



December 2021



FEATURED KEYNOTES

IOWA LIBRARIES

Online Conference



Cindy Fesemyer:
Community Potlucks to City Planning



William Ottens:
Librarian Problems? Just Say Yes



ALA Libraries Transforming Communities:
Panel Discussion

Thursday, January 20, Sessions All Day

Morning Keynote

From Community Potlucks to City Planning. Presented by Cindy Fesemyer. Cindy was a newcomer to a small rural community when she took the job as the new library director. During her seven years in that position, she grew from a newbie to a strong community advocate. With some training, strong partnerships, and little bit of fake-it-till-you-make-it, she and her team positioned the library as a go-to resource for the entire community. She shares her experience with community engagement efforts as an example of libraries at the center of small, rural communities.

Cindy Fesemyer is the owner of Fesemyer Consulting LLC, specializing in community-centered librarianship, from strategic planning and assessment, to teaching engaged leadership workshops, to sharing her library passion via conference keynotes and webinars. Previously she served for two years as the Adult and Community Services Consultant for the State Library of Wisconsin, and seven years as the Director of Columbus (WI) Public Library where she and her team earned a runner-up honor as Library Journal's 2017 Best Small Library in America.

Noon Keynote

Librarian Problems? Just say Yes! Presented by William Ottens. Librarians may have 99 problems, but saying yes doesn't have to be one of them. William Ottens, creator of the popular Librarian Problems blog and author of *Librarian Tales: Funny, Strange, and Inspiring Dispatches from the Stacks*, will share the best, and okay, maybe the worst that can happen when you say "Yes" to out of the box solutions and new ideas. Because, let's be honest: librarians face a lot of solvable problems. William doesn't have solutions to all of them, but when librarians get together and laugh about their problems together, it's a healthy thing.

William Ottens is a librarian, author, and creator of the library-centric Librarian Problems Tumblr. He's been working in public libraries for over a decade, with experience in reference, cataloging, collection development, and administration. He's currently a Youth Services Associate with the Mid-Century (MO) Public Library, providing programming and outreach for teens and middle-graders in the Kansas City area.

Evening Keynote

ALA Libraries Transforming Communities Panel Discussion. Including Cindy Fesemyer and Panel. Small libraries have been community change agents for decades, knowing their patrons well enough to support them in attaining lofty community aspirations. Iowa libraries are full of these change makers. Join Cindy Fesemyer as she facilitates a discussion among library professionals who are taking part in ALA's Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC) Project, which awards up to \$3,000 grants to small and rural libraries. The panel includes Samantha Oakley, director of the LTC program; Laura Damon-Moore, convener of the Central Region LTC Engagement Hub; and Iowa participants in the regional hub.

[Register for ILOC](#)



PopYS Live: Let's Talk Money with Teen Patrons: Ideas and Resources to Create Financial Literacy Programs

Thursday, December 16, 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Kids and teens are ready for many money lessons you can offer - and ones their parents will want too. Oh, they're not interested in the checking account and credit card talks of yesteryear. Instead, think crypto, online banking, cyber-security, RobinHood, FinTech, FIRE and more. Like most everything, even budgets and money management have become high tech. And the library is a great place for teens to earn their financial literacy stripes.

Not sure you can give teens a millionaire mindset? Tune into a new Zoom session for librarians - presented by Joanne Kuster - and learn how to create money lessons and activities that teens will love – and appreciate. There'll be plenty of tips, ideas, resources, and Q&A.

[Register for PopYS Live](#)

More Upcoming Opportunities



Library Horizons: What's New From ARSL 2021?

Thursday, December 16, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

If you missed the Association for Rural & Small Libraries annual conference in October, but want to learn about some of the great ideas people brought back, then join this webinar to hear about attendees' favorite conference sessions. Becky Heil will host a panel of Iowa librarians sharing some of what they learned in Reno, NV.

[Register for Library Horizons](#)



Iowa Library for the Blind and Print Disabled: Youth and STEM

Wednesday, December 22, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

In collaboration with the Iowa Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, Using the "Scale Up" kits from the Iowa Governors' STEM Council grant as examples of how to make STEM resources and activities accessible. Also, examples of our Makerspace Mondays and STEM & Stories Saturdays activities.

[Register for Youth and STEM](#)

2021 Endorsement Renewal Information

Deadline approaching to renew for 2021

It's time to [head to IA Learns](#) and check the end date of your endorsement! (Visit your Profile, then click "Certifications") While we are working away from the everyone-renews-on-New Years Eve scheme, most people currently endorsed will still have that 12/31/20XX end date on their profile.

If you're looking at a 2021 renewal, it's time to get those last few hours earned and your renewal submitted. IA Learns has made this MUCH easier for all involved. All we need now (assuming you've submitted your hours for import) is a copy of your IA Learns transcript (look for the big blue "Print Transcripts Report" button on the Overview tab).

If you have not requested an import of hours, submit a combination of your paper scans and IA Learns transcript.

Reach out to the CE Team with any questions (LibContEd@Iowa.Gov).

[Renew Your Endorsement Today](#)

Featured External CE Events

Tackling Racism and Bias in the Library Catalog (PLA)

Thursday, December 16, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

In this webinar, staff from Brooklyn (NY) Public Library, New York (NY) Public Library, and BookOps will share resources for libraries looking to make and maintain local revisions to subject headings. Learn technical procedures and guidance, tips for organizing internally (including getting buy-in from leadership), and how to engage patrons and other stakeholders around these changes, regardless of the size and shape of your library.

[Register for "Tackling Racism and Bias..."](#)

What is Your Audience Thinking? Listening Methods to Gain Support for Your Mission (Nonprofit Learning Lab)

Monday, December 20, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Have you pondered "what does our audience think about our organization?" Your mission is the top priority, but if you don't know how your audience perceives it you may struggle with gaining their support for it. In this session, Emily will share why it is so important to listen to your audience and use that information to build momentum for your work.

[Register for "What is Your Audience Thinking"](#)

Pretty Sweet Tech (Nebraska State Library)

Wednesday, December 29, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

I go to a writing group every month where we write about everything under the sun. As technology became necessary to interact with the outside world during the pandemic, themes of isolation, fear of the future, and the seemingly downward direction of the world seeped into our collective writing. Thoughts of technological dystopia came naturally. Images of the Hunger Games, 1984, and Ready Player One dominated conversations. There were some dark days, followed by moments of lightheartedness, chocolate and coffee.

This session is about changing the story of technology. People fear what they don't understand. Find out how I experimented with writing exercises, book group discussions, maker activities (not the scary kind), and more to write a better world.

[Register for "Pretty Sweet Tech"](#)

Getting CE Credit

If you watch the above webinars - or any others from an outside CE provider - it's easy to get credit, just complete the form linked below within 45 days of the course to have the hours credited in your IA Learns account.

[Request for External CE Credit Form](#)

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