Whither *Intercom*? by Kathryn Ray

Over the past 112 years, communication with members has taken many forms. During our centennial celebration, research in the archives produced a copy of “Library Association of Washington City Handbook with notes on Libraries in Washington” dated 1897. The first newsletter was *D.C. Libraries*. Volume 1, number 1 was dated October 1929. *D.C. Libraries* later evolved into a journal with fewer, but more in-depth articles. When printing and postage became serious issues, however, *D.C. Libraries* was put to rest and a newsletter entitled *Intercom* arrived on the scene.

Circa 1984, I submitted my first article for *Intercom*. While a little fuzzy on the date, I clearly recall writing my chapter councilor’s report in longhand, getting in my car, and driving from Dupont Circle to McLean so that editor Jacque-Lynne Schulman could take the report to work the next day. Jacque-Lynne and co-editor Mary Feldman took turns producing DCLA’s newsletter on their word processors. Blackberries, blogs, IM, e-mail, list-servs, www, cell phones and even answering machines for everyone were futurists’ dreams. That was then and this is now.

Starting with the April 2006 issue, *Intercom* will be offered in both electronic and paper format. Members may elect to receive, via dcla-l, a broadcast message with a link to the pdf version of *Intercom* on www.dcla.org. The pdf version will look just like the paper copy. It will be easy to read online, or to print out. As V.P. Elaine Cline points out, photos and artwork will look much nicer on the electronic version. The paper copy of *Intercom* will be mailed to anyone who wishes to continue to receive it in the mail. The Executive Board hopes for an enthusiastic response to the electronic option because the printing and postage for *Intercom* cost almost $8,000 per year!

Expect no major changes to *Intercom*’s content this year, just an additional option for the choice of format. Be on the lookout for a message from me on dcla-l announcing the option to receive *Intercom* electronically. If you are not receiving dcla-l messages, please contact our Membership Secretary, Kirsten Allen—allen@american.edu. If you are willing to elect electronic delivery only, you will be saving a few dollars for DCLA and a few trees as well.

Today, DCLA has multiple ways of communicating with members.

(Continued on page 8)
## DCLA Board, Interest Groups, and Committees 2005-2006

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<th>Executive Board Members</th>
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<td><strong>President</strong></td>
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  - bill.turner@dc.gov

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  - Arlington, VA 22207

- **Webmaster and DCLA-L Manager**
  - Tracy Myers
  - dclawebmaster@yahoo.com

### Reach DCLA
- **On the World Wide Web**
  - [http://www.dcla.org](http://www.dcla.org)
- **By telephone**
  - (202) 872-1112 (messages only)
JOINT SPRING WORKSHOP 2006
21st-Century Competencies for Information Professionals
Date: Tuesday 25 April 2006
Keynote Speaker: Jane Dysart, Dysart and Jones

We live in a highly competitive world where change is a way of life. A library’s performance, quality, accountability, and adaptability determine its survival. Information professionals must define the core competencies that we need to stay proactive and vital.

In this one-day session, Roberta Shaffer, Executive Director of FLICC; Dr. Eileen Abels, Associate Professor, University of Maryland, College of Information Studies; Rose Dawson, Deputy Director, Alexandria Public Library; and Donna Scheeder, Director Law Library Services, Library of Congress, will identify competencies and solutions necessary for that survival.

Time: 8:30–9:00, Registration & Breakfast. Please arrive promptly at 8:30, when LC opens, so you have enough time to go through security, find the Mumford Room, get registered, and eat breakfast before the program begins at 9:00. 3:30–4:00, Approximate Conclusion.

Place: Mumford Room, 6th Floor, Madison Building, Library of Congress

Cost: $40.00 members, $20.00 students, and $60.00 non-members (includes continental breakfast and lunch). The tax ID number is 54-1079345.

Registration:
- To use PayPal go to www.dcla.org.
- To bill the registration fee to your agency’s FEDLINK Education Training (FT) account, call Elinda Deans, 202-707-4848.
- To pay by check make check payable to Joint Spring Workshop and mail with registration to: Laura Hjerpe, 2026 N. Vermont St., Apt. 301, Arlington, VA 22207

For more information email laura_hjerpe@yahoo.com or call 703-597-2806. No purchase orders or training request forms.

Registration form and check must be received by 12 April 2006.

