

Committee and Section Annual Reports for FY2020

ALA Chapter Councilor Annual Report 2020

- I attended ALA MW in Philadelphia January 24-28 and reported on the conference in the February 2020 ALA/MLA Chapter Council Report to the MLA Board.
- My last conference, ALA Annual in Chicago, June 25-30 was cancelled in person.
- I am registered for and will attend virtual meetings of the ALA Council on June 22-June 26:
 - o A virtual information session on June 22 at 1:30 pm.
 - o Virtual Council I and Council II sessions on June 23 beginning at 1:30 pm.
 - o Virtual Inaugural Event on Friday evening, June 26.
 - o A Virtual Council III session on Saturday, June 27 beginning at 1:00 pm.
 - o We are currently reviewing documents for the virtual meetings and will receive instructions on voting.

Obviously, the pandemic has made its mark on ALA. Little has been discussed as ALA focused its efforts on COVID-19 and relative webinars and initiatives. Wanda Brown and ALA have released several important statements and press releases over the past six months. On June 1, the Executive Board of the American Library Association (ALA) stands with the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) in condemning violence and racism towards Black people and all People of Color.

Some information has been released on the organization's financial woes but we will hear more in Council. ALA has moved into its new headquarters – leaving 50 and 40 East Huron for 225 North Michigan Avenue. The Huron Street headquarters was sold last December.

Webinars were again held on the Forward Together initiative this spring. Much will be discussed at the virtual meetings this month in June 2020. The timeline was extended before COVID-19 and I expect that it will be extended further. A vote by Council will precede any vote by Membership.

My duties as Chapter Council will end after the virtual meetings and I know that Esme Green will be an spectacular and active member of the 2021-2023 Chapter Leadership of ALA.



Archives Annual Report 2020

This report is adapted from last year's end of fiscal year report and much is the same, however, given the fact that the archives are presently located in two locations and have a haphazard history, I think it is important to have this continued thread of reporting on the archives and role of the archivist. This will help us document changes made year to year as well.

The Mission, Role of the Archivist, Contents and Background, have not changed from my June 14, 2019 report.

Status:

- "Historic" records at BPL in off-site storage (1891? - FY2009); 25 boxes (31 linear feet)
 - Finding aid reflects files from 1980-FY2009
 - Inaccessible since at least early 2017 due to construction project.
 - MLA President, Esme Green and I have made contact with Beth Pringle at BPL who is going to assist us in defining this relationship and records transfer for the future. The pandemic forced us to cancel our meeting that was set for May 2020. We plan to meet in October 2020.
- "Current" records at Amesbury Public Library in storage (FY2010-present); 4 boxes (4.5 linear feet) 4 small boxes of historic photographs.
 - Inventory list available upon request.

Goals:

- Write collection development policy.
- Write records retention schedule (in-process).
- Make materials accessible on website and set up digital archive.
- Further organize records at BPL if get access.

Respectfully submitted,

Aimie Westphal, MLA Archivist (2018-)



Conference Committee Annual Report 2020

This year's Conference Committee report is, like all reports this year, unlike any other we have ever filed. Usually, our report is presented at conference which would be speaking for itself. As we all know we were unable to have our conference due to the unprecedented global pandemic of COVID-19. The Conference Committee had been working hard from June 2019 through March 2020, planning over 70 sessions for an exciting and engaging conference. On March 12, 2020, the conference co-chairs, the MLA president and conference director came to the difficult conclusion that for the safety and wellbeing of our attendees, we could not proceed with our planned event. On March 23, 2020 Governor Baker issued an Essential Services And Revised Gatherings Order, confirming that MLA had made the right decision by canceling.

MLA Conference Director, Kristen Collins quickly entered into negotiations with the Cape Cod Resort and Conference Center and with SER to cancel for 2020 and to secure space for MLA 2021. Ms. Collins also worked to inform conference exhibitor and sponsors of the cancelation and collaborated with the MLA treasurer to begin the process of reimbursements where necessary.

