2011

Libraries Build Community: Valdosta State University, Georgia, 2009-2011

Authors: Kathleen de la Peña McCook

Summary of Work - July 1, 2011 - December 31, 2011. The IMLS Strategic Plan, 2012 – 2016: Creating a Nation of Learners envisions a democratic society where communities and individuals thrive with broad public access to knowledge, cultural heritage and lifelong learning. The plan identifies the mission of IMLS to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, learning and civic engagement by providing leadership through research, policy development and grant-making

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/si_facpub
Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Scholar Commons Citation
McCook, Kathleen de la Peña, "Libraries Build Community: Valdosta State University, Georgia, 2009-2011" (2011). School of Information Faculty Publications. 112.
http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/si_facpub/112

This White Paper is brought to you for free and open access by the School of Information at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in School of Information Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact scholarcommons@usf.edu.
Program Report 4.
7.1.2011-12.31.2011
Submitted ==to GPLS.
attn. Diana J. Very

Kathleen de la Peña McCook, Consultant to the Grant.

The IMLS Strategic Plan, 2012 – 2016: Creating a Nation of Learners envisions a democratic society where communities and individuals thrive with broad public access to knowledge, cultural heritage and lifelong learning. The plan identifies the mission of IMLS to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, learning and civic engagement by providing leadership through research, policy development and grant-making.

With this strategic plan, IMLS builds on its solid foundation and targets five strategic goals. The goals focus on achieving positive public outcomes for communities and individuals; supporting the unique role of museums and libraries in preserving and providing access to collections and content; and promoting library, museum, and information service policies that ensure access to information for all Americans.

1. IMLS places the learner at the center and supports engaging experiences in libraries and museums that prepare people to be full participants in their local communities and our global society.
2. IMLS promotes museums and libraries as strong community anchors that enhance civic engagement, cultural opportunities, and economic vitality.
3. IMLS supports exemplary stewardship of museum and library collections and promotes the use of technology to facilitate discovery of knowledge and cultural heritage.
4. IMLS advises the President and Congress on plans, policies, and activities to sustain and increase public access to information and ideas.
5. IMLS achieves excellence in public management and performs as a model organization through strategic alignment of IMLS resources and prioritization of programmatic activities, maximizing value for the American public.
The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded the Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS) a 2009 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant for $680,327. The money funds the GPLS “Librarians Build Communities” program, which provides scholarships needed to prepare 45 students to be public librarians and provide them with expertise in community building.

This grant helps GPLS strengthen community support for public libraries in Georgia, addresses Georgia’s shortage of librarians and provides a model for other states.”

Report Contents:

July, 2011

Completed class.
comments
Summer 2011 class comments

- This class has expanded my view of community. Before taking this class my view of community was very limited to those in our immediate circle. Now I know better.
- This is one of the most fun class. I have taken during my whole master's degree classes. I have loved every minute even when it was hard to keep. I love all my assignments. I wish I could take it again.
- Community Building is a great concept that can be used to obtain funding for a library. It offers a great plan to build social capital via civic organizations, social programs or cultural programs. This was a great course that I have enjoyed very much. It was very educational. It is a perfect fit for the Valdosta Program.
- This course has given me so many ideas on how to connect with the local community. I have been inspired by all of you!
- I've offered the Roseville Public Library my services creating a "Water Rights Information Sheet" and will continue to attend meetings on the issue.
• The community building concept learned through course readings presented models for committed librarians to initiate a plan for community building. Methods begin by defining what values make up a community followed by assessing what are the community’s issues and challenges. Libraries then document and present reliable data making the public aware the library matters. Built up trust between the library and the community sets the platform for librarians to serve as catalyst for creating civic, cultural and social service partnerships through engagement. Effective and sustained community building requires sincere dedication and action by librarians.

• Final thoughts on community building prepare me to be an example for promoting innovative outreach in my community. Becoming aware of policy that affects librarianship is my priority. My plan of action is that of a concerned tax-paying citizen seeking information on issues that affect my community and a catalyst for positive engagement as the neighborhood librarian.

• Though this semester was a short and fast-paced, I have come away with a better understanding of what it truly means to build community. I had never really appreciated the role a library can play in community building until taking this class. Some of the best examples of this came from my assignment two experiences. Whether it is offering programming to head-start facilities or partnering with local historical societies the library builds community. I hope to take the information I have gained from this class and apply it both in the library I currently work and future libraries in which I will one day work.

• Thanks to this class, I attended my first ever city council meeting and made my way to a neat cultural center that I'd heard of, but never bothered to visit.

• Also thanks to this class, I can more clearly see how libraries and the civic, social and cultural entities in a community can work together for everyone’s mutual benefit. I intend to stand out from other job applicants by pointing out my desire to enable that sort of cooperation if hired.
"Librarians Build Communities"

Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program

Valdosta State University,
Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) program
in partnership with
Georgia Public Library Service

August 14, 2011

Agenda

Campus Maps and directions available at: http://www.valdosta.edu/vsu/diremaps

Hotel list available at: http://www.valdostatourism.com

We suggest lodgings located near exit 18 as most convenient to campus.

