

APLSeeds

Growing public libraries across Alabama

Edited by: Stephanie Taylor

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Calendar

Admin Meeting 9/27/16

State Aid Paperwork Due 10/1/16

APLS Board Meeting 11/17/16

in your communities! Spread the word about its features and how it can help students of all ages with their homework, test prep, and writing skills. Adults can take advantage of the career center to help them build their resumes and practice for interviews. Make sure your patrons know how to select you in the dropdown menu so your library will get credit for that usage.

New directors should have promotional materials from our recent workshop. Everyone can access the Resource Center to download and print promotional materials for your library: <http://www.tutor.com/clientcarelib/al>

Homework
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Homework Alabama Update for Users

Starting October 1, 2016, Homework Alabama users will be required to select their public library from a dropdown menu in order to start a session. Currently, the usage statistics are only attributed to public libraries if the user accesses Homework Alabama while sitting in a public library. By adding this feature, we will have more accurate usage statistics for this fabulous service.

Before starting a session, users will be prompted to select their public library from a dropdown menu. The libraries will be listed under the city they physically sit in. Monthly Homework Alabama statistics will be available on the APLS website here: http://webmini.apls.state.al.us/apls_web/apls/apls/docs/tutorstats/Past/past.php This will allow libraries to see how much their patrons are taking advantage of the service.

This is the perfect time to promote Homework Alabama

Pell City Craft Time

Pell City Public Library held a weekly *Mommy and Me Craft Time* during the month of July. Participants got to weave friendship bracelets, make fairy gardens in mason jars, create moon rocks with nebula jars, and design tie-die shirts. The program was a huge hit!



Regional Librarian Embraces Expanded Mission

...That All May Read

With just over a month of experience at her new job, Angela Fisher Hall has already embraced the service model driving the work of the Alabama Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (BPH) — making certain that all have access to literary works whether in braille, digital, or downloadable format. The BPH team, led by Hall with a staff of four, has an active patron base. Along with two subregional libraries—in Talladega and Huntsville, both with their own patron registers—they serve over 6,000 patrons all across the State of Alabama. BPH operates within the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) in Montgomery.

As Head of BPH, Hall provides leadership and support for planning, development, and improvement of statewide library services for citizens of Alabama who are blind, have visual impairments, or have a disability and cannot read or hold print. She will plan, coordinate, and monitor the activities of BPH so that all specialized services are in compliance with APLS and the National Library Service (NLS) rules and regulations.

Angela brings more than 34 years of experience in working for public, academic, and special libraries. She worked for six and a half years as part of the Birmingham Public Library System's administrative team, and during her last year there, she was the director for the system. Hall received a bachelor's from Birmingham-Southern College and a master's in Library and Information Studies from The University of Alabama. Additional training has included completion of the Public Library Association's (PLA) Boot Camp Management Training, the Smithsonian Institution's Awards for Museum Leadership, and the Getty Museum Leadership Program. Angela began her work in public libraries after graduation from college. She worked in public libraries for eight years before spending two years as an assistant professor/reference librarian at Spring Hill College in Mobile. In 2009, she completed sixteen years of service with the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute where she last served as Vice President of Publications and Special Projects.

Hall is a 2000 graduate of Leadership Birmingham and serves on the Birmingham-Southern College Norton Advisory Board. Her other professional and civic involvement includes memberships in the

American Library Association (ALA), the Professional Ethics Committee of ALA, and the Alabama Library Association (ALLA). A native a Birmingham, Angela has one son, Hardwick Olin Hall, II.



Angela by the Helen Keller statue located in the BPH lobby

Alex City Book Club

Adelia M. Russell Library in Alexander City just started *Library Ladies Book Club*, open to all women 18 years and older who love to read. For the first monthly meeting, the group read *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger.



Birmingham News

When it comes to general knowledge about weather and how to protect yourself from tornados and lightning, James Spann is a walking encyclopedia. In August, the popular meteorologist for ABC 33/40 in Birmingham delivered an hour-long *Weather 101* program before nearly 50 people at the Springville Road Regional Library Branch of Birmingham Public Library (BPL). Using informational slides and hilarious jokes, Spann explained how clouds are formed, talked about what causes tornados, and shared weather wisdom and safety tips. He also urged parents to purchase a \$30 weather radio to help protect their family when dangerous weather approaches. Spann can be seen below making funny faces with the younger attendees.



The Springville Branch also hosted a *Football 101* program on August 9th featuring former University of Alabama Defensive Back Bobby Johns. The workshop was designed to demystify common football jargon.

Johns, who retired as Head Coach at the University of West Alabama, knows football as a player, coach, and

spectator. He discussed defensive positions, plays, equipment and penalties.

Bob Patrick, a veteran referee in the Southeastern Conference, and Mike Dutton, former head basketball coach at Hewitt-Trussville High School, joined Johns in the discussion. Dutton, who has a background in football despite coaching basketball for several years, discussed offensive plays and positions. Patrick, an SEC referee for 32 years, shared football from a referee's perspective.

The BPL Board's *Innovative Cool* awards program was established last April to encourage staffers to develop engaging new programs to help generate enthusiasm and value for their library patrons. The \$50 awards are designed to encourage staff "to promote the library's mission of lifelong learning and cultural enrichment," said Dora Sims, Chair of the BPL Board Advocacy Committee. Two winners were recognized during the BPL Board meeting on August 9th.

