Annual Conference Registration NOW OPEN

The 2018 Annual CLA Conference
April 23- 24
at the Danbury Crowne Plaza

Sessions include:

- Inclusive Design
- Repair Café
- Magic the Gathering
- Podcasts
- Advocacy
- Digital Humanities
- Whole Book Approach
- Customer Service

And much, much more!

Monday Keynote:
Sarah Cooper
Writer and Comedian
Author of 100 Tricks to Appear Smart in Meetings

Tuesday Keynote:
Jim Neal, ALA President

Monday evening events:
Tech Petting Zoo
Sea Tea Improv Performance

Tuesday evening event:
Tour Danbury’s Studio 170 & Hackerspace

Early bird registration ends March 16th. For further details, click here.
With a cheery ‘ding!’ my phone alerts me of a new email. Needing to keep a constant inbox-zero, I quickly flip to Gmail, expecting an offer for discount airfare or the most recent ALA Direct. Instead, a stern Google notification informs me of a blocked sign-in to my account, asking if I recognize this activity. Although I wish I were traveling abroad, logging in at my leisure from somewhere in central Europe, this account access definitely wasn’t me.

Luckily, my Google account has two-step verification enabled, blocking this unauthorized access. Had I not set it up a few short months ago, this false login would have allowed them to gather up my personal information, send phishing emails to my contacts, and gain access to my other accounts. Many of us have likely gotten stern emails like this without having our accounts compromised. For example, Google will often message warnings of account access attempts if you’ve signed in on a new computer, cleared your cookies, or chosen to use a privacy browser or incognito tab. However, if someone else figures out your password or tries to access your accounts, two-step verification may be able to protect you from being hacked.

Two-step verification—also known as two-factor authentication (2FA)—combines two different forms of authentication to log into an account. As per the Electronic Frontier Foundation’s Surveillance Self Defense Toolkit, these authentication methods “may be something that the user knows (like a password or PIN), something that the user possesses (like a hardware token or mobile phone), or something that is attached to or inseparable from the user (like their fingerprints).” A good example of two-step verification is a debit card—in order to withdraw money from an ATM, you need both your card (something the user possesses) and your PIN (something the user knows). For our online accounts, we generally already have a password set. For two-factor authentication, we’ll want to pair this with something the user possesses. One of the most common forms of two-step verification presently used is a password paired with a mobile phone confirmation, often in the form of an SMS text message.

For those who prefer to not receive text messages, there are multiple other verification methods available. Many popular sites and services offer authenticator apps, which provide regularly updating passcodes to be used in addition to a password. These apps—such as the Google Authenticator app—are paired with your accounts and can be accessed from your phone or tablet. Additionally, U2F security keys are a variant of two-step verification with growing popularity. Similar in size and usability to a USB flash drive, devices like the Yubico Yubikey are convenient to keep tucked away in a pocket or on your keys. Both of these forms of verification are considered more secure than SMS-verification, as they are less easy to intercept than cell signals. No matter what form of two-step verification you prefer, by combining two forms of authentication, users can better protect themselves from malicious access to their accounts.

No matter what form of two-step verification you choose, always be sure to still make use of a strong password. Just as a debit card pin of ‘1234’ isn’t a secure way...
By the time you read this column, registration will be open for CLA’s 127th Annual Conference. Let that sink in for a minute... Connecticut librarians have been getting together, under the auspices of this very same professional organization, for more than one and a quarter centuries. Much has changed from those initial conferences. I doubt that the first few conferences had an app to keep track of your schedule, a technology petting zoo, breakout sessions on how to provide library service to homeless or autistic patrons, or even their own hashtag. But some things were similar. Colleagues gathered together to conduct association business, to hear lectures, and to network and learn from each other. Then they took what they learned back to their libraries and used it to do a better job serving their particular clientele.

I very much look forward to doing that with all of you this April, but there is another important reason for the annual conference. CLA is a not-for-profit 501(C)4 corporation whose mission is to advance the interests of librarianship, foster communication between libraries, and improve library services for the people of Connecticut. Our only significant sources of income to continue as an organization and advance this mission are your membership dues and the annual conference.

