



ARSL
The Association for Rural & Small Libraries

Spring 2016 Member Newsletter



Join us.

Oct. 27th-29th, 2016

Fargo, North Dakota

Time To Get North Of Normal!

Early Bird Registration and Housing Open

Woo-Hoo! We are thrilled to announce that Early Bird registration is now open for ARSLn2016 in Fargo, ND on October 27-29th. And better yet, thanks to a one time opportunity, we are able to pass along a great savings to all of you with Early Bird costs totaling just \$243.85. This fee not only includes informative workshops and inspiring keynotes, but breakfast and lunch on both Thursday and Friday, and brunch on Saturday. Get registered for ARSL 2016 at [North of Normal Registration](#).

And as if that isn't enough, the conference hotel is available for bookings! If you know you are coming, now is the time to pounce on a room as they will fill up fast, especially with just a \$99 per night price tag.

We will be at the newly renovated Holiday Inn Fargo. To make reservations you can either book online at [North of Normal Housing](#) or call the hotel at 701-282-2700. If calling for reservations, be sure to mention code LIA or tell them you are part of the ARSL conference.

Conference T-Shirt Contest

Congratulations to Mel Hager of the Alexander County Public Library in North Carolina! Her design will be featured on the official conference t-shirt. The shirts will soon be available for pre-order only and will be sold only for a limited time.

For the most current information on conference, please visit the [conference](#) page on our website and be sure to join our [event page](#) on Facebook.



President's Update

School has ended for the day, and a flood of children spill into the local public library. This scenario plays out in libraries every weekday. In small and rural communities libraries are often the only place for young people to go afterschool. A recent report, *America After 3PM Special Report: The Growing Importance of Afterschool in Rural Communities*, published in March of 2016, indicates that children in small and rural areas are at a disadvantage to their counterparts in large and urban settings when it comes to afterschool programs. This report delves into the value and importance of afterschool programs. Beyond educational enrichment parents see these programs as opportunities for, "... social development, and overall health and wellness, [and] also regard [them] as a critical resource for working families."

Afterschool programs in rural settings are seen to have advantages over those in urban areas including family oriented activities and the provision of wholesome snacks. Rural programs, however, fall behind their urban counterparts in the delivery of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) related programs. Afterschool programs are difficult to find in rural areas, and when they do exist families are often unaware of them, they are too expensive, or there is no affordable transportation option.

Libraries in small and rural communities are in a unique position to help provide organized, affordable, and educational afterschool programs. Children are already in the library afterschool, and libraries excel at providing free and low cost programs. It is a matter of recognizing the need, making a commitment, and getting organized. Programs do not have to be elaborate. Start small and grow. Look for content experts in your community. Ask for volunteers. Have a positive attitude. Be determined to overcome the obstacles. Get help. Will it be easy? Perhaps not. Will it be worth it? Most certainly!

Resources: Afterschool Alliance - <http://tinyurl.com/jzvfe7l> Know Your Funders: A Guide to STEM Funding for Afterschool - <http://tinyurl.com/qtdesh8> Public Libraries as Places for STEM Learning - <http://tinyurl.com/j8hh4xs> YALSA STEM Programming Toolkit - <http://tinyurl.com/hshfrun>

Thank you to Marijke Visser at the ALA Office for Information Technology Policy for bringing the report *America After 3PM Special Report: The Growing Importance of Afterschool in Rural Communities* to my attention! You read the full report: <http://tinyurl.com/zhjrc2u>.

Jet Kofort



Health Resources For Every Library

The Library of Medicine and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine

By: Carolyn Martin

University of Washington Health Sciences Library, Washington

Have you ever been asked a health related question at your library that you didn't feel competent answering? Are you hoping to improve or expand your library's online presence with freely available and reliable health information? Or are you hoping to add health and wellness programs and services to your quiver of services?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, discovering what the Library of Medicine and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine have to offer is a great place to start. The National Library of Medicine was founded in 1836 in Bethesda, Maryland and is housed on the campus of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The NIH contains the world's largest biomedical library that makes available a vast print collection and produces electronic information resources on a wide range of topics that are searched billions of times each year by millions of people around the world.

