The Maryland State Library Board met in regular session on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. virtually through Google Meets. The following members were in attendance: Ms. Mary Anne Bowman, Dr. Brian Butler (arrived at 11:00 a.m.), Mr. Larry Clemens, Ms. Heidi Daniel, Mr. Jim Fish, Ms. Laura Hicks, Ms. Sharon Maneki, Ms. Sharan Marshall, Chair, Mr. Albert Martin, Mr. Wilson Parran, Ms. Brittany Tignor, Ms. Lynn Wheeler, Vice-Chair, and Ms. Irene Padilla, State Librarian.

Dr. Tamar Sarnoff and the following staff members were also present: Mr. Elliott Schoen, Principal Counsel, Office of the Attorney General, Ms. Lynae Polk, Assistant Attorney General, Ms. Donna Liberto, CFO and Mr. John Owen.

Ms. Robert Windley was absent (excused).

**Call to Order**
Ms. Marshall called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Ms. Marshall welcomed and introduced Ms. Lynae Polk, the Assistant Attorney General representing the Maryland State Library Agency and Board. Ms. Polk has fifteen years of trial experience, having handled both civil and criminal cases. For the past 10 years she served as a Family Law Magistrate in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. Ms. Marshall gave Ms. Polk an overview of the members of the State Board and their library experiences. Each board member introduced themselves to Ms. Polk.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**
The minutes of the State Library Board of September 22, 2021 were considered. Mr. Parran moved to correct the spelling of his name and Mr. Fish's name as recorded in the executive session. No other changes were made. Motion to approve the minutes as amended by Ms. Lynn Wheeler. Mr. Al Martin seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

**Executive Session**
Pursuant to 3-305(b)(7) of the General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon motion by Mr. Martin, and seconded by Ms. Tignor, and with unanimous agreement, the Maryland State Library Board met in closed session virtually on Wednesday, December 15, 2021. All State Library Board members were present except Mr. Windley. Also, in attendance were: Ms. Padilla, Mr. Schoen, Ms. Polk, Dr. Sarnoff, and Mr. Owen.

The Executive Session commenced at 10:21 a.m.

Ms. Polk and Mr. Schoen discussed Md. Education Code Ann. § 23-701 - § 23-702, Electronic Literary Product Licenses (Subtitle effective January 1, 2022) and the pending lawsuit filed by the Association of American Publishers against the State of Maryland (ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN PUBLISHERS, INC. vs. BRIAN E. FROSH), in his official capacity as Attorney General of the State of Maryland.
Mr. Schoen reminded the board that the Executive Session is confidential. The public can know why the meeting was held in executive session but they cannot know what was discussed.

Mr. Parran made a motion to end the executive session; Mr. Fish seconded the motion. The Executive Session ended at 10:42 a.m.

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened in open session at 10:43 a.m. (Mr. Schoen left the board meeting at 10:44 a.m.)

Update on Regional Libraries Conference
Ms. Marshall discussed the Regional Libraries Conference that was held on December 1, 2021. This was a full day conference held in Annapolis, Maryland. The conference was very productive with great outcomes. It was very useful for the board to hear from stakeholders, board members, and library personnel. The breakout rooms were very successful in giving all of the attendees the ability to participate in small groups as well as the entire group working together. All ideas were captured in the report. Ms. Marshall commended the steering committee, Irene Padilla and Harry Christiansen, the conference facilitator. The conference started off with some participants being unhappy but ended with major strides being made toward developing an acceptable resolution. Ms. Marshall advised that her opening remarks at the conference are included in the final report of the conference. She also advised that the evaluations of the conference were extremely positive. The next step is for Ms. Padilla to consolidate the proposed changes and work with the Attorney General’s office to ensure legal sufficiency. Mr. Fish stated that the conference was very well done.

Ms. Marshall gave a limited overview of the creation of the regional libraries and how the board knew that when the Maryland State Library Agency separated from the Maryland State Department of Education, the code would need to be reviewed. She encourages all of the board members to read the conference report.

Ms. Padilla advised the board that she and Ms. Polk will meet to discuss the legal sufficiency of the proposed changes and would like to fast track this. Ms. Padilla will revisit this at the March 14, 2022 board meeting. Ms. Marshall reminded everyone that we would not be taking any changes to legislation this year. Mr. Martin stated that before this is submitted to legislation, the library community will have a chance to review the changes. Ms. Padilla confirmed this and advised that she plans to bring the revised statute to the board in March for approval.

Ms. Marshall stated that the changes that were recommended and included in the report are very close. The changes just need a legal review at this time.
**MSLA Annual Report**

Ms. Padilla reviewed the [MSLA Annual Report](#) with the board. Ms. Padilla is very excited to report our success and that of the public libraries around the state. Her goal is to include more school libraries and academic libraries.

Ms. Padilla thanked all of the members of the board for their appreciation of and enthusiasm for libraries. She also thanked Governor Larry Hogan. Ms. Marshall thanked Ms. Padilla and her staff stating that they have done a fantastic job of managing all of the programs and issuing funds in a difficult time. Ms. Padilla stated that every librarian from every type of library pitches in so that we are all working together. We would never be able to achieve all of this without their participation.

