

# Alabama Public Library Service

2014  
Annual Report

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Director: Nancy C. Pack, Ph.D.



#### Executive Board 2013-2014

District 1	Ronald A. Snider
District 2	Spence Agee
District 3	Donna Dickey
District 4	Bobbie Lou Leigh
District 5	Elbert Peters
District 6	Virginia Doyle
District 7	T. Ralston Long IV



The Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) is a state library agency serving all citizens of Alabama through more than 220 public libraries and directly to state employees. Statewide assistance is done through onsite visits, e-mail, phone, FAX, and online resources such as HomeworkAlabama and Learning Express Library. The seven-member APLS Executive Board is appointed by the governor for five-year terms with each member serving as the representative of one of Alabama's seven congressional districts.

#### The objectives of APLS are:

- To provide library services to Alabama citizens through local public libraries and directly to state employees through job support research.
- To provide library services to those with special needs through the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.
- To provide library services to employees of the State of Alabama and state agencies, to meet their work-related information needs.
- To assist in establishing cooperative library services and networks.
- To provide continuing education opportunities for public librarians.
- To provide consulting services and information technology to public libraries.
- The agency is responsible for administration and distribution of state aid for public libraries and an annual competitive grant program under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).



# Director's Column

“The times they are a-changing.” Bob Dylan really knew what he was talking about, didn't he? FY2014 has been a year of change for the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) and the state as a whole. Our biggest change this year was the retirement of our previous director, Rebecca S. Mitchell, and the appointment of a new one, Dr. Nancy Pack. Assistant Director Kelyn L. Ralya served as Interim Director until Dr. Pack came on board in September. During the past year, several of our public library directors retired and there are also new faces in the legislature both here at home and in Washington. Even though we are a relatively small agency, we have a very large vision of helping Alabama's public libraries provide services to their communities. With the budget that the Alabama Legislature allocates to APLS, combined with a federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), we have almost \$10 million to allocate to achieve our mission of service to the libraries. Due to very careful financial management, \$4,628,640 in state funds and \$1,056,750 in federal funds were paid directly to the libraries to help each of them meet their goals and better serve their communities.



**Dr. Nancy C. Pack, Director and  
Kelyn L. Ralya, Assistant Director**

Although there were no new Alabama public libraries established in 2014, the Pratt City Branch Library in Birmingham celebrated the glorious grand opening of their newly renovated facility. The library had been destroyed during the tornado outbreak that tore through the state in April 2011. The Ragland Public Library in St. Clair County had also been destroyed that day but was able to move into their new building in 2012.

As times change, the role libraries hold in their communities has changed as well. Public libraries are the great equalizer. They are accessible by persons from all walks of life and offer the same level of service to everyone in the community. Over the past decade, public libraries have become a source of free computer access. Some of our public libraries have relatively small book collections and offer extensive computer access points. They have made this transition because this is what their community needs. Sometimes library computer usage is not only monetary but logistical as well. While some patrons can afford to own home computers, their area may not have adequate broadband access.

With the increasing popularity of e-reading devices, libraries are a great source of new e-book materials. Many people check out an e-book from the library. According to *Library Journal*, 95% of public libraries offer e-books to patrons. This is an increase from 72% in 2010 and 89% in 2012 and 2013.

For the sixth straight year, Alabama public libraries have been recognized as “Star Libraries” by *Library Journal*. This year's five-star winners are the Flomaton Public Library in Escambia County and the Rogersville Public Library in Lauderdale County. There were 258 public libraries this year nationwide designated as “Star Libraries” for their level of service to their communities and for their extensive resources based on specific statistical information garnered from the annual statistical reports submitted by public libraries to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The information gathered includes circulation, visits, program attendance, and public access computer usage.

# CIO Report

Being “stretched too thin” is something that I think we all can relate to, especially those of us who have chosen to dedicate our time in the service to the people of the State of Alabama. As budgets are strained and our leaders continue to declare that we can and that we must do more with less, it is easy to overlook the dedication that our librarians and their staff members show everyday as they serve the people in their communities. We sometimes look past the human element and make it simply a math problem.

Now I love a good math problem more than most folks. However, it’s the human element in our public libraries that drives the IT staff at APLS to provide the very best technology services free of charge to our libraries. In fiscal year 2014 your APLS Information Technology Division expanded our capabilities and increased the quality of our statewide video conferencing system. We expanded our libraries’ web presence by building, designing, and hosting more library websites than ever before. Our “circuit rider” program has once again provided excellent help desk services and on-site IT services to an ever-increasing number of libraries at no cost to them. The libraries’ shrinking budgets would make today’s fast moving technology costs prohibitive. The insanely great APLS Evergreen collection management program, developed in-house and available free of charge to our public libraries, is by itself an invaluable cost savings to our libraries.



**Kevin Goff**  
**Chief Information Officer**

My frame of reference starts with continuing to re-dedicate our efforts to our Alabama public libraries and the patrons they serve. Therefore, we charge forward into the next fiscal year, providing even more cutting edge technology services to our libraries. I know FY2015 will surely be an insanely great year, because like my good friend Albert Einstein once said:

“Whether the chicken crossed the road or the road crossed the chicken depends on your frame of reference”

Learn all about the human element and about math and science at your free Alabama public library.

Kevin

# ALABAMA PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

# Library Services

Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant Award: \$2,416,705, a decrease of \$84,449 over the previous year. The annual LSTA award is used for direct grants and statewide support projects for the state public libraries.

As a continuation of the partnership between Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) and Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) that started in 2013, APLS continues to take an active role in emergency preparedness and recovery.

From hurricanes such as Katrina and Ivan to the tornado outbreak of 2011 that left approximately 250 dead and \$1.5 billion in damages, Alabama ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation for the number of disaster declarations filed.

Libraries today offer a lifeline to victims of natural disasters, including assisting with FEMA relief applications, offering Internet access to connect to vital recovery resources, and hosting command centers for volunteer relief efforts.

APLS continues to take an active role in assisting Alabama's public libraries in facilitating their role in emergency management for their communities by providing manpower, loaning laptops to libraries to set up FEMA registration centers, as well as requiring each library to have a disaster plan of their own in order to receive State Aid.

A national increase in terrorist threats and active shooter scenarios has facilitated a need for more training in these areas. Agency EMA coordinators of APLS attended an active shooter workshop given by the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the summer of 2014. Coursework was also completed in Emergency Response to Terrorism training given by DHS, FEMA, and the National Fire Academy.

APLS LSTA Direct Grant Awards: Approximately \$1,056,750 in grants to state public libraries for FY2014. Grants were given in six main categories:

Children at Risk - \$28,000  
Collection Development - \$390,940  
Difficulty Using a Library - \$4,675  
Library Technology - \$472,520  
Lifelong Learning - \$127,615  
Professional Training - \$33,000

APLS-funded statewide reference databases:  
An amount of \$660,415 for HomeworkAlabama [online tutoring and resources] and Learning Express Library [test preparation and resources].

