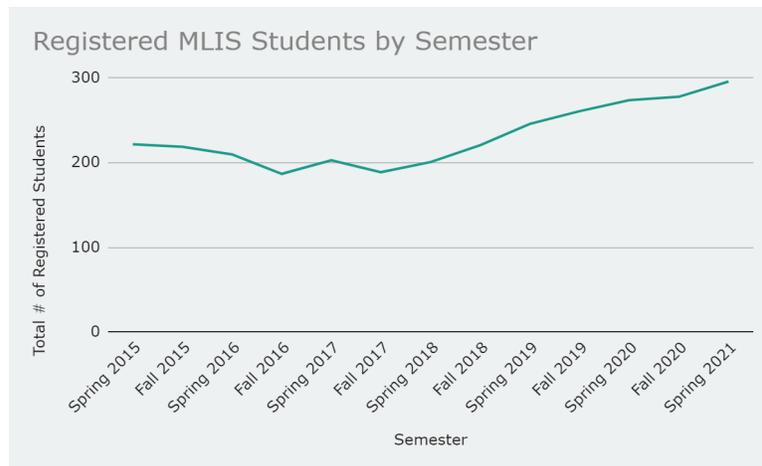## College of Information Services (iSchool)
Upcoming Events

- **What's Essential when serving Youth and Families in Crisis Times?**
  - Tuesday, March 23th, 12pm - Dr. Mega Subramaniam and Linda W. Braun
- **MLIS Information Sessions** for Prospective Applicants
  - Fridays, March 26th, April 30th , May 28th, June 25th, July 30th
- **A Century of the 19th Amendment: Perspectives on Women's Rights in the U.S.**
  - Wednesday, March 31st, 12pm | Powered by the UMD Libraries and the UMD College of Information Studies in honor of Women's History Month. Featuring Ruth Igielnik, Senior Researcher, Pew Research Center, and UMD Alumna.
- **Discover Your Path: iSchool Career Panel**
  - Wednesday, March 31, 5 pm
- **Center for Archival Futures (CAFe) Speaker Series**
  - Wednesday, April 7th
- **Search Mastery Interest Group Speaker Series**
  - Monday, April 12th, 12pm - with Ana Ndumu
- **UMD Disability Summit: Access and Crisis: Disability and the Collapse of Everything**
  - April 12-14th via Twitch, YouTube, Livestream, Zoom.
- **College of Information Studies Dean's Speaker Series**
  - Tuesday, April 20, 2pm - Megan Bang
  - Wednesday, May 5, 12pm - Lionel Robert
  - Wednesday, May 19, 12pm - Devlon Jackson
- **MacLeod Lecture with Arthur Levine of Levine Querido**

- ○ Sunday, May 2nd, 5pm
- **UMD iSchool Presents the ALA Lecture Series Featuring Julius C. Jefferson Jr.**
  - ○ Thursday, May 6th, 2pm

MLIS Program Updates
- Admissions and Enrollment
  - ○ <u>Spring 2021 Admissions</u> - Applications for spring 2021 remained steady and we welcomed about 40 new students this semester (the same as Spring 2020).
  - ○ <u>Fall 2021 Admissions</u> - Applications increased by 15% compared to last year and increased 60% compared to 2016. We expect to admit about 200 students overall and matriculate 95 new MLIS students and around 20 new HiLS students. The acceptance rate has increased over the last 2 years after several iterations of changes were made to the <u>application essay questions</u>. We now ask students to find a job they would enjoy, pitch an idea for a class, reflect on adversity, share their diverse perspectives, how they know the field is for them, and how they will succeed in graduate school.
  - ○ The MLIS Program has grown significantly over the past 5 years from 222 registered students in Spring 2016 to 296 students currently registered.

- Students
  - ○ MLIS Student Hallie Oines was elected as a Graduate Student Senator for the 2021-2022 academic year.
  - ○ HiLS (MLIS and History) student Brianna Nunez gave a talk on her research at the <u>GradTerp Exchange</u> titled "Curating Color Onto White Walls."
  - ○ The Program has been working with MLIS Ambassadors, current students who are paid to assist with program events. These students have been particularly successful in hosting "MLIS Student Experience" events for prospective students.
- The MLIS Program Committee is focusing on two priorities this Spring:
  - ○ Recruitment of applicants and students from underrepresented populations.

