FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fall is beautiful in Missouri. It’s a time of clear skies, low humidity, and cooler temperatures, a great time to walk the dog and ride the Katy Trail with the kids. It’s also the season for MASL’s Fall Seminar, a high point on my calendar. This year we welcomed Charles Smith, Jr., several concurrent session presenters, and more than a dozen vendors and authors, the food from Stefanina’s in Troy was amazing. One-word descriptions I collected from attendees include refreshing, invigorating, recharging, engaging, enriching, connecting, energizing, and relevant. Take advantage of MASL’s professional development opportunities for your students . . . and yourself!

One of our goals this year is to develop a more robust legislative agenda. MASL Legislative Chair, Kelly Krause, leads this effort (read more about her activities on page 6). We have designed a survey that captures the impact of budget cuts across the state on school libraries and librarians. We are working with our legislative advocate to prepare for Legislative Day in the spring and develop proactive initiatives to make school libraries and their positive impact on student achievement visible to state leaders. We know that it takes all kinds of teachers—including school librarians—to educate the next generation of professionals, scholars, scientists, and entrepreneurs. We also know that we are our own best advocates for building robust school library programs that foster the kind of learning those future leaders need now.

Speaking of advocacy, we need your help to build the best Readers Award program in the nation. Already, partnering with the Missouri Library Association, we offer Readers Award books that span infancy to high school. That is an amazing accomplishment, but we can do better. Let’s build Readers Award reading lists that reflect the diversity of all of our students. Books that feature kids like ours are hard to find. Be watching for them in publishers’ catalogs, in book review collections, in libraries, and at bookstores. Ask your vendors to watch for them. Ask for them from publishers. Share promising new titles with your Readers Award committees at http://maslonline.org.

Finally, a key advocacy initiative involves school librarians providing professional development to school librarians. School librarians across the state will be presenting great program or learning activities and new technology ideas that foster student success.

Some will bring collaborating teachers and administrators to share their joint successes. This year, the Spring Conference is April 17-19. Our theme is “Focus on the Future”. When you register for conference (http://www.maslonline.org/?page=spring_conf), also volunteer to help.

Together we build success.

Pat Antrim, President

Author Charles Smith, Jr. speaking at Fall Seminar
FALL SEMINAR THOUGHTS
Submitted by Vickie Howard, MASL 2nd VP

MASL’s Fall Seminar has always been the boost I needed to finish out the first semester of school with fresh ideas from my fellow MASL members and this year’s did just that!

Thanks to all the presenters for sharing their ideas. The MASL Office created a webpage for any handouts that were used. Advocacy of our library programs, ways to be a part of student achievement, and ideas of how to get an author to your school were just a few topics discussed. Gateway, Truman, and Show-Me Award presenters sparked a huge interest in book trailers.

Verbal and written responses I have received regarding our workshops have been extremely positive. Cherie Lemay, one of our presenters, stressed how important it is, especially during this time when we are all facing budget cuts and uncertainty, to continue to share and reach out to one another. We must be our own advocates and remember that we are not alone as we serve our school communities.

Maggie Newbold and Jenni George took care of all the local arrangements, including the set-up of exhibitors, which was a first this year.

We were also very fortunate to have Penman and Winton to take care of our registrations and store items.

Thank you, MASL, for offering members not one, but two times a year for us to meet with our colleagues, share ideas and encouragement, and learn what we need to know to make our programs a showcase for our children.

Charles R. Smith, Jr., award-winning children’s book author, poet, and photographer, had been visiting southeast Missouri schools so he was thrilled to finish his week as our keynote speaker. During his workshop, he showed us how to not only blow the dust off our poetry selections, but how to work with students and teachers in creating their own poetry so I’ll close with this:

MASL’s commitment to encourage growth;
Advocacy [legislatures, administrators, parents, students, community];
Student Achievement;
Leadership;
Fellowship;
Author, Charles R. Smith, Jr.;
Learning about historical fiction;
Learning standards;
Streaming videos;
Exhibitors;
Moonwalking;
Information skills;
New colleagues;
Award winning books/book trailers;
Reading promotions.

Next year’s Fall Seminar may take on a new face by changing its title so you won’t want to miss it!