Workshop Location:

VSU main campus, Odum Library, Room 1480
first floor, new wing, in periodicals room.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Welcome by Dr. Wallace Koehler, Director, MLIS Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laptops distributed – Dr. Koehler and Ms. Linda Roberts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 am</td>
<td>Introductions by Dr. Kathleen de la Pena McCook, Visiting Scholar*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 10:30 am</td>
<td>Public Libraries and the Georgia Public Library Service - Dr. Linda Most, Professor, MLIS Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 – 10:45 am</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 am – 11:30 am</td>
<td>“Librarians Build Community”- an overview by K. McCook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 – 12:15 pm</td>
<td>Break-Out Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15 – 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Exchange of Ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 – 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Final thoughts and Farewell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Dr. Kathleen de la Pena McCook, Distinguished University Professor at the University of South Florida, is the consultant to the grant program. You can learn about Dr. McCook’s work at her website: [http://shell.cas.usf.edu/mccook/](http://shell.cas.usf.edu/mccook/)

**Fall 2011 class comments**

- I think the profession is definitely changing. Librarians are busting out of the stereotype and having to be more extroverted and more involved with the community. We have a responsibility to the community to keep up with the changing times (and technologies) and connect with members of the community on their own turf, not expecting to sit back and let the patrons come to us. We can't afford to be passive.
- From all the readings and assignments throughout the semester, I think it is plain to see that there is an immense desire, hunger even for a far greater sense of community. It’s something that seems to have been lost over the last few decades and needs to
be regained. And librarians can help... but they need to do the work. Simply saying that something needs to be done is not enough. Talking changes nothing, but action can actually lead to results. I think we have all learned throughout the semester that there are a variety of options available to use to help build a greater sense of community in our towns, but the key is to take advantage of these options. McCook (2000) says it best:

- Librarianship must dedicate time, resources, and commitment at the policy level to guarantee that community building is a high priority for the profession and so that the nation’s community builders include librarians as valued partners in every enterprise. Power dies the moment action ceases. There must be a librarian at every table (p. 110).
- Librarians must make their voices heard and, in my opinion, actions make the loudest voices.
- Through this class, I have come to a much stronger realization that building community means going out there and getting it. An “if you build it, they will come” attitude will not suffice in most communities, and that is what we as professionals must realize. More and more, the library as an important and permanent institution is placed further and further on the back-burner and our relevance is being diminished – and I would argue that it is because librarians are not treating their jobs as an outreach opportunity first. It has become necessary to prove to our community that we are just as important as the schools their children attend and the colleges the parents have chosen to return to. Many of our readings incorporated interviews with library professionals who have gone out into their communities and convinced its members to enter the library and see for themselves how valuable and relevant it can be to them. This often resulted in high program attendance and fun learning experiences. This class has taught me that, if the library will exit the building more often, then it is more likely to find for itself a place at the table.
- Meeting with people where they are is the key to effectively building community. Librarians have to be prepared to transport the mission and benefits of libraries to the public at venues outside of the physical library building. This may mean communicating with patrons via social media outlets or having meaningful conversations with people who are not regular library visitors in order to access their needs and interests. Promoting library services at cultural arts and civic events or to social service agencies is important also. Attending these types of forums will help librarians understand the surrounding
community and become knowledgeable about the concerns and issues prevalent in the neighborhood.

Libraries will have to be willing to welcome all of the community, when librarians make the effort to reach out and pull the public in. I sometimes feel librarians talk about wanting patrons to come, but it only takes a few loud teenagers, a rambunctious baby, or an indigent person to get them thinking about ways to keep certain people out. If libraries are serious about building community they are going to have to take the time to make accommodations and develop resources for those who may not be considered ideal patrons. Librarians may have to move past their personal comfort levels and engage with those who may have different backgrounds, languages, cultures, political beliefs, traditions, etc..., and allow the library to be the place where all of these people meet and learn from one another as a community.

- Community building is a way for libraries to reach out to citizens and promote their services and programs. This also helps libraries connect with other key organizations and businesses that are crucial to the community. Libraries increase their effectiveness and are able to truly meet the needs of the community when they know the population and their wants and needs. Key community organizations are more beneficial to the citizens when their needs are understood and much needed services are provided. This course gave me an opportunity to meet with two different professional organizations in the community. These visits helped me develop ideas and visualize how libraries can work with cultural and social service organizations to promote community building. As I am preparing to enter the field of librarianship, it is important to understand the concept of community building in libraries, and develop strategies to effectively achieve this goal. I look forward to taking what I have learned and experienced this course and using it in the field.

- It is important to communicate with the community to determine their needs. If there are ways to utilize the public library system, then we need to foster these opportunities and promote them to our users. They need to be aware of the library and taught how to access its services.

In this rapidly changing environment the library plays a major role connecting every aspect of the community. Proactivity is the crucial factor in creating a quality library program that is a fundamental part of the community. Assuming
a leadership role enables the library to develop an effective plan and process for providing library services that support the philosophy, goals and objectives of the library.