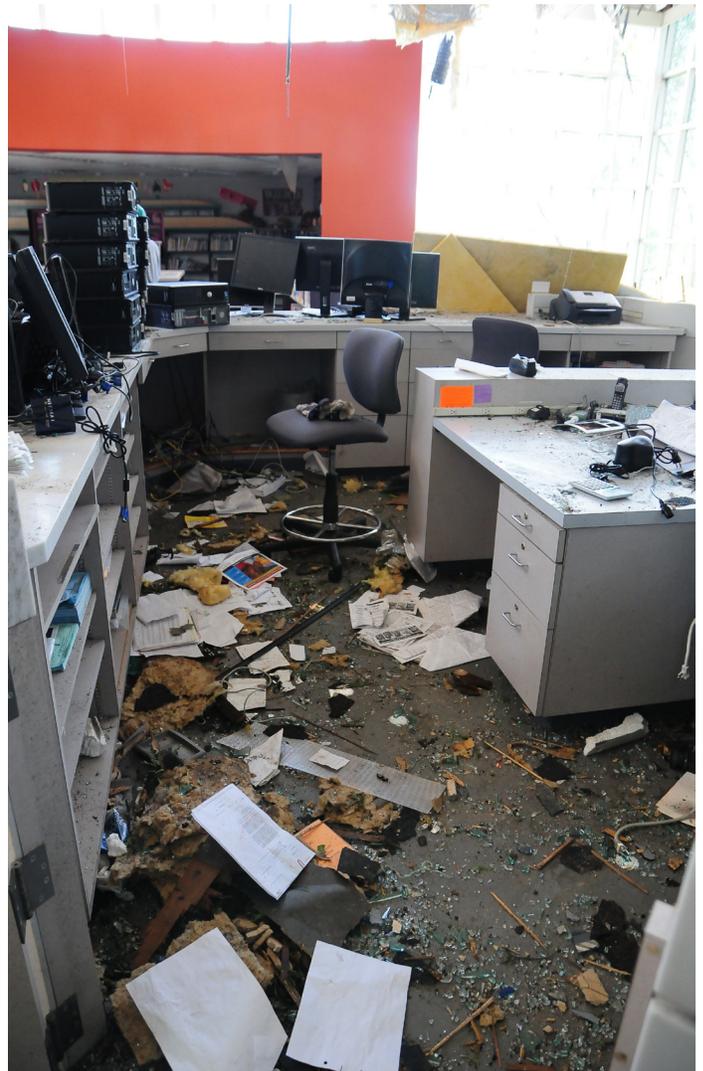
Bibliostat Connect: \$12,775  
[Each public library is required to submit an annual statistical report to APLS in order to be eligible to receive State Aid. Bibliostat is the database used by the libraries to input and submit their reports.]

State of Alabama Resource Sharing (STARS) and OCLC FirstSearch access: \$307,845  
[Using STARS (Alabama's union catalog) and FirstSearch enables public libraries to perform interlibrary loan (ILL) and cataloging tasks more efficiently.]

State Aid: \$4,628,640 (96 cents per capita).

# *Weather and the Public Libraries*

Pratt City, Alabama is gradually showing signs of recovery from the tornado outbreak that tore through their community and other parts of the Birmingham area on April 27, 2011. Whole neighborhoods were destroyed including the Pratt City Branch Library that sat in the center of the storm's devastating path. Afterwards, the community was unrecognizable with streets strewn with wood, brick, furniture, and automobiles. In the three years since that fateful day, the desolation is still visible with only a handful of homes having been rebuilt. However,



*Pratt City Library  
after the tornado outbreak of 2011*

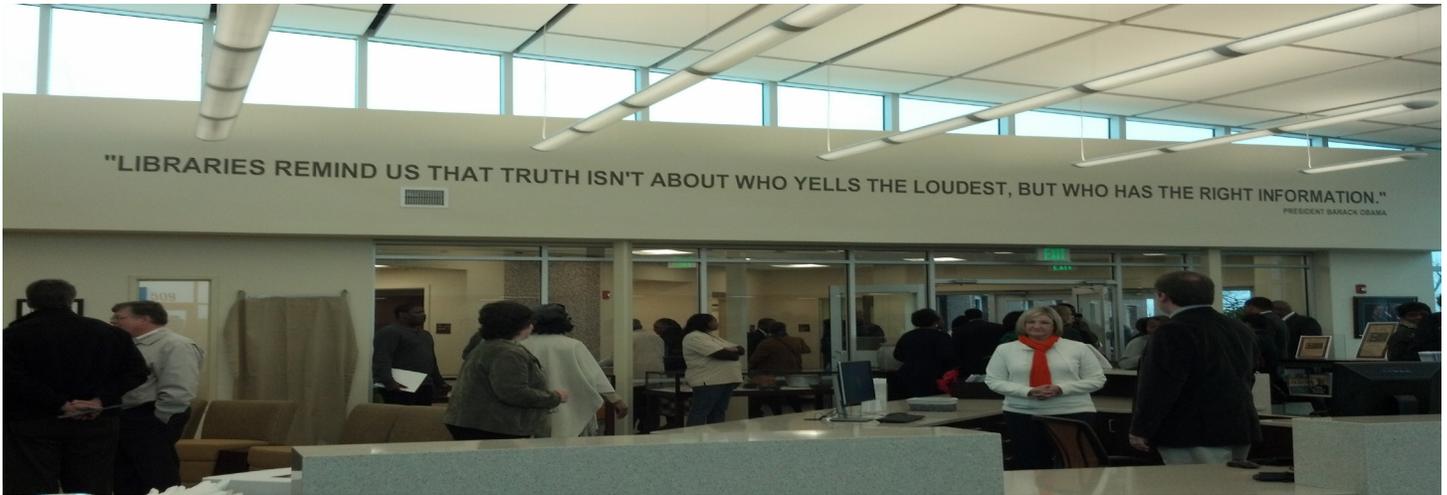


*Pratt City Library  
after the tornado outbreak of 2011*

the community came together on January 30, 2014 to celebrate the triumphant grand opening of the new Pratt City Branch Library. The walls and glass of the new facility were reinforced to provide added protection against high winds and a storm shelter was added. The new library has brought hope and spirit back into the community and represents a renewed sense of normalcy for the neighborhood's residents. It was a grand opening not just for the library but also for the Pratt City community as a whole.

roads were safely passable rather than leaving them to fend for themselves outside. This is just another example of non-traditional service provided by public libraries.

In early 2011, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) changed its policy to include public libraries in their list of eligible facilities to receive funds under the FEMA Public Assistance Program to relocate in order to continue services to the community in the event of an emergency.



*Today the new Pratt City Library stands where the old library was destroyed*

On January 30, 2014, Alabama was hit by another weather disaster in the form of rain, sleet, snow, and ice. In expectation of the impending winter storm, precautions were being made by libraries, schools, and businesses regarding hours of operation. Unfortunately, the winter storm arrived earlier than expected and left some people unable to get home due to ice and snow on the roadways. On the day the winter storm arrived, staff at the Emmet O'Neal Library in Mountain Brook were going about their regular duties of checkouts and storytimes when parents in the library began receiving notices to pick up their children from school and/or daycare. However, the ice accumulation had immobilized the city so quickly that some of the parents returned to the library for safety and warmth. Although the library officially closed early due to the weather conditions, several library staff members remained at the library with the stranded patrons until the

This change stemmed in part from the role public libraries played in offering services to displaced citizens after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In the past, the list of eligible facilities had been limited to police, fire protection/emergency services, medical care, education, and utilities. FEMA's decision was a monumental acknowledgement of the *essential* role that public libraries play in their communities. Many residents returning to their communities after a disaster may not know what their next step should be but they know that the public library is the place to go for answers.

## Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund



E-Rate provides discounts to schools and libraries within the United States and territories for telecommunications and Internet access in order to make these services more affordable. The program is funded at up to \$2.25 billion per year by contributions from telecommunications service providers and is administered by the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), a non-profit corporation overseen by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Discounts ranging from 20% to 90% are available in four categories of service (telecommunications, Internet access, internal connections, and basic maintenance of internal connections) and are based on the percentage of students eligible for the National School Lunch Program. Libraries and schools in low-income urban communities and rural areas qualify for the highest discounts to assure that every American, regardless of age, income, or location has access to the essential tools of the Information Age. Alabama public libraries received nearly \$1 million in discounts in 2014. Over one-half of the libraries received discounts of 80% to 90%.



The Alabama Public Library Service has partnered with the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies to create a management training program for public library administrators who do not have a master's degree in library science or who are not currently earning the master's. The Sustainable Training for Alabama Public Library Employees (STAPLE) program is not designed as a substitute for the master's degree, but it is an important continuing education opportunity for those not pursuing an MLS/MLIS.

