Preview of the Annual Conference

The 123rd Annual Conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell, CT on April 28th and 29th, 2014. We have a full line up of great programs this year, including sessions on Makerspaces, professional development, and dealing with the Common Core. We are also excited to have delicious, hot buffets on both days as well as expanded seating for lunch.

We have two excellent keynote speakers this year.

Siva Vaidhyanathan, author of *The Googlization of Everything and Why We Should Worry* and *The Anarchist in the Library* will be kicking off the Conference on Monday, April 28th at 9:00.

Renee Hobbs, from the Harrington School of Communication and Media at the University of Rhode Island will be speaking on Tuesday, April 29th at 10:30.

Register online at ctlibraryassociation.org
Book Review by Douglas C. Lord

Sullivan (Connecting Boys with Books and Fundamentals of Children’s Services) is the former president of the New Hampshire Library Association; his cogent, thoughtful recommendations incorporate refreshing doses of common sense, such as that "...for all that we teachers and librarians try to do, parents and families have so much more effect on developing readers." Though he refers to boys generally, he’s careful to note that no boy (or girl) is 'typical' and points out that the recommended tactics (e.g., reading aloud to children) work for both genders. There is definite boy-centric advice, however, such as removing strictures and stress to do with reading, which Sullivan notes frequently worsen situations that already require intervention. Modeling good reading behaviors has also been shown to work especially well for boys, and care is taken to point out the keen importance of nonfiction for boys.

Sullivan’s highly critical take on of America’s 'test-and-punish' educational culture (created by governments to rack up so-called 'improvements.' Those interested in this topic will find food for thought in Amanda Ripley’s The Smartest Kids in the World, 2013) is utterly convincing. Indeed, a concise argument is made that "[g]rade-level reading is a pointless and arbitrary standard and relies on the Brain Lag effect," wherein boys’ brains develop later and thus 'read' about 1.5 years 'later' than girls. In addition to five revelatory introductory chapters, Sullivan’s annotated booklists (e.g., Christian fiction, ghost stories, etc.) are priceless. The bottom line is that: most boys need "to be allowed to read in volume at whatever level is comfortable for them while their brains develop at their own pace." Amazingly readable, this serves as admirable and direct advice for all teachers and librarians.

New Joint ALA/CLA Student Membership Available

Library school students are eligible to join both ALA and the Connecticut Library Association at one low price of $35.00 a year. Join both state and national library associations and get connected to your future. Joint student members are full members of both associations, and receive all the benefits accorded to student members in each association. For ALA it includes: 6 issues of American Libraries magazine, weekly e-delivery of AL Direct, bi-monthly Student Direct, discounts on ALA and Division conferences, 10% discounts on ALA Editions and Graphics; Access to ALA scholarships, grants and travel opportunities.

For more information, or to join, visit: ctlibraryassociation.org/join.php
As you probably know by now, the Department of Consumer Protection recently released its eagerly awaited study on “the Availability of Electronic Books to Users of Public Libraries.” The study is the result of a hard fought battle by CLA during last year’s session of the Connecticut State Legislature. I’d like to take this opportunity to commend the study’s authors for doing such an excellent job of breaking down a very complex issue into easily understood components.

The study is factual and presents the issues accurately and fairly. So the next time someone asks you to explain why they can’t access ebooks through your library as easily as they can printed materials, I recommend that you hand them a copy of the study and urge that person to contact their State Representative and Senator to let them know how they feel about the issue. You can obtain a PDF copy of it by following this link: http://www.ct.gov/dcp/lib/dcp/pdfs/publications/e-book_study_final_30jan2014.pdf.

The work that CLA put in to getting this study done is just one example of the many ways that we advocate for all libraries, including academic, school and special as well as public. Our upcoming “Libraries Change Lives” exhibit at the State Capitol on April 16 is another. I’m also pleased to report that Marci Merola, ALA’s Director of Library Advocacy, will be appearing at the upcoming Annual Conference at a session titled “Making Your Voice Heard” on Monday, April 28. Please take advantage of these opportunities to advocate for your library. Even better, become more involved yourself – we need all the help we can get to make sure that libraries don’t just survive, but thrive as we move forward into the digital age.♦

Richard Conroy
is Director of the
Essex Library Association
**Q & A with Ben Shum**

**Ben Shum** works for Bibliomation, and was the annual conference co-chair in 2013. He is in the final stages of earning his MLS.