Ms. Marshall asked if this report is to be submitted to the Governor. Ms. Padilla stated that this is a mandated report and will be sent to the Governor sometime the end of this month or the beginning of January.

**State Librarian’s Report**

**Personnel**

**Positions pending hire include:**
- Fiscal Services Officer I
- Computer Network Specialist II

**Employee Work Status:**

MSLA continues to allow for flexible operations, with a hybrid of telework and in-office work, where appropriate.

**Update on Maryland Libraries**

- COVID-19 free home rapid test kits provided by local Health Departments are available through most public libraries. Some libraries are also working with their local Health Department to offer vaccine clinics at branches.
- In light of rising COVID numbers some libraries are reinstituting mask mandates (some never stopped requiring them) and have stopped or are reconsidering stopping in-person programs, going back to online programs only. Some have opened study rooms, but some meeting rooms remain closed. Libraries are keeping in place the safe physical distancing, plexiglass guards, hand sanitizers, etc. Some have discouraged any type of group gatherings for staff for the holidays.
- Most library users are compliant with local health requirements (masks, responding to questions about their health, etc.) However, some library staff are having to cope with issues “where individual classrooms are sent home to quarantine, the students show up at the library to get out of the house with or without guardians”. Other issues include people objecting to the library’s decision to hold (or not hold) indoor, in-person programming for children,
- Censorship is playing a big role nationally and in Maryland. Individual public and school libraries, MLA and the American Library Association are working together to assess and respond to issues as they arise. MSLA is in the process of developing a web guide to help with these concerns.
- On November 4, 2021 the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued formal rules to require employers with 100 or more employees (including all Maryland counties and Baltimore City) to develop, implement...
and enforce a COVID-19 vaccination-or-testing policy. Libraries are working with their local governments to ensure compliance.

- **Howard County Library System (HCLS)** opened an Equity Resource Center [http://hclibrary.org/equity-resource-collection/](http://hclibrary.org/equity-resource-collection/) and Undesign the Redline exhibit [http://hclibrary.org/undesign-the-redline-exhibit/](http://hclibrary.org/undesign-the-redline-exhibit/) at the Central Branch on September 27, 2021. The center was developed in response to requests from the community and houses a collection of more than 9,000 items for all ages across a wide array of subjects. During the COVID-19 pandemic, which disproportionately impacted people of color, and following the murder of George Floyd, community leaders and members began asking for space for people to come together and talk across differences, and about ideas and solutions. In addition, people continued to ask for the return of the Undesign the Redline exhibit, which will be there through February 2022. This new Center enables the library to dedicate space not only for the new equity collection but also for other exhibits and conversations.

- In keeping with the HCLS commitment to condemn racism, xenophobia, misogyny, hatred, and racial and gendered violence in all forms against all people; standing against racism and hatred each time it is in our midst, and strategizing and enacting change until America’s promises ring true for all people, they have started a new initiative, *Brave Voices, Brave Choices* to harness the power of storytelling [http://hclibrary.org/brave-voices-brave-choices/](http://hclibrary.org/brave-voices-brave-choices/). (This program is partially funded by IMLS through an ARPA grant from MSLA). Through this program they invite the community to reflect on their own personal experiences related to racism and discrimination by contributing stories through their website. They hope to create ripples of understanding and positive action throughout Howard County as the community collectively examines these stories and reflects on the impact they have on our lives. The goal is that “together we will forge new relationships, strengthen bonds, and build support for each other as individuals, families, neighborhoods, and the larger community”.

- **Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS)** has received an American Rescue Plan for Museums and Libraries grant of $40,000 from the Institute of Museums and Libraries (IMLS) for FY 2022. This grant will expand access to computer technology and the internet for patrons in this economically disadvantaged community, where approximately 36 percent of the county’s residents do not have broadband internet access at home. A digital equity coordinator will administer a program through which library cardholders can check out laptops containing internet hot spots for home use. Library staff will receive training to remotely assist patrons with the devices and help them navigate job resources. The program is being piloted at three locations and will be expanded to all 19 branches. It responds to community needs that have been exacerbated by COVID-19 by giving people access to computers and the internet and helping them find employment.

**Update on Ebooks and Antitrust Issue**

- The General Assembly passed SB432/HB518 Public Libraries - Electronic Literary Products Licenses - Access during the 2021 Session [https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/site/Legislation/Details/hb0518/?ys=2021rs](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/site/Legislation/Details/hb0518/?ys=2021rs). The bill was put forward by the Maryland Library Association (MLA) and the Maryland
The bill requires a publisher who offers to license an electronic literary product to the public to also offer to license the product to public libraries in the State on reasonable terms that would enable public libraries to provide library users with access to the electronic literary product. According to the fiscal note "violation of the bill is an unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice under the Maryland Consumer Protection Act (MCPA), subject to MCPA’s civil and criminal penalty provisions".

The bill is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2021. Jody Malmstrom served as a liaison with AG Frosh's office on this issue. Michael Blackwell, Director of St. Mary's County Library, and I kept her informed as the issue moved forward prior to and during the session, with Michael taking the lead. He has been working with representatives of the American Library Association (ALA) and policy groups in this area to analyze the issue.