SPONSORS:
District of Columbia Library Association (DCLA), Lead Sponsor; DC Special Libraries Association (DC-SLA); Law Librarians’ Society of Washington, DC (LLSDC); Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC)

Registration: Joint Spring Workshop, 25 April 2006

Name: __________________________________________
Organization: __________________________________
Affiliation: DCLA ___ DC-SLA ___ LLSDC ___ FLICC ___ Other (specify) ____
_____ Member, $40.00 _____ Student, $20.00 _____ Non-member, $60.00

If you will need a receipt, please check here: ______
The JSW complies with ADA. We can accommodate your needs provided you contact us by 10 April 2006.
March 3 (Friday) 


March 6 (Monday) - April 28 (Friday)
Digital Content Management with copyright lawyer Lesley Harris. Online course sponsored by OCLC/CAPCON. Contact: <www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses.descriptions/M304.htm>.

U.S. Copyright Law with copyright lawyer Lesley Harris. Online course sponsored by OCLC/CAPCON. Contact: <www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses.descriptions/M306.htm>.

Managing Copyright Issues with copyright lawyer Lesley Harris. Online course sponsored by OCLC/CAPCON. Contact: <www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses.descriptions/M305.htm>.

March 7 (Tuesday)
Educating Your Adult Population. Sponsored by the DCLA Adaptive Services Interest Group and Library Technology Interest Group. 9:30 a.m. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, Room 443, 901 G St., N.W. Contact: 202-727-2142 or 202-727-2079.

Planning Library Promotion Campaigns with Chris Olson. Hands-on workshop sponsored by OCLC Capcon. 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Contact: <www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses.descriptions/M212.htm>.

March 7 (Tuesday) - March 8 (Wednesday)
HTML vs. XML: What's the Difference? Class sponsored by OCLC/CAPCON. 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Contact: <www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses.descriptions/I404.htm>.

March 13 (Monday)
Writing Customer Focused e-Mail & Chat. Class sponsored by OCLC/CAPCON. 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Contact: <www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses.descriptions/I175.htm>.

Sunshine Week 2006: Are We Safer in the Dark? A National Dialogue on Open Government and Secrecy. Online panel discussion sponsored by ALA and others. 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Contact: <www.openthegovernment.org/article/subarchives/85> and <www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washevents/events.htm>.

March 13 (Monday) - April 8 (Saturday)

March 14 (Tuesday)
DCLA Board Meeting. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Gelman Library, George Washington University, 2130 H St., N.W. Room 202. Contact: Katherine Ray, 202-244-0770, ray@american.edu, KCRDLB@gmail.com.

March 15 (Wednesday)

Peter Drucker: The Ultimate Knowledge Worker. Program sponsored by DC/SLA. 6:00 –7:30 p.m. National Public Radio, Boardroom East, 2nd floor, 635 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Contact: Lorraine Bell, lorraine.bell@factiva.com.

March 16 (Thursday)
St. Patrick’s Day Celebration at Ri Ra Irish Pub. Sponsored by the DCLA New Librarians Interest Group. 6:00 p.m. 4931 Elm St. (near Bethesda Metro). Contact: Ming Wong, 202-452-8331.