How did you get "roped in" to being conference co-chair last year? What did you learn or take away from the experience? When Carl DeMilia was President-Elect, he began forming his conference committee and asked me to participate. I thought it was a huge honor to serve CLA in that capacity so I am fairly sure I said yes before the enormity of what I was getting involved with had sunk in. That said, it was a great experience and I especially enjoyed the logistics angle of planning events, keeping track of speaker and attendee needs, organizing program slots, etc. My single biggest take-away from the whole process is that you can always have more coffee available for people.

**What do you do at Bibliomation?** I am currently the Evergreen Systems Manager for Bibliomation. I took over that position in September of last year; prior to that I was the Evergreen Systems Coordinator. Basically, my job is to make sure the Evergreen system is working properly and that it continues to meet and expand on the needs of our member libraries. Evergreen is an open source integrated library system that is being shared by over 60 public and school libraries around Connecticut. Maintenance for that system covers a broad range of technical and configuration issues that must all interlink properly to allow for smoothest operation. In addition to that work, we also look at new Evergreen developments ongoing in the broader community of developers and users around the world and cook up a few bug fixes and code patches ourselves in-house too. I hold membership in many working groups in the Evergreen Community and am one of the eleven current core committers (reference! [http://wiki.evergreen-ils.org/doku.php?id=contributing:contributors](http://wiki.evergreen-ils.org/doku.php?id=contributing:contributors)). Core committers are the only developer team members who can directly add new code for Evergreen after testing has been completed for each new feature or bug fix. It is a great responsibility that I take very seriously. I am also an active participant in our Bibliomation team here supporting our helpdesk staff in providing technical support for our member libraries, database services staff in providing quality library records, and network services staff working on overall server and system architecture and support.

**What was the path that led you to work in the library field?** I actually had very little direct connection with the library world other than being a patron. My mother used to take us to the library when I was little and tell us that we could check out as many books as we could carry ourselves. Needless to say, I took home as many dinosaur and space books as I could carry.

When I was in high school, I took one of those career tests and it told me that I was well suited for a career in filing / office work, which sounded ridiculous to me at the time. Now, I feel that maybe that test was telling me that I liked having things orderly and organized, much like librarians do with information.

My first real connection with librarianship occurred in my junior year of undergraduate studies. While I was at a luncheon, I randomly ended up in conversation with someone who turned out to be our school’s ILL librarian. From our discussion, he impressed on me the value of being able to resource share with many other libraries and the collected pool of knowledge being employed throughout the system. I was utterly fascinated with the logistics of managing that flow of information being shared back and forth and knew from that point forward that I definitely wanted to be a librarian.

“Ultimately, I think it's the sense of purpose we get working towards the service of our communities as librarians that keeps me happier in this profession than in the IT world.”
CT Library: Meriden Public Library
by Marjorie Ruschau, Region 2 Rep

When Meriden's first library opened in 1796 it was only for those who could afford a subscription. But 218 years later the Meriden Public Library serves everyone, with 313,893 visits in the last fiscal year alone. “We serve a diverse community and try to offer something for everyone,” said Karen Roesler, director. “That means books, of course, but also programs for everyone from children to senior citizens, DVDs, music CDs, downloadable books. And then there are the public computers, which are used heavily.”

Circulation has grown in the past year and so has the number of visitors. Patrons asked more than 40,000 questions in one year at the reference desk, which is staffed with two people.

It was in 1899 that a group of women – the Thursday Morning Club, which still exists – decided a public library was needed. The club first opened a reading room that was heavily used. Then club member Augusta Munson Curtis donated $5,000 for land and $25,000 for a library building. The Curtis Memorial Library opened in 1903 on East Main Street.

In 1973, the library moved into a new and larger 52,000-square-foot site at 105 Miller St., which it occupies today.

The library serves a young community, with about one-fourth below the age of 18. The Tomie dePaola Children's Library is named after the renowned author, who was born in Meriden. DePaola has written and illustrated such books as Strega Nona, 26 Fairmount Avenue and Nana Upstairs and Nana Downstairs. He has visited many times and given some of his artwork to the library. The library will be holding a celebration this year in honor of DePaola’s 80th birthday.

“He is such a great supporter of libraries, and he’s important for the literature he gives children,” said Kathie Matsil, head of the children’s department. “He always comes back.”

