I miss book club. I don’t mean that I miss organizing a library’s book club or selecting titles for book club. I miss participating in book club. As library professionals, sometimes I think the joy is sucked out of activities that we once enjoyed because they are so intertwined with our job.

When I was a director in Chillicothe, I moderated a book club from the first month I started in 2005. At first it was a lot of fun because I didn’t know anyone in my new city and if you know me, you know I love to talk. After months of trying to pick the perfect title that was suitable for everyone and reigning in rogue conversations, I began to hate book club. Eventually, I determined that book club had to be self-sustaining and member driven because it wasn’t a librarian that was needed, but someone within the group that could manage all of the personalities.

Mrs. Virginia Headrick was that person. Virginia knew everyone in the group and was very comfortable telling everyone that book club was where stories were discussed, and lunch was where people were discussed. She was great at selecting titles, from the Mid-Continent Public Library’s book club list of titles. Virginia almost always brought homemade goodies, only banana bread, and loved serving as hostess.

When I was in Tennessee, I tried joining a book club. Once they found out I was a librarian, the pressure to say something profound was intense, and I eventually stopped going because it was hard to just be an “average” member. One who didn’t always get the subplot and skimmed the last four chapters of the book because they couldn’t wait for it to end. One who comes to book club with coffee rings on her book. GASP!

In an era of online book clubs and in depth analysis of titles on sites like goodreads and LibraryThing, it is easy to find a community of like-minded bibliophiles. I miss the personal contact, though, with the Virginia Headricks of the world. Don’t get me wrong, I am proud to be a librarian, but I want to go to book club and just listen while I eat banana bread and be (almost) proud of the coffee stains on my hardback.

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Missouri State Librarian Robin Westphal served as director of the Livingston County Library from 2005 to 2017 and most recently led the Johnson City (TN) library. She has worked for 25 years in a variety of capacities from school media specialist to law librarian.
Missouri State Library News

National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) offers Reading Club Book Kits

Book clubs at your library can now select titles on health topics free from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine. Titles include The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks and Everything Here is Beautiful. In addition to eight copies of the book, kits come with bookmarks, discussion guides, reading club book bags and copies of MedlinePlus magazine. To qualify libraries must register to be NNLM members. The enrollment process is simple, and membership is free. Because there is a limited supply of kits, applications for the kits are accepted on a first come, first serve basis. For more information, visit the NNLM Reading Club site.

Digital Imaging Grant Letter of Intent Instructions Now Available

Instructions for the Letter of Intent to submit a Digital Imaging Grant application are now available at LSTA Grant Application Forms. Any library planning to submit a Digital Imaging Grant proposal in January should also submit a Letter of Intent by Dec. 1, 2019. (This is a change from past years, when a Letter of Intent was due by January 1.) Please direct any questions about Digital Imaging Grants to Digitization Consultant Matt Butler at matthew.butler@sos.mo.gov, or (573) 522-1477.

Missouri State Archives Unveils Bicentennial Online Exhibit

The Missouri State Archives, in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council and other contributors, is proud to unveil a new exhibit in commemoration of Missouri’s Bicentennial. The Our Bicentennial History: Missouri Through Primary Sources online exhibit explores the themes of land, progress, society, adversity, people and leisure through over 250 curated images. Learn more about Missouri’s upcoming bicentennial at https://missouri2021.org.

Summer Library Grant Program Applications

The Summer Library Grant Program Applications are now available online at LSTA Grant Application Forms. Completed applications are due Nov. 15, 2019. This session will address what is and is not eligible, changes to the application, provide eligibility guidance and grant writing tips. Library staff are required to attend a one-hour online information session. The Summer Library Program grant Application Overview session will be held Oct. 9, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. Register for the session at Summer Library Application Overview Webinar.
Reference Services for YOU: A 2020 Census Guide!

Questions about the 2020 Census are rolling in: how do I submit the survey? Is this even from the Census Bureau? What do they do with the Census results? You search the Census Bureau website for the answers but can’t easily find them. Don’t worry, Reference Services is here to help. We have scoured the census information for you and compiled the answers on our new Information on the 2020 Census guide!

Find answers to frequently asked questions, information for libraries, up-to-date information from the Census Bureau, and more from our Information on the 2020 Census guide located on our website’s home page.

New Books From The Missouri State Library

Automating Inequality: How High-Tech Tools Profile, Police, and Punish the Poor by Virginia Eubanks

International Librarianship: Developing Professional, Intercultural, and Educational Leadership edited by Constantia Constantinou, Michael J. Miller, and Kenneth Schlesinger

Communication and Teamwork: An Introduction for Support Staff by Hali R. Keeler and Marie Keen Shaw

Contract Administration by Elisabeth Wright and William D. Davison

Making Surveys Work for Your Library: Guidance, Instructions, and Examples by Robin Miller and Kate Hinnant

Tech-Savvy Reading Promotion: A Toolbox for Librarians and Other Educators by Nancy J. Keane


Library Technology Planning for Today and Tomorrow by Diana Silveira

If you or your patrons have Census 2020 questions that have you stumped, reach out to your friendly Reference Services team to help! We are available by phone, email, or chat, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Phone: (573) 751-3615
Email: libref@sos.mo.gov
Chat: visit mostate.libguides.com and click the “Ask Us” tab on the right.

Libraries That Learn: Keys to Managing Organizational Knowledge edited by Jennifer A. Bartlett and Spencer Acadia

Practical Preservation and Conservation Strategies for Libraries by Brian J. Baird

We are pleased to offer direct borrowing from the Missouri State Library (MOSL) to Missouri public library directors and branch managers for continuing education and professional development.

