Rhode Island Library Association
2023 Annual Conference

Keep Calm and Read On
Supporting Each Other in the Face of Challenges

Providence Public Library, Providence, RI
May 24 - 25, 2023
#RILA2023
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Welcome
May 24 - 25, 2023
#RILA2023

Rhode Island Library Association
2023 Annual Conference
Wednesday, May 24th and Thursday, May 25th, 2023
Providence Public Library, Providence, RI

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Tina Ash, Riverside Middle School, Co-Chair
Pamela Schwieger, East Providence Public Library, Co-Chair
Megan Hamlin-Black, Rhode Island State Library
Tayla Cardillo, Cranston Public Library
Emily Goodman, Office of Library & Information Services
Ben Hanley, Barrington Public Library
Julie Holden, Cranston Public Library
Carol Derosier, East Smithfield Public Library
Tanya Paglia, Barrington Public Library
Sam Simas, Providence Public Library

Beatrice Pulliam, RILA President
Joan Mouradjian, SLRI President

Conference Brochure Designed by
Kyera Shea, East Smithfield Public Library

Thanks to our sponsors and exhibitors!

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Abigail By Gail: A Colonial Experience
AskRI
ByWater Solutions
EBSCO Information Services
Gumdrop Books
LYRASIS - Palace Project
Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium (MHEC)
Media Education Lab, URI
Network of the National Library of Medicine, Region 7
Office of Library & Information Services
Ocean State Libraries (OSL)
Plymouth Rocket, Inc.
Servicestar Microfilm and Book Scanners
StackMap
Tutor.com - The Princeton Review
University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Library and Information Studies (URI GSLIS)
World Book
# RILA 2023

## Seminar Room
- **8:00 - 8:45**
  - Registration (Empire St. Entrance) & Continental Breakfast (Auditorium Lobby)
- **8:45 - 9:45**
  - Sessions
    - Rearranging Religion to Decolonize Dewey
    - Graphic Medicine: Raising Voices and Engaging Communities Through Health Literacy
    - Writing a Land Acknowledgement: A Librarian's Experience
    - Environmental Sustainability and Youth Empowerment: Passionate Programs that Spark and Motivate Us
- **9:45 - 10:15**
  - Coffee Break sponsored by Gale & Visit Exhibitors (Grand Hall)
- **10:15 - 11:15**
  - Sessions
    - Becoming the Library Leader You Want To Be
    - Increasing Access to Digital Collections without Increasing Budgets
    - Go Play Outside! Promoting Outdoor Play and Nature Exploration To Improve Physical and Mental Health
    - Why the Public is Confused about Censorship
- **11:30 - 12:15**
  - RILA Awards & Business Meeting (Farish Auditorium)
- **12:15 - 1:00**
  - Keynote Speaker: Emily Drabinski (Farish Auditorium)
- **1:00 - 1:30**
  - Grab a Boxed Lunch (Ship Room)
- **1:45 - 2:45**
  - Sessions
    - You Don’t Need to Be a Cybersecurity Expert to Be Cybersecure!
    - Brave Libraries vs Brave Books
    - Cultivating Professional Support through Mentorship
    - Down Time Podcast Live Recording With Emily Drabinski
    - Brick by Brick: Designing a Community Art Project
- **2:45 - 3:15**
  - Cookie Break sponsored by Plymouth Rocket & Visit Exhibitors (Grand Hall)
- **3:15 - 4:15**
  - Sessions
    - Breakfast with Books: A Model for Community Outreach
    - Arte y Vecindario: Artist in Residency Program
    - Digital Public Library of America: Rhode Island Edition
    - Championing the Library: Practical Tips for Handling Difficult Patron Interactions
- **4:15**
  - Koha/Aspen Launch Party! (Ship Room)
# Conference-at-a-Glance
## Thursday, May 25

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8:00 - 8:45
Registration & Continental Breakfast Sponsored by Hope Puzzles

8:45 - 9:45
Rearranging Religion to Decolonize Dewey
SEMINAR ROOM
Elizabeth McKinstry, Matthew Vasquez Jaquith, & Tom O’Connell, Springfield City Library

This presentation describes three important parts of Springfield City Library’s project to re-classify the 200’s (Religious Subjects) according to the new alternate mapping provided by OCLC (which organizes them by chronology and geography, rather than centering on Western Christianity).