Story hours are offered in both English and Spanish. Of the 60,800 people living in Meriden according to the 2010 census, almost a third speak Spanish as a first or second language. Computer classes in Spanish are also offered.

The Meriden Library's local history room draws people come from across the country. “Meriden was a big manufacturing town so people will pick up a product, see that it says Meriden on it, and e-mail us,” librarian Janice Franco said. “I think we get more than our share of questions because of that.”

Franco has written the book on Meriden history – Meriden: Images of America. She is also an expert in Meriden history and maintains not only the history room but file cabinets full of clippings from the local newspapers.

The local history collection includes information on ethnic groups, microfilm of headstones in local cemeteries, telephone books and city directories, in addition to Ancestry.com on the computers and yearbooks from four high schools.

Recently about 200 teenagers from Platt High School visited on a field trip and used the yearbooks on a “speed dating” project. Each picked a person in the yearbook and tried to learn something about that person and era from the photo.

Meriden is one of a handful of libraries in Connecticut that still has a bookmobile, which was added in 1977. Librarians Alexis Burgess and Melissa Murphy bring books to day care centers, nursing homes, schools and community centers five days a week. “It exposes children to a library, enabling them access without having to transport the children,” Burgess said. “Kids realize that a library is fun. When we’re at a park, kids drag their parents inside.”

The bookmobile has a computer so the librarians can not only check materials out to people but also issue library cards. The two also hold story hours, sometimes on the bookmobile.

Displays are a way the Meriden Library promotes what it has to offer and introduces people to something in its collection other than new books and their favorite authors. In the adult area alone there are 4 displays, which change at least every month. Recent ones have included:

“What is your dog thinking?” – with non-fiction books on animal thinking and stories about dogs.

Black History Month – with portraits of influential African Americans drawn by library page Prescott Hazeltine.

CONTINUED ON P. 9
Edith Nettleton’s life was devoted to providing answers to questions. In April of 2009 the library asked patrons to write down what the Guilford Free Library meant to them. The most eloquent response came from Edith: “It has been my life.”

But that isn’t the best answer she’s ever given. The best answer was given in 1933, when she was working in Springfield, Massachusetts, at the Madison Square Branch of the public library. A letter from library supporter Martha Cornell described the need for a trained librarian in Guilford with the question, “Do you know anyone we could hire?” Edith’s response, “How would I do?” marked the beginning of a remarkable career.

For 45 years, Edith was the town librarian. She began work in December of 1933 in the Whitfield Street building, sorting through over 5,000 books before moving to the new Park Street building. When the library opened in January 1934, and for several years after that, Edith was the only employee. The library was open three days a week, from 2:00 to 5:00 and 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Gradually more afternoon hours were added so that by 1939 the library was open five days per week. Edith worked not only when the library was open but also when it was closed. With one eye on the minute details of organizing the collection and the other on the larger issue of what a library can offer a community, Edith’s career was launched.

Her Yankee thriftiness was matched by imagination and creativity. For patrons who couldn’t visit the library, Edith delivered books to their homes. The oil shortage of the war years placed limitations on everyday life. With characteristic ingenuity, Edith brought 100 books weekly to the Church Street School, a practice she continued until the mid-1940s, when the school day changed to allow time for the students to visit the library.

In the 1960s, with the town’s population growing and the library collection up to almost 20,000 books, Edith spearheaded the campaign to expand the library. Architect Paul Mitarachi submitted a proposal that included demolishing the 1934 Georgian building and replacing it with a sleek design of glass and brick. At the hearing in July of 1970, the public declared this plan to be “in the category of crime.” Edith said it was the hottest night of her life but she still wished she could see that building built somewhere. The new addition opened to the public in 1977.

After she retired in July 1978, Edith spent about three months pursuing other interests. But Guilford history was her primary interest, and she knew the work needed to establish the Historical Room was immense. With assurances from Director Jean Baldwin that Edith wouldn’t be intruding, she hauled out boxes of carefully stored material that she had safeguarded over the years and began the labor-intensive process of building a collection.

The Connecticut Library Association awarded its “Excellence in Public Library Service Award” to the Historical Room in 2002, placing the collection firmly in the forefront of local historical collections. A year later, the Library Board of Directors officially named the room the “Edith B. Nettleton Historical Room.” The announcement came during a town-wide celebration to mark not only Edith’s seventy years of service to the Library, but also the affection and esteem with which Guilford’s townspeople regard Edith and the cultural legacy she created.