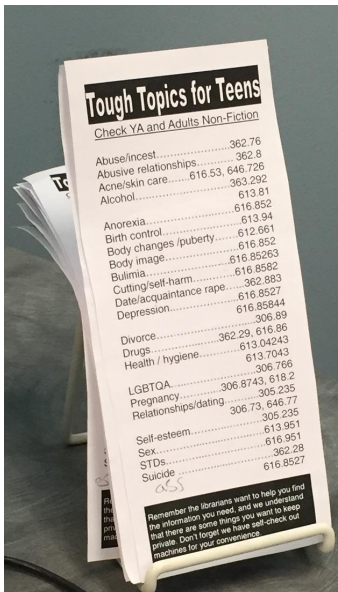
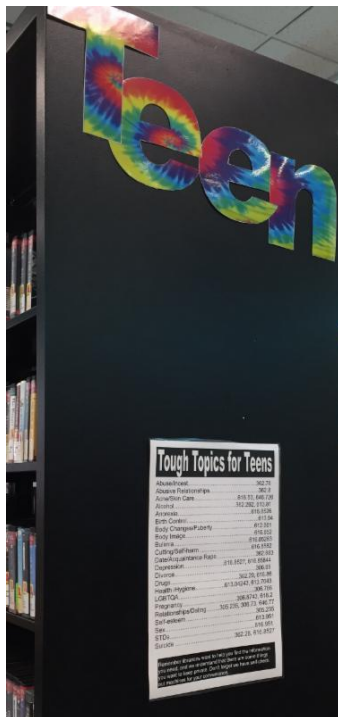
One of the resources provided by the NLM is MedlinePlus. MedlinePlus is not an information creator but rather organizes over 900 health topics with information drawn from a variety of trusted sources. These sources cannot include advertising, must be up to date, and are reviewed regularly. Examples of information found on MedlinePlus includes drug and supplement information, health quizzes, information about talking to your doctor and how to be a good parent, as well as guides to medical terms and much more.

A few other resources available at the National Library of Medicine includes KidsHealth.org with great health information for kids, the Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, and professional medical associations. For a complete list of consumer health resources found at the NLM, go to

Another phenomenal medical resource is the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM). Charged with the mission of advancing the progress of medicine and improving the public health by providing access to biomedical information to U.S. health professionals and health information to the public, the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) is currently celebrating its 50th anniversary. Membership to the NN/LM is free and any library, health-related information center, health department, or any other organization whose mission is to provide access to health information may join the Network.

The Network is supported via eight regional offices that provide basic information in the areas of Consumer Health, Resource Sharing and Technology, as well as training, outreach and funding to their members. Additionally, the NN/LM offers classes to learn about their various resources as well as classes on health literacy, teen health, senior health, health in the news and more. The NN/LM can also assist you and provide some guidelines if you and your staff would like to offer a health reference service. Take a look at the upcoming NN/LM regional training opportunities <http://nnlm.gov/training-schedule>. These classes can be used towards receiving a Consumer Health Information Specialization through the Medical Library Association (MLA) <http://www.mlanet.org/p/cm/ld/fid=329>.

Altogether, the resources provided by the National Library of Medicine and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine can help your library staff expanding health and wellness programs and services and create healthier communities.



Tough Topics For Teens

Crafting Easy To Grab Materials for Teens Tough Questions

By: *Laura C. Perenic,*

Clark County Public Library, Ohio

Children ask a lot of questions and teens, once they are comfortable with you, ask even more. My teen patrons, those I know and who come to programs, are absolutely full of questions. In fact, in the middle of a gaming event or anime activity, I have suddenly been asked about politics, college, pregnancy and a whole lot more.

These and other questions that may arise can be tough topics and tough questions and I know that not all adults and even not all library staff are willing and able to tackle certain queries. However, receiving straightforward, unbiased, factual information from libraries in response these inquiries is absolutely critical for libraries. Personally, while I always hope all patrons are comfortable asking me their references questions, the reality is that I am not always at work and some patrons, whether teens or adults, may not in fact, feel as comfortable asking as I hope. This is a dilemma that I and all libraries need an answer to.

My answer arrived a few months ago when a picture started trending online of a Tough Topics for Teens Bookmark. My manager and I agreed that a bookmark was a great addition to our teen department. We also felt that due to the small size of the teen department and its correspondingly smaller Non-Fiction section, a poster to further advertise materials that cover these tough topics but are shelved in the adult department would maximize the impact of the information. So we about creating them. We made sure to cover a broad range of topics but in addition to providing information about these tough topics, our poster and bookmarks also reminds teens that books can be borrowed at the self-check thereby offering full anonymity for the patron and their materials. Although this option isn't available at all libraries, I like that it speaks to the staff's understanding of people's need for a little privacy.

Once the poster was up and the bookmarks were available in the teen section, I prepped myself for negative commentary, but no one ever complained. Better yet, the bookmarks disappeared. And since we made them available, I have received more direct questions about how to find materials and resources on these specific tough topics. Yet this is not always the case, there are times when I am obliquely asked how to use the catalog and the patron will seem to avoid providing

details. At those times, I can only guess that the bookmarks may have prompted a search on one of the listed topics or that the bookmark promoted them to research something they never thought to ask about before.