1) What the new mapping is, why we decided to take on this project, finding support, and the project planning team we put together
2) Detailed info about our steps and process from both the reference and tech services standpoint - this part includes links to and descriptions of cheat sheets and everything your library would need to take on this project
3) Real talk about ongoing work related to this project, as well as our vision for how OCLC might change this mapping to the default when enough libraries commit to the changeover, and why this project tells your community that you care about room in your collection for all religious traditions.

Graphic Medicine: Raising Voices and Engaging Communities Through Health Literacy
RHODE ISLAND ROOM
Sarah Levin-Lederer, Network of the National Library of Medicine, Region 7 & Dave Bartos, Cranston Public Library

As an introduction to graphic medicine, graphic novels and comics with a health, wellness or disease theme, with an emphasis on graphic medicine and health literacy and community engagement, this session is a chance to discuss what graphic medicine is, what resources and titles are available, and how graphic medicine has been impacted by book challenges and bans. Also hear how the Cranston Library has been developing, managing and using their collection of graphic medicine titles.

Graphic Medicine is a wide-ranging category that includes graphic memoirs, graphic non-fiction, and fiction for all age groups including adults, teens, and children. Graphic medicine works often address stigmatized or misunderstood health conditions, as well as the health implications of racism, homophobia, and transphobia. Libraries have used graphic medicine to reduce feelings of isolation by helping community members feel seen while also introducing new health topics to a wider audience. Over the last year, Graphic Medicine titles have been heavily challenged or banned including the #1 most challenged book of 2022, Gender Queer by Maia Kobabe. Challenges have also been made against other graphic medicine titles such as Hey, Kiddo by Jarrett J. Krosoczka, Fun Home by Alison Bechdel and more.

Environmental Sustainability and Youth Empowerment: Passionate Programs that Spark and Motivate Us
FAIRISH AUDITORIUM
Amy Rosa, Community Libraries of Providence

The librarians at Washington Park Library, Mount Pleasant Library and Rochambeau Library may have different job descriptions and neighborhoods they service; however, they all share the same passion—a passion to create robust, vibrant, and enthusiastic programs for the community. This similar drive has enabled them to launch a dynamic program series amid a pandemic. On their own, their programs are no less dynamic. They are THE spark. At Mount Pleasant Library, the zeal for gardening has morphed into a litany of partnerships and environmental sustainability programs for adults. Community composting efforts at the library have expanded between four locations of the Community Libraries of Providence, a series of virtual food justice workshops were organized, and partners with numerous local environmental organizations to do programming both at the library and at the neighborhood community garden were formed. Amy Rosa works with the youth in her community and aids with tools of empowerment that will foster them into becoming future leaders. She helps her interns create and run their own programs at the library focused on their own
interests such as bicycle maintenance and repair, entrepreneurship, and an LGBTQ+ support group. Learn how this library makes it look easy, absorb their enthusiasm, laugh with them and mostly importantly just listen to them talk!

Writing a Land Acknowledgement: A Librarian’s Experience
MURAL ROOM
Jessica D’Atri, Shrewsbury Public Library (MA)

This session will discuss the presenter’s experience with the process of creating a land acknowledgement. Session goals are to inspire others to begin the process at their own institutions and provide a potential roadmap to do so. Information shared will include background research on land acknowledgements, including their rationale; suggestions on how to connect with local Indigenous groups; examples to assist in writing; recommendations for creating an action plan that goes beyond words to include and pay respect to local Indigenous groups; and an outline for obtaining approval from various levels of administration. Resources and tips will be shared so that attendees leave with the tools to begin work on their own acknowledgements.