- A review of the core curriculum to determine if any changes to the structure and content of courses is needed. The Program is considering including more explicit information literacy training in core curriculum.
- Using MLIS Program funds, we supported the following this year:
  - Funding 4 students to attend the ASIS&T Conference;
  - Sponsoring the MARAC Conference;
  - Sponsoring the ALISE Community conn@CT Mini-Grants;
  - Funding students to attend MLA/DLA. We have received 10 applications and will review and fund as many students as possible.
  - We have yet to choose our book for the summer 2021 MLIS book club, but hope to use Program funds to provide books to students who are able to participate.
- [A crowdsourcing project](#) developed by MLIS students in Victoria Van Hyning's new course "Outreach, Inclusion, and Crowdsourcing" (Fall 2020), in partnership with the Driskell Center, launched in February 2021. Anyone is welcome to take part in transcribing the papers of the late Distinguished Professor of Art, David C. Driskell. One MLIS student from the course, Angela KouKoui, was hired part time in the Driskell Center for spring 2021 to support the project, particularly by sharing information through her extensive network of Black artists and cultural heritage practitioners in Baltimore and around the country.
- Edie Ching will be teaching two new 1-credit courses this summer:
  - Diversity in Children's Literature - "This 1-credit, online course focuses on diversity issues in children's literature (birth to age 14), including the definition, the characteristics, and examples of diversity. Activities, assignments, and discussions topics will include such areas as identification and evaluation of diversity, building diverse collections, diversity clusters, and collection promotion, among others."
  - Writing and Evaluating Book Reviews - "This course will prepare students to use book reviews to make appropriate material selections for their libraries or institutions and write their own reviews for review venues."
- Mega Subramaniam created and taught a new course over the winter term: **"**Special Topics in Library and Information Science; Roles and Responses during Crises."
  - "Inspired by the recent pandemic which forced information institutions to physically close their buildings to the public, this course will introduce students to the challenges that underserved communities face during crises and how to co-create solutions to connect, learn, and innovate with communities to mitigate these challenges."
- Jonathan Lazar will be teaching "Legal Research for Informational Professionals" this spring, a new course being offered by the MLIS program for the first time.

Innovations & Service to the State of Maryland
- Capstone projects completed by ~300 students this spring, developed by the iConsultancy and led by iSchool faculty:

- Developing information resources that augment the ability of generalist public librarians to provide information support to early-stage prospective business owners, in support of the IMLS project, *Data Analytics to Support Innovation Communities*.
- Assessing flood risks and developing plans for reducing those risks in Berwyn Heights and College Park.
- Connecting flood risk and storm water management data to other resources in order to broaden the assessment of storm water management on local municipalities.
- Conducting a needs assessment for a virtual career fair platform for the MD Department of Labor.
- Conducting a design study for a litter tracking app to support Patapsco Greenway.
- Developing a fiscal model for the town of New Winsor to support capital improvement planning and future revenue forecasting.
- Conducting research and design for a mobile app to support the Prince George's County Parks and Recreation Department and ParksRX.
- Conducting research and design for the Prince George's County Parks & Recreation Department for a web platform to provide "virtual" access to online exhibits for the county's 50-plus historic sites and to enable researchers to access related historical artifacts and stories.
- Conducting a user experience (UX) design study of the Prince George's County Parks & Recreation asset management system, to promote greater user adoption and improve data quality.
- Conducting an expert usability review of the MyCoast application for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to improve the reporting of recurring and nuisance flooding in targeted areas by local citizens.
- Performing an analysis of utility usage data for select Prince George's County Parks and Recreation facilities to better understand the impact of newer building standards on operational cost metrics.
- Developing data management, analysis and visualization capabilities for the Maryland Center for Computing Education (MCCE).
- Developing a database for the Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Community Development Corporation in support of health and wellness outreach to the Latinx community.
- Conducting a needs assessment for the Community Vision Collaborative to help them support small businesses by developing online directories and marketplace post-Covid.
- Designing a new user interface for the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute Student Records Management System.