As you can see from this link, https://publishers.org/news/the-association-of-american-publishers-files-suit-against-the-state-of-maryland-over-unprecedented-encroachment-into-federally-protected-copyrights/, the publishers have filed suit against Maryland.

I have also attached a copy of the MLA press release about the bill which clarifies the phrase "reasonable terms" one, of the purported sticking points.

In the meantime, I have asked the AG’s office for guidance on how the State Library agency should proceed with addressing this issue. Thus far, my advice to the stakeholders has been to proceed with caution so as not to tie the hands of the AG’s office.

Elliott Schoen indicated that his office will handle the litigation with support from the AG’s civil litigation unit.

Broadband and the Internet

The Office of Statewide Broadband is convening a working group to collaborate on efforts to expand broadband statewide and advise on technical aspects of SB66, Digital Connectivity Act of 2021. The bill established the Office of Statewide Broadband in the Department of Housing and Community Development to ensure that every resident of the State is supported by high-quality, affordable broadband Internet service and has the tools necessary to take advantage of the Internet. The Office is required to develop, by July 1, 2022, a statewide plan to ensure that all State residents have the ability to connect to reliable broadband Internet by December 31, 2026. The bill also established the Digital Inclusion Fund to support capacity building in the State. The Act requires a member of the Maryland State Library agency to be appointed to participate. Other participants include the Department of Information Technology, the State Department of Education, the State Department of Transportation, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Agriculture, the Maryland Department of Health, the Department of Planning, and the appropriate units of local government, including the Maryland Association of Counties and the Maryland Municipal League, to ensure that efforts to expand and enhance broadband internet services are coordinated statewide."

The Pew Research Center released The Internet and the Pandemic which indicates that during the pandemic “90% of Americans say the internet has been essential or important to them, many made video calls and 40% used technology in new ways. But while tech was a lifeline for some, others faced struggles”. Highlights point out that
Americans’ tech experiences in the pandemic are linked to digital divides, tech readiness; 46% of parents with lower incomes whose children faced school closures say their children had at least one problem related to the ‘homework gap’; more adults now favor the idea that schools should provide digital technology to all students during the pandemic than did in April 2020; and that video calls and conferencing have been part of everyday life.

State FY 2023 Budget
- The MSLA FY 2023 Operating Budget and the FY 2023 County Library Capital Project Grants Program and Annual Capital Budget, approved by the State Library Board at their meeting on September 22, 2021, were submitted to the Governor for approval.
- The Governor’s Proposed Budget for FY 2023 is expected to be released On January 19, 2022.

Federal FY 2021 Budget
- MSLA’s FFY 2021 LSTA Award is $3,124,301. This is a $27,384 increase over FFY2020.

Federal FY 2022 Budget
- IMLS submitted a FFY 2022 budget request to the White House on May 28, 2021 for $265,000,000. $168,803,000 of this would be used to support the Grants to States program. Compared to the FY 2021 budget, there is no increase in the funding request for the program.
- The amount requested by IMLS is the same amount as is listed in the President's budget.
- The Senate Appropriations Committee budget recommendations include a $5 Million increase to the Grants to States Program and an over $25 Million increase to IMLS over the submitted budget for a total of $295,000,000.
- As such, the Committee directs the creation of an information literacy taskforce at IMLS tasked with developing guidance, instructional materials, and national strategies on information literacy, to include at a minimum the creation of a website to disseminate best practices on information literacy and toolkits specially designed to help children, students, adults, and seniors understand, evaluate, and discern the reliability and accuracy of information.

Capital Grants Program/ Facilities Development
Current Projects
- A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held December 17, 2021 for the grand opening of Carroll County’s Exploration Commons. The project renovated an empty basement in the Westminster Branch into a 14,000 square foot STEAM lab.
- Construction is underway on libraries in four counties: Allegany - LaVale expansion and renovation; Anne Arundel - new Riviera Beach; Queen Anne’s - Kent Island expansion and renovation; and Carroll - Westminster renovation.
- Design is at 90% construction documents (CDs) in Frederick County for the new Middletown Library. The new Twin Beaches Library in Calvert County is under permitting prior to going out to bid. Design of Baltimore County’s Catonsville Library renovation is at 100% CDs, and BCPL expects to begin construction in May 2022. Design for renovations at Caroline County’s main library in Denton is currently at 50% design development (DD).
Prevailing Wage Legislation

- HB 37 expanded the applicability of the state’s prevailing wage law to include (1) a public work project contract with a value of $250,000 or more (instead of $500,000 or more, under current law) and (2) a public work project for which state funds constitute at least 25% of the construction costs (instead of at least 50% of construction costs, under current law). The bill applies to all library capital project construction contracts executed on or after October 1, 2021. **Prevailing wages are expected to increase the cost of projects by as much as 15%.**

FY 2023 Capital Grant Cycle

- Further review of the recommended projects is being conducted by the Department of Budget and Management’s (DBM) Capital Budgeting Office before the Governor’s Capital Budget is released on January 19, 2022.

