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A Message from the President

By Robin Shader

“Libraries transform lives every day and yield a high return on investment in their communities. Library staff and supporters know this, but many of the people who determine our funding are not convinced.”

Restoration of Voting Rights in Florida: A Guide

By Sarah A. Lewis

Has your library ever encountered a reference question about how their voting rights can be restored? Read this article and understand more about the process of restoring voting rights and gain helpful online resources on this topic. Also, find information about recent legal developments to help you stay updated on this subject that impacts ten percent of Florida’s voting population.

Be Our Guest: Hosting A Library Fair

By Barbara M. Sorondo, Sarah J. Hammill, and Marissa Ball

Learn how to create your own library fair. Read about Florida International University’s growing annual event and find out best practices for preparation, promotion, and reflection.

Floridiana With A Twist: The Tortoise and the Hare: Florida Turtles at Risk

By Nancy Pike

Did you know that Gopher Tortoises have their own day in April to raise awareness about their species? Check out ways you can help Florida turtles and tortoises in this edition of Floridiana With A Twist!

Wow Your Reluctant Readers with Augmented Reality

By Kai Rush

Help engage reluctant readers! Learn about the three parts of augmented reality, and how this technology can help reluctant readers increase their interest in reading. Plus, check out examples of this exciting technology.
Best Advice from Experienced Librarians

By Maria Gebhardt

Get advice directly from librarians throughout our great state. Read helpful tips and suggestions from librarians at reference desks, youth services, administration, and more who work in academic and public libraries, and consortiums.

2018 Conference

Performer’s Directory

Conference Schedule: Tuesday, May 22

Conference Schedule: Wednesday, May 23

Conference Schedule: Thursday, May 24

Conference Schedule: Friday, May 25

K-12 Book Donation Drive

List of Exhibitors

Legislative Update

By Chris Spencer and Robert Stuart

Read this important summary of legislation action from this year’s session. Learn about the overall budget including State Aid and Library Construction Grants. Find out about the funding for Smart Horizons Online High School Library Program and funding for Library Multitype Cooperatives.

Message from the Executive Director

By Lisa O’Donnell, CAE

“As your executive director, I commit to strengthening the collective voice of the profession so libraries are clearly heard by the Florida Legislature and Executive Branch; enhancing programs and benefits for members through technology advancements and robust communications channels; streamlining the strategic goals of the association at the direction of the FLA board of directors and committees; and seeking partnerships with allied organizations with an aim to strengthen the financial health of your association.”

Florida Reads: Three Emotional and Inspiring Works of Art

By Maria Gebhardt
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Libraries transform lives every day and yield a high return on investment in their communities. Library staff and supporters know this, but many of the people who determine our funding are not convinced. Now that the legislative session has ended the Florida library community is disappointed by flat or reduced funding for libraries, yet relieved that we did not experience even deeper cuts. We often wonder, “What is it going to take to raise the level of funding for Florida libraries?”

One of the highlights of my presidency was witnessing the community response when some members of the Mary Esther City Council suggested the city close their library and use the funds to support an enhanced police presence. Mary Esther library staff and their Friends group quickly mobilized their supporters and the night of the City Council meeting the room was packed. Locals got up and spoke from the heart about the value of their library, and the possibility of closing the library was immediately taken off the table. The Mary Esther incident demonstrated the effectiveness of community support. How can we inspire that level of support for all libraries, even when their existence is not in jeopardy? How do we communicate the value of libraries to our civic leaders in a positive way that inspires increased funding? How do we change their attitudes from libraries are nice to libraries are essential?

Awareness of the need for continuous advocacy is not new, but FLA developed a few new approaches this year to add to our advocacy strategy. Days in the District, an initiative of the Advocacy & Legislative Committee, highlights the need to advocate year-round. A toolkit was developed and is available on the FLA Web site. Faces of Florida Libraries, created and developed by the Marketing Committee, shares library user success stories via social media. These short but inspiring quotes make it clear that libraries transform lives.

It will take time to learn the impact of these initiatives but I encourage each of you to use these tools to bring awareness of library benefits to your local supporters and funders. Please follow, like, and share FLA social media posts. Faces of Florida Libraries posts are reaching our supporters as well as local, state, and federal elected officials. They are impressive and impactful. Let’s share them to help spread the word about the amazing value of our libraries! Days in the District encourages everyone to contact their legislators while they are in their home districts, all year long. Invite them to library programs. Visit them in their offices to discuss library needs, and to ask how libraries can help with other community needs. Get to know their office staff and share information with them. Share the stories that demonstrate how all types of libraries transform lives. And when there is a call to action on library issues, please participate. Contacting your legislators on an issue takes only a few minutes, but it makes a difference.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your FLA President. I have witnessed an inspiring degree of dedication, hard work, leadership, scholarship, and creativity throughout this organization. Your superpowers are amazing!

Robin Shader
President, Florida Library Association
Director, Bay County Public Library & Northwest Regional Library System
More than six million Americans are unable to vote because of a criminal record. In Florida, the number of those disenfranchised because of a felony is nearly 1.7 million, which accounts for twenty-seven percent of the disenfranchised population nationally and ten percent of Florida’s voting population. The process to restore voting rights in Florida has changed over time, which has impacted the number of people granted restoration of their voting rights. The chart, Figure 1, below highlights the change in restoration grants under Governors Bush, Crist, and Scott.

The process of restoring voting rights can be confusing, requiring application to the Office of Executive Clemency and possibly a hearing before the Clemency Board. Librarians may encounter patrons seeking to restore their voting rights. This article seeks to educate librarians about the restoration process in Florida and provide resources librarians can share with patrons who wish to restore their voting rights. The article is divided into three parts. The first part contains background information about Florida law governing felony disenfranchisement and recent legal developments which could affect the restoration process. The second part outlines the current process for restoring voting rights in Florida. The third part highlights resources to which librarians can point patrons who are interested in restoring their voting rights.

Part I: The Law Governing Felony Disenfranchisement

Florida law provides that, upon conviction of a felony, a person’s right to vote is automatically suspended. A person’s voting rights may be restored by the Executive Clemency Board. The Executive Clemency Board is comprised of the Governor, the Attorney General, the Chief Financial Officer, and the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Ballot Initiative

The Voting Restoration Amendment or “Amendment 4” will appear on the November 8, 2018 ballot.
Amendment 4 allows for the automatic restoration of voting rights of ex-felons upon completion of their sentence and parole or probation. Amendment 4 applies to all offenses except murder or sexual offenses with those committing such offenses required to apply to have their voting rights restored. For Amendment 4 to be successful, it must garner 60 percent of the vote.

Court Challenge – Hand v. Scott

On March 13, 2017, James Michael Hand and other plaintiffs filed suit against Governor Scott and members of his cabinet alleging that the Florida restoration process is unconstitutional. On February 1, 2018, Judge Walker granted the plaintiffs’ motion for summary judgement on three of the four counts and ordered the parties to file briefs with the court as to how to redesign the Florida clemency system so that it can withstand constitutional muster. Judge Walker found that: (i) the unfettered discretion of the Clemency Board over the restoration process violates the First Amendment; (ii) permitting such unfettered discretion also violates the Fourteenth Amendment; and (iii) the lack of time limits in processing and deciding applications risks viewpoint discrimination and is unconstitutional. However, Judge Walker found that, because the waiting periods are uniformly applied to all convicted felons, the risk of viewpoint discrimination is low. Judge Walker ruled that the five- and seven-year waiting periods are constitutional. The plaintiffs proposed automatic restoration of voting rights after the applicable waiting period has elapsed. The defendants proposed permanently disenfranchising all felons.

On March 27, 2018, Judge Walker issued a permanent injunction barring the defendants from (i) enforcing the current vote restoration scheme and (ii) ending vote restoration entirely as the defendants proposed. Judge Walker further ordered the defendants by April 26, 2018 to promulgate (i) “specific and neutral criteria to direct vote-restoration decisions” and (ii) “meaningful, specific, and expeditious time constraints” on the restoration process. In regard to time constraints, Judge Walker wrote that “this Court cannot conceive of any reason why an applicant at any point must wait more than one election cycle after she becomes eligible to apply for restoration.” On April 4, 2018, Judge Walker denied the defendants’ motion to stay the injunction pending their appeal to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. On April 6, 2018, the defendants filed a motion with the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals to stay Judge Walker’s order pending appeal. The restoration process detailed in the following section may change significantly because of Judge Walker’s rulings or may not if the defendants are successful in their appeal.

Part II: The Current Restoration Process

Applicants must wait five or seven years after completing their sentences, satisfying any conditions of supervision and probation, and paying any restitution before applying for restoration of voting rights. The waiting period depends on the offense. Those required to wait five years may have their voting rights restored without hearing. Those required to wait seven years must go through a hearing process to have their voting rights restored. The average wait time for a hearing is 9.2 years and on average 10,000 applications are pending at any given time.