AASL CAN HELP
Submitted by Linda Weatherspoon, AASL Affiliate Assembly Delegate

With these uncertain times in our schools it is important that we as school librarians promote our program at every turn and this is sometimes hard to do. To help you, AASL has information that you may be able to use/adapt to your situation. By going to the AASL’s home page [http://www.ala.org/aasl] and clicking on the Parents tab at the top of the page. You will find the following topics:

♦ "Who School Librarians are and Learning4Life"
♦ "What Studies Show about School Librarians’ Contribution to Learning"
♦ "Get Involved"

Also on the AASL site are links to the many toolkits that AASL has developed to help you. These can be located by clicking on the School Library Media Students tab at the top of the page. Some of the tool kits include:

• AASL Advocacy Toolkit
• Crisis Toolkit & Resources
• Parent Outreach Toolkit
• @your library Toolkit for School Library Programs

The Missouri Association of School Librarians is a not-for-profit educational organization that is "devoted to the improvement of learning opportunities through access to and utilization of information."

CONNECTIONS is an official publication of the Missouri Association of School Librarians.

Published four times a year, its purpose is to provide information about association activities.

Send articles to the CONNECTIONS editor:
Cheryl Skiles
cheryl.skiles@fhsdschools.org

Fall/Early Winter 2010-11
Volume 3 Number 2
SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2011

2ND VICE PRESIDENT
ELLEN WICKHAM

Ellen Wickham grew up in Warrensburg, the daughter of two educators and niece of her own school librarian, Ophelia Gilbert. She graduated from CMSU (now UCM) in 1983 with a BSE in Secondary Social Studies. After taking time to raise her family, Ellen returned to CMSU for her Master’s of Science in Library Science and Information Services. Rather than entering a public school classroom, she opted for an adjunct professorship at CMSU in the Library Science department where she worked for 6 years. After the birth of her 3rd child, Ellen joined the Independence School District and was the library media specialist at both Truman High School and Bridger 8th Grade Center. In 2005, Ellen moved to the Raytown School District and has been at Raytown South High School ever since. Ellen has been a MASL member since 1992 and served in a variety of ways as a Spring Conference volunteer and presenter, a 6-year member of the Gateway Committee, a member of the Association Management Search Committee, Spring Conference Workshops co-chair, and Spring Conference co-chair. As many of us know, Dr. Aileen Helmick always said we need to give back to our profession. So, with the support of her family, Ellen is excited and anxious to begin a new phase of MASL service as 2nd Vice President. During her tenure as a MASL officer, Ellen plans to be an advocate for professionalism within our organization. She would like to see Missouri school librarians maintain an active professional presence in the state through legislative advocacy, by reaching out and educating our colleagues in other professional organizations, and continuing to be active, service oriented members of MASL.

SECRETARY
JANE HORSEFIELD

Jane Horsefield is currently serving MASL as the 21 Century Learning Standards State Coordinator and secretary of the MASL organization. Jane is the high school Library Media Specialist at John F. Hodge High School in St. James. Jane is currently serving MASL as the 21st Century Learning Standards State Coordinator and secretary of the MASL organization. Jane is dedicated to the library profession with seventeen years experience including serving at the district, region, and state level in a variety of leadership positions for MASL.

TREASURER
JENNIFER ROBINS

Jennifer Robins is an Associate Professor at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. She teaches courses in the Library Science and Information Services Program in the Educational Leadership and Human Development Department in the College of Education. Before earning her PhD at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, she worked part time as a public accountant for several small businesses.

SPRING CONFERENCE EARLY BIRD PRICING
AVAILABLE THROUGH FEBRUARY 1ST, 2011
VISIT THE MASL WEBSITE TO REGISTER NOW
MASL OFFICER NOMINATIONS

The 2010 Nominations Committee identified three willing and very capable MASL members who have agreed to serve the Association next year. You can read about this slate of officers in this issue of the CONNECTIONS.

However, if the Nominations Committee missed an opportunity and did not contact you – don’t fret, you can still run for an office. Here is what you will need to do:

1. Start a petition and get a minimum of twenty-five current members of the Association to sign it.
2. Attach your written consent indicating that you have agreed to run for the office.
3. Submit the completed petition to the MASL office by February 1, 2011.

And if you are interested in serving the Association as an officer but would rather not run for the 2011 year, please contact Maggie Newbold mnewbold@fz.k12.mo.us or submit your name to the MASL office. The Nominations Committee would be more than happy to assist you in your efforts.