State Funding Formula

- A MAPLA Task force met on September 20, 2021 to discuss potential changes to the Capital Match Formula in order to expand the distribution of funds to Garrett County.
- The Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County is the only library system that has not received an award since the grant program’s inception in FY 2008.

U.S. Treasury Department’s Capital Projects Fund (CPF)

- Renee Croft attended an informational webinar on September 30, 2021 to learn about this potential funding stream.
- Maryland will be allocated up to $171,223,815 through the CPF program.
- Each State must submit a single application by December 27, 2021 to request funds which must be certified by the Governor (or designee). Once a grant is approved, recipients have until September 24, 2022 to submit a grant plan/list of projects to be funded. Funds must be spent by December 31, 2026.
- Constructing new and improving existing library facilities is specifically mentioned as an eligible expenditure through the program. Our most recent capital needs assessment (November 2020) indicates $64,795,630 is needed for new library construction & $77,004,105 is needed for renovation over the next two years.
- MSLA is investigating the possibility of including library construction funding in Maryland’s application.

Statewide Capital Needs Assessment

- Individual library system reports were due on November 19, 2021. MSLA began collecting this data at the request of the Department of Budget and Management’s Capital Budget Office in FY 2008 when the grant program was implemented. While DBM no longer reviews the information, it is invaluable in the preparation of MSLA’s Capital Budget testimony in support of continued grant program funding.
- According to the most recent statewide facilities assessment conducted in November 2021, more than half of the 194 public library buildings in Maryland are over twenty five (25) years old. Consequences of this aging infrastructure are: 19 buildings need a new roof, 10 facilities require alterations for ADA compliance, 24 libraries have HVAC systems that are at the end of their useful life, 37 buildings require technological upgrades in order to provide 21st century library services, 55 existing facilities require general renovation at an estimated cost of $89,202,000, and 15 buildings have been identified for replacement with a new structure at an estimated cost of $301,505,000.
Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD)
Programs and Events

- **Books on Demand (BoD)** accounted for 68% of circulation originating at LBPD and 48% of patrons served in November 2021. LBPD circulated over 22,000 items (digital and physical) each month since July, the highest monthly circulation in over two years, showing both the increase in access through BoD and the resiliency of LBPD staff. We are now serving over 1,050 unique patrons through Books on Demand. LBPD received a shipment of 11,000 cases and cartridges from NLS for use in Books on Demand, as well as a repurposing device for clearing existing cartridges in the collection for re-use with Books on Demand.

- The **LBPD computers and network were migrated** from the LBPH domain to the MDGOV domain on November 19. This migration integrates all of MSLA in the MDGOV domain managed by the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) for security and help desk functions.

- The **Maryland Accessible Textbook** program has seen a marked increase in demand for textbook conversions as students move through the fall semester. Since August 20, 2021, students have requested 40 textbooks, as well as a number of requests for conversion of Open Educational Resources (materials created by the instructor specifically for the class).

- Youth Librarian LaShawn Myles is working on a **NASA@ My Library Reading Challenge in December**, and a **STEM astronomy podcast with Josh Urban**.

- Outreach and Marketing Librarian Ashley Biggs staffed exhibit tables at the **National Federation of the Blind of Maryland Conference** and the **Maryland Optometric Association Conference** in November. LBPD has also provided outreach for the **Centers for Independent Living**, the **University of Maryland Extension**, and the **Seniors on the Go program**.

- Assistive Technology Specialist Jerry Price continues **one-on-one technology instruction** by phone and has begun meeting some students in person. The **Technology User Group** will continue to meet via teleconference. Jerry presented at the MD TechConnect conference on the topic of Ableism in Technology on 12/2.

- The **Clyde Shallenberger Recording Studio** has produced 219 books that have been submitted to BARD, 209 of which were subsequently added to BARD. Several safety protocols are in place including individual windscreens and microphone sanitization as well as schedules that limit the number of volunteers in the studio at any one time. Other volunteers are recording remotely using kits that LBPD supplies or their own home studios if they meet our standards.

- LBPD received 50 additional **braille e-reader** devices to meet demand from patrons. Currently 161 patrons have the device.

- LBPD will be working on **elevator modernization** in the coming year in cooperation with the Department of General Services. LBPD will also go to the next phase of replacing the **patron area windows**, also with DGS. Staff are also planning for **renovations to the patron area and the Technical Services spaces**.