Edith’s foresight in preserving the souvenirs of daily life, ferreting out bits and pieces of valuable history, was matched by her dedication to interpreting the wealth of materials so that they document the founding of the town, its family genealogies, and its house histories. Who but Edith would have known to create a subject entry for “Houses, moved?” And her...
The Outstanding Librarian Award honors the career accomplishments of a librarian who has demonstrated an outstanding record of service to his or her library and to the library profession. The following categories suggest areas in which the nominee may have rendered significant service: outstanding service in his/her field of expertise, e.g. reference, children’s services, administrative, or technical services; involvement in statewide leadership; encouragement of community/institutional support for the library. Preference will be given to nominees who have achieved in more than one area. The nominee must be a member of CLA.

The Special Achievement Award honors an individual who has implemented a significant project or initiated an innovative program during the past year. The achievement being honored should have had significant impact on the library, the community, or the library profession. This award may be given to the same individual more than once. The Awards Committee reserves the right to present more than one Special Achievement Award.

The Excellence in Public Library Service Awards honor public libraries that have provided an outstanding program or service to their communities. They are given in 2 population categories (15,000 and under or over 15,000). Nominations are judged on creativity and innovation, service to the community, leadership in creating model programs and programs which will affect the future of the library and its community.

The News Media Award honors an individual journalist or news organization for coverage of libraries and/or the principles of librarianship in an exemplary way during the past year. Exemplary media coverage can be evidenced through editorials, features, news reporting and/or special event reporting. Coverage may focus on library issues such as services to special populations and other appropriate topics. Copies of articles and other relevant material should be submitted with this nomination.

The Adeline Mix Award honors a full or part-time student enrolled in an approved graduate or undergraduate library education program, and enables the student to attend this year’s CLA Annual Conference. A grant of $250 will be awarded to cover conference registration, meals, and accommodations. Applicants must be a member of CLA, and the winner must agree to attend the Awards Ceremony and to write a brief article on his or her impressions of the conference for CLA Today. Applications may be no longer than two typed pages and must include the following information: status of current library school studies, education, degrees and honors, statement of need, and completion of a narrative describing how attendance at the conference will assist the candidate’s professional development.

The Intellectual Freedom Award recognizes an individual for the demonstration of extraordinary personal courage in the defense of intellectual freedom, or for the implementation of a successful and creative project developed to raise awareness of intellectual freedom issues, or for a published work on intellectual freedom.

The Support Staff Award honors an outstanding library assistant or support staff member.

The Supporter of Support Staff Award honors a library administrator or manager who promotes the role of library assistants and support staff.

Deadline is: March 3, 2014. For more info: CLA Awards

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EDITH P. NETTLETON CONTINUED FROM P. 6

penciled corrections strewn over documents stored in the vertical files attest to her glee in uncovering yet another connection, or a new fact.

In this year of celebrating 375 years of history, Edith’s life’s work in the Edith B. Nettleton Historical Room leaves a lasting legacy for generations to come.
Take Your Child to the Library Day
February 1, 2014

Below is a brief roundup highlighting just a few of the many events that libraries around the State of Connecticut planned to celebrate the 3rd Annual Take Your Child to the Library Day:

**West Hartford Public Library** had 2 programs. The first was a monkey storytime and craft for children ages 3-5, with 15 children and 16 adults attending. The children enjoyed the stories, with everyone participating in the various monkey themed rhymes and action songs. The second program was a Chinese New Year themed storytime and craft for children ages 6-8. Six children attended. Two of the children in the storytime had recently celebrated Chinese New Year and were happy to share with the group how they celebrated. These two children also helped Miss Michelle with the pronunciation of some of the Chinese words in one of the books she read.

**East Hartford’s Raymond Library** celebrated “Take Your Child to the Library Day” with a variety of activities. Staff held a Groundhog Day story time, created Take Your Child to the Library coloring pages based on the official poster design, and gave away free books in English and Spanish. Children’s staff also set up a photo booth available with silly props. Many of our over 40 participants lined up to get a second (and even third!) photo taken.

**The Guilford Free Library** celebrated the third annual Take Your Child to the Library Day with an hour long storytime session for all ages. More than fifty people attended and were all treated to cookies. Everyone received a Take Your Child to the Library Day bookmark designed by Connecticut author, Nancy Elisabeth Wallace. And many toddlers and preschoolers were enrolled in the library’s 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Program.