LESS THAN 100

Submitted by Maggie Newbold

There were fewer than 100 MASL members who attended the 2010 Fall Seminar on Saturday, November 6. Prior to November 5, that headline would have depressed me. But thanks to MASL Board member, Kay Bult, I am able to view the statistic for what it is: 95 Missouri librarians registered, 88 attended the 2010 Fall Seminar, participating in the high quality professional development opportunity that only MASL can deliver.

Whereas it is true that fewer than ten percent of the Missouri school librarians (12% of the MASL membership) took advantage of this professional development opportunity, Kay Bult reminded the MASL Board of Directors that it is important that the Association continue to offer Fall Seminar for the school librarians in the state, even if only ONE librarian attends. Why? Because it is MASL’s mission to provide professional development opportunities for all of the school librarians in the state. And, that simple reminder helped me appreciate the day for what it was, an unsurpassed opportunity for school librarians to meet and hear the award winning author and illustrator, Charles Smith, Jr., to participate in three breakout sessions, to meet and visit with several Missouri authors, to speak with several vendors in one convenient location, and to be able to express their concerns to the MASL Board of Directors about their jobs. Those in attendance were also provided a mini lesson, "Talking with Your Legislature", taught by 18th District State Representative Anne Zerr of St. Charles.

For me, the highlight of the day was when a MASL member said, “I am so glad I came. This was such an amazing day and I learned so much.” I knew that this was one school librarian who was enthused and motivated. She would return to her school library on Monday, November 8 with a very special gift, inspiration. Fall Seminar had given her some new ideas about collaboration to try that excited her and a whole new list of books written and illustrated by Charles Smith, Jr., to consider for her collection. The upcoming year is still going to be a challenge for her without her library aide, but she is much better prepared mentally and emotionally to deal with it because Fall Seminar provided a spark that rekindled her great love for doing what she does best, helping children develop a life-long love for reading.

Eighty-eight librarians attended Fall Seminar participating in one of Missouri’s best professional development opportunities offered for school librarians. As for the other 900+ school librarians in the state, I hope you take the time to learn more about Charles Smith, Jr., and the wonderful books he has written and illustrated. And I hope the professional development opportunities you participate in this year inspire and motivate you to be the most knowledgeable, creative, informed school librarian possible.
NORTHEAST REGION NEWS

The Northeast Region of MASL held their fall meeting at Moberly High School Media Center, Wednesday, October 20, 2010, at 1:30 pm with 26 members and guests present.

Kay Bult and Pam Callahan presented a program on the Show-Me and Gateway Reading Incentive programs and encouraging all Northeast members to sign up and become involved in these programs as committee members or reader/selectors. We viewed a short powerpoint about the Truman Reading program submitted by Korene Ekstrand.

Holly Phillips presented a Scholastic Book Fair workshop including training on the scanner for checkout and inventory. Attendees received gifts and book fair credit for the Scholastic workshop.

Under New Business members are encouraged to get actively involved in the Northeast Region by applying for one of the vacant NE offices of either Chairman, Vice-Chairman, or Secretary for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years. Submit your name to Beth Yount byount@marceline.k12.mo.us if you are interested.

Brookfield librarians will be in charge of the Dollars for Scholars Spring Conference basket. The theme is “Focus on the Future” If you have items or money to donate, please contact Sarah Jesaitis sjesaitis@brookfield.k12.mo.us, Holly Matzen hmatzen@brookfield.k12.mo.us or Kathy Lowther k.lowther@hotmail.com.

The Northeast Region News Volume 3, Issue 2

The Spring Meeting will be held in late February/early March at Moberly or Hannibal. Watch for forthcoming emails with definite date, time, and place. We are also asking NE librarians to send their summer email address and phone number to Kathy Lowther k.lowther@hotmail.com so a calling tree can be used for summer correspondence and meeting dates. We don’t want to miss anyone from attending our summer social.

Our Legislative representative, Jackie St. Clair, gave a report stating the importance of librarians being their own advocate in their school districts.

Members paid $5 dues to Sheryl Riley sriley@putnamcountyr1.net.

The meeting adjourned with refreshments. Special thanks to the Moberly librarians for hosting our meeting – Brian Katcher, Debbie Wiggs, Jackie St. Clair, and Vanessa Morris.