Recovering the Classics, submitted by Laura Gentry, a librarian in the Southern History Department, promotes advocacy of classic books through a contest to encourage young adults and adults to create/design book covers for classic books. Winning book cover designs will be placed in a display exhibit staged on the first floor of the Central Library located downtown.

Make Your Own Halloween Mask Party, submitted by Claire Stanton, a library assistant III at Eastwood Library, is the additional winner. "We are excited and are confident the children will have a lot of fun making their own Halloween masks," said Sims, "It is through projects such as these, children learn to be creative and develop a love and appreciation for the library."

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Homewood Lab

Homewood Public Library and the University of Alabama in Birmingham's (UAB) Enabling Technology Lab have partnered together to offer teens a great opportunity to experience the world of virtual reality! *The ETLab* demonstrates how objects and environments are built with software. Teens are then able to experience these creations first hand using an Oculus Rift headset.



Jefferson County Awards

The Jefferson County Public Library Association recently honored two library employees at their annual countywide staff development day held at Homewood Public Library. This is the first year that awards have been a part of this event. The Librarian of the Year Award and Paralibrarian of the Year Award will be presented annually by the Jefferson County Public Library Association to exceptional library employees that contribute to the advancement of library service in Jefferson County.

Haruyo Miyagawa (below right) was nominated by Brandon C. Smith on behalf of Birmingham Public Library for the Librarian of the Year Award. For twenty years, Ms. Miyagawa has been the driving force behind creative and highly popular programs at BPL. She has also been instrumental in the development of a world class circulating collection of books, music, and artwork.

Dutton Story Time



A local Kindergarten class visited Dutton Community Library for a tour and story time!



Alice Singleton (below left) was nominated by Ashley Davidson on behalf of Hoover Public Library for the Paralibrarian of the Year Award. Ms. Singleton has worked in Hoover's nonfiction department for nearly 25 years. Her dedication to the community and genuine interest in others' lives make her a binding force with her coworkers, library patrons, and community.



Fairhope Fun



Fairhope Public Library recently hosted *Old Bear's All-Together Painting Program*. This team-building activity was a two-session project. The first week attendees read about patterns, and then each student used paint to fill a sheet with their own pattern. The following week attendees read *Old Bear's All-Together Painting* by Jane Hissey. They were divided into teams and given a stack of patterns from the previous week. Each team received a drawing assignment, drew pictures, and then cut up pieces to make whole scenes. It made for some fun and colorful library displays!



MCCPL Celebration

On July 21st, the Pintlala Branch Library of the Montgomery City-County Public Library (MCCPL), celebrated 20 years in its current building. MCCPL, Friends of Pintlala Branch Library, Montgomery County Commission, and the City of Montgomery sponsored the celebration. A huge crowd from the community came out to celebrate this occasion, along with many of the former employees who had worked at that branch, board members, and other MCCPL staffers. Banjo players from Baldwin Jr. High provided entertainment and Reverend Gary Burton, Friend of Pintlala Library and MCCPL Board of Trustees member, was the president. Mrs. Jaunita Owes, MCCPL Director, shared how the building came to be, and Mrs. Trish McLaney, President of the Friends of Pintlala Library, gave final comments and made a presentation to the current staff members, Sandra Berry and Greg Loggins.



Former employees enjoy the celebration.

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



Doing Library Data Differently: Part 2, by Sherry Sakovich, Decatur Public Library Director

In the first part of this series (http://webmini.apls.state.al.us/apls_web/apls/apls/docs/aplseeds/aplspast/aplseeds_2016_08_26.pdf), we asked ourselves why we collect data and introduced the importance of outcome versus impact. Let's delve deeper. How does one measure outcome and impact? This past summer, at a remarkable weeklong institute called the Research Institute for Public Libraries (RIPL), I learned a wide variety of hands-on tools for making data sing and putting meaning behind those output numbers!

RIPL's vision is to educate public librarians to lead evidence-based practice so that all public libraries nationwide are unified to prove library impact on multiple levels. These weren't your standard library workshops where you sit and listen. We were broken into small groups and actually given projects to complete. Some of the days were long; however, what we learned was invaluable.

So where does one start in trying to ultimately determine library outcome and impact? First you need to create a "data roadmap" and think about the following:

- What do we need to know?
- What are we going to do with the data we collect?
- The definition of successes and measures
- Remember the "data trinity":
 - Inputs: what you put into a program such as staff time, money, etc.
 - Outputs: all those counts you're tracking!
 - Outcomes: what changes took place
- Outcome measures: determine the needs of the community, the best public relations strategies, and reconnecting with the community

Another important component of successful outcome and impact is assessing community needs. If we understand our communities better, we can make targeted decisions. There are many ways to do this such as:

- Gathering the appropriate data first, i.e. census, local information, etc.
- Interviews and focus groups. I know this sounds scary but fear not! Your patrons and community want to tell you what they think and will appreciate the opportunity to talk to you.
- Get out into the community at local events and talk to people. Give a voice to community members who you might not hear from inside the library.
- Conduct interviews with community leaders
- Embed library staff at community meetings to find out what's going on
- Identify issues in the community

Overall, the goal is to hear from a variety of voices who can confirm/refute your theory of change, provide a more nuanced understanding of how your services affect change in your patrons and community, and create a shared vision and solutions to community problems. Ideally you will end up with some good information and data for advocacy.

Stay tuned for Part 3 of this series to learn about more helpful data tools!