Opportunities for the library to interact with external groups can be done through various outreach efforts in local community committees. Library information service can stored and shared on the library’s website. Surveys can be an interesting method for collecting and sharing information, however they need to have a clear purpose. Often a survey is sent out but the information gathered does not help with determining a solution. Some survey questions may prove to be too broad. For example, ‘What units of study are you planning for this school year?’ is a very broad question that should usually be avoided because the state curriculum will have already predetermined the units of study.

We must assume leadership responsibility in program planning, management, and evaluation of library programs such as programming development, budgeting, facilities usage, and promotions. The library frontline staffers, management team, and the learning community needs to work as a team to create an atmosphere that inspires others to identify with and support the goals of the library.

• This semester was quiet enlightening for me. My visits to our local historical society and head start made me excited about the potential for libraries to really make a difference. The directors of both agencies were very willing to talk about ways a partnership with the library could benefit the community. It is not really “libraries against the world” in these tough economic times. There are many organizations hoping to impact communities in a positive way that would be happy to work with libraries to make a difference. Perhaps libraries just need to make the first move in forming partnerships.

Also, effective community building might often require a refocusing of the library mission. Being willing to change traditional library methods and goals is important. As our culture changes, librarians must keep pace by learning new and innovative ways to meet user needs. Library staff members must be persistent, creative, and zealous about library involvement in community building. Librarians who are passionate about their work must see how their role extends beyond the walls of the library and into the community. Community building is not
necessarily going to be an easy task, but it is certainly a worthwhile one!

- I hope the "end of profession" rumours that keep threatening librarianship are false and that our class doesn't need to be the one to defend our necessity, but being in this class has shown me we must take an active part in working with the surrounding community. This class has shown examples of ways to build community by thinking outside the parameters of traditional roles of libraries and librarians. One of the things that stuck with me the most in the class (especially since we are not yet librarians) was that this community building initiative can be implemented-actually depends on being it- by the lowest echelon of library staff up to the director and Board members.

- By appealing to those who make the laws and prominent community leaders on down to the lowest income patrons there are always opportunities if you look closely. You may not make the papers, or get Library Journal's "Library of the Year" but it doesn't negate its value. There may be partnerships forged that strengthen and enrich people's lives and there may be partnerships fraught with enmity and make you look a fool for suggesting it, nevertheless one must try and hopefully the hits will be greater than the misses.

- At my library there are programs and events that we think will be hugely popular and well attended that fall short of expectations, and then there are others that draw much more than expected without rhyme or reason- it was a perfect encapsulation of what we want our library to be- yet cannot be pinned down and copied. Both have their lessons to teach.

- So we are always trying to recreate and find things that draw people to the library besides books and other media. That is what we always need to remember and this class has shown me: don't rest on your laurels, keep striving to find classes, programs, community connections -people and groups- that keep the library current and always evolving away from stereotypes.

- In many ways, community building is about far more than libraries promoting their services. Most of that is marketing. It's about taking an active role in shaping how the community grows into itself and what it becomes. The library stands in the unique position of being able to provide support for all the different organizations of the community, rather than serving only some or itself.

This class went a long way toward showing me what a library
can do in a community, and what is expected of such a relationship. More than anything, I believe it is something that must be a two-way street. We are here to serve the community. We ask the community for support to continue to do so, but we must also lend our support to them wherever we can.

Libraries exist as a haven for knowledge and peaceful literacy. They also provide avenues for learning new skills or refining old ones. Libraries offer a quiet place to study or to enjoy a good book. Now, libraries also provide families with something akin to free daycare, a place to play loud games, and also to vent frustrations. And, you know what? That's okay.

- As usual, I become motivated by the content of a course and work toward implementing some aspects into my daily work activities. Sometimes this can be as easy as identifying that a current activity is actually community building. More often it's identifying opportunities and attempting to implement new actions. The thing I've found most surprising is the amount of time and energy investments that are required. That might sound silly. But to give it some perspective, in so many of the readings we learn about libraries that are responding to their communities. In the first week we read about how libraries added different services, storytimes and activities to meet community needs. My library is full of individuals who are excited by new ideas and willing to try new things. Even with this, new activities take a lot of work to be fully implemented. This reminded me of management classes and the importance to fully utilize team work. It's truly too much for one individual to accomplish. And I'm thankful that my system is open to these sorts of changes. I can't imagine how exceedingly difficult it would be in a hesitant system.

- As this course comes to an end and I reflect upon what I will take away with me, one thing comes to mind; the importance of libraries and librarians to be part of the communities they serve. I always thought that public libraries were part of the community and that they help the community be what it was, this class has added perspective to that view for me and tools I will be able to use in my current position and in the future as a librarian in a public library.

Knowing your community, what needs it has ways to reach out and how to work with other organizations to achieve goals in order to better serve the public are important steps to public librarianship.
This class has been an eye opener as to what constitute community building. Beyond the circulation desk are community needs that the library can fulfill. In our communities we have individuals who are marginalized due to income and have no clue as to how they will get out of the economic crunch. We also have individuals whose lack of education hampers their ability to succeed. At the rate that technological advancement is moving, some community members are being left behind. Communities today are diverse ethnically, educationally, economically, culturally, and socially and each one has its set of unique challenges. Through assessment and collaborations of the various components that make up a community, such as the local government, museums, religious institutions, and social service providers one begins to understand what needs to be done or what measures to institute to build a strong community.