The program is funded with a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)--the federal agency that administers the LSTA program. Travel expenses for participants are included in the grant. The program provides training in two cohorts. Twenty-seven (27) public library administrators enrolled for the first cohort, which began in October 2013 and ended in September 2014. Twenty-five (25) administrators have enrolled for



*APLS staff pictured with the first graduates of the STAPLE program*

the second cohort, which will begin in October 2014 and end in September 2015.

Participants in the first cohort attended a five-day intensive training institute at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Participants learned about marketing, programming, strategic planning, management, and other important aspects of librarianship. Following this training, participants attended five monthly online workshop sessions and four monthly reporting sessions. These sessions included a discussion and evaluation of strategic plan implementation and other workshop content. Participants also attended the annual Alabama Library Association Conference in April 2014.

As a final activity there was a one-day event in Tuscaloosa at which participants met face to face to celebrate the achievement of the cohort. Dr. Ann Prentice, Interim Director of SLIS, discussed the many facets of leadership and Jessica Ross, Director of the Washington County Public Library, shared some ways the STAPLE participants can put their new skills to work at their library. The day ended with a special ceremony where SLIS professor Steven Yates and APLS Director Nancy Pack presented each participant with a certificate of completion.

# HomeworkAlabama.org

HomeworkAlabama.org is a statewide effort made possible by the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and state funds appropriated by the State Legislature specifically for this program. The service provides free, high-quality tutoring in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. The tutors are carefully screened experts and include professional teachers, college professors, graduate students, and other professionals. They provide one-on-one help to students of all ages in a secure online classroom. Sessions are available in English and Spanish. Service hours are Sunday through Thursday



You've got homework.  
We've got help.

Free help online from real tutors.

from 3 p.m. until 10 p.m.

In FY2014, there were 45,458 tutoring sessions provided by HomeworkAlabama totaling 14,634 hours of instruction. The average length of each session was 20 minutes. The basic rate for professional tutoring is approximately \$75 per hour. If a resident attempted to seek tutoring on their own,

they would have to pay \$750 for 10 hours of instructions. HomeworkAlabama.org provided residents in the state with \$1,097,550 worth of tutoring for free.

Another component of HomeworkAlabama.org is the SkillsCenter Resource Library that is available 24/7. This virtual library has three main parts: Study Resources, Test Prep Resources, and Career Resources. The Homework Resources section contains thousands of lessons, worksheets, study guides, and videos. The Test Prep Resources section helps prepare students for the SAT, ACT, standardized tests, and graduate school entrance tests. This section also prepares adults for GED and civil service tests. The Career Resources section provides adults with access to local job openings, resume and cover letter templates, interview guidelines, and both computer and financial literacy support. Access to the site can be obtained from any Internet accessible computer. Additionally, there is a downloadable app for your smart phone.

# Learning Express Library 3.0



One of the many duties of a public librarian is to assist in providing solutions to help library patrons reach their academic, professional, and life goals. LearningExpress Library continues to be a wonderful tool and resource that is available to all Alabama residents through their public libraries and the APLS website. With that said, there have been big changes to the website for 2014. LearningExpress Library 2.0 has now upgraded to LearningExpress Library 3.0, has new resources and a brand new School Center with content aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Other highlights of the new resources include:

- New Practice Tests and Tutorials in the High School Equivalency Center for the HiSET® and TASC test, plus new practice tests and an introductory tutorial for the Spanish-language version of the 2014 GED® test.
- New Downloadable eBooks & Flash Reviews available in almost every center and Flash Reviews for Nursing Assistant/Nurse Aide, Pharmacy Technician, and TOEFL iBT®.
- New Computer Tutorials such as PowerPoint 2013 courses for basic, intermediate, and advanced levels, and a PowerPoint 2013: What's New tutorial. This extends the collection of Microsoft Office 2013 products (Word, Access, Project, and Excel) for libraries that have Computer Skills and Popular Software Tutorials.
- Over 35 Updated Products in order to

take advantage of all the new features in LearningExpress Library 3.0.

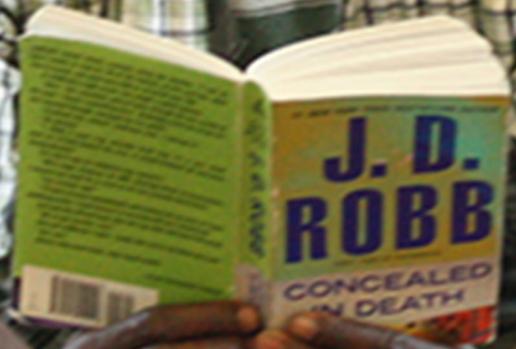
Available to all Alabama residents through an LSTA grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), LearningExpress Library 3.0 has excellent resources to help people of all ages to succeed. Materials are available for K-12 and college students to help improve their skills in many areas including math, reading, science, logic, writing, grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and public speaking. There are guides for GED and college preparation as well as preparation assistance in obtaining U.S. citizenship status. On average, over 14,000 sessions are used each year by Alabamians. For more information on how to access the new platform, contact Melinda Smith at [msmith@apls.state.al.us](mailto:msmith@apls.state.al.us).

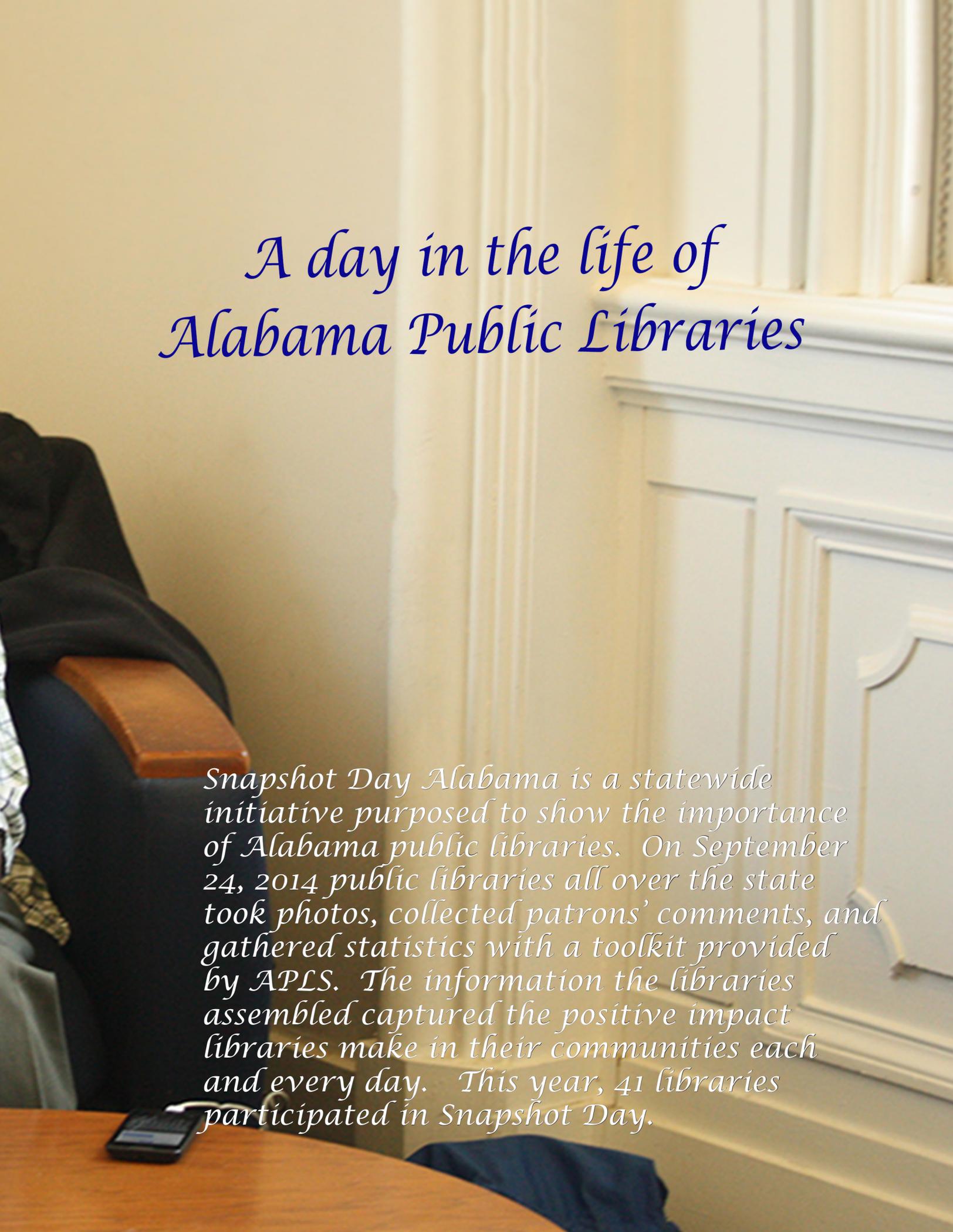


STARS is an important interlibrary loan tool. As Alabama's union catalog, STARS contains the holdings of Alabama's 224 public libraries as well as most of our academic and special libraries. This dynamic database is funded and administered by APLS.

