

MAY 2025 ISSUE

THE HAPPENINGS



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LETTER FROM THE MLA OFFICE STAFF The Conference is Here!

May is finally here, and with it comes our most anticipated event of the year—the **2025 MLA|DLA Annual Conference!**

We're just days away from gathering in beautiful Ocean City for a week of learning, connection, and celebration of our library community. Whether this is your first conference or you're a seasoned attendee, we can't wait to see you there next week!

As we look ahead to June, we have several exciting events on the horizon. Mark your calendars for **The Joy of Queernorm** on June 2nd, where we'll discuss how Queernorm got started, and why it is important to include in your Readers' Advisory.

Our popular **MLA Chats** return on June 16th, with an informal discussion on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Libraries and Library Work. And don't miss **Building Up Fun: Engagement for Everyone** on June 17th, featuring practical strategies to motivate and engage your library staff.

This newsletter is packed with details about these events and more. As always, we're grateful for your dedication to Maryland's libraries and the communities we serve.

Wishing you a wonderful spring,
Maryland Library Association

2025 MLA|DLA Annual Conference: The Beach Edition!

May 7 - 9, 2025

Roland E. Powell Convention Center
4001 Coastal Highway
Ocean City, MD 21842

[Register on mdlib.org](https://mdlib.org).



We can't wait to see you next week at the 2025 MLA|DLA Annual Conference: *The Beach Edition!*

Attendees can explore the latest trends in library technology, discover best practices in information literacy, and engage with innovative ideas in community outreach and services.

The conference also features an exhibit hall showcasing the latest and greatest library products and services, offering participants the chance to learn about new tools and resources that can enhance their work.

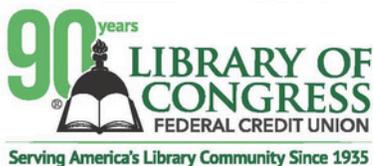
Register today for what is sure to be another *seasational* MLA|DLA Annual Conference!

Registration Pricing:

- Full Conference: Members:** \$250
- Full Conference: Non-members:** \$290
- Full Conference: Library Student:** \$210
- One Day: Members:** \$220
- One Day: Non-members:** \$260
- One Day: Library Student:** \$180

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MADISON BRANCH 101 Independence Ave, SE Room LM 634, Washington, DC 20540-9997



RAIG PRESENTS:**The Joy of Queernorm: A Readers' Advisory Training****Monday, June 2, 2025 |****1:00 - 2:00 p.m.***Online via Zoom***[Register on mdlib.org.](#)**

Are you looking for fresh ways to include queer literature in your readers' advisory? You can move beyond stories where LGBTQ+ people are seen as unusual and instead explore those that present queerness as being as normal as heterosexuality.

In this training hosted by Readers' Advisory Interest Group we will discuss Queernorm (or Queer normative) fiction, how it got started, and why it is important to include in your Readers' Advisory. During the training, we will provide book talks for our favorite Queernorm titles and provide you with lots of other resources including book/author recommendations, websites, and other forms of media.

Attendees will receive 1 CEU.**Registration Pricing:****MLA Members:** \$12.50**Non-Members:** \$18.75**ALA Dual, Retired, or Student Members:** \$6.15**MLA CHATS:****Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Libraries and Library Work****Monday, June 16, 2025 |****2:00 - 3:30 p.m.***Online via Zoom***[Register on mdlib.org.](#)**

The EDI Panel is hosting a special MLA Chats to create an open dialog on concerns and hopes surrounding topics related to equity, diversity, and inclusion in libraries and library work. This facilitated conversation will serve as a time and space to:

1. Create a space for self-reflection and awareness
2. Develop more empathy and understanding
3. Increase open and honest communication
4. Increase sense of shared responsibility
5. Share hopes and plans for action and change

This session will be facilitated by EDI Panel members William Wallace of Wicomico Public Library and Cassie Miller of Baltimore County Public Library.

You must be logged in to your MLA account in order to register. This will not be recorded. Please feel free to reach out to Nay Keppler with any questions!

**Registration Pricing:
Free to MLA Members**

SUPPORT STAFF DIVISION PRESENTS:**Building Up Fun: Engagement For Everyone****Tuesday, June 17, 2025 |****2:00 - 4:15 p.m.**

*BCPL - Arbutus Branch
855 Sulphur Spring Road
Arbutus, MD 21227*

[Register on mdlib.org.](#)

This program is geared towards leaders and administrators looking for new ways to motivate and engage their staff by adopting new icebreaker activities to encourage conversation, utilizing tips and resources to create refreshing and creative content for staff meetings, and learning how to reward staff for their excellent work. Participants will learn how to create a “workplace playground”, thus providing opportunities to engage employees, boost morale, and optimistically reshape workplace culture.

This is an interactive training where participants will participate in icebreakers, play highly interactive games, and discuss opportunities to create committees/work teams that allows employees to thrive independently, and cohesively.

Attendees will receive 2 CEUs.

Registration Pricing:**MLA Members:** \$25.00**Non-Members:** \$37.50**ALA Dual, Retired, or Student Members:** \$12.50

Division, Caucus, Committee, Panel, and Interest Group Meetings

MAY 2025

- 5 Future of Libraries Interest Group | 10:00 a.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Tracy Miller at millert@hcplonline.org
- 13 Youth Services Division | 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.**
Online via Blackboard.
Contact Karen Earp at kearp@wicomico.org
- 14 Materials Interest Group | 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Laura Bandoch at bandoch@hcplonline.org
- 15 Emerging Adults Interest Group | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Stephanie Wiant at swiant@frederickcountymd.gov
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Panel | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Conni Strittmatter at cstrittmatter@bcpl.net
- 21 Conference Committee | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Chelsea Shockley at cshockle@prattlibrary.org
- Executive Board Meeting 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m**
Contact Joshua Stone at miaexec@mdlib.org
- 22 Marketing Committee | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**
Contact Amy Miller-Meyers at amymill@carr.org
- 26 LGBTQ+ Interest Group | 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Shannon Carney at scarney@bcpl.net

Division, Caucus, Committee, Panel, and Interest Group Meetings

JUNE 2025

- 4** **BCMLA | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Genive Purchase at gpurchase@prattlibrary.org
- Intellectual Freedom Panel | 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via Google Meets.
Contact Lloyd Jansen at ljansen@ccplonline.org
- 5** **Adult Services and Reference Division | 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Pam Taylor at taylor@hcplonline.org
- Sustainability Interest Group | 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Nicole Bega at nbega@stmalib.org
- 10** **Youth Services Division | 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.**
Online via Blackboard.
Contact Karen Earp at kearp@wicomico.org
- 11** **MLA Leadership Orientation Day | 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
Michael E. Busch Library
Contact Joshua Stone at mlaexec@mdlib.org
- 12** **Maryland Adult Programming Interest Group | 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Lisa Swain at lsswain@bcpl.net
- 18** **Conference Committee | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Chelsea Shockley at cshockle@prattlibrary.org
- Steering Committee Meeting | 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Joshua Stone at mlaexec@mdlib.org
- 19** **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Panel | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Conni Strittmatter at cstrittmatter@bcpl.net
- 26** **Marketing Committee | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**
Contact Amy Miller-Meyers at amymill@carr.org
- 30** **LGBTQ+ Interest Group | 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Shannon Carney at scarney@bcpl.net