

# APLSeeds

*Growing public libraries across Alabama*

Edited by: Stephanie Taylor

February 26, 2016

## Calendar

APLS Executive Board Meeting 3/17/16

FY17 LSTA Professional Training Applications Due 4/1/16

FY17 LSTA General Applications Due 4/8/16

Administrators' Meeting 5/11/16

## APLS News

APLS is thrilled to welcome Rhonda Napier as the new Library Development Operations Manager. With a diverse background in the library field, she brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this position.

Born and raised in Wichita, Kansas, Rhonda received her Master's in Library and Information Sciences from the University of Iowa and started her career in academic librarianship before moving to the Wichita Public Library's Children's Department. The next stage of her career brought her to Cessna Aircraft Company where she worked with engineers, pilots, and mechanics, providing reference services and materials. It was here that Rhonda

turned a corner office into a full-fledged library with high-density storage units and transformed a microfilm based information service into a desktop utility. Most recently, Rhonda worked with students, directing a small academic library. She has been involved in many areas of the library including information literacy instruction, circulation, programming, and reference.

In her spare time, Rhonda enjoys reading, spending time with her family, and traveling. Be sure to ask her about her dogs, Cera and Tato! Rhonda is excited to be working with individuals in the field that are passionate about their work and the impact it has on others. Please help us welcome her to the state!



# Your Local Health Resource

Health InfoNet of Alabama is a free, award-winning consumer health information service of Alabama's public and medical libraries. It contains the expertise of librarians all over the state and is purposed to help residents swim through a sea of health information while searching for quality, authoritative material. For example, Health InfoNet can help with the following:

- Assist residents in locating quality, authoritative resources to answer their health questions either at their public library or through the Health InfoNet website: <http://www.healthinfonet.org>
- Assist residents in finding service providers by service area, county, city, topic, or services provided
- Assist public libraries by providing assistance on answering consumer health information inquiries

A new online tutorial on conducting reference interviews for health information-seeking users, legal issues, and collection development is available through their website.

Residents can currently visit or call their local public library to locate quality, authoritative resources and when needed, public libraries can request backup help from the state medical libraries at the [University of Alabama at Birmingham](#) and the [University of South Alabama](#) or call 1-855-INFONET (1-855-463-6638) to be directed to the best source.

Their website is designed as a service for online users and is a gateway to quality information resources. If users don't find what they're looking for here, they can call their local public library or go to Health InfoNet for assistance through their website and submit an email inquiry, chat online, or call 1-855-INFONET (1-855-463-6638).

Follow them on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/HealthInfoNetAlabama/>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/HealthInfoNetAL>) to keep up-to-date on important public health matters. For informational brochures to distribute to your patrons or to request training on Health InfoNet of Alabama, please contact them by email at [HINofAlabama@gamil.com](mailto:HINofAlabama@gamil.com)

\*Note: The libraries are supported in this effort by the

Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) and the Alabama Health Libraries Association (ALHeLA). The State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) and National Library of Medicine (NLM) also played key roles in developing the online database of health services around the state. An advisory committee of librarians, practicing health professionals, health organization representatives, and other interested parties provide guidance for the project directors in administering Health InfoNet.

## Pete the Cat in Alabaster



Children read the library book *A Pet for Pete* during the January 19th session of the Pete the Cat Book Club at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. The kids decorated paper fish, looked at nonfiction books about cats, and played 'Pete Says'.



# Homewood Programs

Just in time for the finale season of *Downton Abbey*, Homewood Public Library hosted another successful *Downton Abbey* Tea and Trivia event. Almost 70 enthusiasts arrived in costume with their teacups to test their knowledge of the show. Another trivia night is planned after the season has aired.



At the library's new Tinker Toddlers Story Time, children are treated to an interactive story with a musical element. Paired with donated ukuleles and the recently purchased Sharp Aquos Board, toddlers are encouraged to explore their world through stories and play. The hands-on format includes a mixture of music, technology, stories, and activities centered around these topics to build skills and school readiness.



# North Shelby Building STEAM

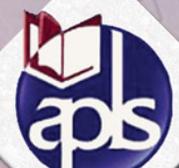
The children's department of the North Shelby Library was recently awarded a Building STEAM with Dia mini-grant from the Association for Library Service to Children and the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. Lasting from January to May, this grant will focus on culturally diverse and appropriate STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) programs. Programs will include preschool science experiments, an art installation project incorporating scale and perspective, and the opportunity to plant and cultivate a sustainable vegetable garden. For more information about the STEAM with Dia grant, visit <http://www.ala.org/alsc/diaturns20>.