# *Snapshot Day*

*Bessemer Public Library*



A photograph of a library interior. In the foreground, a wooden table is partially visible with a black smartphone on it. To the left, a wooden chair with a dark jacket draped over it is seen. In the background, there is a white cabinet with a decorative panel and a door handle. The lighting is soft and indoor.

# *A day in the life of Alabama Public Libraries*

*Snapshot Day Alabama is a statewide initiative purposed to show the importance of Alabama public libraries. On September 24, 2014 public libraries all over the state took photos, collected patrons' comments, and gathered statistics with a toolkit provided by APLS. The information the libraries assembled captured the positive impact libraries make in their communities each and every day. This year, 41 libraries participated in Snapshot Day.*



*Attalla*



*Arab*



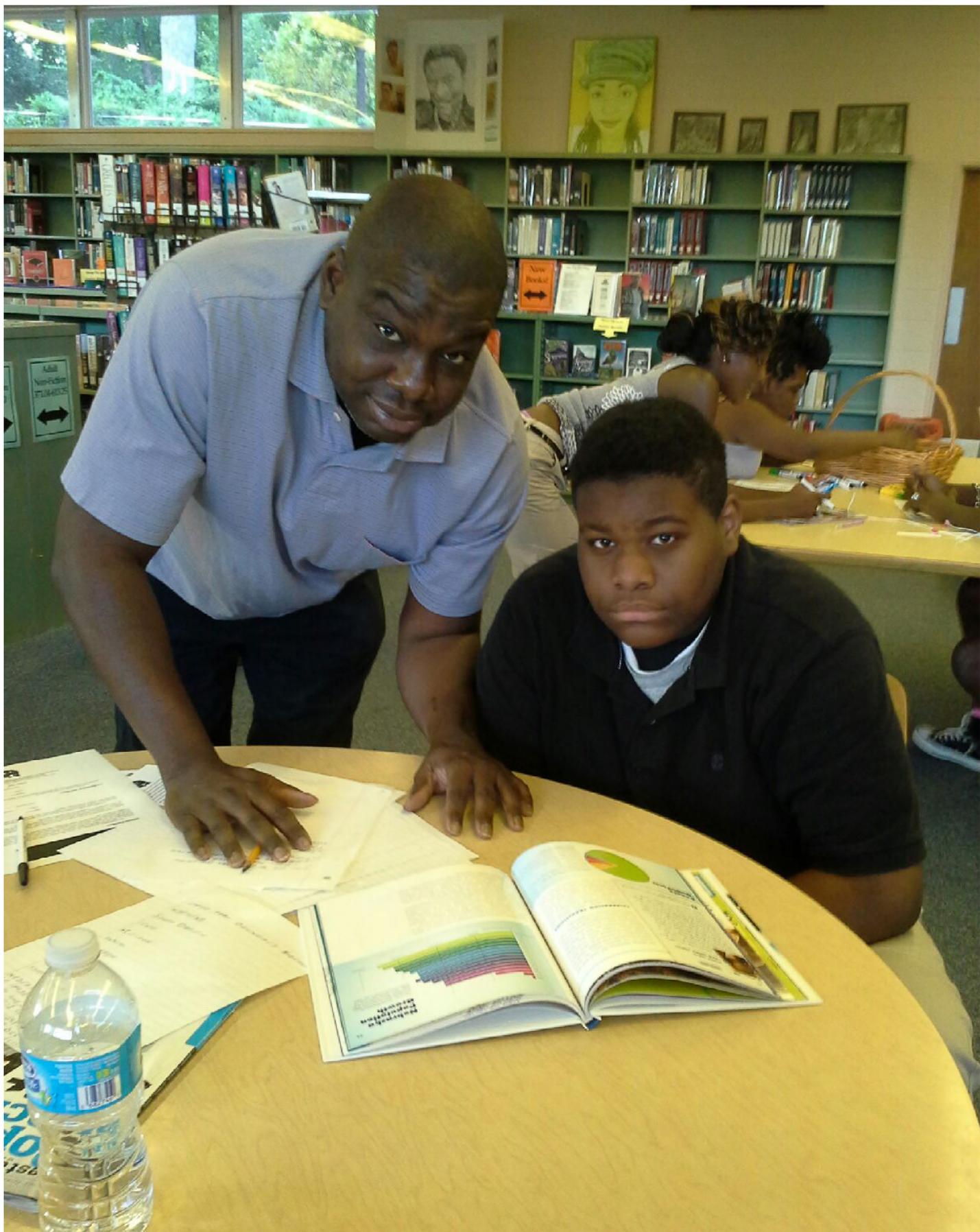
*Vestavia*



*Thomasville*



*North Shelby*



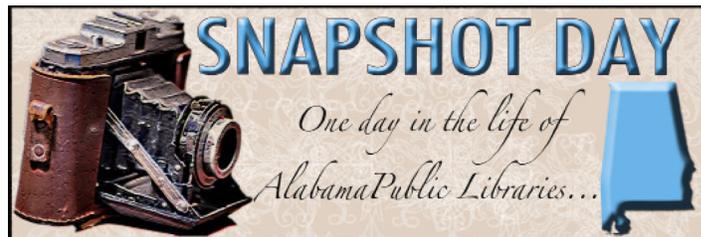
*Montgomery*



*Talladega*



*Anniston*



*Atmore*

**STATISTICS:**

**Visitors: 15,045**

**Circulation: 6,856**

**Reference Questions Answered:  
1,350**

**Computer Usage: 2,101**

**Program Attendance: 1,931**

**Job Related Issues: 227**



*Tuscaloosa*

# Summer Reading Program

As the 2014 summer reading program began, 125,743 children (including teens) registered for/participated in the summer reading program activities. The participating youngsters read approximately 1,552,552 books, and there was a total attendance of 307,294 at 6,386 program events. 31,825 children received reading certificate.

Approximately 625,000 summer reading/children & youth services reading materials, books and manuals were distributed to support the summer reading programs at the public libraries.



*Ashland*



*Winfield*



*Hartford*



Scottsboro



North Shelby



Trussville



*Winfield*



*Prattville*

# Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (BPH)



After a late September 2013 release, the BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) mobile application (app) became a major technology advancement during FY2014 for BPH patrons. The new app enables patrons with a BARD account to download audio and Braille books, magazines, and music scores directly to their iDevices (iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch). The app is available through the iTunes store or through the Apple app store. The National Library Service (NLS) worked on a similar app for Android devices, but it was still not available by the fiscal year's end.

The app increased the usage of BARD, allowing patrons to download talking books directly to blank cartridges, Braille displays, flash drives, or other devices. In FY2014, BPH patrons downloaded 47,061 audio books, 2,813 audio magazines, 2,523 Braille books, 433 Braille magazines, and 347 music items.

The *Download Alabama* program of customized downloads from BARD remained a popular program for patrons interested in the download process, but who didn't have computers, high-speed Internet access, or didn't understand the process. For these patrons, BPH staff downloaded 6,658 audio books onto new or erased cartridges, putting a maximum of 20 books on a single cartridge.