Restoration of Voting Rights without Hearing

A person may have his voting rights restored without hearing if the person, for five years since completing his sentence and satisfying any conditions of supervision and probation, (i) has committed no crime and (ii) has not been arrested for a misdemeanor or felony. In addition, the person must have (i) no outstanding detainers or pending charges; (ii) paid all court-ordered restitution; (iii) never been convicted of any of the crimes listed in Rule 9(A); and (iv) not been declared a Habitual Violent Felony Offender, a Three-time Violent Felony Offender, a Violent Career Criminal, a Prison Release Reoffender, or a Sexual Predator.

Restoration of Voting Rights with Hearing

Those who (i) have committed any offense listed in Rule 9A or (ii) have been declared (a) a Habitual Violent Felony Offender, (b) a Three-time Violent Felony Offender, (c) a Violent Career Criminal, (d) a Prison Release Reoffender, (e) or a Sexual Predator may apply to have their voting rights restored through a hearing process. In order to apply, the person must have no new felony convictions for seven years since completing his sentence and satisfying any conditions of supervision and probation. In addition, the person must have paid all court-ordered restitution and have no outstanding detainers or pending charges.

Applicants are not required to attend hearings but are encouraged to do so. Applicants may make a five minute oral presentation to the Board. In addition, those speaking on behalf of the applicant are allotted collectively ten minutes.

Application Process to Restore Voting Rights

Those seeking to restore their voting rights must submit an application in the form prescribed by the Office of Executive Clemency. The application must be filed with the Coordinator for the Clemency Board. Attached to the application must be certified copies of (i) the charging instrument for each felony conviction and (ii) the judgment and sentence for each felony.
Applications may include character references, letters of support, and other relevant documents.\(^5\)

The Coordinator of the Clemency Board will refer applications that meet the requirements of the Clemency Rules to the Florida Parole Commission for investigation, report, and recommendation.\(^5\) Once the investigation is completed, the Coordinator may place the application on the Clemency Board’s agenda for review at its next scheduled meeting.\(^5\) The Clemency Board meets four times per year in March, June, September, and December.\(^5\) Under the current scheme, for voting rights to be restored, the Governor plus two Clemency Board members must vote to approve the application.\(^5\) If the application is approved, the Coordinator will issue a certificate granting restoration of voting rights and send it to the applicant.\(^5\) If the application is denied, the applicant may not re-apply for two years from the date of denial.\(^5\)

### Part III: Resources

On the Web site for the Florida Commission on Offender Review, readers can find the following information: \(^6\)

**Clemency Application:**
[https://www.fcor.state.fl.us/docs/clemency/ClemencyApplication.pdf](https://www.fcor.state.fl.us/docs/clemency/ClemencyApplication.pdf)

**Directions to, and contact information for, the Clemency Board:**
[https://www.fcor.state.fl.us/clemency.shtml](https://www.fcor.state.fl.us/clemency.shtml)

**FAQs about Clemency:**
[https://www.fcor.state.fl.us/faq-clemency.shtml](https://www.fcor.state.fl.us/faq-clemency.shtml)

**Certificate restoring voting rights:**
[https://fpccweb.fcor.state.fl.us/](https://fpccweb.fcor.state.fl.us/)

**Florida Rules of Executive Clemency:**
[https://www.fcor.state.fl.us/docs/clemency/clemency_rules.pdf](https://www.fcor.state.fl.us/docs/clemency/clemency_rules.pdf)

For further information about felony disenfranchisement, some excellent online sources are:

**The Sentencing Project:**\(^6\)

**Brennan Center for Justice:**\(^6\)

**Fair Elections Legal Network (particularly helpful for staying up-to-date on developments in the Hand v. Scott case):**\(^6\)

Readers may access for free the constitutional and statutory provisions referenced in this article using the following links:

**Florida Statutes:**\(^6\)
[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?Mode=View%20Statutes&Submenu=1&Tab=statutes](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?Mode=View%20Statutes&Submenu=1&Tab=statutes)

**Florida Constitution:**
[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?Mode=Constitution&Submenu=3&Tab=statutes](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?Mode=Constitution&Submenu=3&Tab=statutes)

### NOTES:

4. Supra note 1.
10 - Id.
11 - Id.
12 - Art. XI, § 5, Fla. Const.
13. Supra note 5.
14. Supra note 2.
15. Supra note 2, at 27. The court gave examples of viewpoint discrimination: ‘Plaintiffs identify several
instances of former felons who professed political views amenable to the Board’s members who then received voting rights, while those who expressed contrary political views to the Board were denied those same rights. Applicants – as well as their character witnesses – have routinely invoked their conservative beliefs and values to their benefit. Similar disparities arise when applicants criticize the system. For example, a Navy veteran decried felony disenfranchisement before the Governor rejected his application because of traffic infractions. But ten former felons - who did not speak out against felony disenfranchisement - were re-enfranchised despite their less-than-perfect traffic records. The Governor asked one former felon, Steven Warner, about an illegal vote he cast in 2010 – before his voting rights were restored. “Actually, I voted for you,” Warner responded. The Governor restored Warner’s voting rights. But Plaintiffs identified five former felons who, at other points, were questioned about illegal ballots cast and then rejected on that basis.’ Supra note 2, at 23-24.

16 - Supra note 2, at 32.
17 - Supra note 2, at 30. The court found that “[i]n recent years, Governor Scott has also required more time before reapplication, from four years to 11, and in a particularly punitive example, 50 years for a 54 year-old man. Sometimes Board members defer specifying any restoration timeline.” Supra note 2, at 30.
18 - Supra note 2, at 38.
19 - Supra note 2.
20 - Plaintiffs’ Memorandum in Response to Defendants’ Brief on Remedies, Hand v. Scott, No. 4:17cv128-MW/CAS, at 7 (Feb. 20, 2018).
23 - Id.
24 - Id. at 14.
26 - Defendants-Appellants’ Motion for Stay Pending Appeal, Hand v. Scott, No. 18-11388 (Filed Apr. 6, 2018).
29 - Tara Mitchell, Restoration of Rights Backlog

30 - Supra note 27.
31 - These crimes include: murder, attempted murder, attempted felony murder, manslaughter; DUI manslaughter or DUI causing serious bodily injury; leaving the scene of an accident involving injury or death; sexual battery, attempted sexual battery, unlawful sexual activity with a minor, or female genital mutilation; lewd or lascivious offense upon or in the presence of an elderly or disabled person or such an attempted offense; sexual performance by a child or attempted sexual performance by a child; aggravated child abuse; failure to register as a sexual predator or sexual offender; computer pornography, transmission of computer pornography, or any crime involving a minor in violation of obscenity laws; kidnapping, attempted kidnapping, false imprisonment, or luring and enticing a child; aggravated battery, attempted aggravated battery, felony battery, or domestic battery by strangulation; robbery, carjacking, attempted carjacking, home invasion, or attempted home invasion; poisoning of food or water; abuse of a dead body; burglary of a dwelling, first degree burglary, or attempted first degree burglary; arson, attempted arson, or conspiracy to commit arson; aggravated assault; aggravated stalking; aggravated battery, battery, or aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer or other special officer; trafficking or conspiracy to traffic in illegal substances; aircraft piracy; unlawful throwing, placing, or discharging of a destructive device or bomb; facilitating or furthering terrorism; treason; possession of a firearm by a convicted felon or possession of a firearm or ammunition by a violent career criminal; bribery, misuse of public office, extortion by officers of the state, or misappropriation of moneys by commissioners to make sales; any crime committed by an elected official while in office; illegal use of explosives; a crime under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act; exploitation of the elderly; public corruption; any felony violation of an election law; any designated a dangerous crime under § 907.041, Fla. Stat. (2017); or any offense committed in another jurisdiction that would be an offense listed above if that offense had been committed in Florida. Fla. R. Exec. Clemency 9(A).
37 - Supra note 31.
38 - Supra note 32.
39 - Supra note 33.
40 - Supra note 34.
41 - Supra note 35.
42 - Supra note 36.
44 - Fla. R. Exec. Clemency 10(A)(1)
47 - Fla. R. Exec. Clemency 12(B).
48 - Id.
49 - Id.
50 - Fla. R. Exec. Clemency 6(A). The application can be found at https://www.fcor.state.fl.us/restoration.shtml
51 - Id. The address is Office of Executive Clemency, 4070 Esplande Way, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2450
52 - Pursuant to § 940.04, Fla. Stat. (2017), the applicant may obtain a certified copy of the applicant’s information, indictment, judgment, or sentence free of charge from the clerk of court.
53 - Fla. R. Exec. Clemency 6(B).
54 - Id.
57 - Fla. R. Exec. Clemency 12(A). In 2018, the Clemency Board met on March 8 and will meet June 14, September 19, and December 5 at 8 a.m. in the Cabinet Room in the State Capitol Building.