The conference co-chairs and conference director discussed the possibility of holding the conference as a virtual event. Ms. Collins researched service providers but such services as needed to reproduce the entire slate of programs were deemed cost prohibitive at this time of economic uncertainty. We are still exploring the possibilities of offering some programming as stand alone virtual events.

The planning has already begun for the 2021 conference. It will be held May 17-19, 2021. Space is being held at the Cape Cod Resort and Conference Center but virtual alternatives are also being investigated. Thematic graphic designs will be retained reducing costs for 2021. The conference committee will begin meeting in July to discuss which programs will be retained in full or with modification for 2021 as well as identifying candidates for stand alone offerings.

Save the dates for MLA 2021, May 17-19, 2021 for a great conference as we Turn the Tide.

Respectfully submitted,
MLA Conference Co-Chairs
Michelle Filleul
Kim Hewitt
Ellen MJ Keane
Joanne Lamothe



Intellectual Freedom/Social Responsibility Committee Annual Report 2020

After closing fiscal year 2019 with a goal setting meeting, this year IFSRC reworked its structure, membership, and roles. We moved from monthly business meetings, largely remotely, to less frequent in-person meetings including thematic professional development. The change proved beneficial with an increase in membership, attendance, and participation.

New roles include:

- ALA Liaison: Michelle Spinney
- Intellectual Freedom Champions: Karen Tobin, Matt Amory, and Susan Caulfield
- Conference Committee Liaison: Anna Gooding-Call
- Secretary: Karen Tobin
- Social Media Maven: Elizabeth McKinstry
- Social Planner: Annette Diola

A few highlight of this year's work include:

- Received MBLC training on the 2020 Census and how to inform and promote responses at your library
- Received facilitator Training by Keith West, Boston Latin School, in preparation for MBLC/MLS' *Communities in Crisis: Libraries Responding to the Opioid Epidemic Symposium*
- Helped facilitate the very successful *Communities in Crisis: Libraries Responding to the Opioid Epidemic Symposium*
- LyndaLibrary/LinkedIn Learning statement recommendation that MA libraries discontinue subscriptions to Lynda until patron privacy is better protected. Pressure from librarians and organizations like MLA resulted in a return to privacy protection: under LinkedIn Learning's revised terms, a library cardholder will no longer need to create a LinkedIn profile in order to access LinkedIn Learning. Additionally, users will no longer need to provide an email address to use the service; they will be able to sign on with a library card number and PIN
- Advocated for and achieved MLA's endorsement of MA S.1385 & H.1538, presented by Senator Cynthia Creem and Representative David Rogers providing a moratorium on face surveillance
- Submitted an ALA OIF Material Challenge report of a book *Until the Last Star Fades* by Jacquelyn Middleton on behalf of Reading Public Library
- Helped Citizen's Responding to Climate Change in creating Climate Resilience hubs in libraries and participating in Climate Preparedness Week programs
- Planned conference programs unfortunately cancelled due to the Coronavirus outbreak. These programs were confirmed: Net Neutrality - Daniel Lyons, The Tide Is Rising - Michele Eberle, Fake News and The Library - Lisa DiValentino, Public Library As Refuge - Ally Dowds and Shiva Kuczinski, Gateway to the World: Making Citizenship Accessible In Your Library - Meanie Torres
- IF/SRC members showed up in support of two Drag Queen Story Times at Boston Public Library and Fitchburg Public Library under protest from a few members of the public.
- Provided ongoing support for a school librarian in Ludlow, MA over a challenge to the book, *Sex is a Funny Word* by Cory Silverberg by attending school committee meetings, writing letters objecting to

the violation of challenge policy and personal attacks on the librarian. Stayed in touch with ALA OIF over the challenge

- Tabled plans for a 2020 symposium due to the pandemic

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Fiorillo
IF/SRC Co-Chair



Jordan Miller Committee Annual Report 2020

The Jordan Miller Committee reviewed 68 applications for the \$500 Jordan Miller mini grant and chose Erving Public Library in Erving, Massachusetts, as this year's winner.