2011 EMERGING LEADER CHOSEN

Submitted by Linda Weatherspoon, AASL Affiliate Assembly Delegate and Dr. Jeanette Westfall

MASL is proud to announce the sponsorship of its second participant in ALA’s Emerging Leader program. An ALA committee selected Melissa Corey as MASL’s 2011 ALA Emerging Leader. Melissa is the school librarian at Benton High School in St. Joseph. She has been the librarian there for two years.

Benton’s co-principal, Dr. Jeanette Westfall said, “Only 100 ALA members are selected nationally from all library specialists. Melissa has personally changed the face of what it means to be a library media specialist in the eyes of our teachers by working in classrooms with teachers one-on-one, day-in and day-out. She team-teaches the web design class and has helped to transform research at Benton.”

“I’ll be exposed to professional development at a national level, and will work with a variety of librarians,” said Ms. Corey, who believes her work helping to transform the Benton library from a traditional school library to a 21st Century library was key to her selection by the Missouri Association of School Librarians as its representative to the national group.

“What we’re doing at Benton is trying to recognize the total needs of every student – research, information literacy, reading for information and reading for pleasure – and bringing all of that together in one place where students want to be – in a physical place and online,” she said.

Ms. Corey said that libraries have been in a catch-up mode concerning technology.

“The Internet and technology passed libraries by a few years ago,” she said, “so we have to embrace technology and learn how to use it to reach our students. We have to show them how to do research on-line. Libraries have to be more than just brick and mortar.”

The Emerging Leader program is a professional development leadership opportunity which enables library workers from across the United States to work together in problem-solving groups, network with peers and serve in a professional leadership position within ALA or their state affiliated group.

Participants in the Emerging Leader program begin their work with a day-long session at the ALA Mid-Winter meeting. Afterward for the next six months the participants work in an online learning and networking environment. During the ALA Annual Conference in the summer, the program culminates with the Emerging Leaders displaying the results of their cooperative work during a poster session.

MASL’s support of this program includes providing $500 dollars toward attendance at ALA Annual and $500 dollars for attending ALA Mid-Winter. For this opportunity Melissa will be asked to serve MASL in a leadership role at either the region or state level.

Congratulations Melissa!
ADVOCATING FOR LIBRARIES

Submitted by Kelly Krause

“My budget was cut by 50%.”

“I’m traveling between two libraries this year.”

“They didn’t replace the librarian at the high school, so now teachers are checking books out to their own students.”

“I lost my full-time aide.”

How often have we heard or said similar things the past two years as state budget cuts have sliced into our profession? And it’s only going to get worse. According to James R. Moody and Associates, a Jefferson City consulting firm that regularly analyzes Missouri’s budget, Missouri outspent its income by $1.8 billion in FY2010. Federal stimulus education monies will run out by June, and the state economy is projected to grow this year at a very weak two percent. At this rate, education will be taking even more hits as lawmakers struggle to further reduce spending and find new sources of revenue.

What does that mean for the children and teachers we serve? In a word—less. We have less money, less support personnel, and less time to give to our patrons. The workload hasn’t gotten less, though. We are still trying to do the same job: helping students gain research skills and choose books appropriate to their abilities, and teaching them to avoid plagiarism, in addition to managing the collection and maintaining the library infrastructure. We just have less time and money with which to do it.

As money has become tighter, administrators and boards have viewed libraries as one of the first places in our districts to reduce spending. These first-round cuts send the signal that the school library is a minor component of student achievement, a nonessential extra with little effect on a school district’s success. During the flush economic times in the late 1990s and early 2000s, DESE placed more emphasis on facilities, including library resources and personnel, as an MSIP evaluation point. However, 5th-cycle MSIP will only look at student achievement as the primary measure of a school district’s success.

This is the new reality, and we need to think about how to respond. At this point, there are two choices: we can either accept the situation and sit, praying that a huge wad of cash drops out of the sky to save us Deus ex machina-style. Or we can take matters into our hands and fight for our libraries and our patrons. MASL is working to help us with the second choice.

MASL President Dr. Pat Antrim has adopted advocacy as her priority this year. Advocacy means we promote school libraries both in our communities and at the state legislative level. We understand the importance of libraries for student achievement, but unless we can demonstrate that to our administrators, boards, fellow teachers, community, and state representatives, we are in danger of losing the way of the due date stamp.

