

Monday		Session Title	Speaker(s)	Description
8-9	Registration & Breakfast			
9-10:15	Keynote	Welcome and Intro: Sonya Durney Keynote: Colin Woodard		
10:45 - 11:35	Session 1			
		It's Storytime, How Hard Can it Be?	Mary Randall, Mariah Sewall,	The children's department is integral to the positive public image libraries have held over the years, bringing in a large percentage of patrons, high levels of circulation, and a majority of programming within the library. Oftentimes, however, this important department in libraries is overlooked as "unserious" or "kids stuff" when in talks about budgeting, staffing, and overall support from outside the department. How do we as library professionals address this misconception while still providing the high level of care expected of us? Join Mariah Sewall and Mary Randall as they discuss the running of a children's department, and what we all can do as library professionals to support our youngest patrons.
		How to Do a Candidate Forum at Your Library	Lisa Joyce, Barbara Kaufman	A presentation by Maine Librarians and League of Women Voter volunteers on how they have done Candidate Forums for local elections. This will cover all aspects of the forum including PR, question development, setup and moderator responsibilities.
		Library Services for Older Adults*	Chris Boynton, Sarah Duggan, Judy Gagnon, Marijke Visser, Sabine McAlpine	A panel discussion of available statewide services and strategies
		Libraries 101: Core Library Values for All	Kelley Blue, Sarah Skawinski	People from of all backgrounds come to work or volunteer in libraries for a variety of reasons. Make sure your staff, board, volunteers, and other community stakeholders are on the same page when it comes to the the core values of library work with Libraries 101! Libraries 101 is a training and onboarding course developed by Portland Public Library supervisors that can easily be borrowed and adapted by any library large, small, or in between!
		Fandom Foodies	Molly Virello	This talk is all about where pop culture, food, and library programming intersect. In it, I will help participants learn how to run, or grow, food-based programs in their library. We will talk about everything from digital programs to take-home kits, monthly programs to comic con level events, and how to tie them in to the library's cookbook collection. There's a magical place where pop culture, food, and library programming intersect. From fairy and Bridgerton tea parties in the 'garden', to nerdy cookbook clubs, to take-and-bake kits with local authors, the possibilities are endless (and delicious).
11:35-12	Exhibitor Break			
12-1	Awards & Lunch			Library Advocate of the Year; Librarian of the Year; Jim Campbell Intellectual Freedom Award
1-1:50	Session 2			
		B&T Title Talk, Part I	Grace Larochelle	
		Supporting, Serving, and Interacting with Underserved Populations	Lisa Ladd, Kathleen Cleary, John Marden, Sarah Moore, Olivia Scott, Ben Treat (moderator)	Join us for a panel discussion about libraries of different sizes coordinating with various community partners to support, serve, and interact with underserved populations present in Maine libraries. Topics will include strategies for providing these services, techniques for developing and maintaining a support network, and ways to understand and communicate the library's role while recognizing the impact of basic-needs services on other library services. Time for questions at the end!
		Strategic Planning Basics	Deb Hoadley	Are you thinking about a strategic plan for your library? This program will cover the basics of how to get started, engaging the community and developing a plan that won't sit on the shelf gathering dust!
		Building Bridges Between Libraries: the ARRCs & What They Can Do For You*	Charlene Jewett, Paul Nicklas, Claire Guyton, Amy Cummings, Brendon Barnes, Kelli Burnham, Holly Williams (Moderator)	A panel of library workers from the three ARRCs--Bangor Public Library, Maine State Library and Portland Public Library (Plus Lewiston Public Library!)--will help demystify the ARRC system. These front-line workers, whom many of you know by name or voice but not face, will answer questions about the services these libraries provide to libraries in our state, including interlibrary loans, free patron library cards for online resources and reference services.
		Critical Hit! Creating D&D and Board Game Success for Your Library	Molly Virello, Deanna McNamara, Elsa Rowe	Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) and Board Games are experiencing an explosion in popularity. How can librarians capitalize on this new-found interest, promote their collections, boost their programming, AND get people excited about the library? By hosting gaming at your library! Join Molly Virello as she talks about running your own simple D&D program. This is a guide through the (not-as-epic-as-you'd-think) quest to host D&D from the ground up, including material suggestions and going over the basics. No experience required. Elsa Rowe and Deanna McNamara will talk about their extremely successful board game nights. You will learn the rationale behind hosting a game night, how to identify potential partners, what types of games to offer, how to market the program and to whom, potential pitfalls and more!

2-2:50	Session 3			
		B&T Title Talk, Part II (not confirmed)	Grace Larochelle	A PowerPoint slideshow discussing forthcoming titles (children's & YA, depending on what committee would like to hear) that are garnering award attention or may be useful to youth librarians to have in their collections. This presentation takes place across two sessions.