- - Working on a project for the Library of Congress exploring new features for Chronicling America, a collection of U.S. newspapers spanning several centuries and millions of pages.
- The National Agricultural Library Digital Curation Fellows program, under the direction of Katrina Fenlon, has its largest ever cohort this year of twelve students from across MLIS, MIM, undergraduate and PhD programs at the iSchool. These students are conducting research on digital curation for the USDA in Beltsville, Maryland, on topics including:
  - Addressing gaps in NAL's archives and digital curation capacity through rigorously developed digital preservation plans and evaluations;
  - Researching user experience to improve the outreach and impact of digital collections; conducting systematic evaluations of metadata quality, of diversity and equity of representation in digital collections, and evaluating software platforms for undergirding data repositories;
  - Building new web archives and digital collections, conducting physical archival processing, and creating collection development policies;
  - Evaluating predatory publishers and indexing journals for the AGRICOLA database; and
  - Leveraging visualization and machine learning techniques to create dashboards for analytics and impact data, including a new data dashboard for ARS research on coronavirus. A growing collection of program outcomes is available here.
- Mega Subramaniam delivered a keynote speech titled "Media mentorship: Digital privacy literacy" at the Maryland Media Mentorship Forum and Workshop.
- The Search Mastery Interest Group explores the foundations and practice of Search--skills, education, and literacy—through research, curriculum development, education, and public outreach. A Search Mastery Community Outreach team is working with a group of public librarians to develop Search Better! initiatives that can be offered to the public by trained librarians.
- Ana Ndumu is continuing to work with REFORMA, the Prince George's County Memorial Library, and the Montgomery County Library Systems on an ALISE-funded project to recruit highly-skilled immigrants to the library profession.

Select Research Grants
- Susannah Paletz received a $4500 supplemental grant from the Army Educational Outreach Program Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program to support a paid undergraduate intern for summer 2021 on her Army Research Office grant, "Human-Agent Teaming on Intelligence Tasks." The Program supports students typically underrepresented and underserved in STEM research.
- Katrina Fenlon received a $381,788 IMLS Early Career Development grant for "Sustaining Digital Community Collections," a three-year research project to

investigate roles that cultural heritage institutions may play to help realize community-determined, community-led strategies for sustaining digital collections.

- Katrina Fenlon received a $75,000 planning grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, for "Community-centered strategies for sustaining digital humanities scholarship," to investigate strategies to increase the sustainability of digital humanities scholarship and research communities.

<u>Faculty Awards / Recognition</u>

- Jonathan Lazar, professor in the iSchool, was selected for 2021 induction into the "SIGCHI Academy." ACM SIGCHI is the world's largest professional organization of people involved in human-computer interaction research and development. Each year, SIGCHI selects 8 people worldwide for the SIGCHI Academy, who have made substantial contributions to the field of human-computer interaction, and whose efforts have shaped the research and innovation in the field.

<u>Faculty Presentations / Workshops</u>

- Katrina Fenlon and graduate student Courtnie Thurston (Morgan State University) are presenting a poster at iConference 2021 on ongoing research on the sustainability of digital scholarship and digital community archives: "Sustainability by design: Toward community-centered strategies for durable digital collections". This poster is an award finalist for Best Poster at the iConference (awards to be announced later this month).

- Katrina Fenlon and MLIS student Jessica Grimmer presented a paper at the Music Library Association annual conference in March, on the challenges and opportunities of digital scholarship in musicology: "Music Encoding and Digital Derivative Sources: Creation and Use of the Beethovens Werkstatt Collection".

- Katrina Fenlon presented as an invited panelist at the National Information Standards Organization's annual NISO Plus conference in February, on "Beyond standards: Community-centered sustainability for digital humanities scholarship." This conference brings together librarians, publishers, technologists, and other stakeholders in the future of knowledge ecosystems and the standards that undergird them.

- Katrina Fenlon and students in the National Agricultural Library Digital Curation Fellowship program are presenting a short paper at iConference 2021, on recovering reusable scientific data from collections of historical materials: "Assessing Legacy Collections for Scientific Data Rescue", to be published in Volume 12646 of Springer's *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*.

- Jason R. Baron was an invited panel moderator and speaker at the Georgetown Law 2020 Global Advanced e-Discovery Institute in November 2020, on "Wandering Off the Beaten Path: Data Analytics for COVID-19 and Beyond." This annual conference brings together lawyers and information management professionals.

- Jason R. Baron was an invited moderator at the Managing Electronic Records Immersion Seminar in January 2021, for a session entitled "A Live Case Study on Autoclassification." This all-day webinar brought together records and information management professionals, information technology professionals, and others.