Our first step is gathering data about the impact state budget cuts have had on our school libraries. We need specific facts to show how our students are being affected, so MASL recently asked its members to respond to an online survey about this topic. Results are being compiled which librarians can then use when they communicate with their legislators. Another data-gathering tool is a Google map showing where school library positions have been eliminated or where a librarian is now in charge of more than one library. If you have experienced this in your district, please add your data to this open-collaboration map at http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&oe=UTF8&msa=0&msid=117551670433142326244.000482bb911ce51b680265z=-4. It requires a free Google account.

Our next step is education. We need to learn how to advocate for ourselves on both the local and state levels. Some tools are already in place. On MASL’s website, links to our state legislators and AASL’s advocacy tools are a good place to begin. LuAnn Madsen is the lobbyist hired by MASL to push our issues, and MASL’s legislative committee is formulating a legislative platform which we will use to communicate the library agenda to our elected representatives.

In addition, MASL members are working on creating an advocacy workshop that legislative committee members will share with their regions to teach librarians how to promote school libraries at all levels.

Attendees at Fall Seminar at Ft. Zumwalt High School last November also got some good advice from Ann Zerr, Missouri representative for the 18th District, about how to talk to legislators when they email or visit:

- Explain the issue in layman’s terms. Legislators may not be familiar with library jargon.
- Establish relationships early. Call ahead and make an appointment with the representative and the assistant, whether it is at the home district or the Jefferson City office.
- Tell legislators more than once. Hearing from constituents about the issue several times helps them completely absorb all the facts.
- Help representatives develop a solution, whether it be how to get funding, how to make a policy change, or how to resolve a roadblock.
- Realize that constitutionally, education is the state’s main job.
- Know that librarians are important and their demeanor needs to convey that confidence during a visit.
- Assist legislators to understand the big picture and the dynamics surrounding the specific issue.

(Continued on page 9)
GETTING BOYS TO READ

Submitted by Judi Nador, Librarian, St. Louis Public Schools

The following is a copy of the e-mail that I shared with staff at my two high schools. I try to keep them informed as to what I am doing in the library and especially when I leave the building for Professional Development. A little background: I am at present combining two collections for two totally different programs in one building. I serve as the librarian for both the Central Visual and Performing Arts High school program and the Cleveland Junior Naval ROTC program. The library is in a very large area in the approximate middle of the two buildings and has turned out to be quite an undertaking. Seems it is just me and the boxes with what help I can get from students and a couple of staff members. Actually, it is progressing fairly well. My “mountain range” of boxes of books is now down to foothills, and I have actually been servicing students and staff from the beginning of the school year.

Good Morning Everyone,

Before I begin my daily chore of moving, unpacking, and shelving books, I just want to take a couple of minutes to share some of the things that I learned last Friday.

The name of the session was “Developing Youth Library Service to Keep Them Coming Back!” It was sponsored by the Missouri State Library, and featured Michael Sullivan, a renowned author, teacher, librarian, and adjunct instructor at University of Rhode Island School of Library Science. His web site is: http://talesoldtall.com/.

Michael is a great proponent of keeping our boys reading. He told us that when the boys come to the libraries as preschoolers for storytimes and story telling sessions, they are enthralled, they leave with armloads of books about dinosaurs, trucks, gross stuff, etc. This interest generally continues until about 3rd grade when they seem to completely lose all interest in reading. Why does this happen? Michael’s premise is that in 3rd grade, reading becomes a “job.” Books are “chapter” books, there are fewer pictures, and we tend to insist that reading is to be done for reading’s sake. All of these factors, as well as the fact that boy’s brains work differently, lead to a complete disinterest in reading. It becomes a chore instead of fun.

What does this have to do with brain function? Well, physically speaking, the right and left hemispheres of the brain are joined by a bundle of fibers called the corpus callosum that delivers messages from one side to the other. In females, this is fully developed and working from the time they are very small. Girls are earlier in language development, reading, and other skills because of this. In boys, the development is slower. Girls tend to not need outside stimuli to enjoy activities such as reading, however, boys do need this. Boys are ready to begin to read at a later age than girls because of the actual brain development. Their development is about 3 years behind the girls. Happily, it eventually all evens out and things are more equitable for the boy/girl thing. However, by this time, habits are set. Michael maintains that until boys reach college age, they probably will not be willing readers.