9:45 - 10:15

Coffee Break & Exhibitors
Sponsored by Gale!
GRAND HALL

10:15 - 11:15

Becoming the Library Leader You Want To Be
SEMINAR ROOM
Steve Butzel, Interim Director at Fiske Public Library (NH)

It might surprise you that becoming an effective library leader has as much to do with personal growth and wellbeing as it does with librarianship and leadership theory. In this session, we’ll explore both sides of this proverbial coin.

We will discuss what the process of developing self-mastery entails, and how it translates into library leadership effectiveness. We will also discuss how to apply these concepts to timely library leadership topics including how to effectively lead a library in the aftermath of “peak” Covid and how to deal with the tangible and intangible impacts Covid has had on your organization. We will also touch on how to approach the challenge of managing relationships with Boards when one’s plate may already feel full.

This session is designed especially for new library directors and others thinking about becoming a director or leader elsewhere within a library. Of course, all are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Increasing Access to Digital Collections without Increasing Budgets
RHODE ISLAND ROOM
James English, The Palace Project, a Division of Lyrasis

At the heart of this presentation is the discussion of access, and how libraries can reach broader audiences through creative collection management and aggregation of collections. The Palace Project is geared towards providing access to the whole of a library’s digital collections, regardless of vendor, and its simple, easy to use app is intended to target casual readers and power users alike. By exploring alternative licensing models within the Palace Marketplace—the only non-profit ebook marketplace of its kind—libraries have the opportunity to stretch their budgets further and explore titles from smaller presses, independent authors, including titles from marginalized and BIPOC authors.

Why the Public is Confused about Censorship
FARISH AUDITORIUM
Catherine Morris, Program Director for COURAGEOUS RI & Pamela Steager, Director of Community Engagement of COURAGEOUS RI

Book challenges to libraries are skyrocketing as the volume of attempted censorship efforts is unprecedented. Intimidation tactics have been used in local communities and these demands for censorship of library materials have become more well-organized and well-funded. Conflict entrepreneurs are eager to exploit public misunderstanding of the First Amendment and other laws that regulate free expression for political or economic gain.

And then there’s the practice of ostracizing, boycotting, shaming, or shunning people who have
acted or spoken in an unacceptable manner. It’s sometimes called ‘cancel culture.’ Public opinion research shows that some American adults believe that both content moderation and cancel culture are a form of censorship.

Learn how librarians can help people develop a solid understanding of censorship, content moderation and cancel culture in public discourse today.

Go Play Outside! Promoting Outdoor Play and Nature Exploration to Improve Wellness
MURAL ROOM
Sharon Babbitt, South Kingstown Public Library; Julia Landstreet & Jeanine Silversmith, South Kingstown Land Trust

Research shows that spending time outdoors has a positive impact on the mental health, physical health, and wellness of children and their caregivers. Youth Services Librarian, Sharon Babbitt, will present ways libraries can incorporate the natural world into library programming. Community partner, Julia Landstreet, Director of the South Kingstown Land Trust, will showcase Young Naturalist Backpacks, which circulate at South Kingstown Public Library and are filled with items to engage children outdoors. Jeanine Silversmith, author of The Rhode Island Family Hiking Guide and Journal, will suggest some free, accessible family hikes around the state.

11:30 - 12:15
RILA Awards & Business Meeting
FARISH AUDITORIUM

12:15 - 1:00
Keynote Speaker: Emily Drabinski
FARISH AUDITORIUM

Keynote Speaker Emily Drabinski is Critical Pedagogy Librarian at the Graduate Center, City University of New York. She publishes and presents widely on topics related to knowledge organization, information literacy, and critical perspectives in librarianship. Drabinski edits Gender and Sexuality in Information Studies, a book series from Library Juice Press/Litwin Books. She is a contributing writer at Truthout. She will serve as president of the American Library Association in 2023-24.