While many of us donate our time and talents to do work for CLA, the lobbyists, web host, and bookkeeping and administrative support we need to continue as an organization are not free. If you are a CLA member, THANK YOU for helping continue a great professional tradition. If you are not a member, why not? Now is a great time to join or renew your membership so you can take advantage of member rates when registering for the Annual Conference. For as little as $25 you can be part of a great organization and save money, not only on registration for the annual conference, but on other CLA-sponsored professional development opportunities throughout the year and even a New England Library Association membership too.

Glenn Grube is the director of the Avon Free Public Library.
Movin’ On Up!
from the Career Development Committee

Q When are thank-you notes to interviewers appropriate? Are they expected? Do they help? Do they matter?

A From Chris Angeli, Director, Milford Public Library

A thank-you note can add to the positive impression of a candidate who interviewed well, and, if well written, perhaps add that boost if there is a competitive field. If the in-person interview did not go well from my perspective, a thank-you note is appreciated, but won’t help the candidate’s chances.

Also, how the note is written matters. Just like with an application or cover letter, it can’t sound generic – I want to know someone gave thought to what we discussed, and perhaps reiterated why they feel they would be a good fit for my library, and thanked me for the opportunity to interview.

Personally, I prefer an emailed thank-you note. It provides one more example of how the candidate communicates online, and on a practical note, may be received before a hiring decision would be made. All in all – I would say send the thank you. It can’t hurt.

Do you have a question about your career that you would like to see answered in the next issue of CLA Today? Send it to: editor@ctlibraryassociation with “Movin on Up” in the subject line.
Faith Hektoen Award

The Faith Hektoen Award is given annually by the Children’s Section of the Connecticut Library Association to recognize the efforts of an individual or group that has made an impact on library services to children in Connecticut at the local, regional, or state level.

Developed in 1979, the award is named for Faith Hektoen, who served for over 20 years as the first State Consultant for Children’s Services.

Nominations are now being accepted. Deadline is Feb. 26, 2018. Click here for more information and the application.

Scholarships Available

The Connecticut Library Association is pleased to announce that it will once again award scholarships at its annual meeting, which will be held on April 24, 2018 at the Danbury Crowne Plaza.

A total of $4,750 will be awarded from funds provided by CLA and the Association of Connecticut Library Boards.

The areas of study eligible for scholarship support are:
1. An ALA accredited certification program (i.e. certified public library administrator)
2. An LTA program
3. A bachelor’s degree (BA or BS) in library science
4. A library media specialist degree
5. An ALA-accredited MLS/MLIS degree
6. A PhD in library science

Applications and supporting materials will be accepted in electronic format only, and must be submitted by 5 PM on Friday, March 16, 2018.

To be eligible you must be
1. a CLA member and
2. a Connecticut resident or employed in a Connecticut library.

Pictured is Marissa Correia of the Huntington Branch Library, one of last year’s winners.
Wilton Library is going beyond books, DVDs and CDs to host a Human Library on Saturday, March 24, 1 to 5 p.m.

The library is bringing together community members who have volunteered to share their stories to break down barriers based on age, race, sexual orientation, religion, ability, lifestyle choices or other aspects of their identity.

This human library has been organized to help shatter stereotypes through open conversations between two people in a non-judgmental environment. It is an opportunity for those who’ve faced prejudice to tell their story and show people who they really are.

And it’s a chance for others to change their preconceived notions about someone.

Some of the “books” include:
- A woman who has struggled with severe depression and anxiety but has learned how to live a happy life.
- A woman whose father encountered much rejection before finding a sponsor to help his family escape Nazi Germany in 1933.
- A man who was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s at a young age after caring for his father who also had the disease.

These are just some of several people volunteering to share their stories. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, able to volunteer at least two hours of their time and willing to tell their stories.

The Human Library is an international movement that started in Denmark in 2000 and is now held in more than 70 countries. It was designed as a way to bring people together to understand each other.

The Chester Library held one in 2014, sponsored by their Friends group.

"Chester is a small town with a very small library but lots of readers," said Sue Zirlen, the Friends member who helped organize it. "It was a way to deal with a lot of violence [in Denmark] at that time."