A patron survey was mailed out in February and the responses were very positive, with 90% of responders satisfied or very satisfied with the service provided by library staff. Over 50% of responders have been BPH patrons for five years or more.

## *Circulation*

In FY2014, BPH staff circulated 131,213 special format volumes to 5,745 patrons and 104 institutions. 95,017 digital books, 35,306 recorded cassettes, and 890 Braille items were sent, averaging 10,934 volumes mailed per month. In addition, 505 interlibrary loans were provided to patrons. There were 1,365 digital book machines and 652 cassette book machines mailed to patrons.

BPH continued its service agreement with the Utah State Library for Braille circulation. The agreement provides patrons with older Braille materials, since only the most recent titles are kept in the BPH collection.

## *Patron Comments*

- Through the year, staff received comments of appreciation from patrons, including:
- "The privilege of having the books read to me gives my life a wonderful new dimension. Thanks."
- "Just a BIG THANKS for making my mom's life better. When you can no longer play bridge, the books mean even more."
- "This is the best thing that a person that cannot see well can have. Thanks so very much!"
- I am treated well. Thank you for your service."

## *Volunteers*

During the year, BPH had 32 volunteers who donated 691 hours of service to the library. The one Telephone Pioneer who worked on cassette machine repairs was unavailable for most of the year, so most damaged cassette machines were shipped to the Yankton Federal Prison Camp in South Dakota, where the prisoners' mission is to repair equipment for the blind. A retired engineer volunteered his skills throughout the year and kept the digital machines in good working order. The Pioneer group in Birmingham worked on machines for the Talladega subregional library during part of the fiscal year, but they disbanded. BPH volunteers helped with mailing the quarterly newsletter, boxing Braille titles to be shipped overseas, listing

and sending out weeded cassettes, pulling outdated files, and doing some database cleanup.



### ***Service Dog Steals the Show!***

***NLS Director Karen Keninger speaking at the National Conference of Librarians Serving Blind and Handicapped Individuals, Oklahoma City, May 2014***

### ***National Library Service (NLS)***

NLS partnered with commercial audio publishers to obtain audiobooks so it can make titles available to patrons sooner. This allows BPH patrons to often have access to audio versions of commercially produced books at the same time or shortly after the release of the printed book. Because of this quick turnaround, NLS can't always assign sex, violence, and strong language content descriptors to these titles, so the tagline "unrated" appears.

Ruth Evans, Regional Librarian, attended the biennial National Conference of Librarians Serving Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals, held in Oklahoma City in May.

### ***Subregionals***

Contact by phone or email was made with each subregional library throughout the year. Teresa

Lacy remained as director of the Talladega subregional, part of the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind. Talladega serves patrons in Calhoun, St. Clair, and Talladega counties. Bobby Lipscomb continued as director of the Huntsville subregional, housed in the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library, serving patrons in Madison County.

### ***Public Relations***

The *WhAT's Line* newsletter was published on a quarterly basis, keeping patrons informed about new technological developments, such as the BARD mobile app, and other newsworthy information for visually handicapped persons. Links to current and past issues were provided on the BPH section of the APLS homepage, as was a link to the BPH online catalog, used by patrons to search and reserve materials. Links to other BPH resources were also provided.

BPH staff had an active year with outreach and conferences. They visited senior centers and participated in a youth transition workshop and a leadership forum for youth. They spoke at visually impaired support groups and staffed a booth at visual rehabilitation colloquiums. AIDB (Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind) meetings were attended in the northern and southern parts of the state.

Staff trained the educators about BPH services at a benefits fair held at Auburn University Montgomery. They were guest speakers at a Kiwanis Club luncheon, and they staffed a booth at White Cane Safety Day, held in Birmingham's Linn Park.

Staff attended the Governor's Office on Disability's State Rehabilitation Council meetings, BPH Advisory Committee meetings, and a technology expo. One staff member went to the KLAS Users Conference and two staffed a booth at the Alabama Council of the Blind Convention. a booth at the Alabama Council of the Blind Convention.



## The APLS Book Club is Growing!

Most librarians with adult or young adult programming have probably asked themselves at one time or another, “What on earth shall I do with all of these book club materials that we no longer need?” Well, here is your answer—send them to *us*!

Thanks to the generosity of many of our public libraries, our book club selection has doubled in size over the past two years. As of July 2014, we have added **31** more titles to our collection making a grand total of 210 titles to choose from! Book clubs are a wonderful way to encourage relationships, increase intellectual and personal stimulation, and expose library patrons to new types of literature and life viewpoints in a positive community setting. They can be an escape and a journey into something rich and wonderful, as well as a safe place to exchange and challenge ideas. APLS is happy to offer a diverse number of materials thus helping our libraries facilitate fun, community discussions for their patrons. A list of the book club materials that are currently available can be found in the APLS catalog and checked out for a period of three months at a time. To inquire about or request a particular title, contact Melinda Smith at [msmith@apls.state.al.us](mailto:msmith@apls.state.al.us).



The Alabama Public Library Service has an Information Technology Department that possesses over 50 years of technical experience collectively. Our knowledge extends to various areas of expertise and product groups:

- Adobe
- Apple
- Cisco
- Drupal
- FileMaker
- Linux
- Microsoft
- Networking
- VMware
- Web Design

Known as “circuit riders” by the library community, our Information Technology staff is one of the more versatile teams in the industry and Alabama public libraries can take full advantage of this knowledge and experience at *no cost to them*. This is significant as many public library budgets remain constrained, they still have the option of receiving quality technical support from our staff. In addition, public libraries can utilize our services to implement hardware and software solutions to stay within the cutting edge to enhance the experience of every patron that visits their library. For public libraries these support services are just a phone call or an email away. There are several options available for handling issues. For many cases, issues can be resolved via remote access. However, for more complicated incidents or troubleshooting scenarios, an on-site visit can be scheduled to take a closer look at the problem.

***“We can neither put back the clock nor slow down our forward speed, and as we are already flying pilotless, on instrument controls, it is even too late to ask where we are going.” -Igor Stravinsky***

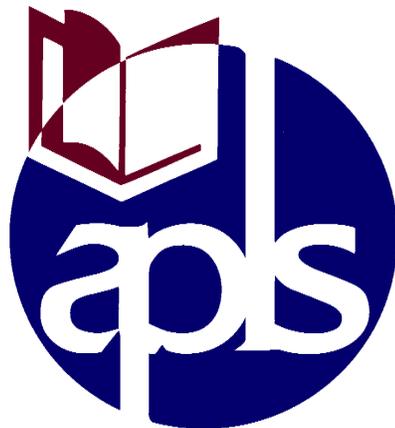
With the ever-evolving surge of mobile devices and need for information availability at every corner, wireless connectivity has answered the call becoming more reliable, convenient, and less cumbersome. This past year wireless network access for patrons has been a huge topic among Alabama’s public libraries and when wireless access is involved, security and network integrity are some primary obstacles that come to mind. Continuing along the same lines as the Evergreen Integrated Library System (ILS), we have again plunged into the realm of open source solutions to address some of these security concerns. We carefully select solutions that are stable, reliable, and offer a vast amount of community support. These solutions include Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) compliant Internet content filters such as Dansguardian and Untangle NG Firewall. While Dansguardian is used primarily as a content filter to prevent access to inappropriate subject matter on the Internet, Untangle NG has additional capabilities to not only provide content filtering but other services including: anti-virus, anti-spam protocol control, intrusion prevention, firewall, reporting, etc.

An advantage of using Dansguardian and/or Untangle is the library does not always have to purchase new hardware in order to implement the system. They can occasionally utilize existing hardware already in the library. If a purchase does have to be made, the cost would be significantly lower because the computer does not have to include a commercial operating system. These solutions not only provide public libraries with a cost effective way to protect their technology assets, but also protect patrons so children and adults can have an enjoyable experience using computer resources and feel safe while doing so.