Erving is a rural town of 1800 people in western Massachusetts. In early spring of 2020 the tiny Erving library moved to a NEW and much more spacious building that will have more room for programming. The grant money will be used either for one big storytelling event in the new library or for a series of smaller storytelling programs there on Sundays.

The award was announced at the NERTCL luncheon at NELA last October.

In next year's grant cycle the Jordan Miller committee will give preference to libraries outside of Massachusetts. We will send out a call for applications in mid August.

Pam McCuen, Bethany Klem and Tammy DePasquale served on this year's committee. Next year Bethany and Tammy will step down but Amy Dorsheimer of Nevins Public Library will join the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam McCuen
Jordan Miller Committee Chair



Leadership and Management Section (LAMS) Annual Report 2020

The section was approved by membership at the annual meeting in May 2019. The first meeting of the section took place on August 1, 2019 at Northborough Free Library with 25 members in attendance.

The section's officers were:

- Co-Chair: Kim Hewitt, Head of Circulation, Waltham Public Library
- Co-Chair (Aug-Jan): Jill Mercurio, Assistant Director/Acting/Director, Newton Free Library
- Co-Chair (Aug-Feb): Christine Brown, Senior Librarian, Head of the Educational Resource Center, Bridgewater State
- Co-Chair (Feb-May): Jen Inglis, Director, Lynnfield Public Library
- Secretary: Maureen Ambrosino, Director, Westborough Public Library

Jill and Chris both took on unforeseen roles within their organizations in the early part of our year and were unable to participate fully. They individually resigned their positions in January and February, respectively. Jen Inglis of Lynnfield filled in as co-chair and led the March 2020 meeting.

We held six meetings at various locations throughout the state: Northborough Public Library, John Curtis Free Library, Minuteman Library Network, and Massachusetts Library System. We held our last meeting virtually via GoToMeeting on May 21.

We had two presentations this year:

- Jason Homer - Building Trust
- Theresa Maturevich- Managing in a Crisis

The following is a list of topics covered at each meeting:

- August: Planning for the Section
- September: Brainstorming ideas for MLA presentations
- November: Building Trust
- January: Dealing with Difficult Staff
- March: Managing in a Crises
- May: COVID plans, lessons, etc

The year ended with 73 people on our distribution list!

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Hewitt, Chair



Legislative Committee Annual Report 2020

The MLA Legislative Committee is comprised of members from across the Commonwealth and includes many libraries, networks, academics and organizations. We are always open to new members who express an interest and understanding of the need to advocate locally, State and National level for all types of libraries. This year we reviewed membership by region, network, and academics. We targeted the areas that we did not have representation. As a result of this effort, we are happy to announce that Noreen O’Gara from Bedford (MLN), Marie LeTarte from Clinton (CW MARS) and Kimberly Lynn from Andover joined the Committee. Amy Lewontin represented the academic libraries, however due to the current economic environment, she needed to step down. She asked the Committee to always include the academics when planning our activities. Jeanette Lundgren, CW MARS Network Administrator also joined the Committee. We meet throughout the year, typically every other month unless we are gearing up for the State budget season. Jennifer Harris (Plymouth) will co-chair the Committee with William Adamczyk (Milton) for the FY21. Meetings are held at Minuteman Library Network, MLS and remotely. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we began Virtual Meetings only as of April 17th and will continue until further notice in FY21.