MOSL public library cards are issued in the name of the library director or branch manager. Directors and branch managers are encouraged to borrow items for use by any of their library’s staff with this card.

To get a MOSL library card, visit http://mostate.libguides.com/reference/card and fill out an application.

For assistance in obtaining a card, replacing a card or for additional information, call or email the Missouri State Library Reference Services Division at (573) 751-3615 or libref@sos.mo.gov.
1. Other Operating Expenditures (5.14): This question collects all expenses not listed elsewhere in the PLS. If you have a large variance from year-to-year, it may trigger an edit check that requires a state edit check (not the default federal).

2. Capital Revenue (6.01-6.05): Most libraries will not have capital revenue. Capital Revenue must be designated as capital revenue for a specified capital project at the point it is collected. Tax levy revenue cannot be counted as capital revenue, even if it is used for a capital expenditure. If you do have capital revenue, it should not be reported in any other section.

3. Capital Expenses (6.06): Must be spent on: (a) site acquisition; (b) new buildings; (c) additions to or renovation of library buildings; (d) furnishings, equipment, and initial collections for new buildings, building additions, or building renovations; (e) library automation systems; (f) new vehicles; and (g) other one-time major projects. Capital expenses can be funded by any source, not just capital revenue.

4. 7.14c Non-Library Held eBooks, 7.15c Non-Library Held Audio-Downloadable Units, and 7.16c Non-Library Held Video-Downloadable Units: These three questions count the Ebrary, Freading, and Hoopla downloadable audio collection counts will be reported in this question based on circulation. One use equals one in the collection count.

5. Database Usage (8.10): This question reports the number of sessions of the databases listed in questions 7.18-7.20 (totaled in 7.21). The vendors of the databases generally supply the usage figures either through a dashboard or by request. This question has a state edit check (not the default federal) connected to 7.21.

6. Don’t use Microsoft Edge. It is not compatible with Collect/Connect and will likely lose your data.

7. It is possible for more than one person to log into your CollectConnect PLS account at one time. If this occurs, be aware one person can overwrite the other.

Please remember the Public Library Survey is due by Nov. 30, 2019 and is required to be eligible for State Aid funding. Late submissions will likely disqualify your library from receiving State Aid.

FAQ: Disposition of Grant-Funded Equipment

Are the computers or other technology you purchased through a grant now at end of life? If so, follow 2 CFR 200.313 (e).

Technology with a CURRENT PER UNIT fair market value of $5,000 or less may be retained, sold or otherwise disposed of with no further obligation to the Missouri State Library or Institution of Museum and Library Services. Most frequently, we see these items are e-recycled if the computers are inoperable or outdated, or sold at library book sales. Occasionally, we see the technology given away to local schools or community service organizations.

For equipment with a CURRENT PER UNIT fair market value in excess of $5,000, please contact Grants Officer Regina Anderson at regina.anderson@sos.mo.gov. She will help you determine your next steps.
YALSA Teen Services Competencies for Library Staff

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) released Teen Services Competencies for Library Staff in late 2017. The document outlines the skills all library staff need to be able to effectively serve teens. The Competencies at a Glance summarizes the full document and can be helpful in understanding if current library staff are in the developing, practicing, or transforming stage for each competency. There is also a Teen Competencies Snapshot that can be useful when discussing teen services with stakeholders, as well as other supplementary materials available through the YALSA Teen Services Competencies page.

Around the State

Congratulations to Kristen Sorth!

Congratulations to Kristen Sorth, director of St. Louis County Library, on receiving the Ernest A. DeMattia Jr. Award for Innovation and Service to Community and Profession from the American Library Association. This award recognizes a public librarian who demonstrates leadership in anticipating emerging trends in services, products, and technologies that will enhance the library’s position in its community. For information on the innovative programs provided by St. Louis County Library, see 2019 ALA Award Winners.

Welcome New Directors!

• Kate Adams at Hamilton Public Library

Grant Opportunities

Author Visit Grant • DEADLINE: Ongoing

This grant is specifically designed for school or public libraries to bring an author to their community. Grants range from $500 up to $5,000. All travel for the author must be included as part of a flat rate fee for the author. Other additional costs allowable: publicity and promotional items, up to $500 towards library materials for collection development related to the project, additional staff hours, and transportation for youth from school or licensed child care. Questions? Contact Debbie Musselman, Library Development Director, at debbie.musselman@sos.mo.gov or (573) 751-2679.

Show Me Steps to Continuing Education: Individual Training Events • DEADLINE: Ongoing

Is there an upcoming conference, workshop, seminar or course you’d like to attend? This grant is a competitive grant program for Missouri library personnel to participate in training opportunities when local funds cannot cover the entire cost. Grants range from $500 to $2,500, with a minimum local match of 25%. Eligible activities: regional, state and national workshops, pre-conferences, conferences, seminars or other development programs offered by professional associations or other appropriate entities; a community college class having direct application to the improvement of the applicant library’s operations or service; web-based instructional courses; and technical or other specialized CE events led by a qualified consultant or trainer. Questions? Contact Lisa Stock, Adult Services Consultant, at (573) 526-1087 or lisa.stock@sos.mo.gov.
Do you want to bring an expert to your library for training? This grant is a competitive grant program that provides funds for a host library or library consortium to plan and provide group training(s) on current, relevant, unique and/or in-demand topics at a local, regional or statewide level. Grants range from $500 up to $8,000.

Eligible activities: Technical or specialized CE events led by a qualified consultant or trainer, and reserving a set number of seats for in-state attendees to participate in web-based instructional courses. Questions? Contact Lisa Stock, Adult Services Consultant, at (573) 526-1087 or lisa.stock@sos.mo.gov.