Thanks to a major infrastructure upgrade, APLS now has an updated capacity to offer video conferencing services to public libraries and state agencies across Alabama. In order to receive State Aid, public librarians must attend at least two of the quarterly APLS Administrators’ Meetings each year. Three of these meetings were broadcasted to various remote sites during the year. Approximately 80% of the attendees were remote viewers. The video conferencing has enabled libraries to comply with the meeting attendance requirement without putting undue strain on the library’s personnel and financial resources.

One unique service APLS offers is the availability of meeting room space to state agencies at no charge. Two conference rooms are available for meetings. The Chattahoochee Room can accommodate up to 50 participants and the Tallapoosa Room can accommodate up to 200 participants. Both of them have video conferencing capabilities available. During FY2014, our meeting rooms were used by the following agencies:

- Alabama Department of Education
- Alabama Department of Human Resources
- Alabama Department of Mental Health
- Alabama Department of Public Health
- Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services
- Alabama Department of Senior Services
- Alabama Library Association
- Alabama Parent Education Council
- Alabama Retired State Employees’ Association
- Central Alabama Aging Consortium
- Children’s Aid Society
- Network of Alabama Academic Libraries
- Retirement Systems of Alabama



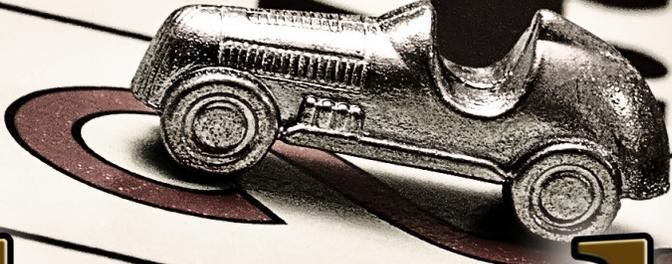
ALABAMA  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
SERVICE

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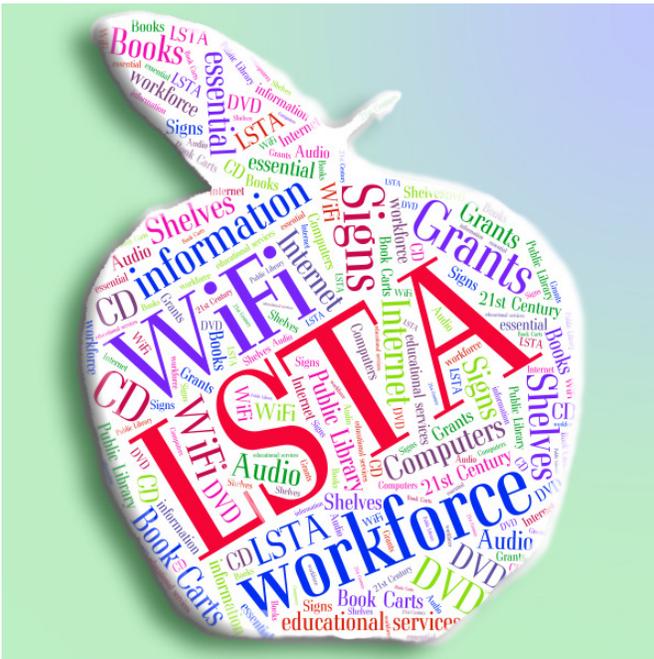
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A small silver toy car is positioned on a board game. The board game has various sections and text, including "SECRET LINE", "CHANGE", and "PRICE \$350". The car is on a red circular spot.

Federal  
Public Library  
Programs in  
Alabama



# Library Services Technology Act (LSTA)

The Library Services Act (LSA) was the first federal legislation to provide funding and support for public libraries. Two prominent Alabamians, Senator Lister Hill of Montgomery and Congressman Carl Elliott of Jasper, rallied to garner support for this legislation. LSA was signed into law by President Eisenhower on June 19, 1956 and remained effective until 1961. LSA was designed to improve the library services in rural areas. The first allotment from Congress was \$2 million with each state receiving \$40,000. LSA was extended and became the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) in 1964 and the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) in 1996.

## **PURPOSES:**

*The priorities of the LSTA are as follows:*

1. Expanding services for learning and access to information and educational resources in a variety of formats, in all types of libraries, for individuals of all ages;
2. Developing library services that provide all users access to information through local, state, regional, national, and international electronic networks;

3. Providing electronic and other linkages among and between all types of libraries;
4. Developing public and private partnerships with other agencies and community-based organizations;
5. Targeting library services to individuals of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, to individuals with disabilities, and to individuals with limited functional literacy or information skills; and
6. Targeting library and information services to persons having difficulty using a library and to underserved urban and rural communities, including children (from birth through age 17) from families with incomes below the poverty line as defined by the Office of Management and Budget and revised annually in accordance with 42 USC Sec. 9902 (2) applicable to a family of the size involved.

The Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) provides direct and statewide grants to Alabama libraries with the assistance of the LSTA allotment we receive each year. Grants are only awarded after a satisfactory application showing need and are contingent on available Federal funds. The LSTA is a categorical grant and is permissive legislation in that it does not define the specific actions that must be taken in order to fulfill this mandate. In order to receive allotments from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the funding authority of LSTA funds, we must have a current five-year plan that has been approved by IMLS that corresponds with the LSTA priorities listed above. Our plan was revised and approved in 2012 and goes through September 30, 2017.



The LSTA amount allotted to Alabama for FY2013 was \$2,501,154. The LSTA amount allotted to Alabama for FY2014 was \$2,416,705, resulting in a decrease of \$84,449.

Here are the FY2014 competitive grant amounts awarded to libraries. Each category is broken down by Congressional District:

- APLS awarded FY2014 LSTA children at risk grants to public libraries as follows:
  - Congressional District 1: \$20,000 (1 library)
  - Congressional District 2: N/A
  - Congressional District 3: N/A
  - Congressional District 4: \$8,000 (2 libraries)
  - Congressional District 5: N/A
  - Congressional District 6: N/A
  - Congressional District 7: N/A
  
- APLS awarded FY2014 LSTA collection development grants to public libraries as follows:
  - Congressional District 1: \$41,000\*\* (6 libraries)
  - Congressional District 2: \$45,000\*\* (7 libraries)
  - Congressional District 3: \$79,000\*\* (10 libraries)
  - Congressional District 4: \$117,940\*\* (21 libraries)
  - Congressional District 5: \$46,000 (7 libraries)
  - Congressional District 6: \$58,140\*\* (8 libraries)
  - Congressional District 7: \$61,500\*\* (9 libraries)
  
- APLS awarded FY2014 LSTA difficulty using a library grants to public libraries as follows:
  - Congressional District 1: N/A
  - Congressional District 2: N/A
  - Congressional District 3: \$4,675 (1 library)
  - Congressional District 4: N/A
  - Congressional District 5: N/A
  - Congressional District 6: N/A
  - Congressional District 7: N/A

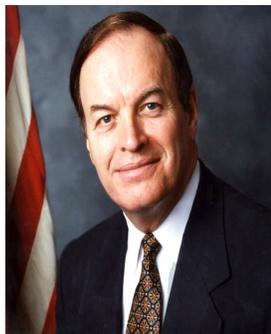
- APLS awarded FY2014 LSTA library technology grants to public libraries as follows:
  - Congressional District 1: \$97,755\*\* (5 libraries)
  - Congressional District 2: \$163,800\*\* (4 libraries)
  - Congressional District 3: \$167,155\*\* (5 libraries)
  - Congressional District 4: \$69,195\*\* (5 libraries)
  - Congressional District 5: N/A
  - Congressional District 6: \$83,800\*\* (5 libraries)
  - Congressional District 7: \$246,875\*\* (5 libraries)
  
- APLS awarded FY2014 LSTA lifelong learning grants to public libraries as follows:
  - Congressional District 1: \$77,115 (2 libraries)
  - Congressional District 2: N/A
  - Congressional District 3: \$10,000 (1 library)
  - Congressional District 4: \$8,000 (1 library)
  - Congressional District 5: \$12,500 (1 library)
  - Congressional District 6: \$20,000 (1 library)
  - Congressional District 7: N/A
  
- APLS awarded FY2014 LSTA professional training grants to public libraries as follows:
  - Congressional District 1: \$6,000 (3 libraries)
  - Congressional District 2: \$2,000 (1 library)
  - Congressional District 3: \$4,000\*\* (2 libraries)
  - Congressional District 4: \$4,000\*\* (2 libraries)
  - Congressional District 5: \$4,000\*\* (2 libraries)
  - Congressional District 6: \$2,000 (1 library)
  - Congressional District 7: N/A

\*\* Reflects library service areas in multiple districts. Grants reported in applicable districts.