The Sub-committee to organize Library Legislative Day at the State House was comprised of Tressa Santillo, (MLS), J ayme Viveiros, (Lakeville) and Catherine Halpin, (BPL). The purpose is to organize in conjunction with MSLA, with WMLA and CMLA feature; the advocacy effort to support the MBLC Library Legislative Agenda at the State House. The committee was in full swing, we had planned the date on April 2nd, 2020. However, the State House Events co-ordinator contacted the Committee in February to say all events were cancelled due to COVID-19. The new date, if at all, would not be until September. As the budget process is in the House and Senate throughout April, May and June, we were stopped in the water. Through a major brain storming effort on behalf of the Legislative Committee, four (4) Virtual Legislative Day events were designed within a two week period and implemented. Congratulations and thanks go to all the committee members, Roland Ochensbein, Chair of MBLC, James Lonerghan and Mary Rose Quinn, Will Adamczyk’s skill and patience in using the GoToMeeting software to host a maximum of 150 attendees per event and all the Senators, Representatives and aides who registered and attended (15). We considered this Virtual approach as successful by acknowledging approximately 400 attendees. The Committee intends to keep the Virtual Event concept in play for next year, while hosting an in-person event at the State House in 2021.

One result from the Virtual events was a run on advocacy for the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP) after Rep. Murray and Rep. Higgins co-authored a bill to increase the line from \$100,000,000 to \$150,000,000. Many of our Legislators signed on the bill and the use of the CQ Engage email topped over 500 actions.

NOTE: All Legislators made it very clear that the budget lines are in jeopardy as COVID-19 has wrecked havoc with the Commonwealth’s economy. While we always advocate for strong budget line support – we primarily need to provide the message that we cannot lose even more ground that we already have from previous difficult budget cycles. State Aid to Public Libraries is the method which most Libraries stay afloat so strong support is essential.

The CQ Engage Advocacy Software was reinvigorated by Will Adamczyk and put to use more effectively through all user type emails sent from the Legislative Committee. The site now has at least three messages that anyone can access; specific engage messages are now designed as the Legislators move through the budget process. The user can sign in to locate their local Legislators. People are encouraged to personalize the message; Legislators respond to direct communication when learning what our Libraries need to thrive.

The Committee also works with MSLA liaison to the Legislative Committee and receives updates on MSLA advocacy work and plans for the next year. We supported a letter to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary re: Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act (UELMA). We sign off on the MBLC Legislative Annual Agenda and we review letters that MLA EBoard or Administrative Board propose such as addressing Lynda.com, Overdrive and MacMillan's embargo and most recently – the Protect Library Workers discussion was held. A representative from Census2020 attended one meeting where he discussed how Libraries will play a role in helping people fill out the census as well as gain employment from the Census division.

The Legislative Committee efforts also include:

- Promoting Legislative breakfasts throughout the Commonwealth and maintain a calendar of events. This year we hosted a total of 17 events and we plan to add a tracking function in FY21.
- The Committee promotes library supporters across the state write to their legislators about library funding, to attend Library Legislative Day, and to advocate for IMLS funding.
- The social media campaign, #supportMALibraries continues to be used.
- Funding for the Massachusetts Center for the Book is supported through the MBLC Legislative Agenda.
- A stronger connection has been developed with the Library Caucus; efforts are being made to meet with the Library Caucus at some point during the budget cycle.
- The committee planned a session at the annual conference in May : *Meet Your Legislative Committee and Library Caucus*. As the conference was cancelled in 2020, we hope to host the session in 2021.

Ultimately, the effort is always to encourage advocacy training for the library community.

The final meeting this year will be June 19th where we will set the meeting schedule for FY21.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Harris



Library Information Technology Section Annual Report 2020

The Library Information Technology (LIT) section is still trying to find its footing, but we are hopeful that the momentum we began to start in FY20 will continue. LIT aspires to direct resources and attention to the important work of libraries providing tech training and support; it aims to help library workers navigate the new realities of work and life in the 21st century.

In partnership with the MLA Intellectual Freedom and Social Responsibility Committee (IF/SRC), LIT has contributed to legislative and advocacy efforts geared at ensuring an equitable and democratic future in the face of surveillance technologies, disinformation, and algorithmic prejudice. We have so far worked with MLA's Executive Board to pressure LinkedIn/Lynda to rethink their library login policies and to support facial recognition ban legislation in Massachusetts.

Technology is a part of all of our lives now, at work and at home, and it directly impacts what educators call "participatory readiness," or our ability to participate in a democratic society.