**Ridgefield Library** celebrated Take Your Child to the Library Day with llama storytime! A young llama from Country Quilt Llama Farm came to the Library for llama stories. 210 people stopped in specifically to meet Jack the llama and hear “Is Your Mama a Llama?” A good time was had by all.

**The Milford Public Library** celebrated Take Your Child to the Library Day with the help of Sparky’s Puppets and Little Scientists®. Sparky and her cast of puppet friends dazzled a large audience with “Tales from Snowy Lands”. Later in the day our school-age friends answered the question, “Just WHY is it so cold outside?” and froze water in an instant, with the help of Little Scientists®.

Mark your calendars for next year:
February 7, 2015

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The New Haven Free Public Library—Parents and kids enjoyed Take Your Child to the Library Day by celebrating Chinese New Year and Black History Month with us. In the morning we read Grace Lin’s, “Bringing in the New Year,” made paper dragons, and ate traditional Chinese candy. In the afternoon musician Mark Ingram played the Kalimba, M’bira, Sanza, Rhumba Box, and Marimba Brett as a demonstration of traditional African music and instruments. Our special day ended with a raffle of books, stuffed animals, and e-book subscriptions.

At Easton Public Library, we celebrated “Take Your Child to the Library Day” with three special programs. In the morning, 33 children and parents enjoyed a fun and interactive musical program with Julie Capuano from Music Together of Monroe/Newtown LLC. In the afternoon, four children attended Story Time and listed to stories of winter, groundhogs, and libraries. And finally, six children explored their creative sides while making some simple origami designs. Refreshments were served throughout the day, and prizes were raffled off for several different groups.

Berlin-Peck Memorial Library - Just over 300 patrons stopped by to help us celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day! We had Fifi Feathers and Mr. Joe, a face painting and balloon artist duo, a staff photo match challenge to match staff childhood photos to current photos, a library scavenger hunt, a silly photo booth and all staff members working that day dressed up as children’s book characters.

New Canaan Library Our theme was pigs and for a program we had Farmer Minor with his pot belly pig, Daisy and his pugs. Our attendance was 105 for the event. Afterwards in the children’s room we had a pig craft, a pig scavenger hunt, a big display of pig books and Piggie & Elephant (Mo Willems) coloring pages. We had 89 children participate in these activities. Altogether it was our most successful Day yet!

Willimantic Public Library Lots of laughs and magical moments were enjoyed on Saturday, February 1st as fifty children and their families gathered at the Willimantic Public Library for Ed Propielarczyk’s Comedy/Magic Show. Ed’s stand-up comedy, balloon sculpting, and magic had the whole house roaring with laughter and chanting for more! Ed truly made Take Your Child To The Library Day a magical experience at the Willimantic Public Library!

MERIDEN LIBRARY CONTINUED FROM P. 5

Foreign language to promote the library’s Mango language database. The display showed not only Mango but some of the library’s audio CD sets and books on languages.

One of the more popular displays was very simple – “E-books – download one today.” Beneath the poster were stacks of information sheets and bookmarks explaining how to download books to specific devices. Even though the sheets had been available at the Information Desk and programs had been held on e-book devices, having the sheets at the display prompted many to take one. With all of the activity, the Meriden Public Library earns its slogan – Heartbeat of the City.
"The library is the new Apple store:" Notes from Avon’s e-book extravaganza
Reported by Tina Panik

We had 11 classes and completed 28 appointments over two and a half weeks in late December/early January. Class attendance ranged from zero to six, with no evident attendance pattern by day of the week or time of day. The individual appointments were a HUGE success, and we will offer these as a regular service as soon as we’re organized (March is the goal). Many patrons wanted a follow up appointment in order to demonstrate what they learned. One woman told me, “the library is the new Apple store” in terms of one on one help.

Most patrons appreciated the help, left with a book or magazine to read, and felt comfortable asking additional questions. The staff commented on how they enjoyed helping people, and we kept each other informed of difficult patrons along the way.

Windows 8 was a popular question.

Our library’s wireless proved faster than the B&N Nooks could handle!

Kindles were a nuisance. We did not specify what model people should bring, so we ended up with a mishmash of models, which frustrated everyone in classroom settings, because none of the downloading or selection screens were the same. Kindle patrons left wishing they had just bought an iPad.

