



INTERCOM

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District of Columbia Library Association

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*Serving Washington, DC
area Libraries and
Librarians for 112 years*

*DCLA is a chapter of the
American Library
Association*

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Inside this issue

ALA Council Report 3

Awards & Student Loans 4 & 8

DCPL-Council Testimony 5

New Board 6

Legislative Day Report 7

Membership Form 9

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August 15.

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And When the Librarians Went Marchin' In— DCLA Members Were There:

Re-Building Community in New Orleans

by Kathryn Ray



Early on Friday morning, and again on Tuesday, the New Orleans Convention Center was a sea of yellow shirts. More than nine hundred volunteers paid \$10 for the privilege of rising early, working like dogs, and coming home filthy and exhausted. As we loaded onto the buses that would take us to over 20 sites throughout the flood-ravaged city, few were fully prepared for what they saw. At the end of the day, participants agreed that it was "the right thing to do."

DCLA President, **Elaine Cline**, spent the day at the Central Library of New Orleans Public. Elaine says, "Although the building survived the storm, the impact on the staff and services has been great. Before Katrina the library has 213 staff; after Katrina and Rita they had 20 plus 20 on a federal job program which expires in mid July. FEMA still occupies most of the first floor which prevents patrons from browsing the most popular collections. Most of the staff who are lucky enough to be working are living in FEMA trailers or in apartments. Many former staff want to work, but there is just no money for the City to pay them. The staff was dealt another blow when their director announced that he was leaving, because his wife had been unable to find employment. I received gift books in Acquisitions. NOPL has been inundated with books -- some of valuable, many that go directly to their Friends group for selling. People who want to help should send money to the NOPL Foundation or the NOPL Friends and not boxes of books. The library has neither the space nor the staff to deal with the large amount of books. I felt as though I was pushing the pig through the snake -- knowing that I was creating a larger backlog in cataloging and processing. The staff was incredibly upbeat and very appreciative. I was in awe of their spirit and their dedication to the people of New Orleans."

Along with 15 other librarians, **Bill Turner** worked at a Friends book sale to raise funds for rebuilding the Jefferson Parish East Bank Regional Branch in Metairie. Despite flood damage evident throughout the Branch, Bill and the other volunteers set up tables, sorted books and served as cashiers. Bill says, "The Friends and library staff all greeted us and thanked us warmly and repeatedly. The response to our being there was gratifying; it was a huge upper for everyone. On the bus trip from the Morial Convention Center to the library in the morning and back in the afternoon we saw ruined houses, piles of debris, and junked cars, reminders of the lasting effects of Katrina and of the hopes as yet unfulfilled of rebuilding the community."

Caroline Labbé learned first hand that New Orleans will probably never be the same. Her bus unloaded at Holy Cross High School, a Catholic school for

continued on p.2

Ebony Henry Stokes and Black Caucus members volunteered with Common Ground.



Caroline Long & Kathryn Ray volunteered with Habitat for Humanity



“Whether urban myth or veritas, the story of the library card found in a flood ravaged home will become a permanent part of library lore.”



Librarians Went Marchin’ continued from p.1

boys, established in 1859. Part of the "Holy Cross Historic District," one of the school's buildings is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. When Katrina hit, school had only been in session for three weeks. After the levees broke at the nearby canal, the school buildings flooded. When the waters receded, the bad news just got worse. In addition to flood damage and vandalism, school officials learned that they could not clean up the damage themselves because of asbestos floor and ceiling tiles. Classrooms are now FEMA trailers. There is no trailer for the library. Until the day that she gets library space, the librarian will be acting as office secretary. School officials must consider relocating the school to a new site. The neighborhood around the school is devastated, and repair costs at the current site are prohibitive. The fifteen ALA volunteers helped pack the library for its eventual move. Caroline says, "It was amazing to see the storm damage extending for miles as we rode through the area on the bus. It was also amazing to see what a difference a few volunteer hours could make in packing up a library."

Sarah Hamrick and a crew of volunteers landed at The Children's Resource Center, a branch of the New Orleans Public Library devoted almost exclusively to children's materials. Sarah shared these thoughts: "For me three things about the experience were especially striking. First, we were given virtually no instruction ("get the books back in the Library and get them on the shelves") but the group of 60-70 volunteers just sort of figured it out. Some stayed in the gym to organize the boxes and get them loaded up on the carts. Others sorted the boxes outside the building. Some lined up from the front of the building, up the steps, and into the building to make an assembly line for the boxes. Still others put books on the shelves. Those of us in the assembly line just kept our eyes open and when we didn't have boxes coming through we helped with other minor things. People who couldn't lift the boxes shelved books or took the empty boxes out. It was quite impressive to see how everybody simply took a few minutes to figure out what to do and then just got to work. The second thing about the experience that really struck me was that no one complained, grouched, preached about how we SHOULD be doing it, tried to manage the project, etc. Everyone just worked together. How many times have you been with a group of librarians when no one griped about anything?" Sarah says, "It was amazing to talk to the other volunteers and hear about their experiences during conference. Everyone with whom I spoke had been stopped by at least two people on the street who simply said 'Thanks for coming.' We all talked to waiters, shop clerks, small business owners, hotel staff, bus/shuttle/cab drivers, etc. who wanted to tell their stories and are struggling to keep afloat. Many of us at the work site shared the stories we had heard. Seeing/hearing firsthand how much people love their city and how hard they are working to bring it back was, in a way that is hard to explain, just as gut-wrenching as watching the destruction on the news last fall. Everyone was just happy to have a small part in helping to rebuild the city."