Our two main goals are as follows:

- 1) We will talk and think critically about technology and its impacts on our patrons, colleagues, friends, and family.
- 2) We will bolster each other's efforts to provide tech instruction and support for our libraries--that could mean anything from barcode scanners to laser cutters.

LIT will continue efforts to recruit for the section in FY21 and offer guidance and support to other MLA sections as requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Callan Bignoli, Chair



Membership Committee 2020 Annual Report

As of May 20th, the Massachusetts Library Association has 487 members. 54 are members within one of the 13 Gold or 5 Platinum Institutional memberships. Membership was down by 72 during FY20. The largest membership category we have is 60-79K/year. The number of joint student ALA/MLA memberships is now 78 and retirees are at 25. We had been bringing in more membership dues this year over last, up until March, however in May, we had 9 new members, including 4 students and 1 trustee.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Melissa Campbell, Co-Chair
Laurie Lessner, Co-Chair
Kim Hewitt



Paralibrarian Section Annual Report 2020

The Paralibrarian Section of the Massachusetts Library Association held seven meetings, June 2019 to May 2020, four were Virtual Meetings.

The Section's self-funded budget is balanced with income from fees generated by the PARA Certification program. With the conference cancellation, we did not receive income from Book Cart Drill Team registration fees and have not received income from our sponsor DEMCO.

The section continues to maintain a presence on the MLA web site <https://mla.wildapricot.org/paralibrarian>, the MLA blog <http://mlaparlbrarian.wordpress.com/>, Twitter [MLAParas](#), Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/MLAParalibrarians/ and in the MLA online Newsletter.

The current and 2020/2021 members of the Paralibrarian Section Executive Board are:

Annamarie McGrath, Chair
Heather Maganzini, Vice Chair
Allison Sloan, Past Chair
Lori Salotto, Secretary; PARA Review Board
Joyce Senior, Treasurer; PARA Review Board
Geraldine Deyermond, Member At-Large/Conference Committee
Karen Horn, Member At-Large/Career Development; Chair PARA Review Board
Patty Bailey, Awards Chair

Our Annual Meeting virtually on June 18th, 2020

This year's highlights

Heather Maganzini was appointed Vice Chair and will remain our social media leader.

Patty Bailey was appointed Chair of Awards replacing Heather Maganzini.

Members of the Paralibrarian section attended the New Hampshire Library Association Paralibrarian Section's first mini conference where our Career Development and Review Board Chair, Karen Horn was the Keynote speaker. Our sections announced our reciprocal agreement by which recipients of NHLA and MLA PARA Certifications will be granted reciprocal certification recognition in both states.

The Section conferred PARA Certifications on twelve candidates, representing achievements at eight libraries across the state. We are working on a way to recognize those recipients since they could not be recognized at the conference. (see attached list).

The Career Development committee hosted a training for the Paralibrarian Recognition of Achievement (PARA) Certification at The Newburyport Public Library in September with eight attendees.

The PARA Review Board presented a revision of the PARA Certification Guidelines in 2020, continuing to clarify and make the review process more streamlined. These new guidelines will take effect in the 2020/2021 year.

The Awards Committee will continue to collect nominations for the Outstanding Library Support Staff of the Year and Paralibrarian Advocate of the Year until 5/29/20. The executive board will review and select the winners and announce those winners at our annual meeting on 6/18/20. We will recognize both the 2020 and 2021 winners of these awards at next year's conference.

Respectfully Submitted:
Annamarie McGrath, Chair

MLA Paralibrarian Section



Certificates for PARA
2019- 2020 Paralibrarian Section

Level 1

Marilyn Wilcox

Level 2

Jean Daley
Christine McKernan
Rachel Meier
Darshana Merchant
Katherine Szuplat

Level 3

Ireenen Cunningham
Melissa Guimont
Annamarie McGrath
Katherine Szuplat

Level 4

Joyce Senior
Lori Salotto



Public Relations Committee Annual Report 2020

The Public Relations Committee saw changes in leadership to its committee this year. Jocelyn Tavares continued as Co-Chair and welcomed Andrea Puglisi as Co-Chair to MLA's Public Relations Committee. The PR Committee remains grateful to former Co-Chair, Bernadette Rivard, for continuing to assist with MLA's Newsletter and for answering questions. MLA's PR Committee saw additions and changes in membership. We are grateful to our committee members Erin Fragola, Jennifer DelCegno and Anna Mickaelson for being so active in our committee's work.