Anyway, he went more in-depth about this and the inordinate number of so-called “diagnosed ADHD” boys and what pure research is now finding out about this. Many boys are actually not ADHD, but just active, and our educational system does not provide for this. We want everyone to come in, sit down, and listen/write/read, and in general to be quiet while doing so. Boys will read, and read a lot if the right kinds of stimuli and the right kinds of books are provided for them from early on.

I could go on, but instead will just say that the information I received was invaluable to me as a librarian and educator, and I now have a better grasp of finding reading materials that will appeal to the boys that I hope to serve. I did receive copies of 2 of Michael Sullivan’s Books and will be cataloging them into our Professional Collection. The titles are:
Connecting 2 Boys with Books
Fundamentals of Children’s Services

MASL 2011 ONE READ: THIRTEEN REASONS WHY BY ASHER

Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher has been selected at the 2011 Spring Conference One Read book. It was the 2009-10 Gateway Award Winner. The author is scheduled to attend the Readers Awards Banquet at Spring Conference.

Synopsis: When high school student Clay Jenkins receives a box in the mail containing thirteen cassette tapes recorded by his classmate Hannah, who committed suicide, he spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crossing their town, listening to Hannah’s voice recounting the events leading up to her death.

Spring Conference: April 17-19, 2011
RDA IS COMING! RDA IS COMING!

Submitted by Raegan Wiechert, Missouri State University

Resource Description and Access (RDA) is a new set of cataloging rules being developed under the direction of the national library associations of the United States, England, Canada, and Australia. The new rules have been in development for a number of years and they are currently in a test period. The test runs through the end of December 2010. By March 2011, the results of the test will be analyzed and an announcement about formal adoption will be made.

What RDA Is

• A remake of/update to rules that takes into consideration current technology, from the perspective of users and librarians
• A content standard for bibliographic and authority records

What RDA Is Not

• A complete 180 degree change from AACR2 rules
• Display standard (e.g., like ISBD)
• Encoding standard (e.g., like MARC)

What is the RDA test?

The RDA test includes formal participants from the Library of Congress (LC), the National Library of Medicine (NLM), the National Agricultural Library (NAL), and 24 other institutions (including one school district). Each participant is required to catalog a common set of 25 items, both in AACR2 and RDA. Additionally, they are required to catalog at least 25 more items of their own choosing. Other institutions are also creating RDA records, but they are not required to follow the guidelines of the formal testers.

Will I be receiving RDA records? How can I tell?

Since most school libraries receive their records from the Library of Congress (either directly, or indirectly via vendors), there is a chance you may see an RDA record. Districts that catalog through OCLC may also see RDA records from institutions besides LC. However, because of the sheer number of possibilities of items that LC could choose for their test, it is unlikely that you will receive more than one or two, if any, RDA records. There are two red flags to look for to tell if a record is RDA or not: MARC field 040$e rda and the presence of new fields 336, 337, 338. Because of the addition of fields 336, 337, and 338, there will no longer be a GMD (245$h) for non-book cataloging.

Do I have to switch to RDA?

A qualified no. Most institutions in the United States are continuing to use AACR2, at least until the test period is over and a formal adoption announcement is made. Once RDA is adopted, there will be a transition time as catalogers are trained to use RDA. However, as with AACR2 thirty years ago, institutions cannot be forced to use RDA, although most will find it easier to go with the national standard. Be aware that when RDA is adopted, LC records will be in RDA form. So you will need to decide if you want to keep switching such RDA records back to AACR2.

How will my ILS system handle RDA records?

Ask your ILS vendor. Please note that new MARC fields and subfields have been added to accommodate RDA and some could possibly affect your OPAC display.

How do I access RDA?

RDA was initially developed to be an online product. To that end, the RDA Toolkit was developed. See http://www.rdatoolkit.org/pricing for pricing and subscription information.

However, many felt that an online subscription would be cost-prohibitive and create access problems for small institutions, so a print version is also being produced. See http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=3065 for pricing and ordering information.

Where can I find additional information about RDA?

There are numerous ways to receive information about and training for RDA, with more being developed all the time. Below are just a few places to check.

Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA: http://www.rda-jsc.org/rda.html

LC: http://www.loc.gov/aba/cataloging/policy/ (scroll down to Resource Description and Access)

State, regional, and national library associations (see especially the ALCTS division of ALA)

Numerous books and articles are being produced. See http://www.alastore.ala.org for offerings from ALA.