APLS also provided funding for statewide projects in the following areas:

- Acquisition and utilization of materials for reference and interlibrary loan (ILL) purposes to Alabama public libraries, Alabama State Employees, and Alabama citizens.
- Blind and Physically Handicapped services to eligible Alabama citizens.
- Library development services to Alabama public libraries in the form of consultations (phone, email, on-site), technical electronic support (phone, email, on-site), and reference assistance (phone, email, on-site workshops).
- Statewide databases (i.e., HomeworkAlabama, Learning Express Library, OCLC FirstSearch, and State of Alabama Resource Sharing (STARS))
- Statistics assistance for completing the online annual statistics report that is required in order to receive State Aid.
- Summer library program materials distribution to Alabama public libraries for dispersal at public library summer programs.

## FY2014 Alabama Members of Congress



Senator  
Richard Shelby



Senator  
Jeff Sessions

## District One



**BRADLEY BYRNE**

District One includes the following counties: Baldwin, Clarke (portion), Escambia, Mobile, Monroe, and Washington.

### *District One FY2014 Projects*

COUNTY	LIBRARY	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Baldwin	Baldwin County Library Cooperative	Library Technology and Automation	\$2,350
Baldwin	Baldwin County Library Cooperative	Professional Training	\$2,000
Baldwin	Bay Minette Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Baldwin	Daphne Public Library	Strengthening Youth and Family	\$20,000
Baldwin	Fairhope Public Library	Professional Training	\$2,000
Baldwin	Magnolia Springs Public Library	Library Technology and Automation (SLD)*	\$2,400
Baldwin	Marjorie Younce Snook Public Library (Summerdale)	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Baldwin	Orange Beach Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Baldwin	Orange Beach Public Library	Professional Training	\$2,000
Clarke	Thomasville Public Library	Library Technology and Automation (SLD)*	\$15,000
Clarke	White Smith Memorial Library (Jackson)	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$3,000
Escambia	Atmore Public Library	Strengthening Communities	\$4,890
Escambia	Escambia County Cooperative Library	Library Technology and Automation	\$3,000
Mobile	Mobile Public Library	Library Technology and Automation	\$75,000
Mobile	Mobile Public Library	Library Vehicles	\$72,225
Washington	Washington County Public Library	Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Conference	\$1,500
Washington	Washington County Public Library	Collection Development	\$10,000

\* Small Library Development (service area less than 10,000 population)

## District Two



**MARTHA ROBY**

District Two includes the following counties: Autauga, Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Coffee, Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Elmore, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Montgomery (portion), and Pike.

### *District Two FY2014 Projects*

COUNTY	LIBRARY	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Autauga	Autauga-Prattville Public Library	Library Technology and Automation	\$11,800
Barbour	Eufaula Carnegie Library	Collection Development	\$10,000
Barbour	Town and County Library (Clayton)	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Coffee	Elba Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$5,000
Coffee	Enterprise Public Library	Collection Development	\$5,000
Dale	Daleville Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Elmore	Wetumpka Public Library	Library Technology and Automation (SLD)	\$15,000
Geneva	McGregor-McKinney Public Library (Hartford)	Library Technology and Automation (SLD)	\$2,000
Henry	Blanche R. Solomon Memorial Library (Headland)	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$4,000
Houston	Dothan Houston County Library	Professional Training	\$2,000
Montgomery	Alabama Department of Youth Services (Mt. Meigs)	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Montgomery	Montgomery City-County Public Library	Library Technology and Automation	\$135,000
Montgomery	Montgomery City-County Public Library	Professional Training	\$2,000

\* Small Library Development (service area less than 10,000 population)

## District Three



**MICHAEL ROGERS**

District Three includes the following counties: Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee (portion), Clay, Cleburne, Lee, Macon, Montgomery (portion), Randolph, Russell, St. Clair, Talladega, and Tallapoosa.

### *District Three FY2014 Projects*

COUNTY	LIBRARY	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Calhoun	Anniston-Calhoun County Public Library	Collection Development	\$10,000
Calhoun	Anniston-Calhoun County Public Library	Professional Training	\$2,000
Calhoun	Jacksonville Public Library	Library Technology and Automation	\$3,375
Calhoun	Ohatchee Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Calhoun	Piedmont Public Library	Library Technology and Automation (SLD)*	\$7,900
Cherokee	Cherokee County Public Library	Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Conference	\$1,500
Lee	Auburn Public Library	Collection Development	\$10,000
Montgomery	Alabama Department of Youth Services (Mt. Meigs)	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Montgomery	Montgomery City-County Public Library	Library Technology and Automation	\$135,000
Montgomery	Montgomery City-County Public Library	Professional Training	\$2,000
St. Clair	Ashville Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
St. Clair	Odenville Public Library	Collection Development	\$7,000
St. Clair	Pell City Public Library	Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Conference	\$1,500
St. Clair	Ragland Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
St. Clair	Springville Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
St. Clair	St. Clair County Library	Collection Development	\$10,000
St. Clair	Steele Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Talladega	AIDB Resource Center (Talladega)	Services for the Disabled	\$4,675
Talladega	Armstrong-Osborne Public Library (Talladega)	Professional Training	\$2,000
Talladega	B. B. Comer Memorial Library (Sylacauga)	Strengthening Communities	\$10,000
Talladega	Earle A. Rainwater Memorial Library (Childersburg)	Library Technology and Automation (SLD)*	\$4,875
Tallapoosa	Adelia M. Russell Library (Alexander City)	Library Technology and Automation	\$16,000

\* Small Library Development (service area less than 10,000 population)

## District Four



### ROBERT ADERHOLT

District Four includes the following counties: Blount (portion), Cherokee (portion), Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Etowah, Fayette, Franklin, Lamar, Lawrence, Marion, Marshall, Tuscaloosa (portion), Walker, and Winston.