1:00 - 1:30
Grab a boxed lunch!
SHIP ROOM

1:45 - 2:45
You Don’t Need to Be a Cybersecurity Expert to Be Cybersecure!
SEMINAR ROOM
Beatrice Pulliam, Providence Public Library & David Demick, Ocean State Libraries

Cybersecurity is not a product to be purchased. It is a mindset and you don’t need to be an expert. We will provide a high level overview of the current threat landscape and security issues facing libraries and offer practical takeaways and tips to help libraries avoid some pitfalls when dealing with cybersecurity issues. Everyone from public service desk employees to administrators and directors can play an important role in managing security challenges. We will describe current issues and share practical recommendations.

Brave Libraries vs Brave Books
RHODE ISLAND ROOM
Aimee Fontaine & Janet Fuentes, Community Libraries of Providence
Sponsored by: Cornucopia of Rhode Island

During the second week of December 2022, Rochambeau Library of Community Libraries of Providence was targeted by Kirk Cameron’s publisher, Brave Books, as part of a publicity stunt to build attention and fervor around Cameron’s recently published book on traditional families. That initial phone call developed into a smear campaign including a mention by name in a Fox News Digital article and in a Tucker Carlson interview with Cameron himself. Within the library, staff
Wednesday
May 24

#RILA2023

handled almost 500 aggressive phone calls, 100 accusatory emails and endless vitriol on social media. Despite this onslaught of negative attention, CLPVD has continued to hold strong to its mission.

The focus of the presentation would be on how we dealt with the fallout from the challenge, as an organization and as staff most immediately affected by the incident, and on holding our ground on the types of programs we continue to offer. We think that our experience would be helpful to other libraries who face similar challenges and are unsure of how to respond and how to move forward.

Brick by Brick: Designing a Community Art Project
WORKSHOP ROOM
Siobhan Egan, Barrington Public Library

This presentation will detail Barrington Public Library’s initiative to improve our library outdoor space and complete a community art project. In Summer 2022, we held a series of workshops for our community to paint Book Bricks (bricks that look like books) that we would then use to beautify an area near the library entrance. We had over 90 participants and it was a true all ages and multigenerational program and engaged community members from the age of 2 all the way to 82. This presentation will outline this project as well as provide tips, tricks, and best practices for other libraries to develop and execute their own community art projects.

Cultivating Professional Support through Mentorship
MURAL ROOM
Meredith Bonds-Harmon & Katrina Donavan, East Providence Public Library

The RILA Career Mentorship program is useful for matching professionals in our field with students and other emerging colleagues seeking guidance and support. But, some pairings are more successful than others. What attitudes, approaches, and frameworks can help foster the best possible mentor-mentee relationships?

Session leaders will use humor and storytelling to recount some stories of mentorship program experiences. And, the presentation will encourage reflection through activities designed to help participants discover what skills and needs they would bring to a mentor-mentee partnership.

Down Time With the Cranston Public Library Live Recording with Emily Drabinski @ RILA Conference
FARISH AUDITORIUM
Tayla Cardillo & Dave Bartos, Cranston Public Library

Each week on Down Time with Cranston Public Library, host Tayla Cardillo chats with library staff, community members, and authors about what they’ve been reading, what they’ve been watching, and a third topic guided by guest interests. Join us for our second year recording in front of a live audience at the RILA conference. Tayla will be in conversation with ALA president-elect Emily Drabinski and Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Director of the American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom.