About the Author

Sarah A. Lewis is a Reference Librarian and Professor of Legal Research at University of Florida Levin College of Law in Gainesville, Florida. Sarah received her Juris Doctorate from Vanderbilt Law School in Nashville, Tennessee, her Master of Library and Information Science, and her Master of Science in Knowledge Management from Kent State University in Kent, Ohio.

Prior to becoming a law librarian, Sarah practiced corporate and public finance law in Atlanta, Georgia. Sarah is passionate about voter rights with a particular research interest in felony disenfranchisement.
Are you interested in bringing new patrons to your library? Do you have an enthusiastic staff eager to meet the people you serve? Would you like to share your library’s resources and services, all on a shoestring budget? If so, we have a recipe for you! The ingredients needed are low cost, high energy, and interactive. We will guide you through the process of setting up your own Library Fair from the initial planning stages to the evaluation phase.

The Library Fair

The Florida International University Green Library recently completed its fourth successful Library Fair. Each year, we bring patrons into the library — both newcomers and regulars alike — where they can meet and greet (and eat) with representatives from each library department. Each department shares valuable information on the resources and services they provide. Patrons leave the Library Fair having put faces to the previously anonymous "Library," with a bag full of informational handouts and promotional goodies, and a stomach full of food. Reception each year has been highly enthusiastic, with attendees recommending the Library Fair to other patrons unanimously, and the staff eager to do it all over again the following year. More than once, we have crossed paths "in the wild" with a patron who thanks us for the information (and goodies) we provided.

Here’s how we do it, with just a minimal budget and a can-do attitude, and how you can do it too.

Before the Event

Preparation for the Library Fair begins early, months before the event. A planning team consisting of three to four library staff select the date and location of the Library Fair and immediately begin to send “save the date” notifications to both library employees and patrons. In recent years, we have been using a room at our library that holds approximately 120 people at a time. When selecting a location, take into account both the size of your community and the comfort of your staff, providing sufficient elbow room for all.

Although it may seem early, this is the time to invite key community figures and partners to the event, such as leaders or administrators, who often have their schedules booked months in advance. At this point, the planning team also requests financial and promotional support from multiple sources, including library administration and vendors. Our library administration provides a budget for food and some promotional materials. Various library vendors send us additional promotional materials and larger items (e.g., Amazon gift cards) that we use for Library Fair door prizes.

In the weeks leading up to the Library Fair, we design and distribute themed flyers (see Figure 1), emails, and other marketing materials through direct mailing, social media, library displays, and word of mouth. We also create a program containing information on each library department, with a comment card insert that patrons will have stamped at their selection of tables, adding comments and submitting before leaving the fair. This insert ensures guests visit multiple tables, since the stamped and completed comment card doubles as their entry for the Grand Prize raffle, and has provided valuable information over the years on what our guests liked, learned, and ate at the fair.

Figure 1: Library Fair Flyer

Nearly all library departments participate in the Library Fair, including departments that work mainly behind-the-scenes and do not normally interact with patrons directly on a day-to-day basis, such as Acquisitions and Cataloging. In the Library Fair’s first years, the departments mainly brought handouts and business cards to the event. However, staff enthusiasm has skyrocketed along with attendance, and most of the departments now create highly creative multimedia
displays that show off their resources in an eye-catching and interactive manner. We also set up an engaging Welcome Table outside the room to attract the attention of passing patrons who may have missed all earlier marketing efforts.

All room preparations (e.g., furniture moving) are optimally completed the night before the event. Final preparations (e.g., food delivery) are completed early in the morning the day of the Library Fair. Shortly before the event begins, we gather the library staff for a brief orientation to prepare (or remind) them what to expect during the fair. As soon as the first patrons start peaking into the room, we’re off!

**During the Event**

The day of the event, guests check in at the Welcome Table and receive their goodie bag. Guests visit each department at their leisure to learn about the resources and services, talking to each library staff member one-on-one. They linger as long as they like, enjoying a bite to eat and networking with both library employees and other patrons. We have found the event is so successful that guests linger long after the scheduled ending. Throughout the fair, library hosts circle the room to ensure guests are comfortable and that staff have all the supplies they need. The hosts also ensure there is enough food and drink for the guests, refilling the food and drink stations as necessary. Be sure to include a photographer among the library hosts so you can capture the event for posterity!

Based on guest feedback from previous years, we recently added tours of the library spaces. The tours have been well-received and will be continued based on positive feedback from both the guests and the guides.

When the guests leave the event, the Welcome Table staffers thank them for attending, answer any final questions, and remind them to drop off their comment cards in order to be included in the raffle for the door prize.

**After the Event**

Shortly after the event, the Library Fair organizers show their appreciation with a thank you note to the volunteers, guests, and vendors. The thank you email shows the highlights of the fair with pictures of the guests engaging with the library staff (see Figure 2 above). Additionally, the Library Fair planning team solicits feedback through a survey sent to all guests and library staff, with the survey questions customized for each group. Lastly, the planning team randomly selects a comment card for the door prize and contacts the winner, then takes a brief but well-earned break before starting the cycle all over again.

**Reflection**

The Library Fair has been a great—and growing—success! Attendance has increased threefold over the years, necessitating expansion into a larger space. This event is now one both our staff and patrons look forward to each year, with numerous repeat guests each time. Word of mouth has been essential in helping us recruit new guests, serving as our lowest cost and highest benefit marketing type. In addition, to our surprise, some of our community partners have replicated the fair at their own locations (right down to the same sandwich type).

So be our guest: use our recipe (and not just for the sandwiches) to develop a library fair at your own libraries in order to connect your staff with your patrons, highlight little-known services and resources, and put a friendly face to your local library.

For more photos of past events, marketing, and invites, visit our guide at [http://libguides.fiu.edu/libraryfair](http://libguides.fiu.edu/libraryfair).

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**About the Authors**

**Barbara M. Sorondo** is the Health Sciences Librarian at the Florida International University (FIU) Green Library’s Department of Information and Research Services in Miami, Florida. She co-founded FIU’s Library Fair for Faculty and Staff along with her co-authors, and has served on its planning committee since its inception. Her research interests include information literacy instruction in higher education, college students’ information-seeking behavior, and the physical and psychological well-being of library staff.

**Sarah J. Hammill** is the Business & Online Learning Librarian at Florida International University. She is passionate about libraries and enjoys planning, hosting, and marketing events. She is also passionate about FLA and considers it to be a great organization (and recommends that everyone should get involved!)

**Marissa C. Ball** is the Information & Research Services Department Head and Emerging Technologies Librarian at Florida International University’s Green Library, in Miami, Florida. Along with her co-authors, she co-founded FIU’s Library Fair for Faculty and Staff, and has served on its planning committee since its inception. She has served as a project manager on multiple web/technology projects impacting public services and teaching/learning in the Libraries. Her research interests include technology in teaching and learning, social media use by libraries, user-centered design, and UX in the context of library space.
Slow and steady wins the race. That’s the moral of Aesop’s fable “The Tortoise and the Hare.” Although there has been a good deal of argument whether that’s the appropriate lesson to be drawn from this story of the overconfident hare losing a seemingly easy race to the plodding turtle, nonetheless, fossil records suggest that the turtle is winning the age race. Turtles may have been around for over 200 million years. Not only that, but they live a long life, too. Sea turtles and gopher turtles can live a hundred years or more.

Even so, all five species of sea turtles nesting in Florida are on the endangered species list. According to the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research at the University of Florida, Gainesville, the sea turtle population is about ten percent of what it used to be. http://accstr.ufl.edu

Threats include adversity on the beaches where they build their nests; mortality due to illegal harvesting, being caught in fishing nets, and being struck by boats; and habitat alterations from pollution and climate change.

But all may not be lost. Through preservation efforts, the number of green sea turtle nests has increased dramatically. The green sea turtles that nest on Florida beaches were even reclassified from “endangered” to “threatened” under the federal Endangered Species Act in 2016, according to the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission. The key reason for this amazing feat is the successful protection of nesting areas. http://myfwc.com/news/news-releases/2017/november/17/green-turtle/

The gopher tortoise is also threatened. This is a dry-land turtle that lives in a burrow. It is considered a “keystone species” because the burrows also can become home to 300-plus other species. For example, it has shared abodes for a million and a half years with the Florida mouse. Gopher tortoises have been documented as living sixty years in the wild, much longer in captivity. http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/managed/gopher-tortoise/

The Gopher Tortoise Council has adopted April 10th as Gopher Tortoise Day in Florida. This effort is intended to raise community awareness by encouraging communities and individuals to organize activities related to these important turtles. Numerous downloadable resources are available on their website, including a coloring book for kids. http://gophertortoisedayfl.com/educational-materials/
Maybe because they have been around so long, turtles make for fun stories — from Yertle the Turtle by Dr. Seuss (Random House, 1958) to Turtle Tales by Florida author Kim Cool (Historic Venice Press, 2012). Turtles have that quirky look that makes them appealing and popular characters. For example, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles franchise includes comics, six feature films, television series, video games plus toys and other products.