Community building is a call to service, which requires the dedication of individuals and organizations focusing on specific goals and needs. Library service should not be limited to the services provided through the circulation desk. The library provides education, information, research, and entertainment. In addition, the library helps people stay connected to a world beyond their neighborhoods and provides resources that some would not be able to afford.

On the other hand, there is a resource that could be used more effectively by the library system, media organizations. Even though these organizations dedicate a portion of their programming to community outreach, the library could use local media to showcase the services and resources available. This is a win- win situation for both the media and the library because it demonstrates that both entities are concerned about the welfare of the community. In closing, if our contributions benefit the community, then we have achieved our objectives. As future information providers, to sustain and help strengthen our community’s librarians need to open more doors not just locally but globally.

• “It takes a community to build a library”

This semester I have learned so much about taking responsibility as a future librarian. It’s the librarian’s responsibility to engage the community and show all, young and old that the library belongs to them and that their voices matter.
The library can be that “third place” like coffee shops, cafes, bookstores, and hair salons, where the community can go. The library can be a neutral place where the community can meet up and engage with one another.

Also in this economic time more people are coming to library for information about jobs, job skills and entertainment (DVD’s and music) that they otherwise cannot afford. This time is the perfect opportunity to build deeper relationships with the community as we may have their undivided attention. It’s time to show the community the library’s worth.

Community building has also pushed me to start a program at my library that is geared towards the health and self esteem of women and young girls. I have already seen a good response (full sign up sheet) and received help from corporate sponsors. The readings helped me realize that I had to get the ball rolling and spark the community but to also plug into what the community needed and wanted and not just what programs I wanted to facilitate.

- I found this course to be especially interesting, especially as someone with little experience in a public library setting. In order for libraries to succeed, especially in these times, it is important that libraries not only "give" to their communities by providing access to information, but also make sure their community is being "served." Its important for a library to stay relevant to the community, build relationships, outreach, and stay in touch with what's going on in their neighborhood.

January, 2011

- Laura Bush Scholars, Cohort Two, Workshop
- Handouts
- Readings on Community Building
January 2011

Planning and writing for January 16, 2011 workshop.

Agenda and Presentation.

Librarians Building Communities
(LBC Scholars)
January 16, 2011

Q. “What will advance and transform Georgia’s libraries in the decades ahead?

A. The work and careers of the VSU LBC Scholars in the 21st Century Librarian Program.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has awarded Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS) a 2009 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant for $680,327. The money will be used to fund the GPLS “Librarians Build Communities” program, which will provide the scholarships needed to prepare 45 students to be public librarians and provide them with expertise in community building. “This grant will help GPLS strengthen community support for public libraries in Georgia, address Georgia’s shortage of librarians and provide a model for other states.”
“Libraries Build Community,” means collaborating and forming partnerships and alliances. To be effective, we need to work with other libraries, groups, organizations and individuals who share our goals. — Sarah Ann Long, ALA’s millennial president, 1999–2000, A Place at the Table: Participating in Community Building, ALA Editions, 2000.

COMMUNITY BUILDING STRATEGIES: HOW CAN LIBRARIANS ASSIST, ENGAGE, INCITE

1. creating better homes and work places;
2. creating community schools and civic places;
3. encouraging smart growth;
4. enhancing our water resources;
5. empowering individuals and communities;
6. preserving open space and farmland;
7. preserving our cultural heritage;
8. promoting transportation choices;
9. reclaiming brownfields;
10. securing safe streets; and
11. strengthening local economies.

---

THREE QUESTIONS

1. Is there something you’ve worked on that you would characterize as a successful community-building project? Why was it successful? What lessons did you learn?

2. What do you wish you could do to build community from your library, but don’t feel you have time or resources for?

3. If you could offer any advice to other library workers about community building, what would it be?

---

Below is a general reading list on community building. It will be posted at the Project blog: [Librarians Build Communities](#).

Readings on Community Building and Libraries
LBC Scholars
Laura Bush 21st Century Librarians
Valdosta State University, 2011.


LaRose, Robert, Sharon Strover, Jennifer L. Gregg and Joseph Straubhaar. 2011. "The impact of rural broadband development:


McCook, Kathleen de la Peña. 2000. A Place at the Table: Participating in Community Building. Publisher: ALA Editions.