- LBPD currently serves **over 6,400 Active Patrons** in every county in the State of Maryland.
Public Libraries and State Networking Branch (PLSNB) Programs and Events

- MSLA is also ramping up to work on the LSTA Five-year Strategic Plan. Along with other state libraries in the Northeast, we are working with QualityMetrics on the evaluation of the current plan. Our consultant for creating the new plan, Maureen Sullivan, has scheduled several focus groups for December to gather feedback from stakeholders on the new plan.
- The next Library Associate Training Institute (LATI) virtual graduation is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, 2022.
- Statewide work groups have been formed to look at several areas of interest across the state:
  - **Tuition Reimbursement**
    - This group of public and academic librarians has expanded the scope of the group to refocus more broadly on Recruitment, Retention and Promotion, with a special focus on supporting the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) library community. A needs assessment will be distributed early in the new year which will help the task force prioritize work.
  - **Library Boards and their Roles**
    - We have enlisted Paula Singer from the Segal group to assist with building a toolkit for Maryland’s public libraries and their boards to increase effectiveness. A needs assessment has been distributed to all public library boards in Maryland.
- Mary Rayme, Grants Coordinator and Aleck Johnson of EdTech Strategies held two **online E-Rate trainings** recently for public libraries in Maryland. E-Rate is a federal program that provides discounts to schools and libraries for internet access. The addition of the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) has provided more funds than ever to libraries. EdTech Strategies is the E-Rate consultant for MSLA and they continue to provide training and to maintain the vital listserv.

Grants

- Mary Rayme, Grants Coordinator, and Kevin Middleton, Computer Network Specialist, took the new Salesforce based Electronic Grants Management System (EGMS) live in May. We are about to start our second phase of development, which will continue to improve users' experience (both internal and external to MSLA).
- MSLA is currently managing two IMLS awards: Grants to States Federal Fiscal Year 2021, and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). MSLA is preparing the final report for our Federal funders for Grants to States Federal Fiscal Year 2020 and Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.
- MSLA has combined the Staff Development and MLA Conference award grants. This will allow systems to plan for the year more cohesively.

Statistics

- The FY2021 Maryland Public Libraries Survey was open through December 6, 2021.
- A Tableau Core I training was held virtually September 28-30, intended for beginning Tableau users and those who need a refresher. We held a follow-up, two-hour virtual intensive Tableau training on December 9, 2021. This session was open to all Tableau
users, and was meant to be a hands-on opportunity for users to practice skills gained in previous trainings.

- Yana Demireva serves on the Public Library Association’s Measurement, Evaluation, and Assessment Committee, which advises PLA on the development of new data tools to support libraries’ decision-making. PLA recently launched the new Benchmark data and survey tool, allowing libraries nationwide to benchmark against their peers.

- MSLA hosted a MD TechConnect session on using data for decision-making, including leveraging tools such as PolicyMap and Tableau, which are provided to all library systems through an LSTA grant in partnership with Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS).

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)**

- ARPA funds are being used to support both local and statewide DEI initiatives, including Howard County’s “Brave Voices, Brave Choices” program which expands on a local program and will develop a statewide racial equity data report on racial disparities, inequities, and best practices for advancing racial equity.

- LSTA funds are being used to support the PGCMLS-led “Indigenous People’s App”. Working with community leaders, this grant will fund the creation of an app to geolocate sites of historic and cultural significance dating from Maryland’s pre-colonial history to present day.

**Youth Services**

- The Maryland State Library Agency received a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Cornerstones of Science Grant, “STEM Equity Framework: Building Equitable, Inclusive Library Services That Address Community Needs”, in partnership with Connecticut State Library, the Idaho Commission for Libraries and with advisor representatives from six other state library agencies. This Framework will provide the basis for a cohesive and accessible professional development training series, specifically for library directors, community engagement, and key front-line staff, to help reach more diverse audiences in Maryland communities, ensuring that many voices are engaged in important community issues. The STEM Equity Framework and online training series will strengthen library leadership and staff capacities to intentionally and collaboratively develop and implement an inclusive approach to engaging all stakeholders in the community. In short, the intent is for library leadership and staff to position their libraries to successfully serve as engagement centers in their communities.

- The statewide Youth Services Coordinators’ professional learning project for 2021-2022 is a “Library EdCamp”, where youth services coordinators will come together for a series of Lunch & Learn sessions the last Monday of every month, to share and discuss various topics surrounding youth services. Topics to be discussed include data gathering, mobile and other services, creative staffing models, among others.

- Carrie Sanders attended the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) Annual Meeting virtually on September 23, 2021. The 2022 summer reading season looks to the water with the theme of “Oceans of Possibilities.” Carrie also participated in CSLP’s first national (virtual) Summer Reading Program Symposium on Thursday, December 2, as a panelist discussing the importance of community assets and relationship building to help create successful, equitable summer programs.
The “Teen (Re) Connect” virtual conference occurred on October 27. Over 100 library staff from around the state attended sessions that included a Teen Services 101 introduction, and sessions on tween programming, rebuilding teen programs and services, teen mental health awareness, and more. Slides and resources from this conference are available on the Teen Connect website.

Carrie Sanders is partnering with Drs. Mega Subramaniam and Jessica Vitak from the UMD iSchool in the offering of a three-part workshop series focusing on the resources developed as part of the Safe Data/Safe Families IMLS-funded project, led by the University of Maryland iSchool, focusing on privacy literacy. In this project, Dr. Jessica Vitak and Dr. Mega Subramaniam worked with library staff and families regarding these challenges and developed a number of resources for libraries and families that simplify and explain some of the biggest online risks and how to avoid them. This workshop series, with sessions offered in November, December, and January, allows library staff to explore the resources created for libraries (training modules, policy framework, privacy teaching moments, and programming resources) and for families (privacy tips and games and activities) to help ensure that online information is protected.