In non-fiction print resources, for a simple collection of identification photos that can be carried on a hike, a recent publication is Florida Reptiles & Amphibians: A Folding Pocket Guide to Familiar Species of Florida & the Everglades. It is a laminated pamphlet by James Kavanagh (Waterford Press, 2017) and highlights the most common species of turtles in our state. A more complete field guide is available in Florida’s Turtles, Lizards, and Crocodilians by Richard D. Bartlett and Patricia Bartlett. (University Press of Florida, 2011) Here’s an excellent appeal to conservation, focused on sea turtles only: Sea Turtles: A Complete Guide to Their Biology, Behavior, and Conservation by James R. Spotila (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004).

Finally, there’s the older National Audubon Society Field Guide to Florida by Peter Alden and Rick Cech (National Geographic Society, 1998).

There are a number of non-governmental organizations around the state that help and protect turtles, such as the Florida Aquarium in Tampa, Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton, Mote Marine Institute in Sarasota, Loggerhead Marinelife Center in Palm Beach County, and Save-a-Turtle in the Florida Keys.

For those who want to support the sea turtles and can’t decide among all the non-profits that help them, a turtle license plate may be just the thing: http://www.buyaplate.com/Helping%20Sea%20Turtles%20Survive

The funds collected support the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission in their efforts to maintain nesting sites for endangered marine turtles and also support the Sea Turtle Grants Program.

Anyone who wants to observe sea turtles in the wild should do it under the auspices of a state-permitted facility. The Conservation Commission has a list of both captive sea turtle facilities and permitted public turtle watches here: http://myfwc.com/education/wildlife/sea-turtle/where-to-view/

There is plenty of other information available about both sea turtles and gopher turtles on the myfwc.com website, including curriculum guides for teachers. The Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida in Gainesville offers a checklist with photos of Florida’s turtles: https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/herpetology/florida-amphibians-reptiles/turtles/

Nancy Pike is a former Director of the Sarasota County Library System and a former President of the Florida Library Association.
Re-reading for pleasure has been on the decline for more than a decade, though decades of research show that reading for pleasure has a powerful academic impact for readers. Public and school libraries are investing heavily in new tools—Kindles, iPads, Playaways, audiobooks, QR codes and apps that interact with books for the library—to spark reading interest among kids and teens. Each tool is showing success among a small segment of readers.

With so many new tools to help patrons read for pleasure, augmented reality (AR) could be overlooked. Imagine librarians using technology to help reluctant readers connect with traditional books in a library. Many times, technology tries to step into reading and to change the traditional book reading experience into a listening experience. AR can assist librarians in motivating reluctant readers by connecting reading for pleasure to the use of personal technology devices and traditional library books.

The Elements of Augmented Reality

There are three important parts to augmented reality: the apps, the target and the overlay. AR apps enable a user to upload or take a picture of a non-moving or non-changing object (the target). In Figures 1 and 2, the targets are Ready Player One by Ernest Clive and Tyrell by Coe Booth.

Figures 1 and 2: Images from AR apps

When a user employs an AR app, such as Aurasma, a 3-D image, link or video will appear as an overlay, either above or on a real-world image, giving the user a visual glimpse of what the book is about. The target can be a statue, picture or book cover. An overlay can be a website link, an author’s twitter stream, a YouTube video or a picture.

Augmented reality is not the same as virtual reality (VR). VR engages a person in a virtual world, whereas AR has virtual 3-D objects that appear in the real world. When explaining the difference to librarians, think of Ready Player One (VR) vs. PokemonGo (AR).

Research to Support AR Usage in the Public or School Library

Augmented reality is being researched and implemented at schools, zoos, museums, and libraries across the world. Textbook companies have begun including AR features in books to engage readers (Garcia-Sanchez, 2017). AR is entering the library through artwork, exhibits and many other forms. One great example is at the undergraduate library of the University of Illinois. Dr. Jim Hahn and his team have created an augmented path, called “wayfinding,” for undergraduate students to find books on the shelves of University of Illinois libraries (Hahn, 2012). With a personal cellphone, students can see an augmented path on a library’s floor directing them to a book on the shelf. When they approach the book, they see an augmented overlay indicating how many times the book has been checked out. When interviewed, Dr. Hahn said, “I have seen new students come into the library to try out this system, such as the computer science majors. Shouldn’t we try anything that helps a student enter the library?” (Hahn, personal communication).

One of the finest examples of AR was created about African-American history by the Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples and commissioned by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. The Tubman Institute provides many free, postcard-size images, which can be found at http://futurestories.ca/tubman/. After the
user downloads the Freedom Stories app, this simple postcard comes to life with a spoken voice describing the history of Emeline Shadd, moving 3-D images and texts. Sometimes music accompanies different slides. To be amazed, please try the Emeline Shadd image (Figure 3) and make sure your device’s sound is turned on.

**Figure 3: Emeline Shadd**

AR can bring many new patrons to a public or school library and may even attract reluctant readers. In a past research study, seven high school students who were reluctant readers were given the chance to experiment with AR book trailers connected to a selection of fifty-five books (Rush, 2017). The books were selected mainly from the American Library Association’s reluctant reader booklist. All seven high school reluctant readers reported enjoying using the AR apps (Aurasma and LayAR) to view book trailers of the books.

Remember, these were seven reluctant readers, so piquing their interest in reading was the goal. By the end of the study, six of the seven reluctant readers had read one to three books. When interviewed, all seven reluctant readers felt that an AR tool should be in place in their school library. One study participant had not read a book in two years. During the nine-week study, he read two books and was finishing a third book. He was very sad that this system would not be available to him in the future.

Grant funding has been obtained by the University of Wisconsin Whitewater, College of Education to repeat this previous success of using AR to help engage reluctant readers in books with four African-American reluctant readers. So far, one of the African-American reluctant readers has read four books in five months. Due to unfamiliarity with AR among librarians and patrons, it will take the motivation of informed librarians to show or create AR books for their public or school library.

Two Types of Augmented Reality

AR integration into the public and school libraries of America has already begun and examples may be sitting on your library shelves. Did you know that the 2015 Guinness World Records is an AR book?

There are two types of AR books entering your library shelves. The first type are books where the main purpose is the augmented reality experience and the surrounding text is secondary and minimal. The second type are regular books that have added augmented reality features to enhance the reader’s experience. Both types of books are engaging new readers.

**Figures 4, 5 and 6:**

First Type of Augmented Reality Books: Augmented PlayBooks

*Jurassic World, Extinct Animals* ([https://www.carltonbooks.co.uk/jurassic-world-where-dinosaurs-come-to-life-hb.html](https://www.carltonbooks.co.uk/jurassic-world-where-dinosaurs-come-to-life-hb.html)) by Carlton Books and other titles in their iExplore series are great examples of the first type of AR books. With a simple, free app download, a library patron can make a dinosaur or animal come to life in any location.

In the examples of *Jurassic World* (Figure 4) and *Extinct Animals* (Figures 5 and 6), you can see the dinosaur come to life. These types of books are very important, as they provide the “wow” factor, engaging and bringing in new patrons to the library. Also, they teach a few facts along the way. These types of AR books do not engage students in reading, but in playing; that’s the reason for their nickname, “Augmented PlayBooks.” Though these books are not exactly the focus of the reading-for-pleasure movement, they can motivate a patron, especially children, to investigate more books.

According to Bonasio, writing for *The Bookseller*, Carlton Books has sold more than three million books.
worldwide (Bonasio, 2017). Carlton Books is one of the most successful AR publishers, as many publishers have been unsuccessful in the past.

Sometimes, downloading an app onto a device can be a limitation without the proper technology, device or training. The Carlton book series is highly recommended because the 3-D images are interactive, and the app is very reliable, even when Wi-Fi or cellular service is limited. Four cool augmented playbooks you could add to your collection today are:

2. ISTORM by Anita Ganeri (https://www.carltonbooks.co.uk/istorm-hb.html)
4. Extinct Animals by Camilla de la Bedoyere (https://www.carltonbooks.co.uk/iexplore-extinct-animals-hb.html)

Second Type of Augmented Reality Books: The Augmented Exploration of Reading for Pleasure

The second type of AR book integrates augmented reality into existing print books, giving the reader added features to extend their reading experience. The most popular AR tool in use is the augmented reality book trailer. On YouTube, many book publishers, authors and even school children are creating book trailers to go along with books. With the Aurasma AR app, a librarian attaches a YouTube video to the cover of an existing book in the library. Any reader seeking additional information could follow the libraries’ feed and use the Aurasma app when viewing books. In a past research study, participants suggested that librarians connect every book in the library with AR videos (Rush, 2017). The amount of time and management of technology necessary to do this would be a full-time job. A great option that would work more effectively would be to selectively enhance a small number of books that would be on display.