Urban Libraries Council. 2010. Partners for the Future: Public Libraries and Local Governments Creating Sustainable Communities. This report profiles how a strategic and successful relationship between the public library and the local government can be formed in order to accomplish sustainability for a community. download free:


Compiled by Kathleen de la Peña McCook.
Valdosta State University/ Georgia Public Library Service
LBC Scholars. 2011
Laura Bush 21st Century Librarians.
Blogs Posts (hyperlinks):

1/1/2011


1/4/2011

- “Libraries Build Communities” project: ALA 2011
- Turning the Page. Building Your Library Community

1/6/2011

- New Community Engagement Colleges and Universities.
- 2011 Emerging Leaders to Develop National Libraries Build Communities Program

1/11/2011

- “Building Community Through Poetry”-Loudoun, County, Va.–Winner of the 2011 John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Awards

1/13/ 2011

- Strategic Focus & Value for Library Communities-Computers in Libraries 2011.
- Day of Service

1/14/ 2011
- **Reading is Critical to our Communities**

1/19/2011

- **Georgia and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

1/20/2011

- **Georgia Literary Festival: Mark Your Calendars**

1/22/2011

- **“Librarians Build Communities” Scholarship Kick-off Workshop Held at Valdosta State. Second Cohort.**

LBC Scholars-January 2011

1/26/2011

- **Civic Commons and Shared IT Environment.**

2/23/2011

- **The Public Library as an Anchor Institution**
• This class has expanded my view of community. Before taking this class my view of community was very limited to those in our immediate circle. Now I know better.

• This is one of the most fun class. I have taken during my whole master's degree classes. I have loved every minute even when it was hard to keep. I love all my assignments. I wish I could take it again.

• Community Building is a great concept that can be used to obtain funding for a library. It offers a great plan to build social capital via civic organizations, social programs or cultural programs. This was a great course that I have enjoyed very much. It was very educational. It is a perfect fit for the Valdosta Program.

• This course has given me so many ideas on how to connect with the local community. I have been inspired by all of you!

• I've offered the Roseville Public Library my services creating a "Water Rights Information Sheet" and will continue to attend meetings on the issue.

• The community building concept learned through course readings presented models for committed librarians to initiate a plan for community building. Methods begin by defining what values make up a community followed by assessing what are the community’s issues and challenges. Libraries then document and present reliable data making the public aware the library matters. Built up trust between the library and the community sets the platform for librarians to serve as catalyst for creating civic, cultural and social service partnerships through
engagement. Effective and sustained community building requires sincere dedication and action by librarians.

- Final thoughts on community building prepare me to be an example for promoting innovative outreach in my community. Becoming aware of policy that affects librarianship is my priority. My plan of action is that of a concerned tax-paying citizen seeking information on issues that affect my community and a catalyst for positive engagement as the neighborhood librarian.

- Though this semester was a short and fast-paced, I have come away with a better understanding of what it truly means to build community. I had never really appreciated the role a library can play in community building until taking this class. Some of the best examples of this came from my assignment two experiences. Whether it is offering programming to head-start facilities or partnering with local historical societies the library builds community. I hope to take the information I have gained from this class and apply it both in the library I currently work and future libraries in which I will one day work.

- Thanks to this class, I attended my first ever city council meeting and made my way to a neat cultural center that I'd heard of, but never bothered to visit.

- Also thanks to this class, I can more clearly see how libraries and the civic, social and cultural entities in a community can work together for everyone's mutual benefit. I intend to stand out from other job applicants by pointing out my desire to enable that sort of cooperation if hired.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS) a 2009 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant for $680,327. The money funds the GPLS “Librarians Build Communities” program, which provides scholarships needed to prepare 45 students to be public librarians and provide them with expertise in community building.

This grant helps GPLS strengthen community support for public libraries in Georgia, addresses Georgia’s shortage of librarians and provides a model for other states.”
July 2010

August 2010

Workshop for first cohort August 28, 2010.

"Librarians Build Communities"

Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program

Valdosta State University,
Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) program
in partnership with
Georgia Public Library Service

August 28, 2010

Agenda

Campus Maps and directions available at: http://www.valdosta.edu/vsu/diremaps

Hotel list available at: http://www.valdostatourism.com

We suggest lodgings located near exit 18 as most convenient to campus.

Workshop Location:

VSU main campus, Odum Library, Room 1480
first floor, new wing, in periodicals room.

9:45 am  Welcome by Dr. Wallace Koehler, Director, MLIS Program

Laptops distributed – Dr. Koehler and Ms. Lashanda Jones
10:15 am Introductions by Dr. Kathleen de la Peña McCook, Visiting Scholar*
Public Libraries and the Georgia Public Library Service - Dr. Linda Most, Professor, MLIS Program

10:45am – 12:00 ID cards at University Card Center

12:00 – 1:30 Lunch
Campus lunch options are listed here: http://services.valdosta.edu/dining/hours.aspx

1:30pm - 2:15pm “Librarians Build Community” - an overview by K. McCook

2:30pm - 3:15pm Break-Out Session

3:30pm - 4:30pm Exchange of Ideas

4:30pm - 5:00pm Final thoughts and Farewell

*Dr. Kathleen de la Pena McCook, Distinguished University Professor at the University of South Florida, is the consultant to the grant program. You can learn about Dr. McCook’s work at her website: http://shell.cas.usf.edu/mccook/

September - December, 2010

I. Blog
II. Discussion Points for Discussion Board
III. Planning for January 2011 Workshop.

I. Blog: Librarians Building Communities
http://librariansbuildcommunities.wordpress.com/
The blog, Librarians Building Communities, is an ongoing conversation among community building librarians with a Georgia focus. Sample entries:

Archive for December, 2010

- Library Director Builds Community in Tough Times. Virginia Niles demonstrates how librarians can work to build communities.