2:45 - 3:15

Cookie Break & Exhibitors
Sponsored by Plymouth Rocket!
GRAND HALL

3:15 - 4:15

Breakfast with Books: A Model for Community Outreach
SEMINAR ROOM
Ben Hanley & Siobhan Egan, Barrington Public Library

Breakfast with Books is a community outreach program for senior adults in Barrington, RI. Starting in 2017, and only interrupted by the pandemic, this program is led by library staff who discuss current books with residents at a local assisted living facility. The hour-long discussion is an opportunity to talk books, introduce the library and staff, highlight library services, and engage with our community, especially with those prone to loneliness or isolation and those who cannot physically come to the library. In this presentation, we will outline the Breakfast with Books program model and show how other libraries can use the model to reach out to senior adults or other underserved populations in their communities.
Arte y Vecindario: Artist in Residency Program at Community Libraries of Providence
RHODE ISLAND ROOM
Cheryl Space & Jourdan Hernan, Community Libraries of Providence

In the Spring and Summer of 2022, with a Strengthening Libraries Project Grant from the RI Office of Library and Information Services (American Rescue Plan Act funds), Community Libraries of Providence partnered with Hernán Jourdan, Ministry of Future Access, to support and implement three artist in residence programs at the Mt. Pleasant, Knight Memorial, and South Providence Libraries. Each creative residency provided resources to artists, including space, funding, equipment/supplies, and institutional aid, in order to foster a creative process as well as their artistic practice.

Join Hernán Jourdan and Cheryl Space, Library Director, to learn more about the steps in creating the structure and support for the residency program, library staff inputs, methods of community engagement, program evaluation and outcomes, and next steps. Consider how your library might support an artist in residence program and engage your library community in a shared creative process.

Bringing the Ocean State into the Digital Sea
MURAL ROOM
Pablo Morales Henry, OLIS & Mairelys Lemus-Rojas, Brown University

Rhode Island will have its own Digital Public Library of America hub. Join us to learn about the process through which the Digital Library of Rhode Island (D-LORI) is taking shape, the benefits it will bring to current and future member institutions, the process and challenges to bring this project to fruition, learn about some of the collection from our inaugural dataset, and the plans we have to expand services and access to organizations across the state.

Championing the Library: Practical Tips for Handling Difficult Patron Interactions
FARISH AUDITORIUM
Kit Grant, Public Relations, Media, and Crisis Communications Specialist & Meredith Bonds-Harmon, East Providence Public Library

The library is here for everyone with knowledge, resources, and community. And as the living embodiment of this principle, it’s good for staff to refresh on how to uphold this even as we deal with tricky patrons, the resources and practices that can help the person as much as we can and let us get on with the day.

4:15
Koha/Aspen Launch Party!
SHIP ROOM
Ocean State Libraries & Bywater Solutions

Ocean State Libraries just launched the Koha ILS and Aspen Discovery on May 22. Join your colleagues to celebrate our achievement! The OSL and ByWater teams will host a mix of launch-related fun and games with the best swag and prizes at the conference.
8:00 - 8:45
Registration & Continental Breakfast
Sponsored by Hope Puzzles

8:45 - 9:45
Strength in Storytelling
FARISH AUDITORIUM
Charlene Williams, Wheeler School

Strength in Storytelling is a presentation I built for a group called Women United, a branch of the United Way organization. This presentation teaches and inspires attendees to understand the power of storytelling with our children. There is power in storytelling with our own children, children we teach and/or service in our libraries. Stories are powerful because they allow children to see themselves and their experiences reflected and it also gives a window into the experiences of others. We use books all the time to tell stories and we can build on those stories and connect to our own. This presentation also provides resources for families and professionals to tap into so they can build experience and broaden their understanding of telling stories.

Rhode Island Children’s Book Award 2024 Reveal. Book Talk with the RICBA Committee!
RHODE ISLAND ROOM
Nomi Hague, Cranston Public Library

Library & Pam Miech, Warwick Public Library

The Rhode Island Children’s Book Award presentation will include an introduction to the twenty titles nominated for the 2024 RI Children’s Book Award. Members of the RI Children's Book Award committee will introduce and give a description of each nominated title. This will include an overview of the title, as well as, the genre/format, subject headings and the targeted age group for each nominee. Presenters will also discuss what is involved in being a member of the RI Children's Book Award committee, and how public librarians, teachers and school librarians can get involved. We will also be able to discuss the selection process of nominated titles and answer any questions from the audience.