Public Roundtables on Copyright Exceptions for Libraries and Archives. Sponsored by the Library of Congress Section 108 Study Group. 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Rayburn House Office Bldg., Room 2237, Capitol Hill. Contact: <www.ala.org/ala/washoff/Waissues/copyrightb/copyright.htm#links> and <www.loc.gov/section108>.
### UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS (cont.)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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| March 20      | **Web Resources for Reference.** Class sponsored by OCLC/CAPCON. 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Contact:  
               | <www.oclc.org/capcon/training/courses/descriptions/I159.htm>.                                         |                                                                                        |
| March 21      | **Wikis for Libraries.** Class sponsored by OCLC/CAPCON. 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Contact:  
| March 23      | **A Digital Discourse: How Will Our World Look Digitized?** 23rd Annual FLICC Forum on Federal  
               | Information Policies. 9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. Library of Congress. Contact: <www.loc.gov/flicc/ma//2006/  
               | ma0611.pdf>.                                                                                           |                                                                                        |
| March 24      | **Former ambassador Thomas J. Dodd discusses and signs Tiburcio Carias: Portrait of a Honduran  
| March 29      | **Soaring to Excellence 2006—Teleconference Series for Library Technicians (Always a River,  
               | Sometimes a Library). Sponsored by the Federal Library and Information Center Committee and the  
               | College of DuPage. 9:30 – noon. Mary Pickford Theater, Madison Bldg, 3rd floor, Library of Congress,  
               | 1st and Independence Ave., S.E. Contact: 202-707-4800.                                                |                                                                                        |
| March 30      | **Historian Gerard Gawalt discusses and signs My Dear President: Letters Between Presidents  
| April 2-8     | **National Library Week.** Theme: Change Your World @ Your Library. Contact: <www.ala.org>.           |                                                                                        |
| April 4       | **National Library Workers Day.** Contact: <www.ala-apa.org/about/nlwd.html>.                           |                                                                                        |
| April 6       | **The Open Access Movement.** Program sponsored by DC/SLA to celebrate International Special Librarians  
               | Day. 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Kiplinger Washington Editors Building, 1729 H St., N.W., First floor. Contact:  
               | Lorraine Bell, lorraine.bell@factiva.com.                                                             |                                                                                        |
| April 11      | **DCLA Board Meeting.** 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Gelman Library, George Washington University, 2130 H St.,  
               | N.W. Room 202. Contact: Katherine Ray, 202-244-0770, ray@american.edu, KCRDLB@gmail.com.              |                                                                                        |
| April 17-15   | **Selecting Spanish-Language Materials for Adults.** Online course offered by the Association of  
               | Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies/ALA. Contact: <www.ala.org/ala/ascln/asclaevents/  
               | professionaldevelopmentonlinea/> or <www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/february/onlinecourse.htm>.  |                                                                                        |
| April 20-21   | **Innovate and Motivate: Next Generation Libraries.** First Virtual Conference sponsored by the  
               | Association of College and Research Libraries, the Coalition for Networked Information, and EDUCAUSE.  
               | Contact: msutton@ala.org, 312-280-2522, <www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrl/events/virtualconference.htm>.      |                                                                                        |
| April 21-23   | **Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives (MARAC) Spring Conference.** Tremont Grand Hotel, Baltimore,  
               | MD. Contact: <www.lib.umd.edu/MARAC/conferences/2006/spring06/spring2006.html> or Mary Mannix  
               | at mmannix@fredco-md.net.                                                                               |                                                                                        |
| April 25      | **21st-Century Competencies for Information Professionals.** Joint Spring Workshop sponsored by  
               | DCLA, DC-SLA, LLSDC, and FLICC. 9:00-4:00. Mumford Room, 6th Floor, Madison Building, Library of  
               | Congress, 1st and Independence Ave., S.E. Contact: laura_hjerpe@yahoo.com or 703-597-2806.           |                                                                                        |
| April 26-27   | **Technology Policy for a Flattening World: The EDUCAUSE Policy Conference.** Fairmont Hotel,  
               | Washington, DC. Contact: <www.educause.edu/po106>.                                                    |                                                                                        |
Redesigning DCLA’s Web Site  by Tracy Myers

Noel Rutherford, who was DCLA president from 2004 to 2005, asked me to chair a committee tasked with redesigning DCLA’s Web site. The committee consisted of Laura Gonzales, Helen Hiltz, Alex Hodges, Mike Kolakowski, Jeanne Lauber, and Nancy Lucchese. We held our first meeting at the Station Grill in Union Station. We held only two or three more meetings, because we conducted much of our work via e-mail.

At our first meeting, we reviewed the existing Web site. We found a good site with elements that we all agreed had to stay, such as the history of DCLA, the master calendar, and the listing of board members and interest group chairs.

We then created a wish list for the redesigned Web site, which included:

- a Jobs page
- a “Featured Library” page
- a membership form to enable people to join and renew online
- a page for each DCLA committee and interest group
- the current and back issues of Intercom in PDF format
- a form to enable people to submit items to Intercom electronically
- search capability using Google
- PayPal option for renewing membership and paying for program registrations

We reviewed the Web sites of all 51 state library associations and noted the elements we found really useful, such as an events calendar that provides a link from the name of the event to more information about it.

We turned to Kenneth Wiggins for advice on the technical feasibility of our plans. Kenneth was a staff member of the Georgetown branch of the DC Public Library who had owned a Web design company and who is now studying digital media design in Philadelphia. He looked over our wish list and design ideas and gave us the green light.