Archive for November, 2010

- How public libraries build community with technologies and programs, new and old. Libraries Build Community: from distribution to engagement - Webjunction. “Volunteering with Friends groups is rewarding experience.”

- How public libraries build community with technologies and programs, new and old. Libraries Build Community: from distribution to engagement - Webjunction.

Archive for October, 2010


- 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act. President Obama has signed the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act, which requires that smart phones, television programs and modern communications technologies are accessible to people with vision and hearing loss.

**Archive for September, 2010**

• Millennium Development Goals-Summit. With only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on world leaders to attend a summit in New York on 20-22 September to accelerate progress towards the MDGs.

**Archive for August 21, 2010**

• State Library Agencies Survey. A state library agency is the official agency of a state that is charged by state law with the extension and development of public library services throughout the state and that has adequate authority under state law to administer state plans in accordance with the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) (P.L. 104-208).

**Archive for August 20, 2010**

• Navigating a Challenging Budget Year- Your Library and its Community.

Your library, at its essence, is a community place. It is something special to everyone in your community who uses it, and even to those who don’t. In 2009, over 25 million Americans reported using their library more than 20 times in the last year.

**Archive for August 8, 2010**

• IMPORTANCE OF SUMMER READING: public libraries play a significant role in helping to close the achievement gap in school performance.

**Archive for August 2, 2010**
II. Discussion Points for Term

Discussion Points are topics for the BLAZEVIEW discussion Board at Valdosta State University

Social
Political,
Cultural
Human rights

Each December 10 as the world celebrates Human Rights Day--the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948--the world community builds solidarity and a unified vision.

Eleanor Roosevelt, who chaired the UDHR committee, was quoted as saying "Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home--so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world." Acts on behalf of human rights happen in every library every day.

1) need for professional commitment to human rights to transcend bland neutrality;
2) compare key human rights documents with the central core values of librarianship;
3) identify outstanding examples of library actions in service to human rights.

The library profession has a rich history of alignment with human-rights issues, movements, and declarations. Librarians have long been aware of the many ways human rights values intersect with the values of our profession. We may not be personally activist, or profess to be
activist, but the library profession, like medicine and law, is bound to uphold its values. Human rights values permeate library policies beyond the professional round tables inhabited by intellectual freedom, social responsibilities, and international relations. As we carry on with our duties as public service librarians, we should keep in mind our history of human rights advocacy, and note the work we do today as a continuation of the commitment to the contributions of our programs, collections, and services toward keeping an open society, a public space where democracy lives.

The American Library Association endorses this principle, which is also set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. The Preamble of this document states that "... recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world. ... and ... the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people.

: [ALA] "Article 19. Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers." (UDHR)
The Livable Communities Initiative was created by the Clinton-Gore administration in 1999 to coordinate livable communities policies and activities across eighteen branches of the executive branch of the federal government. Four categories represent ways the federal government plays a supportive role in building livable communities:

1. expanding community choices by providing incentives;
2. expanding community choices by providing information;
3. being a good neighbor; and
4. building partnerships.(FN2)

Topics addressed by the Livable Communities Initiative include:

1. creating better homes and work places;
2. creating community schools and civic places;
3. encouraging smart growth;
4. enhancing our water resources;
5. empowering individuals and communities;
6. preserving open space and farmland;
7. preserving our cultural heritage;
8. promoting transportation choices;
9. reclaiming brownfields;
10. securing safe streets; and
11. strengthening local economies.
Poor and Homeless People

Human dignity, human rights and libraries intersect on other levels when citizens are denied library service because of their economic status. Recently, lack of equitable library services to homeless individuals and families have surfaced in Valparaiso, Indiana (Library bans homeless kids from checking out books) where the board of the Porter County Public Library temporarily limited lending privileges to homeless people, and in Worcester, Massachusetts, where a class action lawsuit was filed in July and won in September by three homeless patrons. (Hammel, Reis). The Hunger, Homelessness and Poverty Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) of the American Library Association has reported on odor policies and civility campaigns that lead to the criminalization of poor people (Are public libraries criminalizing poor people?).

Gehner has tied treatment of poor and homeless people to literacy and the lack of attention to the needs of the poor by librarians: “Despite the well-established, life-long advantages that literacy and reading offer to individuals and society as a whole, we fail as a profession and as a nation, to deliver adequate resources to those who would benefit from them the most (p. 117).

In contradiction to ALA Policy 61, Library Services to the Poor and the Library Bill of Rights which promotes, among other things, “the
removal of all barriers to library and information services, particularly fees and overdue charges” (ALA Policy Manual) the profession fails to live up to its ideals and those of human rights advocates in these circumstances. Overdue fines are another barrier public libraries may wish to reconsider in the light of economic hardships.