One of our goals for 2019-2020 was to establish an active presence and to develop MLA's brand and identity through our social media accounts. We have seen a growth in followers across all of our platforms and an increased sharing, retweeting and interaction with Massachusetts Library Association. We have been using different approaches on each platform to represent our association, brand and values online.

The Association's Twitter ([@MassLibAssoc](#)) account has been very interactive with members and our library community's partners. Content shared on this platform has a focus on our industry, profession, current topics and advocacy. The Association's Instagram ([@MassLibAssoc](#)) account reposts content from within the Massachusetts library community so as to spotlight our libraries, build pride and to provide a bird's eye view of the creativity and talent across the Commonwealth. The Association's Facebook ([@MassLib](#)) account has been sharing a mix of Massachusetts library news, information about our industry and thought pieces about our larger role.

We have used this year to learn about what works for our committee and our audience. There is still work to be done on formalizing our policy and a manual to make the workflow more cohesive within our committee and with the various sections and committees in order to fulfill our role as communicator the goals, services and programs of Massachusetts Library Association.

Correspondence to the Association included a biennial email newsletter to the association, a more regular social media post, and targeted communications to the association when there were issues that MLA took a position on, such as the issues with LinkedIn Learning, MacMillan, COVID-19 Closures and our Association's calls to protect library workers. MLA's PR Committee has begun developing original visual content to reinforce formal announcements in order to make the announcements stand out and to ensure a coordinated delivery across platforms. MLA's PR Committee has also been working closely with New England Library Association's (NELA) Public Relations Committee on our shared objective of fostering an active, connected presence online.

Even-numbered years at Conference are years in which the PR Committee hosts the Hall of Fame Awards. Librarians are invited to nominate an individual who exemplifies librarians who have made a contribution to librarianship and Massachusetts librarianship. Nominations have been received by the PR Committee for this year's award. Due to the COVID-19 cancellation of conference and the upheaval caused to many of our individual libraries, the process is delayed. The PR Committee is looking for ways to honor the Hall of Fame inductees appropriately.

We've continued to work closely with the Conference Committee to make sure messaging about Annual Conference has been delivered to librarians across Massachusetts. While disappointed that the conference was cancelled this year, we will continue to work with Conference in their preparation for 2021 Annual Conference. We have also been working with Administration, Reader's Advisory, and Technology Sections on pushing out content related to their Sections. We remain open to working with the Association's various Committees and Sections on sharing content, information and/or themes that they would like to see integrated into the Association's messaging.

We thank all of our peers on the Executive Board for their help in our successful year.

Respectfully submitted,
Jocelyn Tavares & Andrea Puglisi, Co-Chairs



Reader's Advisory Section Annual Report 2020

The Reader's Advisory (RA) Section had a busy first year. We held bi-monthly meetings at the Shrewsbury Public Library (with phone in option) and shifted to online meetings via Zoom after the activation of the safer at home advisory. We saw an increase in attendance from approximately six to over twenty people when we moved our meetings online.

The RA Section's officers were: Pam Aghababian, co-chair; Alene Moroni, co-chair; Anna Mickelsen, Secretary; Tricia Craig, Treasurer; Kristi Chadwick, Sisters in Crime New England liaison. We thank Diane Annunziato, Nanci Milone Hill, and Molly Riportella for their roles in section leadership.