# Orange Beach Hot Spots

Orange Beach Public Library is now offering T-Mobile Hotspots to their patrons. These wireless WI-FI hubs will be available for a two-week checkout period for use at home, at the beach, or on the go. All hotspots must be checked out from and returned to the library front desk. There is no renewal option available once the two-week checkout period is over, and each unit must be returned to the library to remain in good standing. Once the hotspot has been checked out longer than two weeks, service will be cut off and it will no longer function. The replacement cost for each T-Mobile Hotspot is \$115 in the event that the item is damaged or not returned. This is currently a test program, so there will be a limited number of hotspots available to check out. Depending on reception and popularity, they will expand the program as needed.

All Services  
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## Library Space Planning: How to Make a General Estimate of Space Needs, by Jim Smith, APLS Consultant

It is a well-established principle that public library leaders should work toward providing sufficient space to carry out the mission and goals of their library. When a library is close to utilizing all its current space (or if it has already run out of space) the library board and director should develop a plan to provide enough space to meet users' needs for the next 10 to 20 years. To plan ahead, administrators should assess the present and future space needs at least every five years.

A general estimate of space needs can be done without a large investment of time and resources. After a general estimate has been prepared, planners can then assess the adequacy of the existing square footage and determine if a more detailed study is needed. Fortunately the state libraries of Wisconsin and Connecticut have developed space-planning methods that are simple and very useful to any public library in the country. A general estimate of space needs can be prepared using information and tools available on the Wisconsin and Connecticut websites. While the methodologies of both states are similar, the Wisconsin methodology is somewhat simpler; however, planners should evaluate both before deciding which one to use.

The Wisconsin Division for Libraries and Technology has a narrative outline and a corresponding worksheet. The narrative outline is located at <http://goo.gl/YWZb70>. The space needs worksheet is located at <http://goo.gl/PjKs2P>. The Connecticut State Library, Division of Library Development, has online access to their "Library Space Planning Guide", "Library Space Planning Guide Worksheet", and "Library Space Planning Guide Bibliography". The main page is located at <http://goo.gl/qetyVx>.

The Wisconsin and Connecticut methods both have as their first step the determination of the projected resident and nonresident population to be served in 10 to 20 years. The size of the future population has a direct impact on the size requirements of the library. A reliable source for detailed Alabama population projections is the Alabama State Data Center, located at the University of Alabama. Their phone number is (205) 348-6191. The website address is <http://goo.gl/Aml78q>.

A space needs assessment should determine the square footage for the following broad types of library space:

- collection space
- reader seating space
- public electronic workstation space
- staff work space
- meeting space
- special use space
- nonassignable space

After the square footage has been estimated for each type of space, the numbers are totaled to determine the library's overall space needs. The estimated figures should be compared with the square footage of the corresponding spaces in the existing building. This comparison may show deficiencies in the existing space and justify developing a construction plan.

In a future article I will discuss the steps necessary to develop a construction plan and describe additional sources of information.

# Jacksonville Tea

Jacksonville Public Library (JPL) presented a *Downton Abbey* tea party fundraiser in the historic Jacksonville Train Depot on a snowy January 23rd. Costumed guests and JPL staff members were treated to a lesson in tea etiquette by a retired Jacksonville State University professor who was born in Reading, England, and has lived in the former English colonies of Hong Kong, Karachi, Tanzania, and Kenya. While enjoying videos and trivia games about *Downton Abbey*, the guests sampled tea, scones, savories, and sweets. Finally, the staff awarded door and costume prizes and took photos to be emailed to the patrons.



## Daphne Grant

The Daphne Public Library Foundation received a \$500 donation from PenAir Credit Union during their Holiday Wreath Contest last December.

Several nonprofit organizations along the Gulf Coast were nominated to compete, and various PenAir offices sponsored the organizations' Christmas wreaths. The wreaths were displayed on PenAir's Face Book page

with instructions on how to vote for a favorite wreath or nonprofit. The Eastern Shore Branch created the Daphne Public Library Foundation wreath.

While the foundation was not chosen for one of the top three prizes, they were still excited and grateful to receive the \$500 donation presented by Drew Waller and accepted by President of the Daphne Public Library Foundation Dee Gambill, and Reference Librarian Anne Morris.

When Gambill asked Waller how the Eastern Shore Branch of PenAir chose the library foundation as one of their charities, he replied that the library has been very important to him in working toward earning his degree. He doesn't have a computer to work on at home so he goes to the library all the time to use their computers and Internet!



Left to right: Drew Waller, Anne Morris, and Dee Gambill pose with their wreath after being presented with the \$500 donation.