		The Work of Braver Angels	Chip Morrison	Braver Angels is the nation's largest cross-partisan, volunteer-volunteer led movement to bridge the partisan divide in the United States. Through community gatherings, real debates, and grassroots leaders working together, we're creating hope - and showing Americans a braver way.
		Using AI For Pragmatic Tasks in Your Library*	Andrew Birden	As an early adopter of AI, FKPL Library Director Andrew Birden will show participants how he has used/is using ChatGPT and NightCafe for planning, organization, and promotion of library programming.
		Supporting School Library Workers: A Community Conversation*	Amy Stone, Steven Bailey, Eileen King, Kelley Fraser	Working with academic, public, and school librarians on advocacy, we have heard consistent questions about ways to support school library workers. We have a unique opportunity to have a conversation about what school boards do, what they have to balance, what superintendents face as challenges, resources available to school library workers, and how communities can work together. Please join us for this facilitated panel discussion, with time for questions, comments, and suggestions.
		Art in the Library	Rachael Harkness	This program will explain how to set up exhibits at a library, whether the library has a designated gallery or just wall space above the stacks. We'll cover best practices in engaging community artists and groups, hanging work, labels, marketing and scheduling.
3-3:30	Exhibitor Break			
3:30-4:20	Session 4			
		Grassroots Democracy	Allyson Gardner, Will Hayward, Evan Murray, Jen Lancaster	From youth-led change to working with state offices to implement new bills, LWVME has been pushing our democracy forward for 100 years. Dig into how we make that happen by examining recently passed bills (like semi-open primaries & online voter registration) and hearing about the change that our youth members are pushing for (Vote16).
		If There's Something Weird (and it don't look good) Who You Gonna Call?: Disaster Planning and Preparedness for Libraries	Nicole Potter, John Taylor	<p>The Margaret Chase Smith Library is a congressional research library in Skowhegan, ME, with a small staff consisting of four professional full-time staff members and one part-time facilities staff member. While the Library is administered by the University of Maine, a relationship which provides staff members with colleagues and support throughout the state, if a disaster is to happen at the Library then the staff is largely on their own to attend to the situation and its aftermath.</p> <p>In this session, Nicole Potter and John Taylor will share how the MCS Library wrote their original disaster plan, how the plan has been updated since, what supplies the Library has purchased to outfit their four disaster kits and carts (and what supplies have been most utilized since purchasing), the regular staff trainings the entire Library staff has been taking part in, and, to close, they will share the many pre-existing resources that has helped to guide their work and that participants can also utilize (many of which are online and free).</p> <p>Maine has been experiencing more major weather events in recent years and these events haven't always been considered "normal," either due to the type of weather or the time of year in which they occur. All Maine libraries should be at a level of preparedness so when something weird happens they know who they're gonna call (and what they're gonna do).</p>
		Community-Driven Programming for the Win!	Kelly Greenlee, Bethany Schmidt	<p>Libraries serve as a valuable information resource for people in any community, and, as such, can provide local community organizations with a vehicle to reach underserved populations or people with specific interests.</p> <p>We'll explore the benefits of partnering with community organizations — for libraries, for the partnering organizations, and for the community as a whole. How do you seek out and where do you find trusted partners? We'll look at some examples of partnerships (large and small) that have worked and we might even talk about the ones that have not worked. Come with your own partnership stories to share with the group!</p> <p>Finally, we'll talk about MECollab, a new initiative among Maine libraries who are interested in working together to bring programming to a wider audience and to share resources.</p>
		Remote Work Through Libraries	Savannah Sessions	Last year the Maine State Library and the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development granted \$1.7M to support remote work through libraries. This session will provide a brief update on how the grant is going as well as allow you to hear from some of the grantees. The remainder of the session will be spent sharing practical tips about how your library can increase, improve, or begin providing remote work services.
4:30-5	Interest Groups			
		Learn about MLA interest groups		
7-10	Trivia			
<b>Tuesday</b>				<b>Description</b>

7-8	Yoga	Morning YOGA	Marie Hurrell	Start your day off right with a complimentary morning yoga class with Marie Hurrell!
8-9	Registration & Breakfast	Welcome Day Two: Amy Wiseheart		
9-9:50	Session 1			
		Libraries Save Democracies: How it's been, how it is and how it can be (Part I)	Mindy Atwood, Christina Serois	The first hour of this session will be spent creating a common framework and vocabulary to understand and discuss libraries and democracy and the tenets that affect the intersection of library practices and democracy. In the second hour, the intention is to give attendees time and space to react and process the presentation through a facilitated discussion. Finally, the goal is for individuals to leave the session with three actionable goals related to the advocacy of public libraries as foundational to democracy.