- B. Means, J. Goode, and Mega Subramaniam taught a webinar "The role of authentic STEM learning experiences in developing interest and competencies for technology and computing" hosted by the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.
- Mega Subramaniam and Linda Braun copresented "Essential research needed: The role of public libraries before, during, and after crises" at the New England Chapter of the Association for Information Science and Technology Conference.
- Mega Subramaniam presented "Capturing outcomes of youth programs for out-of-school time" at the Office of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Libraries.
- Upcoming: Mega Subramaniam, D. Weintrop, S. Morehouse, and N. Koren are presenting "IMProve assessment of computational Thinking: IMPACT your library" at the American Library Association Annual Conference.
- Upcoming: D. Weintrop, Mega Subramaniam, and S. Morehouse, are presenting "Computational thinking in public libraries." at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA).
- On February 9, 2021, Professor Jonathan Lazar gave a presentation titled, "Managing Digital Accessibility at Universities During the COVID-19 Pandemic" as a Google TechTalk. It will appear on the YouTube Google TechTalk channel, sometime in mid-March.

Faculty Publications

- David Weintrop and Mega Subramaniam, along with graduate student Shandra Morehouse, published a paper entitled "Assessing Computational Thinking in Libraries" in the journal *Computer Science Education*.
- Jason R. Baron and Douglas Oard, along with graduate student Mahmoud Sayed, published a preprint of a paper entitled "Providing More Efficient Access To Government Records: A Use Case Involving Application of Machine Learning to Improve FOIA Review for the Deliberative Process Privilege" and submitted to the *Journal on Computing and Cultural Heritage.*
- Jason R. Baron authored a chapter on "The Algorithm in the C-Suite: Applying Lessons Learned and Information Governance Best Practices to Achieve Greater Post-GDPR Algorithmic Accountability" in the forthcoming book entitled *The GDPR Challenge: Privacy, Technology and Compliance in an Era of Accelerating Change.*
- Jason R. Baron authored entries on "The Freedom of Information Act" and on "E-discovery" in the forthcoming book entitled *A Handbook of Archival Science*.
- Ursula Gorham, Paul Jaeger, and Morgan Adle completed a chapter titled "Designing for social justice in the MLIS curriculum: A case study of the University of Maryland" for the book *Social justice design and implementation in library and information science: Impact-driven case studies*.

- Beth St. Jean, Ursula Gorham, and Beth Bonsignore have published a book titled *Understanding Human Information Behavior: When, How, and Why People Interact with Information*.
- Mega Subramaniam, Linda Braun, S. Nisa Asgarali-Hoffman, Keanu Jordan-Stovall, & Christie Kodama published "Library staff as public servants: A field guide for preparing to support communities in crisis." This field guide is currently featured by the iSchool and was developed in collaboration with 137 libraries across the country.
- Mega Subramaniam, Kelly M. Hoffman, Katie Davis, and Caroline Pitt published "Designing a connected learning toolkit for public library staff serving youth through the design-based implementation research method" in *Library and Information Science Research Journal.*
- Linda Braun, Mega Subramaniam, Keanu Jordan-Stovall, S. Nisa Asgarali-Hoffman published "Serving your community during a crisis: It doesn't require doing more, it requires doing different" in *Public Libraries Magazine.*
- Mega Subramaniam and Linda Braun published "Crisis-related research in service to practice: Researchers step up" in *Library Quarterly, 91*(1), 5-18.
- Mega Subramaniam was a co-author of "Cultivating Interest and Competencies in Computing: Authentic Experiences and Design Factors," a consensus report published by the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.
- Ana Ndumu, Paul Jaeger, and MLIS graduate Amy Dickinson published a paper on the 2020 Census, social inclusion, and libraries in *The Political Librarian*

Congress of Academic Library Directors (CALD)

Mr. Miller provided the CALD update:

- Newly revised bylaws clarify that CALD is an institutional membership organization, and not individual. Library directors or equivalent represent their institutions. All higher education institutions in Maryland are considered to be members of CALD whether or not their directors actively participate. Annual dues payments are typically received from participating members.
- The CALD Executive Board is made up of representatives from each of the member segments and meets bi-monthly. The segments include the University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions library consortium, community colleges, independent colleges and universities, and the U.S. Naval Academy.
- CALD presents an annual meeting, normally in the spring of the academic year, in which we have an external speaker and breakout sessions presented by directors or Librarians and staff of the academic libraries. Last year was done online as will this year's, which is coming up in June and will be focused on the post-pandemic future of academic libraries.
- It was recently decided that the President of CALD will be part of the Maryland State Library Board. CALD also normally provides financial support towards the annual Library Legislative Day reception.

- CALD also awards a scholarship to an employee at one of the CALD member libraries toward the cost of participating in Maryland Library Leadership Institute and CALD sometimes partners with other academic library groups in Maryland on joint initiatives.