### *District Four FY2014 Projects*

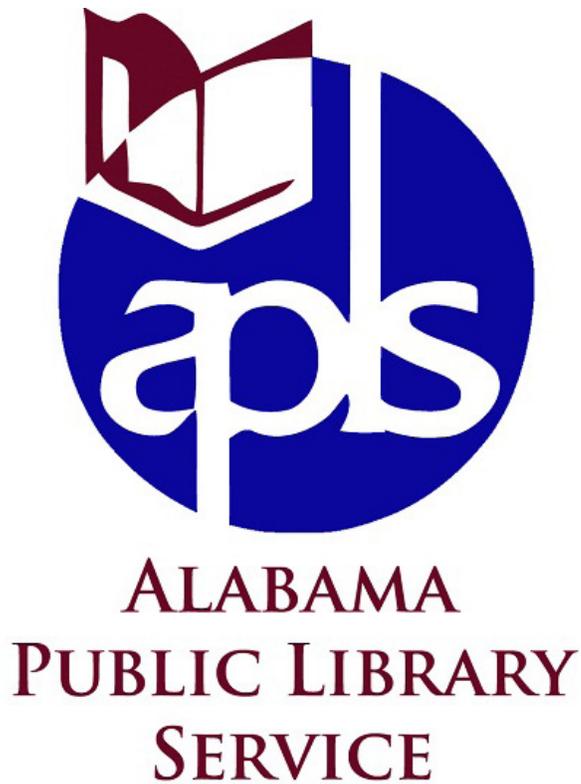
COUNTY	LIBRARY	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Blount	Oneonta Public Library	Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference	\$1,500
Blount	Oneonta Public Library	Collection Development	\$9,640
Cherokee	Cherokee County Public Library	Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference	\$1,500
Colbert	Leighton Public Library	Digitization of High-Demand Rare Library Materials	\$8,750
Colbert	Muscle Shoals Public Library	Professional Training	\$2,000
Cullman	Cullman County Public Library	Library Technology and Automation	\$4,790
DeKalb	Collinsville Public Library	Library Technology and Automation (SLD)*	\$3,200
DeKalb	Geraldine Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$3,800
DeKalb	Rainsville Public Library	Strengthening Youth and Family (SLD)*	\$3,000
Etowah	Gadsden-Etowah County Public Library	Professional Training	\$2,000
Etowah	Gadsden-Etowah County Public Library	Strengthening Communities	\$8,000
Etowah	Southside Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Franklin	Russellville Public Library	Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference	\$1,500
Franklin	Weatherford Public Library (Red Bay)	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$1,500
Lamar	Kennedy Public Library	Library Technology and Automation (SLD)*	\$7,950
Lamar	Mary Wallace Cobb Public Library (Vernon)	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$500
Lamar	Millport Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$1,500
Lamar	Sulligent Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$4,000
Lawrence	Lawrence County Public Library	Collection Development	\$10,000
Lawrence	Town Creek Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Marion	Clyde Nix Public Library (Hamilton)	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$1,500
Marion	MCHS Community Library (Guin)	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Marion	Northwest Regional Library (Franklin, Lamar, and Marion Counties)	Collection Development	\$1,500
Marion	Winfield Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$5,000
Marshall	Grant Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$4,000

## *District Four FY2013 Projects*

(continued)

COUNTY	LIBRARY	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Marshall	Guntersville Public Library	Strengthening Youth and Family (SLD)*	\$5,000
Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa Public Library	Library Technology and Automation	\$44,550
Walker	Carbon Hill Community Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Walker	Jasper Public Library	Collection Development	\$10,000
Walker	Sumiton Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Winston	Arley Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Winston	Double Springs Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Winston	Haleyville Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000

\* Small Library Development (service area less than 10,000 population)



## District Five



### MO BROOKS

District Five includes the following counties: Jackson, Lauderdale, Limestone, Madison, and Morgan.

### *District Five FY2014 Projects*

COUNTY	LIBRARY	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Jackson	Lena Cagle Public Library (Bridgeport)	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Lauderdale	Florence-Lauderdale Public Library	Professional Training	\$2,000
Lauderdale	Lexington Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Lauderdale	Rogersville Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$4,000
Limestone	Athens-Limestone Public Library	Strengthening Communities	\$12,500
Madison	Huntsville-Madison County Public Library	Collection Development	\$10,000
Morgan	Decatur Public Library	Collection Development	\$10,000
Morgan	Falkville Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$5,000
Morgan	Linda Duran Public Library (Priceville)	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Morgan	William Bradford Huie Library (Hartselle)	Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference	\$1,500
Morgan	William Bradford Huie Library (Hartselle)	Collection Development	\$3,000
Morgan	William Bradford Huie Library (Hartselle)	Professional Training	\$2,000

\* Small Library Development (service area less than 10,000 population)

## District Six



### SPENCER BACHUS

District Six includes the following counties: Bibb, Blount (portion), Chilton, Coosa, Jefferson (portion), and Shelby.

### *District Six FY2014 Projects*

COUNTY	LIBRARY	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Blount	Oneonta Public Library	Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference	\$1,500
Blount	Oneonta Public Library	Collection Development	\$9,640
Jefferson	Clay Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Jefferson	Hoover Public Library	Library Technology and Automation	\$26,500
Jefferson	Irondale Public Library	Collection Development	\$10,000
Jefferson	Pinson Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Jefferson	Trussville Public Library	Collection Development	\$10,000
Shelby	Albert L. Scott Library (Alabaster)	Collection Development	\$10,000
Shelby	Chelsea Public Library	Library Technology and Automation	\$11,920
Shelby	Columbiana Public Library	Library Technology and Automation (SLD)*	\$9,375
Shelby	Harrison Regional Library (Shelby County)	Strengthening Communities	\$20,000
Shelby	Lallouise F. McGraw Library (Vincent)	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$1,500
Shelby	North Shelby Library	Library Technology and Automation	\$16,000
Shelby	Parnell Memorial Library (Montevallo)	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$3,000
Shelby	Pelham Public Library	Library Technology and Automation	\$20,000

\* Small Library Development (service area less than 10,000 population)

## District Seven



**TERRI A. SEWELL**

District Seven includes the following counties: Choctaw, Clarke (portion), Dallas, Greene, Hale, Jefferson (portion), Lowndes, Marengo, Montgomery (portion), Perry, Pickens, Sumter, Tuscaloosa (portion), and Wilcox.

### *District Seven FY2014 Projects*

COUNTY	LIBRARY	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Clarke	Thomasville Public Library	Library Technology and Automation (SLD)*	\$15,000
Clarke	White Smith Memorial Library (Jackson)	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$3,000
Dallas	Selma-Dallas County Public Library	Library Technology and Automation	\$25,800
Hale	Akron Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Hale	Hale County Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$3,000
Jefferson	Clay Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Jefferson	Hoover Public Library	Library Technology and Automation	\$26,500
Jefferson	Irondale Public Library	Collection Development	\$10,000
Jefferson	Pinson Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Jefferson	Trussville Public Library	Collection Development	\$10,000
Montgomery	Alabama Department of Youth Services (Mt. Meigs)	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Montgomery	Montgomery City-County Public Library	Library Technology and Automation	\$135,000
Montgomery	Montgomery City-County Public Library	Professional Training	\$2,000
Pickens	Carrollton Public Library	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$7,000
Sumter	Ruby Pickens Tartt Public Library (Livingston)	Collection Development (SLD)*	\$3,500
Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa Public Library	Library Technology and Automation	\$44,550

\* Small Library Development (service area less than 10,000 population)

# 2014 LSTA Advisory Council

**Morgan Grimes Allen**

Demopolis Public Library  
Represents: Public Libraries

**Michael Briddell**

Montgomery, Alabama  
Represents: Library Users

**Mandi Cantrell**

B. B. Comer Memorial Library (Sylacauga)  
Represents: Public Libraries

**Beth Wheeler Dean**

Guntersville Public Library  
Represents: Public Libraries

**Tamara Dean**

Orange Beach Public Library  
Represents: Public Libraries

**Patricia Guarino**

Hoover Public Library  
Represents: Public Libraries

**Katie Guerin**

North Shelby Library  
Represents: Public Libraries

**Angela Fisher-Hall**

Birmingham Public Library  
Represents: Public Libraries

**Mary Hamilton**

H. Grady Bradshaw-Chambers County Library (Valley)  
Represents: Public Libraries

**Amanda Jackson**

Gadsden-Etowah County Public Library  
Represents: Public Libraries

**Teresa Lacy**

AIDB Resource Center (Talladega)  
Represents: Institutional Libraries

**Liz Reed**

Baldwin County Library Cooperative  
Represents: Public Libraries

**Ronnie Smith**

Eufaula Carnegie Library  
Represents: Public Libraries

**Sandra Underwood**

Carl Elliott Regional Library (Jasper)  
Represents: Public Libraries

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*Front Cover*

“Capital City Snow” ~ Courtesy of Clyde Mills

*Federal Cover*

“Monopoly” ~ Courtesy of Kevin Goff

*Back Cover*

“Baseball Collage” ~ Courtesy of Clyde Mills

The background is a composite image. At the top, there is a close-up of the American flag's stars and stripes. On the right side, a woman with dark hair is smiling and talking on a cell phone. In the center and left, a baseball pitcher in a white uniform is captured in the middle of a pitch on a field. The entire image has a warm, golden-brown color palette.

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as Mom, Apple Pie,  
and Baseball