President's Message

Welcome to the AILA Newsletter!

My name is Omar Poler and I’m the 2016-2017 President.

I’m an enrolled in the Sokaogon Chippewa Community and an Outreach Specialist at the UW-Madison School of Library and Information Studies, where I coordinate IMLS-funded professional development institutes for tribal librarians, archivists, and museum curators.

Ever since I discovered AILA in library school, I’ve deeply respected this organization.

Not only are we the only grassroots group dedicated to American Indian library issues, we have a long and amazing history of making a difference.

Among many other things, we have won improved funding opportunities for tribal libraries, improved the classification systems that have misrepresented us, and celebrated the authors and illustrators who are telling our stories through the American Indian Youth Literature Awards.

And we’ve been doing all this consistently for a very long time.

This issue marks the 40th anniversary of our Newsletter.

So with all this history us, the Executive Board thought it would be a good time to pause and reflect. We’re reaching out to our Elders, those who have kept our organization alive for so long. We’re listening to their stories so we, too, can help AILA continue to dream big.

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AILA Executive Board
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The AILA Newsletter is published biannually in May and November.

Articles and News of interest to AILA members should be sent for consideration to: George Gottschalk at georgeedwardg@outlook.com

Deadlines for submitting materials are:
March 15 for inclusion in the May issue
October 15 for inclusion in the November issue.

Advertising Policy: Advertisements will be accepted as space permits.
Advertising should be submitted to: George Gottschalk at georgeedwardg@outlook.com.
Rates: Full page: $125; half page: $75; quarter page: $50. Payment is requested at the time the ad is submitted.
Job Listings: There is no fee for members to post job advertisements on our AILA-L listserv. The fee for unaffiliated organizations is $50. Job listings should be submitted to: Heather Devine-Hardy at ailaweb-site@gmail.com.

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By honoring our past, we’re hoping to find new ways to keep AILA relevant in the future.
We’re looking back so we can go forward.
But the reflecting isn’t the only thing we’re doing.

Soon we’ll be announcing a new AILA mentoring program for library school students and early-career practitioners. We want them to know there’s a home in librarianship for them.
And we’re thinking and dreaming about a lot more. We hope you’ll think, dream, plan, and work with us!

Celebrating 40 Years of the Newsletter!
George Gottschalk

Forty years ago, in 1976, Cheryl Metoyer greeted the first readers of the American Indian Libraries Newsletter “with much joy.” As the first editor of the Newsletter, she called for celebrating the newsletter as a means to discuss American Indian library issues. In celebration of forty years of ongoing discussion, Cheryl Metoyer’s first editorial is reprinted here. Forty years later, in 2016, I urge you with much joy to read the 1976 editorial and reflect with me on the scope and purposes set forth in that inaugural issue.

One benefit of reprinting Dr. Metoyer’s 1976 editorial is that I am relieved of the need to set out a new scope or new purposes for the American Indian Library Association Newsletter. The points listed in the 1976 editorial still ring true with great resonance in 2016. Among those things that have not changed in 40 years, are that we continue to be honored with Ron Hernandez’ logo. Indeed, that same logo is not just on the Newsletter header, but also on the website. The Newsletter continues to reflect the work of numerous contributors. Those contributors continue to share reviews of new materials, to seek new ways to strengthen recruitment of new professionals, and to improve library services. These are all ongoing traditions of the American Indian Library Association.
Notes From the Editor (1976)
Cheryl Metoyer, Ph.D.

It is with much joy that I greet you as the editor of this first issue of the American Indian Libraries Newsletter. There is indeed much cause for celebration, since American Indian librarians, librarians serving Indian communities, tribal leaders, and members of Indian communities now have a specific vehicle for the discussion of American Indian library issues. Since this is the first issue of the Newsletter, it is appropriate to consider its scope and purpose.

Purpose

The purpose of the American Indian Libraries Newsletter is to address the following needs:

1. to provide a communication link among American Indian librarians, professional organizations, and other individuals and organizations interested in considering the informational needs of American Indian people;
2. to raise the awareness of the library field of the informational needs of American Indians concerning the services available through libraries; and
3. to assist in recruiting American Indians into the field of librarianship.