Zinio was hit or miss—some patrons grasped it quickly, others had technical difficulties that resulted in them not wanting to use the service, even after we got them logged in.

Patrons were regularly unprepared when it came to their library card numbers, Apple ID, Adobe ID, email address, and miscellaneous other passwords needs to use and register an electronic device. The reference staff painstakingly went through all of these steps with them.

Next year, we can treat the e-book appointments like our tax appointments, going through a set script of things for the patrons to bring with them. I think we’ll offer more one on one appointments, as well.

I think our pilot program was a success, as it connected our patrons to the information they wanted, in the format they wanted. Many staff from other departments said they appreciated having an answer to the question “do you help with ebooks” when the holidays came around.

E-books: Are We Ready? Are Our Users Ready?
2013 CLA-TSS Fall Program
Reported by Dana Tonkonow

Like them or loathe them, e-books have become an increasingly significant part of library collections. The CLA – Technical Services fall program explored the world of e-books from a user perspective and then went behind the scenes to see how e-books are managed at both a public and an academic library.

“Does anyone still read books?” Lee Rainie, founder and director of the Pew Research Center’s Internet & American Life Project, asked that question and many others about e-books, reading, and libraries, and shared the results of his surveys with a captivated audience at the Farmington Library on December 5th. Mr. Rainie presented a variety of bar graphs displaying his survey data, including the result that among age groups 16 to 65+, print is still the preferred medium. However, e-reading is on the rise—in fact readers in their 30s and 40s are most likely to read e-books.

The second half of the program was devoted to the acquisition and management of e-books from a library perspective. June DeGennaro, collection management librarian at Quinnipiac University, discussed the history of e-book collection at Quinnipiac. Starting in 2004 with a few individual e-book titles selected by the reference staff, Quinnipiac’s e-book program has grown substantially over the years to now include packages from such vendors as Ebrary and EBL. E-book packages provide rapid depth in scope and diversity in support of Quinnipiac’s expanding academic curriculum, both for on-site and online courses. Currently, approximately 80% of the titles in their catalog are e-books.

Stephen Schmidt, part of the Resources Management Team at Greenwich Library, is responsible for maintaining and licensing e-content. This includes overseeing such products as databases, e-books, e-journals, and e-music. He explained that Greenwich Library was an early and eager adopter of e-books signing on with OverDrive in 2006 in anticipation of patron demand. Recent circulation and hold statistics at the library demonstrate that e-books are strongly gaining in popularity and usage. By far the most popular titles downloaded are fiction—especially romance titles. Lack of availability of certain e-book titles continues to be a concern for library staff as patrons ask for titles made unavailable to libraries by some publishers.

The program concluded with a lively and informative question and answer session ♦
Nominations Sought for 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.

Who to contact with questions about nominations?
Lynn Zaffino
lzaffino@eastonlibrary.org
Deadline for submissions is February 28, 2014. For more information and the nomination form, go to: Nomination Form for Faith Hektoen Award

B E N  S H U M  C O N T I N U E D F R O M  P . 4

My undergraduate studies were in Computer Systems Administration. When I finished, I told my father that I was leaving computers to go be a librarian. I told him I would *never* work with servers, networks, websites, or databases ever again. It was only about a year later that I found myself doing just those things but within the library world’s context. He constantly reminds me now of what I had once said about computer work and never to say “never” again. Ultimately, I think it’s the sense of purpose we get working towards the service of our communities as librarians that keeps me happier in this profession than in the IT world. At the end of the day, I like believing that the work we do helps our libraries and that in turn helps people who need our services now more than ever.

What do you like to do in your spare time? “Spare time” is that thing we joke about having more of right? All kidding aside, I enjoy tinkering in lots of technical areas: I play with various custom Android operating systems and installing them on my devices, I’m always experimenting with new open source software to try solving new problems. I like to visit libraries when I travel (on family vacations or for work). I guess I’d call myself a library tourist; it’s fun going to any library and seeing what cool things they’re doing.

What books are you currently reading or are perhaps on your nightstand waiting to be read? I’m a huge Star Trek fan, so I enjoy reading the newest book published each month for the various ongoing series. Every once in a while, I’ll find an interesting book about history. I might spend too much of my spare time reading Wikipedia entries about all sorts of topics. (and then checking the sources out to see where it all came from) •