Creating Connections: Public Libraries & Government

- Karen Russ, Depository Coordinator, Ottenheimer Library, University of Arkansas, Little Rock
- Carolyn Ashcraft, Arkansas State Librarian and Chief Officer of State Library Agencies Liaison to GPO
- Nancy Fredericks, Library Administrator, Pasco County Library System, Florida
- Alison Griffith, Consumer Health and Government Documents Information Resource Manager, St. Charles City-County Library District
- Whitney Gerwitz, Government Documents Coordinator, St. Charles City-County Library District



Connecting with COSLA

Chief Officers of State Library Agencies



Carolyn Ashcraft

COSLA's Mission

 To provide leadership on issues of common concern and national interest, to further state library agency relationships with the federal government and national organizations, and to initiate, maintain, and support cooperative action for the improvement of library services.

Theory of Change

COSLA's Core Work:

- Advocate for state and federal policy change
- Provide guidance and advice on development and implementation of key initiatives
- Promote and support SLA peer learning and knowledge sharing
- Promote leadership development among SLA staff, including chief officers

Which Leads to:

- Increased credibility and visibility of COSLA
- More partnerships inside and outside the library field
- Increased leadership and influence of COSLA over partner agendas
- Improved opportunities for peer learning
- Increased information available to chiefs re: trends
- Increased capacity / knowledge of SLA staff

Which Leads to:

- Improved policies and sustainable funding supporting libraries
- Strengthened state library agencies
- Strengthened chief library officers

Which Helps to Create:

- Improved ability of all libraries to deliver services to library patrons and the general public nationwide
- An increased awareness of the value of libraries in the U.S.

What COSLA Does

What COSLA Changes

Unique Characteristics

- National Reach
- A Network of Peers
- Cross-State Lens
- Recognized Leadership
- Channel Partner

Key Areas of Focus

Strengthen State Library Agencies

- Increase the knowledge, skills, and leadership capacity of State Library Agency staff
- Share expertise across states to enhance the effectiveness of state programming for libraries
- Equip agency staff to make the case for the sustained value of state library agencies

2 Strengthen the Library Field

- Proactively engage in national projects and library initiatives
- Promote supportive federal policies and sustainable funding for all libraries
- Form strategic partnerships within and beyond the library field to benefit all libraries

Selected Current Initiatives

- Promoting value of federal funding, IMLS
- "Measures that Matter" data initiative
- Broadband and E-Rate Assessment and Planning
- Promoting importance of net neutrality
- Supporting partners in grants focusing on STEM, national digital platform, and e-rate support

Strong Suits

- Piloting
- Scaling
- Distribution
- Assessing
- Convening
- Continuing education development and delivery

Inner Workings

- 3 national meetings annually
- Numerous (and growing) # of regional meetings
- Association staff + contractors
- Active committee structure
- Communities of practice

For more information, contact:

- Carolyn Ashcraft
- Arkansas State Librarian
- COSLA Liaison to GPO
- Carolyn@library.arkansas.gov
- 501.682.1526

Timothy Cherubini

COSLA Executive Director

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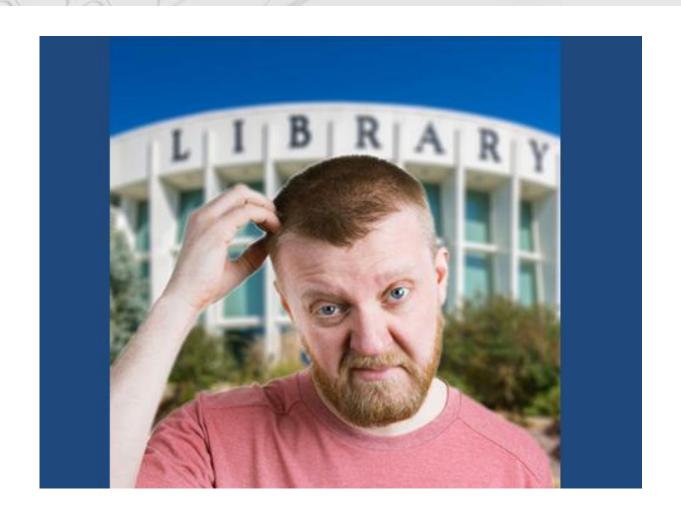
859.514.9826