A Call for Articles

In order to accomplish these goals, it is the hope of the editor that in the future the American Indian Libraries Newsletter will feature articles on issues which are of timely interest. It is hoped that some of the areas of discussion would include:

- Methods of long-range planning in American Indian libraries
- Effective budgeting systems in American Indian libraries
- Funding sources for American Indian libraries
- Development and accessibility of materials created by American Indians
- Classification of American Indian materials
- Effectiveness of print and nonprint materials in American Indian communities
- Library components of Native American studies programs
- History of library services in American Indian communities
- Services available from research and special libraries housing American Indian materials
- Development of American Indian community college libraries
- Function of tribal education committees in the development of library services
- Professional staff development in American Indian libraries.

As this list suggests, the Newsletter intends to consider a broad range of topics related to the library aspect of Indian education. I invite and encourage persons interested in American Indian library services to contribute articles, reports, and bibliographies which may be of interest to our readers.

A Call for Questions

In addition to feature articles, the editor invites the readers to submit questions re-

Continued on page 4
**Preliminary Retirement Announcement**

**Michael McLaughlin, American Indian Resource Center Librarian**

This is a very informal announcement of my upcoming retirement in March 2017 as American Indian Resource Center (AIRC) librarian. The standard practice of the parent organization, the County of Los Angeles Public Library (COLAPL) is to announce a position after it is vacated, but I would rather alert all potentially interested librarians beforehand to allow them time to consider applying for the position of AIRC librarian, so if you will bear with me.

The perhaps unusual way of making this announcement and the nature of its content may seem unconventional, but life experience on the Winnebago reservation, as an urban Indian, and as AIRC librarian has taught me that in Indian affairs, the reality often is that if we don’t create new paths or bridges ourselves, if we leave the matters to the “authorities”, our issues ---and our viewpoints seldom see the light of day. Although I’m employed by COLAPL, I have always felt I worked for the American Indian people and our supporters.

AIRC is one of the nation’s largest public library collections of books and other materials on American Indians. Our materials focus...Continued on page 9

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**AILA Mentoring Program**

**Nicholae Cline (Coharie)**

AILA is starting a mentoring program. Nicholae Cline (Coharie), Omar Poler and Georgiana Oandasan are working to establish the Mentoring Program. Cline states, “We are very excited about the possibilities of this program and the potential to create meaningful relationships...Continued on page 9
Book Review:
Embracing Fry Bread: Confessions of a Wannabe by Roger Welsch. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. 2012. 256 pages, $19.95
Karen Alexander (Eastern Oklahoma District Library System)

As an adjunct professor of anthropology at the University of Nebraska and the author of many books, Roger Welsch could have written a historical dissertation, and buried the reader with his research. But his title provides a clue that his approach in this book was very personal, humbly telling his story of 55 years of involvement with the tribes of the Northern Plains. His journey began, when he first studied the linguistic practices of the Omaha tribe as a college student. Today he is recognized as an adopted member of two tribes, the Osage and Pawnee, and allowed to participate in ceremonies.

As one might expect, he learned a lot through the years and he shares his mistakes. Told with humor and respect, he covers many subjects, such as Indian time, religion, naming, food, gifting, the Native American Church, identity. The list goes on. I found myself, comparing his experiences with mine. In recent years, I had heard through the news that he and his wife had donated their land, where their house now stands, original Pawnee land, back to the Pawnee tribe upon their passing, so I was intrigued to hear that story as well.

This book is recommended for all libraries. I loved the title and enjoyed taking his introspective journey with him.

Congratulations to Joy Bridwell
AILA is honored to announce Joy Bridwell as our sponsored Emerging Leader. Joy is a librarian at Stone Child College in Box Elder, Montana. Stone Child College is a tribal college of the Chippewa Cree Tribe.

With her broad experience at Stone Child, Joy looks forward to her opportunities as an Emerging Leader to become “a better leader for my college, my library and my community.”

We look forward to Joy’s ongoing achievements.

#NativeReads

Celebrate Native American Heritage Month with First Nations Development Institute

Need a great book for November, or any time of year?
Check out the reading recommendations at:
http://www.firstnations.org/HeritageMonth2016
Open for Research: Garrard Ardeneum Collection Sequoyah National Research Center, University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Erin Fehr, Archivist

In May 2015, the Sequoyah National Research Center received a $56,000 grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council to hire a project archivist for one year and buy the necessary archival supplies to properly house the Garrard Ardeneum Collection acquired in 2014 from the City of McAlester, Oklahoma, through Francine Locke Bray, a member of the Choctaw Nation. SNRC hired Zachery Whitaker, a graduate of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, in August 2015.