SPRING CONFERENCE UPDATE

Register today for the annual Missouri Association of School Librarians (MASL) 2011 Spring Conference scheduled for April 17-19 at the Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach. You can register online for the event. If you are a member, make sure to log in to receive the best pricing.

Also, check out the following information recently released from the Spring Conference Committee.

Table Reservations: Table reservations are now being accepted. For $100 ensure that you and 9 of your closest colleagues receive preferential seating at all conference events, including the premier event – the Readers Awards Banquet. Proceeds from this year’s event will support the Readers Award program by offsetting the costs of bringing the winning authors to our conference, as well as funding a grant to help schools obtain copies of the nominated Readers Awards titles.

Workshop Proposals: The Spring Conference Committee solicited proposals from members and is now shaping them into a full calendar of concurrent sessions. Please check the Conference pages on the MASL website in early March, for the list of sessions being offered.

Bring a Collaborating Teacher and/or Administrator: New to the 2011 Spring Conference is the opportunity to share your MASL experience and information with a collaborating teacher or administrator. For the 2011 Spring Conference, MASL is offering a special rate of $50 for these individuals to attend afternoon workshops and visit the Exhibit Hall with you on Sunday, April 17. Please note that meals are not included within the $50 fee, but may be purchased via the MASL website. Collaborating colleagues are also encouraged to attend the pre-conference workshop sessions on Sunday morning (additional fees apply). Registration for a collaborating colleague is available on your online registration form.

MASL One-Read: 13 Reasons Why by Jay Asher, the 2009-2010 winner of the Gateway Readers Award, has been selected for the 2011 Spring Conference One-Read. Be sure to read this phenomenal book prior to Spring Conference attendance. Various times throughout the conference will be dedicated to discussing the book. Author Jay Asher is also scheduled to attend the Readers Awards Banquet on Monday evening.

Please contact the MASL office with any questions regarding Spring Conference at info@maslonline.org or (573) 893-4155. We look forward to seeing you in April!

MASL 2011 Spring Conference Committee

ADVOCATING FOR LIBRARIES

(Continued from page 6)

- Make sure to communicate the message several ways to take into account all legislators’ learning styles.
- Some need the information in writing because they are visually oriented; some need to hear it.
- Her final bit of advice: “DESE works for us (the legislators) and we work for the people,” adding that librarians need to think about how to make changes both through education policy as well as legislation.

Missouri school libraries are in trouble. It is up to each of us to make sure everyone sees the library program as a vital part of our students’ success. We have to become more than just advocates for our profession. We need to be activists.

Visit with your legislators. Become indispensable at your school. Fight when more funds are cut from your program. Show specifically how these cuts are harming your students’ achievement. MASL members are working to put the tools in our hands, but as Zerr reminded librarians at Fall Seminar: “Everyone has to carry the water.” Don’t leave it to someone else to restore your program. Your library’s best advocate is you.
Author Charles R. Smith, Jr. shared his life story through poetry at MASL’s 2010 fall Seminar.

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UPCOMING EVENTS
January 22, 2011
2011 Spring Conference Committee Meeting

January 29, 2011
Readers Award Committees Meeting

February 04, 2011
Executive Council Meeting

February 05, 2011
CONNECTIONS Submission Deadline

February 17, 2011
GKCASL General Membership Winter Meeting/Workshop

February 18, 2011
Southeast District Winter Meeting
Dexter, Missouri

February 19, 2011
2011 Spring Conference Committee Meeting
Jefferson City, Missouri

March 02, 2011
South Central Region Meeting
Cuba, Missouri

March 26, 2011
2011 Spring Conference Committee Meeting
Osage Beach, Missouri

April 10-16, 2011
National Library Week

April 16, 2011
2011 Spring Conference Committee Meeting
Osage Beach, Missouri

April 17-19, 2011
MASL Spring Conference
Osage Beach

May 02-08, 2011
Children’s Book Week

May 07, 2011
CONNECTIONS Submission Deadline

June 23-28, 2011
ALA Annual Conference
New Orleans, LA

April 22-24, 2012
MASL Spring Conference
Osage Beach, MO

April 14-16, 2013
MASL Spring Conference
Osage Beach, MO