Any student or patron (reluctant or not) can take a dedicated device (iPad or tablet) or their personal cellphone and scan the AR-marked books in your library. As shown in Figures 7 and 8, students or patrons will be able to watch a book trailer. Right away, they will know if a book fits their taste or curiosity. Aurasma is a great tool and, like Carlton Books, is highly reliable. Aurasma is free to use and the process to attach book trailers is very simple. To view images of books that libraries have begun to augment, please click on the links below:


Reading books has been enjoyable for centuries without the help of technology. In the last twenty years, all types of new technological devices and tools have popped up to send readers to the library and into reading. Some people could argue that there are too many choices of reading materials in a library. Others would say patrons should be self-motivated to read. Two research studies have found that reluctant readers want to read, but they have no clue where to start and their time is very limited (Rush, 2017). AR is another tool that could pique the interest of a small population in reading traditional print books. If a public or school librarian can help one reluctant reader today through augmented reality, that reluctant reader could become a lifelong reader.

NOTES:


About the Author

Kai Rush, Ph.D, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater for the Educational Foundations Department in the College of Education. Dr. Rush is certified as a teacher and educational media specialist in Florida and Illinois. He was educated in Miami-Dade public schools, attended the University of North Florida for his undergraduate studies in education, interned in the Duval County (FL) Public Schools and taught nine years for Pinellas County (FL) schools. His research focus is on the use of educational technology in the school library and in the classroom to help reluctant readers read for pleasure.
Best Advice from Experienced Librarians

Being a librarian offers interesting opportunities to work in different environments and to interact with children, students, and adults. As libraries strive to meet the ever-changing needs of their constituents, librarians must find creative solutions. Advice and insight from experienced librarian can help you along your career path and provide professional development and job satisfaction. Here are tips from librarians working in all types of libraries throughout Florida.

Fundamentals

Connecting with customers is important for anyone working at an information desk. The reference desk is an important point from which to share the library’s various technologies and to learn about customers’ interest—whether those involve using tablets, downloading ebooks, taking classes, or signing up for electronic updates. Students and adults who bypass the reference desk miss out on opportunities to learn about valuable library services. A library employee who appears approachable and takes the time to welcome visitors makes it easier to start a conversation and to find ways to help.

College & Research Libraries shares an array of advice for new academic librarians. Suggestions include finding a mentor and managing time wisely through keeping a log of your accomplishments. To find a mentor, look for seasoned professionals among your co-workers and think how they could help you learn and grow in this profession. You needn’t look solely to directors or administrators as mentors; sometimes, the librarian next to you can open up a world of invaluable advice. Keeping a log of your activities can be especially helpful for new librarians or those working in a new location. Tracking what you can provide a heightened sense of your strengths while simultaneously building content for your resume. This list could also be helpful in creating a presentation proposal for an upcoming FLA or other professional conference. Look at the greatest services your library provides to the community and where you are making a real contribution. Think about how you can share this experience with others who could replicate the program or service.

Take the time to learn about both traditional and digital collections, both at your library location and throughout your entire organization. Assess the selection of materials and search online databases and other resources to get a sense of what is available. Check out partnerships and cross-sharing available on your campus or in your community.

Browse Through Online Resources Available to All Librarians

The American Library Association (ALA) offers helpful information on its website, ala.org. These include:

- a list of library-related acronyms: http://www.ala.org/tools/research/topics/acronyms
- advocacy and public awareness resources: http://www.ala.org/advocacy/ and

Visit the FLA Website to learn about:

- member benefits: http://www.flalib.org/member-benefits
- find important legislative information in the action center: http://cqrcengage.com/alafl/ActionCenter.

Advice From Librarians - Unique Perspectives From Throughout the State of Florida

“Stretch to say yes! Today’s librarians have the opportunity to transform and adapt to our student and faculty needs. I am often asked (or volunteer) to perform a task outside my usual job responsibilities. Some of these tasks are related to outreach activities, event planning, assessment, publication assistance, impact-factor research, dissertation peer-review, mentoring, and team-teaching courses.

“Be sure to thank the student or faculty member for the opportunity to serve them. Before long, word will spread that you are a “yes” person and you will get more business than you can handle. You will also gain new contacts and new skills with every task completed. That said, sometimes you do have to say no. Don’t take on too much at once and only choose tasks within your area of expertise. Ask your colleagues if they are interested in collaborating too.”

— Rachel Cooke
Education & Arts Librarian
Florida Gulf Coast University
“Pay attention to signs, displays, notices, flyers--make sure that information is timely and up to date. Throw outdated and worn-out signs away! Always ask yourself and staff if we really need this sign. Are our users going to read it and pay attention? Have ‘walk-around’ meetings with supervisors and branch managers, so that you can make sure that the library spaces are clean, free from clutter and appealing.”
— Cay Hohmeister
Director
LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System

“Libraries and librarians provide so many services, resources and community contributions. And it is easy in an academic library that serves a large research institution to find value and document it. That is the big picture of my position as Assessment Librarian at the University of Florida Smathers Libraries. I find myself challenged by a large, diverse environment, and the many needs of all the different stakeholders I serve. My customers are internal - I facilitate the needs of all the library faculty and staff to get the information they need to make decisions, improve or change services, or simply understand the influences they have on our university community. I make use of research and data analysis skills and I have the responsibility and pleasure of asking lots of questions - a perfect position for me! And mine is a position that, I hope, my colleagues and our community appreciate, as we all develop our unique culture of assessment here at the Smathers Libraries.”
— Laura I. Spears
Assessment Librarian
George A. Smathers Libraries

“There are a lot of great programs that happen in our library. Our local History Librarian suggested that we could share library press releases through staff email. This has been a great way to share the big events that might receive questions from the patrons and help keep staff informed.”
— Sarah Burris
Community Relations and Marketing Coordinator
Northwest Regional Library System

“When serving the public, it is important to remember that YOU also matter. Your aesthetic, attitude, and sense of approachability are all important elements of a satisfactory customer service experience. Even if you are unable to fill the patron’s request they could still perceive the interaction as positive and successful due to your thorough search process and pleasant and positive demeanor.”
— Leanna Fitzgerald
Head of Reference
Franklin T. DeGroodt Memorial Library

“Tips for Creating Outreach Opportunities with Unlikely Partners - In 2015, a unique collaboration came to be as the Academy for Community Inclusion, a post-secondary program for intellectually disabled students, was founded on the John D. MacArthur Campus at FAU in Jupiter. As part of the program, the students are required to fulfill work internships on campus. The library was contacted and asked if we could host a student intern for the semester. I attended the orientation with another staff member to learn more about the program and to find out what the expectations would be. On a whim, I blurted out, “Wouldn’t it be cool if we could host a library book club for the students!” The idea took off and we are now in our second year and fourth semester of “book club.” We have our regulars who love us and return every semester in addition to our newcomers. The suggestions that I would offer to other librarians who are interested in branching out and creating an unusual outreach opportunity are as follows:

• Don’t be afraid to think outside of the box and take a risk.
• If an opportunity presents itself – jump on it!
• Don’t be afraid to ask for help.
• Do your homework and find out what the need is and how to meet it.
• Do research, research, and more research. Reading up on the subject of the ID answered many of my questions and provided me with a good direction. It also eased my fears.
• Things will not always go as planned, but that’s what makes it so much fun.
• You don’t have to necessarily spend a lot of money to have a successful program.
• There will always be those who doubt you and think that you can’t succeed. Don’t listen to them.
• Getting buy-in from the higher ups is a must.
• Having said that, sometimes it’s easier to ask forgiveness rather than permission.
• Don’t be afraid to try something that is new and completely uncomfortable to you. Prior to book club, I had absolutely NO experience working with the ID, and things are working out just fine. Really.
• Embrace the challenges and learn from your mistakes.
• Be willing to revise and go back to the drawing board, sometimes repeatedly.
• Sometimes what you think will be a total success is a total flop, and vice versa.
• Every day is different, and some days are better than others.
• Listen to your inner voice.
• Common sense will take you far.
• Thank those who have been instrumental to your success.
• Show sincere appreciation and gratitude.
• Relax and have fun!”
— Leah Plocharczyk
Assistant Director of the MacArthur Campus Library
Florida Atlantic University

“Be fearless, be resilient, and always have a plan. If a process isn’t working to get the member what they need, change it. Try to say ‘no’ as little as possible to member needs and staff ideas. If a project succeeds or fails, learn from it, grow from it and share that knowledge.”
— Lynlee Lebensart
Branch Manager, Glades Road Branch
Palm Beach County Library System

“Union County, Florida, was the last county in the state to receive a public library. Since its inception, the library has thrived and is truly an integral part of its community. The library, established in 1990, came into existence due to the voting residents of Union County agreeing to pay a ½ millage ad valorem taxation for its funding. To this day, the library continues to be funded through the ½ millage with voter approval required every two years.

