

APLSeeds

Growing public libraries across Alabama

October 21, 2016

Edited by: Stephanie Taylor

Calendar

APLS Board Meeting 11/17/16

Public Library Survey Due 12/15/16

Statement of Fiscal Responsibility 01/01/17



Patrons know good books are on they way when they see the adorable bookworm coming!

MCCPL Boot Camp

Serving Rural Areas in Marengo County

Last February, Marengo County Public Library had to retire their bookmobile. It was 14 years old, and the maintenance cost was getting to be too much for the county; however, the County Commissioners did not want to leave the people of rural Marengo County without some type of service, so they came up with another idea. They found a gently used van and had it wrapped with a fun bookworm logo, and the library was able to get back out on the road to offer service to patrons with disabilities, the elderly, and shut-ins. The van goes to their homes to provide one-on-one service. Every two weeks the patrons get a new bag full of books.

The book van has been a huge success. The first day it went out, it traveled 106 miles and circulated 148 books. The residents were really excited to see it and have access to new books again.



From July 11th through July 29th, Montgomery City-County Public Library (MCCPL) held its 6th Annual Back to School Boot Camp where students learned about the resources the library offers for homework assistance and research papers. Students were introduced to databases, the Dewey Decimal system, Microsoft applications, and the PNC Grow up Great program. Homework Assistance will be available again this year from September 6th through May 18, 2017.

Birmingham News

Smiles filled the room at Birmingham Public Library's (BPL) North Avondale Branch as participants showed off the wreaths they made during a workshop taught by Juliette Watts. During June and July, Watts hosted three free workshops at the North Avondale Branch, teaching kids to make wreaths and decorative flip flops. Kids and adults also learned to sew squares for a community quilt project.

"I get so much joy out of using my love of the arts to develop discipline and teach these kids to work together," said Watts, who founded Hands On Youth Activities Inc. in 1999.



On August 20th, the Avondale Branch hosted a 45-minute introduction to the ukulele. "The workshop was enough to get even the most novice musician strumming," said Eve Parker, a storyteller in the Avondale youth department.

Participants could check out one of the library's 13 ukuleles available for the public or bring their own. Parker, who plays the banjo, guitar, and ukulele, came up with the ukulele lending program idea in August 2015 after reading about a library in Portland, Maine that had made the popular little guitar available for checkout to its patrons. Avondale's 13 ukuleles were donated by Herb Trotman and Kathy Hinkle of Fretted Instruments in Homewood.



Brothers Percy and Mykel Harris listened closely as Cynthia Whittaker, an urban regional extension agent at the Jefferson County Extension Office shared career advice on September 7th at the West End Library Branch.

After hearing 12-year-old Percy and 10-year-old Mykel's career goals during a program called *Career Countdown: Put Your Best Foot Forward*, Whittaker gave them information on various occupations fitting their interests. She also advised workshop attendees how to budget for expenses such as utility bills, groceries, and vacations based on their income.

"*Career Countdown* is geared towards young people, and my goal is to help guide them on how to determine career interests and develop a plan that will promote readiness for employment possibilities," said Whittaker. *Career Countdown* is among several free job-related workshops that took place throughout BPL during the month of September.



BPL's Southern History Department partnered with the Lily of the Cahaba Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution to offer a *Family Bible Records Preservation Workshop* on August 21st. The goal of the event was to preserve the genealogical or family history records that are recorded in family Bibles. Digital images of the appropriate pages were made without damage or pressure applied to the Bibles using new digital technology. The images were submitted to the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Birmingham Public Library's collections so that these records can be preserved. Bibles remained with the owner and digital images were provided at no charge to those who bring Bible records for preservation.

Future Ready

Scottsboro Public Library was one of twenty libraries selected to be a participant for the *Future Ready with the Library* project. *Future Ready* is an innovative project implemented by YALSA in partnership with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) that will build the capacity of the participating libraries to provide college and career readiness (CCR) services for and with middle school children. Staff members at the chosen libraries will learn effective methods for planning and implementing CCR initiatives, and they will develop a set of model programs and tools that can be customized by a wide range of communities and libraries. Congratulations, Scottsboro! We look forward to hearing more.

Eva Remodel

A joint venture between the Town of Eva and the Friends of the Eva Public Library has brought a much needed update to the library. Started in 1984, the library had the same carpet and the same paint job as when it was built. The town and the Friends joined together to put down new carpet squares and give the library a new paint job. The results are fantastic!



Satsuma Authors

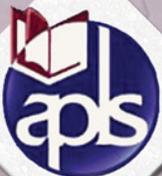
Satsuma Public Library hosted two wonderful local authors for a book-signing event during the 2016 Snapshot Day. They spoke with the children and teens who attended the event and answered questions about how they became writers.

Dian Brown Williams is a children's author. Her first book, *A Bluebird Named Flutter*, is about the importance of being kind to others. Rachell Elaine Jackson is a tween writer who has written a number of plays as well as books including *Starrin'... Loretta Padgett!* and *When's Daddy Comin' Home*. Both authors were an inspiration to the attendees and the library hopes to have them back soon!



Dian Brown Williams (left) and Rachell Elaine Jackson (right).

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Outside the Lines

Several Alabama libraries signed up to participate in *Outside the Lines* (OTL). OTL is a weeklong celebration demonstrating the creativity and innovation happening in libraries.

Florence Lauderdale Public Library encouraged patrons to put down their smartphones for a digital detox and enrich their minds and bodies through therapeutic creativity, face-to-face interactions, and relaxation. Their programs included an adult coloring session, a craft session, a board games program, and a yoga and meditation event.