Rack of Eye: Managing Implicit Bias in Collections at Steamship Historical Society
MURAL ROOM
Astrid Drew, Archivist, Steamship Historical Society of America

The Steamship Historical Society archives includes a broad range of materials related to maritime history, including a reference library. The subjects covered in the library and collections have a natural bent toward the interests of the original founders and donors of the society: marine engineering, travel and tourism, maritime art. Though subjects include working class people, those voices were rarely highlighted. So how does a small organization like ours include diverse voices given the nature of the materials our early founders and members chose to preserve?

The maritime term “rack of eye” refers to boat building without blueprints or plans. We will share challenges met and methods used to highlight the work and life of underrepresented groups in our collections, including people of color, women, and lower income travelers. We hope by sharing our experiences, others may benefit without, as we did, having to draw up the blueprint as they go.

Book Talk Blitz: RITBA 2024
SEMINAR ROOM
Alyssa Taft, Cranston Public Library & Sarah Hunicke, Portsmouth High School

Can we do 75 booktalks in under an hour? Yes we can! Join Sarah Hunicke and Alyssa Taft as they booktalk 75 recent titles they are excited about, including the 2024 Rhode Island Teen Book Award nominee list. If you are excited to talk about young adult literature, this session is for you!

9:45 - 10:15
Coffee Break & Exhibitors
Sponsored by EBSCO!
GRAND HALL

10:15 - 11:15
Promoting eBooks and Audiobooks for All Ages in Schools
SEMINAR ROOM
Michelle Steever, Jamestown School District; Peggy Chace, Eldredge Elementary School; & Melanie Roy, Barrington Middle
eBooks, Audiobooks and digital magazines offer valuable alternatives to books in print. Students in school libraries that subscribe to Overdrive have access to a revolving door of popular book titles for every age group, interest area and reading level. Add a public library card, and book availability grows exponentially. The purpose of this presentation is to present successful ways three school librarians curate, evaluate and promote their digital book collections to their patrons. The goals are for participants to leave inspired to utilize digital resources in their schools, and to create and promote digital collections specific to their curriculum and student populations.

Empowering Youth through Data for Good: A Model of High-Impact Education and Social Innovation
RHODE ISLAND ROOM
Kate Aubin, Dexter Strong, & Sherry Lehane, Providence Public Library

Data for Good pairs youth and adults with nonprofit clients who seek to answer questions or solve a problem that is grounded in their organization’s data. In this facilitated discussion, team members from Providence Public Library (PPL) in Rhode Island will share this project-based education and employment program that teaches data science skills to teens. The goal of this program is to empower community members with the tools and connections to use these data skills for social good—to explore and analyze social issues that are of personal interest or to use these skills to increase the capacity of community nonprofits, social service providers, government agencies, and other stakeholders to actualize their data.

Come and learn how your organization can create partnerships with libraries, museums, or other non profit organizations to engage youth or adults in Data for Good programs, empower them to look critically at data, and learn valuable workforce skills. We will share how we have structured the Teen Data for Good program at PPL, what it can look like to work across systems, and what we’ve learned along the way!

First Amendment 101: Common Exceptions to Free Speech Protection
FARISH AUDITORIUM
Justin Silverman, New England First Amendment Coalition
Sponsored by: RIla’s Intellectual Freedom Committee

While the First Amendment protects our right to free speech, that protection is not absolute. This discussion will address common exceptions to our right to free speech and explore the seminal cases that helped shape the boundaries of First Amendment protection. Attendees will be introduced to the legal concepts of incitement, libel, obscenity and true threats, among others.