## 2 Resources, 1 Goal: Helping Alabama Succeed

### LearningExpress Library & HomeworkAlabama

- Online Tutoring for Grades K-12
- College Placement Resources
- Help for all ages and all skill levels
- Certification Test/GED Preparation
- Career Resources

Find both on the APLS  
Resources and Research Links Page

**Library Operations Manager (BPH Regional Library Director)**  
**Alabama Public Library Service**  
**Montgomery, Alabama**

## **The Library System**

The Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) receives and administers state and federal funds to meet the needs of the Alabama citizens. APLS works with over 220 public libraries to facilitate consistent, exceptional library service across the state. APLS is fortunate to house the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in addition to providing direct service to Alabama State employees, supporting wide ranging program development, assisting with establishing cooperative library services and networks, and continuing to provide education opportunities for patrons and librarians.

## **Montgomery and the River Region**

Located midway between the Smokey Mountain foothills and the crystal sand beaches of the Gulf Coast, Montgomery offers the poignant history of the birth of the Confederacy and the Civil Rights Movement. From the Alabama Shakespeare Festival bringing theater alive to the Montgomery Symphony or Alabama Dance Theatre, the River Region offers thrilling arts and culture. Montgomery offers a myriad of recreation opportunities from the renowned Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Capitol Hill located in neighboring Prattville, local biking, running and rowing clubs, along with baseball, basketball and soccer leagues for all ages, to the whitewater paddling and mountain biking in nearby Wetumpka. Montgomery is home to three nationally recognized Magnet programs and several private school programs.

## **Position Overview**

APLS is seeking a self-motivated organized professional who is enthusiastic about managing the Regional Library the Blind and Physically Handicapped. The position provides leadership and support for planning, developing and improving statewide services for citizens of Alabama who are blind, have visual impairments or have a disability and are unable to read or hold print. This position organizes, coordinates, maintains, monitors activities and supervises staff so that all specialized services are in compliance with National Library Standards for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

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## **The Candidate**

### **Knowledge, Skills and Abilities**

#### Communicate Effectively

- Speak and write effectively in varying mediums to communicate with a broad range of audiences.

#### Create and Maintain a Professional Network

- Cultivate relationships to facilitate prompt and relevant responses to promote and meet state library needs.
- Promote an approachable environment to build cooperation and mutual trust among staff and supported libraries.

#### Manage Effectively

- Work effectively within a team environment.
- Motivate self and staff to provide the highest quality of customer service.
- Show personal initiative to research, create and promote programs supporting and advancing service to the blind and physically handicapped.

#### Identify and Work to Meet Member Needs

- Exercise independent and sound judgment to initiate recommendations for improvements in services.
- Awareness of the diversified needs of patrons in low-economic, high-economic, ADA, visually impaired, hearing impaired, or autistic situations.

## Education and Experience

MLS, MLIS, or MSLI from an ALA-accredited college or university.

Five years of specialized professional library experience, preferable but not required in a library working environment. Knowledge of ADA, visually impaired and hearing impaired patrons and disabilities.

Minimum three years progressively responsible supervisory experience over a staff of professional, paraprofessional, technical and clerical employees.

## Essential Duties of the Position

Develops long and short-range plans, including benchmarks and standards, to measure the effectiveness of the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Plan, organize, coordinate, maintain, and monitor the activities of the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped so that all specialized services are in compliance with APLS and the National Library Service rules and regulations for national programs standards and objectives.

Monitor sub-regional libraries for the blind and physically handicapped so that adequate library services are provided to the clientele statewide.

Communicate with other related disability organizations to promote library services and encourage referrals among institutions and agencies of similar clientele.

Coordinate the workflow, conduct regular project collaborative meetings, provide leadership and mentoring, establish communications regarding projects and troubleshoot potential issues.

## Compensation & Benefits

**Compensation:** Salary ranges from \$50,119.20—\$76,348.80 annually based upon education and experience. Salary is paid semi-monthly.

**Benefits Include:** Annual and sick leave; thirteen paid holidays; low cost insurance; retirement plan; deferred compensation plans; and flexible employee benefit plans.

## How to Apply

**Applicants must complete both steps on or before March 31, 2016:**

1. Complete a State of Alabama application form, located at <https://personnel.alabama.gov/OES/Login.aspx>, and submit the application to the Alabama State Personnel Department, 64 N. Union St., Montgomery, AL 36130 to be placed on the state merit system register; and
2. Submit a .pdf cover letter, resume and three professional references to the attention of Wanda Chrietzberg, HR Officer, at [wchrietzberg@apls.state.al.us](mailto:wchrietzberg@apls.state.al.us).

Interviews will be conducted by appointment only. Applicants must travel to interviews at their own expense.