Montgomery City-County Public Library's Coliseum Branch enjoyed activities all week long, including making animal masks, playing with Legos (below), and working on a community puzzle.



Pell City's programs for OTL included hosting a *Kids' Comedy Hour* at the local Dairy Queen, a story time for children and *Murder Mystery Game Night* for teens at the Pell City Gateway Community Garden (below), a 3-D printer demo, a program by Animal Tales, and a *Family Game Night*.



Birmingham Public Library branches hosted a variety of OTL programs including a teen hand sewing program, a workshop that taught participants how to start a business, and a painting outside the lines program!

Cookie Class



Homewood Public Library recently hosted a *Cookie Dough Class* for teens. Participants made basic cookie dough and added their favorite ingredients to personalize it. Teens took their dough home to chill overnight and bake later.

Pokemon in Pinson

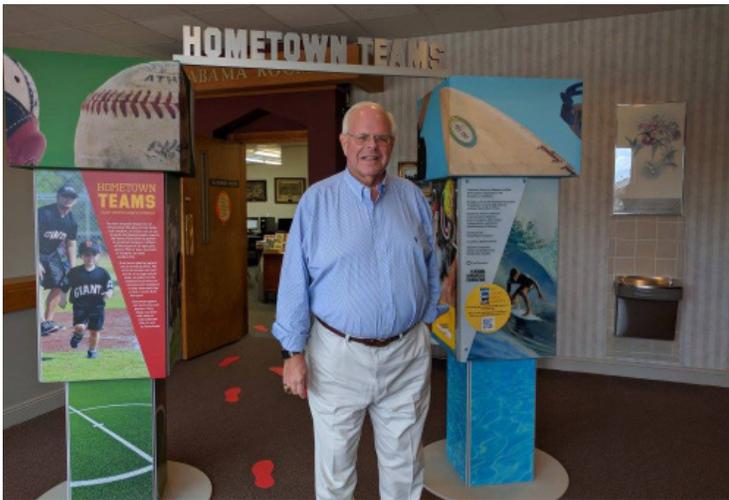
Pinson Public Library had a *Pokeparty* at the library. All ages were invited to come play Pokemon Go and enjoy snacks, set lures, and giveaway Pichachus that were printed with the library's 3-D printer.



Hometown Teams



Anniston-Calhoun County Public Library was host to *Hometown Teams*, a traveling Smithsonian exhibit, from July 30th to September 4th. *Hometown Teams* celebrates the social and cultural role of sports and athletics in small town America. In conjunction with *Hometown Teams*, the library curated a local sports exhibit of photographs and memorabilia. They also hosted several exciting sports related events, including *The Voice of Alabama Football* featuring Eli Gold (below). Gold is a sportscaster best known for his coverage of the University of Alabama football team. The Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and Museum arranged the visit.



Hale County News

Hale County Library in Greensboro recently celebrated *Alabama Author Day* with four authors who have local connections: Dedra Stevenson, Joyce Christian, Laura Susan Bamberg Gideon, and Aileen Kilgore Henderson. The authors spoke about how teachers, the library, and books inspired them to write. Afterwards the library held a book signing and reception.

The pipe collection shown below was one of nine collections at the library's *Pop-Up Museum* on September 15th. Friends of the Library sponsored the museum day called a "Pop-Up" museum because its exhibits popped up in an unexpected place. Friends of the Library and other patrons brought in the exhibits. The exhibits included war memorabilia, antique pipes, Central American fabric art called molas, items found locally with a metal detector, wooden figurines from a number of countries, a rattlesnake skeleton, antique toys, hatpins, and an elegantly dressed Halloween skeleton.



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



The Librarian's Toolkit

Doing Library Data Differently: Part 3, by Sherry Sakovich, Decatur Public Library Director

In the last part of this series (http://webmini.apls.state.al.us/apls_web/apls/apls/docs/aplseeds/aplspast/aplseeds_2016_09_23.pdf), we talked about how to create a data roadmap and assessing community need in order to determine library outcome and impact. Here are some other important things to keep in mind:

Survey design and administration

- Think about the pros and cons of different survey formats (online, phone, mail, in-person).
- Language should be accessible, i.e. don't use acronyms. Not everyone knows what an OPAC is.
- Include only one topic per question. Avoid questions such as: "Did you like the adult and youth services programs?". Instead have two questions - one for adult programs and one for youth.
- Provide options/answers for everyone. Using the question "Do you prefer to read general fiction or mysteries?" leaves out patrons that prefer to read only non-fiction.
- Strive to avoid bias such as "Did you enjoy our **great** storytime?".
- Recognize the potential of open-ended questions, i.e. "What didn't we ask that you'd like to tell us?".

Combine library data sets to better understand the community and identify potential relationships between resources, patron outcomes, and characteristics. For example, you might want to compare local poverty level data against literacy rates.

Benchmarking

- A benchmark is something that serves as a standard by which others may be measured or judged.
- Have peers who are really relevant. Libraries often compare themselves with peers who are close in population size, however; if the area demographics are completely different, the comparison may not be realistic.
- Types of benchmarks: state standards and the Edge Initiative (<http://www.libraryedge.org>). The Edge toolkit provides libraries an overview of current public services and community engagement.

Data visualization

- Choosing the appropriate chart is important: don't use a pie chart if you have numbers/data points that are too close as it's too hard for the viewer to discern the difference. Use a bar chart instead.
- Simplify and establish a focal point. Don't make people work too hard to find the information.
- Emphasize the important numbers and data with darker colors.
- Tell people what you want them to take away.

In the next part of this series we'll discuss Project Outcome.