Everyone contributed to the overall design of the Web site. However, we each were responsible for one of the individual features. Laura Gonzales was responsible for the new Jobs page, which provides job postings and links to sites with library jobs. Alex Hodges and Nancy Lucchese took on the task of creating our new Washington Resources page, which is a great resource for librarians who are new to DC or are thinking of moving to the DC area. I was responsible for writing the code and other technical aspects of the Web site.

One of our tasks was finding a host for the Web site that would be able to handle a list serv and provide good customer service. I presented several options to the DCLA Board. The Board selected Blue Host.

People quickly found and started to use the new Web site features. For example, someone used the electronic membership form 30 minutes after I uploaded it.

The formal unveiling of the redesigned Web site came on October 20, 2005 at the Fall Members Reception. I could not have asked for a lovelier environment or a more gracious audience.

Our Web site is still evolving, our new blog is frequently updated, and we feature a different library on our home page approximately every two months. If you want your library featured, send a photo and brief description to dclawebmaster@yahoo.com.

Visit www.dcla.org often! Comments are always welcome.

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Tracy Myers is DCLA’s webmaster, manager of DCLA-L, and chair of the Library Technology Interest Group.
Libraries, Librarians, and Blogs

Librarians are natural communicators, whether they are providing access to information in a library or sharing the latest news with friends. They have a natural desire to say something and to increase knowledge in the people around them. Without this, they wouldn’t be librarians. Libraries are repositories of information to be used by their community. One of their primary missions is to make access to materials as simple as possible, promoting freedom of information.

Libraries and librarians are at the forefront of the blog world and have developed a huge number of library and librarian-run blogs, ranging from highly personal blogs like Sulkbrarian to official library blogs like the Public Library Association’s plablog.org. If you want to see just how popular blogs are in the library world, just check out Libdex, which lists hundreds of library blogs from around the world.

But what exactly is a blog? The most common, and least satisfying, definition is: “A website that is updated frequently, with new material posted at the top of the page.” While this is a good basic definition, it doesn’t begin to explain the phenomenon of the blog. Blog, short for Weblog, is a Web site that contains brief entries arranged in reverse chronological order. Blogs are diverse, ranging from personal diaries to news sites that monitor developments on anything from the war in Iraq to copyright law. No matter what they are used for, blogs have become an important form of expression and communication on the Web.

Blogs have been around for anywhere from seven to eleven years, a blip in the grand scheme of things, but eons in the land of the Web. Rebecca Blood, unofficial weblog historian and author of Rebecca’s Pocket, writes that Jesse James Garrett of Infosift created a list of 23 weblogs that existed in 1999. By 2006, there are likely somewhere between 750,000 and 1,500,000 blogs in existence.

Blogs have exploded on the Web because they have made it much easier to publish content online. Creating Web pages with HTML editors was a barrier for many people who were short on time to acquire new skills and to troubleshoot browser issues. Blogging software makes it as easy to publish content online as it is to write a note to post on your fridge. It’s really that easy! You don’t have to know anything about HTML or how to link from one page to another, let alone upload files with FTP programs to a Web server. Signing up for a blog account is easy, too—in less than three minutes, you can have a blog and area to publish your first entry.

Though listservs and blogs both function in a similar fashion, there are several advantages of blogs over the more traditional listserv. The use of graphics, multimedia files, and links help to highlight and better illustrate news. The ease of use and its ability to automatically archive old posts and refresh the content of the main page is also a strong reason to blog.

Organizations might use blogging technology to their advantage by implementing a blog on their Intranet, providing a FAQ, or discussing conference presentations. This is where libraries and librarians often come into play.

Libraries, librarians, and blogs seem to be a perfect match. The goal of libraries is to provide access to information, and in doing so reach all members of their community, be it the public, students and faculty in a university, or members of a library association.

Noel Rutherford is a past president of DCLA and manager of the Georgetown Branch, DC Public Library.

Libraries are increasingly using blogs to meet many of their communication needs. Until recently, almost all library blogs listed services offered by the library and the surrounding community, acting as a “What’s New in the Library” page. An advantage of blogs over traditional “What’s New” pages is that as blogs are easy to update, any member of the staff can post valuable information without waiting for the designated “Web development” person.

(Continued on page 8)
Recently, many libraries have started blogs to post news items that are important in the library world and to their user community. For example, Redwood City California’s Public Library runs “LibLog”. Initially designed to keep library staff aware of technological developments, LibLog has expanded to include the public. In providing blogs, libraries can not only note when new books arrive and new databases are purchased, but also promote current awareness, information literacy, and library advocacy.