		You Can't Be What You Can't See: Using the Periodic Table of Banned Books as a Catalyst for Inclusion and Diverse Representation in Libraries*	Kat Good-Schiff, Vonetta Lightfoot	Promote the freedom to read while engaging with diverse, contemporary young readers! This presentation will showcase how two departments with a shared vision collaborated on an extraordinary, large-scale project which included a permanent, interactive, flexible display in a community college library; a freestanding website; and several literary events.
		Crafting Curiosity: Prompt Engineering for Your Work and Life	Cynthia Kitchin, Veronica Nargi	Crafting Curiosity: Prompt Engineering for Your Work and Life is designed to equip library professionals with the knowledge and tools needed to harness the power of AI (artificial intelligence) for enhanced work and life experiences. Explore how AI can aid library professionals in tasks such as writing effective prompts, facilitating brainstorming sessions, creating planning outlines and project documentation, and providing valuable resources. Learn strategies to optimize AI interactions and guide conversations for optimal outcomes. Join us as we demystify the potential of AI by offering practical insights to seamlessly integrate this technology into your professional toolkit.
		COA Student Spotlight: Libraries As More Than Books	Pigeon Voigh, Joanna Pittari	Pigeon Voigt, a senior at College of the Atlantic (COA), will present a map of Maine libraries with non-book resources that they created as their senior project at COA. They will give a brief tour of the map and explain how it works. After this, they will go into the process of creating the map. Then, they will talk about the importance of the map and discuss patterns expressed in the data.  Next, another COA student and Thorndike library student-staff member Joanna Pittari will speak more specifically about how to be a personal library resource. She will reflect on her experiences working in a public library supporting patrons with dementia and Alzheimer's disease. As a 2023 summer intern at Central Ridge Library in Beverly Hills, FL — which primarily serves an elderly population (median age of the surrounding town being 68) — Joanna completed certification in Coping with Dementia LLC's workshop. Joanna will share highlights of her training, demonstrate best practices for supporting patrons experiencing dementia and Alzheimer's, and will discuss how effective methods to support this population can be in conflict with library or staff's rules.  Together, these students will highlight the ability libraries have to support everyone with their resources — something much wider than books alone.
		Trademarks - what they are and how to get one	John Hutchinson	This program will describe what a trademark is (and isn't), how to get one, and most importantly how to do a search on the new USPTO trademark search system.
10-10:30	Exhibitor Break			
10:30-11:30	Keynote		Julia Bouwsma	
11:30-12	Book Signing			
12-1	Lunch	Welcome: Wynter Gidings Comments: Lori Fisher		
1-1:50	Session 2			
		Libraries Save Democracies: How it's been, how it is and how it can be (Part II)	Mindy Atwood, Christina Serois	The first hour of this session will be spent creating a common framework and vocabulary to understand and discuss libraries and democracy and the tenets that affect the intersection of library practices and democracy. In the second hour, the intention is to give attendees time and space to react and process the presentation through a facilitated discussion. Finally, the goal is for individuals to leave the session with three actionable goals related to the advocacy of public libraries as foundational to democracy.
		Libraries and Tourism: A Win-Win for Communities, Tourists, and Libraries	Beth Crist	Is your public library in a tourist community—or an area that would like to increase its tourism? Please join us for this lively, interactive session to explore the many possibilities of why a
		AI Literacy and Library Engagement*	Christopher Clark	This session will cover the basics of AI literacy—what to know about AI tools, how to use them meaningfully, and how to evaluate tools and AI-generated content. We want to promote the useful aspects of AI while providing resources and skills for navigating it safely and effectively. Libraries can use this as an opportunity for community instruction and deepened engagement.