Union County Public Library’s success is largely due to the community support that it receives. In order to have such widespread support, the library staff provide quality service in every aspect of their job. (When you’re on the ballot every two years, it keeps you on your toes!) Additionally, the library director and her staff are heavily involved in local events, civic clubs, schools, and the community at-large. Staying involved and listening to the needs and aspirations of your local community is the best way for a public library to stay relevant and to succeed.”
— Mary C. Brown
Library Director
Union County Public Library

“Managing Our Involvements - One aspect of personal and professional career growth has to do with our “involvements” with professional and other organizations. Often library folks join associations because, well, that’s what we do. What I’m suggesting is that we be purposeful and selective with our involvements - think of them as something to manage to position us professionally and in life. So, ask yourself, where do I want to be in ten years and which involvements will help me get there? Then start working your way there. Then regularly evaluate your involvements to see if they’re working for you and see if you need to make changes to continue your growth and development.

And here’s a big secret: Often library folks are reluctant to seek out desirable committee assignments because they think everyone wants to be on that committee so there’s no way they would pick me. Or if they’re committee members they don’t see themselves in leadership roles as officers or chairs for the same reason. The big secret is that those charged with making committee appointments or nominating leaders are often desperately looking for folks to serve. So those on the outside don’t think they have a chance of being appointed while those on the inside are desperately looking for people to appoint or nominate.

So plan your involvements and use them as a tool to help you accomplish your personal and professional goals.”
— Charlie Parker
Executive Director
Tampa Bay Library Consortium

“Tips for Teen Volunteer Summer Projects - Summer is often the time of year where we get an overwhelming amount of teen volunteers who all want to come to the library and help at the same time. To help alleviate the issue of volunteers showing up en masse we have volunteers dedicated to specific projects. Based on our experiences here are some guidelines:

• Choose projects that help the library
• We had one project show off the capabilities of our Recording Studio by using the equipment to make a Stop Motion video
• We had another project for teens to create decorations for the library’s Teen Halloween Party
• Have teens attend an orientation where they can sign up for the project that interests them
• Have a list of slots for each project that the teens can add their names to along with their contact information
• At orientation explain the expectations of each project, and that it needs to be accomplished by the end of summer
• We made sure to impress upon the teens that if they sign up they are expected to come in each week unless there’s an emergency and work on their project until it’s complete
• Have a schedule set for each project, know in advance what days and times the group will be meeting
• Be realistic! Know your teens and what they can and cannot accomplish by the end of summer and if they have enough hours to finish their project. Having at least one extra day on the schedule to wrap things up can only be beneficial.”

— Becky Greer  
Young Adult Librarian  
Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library

“Find what piece of the puzzle you are and help your organization build the big picture. Will you be the school library media specialist who becomes the go-to educator for recommending emerging online tools and resources? Will you be the academic librarian who supports research that will ultimately evolve respective fields? If you are launching your career as a librarian in a learning institution be prepared to first and foremost support the academic goals of the students and faculty while you find your strengths, your puzzle piece.”

— Juliette Felde  
Library Director  
City College

“Our library system continues to shift toward a community center model, and the focus of our technology classes has shifted to reflect our goals. We discovered that offering technology classes focused on the performance of more utilitarian technology tasks have an impact on the quality of our patrons’ lives. Knowledge that information professionals take for granted such as how to take a picture, attach a document to an e-mail, and stream content really engage patron’s curiosity and interest to learn more about technology. By starting with topics of interest and immediate use, we are able to encourage patrons to continue to learn more and more about how technology can help them in their daily lives. Patrons report that they previously overlooked classes focused on workforce recovery, due to the perception of low relevance and high difficulty. However, after attending our new offerings, they now are growing in confidence and attending traditional classes in greater numbers and with greater enthusiasm.

These classes engage the community and provide a social atmosphere where patrons get to know one another and encourage and support one another with their technology and personal goals. The community atmosphere also encourages patrons to engage with other library programs and events, and we have been able to cross promote our programs and services.”

— Adam Chang  
Instruction & Research Librarian  
Central Ridge Library, Citrus Libraries

“Be kind. Practice humility and openness, listen, and pay attention. Receive requests and inquiries with the devotion you show to your own interests.”

— Faithe Ruiz  
Librarian, Coordinator – Online Library Resources and Instruction  
College of Central Florida

NOTES:


About the Author  
Maria Gebhardt holds a MSLIS from Florida State University and a MBA from Florida Atlantic University. She is the editor of Florida Libraries and is a Manager, Integrated Marketing Communications & Social Media at Broward County Public Schools.
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“Don’t be content to do your work the same way it has been done in the past. It does not matter who you are or what you do in the library, bring your idea forward. Share your passion and use your superpower to enrich and improve the lives of the people in your community. The time is now to Unleash Your Superpower!”

~ Robin Shader, FLA President

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**TUESDAY, MAY 22**

- Check in at the registration desk to pick up your badge from 5 - 7 p.m.
- Don’t miss your chance to catch up with friends and meet other library professionals at the Poolside Meet-up from 6 - 7:30 p.m.
- Connect online with complimentary internet access available in guest rooms and in the meeting area.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 23**

- The registration desk is open from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- If you are new to the Florida Library Association, attend the New Member & First Time Conference Attendee Orientation from 8 - 9 a.m.
- Make sure you attend the opening session with acclaimed filmmaker Brett Culp at 11:30 a.m. His presentation, *Superhero Leadership: How Everyday People Can Have an Extraordinary Impact*, is sponsored by the Florida Department of State/Division of Library and Information Services. Don’t miss the FLA awards presentation during this session.
- Check out the breakout sessions before you attend the conference so you know what speakers you are most interested in from 1 - 2 p.m.:
  - Outreach Track: [Unleashing the Power of Digital Literacy through Innovative Community Outreach](#)
  - Programs/Events Track: [Pop Culture: Reach Readers in a Single Bound](#)
  - Fundraising Track: [I’m Asking, but is Anyone Listening?](#)
  - Academic Technology Track: [Unleash the Impact of Technical Services Across the Library](#)
  - Special Collections Track: [Photographs & Partnerships: Finding Connections between Academic & Public Libraries](#)
  - Academic Track: [FALSC Forum](#)

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**Committee and Member Group Meetings, 1 - 2 p.m.**

- Awards Committee Meeting
- Advocacy & Legislative Committee Meeting
• Stop by the Performers Showcase for Children-based performers from 1 - 2:30 p.m.

• Breakout Sessions, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
  ➞ Student Literacy Track: Literacy League - Summer Reading Partnerships and More
  ➞ Student Literacy Track: Student Library Cards - Libraries Working Together for Improved Access
  ➞ Special Collections Track: Why Your Library Needs Realia and How it'll Wow Your Patrons
  ➞ Technology Track: The Amazing Liaison: Innovative Ideas to Engage Diverse Populations with STEM
  ➞ Programs/Events Track: Art 101 at Your Library
  ➞ Career Development Track: Conversations that Matter
  ➞ Career Development Track: Become an Instructional Design Superhero at your Library

Committee and Member Group Meetings, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
  ◊ Outcome and Standards Committee Meeting - Governor's Board Room
  ◊ Leadership Development Committee Meeting - Hibiscus

• Stop by the Performers Showcase for audiences of all ages from 2 - 4 p.m.

• Breakout Sessions, 4 - 5 p.m.
  ➞ Special Collections Track: Engaging College Students with Rare Books
  ➞ Academic Librarianship Track: Shazam! Marvel(ous) Training transforms College Student workers into Super Scholars
  ➞ Technology Track: The Technobus: Miami-Dade Public Library System's Mobile Computer Technology Lab
  ➞ Leadership/Career Development Track: Leadership: Everyone's Superpower
  ➞ Evidence-Based Practice Heroes: Supporting Nurses in Transforming Healthcare
  ➞ Networking with Performers

Committee and Member Group Meetings, 4 - 5 p.m.
  ◊ Outcome and Standards Committee Meeting
  ◊ Leadership Development Committee Meeting
• Attend the Welcome Reception from 4 - 6 p.m. for the Exhibit Hall Opens and visit the vendor tables. From 5 - 6 p.m., enjoy free appetizers and a cash bar will be available.
• Check out the author tables during 4 - 6 p.m.
• Visit the Poster Session in the Exhibit Hall from 5 - 6 p.m.
• Calling all library school alumni! Attend receptions for your school from 6:30 - 8 p.m.