**Spanish-Speaking People and Immigration**

In Denver, the Denver Public Library was challenged by contemporary Know-Nothings who do not support Spanish language library branches and/or Spanish language materials, focusing their protests on the genre of "fotonovelas." On August 8, 2005, the Coalition for A Closer Look (including the Colorado Minuteman Project, Sovereignty Colorado, and Colorado Alliance for Immigration Reform) held a protest at the Denver Public Library. A letter was hand-delivered to the library demanding head librarian Rick Ashton's resignation (Colorado Alliance for Immigration Reform).

A year later, Gwinnett County Public Library, outside Atlanta, Georgia, faced losing their director and cutting their Spanish language materials budget because of resident complaints. "We can't supply pleasure reading material for all language groups, so we're not going to go down that road," said Lloyd Breck, chairman of the Gwinnett County Public Library Board (Grisham en espanol?).
In *Still Struggling for Equality*, a thorough assessment of U.S. librarian initiatives to serve immigrants and minorities from 1876 to the present, Plummer Alston Jones Jr. provides hundreds examples of librarians who have looked to serve marginalized people and developed programs to provide basic information and literacy. The use of Jones’ book in concert with state and national policies and programs that were the framework for the JCLC help students and their faculty supervisors to recognize the variety of opportunities for service learning that will contribute to a world without old structures and tired ideas.

Community Engagement

*Georgia Department of Community Affairs.*

Helping Build Communities

DCA provides a variety of community development programs to help the state's communities realize their growth and development goals.
Enabling Economic Development

DCA offers a variety of economic development incentives and tools designed to help promote growth and job creation throughout the state.

Promoting Housing Options

DCA helps put all Georgia's citizens in decent housing through a range of programs designed to foster new housing development, homeownership, and improved housing choices. Learn more about the Housing Choice Voucher program.

Fostering Sustainable Development

DCA promotes sustainability, environmental protection, and enhanced quality of life by encouraging local implementation of generally accepted best growth and development practices.

http://www.dca.state.ga.us/index.asp

Examples of Community Partners

Americorps Georgia.

Georgia’s AmeriCorps members provide a diverse array of services to communities across our state, with focus on education, public safety and unmet human needs. To learn more about our AmeriCorps programs and the AmeriCorps grant application process in Georgia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albany Police Cadets</td>
<td>Denise Barnes 229-430-5304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clayton State University</td>
<td>Natasha Hutson VISIT the site 678-466-5433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communities in Schools</td>
<td>Marie-Ella Williams VISIT the site 404-888-5784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Commission VISTA project</td>
<td>Candice Gunn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Personal Assistance Services Corps (Georgia PAS Corps)</td>
<td>Marie Wandera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Sea Turtle Center</td>
<td>Jeannie Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hands on Atlanta</td>
<td>Walter Jackson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumpstart Georgia</td>
<td>Kerri Osborne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macon Police Cadets</td>
<td>Sgt. Sarita Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outward Bound Atlanta</td>
<td>Diamond LeSane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Health Access/United Way of Metro Atlanta</td>
<td>Mary Spanburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee Family Services</td>
<td>Laretia Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee Resettlement Services And Immigration Services of Atlanta (RRISA)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amanda Dean</strong></td>
<td>2235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service to Families in Fannin County</td>
<td>706-632-6063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Doug Davenport</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Corps/Hands On Atlanta</td>
<td>770-331-0982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Erin Littles</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEAM (Technology, Environment, And Movement) Program/Georgia State University</td>
<td>404-413-8071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bryan Murray</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y Corps/ Georgia Mountains YMCA</td>
<td>404-376-6013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mark Thomas</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Villages Inner Harbour Campus</td>
<td><strong>VISIT</strong> the site 770-852-6421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kayla Scrivner</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

http://www.americorpsga.org/

**Boys and Girls Clubs**

**Georgia Division of Aging Services**
The Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services administers a statewide system of services for senior citizens, their families and caregivers. We work with other aging agencies and organizations to effectively and efficiently respond to the needs of elderly Georgians. DAS meets the challenge of Georgia's growing older population through continued service improvement and innovation.

Our vision is to assist older Georgians in Living Longer, Living Safely, Living Well.

http://www.dhr.georgia.gov/portal/site/DHS/
Georgia Historical Society
http://www.georgiahistory.com/

Georgia Office of Adult Literacy
Through its 37 service delivery areas, the Office of Adult Literacy (OAL) promotes and provides adult literacy programs throughout the state of Georgia. Literacy programs are available to adults needing basic, general, or specialized skills instruction. The Office of Adult Literacy facilitates collaboration among state and local entities to improve adult literacy efforts.
http://www.dtae.org/adultlit/menu.html

The Certified Literate Community Program (CLCP) promotes literacy in Georgia by involving entire communities. By making literacy a community-wide commitment, a broad variety of community resources are mobilized to promote and support literacy training. The CLCP is a business-education-government partnership resulting in improved literacy levels of children, families, and workers in an entire community.

III. Planning for January 2011 Workshop.

How we as librarians and library supporters can "get librarians to the
table" of community decision-making, regardless of whether the "community" is a college campus, school district, city or county.