Carrie Sanders and Yana Demireva will lead a “Library Staff as Public Servants” learning series in December, focusing on the 2020 publication, “Library Staff and Public Servants: A Field Guide for Preparing to Support Communities in Crises”, which provides guidance to public library staff to meet the needs of their communities in times of crises by carrying out four "Essential Tasks" - Learning about Community, Co-creating with Community, Assessing and Iterating with Community, and Designing Structures for Community. Following the first learning series offered in June, this second learning series in December will review the public servant mindset and focus on the “Learning about Community” task through the inclusion of a community partner as a co-participant in the weekly sessions.

Carrie Sanders and Kelsey Hughes (PGCMLS) will lead a YALSA T3 “Teen Services Crash Course: A Four Part Journey into the Basics of Teen Services” in January, comprised of four synchronous sessions, looking at Youth Development, Connected Learning, and Computational Thinking, all through an equity lens.

Statewide Programming Update

The 6th annual MD TechConnect conference was held on Thursday, December 2 virtually. This event featured Chris Freeland, Director of Open Libraries at the Internet Archive and Internet personality Beth Ziesenis. More than 300 people attended, making this the largest TechConnect yet!

A Service Design Intensive was held in October for library staff and administrators. The course covered key concepts and approaches to create more desirable and valuable service experiences for customers while ensuring staff can have a great day at work delivering those experiences.

Maryland State Library has purchased Niche Academy. A variety of courses are now available to staff in public, academic, and school libraries. MSLA partners with SLRC, SMRLA, and public libraries to curate content.

Northstar Digital Literacy is now available to library staff in public libraries, as well as to libraries participating in the statewide pilot for the public. This special subscription focuses on improving digital literacy skills.
**Updates**

### Citizens for Maryland Libraries (CML)
- Ms. Wheeler advised that Ms. Padilla was part of the panel for the annual meeting. The report of the meeting is on CML’s website [https://citizensformarylandlibraries.org/](https://citizensformarylandlibraries.org/). The CML Annual Meeting was held in person for the first time in two years as a hybrid session. MSLA provided the funds for the meeting to be held as a hybrid presentation. Mr. Fish thanked Ms. Wheeler for bringing the Talbot County issues regarding the required local match for the county capital project program to the Board’s attention.
- Mr. Fish mentioned that Talbot County is hoping to situate a Frederick Douglas landmark, the State’s second literary landmark, in partnership with Tuckahoe State Park, a public recreation area located along Tuckahoe Creek in Caroline and Queen Anne’s counties on the Eastern Shore. Adkins Arboretum, a garden and preserve maintaining over 600 native plant species, occupies 500 acres of the park.
- Ms. Tignor stated that MASL has asked for a report so that April can be proclaimed School Library Month. She stated that the Governor candidates are asking questions about the position of public libraries. She will send out the questions and would like input.
- Ms. Wheeler advised that this was her last CML meeting and the new Executive Director is Stephanie Johnson. Mr. Fish is also leaving the CML board. She is unsure who will replace Jay Bansbach as Chair. Ms. Marshall congratulated Ms. Wheeler on completing a fantastic term. Good job!

**University of Maryland iSchool**

Mr. Butler presented the following report:

### Upcoming Events
- **Jessica Vitak** and **Mega Subramaniam** will be presenting an upcoming workshop to the Maryland State Library Staff on Privacy Policy Framework for Libraries on January 6, 2022 at 10 am.

### MUS Program Updates
- After a 2-year hiatus, the iDiversity Student group was rebooted and a kick-off meeting took place on December 1, 2021.
- The College awarded its first scholarships to ALA Spectrum Scholarship winners. We plan to continue awarding incoming students who have received the Spectrum Scholarship with an equal scholarship.

### Other Academic Programs
- **Beth St. Jean** has developed a new Carillon Community that will be open to first-year undergraduate students beginning their studies at the University of Maryland. Carillon Communities are living-learning communities centered around Big Questions that matter to our world. The iSchool's Carillon Community will focus on the topic of Health Justice, particularly centering around the following Big Questions: (1) Does every individual have a fair shot at living a long and healthy life?; (2) What are the roles that information plays in creating and intensifying health disparities?; and (3) How can we harness information to prevent and address health disparities? Students who enroll in this community will take a new specially designed course, INST 232: Health Justice: Investigating the Roles of Information in Preventing & Addressing Health Disparities.
This course will engage students in teamwork and problem-solving, aiming to collaboratively identify and develop strategies to address the many different types of information-related factors [such as people's (lack of) access to health information, their strategies for seeking (or avoiding) health information, and their health and digital health literacy] that can contribute to the development and reinforcement of health disparities. The iSchool's Health Justice Carillon Community has been approved for a Fall 2022 launch. For more information about the Carillon Communities Program at the University of Maryland, please visit: https://carillon.umd.edu/

Faculty Awards / Recognition
- Beth St. Jean received a Best Paper Reviewer Award from the Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) for her reviewing of papers for the 2021 ASIS&T Annual Meeting.