There is also significant potential to use blogs for reference services. While this is unlikely to replace email or chat reference, it might act as a good supplement and as a first stop for patrons with common questions. Librarians could work together to solve a difficult question when they have time, and by making the blog public, members of the community who know the answer might also chime in. Limiting the comment feature to use by library staff could solve any concerns about erroneous or spam postings.

Public libraries might use blogs as forums for book clubs. Book clubs are very popular, but not everyone has time to attend a monthly meeting. If blogs were set up by the library, interested patrons could post their questions and reactions to the book and conduct a discussion remotely.

Libraries and librarians are using blogs to communicate information to each other and for their communities. Easy to set up and quick to update, blogs are the perfect vehicle to put information out about what’s happening in the library, in the library community, and in the rest of the world.

The Web is a young thing, and blogs even younger. Technological advances will continue, allowing blogs to become further integrated into the structure of the Web. As blog use increases throughout the Internet, libraries and librarians will continue to use them and integrate them into their personal and professional lives.

The 2005/2006 DCLA Nominations Committee (Jean B. Craigwell, Chair; Gail Avery, Michael Kolakowski) is pleased to present the following slate for the

2006/2007 DCLA Board

Candidate for Vice President – President-Elect
Barbara Folensbee-Moore

Candidate for Treasurer
Jennifer Jones

Candidates for Director
Ruel J. Eskelen April S. King
Richard Huffine Jennifer Nutefall

Petition Candidates: Members wishing to place their names on the ballot shall submit to Jean Craigwell, Nominations Committee chair, a petition signed by at least ten members, along with a biographical statement and a memo agreeing to serve if elected. The deadline for receipt of petitions is March 15, 2006. Direct questions to Jean at jcwell@juno.com.

The final slate with candidate biographies and a ballot will appear in the April issue of Intercom.

(Continued from page 7)

(continued from Whither Intercom? page 1)

Intercom is just one. In this issue, Noel explains the blog and Tracy tells us about the redesigned Web site. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the best response to programs comes from announcements on dcla-l. Our listserv and revamped Web site could contain much of the information that we print and mail each month. In the 21st century, do we really need a full newsletter each month? Maybe we should have a full Intercom with president’s column, articles, calendar, photographs, etc. only four or five times per year. The intervening months could be covered by an abbreviated Intercom that would be perhaps one sheet with event announcements delivered either electronically or by mail as members elect. Should we change the name? Just a thought. What’s your opinion?
Katherine Blauer retired in January from her position as executive director of the OCLC CAPCON Service Center, a position she assumed in November 2003. Her career in libraries and the information industry spanned over 40 years in the U.S. and U.K. In 11 years at OCLC—from 1985 to 1997—she served as product manager, regional marketing manager, and director of national sales. In the latter position, she and her sales team introduced FirstSearch to the library marketplace. Check out the March 2004 Intercom for a profile of Katherine.

Wil Danielson, retired GPO cataloger and former chair of the DCLA Government Documents Interest Group, moved back to Evanston, Illinois, where he had worked as a Northwestern University documents librarian. He and his wife live near the lake, university, and public library. Family genealogy helps to keep him busy. He is also assisting family members in ongoing research of an event of which they were a part—the sinking of the Zamzam. The Zamzam, an Egyptian liner that was carrying three-year-old Wil and his family and other American missionaries to Africa, was attacked and sunk by the German raider Atlantis on April 17, 1941 in the South Atlantic. The attackers recovered the Zamzam’s passengers and crew from the sea and transferred them to a prison ship that carried them through the British Blockade to German-occupied France. Wil’s sister Eleanor Anderson has published an account of the experience—Miracle at Sea: The Sinking of the Zamzam and Our Family’s Rescue.

William R. Gordon, DCLA past president and a recipient of the Ainsworth Rand Spofford President’s Award, is the author of “Gifts that Speak Volumes,” an article on library fundraising in the January 2006 American Libraries.

Shelly Edwards has been appointed interim executive director of the OCLC CAPCON Service Center.

Roberta A. Stevens, outreach projects and partnerships officer at the Library of Congress, has been elected to serve on the ALA Executive Board.

The District of Columbia Library will receive $30 million of federal money if Congress acts on a recommendation in President Bush’s FY 2007 fiscal year budget.