Maryland Library Association (MLA)

Ms. Miller discussed the passing of Margaret Carty. With Margaret's death, Ryan will be the interim Executive Director. MLA is doing a national search with the start of the new fiscal year.

- Ms. Miller also discussed the Legislative Panel Update. The panel will be working on the Building Lifelong Learners Act. Ms. Miller thanked Ms. Padilla for writing the regulations needed for this act. Ms. Miller explained that Maryland will be the first in the country to have this legislation. Ms. Miller also stated that the eBook and Amazon legislation is also the first in the country. Rhode Island and New York have similar bills pending. MLA and Ms. Miller will be working with Alan Inyouye of the American Library Association to provide national coverage promoting the bill.
- Ms. Miller announced that Susan Cohen of the Deaf Culture Digital Library will be receiving the President's Award.
- Ms. Miller also announced the elections for the President elect. They are Mary Ann Bowman as President Elect and Naomi Keppler as the next President Elect. (Ms. Keppler is also receiving the Outstanding MLA Member Award).

School Library Media

Laura Hicks provided the MSDE update:
MSDE updates:

- **School Library Media (SLM) Online Reporting** – The Annual School Library Media Report opened February 1st. It will stay open until May 31st. The survey did not have substantive changes from last year's version.
- **New Learning Management System (LMS) / Position -** A contract for the LMS is expected to be finalized before the end of the month. Implementation should be complete in time for summer online professional learning opportunities.
- **Hybrid (Concurrent) Teaching and Learning Resources** - After collaborating with many school systems, a new webpage was released. The Hybrid (Concurrent) Teaching and Learning and Hybrid Scheduling webpage is linked off the MSDE homepage.
- **Upcoming meetings and important dates:**
  - The second combined OITSLM meeting for the 2020-2021 school year will be held virtually March 25th. The School Library Media Supervisors continue to meet monthly with very robust turnout and vitally important collaborative discussions.
- **MDK12 Digital Library**
  - **New products/price list.** We selected 5 new products to add to the MDK12 price list for the coming school year. The RFQs for the products were evaluated and

have moved forward to the MCPS Board of Education for approval. We are still planning to have the updated price list available for members in early-April.

- **Upcoming meetings:**
  - ○ End of the year meeting - May 6
  - ○ 2021-22 meetings will be scheduled starting in late June.
- Ms. Hicks announced that Canvas has been approved for purchase for online instruction. The extension deadline to May from October. The MD K-12 pricelist for databases should be sent out in April instead of October.

Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL)

- Ms. Brittany Tignor provided the board with an update from MASL. Ms. Tignor stated that MASL issued their EDI statement last June. Ms. Tignor discussed the National Board Certification. Ms. Tignor also discussed the Monthly Chat and Chews that MASL presents.
- Ms. Tignor stated that MASL is in the middle of an election cycle. The election will determine the next president to attend these State Board meetings.
- Most of the school librarians are now back in the school building.
- The August conference will be held virtual with Wes Moore and Dr. Mona Kiry as keynote speakers.

Other Business

Nominating Committee for Board Officers

- The board discussed creating a nominating committee for current and future board members. Ms. Marshall and Ms. Wheeler stated that they are interested in remaining in their leadership roles on the board.
- Ms. Padilla advised that only the Chair and Vice-Chair are presented to the Governor in October and with his approval, the positions will be effective the following July. Mr. Martin, Mr. Parran and Mr. Wilson volunteered to be on the nominating committee.

Public Comment

No public comments were submitted.

State Library Board Member Discussion and Updates

- Mr. Jim Fish announced to the board that he does not wish to be re-appointed. Mr. Fish praised the board with a "tip of the hat" for focusing on support for public libraries. He also acknowledged and offered kudos to Ms. Padilla for her persistence in getting the Maryland State Library Agency and State Library Board to the position they are in now. Ms. Marshall reiterated praise to Ms. Padilla for her leadership.
- Mr. Brian Butler suggested that the State Board Alumni should meet together.
- Mr. Martin encouraged all board members to attend the MLA Conference and Ms. Marshall thanked Ms. Padilla's offer of MSL paying for the conference for the board members.

FY2021 Meeting Calendar

The next state board meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, June 15, 2021

FY2022 Proposed Meeting Calendar

The following proposed meeting dates for the board were presented to the board:

- Wednesday, September 22, 2021
- Wednesday, December 15, 2021
- Monday, March 14, 2022
- Wednesday, June 15, 2022

All board members accepted these dates.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.