For her efforts Zirlen was honored with a statewide Friends of Connecticut Libraries award in 2015.
People in the News

Steven Frederick, an attorney at the Stamford-based law firm Wofsey, Rosen, Kveskin & Kuriansky, is solidly “booked” for the foreseeable future: he was installed as the chairman of the board of trustees of Stamford’s Ferguson Library.

The Killingworth Library Association is pleased to announce the hiring of Laurie Prichard as library director, effective Feb. 5. Prichard lives in Moodus and was the assistant library system director for East Haddam, rotating between the town’s two libraries.

Selma Dautefendic has been named library director of Acton Public Library in Old Saybrook. She previously served as director of adult services at the Wethersfield Public Library.

Warehouse Point Library in East Windsor has a new director, Mike Sweeney. He joins the library from his previous position as reference and young adult librarian at the Acton Library in Old Saybrook.

Nicole B. Cignoli is the new director of Derby Public Library. Cathy Williams’ last day was December 31.

Douglas C. Lord is the new director of the C.H. Booth Library in Newtown.

The Simsbury Public Library welcomes Christopher Carney to its staff as adult services librarian. Chris was formerly head of teen services at the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library in Coventry. He will be taking over the position from Joan Nagy, who retired in January after 20 years with the library.

Kate Sheehan and Dara Cates have been appointed to new positions at the Stratford Library. Sheehan is the library’s new head of information technology services and Cates has been promoted to the position of head of circulation.

At the Hartford Public Library:
• Gabrielle Barnes is the new YOUmedia manager. She previously served as teen services librarian.
• Katherine Trouen-Trend has been promoted to youth services librarian. She began her career at Hartford Public Library in 2003.
• Michael Elder is a new adult learning assistant in The American Place. He previously worked as an English teacher in Hartford Public Schools.
• Brenda Miller, executive director of the Hartford Public Library’s Hartford History Center, recently served on the National Endowment for the Humanities’ Public Humanities Projects peer review panel. The national panel met in Washington, D.C., and evaluated applications in NEH’s Public Humanities / Community Conversations grant line.

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Take Your Child to the Library Day

Launched in Connecticut in 2012, Take Your Child to the Library Day has blossomed into an international celebration with nearly 1,000 participating libraries from 49 states and 5 countries.

Children dropped off their stuffed animals at the Wallingford Public Library on Friday night for a Fuzzy Friend Sleepover. They returned on Saturday morning to see what their friends had been up to all night!

Young patrons at West Haven Public Library enjoyed a reading of the *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats and making snowy day shape collages inspired by the book’s beautiful artwork.

Gunn Memorial Library’s little patrons enjoyed lots of crafts, had fun with a photo booth, and loved exploring BookFlix.

At West Hartford Public Libraries, patrons had a great day being creative, entertained and using the library, including a visit from a princess who shared some royal manners and fairytales stories.

Children at Lucy Robbins Welles Library in Newington participated in Christopher Agostina’s StoryFaces program. Much fun was had by all.

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At the Groton Public Library, families celebrated the birthday of Stretch, the library’s giraffe mascot.

Al DeCant had many families singing and clapping along to his "Reading Rocks with Pete the Cat" performance.

East Granby Public Library was pleased to host Riverside Reptiles to introduce & educate children about ancient reptiles (including an 80 lb swamp monster!) As you can see they were enthralled & delighted!!

Edward Leonard’s Silly Song Sing-a-Long gets the kids moving, grooving and jamming at the Burnham Library in Bridgewater.

Woodbury Public Library’s igloo is designed to be a special reading space available during their Winter Reading Program, Chill Out and Read, which kicked off on Take Your Child to the Library Day.

It’s Fun!

It’s Free!

It’s Family-Friendly!

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The Salem Free Public Library had a magic show with Richard Rothstein, aka Mr. Magic. A fun time was had by all!

Children at the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library enjoyed a fairy tale ball.

Winter Luau hula fun with Judi Ann Jones at the Killingly Public Library.

Teddy Bear Sleepover at Thompson Public Library!