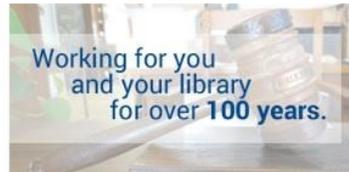
We spent much of our first year getting the section up and running. After officers were elected at our first meeting, we created section bylaws and brainstormed ideas to carry the Reader's Advisory Section forward. We submitted many program panels for the MLA Annual Conference in May and were looking forward to bringing RA training and events to the MLA community. We are disappointed not to have had the opportunity to make in person connections offered by the annual conference.

We also created a relationship with the regional writers' group Sisters in Crime New England (SiNCE) as a way of exposing library workers to a genre they may not be familiar with, and connecting library workers with authors. We are exploring ways that our two organizations can support each other. We are also looking at other similar organizations that we can partner with in the future.

By the end of the year, we started including short genre overviews in our meetings as a way of attracting new members and increased attendance. We have looked at mysteries and literary fiction, and we are excited to be able to share our knowledge and learn from others during these conversations. We designed a survey to send the Massachusetts library community asking what the section can do to support RA in the commonwealth, and are in the process of revising it to better reflect our situation as library work moves forward.

We encourage MLA members who are interested in Reader's Advisory service to consider joining this section, and we look forward to growing our membership in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Aghababian and Alene Moroni, Co-Chairs



Reference User Services Section (RUSS) Annual Report 2020

- We had a great year!
- The section's officers were:
 - Co-Chair: Sarah Breen, Reference Librarian/Audiovisual Specialist, Needham Free Public Library
 - Co-Chair: Rebecca Lemos, Staff Librarian, Newburyport Public Library
 - Secretary: Sara Kelso, Assistant Director, Newburyport Public Library
- We had three meetings this year. In August we met at the Needham Free Public Library to discuss going fine free. In November and February we met at the Massachusetts Library System in Marlborough where we discussed the United States 2020 census, and best practices for providing mental health information in libraries. Our last meeting of the year was scheduled for May where we were to discuss aging patrons but that meeting was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19.
- RUSS was planning to sponsor several programs at the MLA Annual Conference which was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Breen
Co-Chair
MLA RUSS



Youth Services Section Annual Report 2020

This year YSS visited Marlborough, Chicopee, and Tewksbury for our meetings. Due to COVID-19, our last meeting was held virtually on GoTo Meeting.

We held a contest to select a new logo for our section by putting out a call on listservs and our section's social media. Over a dozen entries were submitted and voted on anonymously. A tiebreaker vote was necessary, and in the end, the logo below became the new YSS logo for use on our materials and social media accounts. It was designed by Katrina Lewin of Tewksbury.

The Youth Services Section also looked to the past success of the "Tattooed Youth Librarians of Massachusetts" calendar (circa 2012) to a fundraising initiative. We decided to develop a spiral-bound planner featuring Massachusetts librarians' pets. The planner is not tied to any specific year so they can be reprinted at any time if need be. We charged an entry fee of \$5 per photo and received 32 pet photos from across the state and across library positions (not just from youth librarians). The planner was designed in Canva and printed by Staples. The initial print run was 24 and we sold 8 planners at \$25 each. Probably due to COVID-19, we have not received more orders since early March and we cannot fulfill them at present due to MLS Delivery being suspended. We look forward to presenting them as a "clean slate" once libraries get back up and running. We are also offering magnets for sale. All of these items are available on the YSS Merch page on the MLA website. Our goal is to develop a scholarship for a youth librarian, library worker, or student focusing on youth services to attend conference on "Youth Day" (traditionally the second day of conference).

At the time of this writing, YSS is electing new officers for the three board positions of Chair, Conference Committee Liaison, and Secretary. Voting should be concluded on June 8 by the time of the virtual annual meeting. We have two candidates running for each position.

Our goals for next year are to widen our reach and get more people in youth services actively participating in the Youth Services Section. Ideas for this include quarterly in-person meetups, a YSS e-newsletter, and more robust advertising of our meetings and ways to get involved, including virtually. The landscape of youth librarianship (and all librarianship) has changed and we will change along with it as necessary. Thank you for having me as the Chair of YSS for the past two years.

Respectfully submitted,
Marissa Antosh, Chair