		A Wilde time in the Archives! Teaching literacies with Maine's queer history*	Megan MacGregor, Jill Piekut Roy	<p>To achieve the formidable goal of teaching primary source literacy and other information literacies, archivists and instruction librarians must find opportunities to work together in order to bolster each other's learning objectives in the classroom and through public programming. In this interactive teaching workshop, participants will take on the role of a student in a class visit to Special Collections, where presenters will teach Maine's nationally-relevant LGBTQIA+ history through active learning with items from the LGBTQIA+ Collection of the Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine.</p> <p>Through items that document the groundbreaking Wilde-Stein Club and the long-running Maine Gay Symposium, participants will learn about the gay liberation movement of the 1970s and connect it to local contexts while also experiencing the impact of active learning strategies that support social-emotional learning. Presenters will discuss how the lesson is designed to achieve learning goals from both the ACRL Frameworks for Information Literacy for Higher Education and the ACRL RBMS-SAA Guidelines for Primary Source Literacies, as well as how the lesson plan has been adapted for public library audiences through the use of facsimiles and digital surrogates.</p> <p>Despite being a rural state, Maine has a strong LGBTQIA+ history, which spans the entire state, (not just Portland and Ogunquit), and relates to national LGBTQIA+ history. In recent years University of Southern Maine's Special Collections has digitized many of the LGBTQ+ newspapers, oral histories, and objects from the LGBTQ+ Collection of the Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine, which can be accessed from anywhere online. This workshop will explore queer historical record and how we use it in one shot classes to meet the ACRL Framework and ACRL RBMS-SAA Guidelines for Primary Source Literacies. In this session participants will engage in active learning with primary sources from this collection to unearth the start of the gay liberation movement in Maine, and be guided through piecing together a narrative, as if they were students in a classroom. Through their participation, participants will learn some of the tools we use with classes and how they relate back to the two Literacies</p>
2-2:50	Session 3			
		Archives in the Early Education classroom*	Anna Faherty, Kari Payne	<p>Beginning in 2022, Kari and Anna began working together to introduce college students studying early childhood education to new and fun ways to incorporate primary sources into their lesson plans. With Kari's students, they explored the power of primary resources in connecting lesson plans with history. The students learned the vocabulary of archives, libraries and cultural heritage institutions, and how to use these institutions and their resources in history and social studies classrooms and create Developmentally Appropriate Practices for the children they teach. Students learned where to find primary sources and historical perspectives that could speak to engagement, accommodations, learning styles, and classroom environments that promote active learning with young children. Examining various primary sources including objects, oral histories, and photographs, students considered how this information and the themes from the stories told by the objects could be adapted into interactive play.</p> <p>During the social studies class, students created snowshoes from arts and crafts supplies, natural objects, and household items. In the creative arts class, the students used office supplies and craft materials to create a gift box with Christmas cards in the style of a box at the Collection. This way, the students were able to use their new knowledge of how to find and use primary sources to create an engaging learning activity for young children that would help them learn about the past.</p> <p>Kari and Anna plan to continue this work by creating snowshoe making "kits" that could be shared with early childhood educators throughout the state. Another idea in the works is to create paper doll play using 3-D printed templates and historical inspiration for color and style. This is a curriculum-based approach for students, both children and adults, to use play and storytelling to connect their interests to the histories and life experiences of their region. This project connects to the social studies learning section of the MELDs Maine's Early Learning and Development Standards Maine's Learning Standards   Department of Education.</p> <p>This project will also be facilitated with a Community of Practice (a peer-to-peer professional development opportunity in a shared learning environment where the content is driven by the participants or a chosen topic) and higher education wide audience of adult learners.</p>
		Supporting Your Library's Team: Domestic Abuse as a Workplace Issue	Regina Rooney	Domestic abuse and violence is widespread, and it doesn't stay at home when victims or abusive people head to work. Libraries play unique roles in their communities, but they are like any other workplace when it comes to domestic abuse. Staff and volunteers may be experiencing or perpetrating abuse in their personal lives, and that experience will impact how they show up at work. In this workshop, we will identify what domestic violence is; discuss why it is an issue for employers, supervisors, and co-workers to consider; and identify tools and next steps for establishing a workplace response that minimizes the risk for your entire team and supports a safe, healthy, and respectful workplace culture.
		Keep Your Pants On: Information Architecture for Library Websites*	Amanda Leen, Laura Taylor	How to organize a library website to best serve your patrons, how to assess patron needs and priorities, how to talk to stakeholders about proposed changes
		State and Local government documents at the Maine State Library	Kelli Burnham	<p>The Maine State Library is required by law to collect and preserve information published by the state government agencies. In addition to that, we also collect municipal town reports and comprehensive plans. It is our responsibility to ensure this information remains freely accessible by the public. Many librarians and members of the public are unfamiliar with the kind of fascinating information that lives in this collection or how to access it.</p> <p>The aim of this program is to introduce librarians to a variety of state and municipal government documents that represent the history, present and future of the collection. State agency publications are surprisingly diverse. Each agency is required to produce an annual report, and this has been the case since the early years of Maine's Statehood. Early reports contain far more than a dry recitation of finances and often include names, stories of events or statements from individual Mainers. In addition to annual reports, the collection also includes things like recipes, maps, posters, photography, special studies, and tourism brochures.</p> <p>Time will be left at the end for attendees to explore a selection of government documents on their own and ask questions.</p>
2:50 - 3:30	Exhibitor Break			
3:30-4:30	Session 4			

	MLA Annual Business Meeting		
	Copyright and AI: What the Current Debates Might Mean for the Future	Kevin Smith	The debates and lawsuits over copyright and AI are just beginning, and it is too early to predict their outcome. But even at this early stage, there is little doubt that copyright issues have the potential to reshape our experience of AI. We will look at the current issues, and the law that underlines them, in order to prepare ourselves for what might come next.
	Current Topics in Access Services	Ann Price	This will be a check-in for library workers who do access services work in public and academic libraries. Goal will be to set up a flexible space to discuss emergent trends in access services in the field as a collective, and then split off into public library/academic library tracks to deepen conversation on specific topics.