Empowering and motivating librarians is what this conference is all about.

However, even though librarians are often motivated, decision-makers frequently ignore us.

If this nation is to be wise as well as strong, if we are to achieve our destiny, then we need more new ideas for more wise men reading more good books in more public libraries. These libraries should be open to all except the censor. We must know all the facts and hear all the alternatives and listen to all the criticisms. Let us welcome controversial books and controversial authors. For the Bill of Rights is the guardian of our security as well as our liberty (Kennedy, 1960).

Today the call for community building and civic renewal resounds in the literature of the policy sciences, higher education, and the popular press. Civic renewal is the movement calling for citizens to participate in the local efforts that build community. In a city this might mean involvement in initiatives such as community development corporations; on a campus this might mean involvement in initiatives such those to create a campus environment of engagement.
Public librarians, as citizens of the community in which they work, and academic librarians, as citizens of the campus at which they work, need to participate in community initiatives and planning. By participating at the outset in planning and visioning, librarians will be at the table and in a position to identify opportunities for the library and its services to provide solutions to community and campus challenges. This is not a simple task.

For the public librarian who has identified serving adult new readers as important in a community of new Americans or an area in which there is a disproportionate high school dropout rate, there are likely already extant literacy providers, adult basic education programs, or English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Becoming a part of the planning committee for these initiatives might mean having to commit to a year or more of several meetings a month. The library may not be on the agenda. To ensure that the library becomes part of these initiatives, trust must be earned and the librarian must be included as an active partner—even if the library is not initially accepted as one part of the solution.
Is there something you’ve worked on that you’d call a successful community-building project? Why was it successful? What lessons did you learn?

What do you wish you could do to build community from your library, but don’t feel you have time or resources for?

If you could offer any advice to other library workers about community building, what would it be?


As librarians participate in the movement to build community, we are faced with a continuum of challenges: becoming part of local community indicator initiatives on one hand, and recognizing on the other that as part of the golden billion we are workers in a trusted institution. Working in libraries, we have an opportunity to enable people to aspire to greatness and to develop what Nobel laureate Amartya Sen characterizes as "human capabilities." As we study and analyze the best way in which we might contribute to community building, it is important to recognize the complexity and ambiguity of using social indicators to reveal a society’s values.(FN19) Yet from an awareness of this complexity we will participate in the process.
Additional Readings:

Readings on Community Building and Libraries
LBC Scholars
Laura Bush 21st Century Librarians
Valdosta State University


"Libraries Build Communities" 2011. ALA 2011 Register to participate in this day-long service effort at the 2011 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans to help local libraries and the community! www.alal.org/ala/aboutala/offices/cro/projectsandactivities/librariesbuildcommunities.cfm


McCook, Kathleen de la Peña. 2000. *A Place at the Table: Participating in Community Building*. Publisher: ALA Editions.


Consultant information

Kathleen de la Peña McCook is Distinguished University Professor, School of Information, University of South Florida in Tampa. She was honored as the Dr. Jean E. Coleman Library Outreach Lecturer at the 2010 American Library Association conference. Her topic was “Librarians and Human Rights.”

Kathleen is also a Visiting Scholar at Valdosta State University in Georgia working on the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program, “Librarians Build Communities (2009-2012). The Chicago Public Library honored Kathleen as its “Scholar in Residence” where she did a system-wide series of events on the role of the public library in building communities in 2003.

Kathleen received the Florida Library Association Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007; the Diversity Research Award from the ALA Office for Diversity in 2004; the Beta Phi Mu Award for distinguished service to education for librarianship in 2003; the ALA Elizabeth Futas Catalyst for Change Award in 1998, the ALA Margaret E. Monroe Adult Services Award in 1991 and the ALA Equality Award in 1987. She was the Lauretta McCusker Memorial Lecturer speaking on “Public Libraries and the Public Sphere” at Dominican University in 2003. She is past president of the Association for Library and Information Science Education and was 2002 REFORMA Latino Librarian of the Year (Trejo Award). She is a life member of REFORMA. In 1991 she was named Outstanding Alumna by the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Library and Information Studies where she earned the PhD in 1980. She earned the MA in Library Science at the University of Chicago, Graduate Library School in 1974.

Other writing by Kathleen in the 21st century includes “Human Rights as a Framework for Reflection in Service Learning: ‘Para que Otro Mundo es posible’ ” in Service Learning ed. Loriene Roy (ALA, 2009);

Appendix: Cohorts I, II and III

Cohort III
August 14, 2011

Cohort II

(Photo by Chang Woo Yang)

"In the News." Georgia Library Quarterly 47, no. 4 (Fall 2010): 16-24.

Linda R. Most Assistant Professor M.L.I.S. Program
Lashanda Jones (grant associate), Veronica Gomez-Gomez, Sharon Jones, Wallace Koehler, Kelli McDaniel, Brittany Richardson, Jennifer Lautzenheiser, Robbie Hall, Andrew Sichali, Kathleen de la Peña McCook, Thyra Sumlin, Deidre Jones, Rich Howe, Huejing (Jessie)