Faculty Presentations / Workshops
- Ana Ndumu and Dr. Millicent Mabi presented a paper on "Information behavior among Afro-Hispanic immigrants: What demographic and population data tells us (or does not)" at the Information Needs, Seeking, and Use Special Interest Group (SIG-USE) Symposium during the ASIS&T 2021 Annual Conference (October 20, 2021).
- Ana Ndumu took part in an ASIS&T 2021 Annual Conference panel presentation on "Information Injustice and Intellectual Freedom: Polarizing Concepts for a Polarizing Time" alongside Dr. Shannon Oltman, Dr. Emily M. Knox, and Dr. John T. Burgess (November 1, 2021).
- Ana Ndumu took part in a REFORMA National Conference panel discussion on "Libraries, multilingualism, and power: Resisting English language instruction as performative and symbolic assimilation" alongside Jesus Espinoza, Denisse Solis, Anna Kozlowska, and Diane Lopez (November 7, 2021).
- Ursula Gorham gave a keynote address at FEDLINK's Fall Exposition, "Federal Librarians: The Vanguard of the Hybrid Infospace," on Wednesday, November 17, 2021.
- Diana Marsh took part in the SNAG annual meeting presenting on the efforts of the 2021 Indigenous SNAG edit-a-thon alongside Stephen Curley, Katharine Satriano, and Lydia Curliss (PhD student at UMD) (September 29th, 2021.)
- Diana Marsh gave a Brown bag lunch time talk to select staff members at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) on community outreach and collaboration as part of the SNAG edit-a-thon alongside project team members Katherine Satriano and Lydia Curliss, and Indigenous advisory board members Melissa Stoner, Taylor Gibson and Stephen Curley (October 22, 2021).
- Jason R. Baron gave a presentation on "Secrets of the Freedom of Information Act: Everything you need to know about FOIA (including where the Roswell documents are)," as part of the First Wednesdays at the CAFe (Center for Archival Futures) speaker series, https://cafe.ischool.umd.edu/events/ (November 17, 2021).

• **Beth St. Jean**, **Ryan O'Grady**, and **Sarah McGrew** (College of Education) presented the Search Mastery project at the *Maryland Information Literacy Exchange (MILEX) Fall 2021 Workshop* during the session entitled "Testing Online Tools for Information Literacy Instruction" on Friday, November 12th. The Search Mastery project is a cross-disciplinary collaboration here at the University of Maryland to develop and implement a set of modules that will help students to develop the knowledge and skills that students need to optimally use and navigate publicly available search engines and to evaluate and select credible information tailored to one's information needs. Sarah's, Ryan's, and Beth's presentation was entitled, "Search Mastery: Assessing and Improving Students' Online Search & Credibility Assessments Skills through Asynchronous Modules." In their presentation, Sarah, Ryan, & Beth shared the Search Mastery modules, as well as the pre- and post-tests. They also shared what they have learned about the effectiveness of the modules thus far and solicited input and feedback from the workshop attendees. If you're interested in joining the Search Mastery Interest Group and/or would like to use any of the Search Mastery materials in a course that you're teaching, please email Mary Ann Francis (Search Mastery Program Management & Public Outreach), at mfranci1@umd.edu.

• **Jessica Vitak** and **Mega Subramaniam** presented two workshops to the Maryland State Library Staff to share resources produced as part of their [Safe Data Safe Families](#) project: (1) Family Resources on November 15, 2021; and (2) Resources for Staff -- Training Modules and Teaching Moments on December 6, 2021.

• **Mega Subramaniam** presented a talk "Facilitating Digital Literacy Learning in Libraries" to the UMD Extension Faculty on November 23, 2021.

Ms. Marshall stated that she is very happy that Dr. Butler is addressing the management positions in libraries. This is a big issue as with other mid-management positions. Ms. Bowman stated that it is hard to compete with the salary that retail is now offering. For example, Target pays more than libraries for entry level positions.

**Congress of Academic Library Directors (CALD)**

Mr. Clemens reported that he has five vacancies that he is unable to fill even though these positions are a great place to start in libraries. Mr. Clemens reported that the private and public institutions are mostly holding in-person classes on campus. Community Colleges are mostly online now. He also reported that, at this time, many institutions in Maryland are concerned with the low rate of registered students and they are afraid their budgets will be affected.

Mr. Clemens is hopeful that marketing will begin this spring for the Academic Library Conference in late April.
Enoch Pratt Free Library/State Library Resource Center (SLRC)  
Ms. Daniel provided the following update:

- SLRC Strategic Plan completed and approved by the SLRC Oversight Commission
- Recruitment is underway by Bradbury Miller for Chief of SLRC position. Initial qualified applicants were just identified. Structure for interview process including stakeholders such as Irene Padilla and Morgan Miller will be shared as soon as it is determined.
- Delivery Study RFP Responses are under review, a selection by of before December 17th from consultants:
  - J. Huber
  - Jennifer Sweeney
  - UPS
  - The reintegration project and county library profile update with OCLC/Relais for the Marina interlibrary loan software is being completed and includes the migration for the Montgomery and Frederick County library systems who have recently selected new ILS vendors. Montgomery (Koha); Frederick (CarlX)
  - SAILOR Database Project surveys and survey responses and feedback from the Maryland Public Electronic Resource Librarian (MPERLs) completed as well as the vendor fair. Results will be used to make database selections for the next contract cycle. Request for Proposal responses are expected by December 15th from ProQuest, Ebsco and Gale/Cengage.
  - State Publications Depository and Distribution Program has distributed 1,975 print publications and harvested 2,829 electronic documents in FY 2021
  - SLRC Newspaper Collection continues to support the Historic Maryland Newspaper Project recently providing 6 titles from the collection to U of MD
  - SLRC Statewide Conferences (virtual)
    - Fall SLRC Conference was October 19th and 20th, theme Concept of Community and Place. The keynote theme is Our Understanding of Place and Community as crucial factors in developing library services was presented by Dr. Ashley Minner, Smithsonian Institution
    - Collecting and Using Data to Understand Your Community Presentation
    - Sessions recorded and available on YouTube to attendees
- SLRC Statewide Training and Programming (virtual)
  - Training:
    - Critical Race Theory
    - DIY Oral History Interviewing
    - National History Day
    - Working with Genealogists
  - Introduction to SLRC Services
  - Programming:
    - Dark Side of Maryland: Haunting, Mediums, Mayhem, Witches Brew
    - Mysterious Maryland in partnership with the Maryland State Archives
    - African American Genealogy
    - Mediums, Magicians, and the Ouija Board
EPFL Updates
- Resuming full capacity & in person services
- Masters Facility Plan RFP is posted on the web

Maryland Library Association (MLA)
Ms. Bowman announced that the new Director of MLA is Joshua Stone. Mr. Stone will be moving to Maryland from Florida in January 2022.
- MLA Conference is May 4th and 5th in Cambridge and is in person
- Black Caucus of ALA will be part of MLA
- Diversity Workshop – Ms. Bowman advised Mr. Butler to get in touch with Joshua Stone. Mr. Stone has some great ideas.

MSDE School Library Media
Ms. Hicks reported the following:
- School Library Media (SLM) Online Reporting – The summary of the findings and the infographic of those results has been submitted for approval and posting on the SLM webpage.
- New Learning Management System (LMS) - Our new Learning Management System, Canvas/Instructure, is up and running. Please visit our MSDE eConnect homepage and explore the public facing resources.
- Spring 2022 Professional Learning courses have been posted to the MVPLO webpage. Registration closes January 27th. We are once again offering the second part of the national School Library Standards book study.
- Upcoming meetings and important dates:
  - The combined OITSLM meeting will occur this spring. We are unsure whether we will be able to hold it in person at that time.
  - The School Library Media Supervisors continue to meet monthly with very robust turnout and vitally important collaborative discussions.
- MDK12 Digital Library
  - SY22 New products trials - 9 new product trials have been initiated. They will run until January 15th. We will meet on January 6th to analyze feedback and determine vendors for RFQs.
  - Upcoming meetings:
    - Trials review and RFQ distribution: January 6th
    - RFQ reviews: February 8th
    - New Price List released: April

Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL)
- Ms. Tignor discussed the Right to Challenge and gave an overview of the MASL position statement on the Right to Read. Most of the challenges that school libraries are getting do not reach MASL. Most of the complaints are heard by school boards or air on social media and do not move forward.
- The Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL) supports the right to read of every student in the state of Maryland and across the globe.
The American Association of School Librarians Standards state that, “reading is the core of personal and academic competency” (AASL 2018, 11). School librarians include book titles that meet the needs of a diverse and dynamic school community. School librarians develop collections according to principles of intellectual freedom. They provide learners with access to information that represents diverse points of view and protect learners’ privacy and confidentiality.

Additionally, school librarians curate current, diverse and inclusive collections of reading and information materials. These materials include multiple genres and formats that support the needs of all members of the school community.

- MASL recognizes that school librarians are trained educators who specialize in their field.
- MASL recognizes that school librarians are the experts in the development of their collection.
- MASL recognizes that school librarians follow the selection policies of their district in order to create diverse and inclusive collections for every member of the school community.
- MASL recognizes that reconsideration policies within school systems must be followed as written in the policy each and every time a book is challenged.
- MASL recognizes that books should not be removed from the school library shelf without a thorough review and adherence to reconsideration policies.
- MASL recognizes that school libraries serve all children and are a valuable asset to the school community.

As such, MASL condemns any efforts to censor and remove books from school library shelves. Censorship and removal of books threaten the rights of students to read, to explore, and to engage with literature.

Tiki Love is leading the charge on making sure other libraries across the State of Maryland are celebrating April as School Library Month. Please have your members make a request for a proclamation.

Other Business
Mr. Martin thanked Ms. Wheeler for her dedication and service to the Citizen’s for Maryland Libraries Board.

Public Comment
No public comments were submitted.

State Library Board Member Updates
There were no other updates.

FY 2022 Meeting Calendar
- Monday, March 14, 2022
- Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Meeting Adjourned
The meeting was adjourned at 12:39 p.m.