The collection was created by Francine’s cousin Allece Locke Garrard (1909-1999), a Seminole/Choctaw, who was the granddaughter of Alice Brown Davis (1852-1935), the first female chief of the Seminoles. Garrard established the Ardeneum, a combination arboretum, garden, and museum, as a philanthropic effort to promote the arts and culture in southeastern Oklahoma.

The collection contains records of Allece Locke Garrard and her husband, Thomas E. (Tom) Garrard (1904-1984). Allece’s records highlight her time at the University of Oklahoma, her career as a speech and drama teacher in Oklahoma City public schools, and her term as a Director in the US Army Hostess Service, where she opened three servicemen clubs—one at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, and two in occupation Germany. Tom’s records include materials related to his time at the McAlester Fuel Company, a company begun by his uncle, Jay G. Puterbaugh, where Tom served first as vice president and director and then as President in 1963. Allece and Tom’s philanthropic endeavors are well-documented, including the establishment of the Best Play Prize at the Five Civilized Tribes Museum in Muskogee, Oklahoma, in 1974. Additionally, correspon-
The Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM) 2016 conference was held on the Akimel O’odham Nation near Chandler, Arizona. The conference was packed full of day trips to some of the cultural centers and local information repositories. There were day-long workshops on language revitalization and repatriation. Even though ATALM is an international conference, it occurs within “Indian Country” which is indeed small. ATALM is more like a reunion, at least for me, it was.

I do not travel to the many places from which my friends and colleagues hail, but if I am at ATALM, I get to see them. ATALM has also proven to be a wonderful opportunity to network with like-minded individuals.

I was fortunate to co-present with Guillermo Quiroga, Director of Old Pascua Museum

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tion Newsletter that are cause to celebrate and to continue going forward with much joy.

As we celebrate 40 years of the Newsletter, it is worth underscoring that Cheryl Metoyer asks us to celebrate that the Newsletter as a vehicle for discussion. Although 40 years later we live in an age of websites, social media and e-mail lists, I echo the language of engagement that peppers Dr. Metoyer’s first editorial. Dr. Metoyer speaks of the need to “raise awareness” and mentions “vital input” from contributors. As I reflect on 40 years past, and anticipate 40 years forward, I call upon all of you to anticipate what the editor and contributors of the 80th anniversary issue will find in those newsletters that we will publish between now and then.

My own hope is that 40 years hence, as the editor of that issue is furiously trying to meet a deadline, they stop to research the Dakota Access Pipeline and the Standing Rock Indian Reservation. As this issue prepares to go to press, we are watching what many are calling the largest Native American protest in modern history (see, as one example, http://www.nbc-news.com/storyline/dakota-pipeline-protests/dakota-access-pipeline-what-s-behind-protests-n676801). These events may seem distant from the concerns of libraries and librarians. I mention them here because the Newsletter is now, as it has been since the outset, intended as a vehicle for active and engaged discussion.

Libraries and librarians themselves serve many purposes. One of those purposes is to be a vehicle for active and engaged discussion, both for immediate contemporaries, as well as across a longer historical timeline. My own personal, editorial belief is that we cannot divorce the aims of the American Indian Library Association from the context in which we are all working. I invite all of you to continue shaping and contributing to our ongoing discussions. Perhaps a good place to start is to ask, do you think the Dakota Access Pipeline shapes any of the discussions that are relevant

to the American Indian Library Association? If so, why, and if not, why not? Editorial responses are welcome for the spring issue!

ATALM - Continued from page 7

and Culture Center, and Karisma Quiballo, a Knowledge River Alum and current American Indian Studies Ph.D. candidate, on Participatory Archiving in a neighborhood museum. We have worked on this project together for two years and were glad to present the work we have done, but also provide an example of how it can be done within a limited budget while collecting valuable metadata about a community through photos. The project is not close to being complete, but we have found value in engaging seniors and youth simultaneously on a project. In another session, I co-presented with Gina Macaluso, Program Director of Knowledge River, and Peter Runge, Head of Northern Arizona University’s Special Collections and Archives. We discussed the advantages and challenges of internships and mentorships in an academic institution.

Despite the delight of attending ATALM, the current events related to the Dakota Access Pipe Line and the looming desecration of a mountain sacred to the Akimel O’odham were ever-present in our minds. The cultural upheaval served as a reminder as to why we do our work, why we work to preserve and facilitate stories in our communities or why we go to other places to gain experience. Our work in support of our traditions, language, life ways help to preserve and protect our future. ATALM inspired me to keep on working.