Holocaust and Genocide Awareness
MURAL ROOM
Marty Cooper, Chair of the Rhode Island Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education

The month of April is designated by the state as Holocaust and Genocide Awareness. The purpose is to let people know they have a role in helping to bring an end to discriminatory practices. Libraries, especially today are in a unique position to bring awareness to this issue, be it simply promoting books and other resources to the general public and/or having speakers address the issue in the library. The library is also a learning resource for students in RI middle and high schools on this issue.

11:30 - 12:15

Keynote Speaker:
Deborah Caldwell-Stone
FARISH AUDITORIUM

Keynote Speaker Deborah Caldwell-Stone is the Director of the American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom and the Executive Director of the Freedom to Read Foundation. She is a former appellate litigator who works closely with librarians, trustees, and educators on a wide range of intellectual freedom issues. She advises ALA’s Intellectual Freedom Committee and its Privacy Subcommittee on law and policy concerns and has served on the faculty of the ALA-sponsored Lawyers for Libraries and Law for Librarians workshops. She is a contributor to the 9th edition of the Intellectual

12:15 - 1:00
Grab a boxed lunch!
SHIP ROOM

1:00 - 2:00
Check Out Your Stronger Well-being
SEMINAR ROOM
Maria Holme, Your Next Step with Maria Holme

Through challenging times there is an increase of stressors on library staff and decrease in emotional well-being maintenance. Offered in this energetic presentation, attendees will hear about daily practices for home and work that encourages levity for themselves that will extend by the ripple effect to coworkers, patrons and family. Also shared will be the importance of an Emotional Toolkit, what it is and how to have it. Tips for mindfulness, breathing and self care routines are offered, along with helpful techniques to try during the presentation.

Basic Digitization
RHODE ISLAND ROOM
Erin Redihan, CUNY

The purpose of this session is to demonstrate basic digitization tips for print materials and VHS tapes to increase their public accessibility. The goal of the project at the center of this presentation was to digitize public photos, documents, and records at minimal cost and to create a searchable database that can be linked to a library’s website. The tools used here were relatively low cost (access to google drive/sheets/forms, VHS to mp4 converter, document scanner, external hard drive) and easy to teach new users. While this was an academic project, this presentation will explain how it could be adapted to public libraries with minimal changes. As more libraries are moving to RFID and more tasks become automated, projects like this can offer a way to engage staff with a project that has tangible results and that can increase access to library materials for patrons both in person and remotely. This project was made possible by grant funds provided by City University of New York's Black, Race, and Ethnic Studies Initiative (BRESI) grant program.

Camp Kaleidoscope - A Grant-Funded Program for LGBTQIA+ Teens
FARISH AUDITORIUM
Kelly Parlin & Amy Rosa,
Community Libraries of Providence

The Community Libraries of Providence received a “Centering Joy: Celebrating LGBTQIA+ Youth and Their Allies” grant from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation which funded a series of free workshops and presentations for LGBTQIA+ teens called Camp Kaleidoscope. With themes of Queer Health, Gender Presentation & Identity, Queer Artivism, and Gender Affirmation, the camp brought together queer community members and representatives from local LGBTQIA+ organizations to do fun activities with the teens and make them aware of resources available to them.

In this presentation, we will discuss how the program went from beginning to end. We will go over the planning process, including the grant proposal, getting input from teens, and connecting with community partners. We will also talk about what went well, what could have been improved, and strategies for implementing a similar program at other libraries/institutions.

Rhode Island Latino Books Award
MURAL ROOM
Maria Cotto, Pawtucket Public Library & Kathleen Lynch,
Meadowbrook Farms Elementary School

The Rhode Island Latino Books Award Committee was established in 2014 by the Rhode Island Latino Arts (RILA) with the purpose of promoting literacy amongst Latinos through the celebration of Latino authors, illustrators, and books that highlight Latino culture and Latin American identity. Through this year-long celebration, RILBA encourages librarians, teachers, educators, and booksellers to promote books written by and for Latinos. We encourage all Rhode Islanders to read books that are written in both English and Spanish and written by Latino authors/illustrators.