The Fairfax County Public Library Center for the Book is among the 34 winners of the 2005 James Patterson PageTurner Awards. The Center received $1000 to recognize its efforts to “spread the excitement of books in effective and original ways.”

The Library of Congress is the recipient of a $3 million gift from Google. The gift will enable LC to begin building the World Digital Library, which will contain significant primary materials from national and other major research libraries around the world. Once digitized, LC will make the materials available on the Internet.

The Loudoun County Public Library in Leesburg, VA is one of six winners of the 2006 John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award. It was recognized for its popular after-hours teen center where “Hanging Out Rocks!”

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will shut down its network of 27 libraries, if a plan in President Bush’s FY 2007 budget is implemented. According to a press release issued by the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, the president’s plan cuts “$2 million of a total agency library budget of $2.5 million, including the entire $500,000 budget for the EPA Headquarters library and its electronic catalog, which tracks tens of thousands of unique documents and research studies that are available nowhere else.”
Life Sciences Librarian. Charles E. White Memorial (Chemistry) Library. University of Maryland Libraries. Non-tenured faculty (12-month appointment). Under the direction of the Team Leader, Life Sciences/Chemistry Team, provide in-depth reference, instruction, and collection management services for faculty and students in the College of Chemical and Life Sciences; serve as liaison to Dept. of Cell Biology & Molecular Genetics (CBMG); develop and manage electronic and print collections for CBMG; provide reference service at White Chemistry Library and McKeldin Library; assume responsibility for library operations in absence of branch library head. Required: ALA-accredited MLS and/or post-baccalaureate degree in physical or life sciences. Subject background in biochemistry, molecular biology, microbiology, chemistry, biotechnology, or related discipline. Experience providing reference and instructional services and/or collection development and management in an academic, special, or science library serving similar clientele. Preferred: professional library or information retrieval experience. Advanced degree in biochemistry, molecular biology, microbiology, chemistry, biotechnology, or related discipline. Experience in team-based work environment. Submit cover letter, resume, and names and addresses of 3 references by March 20. Send to Guadalupe Fernandez, Library Personnel Services, McKeldin Library, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742-7011. E-mail to gfernan1@umd.edu. Fax: 301-314-9960.

Serials and Electronic Resources Librarian. University of Maryland Libraries. (Search reopened) Non-tenured faculty, full time (12 month appointment). Report to Head of Acquisitions. Supervise and manage Continuing Resources team, including a staff of 6.5 FTE support staff and student
assistants. The University Libraries uses Ex Libris Aleph, version 16.2. Working with Manager for E-content Management in the Information Technology Division, coordinates negotiations, ordering, payment and problem solving involved with electronic resources. Trains staff and library faculty. Serves as serials expert in RFP development and proposal evaluation. Required: ALA-accredited MLS, minimum 3 years professional library acquisitions experience, working knowledge of cataloging standards. Preferred: Strong understanding of serials acquisitions; familiarity with business principles and practices; experience with Ex Libris Aleph Library system. Detailed job description at <www.lib.umd.edu/UMCP/ASD/LPO/LibJobs/102862.html>. Submit cover letter, resume, and names/addresses of 3 references by March 31 to Guadalupe Fernandes, Library Personnel Services, McKeldin Library, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742-7011. E-mail to gfernan1@umd.edu. Fax: 301-314-9960.

Librarian (Law-Reference) Law Library of Congress. Vacancy # 050334. GS-1410-11, $54,272 – $70,558. Closing date March 6. Prepares brief analytical yet thorough written responses to legal and legislative research inquiries; utilizes highly complex legal and legislative history research methodologies; prepares in digital format for web-publishing various legal and legislative research products; provides legal and legislative information services to diverse and demanding clientele under tight deadlines; presents legal and legislative information programs in classroom settings. Qualified candidates with both Juris Doctor and LMS degrees from accredited universities and at least 3 years progressively responsible experience in law library setting are encouraged to apply.


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DCLA thanks

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Most libraries still have resources that haven’t been added to the computer database. As a matter of fact, some of the most interesting items—the items in special collections, for instance—will be the last to be computerized. There are many reasons for this. Some documents are old, some are hand-written, and some are too fragile or too cumbersome to handle. Sometimes it’s a matter of manpower. Each book in the library has a specific number, called a call number. Public libraries contain many books of fiction and books relevant to general use. For this reason, public libraries often use the Dewey Decimal System, the preferred system for fictional books and general use books. Generally, fiction books are alphabetized by the author under this system.