RNTLOAK - Continued from page 7

Juliano will be spearheading the update project with members of the RNTLOAK committee in conjunction with AILA. The goal is to have the revised edition complete by Annual 2017 and potentially have a program at Annual.

Another project RNTLOAK will be working on is an update to the Small but Powerful Guide to Building Support for Your Rural
**AILA Newsletter**

**Library toolkit.** Similar to TRAILS, there are only minor updates that need to be done to the toolkit.

If you are interested in assisting with the TRAILS update, please contact Liana Juliano at lj12116@yahoo.com.

**Mentoring - Continued from page 4**

with Native students."

The Program seeks to provide guidance and coaching to new and future librarians, foster leadership in AILA, the American Library Association, and other professional associations. Mentoring will help mentees become more knowledgeable about and comfortable within the library field. Finally, the Program seeks to assist mentees who do serve, or plan to serve, American Indian/Alaska Native communities in developing library services that support the needs of those communities.

If you are interested in serving as a mentor, and are passionate about developing the next generation of AILA leaders, you are encouraged to add your name to our potential Mentors spreadsheet at https://goo.gl/WzSaJ7. Mentors will be an important part in sustaining this program and the success and viability of Native librarians going forward.

**Retirement - Continued from page 4**

on the United States and Alaska, historical to contemporary, with some materials on Canada and on issues concerning Indigenous peoples world-wide. AIRC is a unit of COLAPL which is the 3rd largest public library system in the U.S. COLAPL rules and regulations govern AIRC.

I’ve been AIRC Librarian since 1999. In 1999 AIRC was mostly a mish-mash of old “standard” books written by anthropologists and historians who wrote about American Indians as part of the past; federal government publications (mostly on microfilm); non-fiction books usually assigned Dewey Decimal class 970 regardless of subject; and a very questionable fiction section of mostly romance novels with covers of romance novel cover boy Fabio in dark hair and make-up, always topless and carrying off some poor white or Indian maiden, with titles like “Savage Love”. But there were also some treasures, like the complete microfiche set of the records of the Indian Claims Commission, 1946-76, (6,128 fiche in all) scattered around the building, some in desk drawers, some stored away in old boxes, under stairwells, or utility closets alongside the cleaning equipment. It took a few years to “discover” them all. By the evidence gathered from old correspondence and memos stumbled upon, I came to understand that after the initial years of AIRC’s inception in the late 1970s, AIRC had been “maintained” but not really developed by various, mostly temporary library caretakers (some not librarians) who didn’t stay long enough to develop consistent management practices or a plan for the collection.

After I began in this position I soon learned that administratively there was no “mission statement”, no “collection development” policy, nor any senior staff to seek advice from about this collection’s history or what direction it needed to go. My bosses had no working knowledge of AIRC or American Indians and were frankly not much interested other than they were responsible to keep AIRC functioning. After initial discouragement and efforts to find employment elsewhere, came the realization that this was an opportunity to make AIRC into SOMETHING, anything would be better than how I found it. Left on my own I began to organize AIRC using my American Indian studies background, the materials that existed here, and what the users asked for. Just having rows of bookcases with materials mostly labeled 970 did not work for a collection that only had materials on American Indians. So after I gained a grasp on the wide range of subjects AIRC has, I subdivided the collection into specific subject areas which was just fine with administration as long as we kept the basic DDC labeling system. Over the years these specific sections have grown to over 50

**Continued on page 10**
which include: Boarding Schools, Urban Indians, Identity Issues, Indian-White Relations, ICWA, Gaming, Code Talkers, Navajo-Hope Land Dispute, Peyote Religion, Historical Trauma, Womens’ Studies, Gender Diversity, Genocide Studies, Race Politics, to name a few. When she was in library school, AILA member Holly Tomren was largely responsible for creating our “Teachers’ Resources” section in response to questions by teachers and education students on “how to teach about American Indians”. This is one example of how AIRC evolved somewhat “organically” guided by American Indian experience, available materials, user needs, from American Indian perspectives rather than by standard library practices.

AILC users are most often those who have exhausted their local library’s materials and internet resources and need more in-depth material or guidance to locate resources or get ideas appropriate to their subject. Although our target users are from the local (greater Los Angeles) area, our users also come from across the U.S. and sometimes from Canada, Great Britain, Europe, and Asia as well.