2:00 - 2:30
Cookie Break & Exhibitors
Sponsored by AskRI
GRAND HALL
Digital Projects Rhode Show at PPL
SEMINAR ROOM
Beatrice Pulliam, Jordan Goffin, Jeremy Ferris, Kate Wells & Laura Motley, Providence Public Library; Phoebe Bean, Rhode Island Historical Society

Come to our session to hear about two exciting digital projects from the digital teams at Providence Public Library and Rhode Island Historical Society. In 2019, Rhode Island became one of the last states to join the Library of Congress’ Chronicling America Newspapers digital initiative. Chronicling America is part of the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), a partnership with the Rhode Island Historical Society, NEH and the Library of Congress to create a national digital resource of historically significant United States newspapers. Providence Public Library and RIHS, working with an advisory group of local historians, scholars and community stakeholders, have digitized nearly 100,000 pages of Rhode Island’s historical newspaper including Rhode Island’s first newspaper, the Rhode-Island Gazette. We’ll also share an update about the relaunch of our Nicholson Whaling Collection at its new home on ProvLibDigital.org, Providence Public Library’s digital repository. The team will highlight the William Martin Whaling Logs. Martin was a Black whaler with a career that spanned decades and over a dozen voyages. He began as a green hand and finished his career four decades later as master of the Eunice H. Adams. The Martin voyage demonstrates the important role that people of color played in this crucial American industry. By the same token, whaling and other nautical occupations are being increasingly recognized for their importance in the long struggle against slavery in the United States.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness is for Real! RHODE ISLAND ROOM Matt Amory, Canton Public Library (MA)

In 2007 the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program promised to forgive Student Loan Debt for Public Servants after 120 monthly payments, but that promise remained largely unfulfilled in 2017, and for some time afterwards. The past 2 years have seen gigantic changes to PSLF, which is now easier to achieve than ever before. The presentation will briefly review the history of the program, and describe recent changes which can help librarians (and patrons) escape their Student Loan Debt.

Current Challenges to Local Journalism and the Free Press FARISH AUDITORIUM
Justin Silverman, New England First Amendment Coalition & Ed Fitzpatrick, Boston Globe
Sponsored by: RILA’s Intellectual Freedom Committee

Join us to discuss the adversity reporters face when covering their communities and explore ways newsrooms can better meet their obligations to readers, viewers and listeners. This session is an open conversation with a local journalist and intends to give attendees a better understanding of how reporters do their job and why their work is so critical to our democracy.

RIMSBA 2024 Nominees MURAL ROOM
Abigail Dolan, Community Libraries of Providence & Britt Donahue, West Warwick Public Library

RIMSBA members will display and discuss the 2024 nominee selections. We will run through a quick recap of each book, and answer any questions about our selections. RIMSBA strives to have a diverse selection of books, both in terms of characters, settings, topics, and format, and our selections will make that clear to the RILA attendees.

3:45

SLRI Awards and Reception FARISH AUDITORIUM
Sponsored by URI Media Education Lab

Open to all! Come to celebrate SLRI award winners and reconnect with colleagues from around the state. Light refreshments will be served.
Be Courageous With Us

Join other Rhode Islanders for conversations that counter disinformation, increase civic participation, and advance media literacy.
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Providence Public Library Map

Level G

- Registration
- Ground Entrance/Exit
- Gender Neutral Restrooms
- Workshop Classroom

Level 1

- Grand Hall
- Rhode Island Room
- Ship Room
- Info Services Desk
- Children's Room
- Info Commons
- Gender Neutral Restrooms

Note: Green locations are rooms used for the conference.
Level 3

1. Farish Auditorium
2. Seminar Room
3. Mural Room
4. Exhibition Gallery
5. Restrooms

Note: Green locations are rooms used for the conference.

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