Now, from my vantage at the children's desk where I have a partial view of the teen department, I can see the Tough Topics poster and often see patrons of all ages lingering over it. Once, I even saw a patron photograph the Tough Topics for Teens Poster and I couldn't help but smile as this was precisely how I discovered this brilliant idea to begin with.



Powerful Partnerships

Building a Stronger Community and Library Through Partnerships

By: Blythe Ogilvie
Richfield Public Library, Utah

The beautiful Richfield Public Library located in Richfield, Utah has become a hotbed of powerful partnerships. This historic Carnegie library serving 7,700 folks in south central Utah began its transformation just over a year ago in January of 2015 when it was awarded a grant from the National Issues Forum (NIF) and the Taylor Willingham Legacy Fund to begin democratic discussions in the community around mental health issues.

While some libraries may have simply opened up their space and invited the public in for these conversations, Director Blythe Ogilvie began the process of contacting and collaborating with a plethora of local organizations in hopes of broadening both the scope and power of what she hoped would become community-wide dialogues. She reached out to the local school district, local charter schools, and the Central Utah Head Start. Next she contacted the health department, the domestic violence shelter, the local Native American Tribal Councils, nearby Senior Centers, local faith-based organizations, Central Utah Youth Corrections, and many locally owned businesses.

This step of reaching beyond the library's walls resulted in powerful discussions about mental health, bullying prevention, suicide prevention, and kicked off a whirlwind of collaboration. Since then, the Library has become a center of community collaboration and involvement.

Examples of other powerful partnerships include orchestrating the annual DIA (Dia de Los Ninos, Dia de Los Libros) Storytelling Extravaganza with the local bands of Paiute Indians and local Navajo students as well as a multi-generational program "Across the Ages" aimed at serving infants through senior citizens. This program, funded by an LSTA grant, allowed the library to reach out to in-custody youth with literature programs as well as to develop collections specifically for underserved groups, and to develop and present developmental programs for infants through preschoolers.

Yet, "powerful partnerships, don't always have to be big and flashy" Ogilvie said. "Simply being knowledgeable about and referring patrons to community organizations and services is a step every library could and should take." "We stay in touch with local partners through participation in a Six-County Prevention Coalition that coordinates programs and partnerships for the prevention of domestic violence, substance abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, bullying, and suicide."

And partnerships can be fun too she made sure to add. For the second summer in a row, the Library has partnered with Richfield Parks and Recreation for the Summer Reading Club engaging children at four different city parks each week with healthy activities, reading challenges, and hands-on fun. The Library Board and City Officials are very supportive of this collaborations which will meet the needs of local youth and families physically, socially, and intellectually.

It's not difficult for the Library to become the hub of community information. It's a matter of consistently reaching out, with the goal of helping partners communicate with the public, helping library patrons connect with other community agencies and organizations to meet their diverse needs. It could be as simple as posting the phone number of the local women's shelter, or asking the health department to do a program on seat-belt safety for the preschool story moms. Our partners are eager to share their services and information, and we here to serve!

Web Resource Round-Up

By: *Jezmynne Dene*
Portneuf District Library, Idaho

Reference at the service desk is often touch and go, and it's never a bad idea to review tools to help you and your patrons make the right decision about an information resource. Check out the Meriam Library's CRAAP (yes, you read that right!) Test! The [CRAAP Test](#) helps you and your users ask questions to determine if you should consider trusting an information resource. It's designed for articles, but works GREAT on websites, too!

Got a student working on a States project or City report? Check out the new data visualization tool, [Data USA](#). Data USA pulls information from census reports to provide gorgeous, visual representations of information perfect for student projects. Use this tool to quickly see demographics, housing, health and safety data, occupations, and much more, all in a fun layout all ages will appreciate.

Health questions! Few reference transactions are as scary as trying to help a user find information on health topics. Here's ALA to the rescue! ALA is hosting a new listserv to help with medical reference questions. Medical librarians from all over are on the list, ready and willing to help answer those tough and sticky questions. Post your query to [MedRef](#) and see how expert medical librarians can help you and your patrons.

Genealogy Essentials: Helping Patrons Search For Roots

Extended Education With WebJunction

May 19, 2016
3:00pm EDT

The advent of the Internet liberated genealogy research. With the resulting ease of access, individual genealogy exploration has blossomed. However, many people pay for research services, not realizing that they can go to their public library for free, reliable tools and assistance. This webinar will teach library staff how to assist patrons with genealogical questions using [FamilySearch.org](#) a leading genealogy resource. Learn the reference skills necessary to determine a patron's research experience and reveal the problem to be solved. Learn how to orient patrons available resources and introduce them to the principles of finding a record for a known ancestor. Become a better guide to your patron researchers and help them to connect successfully with the details and stories of their ancestry. [Register for Genealogy Essentials](#)

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