FSU Alumni Reception

We are inviting you to experience hands-on technologies, hear where FSU iSchool is going, along with news about our Innovation Hub and new Managing Makerspaces class for online Master's students which launches Summer 2018! Plus lots of food, fun, friends, and maybe even a little dancing!

USF Alumni Reception

After-Hours offsite networking event (additional ticket required)
Disney's Boardwalk

Drink and Light Appetizers provided from 7 - 8 p.m. at Big River Grille & Brewing Works. Meet at Caribe Convention Entrance at 6:15 p.m. The bus leaves promptly at 6:30 p.m.

Spend the rest of the evening strolling down the boardwalk, enjoying the many restaurants, bars, and shops!

THURSDAY, MAY 24

• The registration desk is open from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
• The poster session begins at 8:30 a.m.
• Remember to stop by the Exhibit Hall and check out all of the vendors starting at 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
• Visit the author tables from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
• Check out the breakout sessions before you attend the conference so you know what speakers you are most interested in from 9 - 10 a.m.:
  ⇒ Library Administration Track: Applying Outcomes and Standards to Public Libraries
  ⇒ Programs/Events Track: Recycled Dreams Fashion Show
  ⇒ Library Administration Track: Combining Your Superpowers: Academic and Public Libraries Join Forces
  ⇒ Academic Technology Track: Unleash the ERM!
  ⇒ Youth Services Track: BizKids: Kids Learn About Building and
Thank you to all of our FLA Business Members!

Managing Their Own Businesses
⇒ Professional Development Track: Putting Your Best Foot Forward: Breaking In and Rising Up
⇒ Collections Track: Zine Heroines: Counterculture Histories
⇒ Marketing Track: FLA Marketing Showcase
⇒ Make Your Library A Superhero Headquarters With Networking
⇒ Academic Librarianship Track: Librarian’s Role in Textbook Affordability: An Emerging Superpower

Committee and Member Group Meetings, 9 - 10 a.m.
◊ Tech Services Member Group Meeting
◊ Academic Instruction & Information Literacy Member Group Meeting

- Find a great breakout sessions for the afternoon with speakers from 10:30 a.m. - noon:
⇒ Friends Track: The Super Power of Friends
⇒ Libraries & Books Track: Reviewing for Fun, Professional Satisfaction, and (No) Profit
⇒ Youth Services Track: Unleash the Power of Coding Clubs
⇒ Marketing Track: Unleash Library Superpowers: A Book Club for Intellectually Disabled College Students
⇒ Library Administration Track: Workplace Violence/Active Shooter
⇒ Career Development Track: Career 411: Never Too Late to Jumpstart Your Career!
⇒ Super Powers Activate: Tools to Unleash Your Library’s Super Powers!
⇒ Outreach Track: Tips for Outreach and Service to Black Immigrants

Committee and Member Group Meetings, 9 - 10 a.m.
◊ Fundraising Committee Meeting
◊ Public Library Directors Member Group Meeting
• Take a break and stop by the Lunch for purchase with Exhibitors from noon - 1:30 p.m.

Committee and Member Group Meetings, noon - 1:30 p.m.
- Marketing Committee

• Friends Lunch with Awards Presentation, noon - 1:30 p.m.

• Check out the Poster Session III, 12:15 - 1:30 p.m.

• Fill your afternoon with great speakers and interesting presentations during the breakout sessions from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
  ⇒ Friends Track: One Book, One State (Don’t forget to read the book by Adam Grant, Originals: How Non-Conformists Move the World)
  ⇒ Ask a Librarian
  ⇒ Students Track: The Power Professional: The Ever Evolving You
  ⇒ Technology Track: Step Forward: Adding Linked Data Vocabularies to Digital Repositories
  ⇒ Collections Track: Librarians Assemble: Identifying, Acquiring and Promoting a New Graphic Novel Collection
  ⇒ Outreach Track: Off the Leash: Outreach and Programming Outside the Box
  ⇒ Youth Services Track: Super Makerspaces for Small and Rural Libraries
  ⇒ Marketing Track: Getting to Know Us: Creating a Librarian Profile Video Series

Committee and Member Group Meetings, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
- Scholarship Committee Meeting
- Continuing Education Committee Meeting
- Youth Services Member Group

• Don’t miss these great breakout sessions from 3 - 4 p.m.
  ⇒ Academic, General, and Public Tracks: Days in the District: Calling All Superheroes
  ⇒ Fundraising Track: Unleash Your Librarian Superpowers to Author Winning Grant Proposals
  ⇒ Literacy Track: Leveraging the Framework: Transforming Learning on Campus
  ⇒ Technology Track: DSC Library Website Redesign & Best Practices
⇒ Academic Librarianship Track: Spiderman and Ironman Join Forces: Super-Powerful College L.I. for University Success
⇒ Programs/Events Track: Author Events in Your Library
⇒ Library Administration Track: Superheroes Need Super Organization: Planning and Planners for Librarians
⇒ Leadership/Career Development Track: Lessons Learned from the Sunshine State Library Leadership Institute

- Committee and Member Group Meetings, 3 - 4 p.m.
  ◊ Marketing Committee

- Don't miss these breakout sessions from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
  ⇒ Technology Track: The Magic of Makerspaces
  ⇒ Librarians as Intellectual Property Sidekicks: Helping Your Patrons Unlock their Powers
  ⇒ FACRL Board Meeting
  ⇒ Youth Services Track: Blowing Off STEaM: Peer Mentorship for Girls in STEM
  ⇒ Outreach Track: Unleashing Your Power to Change Lives: Effective Library Programs for Persons Experiencing Homelessness
  ⇒ Trends Track: Cheap and Easy Cosplay: Creative Library Programming for all Budgets

- Committee and Member Group Meetings, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
  ◊ Intellectual Freedom Committee Meeting
  ◊ REFORMA de Florida Member Group Meeting
  ◊ Databrarians Member Group Meeting

Attend the President's Reception sponsored by Bibliocommons including Silent Auction Finale, Wine Toss, Meet and Greet with Author Karen White, and more!

- Win big prizes from Karen White
- Big Tiki and the Mai Tais: Florida's unique ukulele band
- Heavy appetizers and cash bar

FRIDAY, MAY 25

- The registration desk is open from 7:30 a.m. - noon.
- Committee and Member Group Meetings, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
  ◊ Conference Planning Committee Meeting
- Visit the TechZone from 8 - 9:45 a.m.
• Start Friday out right and attend one of these breakout sessions from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
  ⇒ Outreach Track: Unleash the Power of Outreach: Engaging the Under-served
  ⇒ Technology Track: 3D Augmented Reality Coming to a Library Near You!
  ⇒ Academic Librarianship Track: Telling Our Story: Methods for Proving Academic Impact at the Administrative Level
  ⇒ Business Track: The Power of Tech Instruction for Business Owners
  ⇒ Programs/Events Track: Superhero Strategies for Library Programs

Committee and Member Group Meetings, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
  ◊ Finance Committee Meeting

Don’t miss the final breakout sessions for this year’s conference from 9:45 - 11:15 a.m.
  ⇒ Research Track: How do YOU do that?! High Sage Best Practices from Your Peers
  ⇒ Trends Track: How to Use Critical Thinking and the ACRL Framework to Identify Fake News
  ⇒ Business Track: Up, Up, and Away: Economic Development Services Take Flight at Your Library
  ⇒ Trends Track: Lightning Rounds
  ⇒ Academic Librarianship Track: Marketing Information Literacy to Faculty: Advertise Your Superpowers!

Committee and Member Group Meetings, 9:45 - 11:15 a.m.
  ◊ Outreach & Programming Member Group Meeting
  ◊ Planning Committee Meeting

Attend the Closing Session with Lunch at 11:30 a.m. Karen White is the New York Times bestselling author of more than twenty novels, including the Tradd Street series, The Night the Lights Went Out, Flight Patterns, The Sound of Glass, A Long Time Gone, and The Time Between.

The FLA Board of Directors Meeting, 1:15 - 3:15 p.m., is open to all.
Donate new or gently used K-12 books at this year’s conference!

K-12 BOOK DONATION DRIVE

FLA Supports Our Communities

In partnership with Heart of Florida United Way, Florida Library Association is participating in the Day of Action to encourage reading and enhance literacy.

Please support reading and literacy in our communities by donating new or gently used K-12 books during the FLA 2018 Annual Conference, May 23-25.