The Giant Jumperee was at Beardsley Library! From elephants to rabbits, giant jumps to small hops, the children (and adults) had a wonderful Take Your Child to the Library Day! ♡
News from around the State

After a lengthy process, the Branford Representative Town Meeting approved an appropriation of $5.2 million for the Blackstone Memorial Library renovation. Thank you to everyone who helped support the project, especially State Librarian Ken Wiggin, who spoke in support.

The Cromwell Belden Public Library was approved for a $3.6 million renovation/expansion. It was a validating and heartwarming experience to hear how much the library meant to the community.

Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library will receive a 2018 Empowering Communities Award from the Connecticut Fair Housing Center. The Hartford History Center is receiving this award for its work done in collaboration with the Connecticut Fair Housing Center in creating the CT Fair Housing Tour of Hartford. “Here at the Hartford History Center, our challenge and our charge is to document and preserve these wonderful materials, but also to find ways to share their content, their spirit, and their legacy with our public. We are so happy to have provided the Connecticut Fair Housing Center with the resources they needed to create this critical tour,” said Brenda Miller, executive director of the Hartford History Center.

The award will be presented to Hartford Public Library’s Hartford History Center at Connecticut Fair Housing’s 2018 Annual Loving Civil Rights Award Dinner on May 10.

Kym Powe is the new teen librarian at the West Haven Public Library.

Marion Sheehan, library director at Canterbury Public Library, is retiring.

Ron Fairchild has joined the Woodbury Library as the new reference/technology librarian.

Emma Barnes, children’s services information/technical assistant at the Waterford Public Library, earned her masters in library and information science degree from San Jose State University.

BECAUSE MORE THAN A QUARTER OF U.S. HOUSEHOLDS DON’T HAVE A COMPUTER WITH AN INTERNET CONNECTION.

#LibrariesTransform

Because more than a quarter of U.S. households don’t have a computer with an internet connection.

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www.ctlibraryassociation.org
to protect your bank account, a feeble password only weakens your account’s security. Likewise, choose a form of two-step verification you’ll use and have access to. If you seldom carry your phone with you, relying on text-messages and phone apps might not be your best solution. When possible, also provide yourself with redundant ways to login to your accounts. Many services will allow you to set up multiple forms of two-step verification or print off one-time-use access codes to keep as a backup. I have oft arrived at the office only to realize my security key is sitting on the kitchen table. Thankfully, using an authenticator app on my phone maintains my security while still allowing for flexibility and human error.

Once you feel comfortable with implementing and using two-step verification, try encouraging these practices with your patrons. Introducing patrons to two-step verification as part of a security workshop can be a terrific technique, allowing them to follow along with an instructor on their own accounts. Additionally, when patrons are having any sort of issues with their accounts—be it logging in, security issues, or others—I like to take that opportunity to suggest two-step verification. Often, users already have a phone number linked to their account in case they forget their password, and adding two-step verification is as simple as a few clicks and a confirmed text message. In this case, highlighting that patrons are not disclosing additional data about themselves, the heightened security of their account, and the potential ramifications of someone taking control of their online presence often are all great selling points for using two-step verification.

For more information, I’d highly recommend walking through the Electronic Frontier Federation’s How-To Guide for two-step verification. Alongside their resources on two-step verification, EFF’s toolkit contains a wealth of information on securing your online identity. To help determine what sites you use support two-step verification, check out https://twofactorauth.org/. Along with being regularly updated and fully searchable, this site describes the verification methods accepted by a wide array of websites. Ultimately, using two-step verification can go a long way towards safeguarding yourself and your patrons online. So join with me everybody, and let’s go two-step (verification).

Andrew Boyles Petersen
Instruction and outreach librarian, The Loomis Chaffee School
Member, CLA Intellectual Freedom Committee

The CLA IFC will be overviewing a current privacy issue or tool for each CLA Today this year, discussing such topics as two-factor authentication, secure browsers, password managers, and anti-tracking extensions and applications. To build on this, we will discuss possibilities for implementing these tools in your libraries as well as techniques to aid patrons in safeguarding their online identities.