Fortunately in the last few years a new generation of COLAPL administrators has begun to include AIRC materials in new technology oriented projects that will make exposure and access to AIRC’s unique materials available beyond the County Library system. The current focus project is a digitized set of correspondence, “Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1849-1880, California Superintendency”, which consists of approximately 20,000 frames of handwritten letters to the OIA in Washington, D.C. from government agents and others in California about the status of California Indians during that time period. By historical coincidence this period was crucial in California and U.S. history because of the Gold Rush of 1849 – as thousands of gold seekers poured into California they overwhelmed federal and state authorities who had not yet fully established political jurisdictions and practices, and were not prepared for the onslaught of gold-seekers. In the midst of this, California Indians scrambled to survive, though most didn’t. The estimated California Indian population went from an 1850 estimate of 300,000-500,000 to 15,000 by 1900. These letters reveal some of the raw, uncensored first-hand accounts of the political squabbles between state, federal and local authorities of these events, the massacres and slavery of California Indians, and other events that resulted in the 95+% decrease of the California Indian population from 1850 to 1900.

The present phase of working on these handwritten letters includes volunteer COLAPL librarians and senior staff who work on transcribing them – these volunteers often express surprise at what they read in these letters and it fuels their desire to know more, so part of my job has been to educate them with background history to provide them with the historical context of the time these letters were written.

The nature of these letters directly connects them to the subject of the genocide of California Indians, which came from the global primarily academic interest in Holocaust and then genocide studies. When academics “discovered” this aspect of California history, they no longer had to look to other parts of the world to study, we have our own home-grown examples right here in California. Now the subject appears more frequently in academic publications, conferences, and in the media. As other institutions such as the Smithsonian and universities have been made aware of this project and its relevance to California history there is more interest in seeing the letters fully transcribed and made publicly available, which will probably take a few more years. I won’t be here to see that happen, I’m just glad to know that COLAPL has committed the staff and resources to make it happen. My replacement will very likely see this project completed.

Some of my greatest sources of satisfaction

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as AIRC librarian have been to see the light-bulb go on as users “get” the real story behind whatever subject they’re working on, whether personal matters such as family ancestry, or more abstract concepts like the legal and social consequences of the fractionization of allotted lands. I have always felt my job is to help users connect the dots and get clearer on the pieces of the puzzle they’re researching. Although AIRC has the usual books on expected subjects such as: “spirituality”, healing practices, George Catlin paintings, sacred sites, the Trail of Tears, the Ghost Dance movement, etc. it also has the resources that help shed light on the diverse aspects of the inconsistent and contradictory history of American Indian experience under U.S. control from Removal to evolving Tribal Sovereignty, ICWA to gaming, and more...

Americans still have much to learn about American Indian experience not just in California but throughout the Americas and indigenous experience world-wide, so I have striven to have materials in this collection to further awareness and factual knowledge of these experiences and their relevance today and for the future. Whoever replaces me will have opportunities to expand the work that has been done here, particularly with incorporating technology to make this collection more accessible on a national and global level.

Perhaps what I have enjoyed most over these last 17 years is the continual need to learn new areas and aspects of our fascinating and often ignored history in order to address questions that we receive, questions that usually go beyond stereotypical ideas about American Indian history and life - past, present, and future.

Personally working here has also helped in gaining understanding of the contexts of things I experienced as a child on the Winnebago reservation: such as my naming ceremony that brought great-grandpa (a widower who outlived 5 wives) out of his hermit existence to give me a name and was never seen again, why different family members attended different rez churches, the things we were not supposed to talk about like the old Indian graveyard we weren’t supposed to know existed, all that unique local life stuff of a small rez. I recalled things family members and neighbors used to talk about – the good and bad of being at Haskell, at Wahpeton, at different boarding schools across the nation, of the racism in town we tried to avoid, the issues in conflicted family relations they wouldn’t talk about openly, and things like Relocation, allotments, trust land, lease payments, etc. none of which they ever fully grasped. Working here provided the materials and opportunities to gain historical perspectives on their worlds, their legacy, and how those impact us today, for which I am forever grateful. In the process of learning how to help others with their questions, I learned much about the historical contexts of the American Indians lives past and present from all across the nation.

A Google search under my name and “American Indian Resource Center” will produce links for various projects, conferences, and events I’ve been involved in.

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