The drop off center will be located in the foyer of the Caribe Royale Conference Center.

Questions? Please contact Sunghae Ress at sress@fau.edu
Exhibitors confirmed as of May 9, 2018

- ABDU
- ADVENTURES OF BELLA & HARRY
- ALLIED POWERS
- AWE LEARNING
- BAKER & TAYLOR
- BIBLIOPHABLE
- BIBLIOMAX INC.
- BIBLIOLAND
- BOUND TO STAY BOUND BOOKS
- BRAINJUMP
- BRODART CO.
- BYWATER SOLUTIONS
- CHERRY LAKE / SLEEPING BEAR PRESS - CRABTREE PUBLISHING
- CHILDREN'S PLUS, INC.
- COMPARE TECHNOLOGIES
- CREATIVE ARTS UNLIMITED, INC.
- DLRS AT IMAGE ACCESS
- EBSCO INFORMATION SERVICES
- EQUINOX OPEN LIBRARY INITIATIVE
- EXPO ENTERPRISE INC
- FAXSCAN24 FAX & SCAN KIOSKS
- FLD SOLUTIONS
- FLORIDA ACADEMIC LIBRARY SERVICES COOPERATIVE
- FLORIDA AUTHOR'S & PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
- FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE/DIVISION OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES
- FLORIDA HUMANITIES COUNCIL
- FLORIDA MULTI-TYPE LIBRARY COOPERATIVES - NEFLIN, PLAN, SEFLIN & TBLC
- FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF INFORMATION
- GALE, A CENGAGE COMPANY
- GET HELP FLORIDA
- HARVARD JOLLY ARCHITECTURE
- INGRAM CONTENT GROUP
- LIBRARY AND INFORMATION RESOURCES NETWORK, INC.
- LIBRARY INTERIORS OF FLORIDA, INC.
- LYNGSOE SYSTEMS
- LYRASIS
- MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE AGENCY
- MAGIC AND MAYHEM PRODUCTIONS
- MARK ENTERPRISES, INC.
- MIDWEST TAPE
- MTS SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS INC
- NATIONAL NETWORK OF LIBRARIES OF MEDICINE
- OCLC, INC.
- OVERDRIVE
- PLAYAWAY PRE-LOADED PRODUCTS
- PRIDE ENTERPRISES
- R. GEORGE & ASSOC., INC.
- RECORDED BOOKS
- REFERENCEUSA
- SAGE PUBLISHING
- SCHOLASTIC LIBRARY PUBLISHING
- SEBCO BOOKS
- SHOWCASES
- SIRSIDYNIX
- SPRINGER NATURE
- STATISTA
- T-MOBILE GOVERNMENT
- TAYLOR & FRANCIS GROUP, LLC
- TECH LOGIC
- THE NEW YORK TIMES
- TLC-THE LIBRARY CORPORATION
- TODAY'S BUSINESS SOLUTIONS INC.
- TRANSPARENT LANGUAGE, INC
- UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
- UNIVERSITY PRESS OF FLORIDA
- WILEY
- WOLTERS KLUWER HEALTH
- WORKSPACE TECHNOLOGY
- WT COX INFORMATION SERVICES
The 2018 Legislative Session reflected a difficult budget year for several reasons. Entering the budget-writing process ahead of Session, revenue estimators projected a budget shortfall with varying ranges of significance to the state’s budget. While the revenue estimates did improve through Session, roughly two-thirds of the way through Session and well into the budget-writing process, the tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School necessitated swift response and significant spending on school safety and mental health treatment.

The legislature pulled together spending packages exceeding $400 million in response to the tragedy, along with significant policy proposals which consumed extensive time during Session and quickly became the first priority of virtually every legislator. The effect of the significant spending proposals, and focus directed to gun safety legislation, was felt in all areas of the General Appropriations Act. Ultimately, most recurring programs accounting for any significant amount of general revenue experienced either level funding from prior fiscal years, or decreases in appropriation.

For libraries, the budget was a mixed bag. The final number agreed upon amount for State Aid to Public Libraries was $20,304,072. While the amount was below the prior year spending of $23,098,834, the amount this year does meet the required spending to continue to draw down contingent federal funding. Early in the budget conference process, the Senate proposed $8.5 million for Library Construction Grants, while the House took a much lower position. Ultimately at the conclusion of conference, both the House and Senate made no appropriation for Library Construction grants.

Bright points in the budget for libraries include the Smart Horizons Online High School Library Program, which was funded at $750,000. Despite receiving a veto last year, the appropriation survived the Governor’s budget vetoes for this fiscal year. Furthermore, Library Multitype Cooperatives received $2 million in funding, consistent with prior year funding. Finally, the Academic Cooperative E-Resources was funded at a total of $6,853,016, through the University of West Florida, split between $2,535,616 at the beginning of the first quarter of the 2018-2019 fiscal year, and another $4,317,400 at the beginning of the second quarter, and is in line with prior year funding.

The Governor’s vetoes were historically low at $64 million in total, largely due to the difficult budget year and lack of local budget projects that ultimately made it through the budget process. Despite the turbulent Session, the voice of Florida’s libraries was heard in Tallahassee and our legislative champions remain committed to appropriately funding the state’s library system in the next fiscal year.

Chris Spencer, Government Consultant
Robert F. Stuart, Jr., Senior Director of Government Affairs
Gray Robinson Attorneys at Law
Hello members, friends, and supporters of FLA,

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as I begin the role as your new Executive Director. It is an honor to serve you and all library staff and volunteers throughout the Sunshine State and I look forward to the adventure that awaits.

My professional background includes 11+ years with non-profit organizations including the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects, Florida Foundation for Architecture and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. While at these associations, I learned organizational strategies and tactics that I believe will help fulfill FLA’s mission.

As your executive director, I commit to strengthening the collective voice of the profession so libraries are clearly heard by the Florida Legislature and Executive Branch; enhancing programs and benefits for members through technology advancements and robust communications channels; streamlining the strategic goals of the association at the direction of the FLA board of directors and committees; and seeking partnerships with allied organizations with an aim to strengthen the financial health of your association.

But, as we know, Rome was not built in a day and even Marvel Avengers “assemble” when saving the planet.

This is where I ask for your partnership. To create a sustainable organization and move FLA forward into the future, I ask that you, too, commit to FLA by volunteering your time on committees; answering important calls to action when library funding or programming is threatened; participating in FLA events and initiatives; donating to scholarship funds to build a pipeline of future leadership; and providing expertise and information by authoring articles for the Florida Libraries journal. Whether you have an hour to spare or a schedule that allows for ongoing participation, FLA needs your voice and engagement!

Together, we will continue the legacy of excellence the founding members entrusted to us more than 110 years ago.

— Lisa O’Donnell, CAE

P.S. Be sure to “Unleash Your Superpower” this spring and register for the FLA Annual Conference, scheduled May 23-25 at the Caribe Royale in Orlando. The Conference Planning Committee has arranged an exciting and educational program that you won’t want to miss. I hope to meet you there!
These three authors reside not only in the sunshine state, but share captivating stories that touch the lives of Floridians throughout the state.

Jack E. Davis

*The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea* is an emotional story by author Jack E. Davis that tells the fascinating history of the area around the Gulf of Mexico, which he refers to as the American Sea. This deeply researched novel enlightens readers to the surrounding area with intricate detail and beautifully-crafted maps.

The novel delves into archeological finds, impact of manmade products on the environment, and the Gulf’s place in the twenty-first century.

Davis grew up on the Gulf and is a professor of history and sustainability studies at the University of Florida. Follow him on Twitter, @jackedavisfl, or visit his Facebook page.

Edwidge Danticat

In her latest novel, *The Art of Death: Writing the Final Story*, Edwidge Danticat shares with her readers an intimate story of her mother’s final journey through a cancer diagnosis to spending valuable time with her during at the end as she is losing her battle with this painful disease. Danticat also includes stories of authors and refers to other published works to give perspectives to this unstoppable outcome, which impacts all of us. *The Art of Death* is filled with exquisite writing and serves as a foundation for Danticat to mourn the loss of her mother while sharing her touching story.

Danticat is a Haitian-American who resides in Miami. Visit her Web site or check out her Facebook page.

Lauren Groff

Lauren Groff, author of five books including the 2015 New York Times bestselling novel *Fates and Furies*, is launching her latest work in June 2018 entitled *Florida*. This book is based upon a collection of stories throughout different towns with an array of characters that are all connected through the common thread of Florida. The stories include violent storms, sisters trying to survive.

Groff currently resides in Gainesville. Follow her on Twitter with the handle @legroff, her Facebook page, or visit her Web site.

These Florida authors share intriguing views of what is the now the third most populated state in the nation with more than twenty-one million residents, and growing. Their books are definitely worth checking out.