E-Government Services in Public Libraries

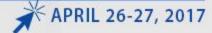
Nancy Fredericks









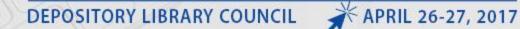


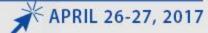


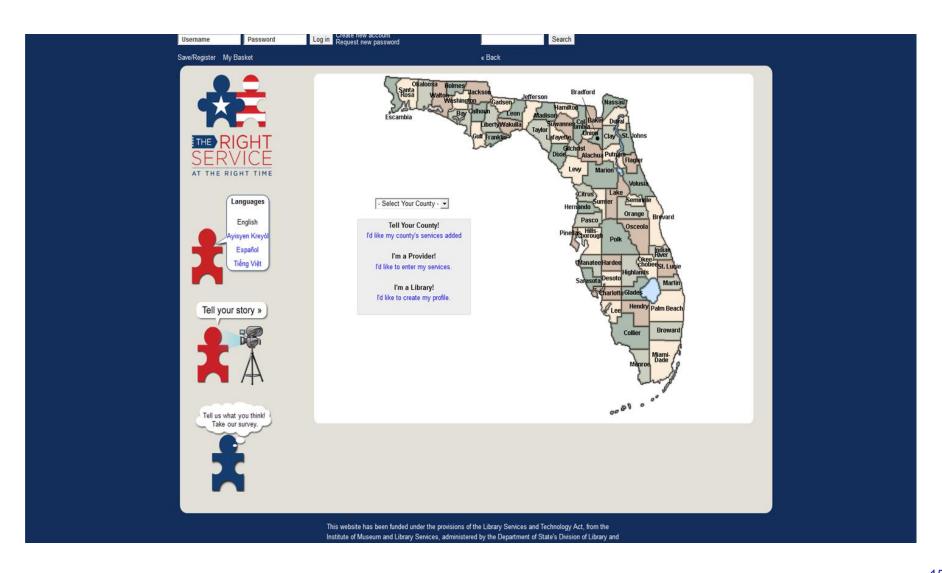












St. Charles City-County Library District (Missouri)



Alison Griffith, MLIS, Consumer Health and Government Documents Information Resource Manager

Whitney Gerwitz, MA
Military History,
Consumer Health and
Government Documents
Coordinator

That's nice; where are the tax forms?







E-Government and Services



YOUR HEALTHY ANSWERPLACE

COVERAGE TO CARE: HEALTH INSURANCE OPEN LAB

An Insurance Navigator from the Cover Missouri Coalition will give individual consultations on health insurance statements, bills, plan details, patient advocacy, and enrollment options. Please bring all documents with you.

MK Thursday, September 8 2:00 pm * Individuals will be see on a walk-in basis. No appointment needed. Los pacientes de habla hispana bienvenida!

COVERAGE TO CARE: CHOOSING THE RIGHT INSURANCE PLAN

Selecting the right health insurance plan can be confusing. Learn how to evaluate options based on your family's health & financial needs.

MK Wednesday, September 21 6:30 pm Thursday, September 22 2:00 pm Individuals will be seen on a walk-in basis. No appointment needed. Bienvenidos, se habla español!

Civic Engagement





CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

CELEBRATE CONSTITUTION DAY!

Come celebrate Constitution Day with us! We'll have trivia, games, crafts, and a photo booth with fun props. Learn about government apps and websites that are not only educational but fun! We will even have a writing station where you can write or email your local government officials.

MK Friday, September 16

All Day *

KNOW YOUR GOVERNMENT!

With the election coming up, have you ever wondered, "How does our government really work?" Join us as Lindenwood University political science professor and political analyst, Dr. Joseph Cernik, discusses the role of government, how it functions, and the need to understand it.

Civic Engagement





Digital and Media Literacy





VOTE SMART 2016: GOVERNMENT APPS FOR INFORMED VOTERS

Demo free government apps to help you track the candidates and issues this election season.

Tuesday, May 24 Wednesday, June 29

6:30 pm 10:30 am





Collection Highlights



Today in **CONGRESS**

Senate

Confirmation vote for Wilbur Ross, nominee for **Secretary of Commerce**

Cloture vote on the nomination of Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) as Secretary of the Interior

Check out what's happening in Congress!

Monday, February 27, 2017

House

H.R. 1033: Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act

S. 442: National Aeronautics and **Space Administration Transition** Authorization Act of 2017

H.R. 88: Shiloh National Military Park Boundary Adjustment and Parker's Crossroads Battlefield **Designation Act**

H.R. 228: Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2017

H.R. 699: Mount Hood Cooper Spur Land Exchange Clarification Act

H.R. 863: To facilitate the addition of park administration at the Coltsville National **Historical Park**