I'm sure all who attended the Annual Conference in New Orleans anticipated the trip with thoughts about the condition of this unique, and devastatingly wounded, American city. As the first large convention to meet in New Orleans since the hurricanes, ALA was made very welcome, from the jazz band at the airport baggage claim to the many thanks we received in restaurants and hotels. It was truly a "good thing" for ALA to keep its commitment to meet in New Orleans.

Caroline Long shares her experiences: "Three thoughts continue to surface for me. One is how hard it is for the many broadcasts

continued on p.3

Librarians Went Marchin' continued from page 2

and news reports to convey the enormity of the destruction. A second is the determination and hope I encountered. And the third is the need for deep and sustained support if the city is to revive as something like its old self. During the drive from the airport, I saw a number of things that began to make the devastation and disruption real and I began to realize how truly far life in New Orleans is from "normal." The leaning trees brought to mind the strength of the wind for all those hours; what must it have felt like to suffer through that? The billboards collapsed in heaps on buildings are not a priority now, as they are just a fraction of the clean up still to be done. The empty buildings I could see clear through raised so many questions: what happened to the windows, the furniture, the doors... and the occupants? Is the building going to be refurbished, or demolished? I glimpsed the "Orphan Grain Train" surrounded by tents and surmised it is a place to distribute food. This was a sobering piece of the emerging picture of what day-to-day life here nearly a year after the storms is like. The very little traffic on the roads spoke volumes about how little of the population is back. The heaps and heaps of rubble I could see from the bus brought to mind the infrastructure needed to collect it into piles, load it into trucks and deliver it to an appropriate place for disposal – an infrastructure that clearly is not in place. The beds against the windows in the World Trade Center raised the question of who's living there and what must that be like each day? The French Quarter is an area not greatly damaged, we've been told. Given the many stores and houses boarded up in the Quarter, I could only imagine conditions in other areas of the city. During the several days of the conference a positive spirit and hope came through in myriad ways. Some people I encountered just worked along without comment while others openly explained obstacles they'd overcome to be back working in the city. Whether from the city originally or there simply to do what they can to help with rebuilding, there are so many working hard to bring New Orleans back. I am grateful to have been able to participate in one of the Volunteer Days during the conference, working at a Habitat for Humanity site helping install insulation under the floor of one house and painting the kitchen of another. While seeing block after block of destruction and uninhabitable houses during our trip to the upper 9th Ward where we were to work was sobering, the positive energy we encountered at the Musician's Village during the day was profoundly encouraging. Providing housing for some of the creative people displaced last September is key to reviving and sustaining the musical culture of New Orleans. In this small corner of New Orleans it was possible to imagine a positive future, created by determined people doing so much with so little. With deep and sustained support the rebuilding can continue."

Regrettably, librarians don't make the national news every day; but when we marched in to New Orleans in June, we made headlines from California to Florida. Special thanks to each librarian, and especially DC Library Association members who made the commitment to re-build the community of New Orleans. I am very proud to have been president of an organization with competent, committed and caring members.

—Kathryn Ray

Kudos from ALA: "Added up, that's 3.5 years (yes, years) of work done over two days. You helped in a substantial and lasting way. At each work site, your effort improves the quality of life for the people of New Orleans. Thank you for coming to conference, but especially for demonstrating with your time and sweat to the truth that libraries and library staff make a difference in the world."

—John, Michael and Erika ALA's Libraries Build Communities Coordinators

Report from ALA Council

By Bill Turner

At the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans, June 22-28, 2006, Council adopted thirteen resolutions ranging from urging Congress to direct the Environmental Protection Agency to reprogram \$2.5 million of the FY 2007 budget to fund EPA libraries commending members in the hurricane-affected areas of New Orleans for their ongoing efforts to maintain library services. My vote was "yes" for each resolution. Details on the resolutions are forthcoming on the ALA web page at <http://www.ala.org> and are likely to appear in the next issue of *American Libraries*. The resolutions reflect the role of Council as the governing body of ALA (see <http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/governance/council/council.htm>). If you have questions about any of them, or if you have a resolution in mind to propose for the ALA midwinter meeting in Seattle (January 2007), please let me know. I'm grateful for the opportunity to represent you on Council and look forward to ongoing service to DCLA.

ALA Washington Office Honored with Ainsworth Rand Spofford Award

Named in honor of the Sixth Librarian of Congress and first president of DCLA, this award recognizes significant contributions to the development or improvement of library and information services. The ALA Washington Office, since its establishment in 1945, has made outstanding contributions in the following areas:

- Active and innovative leadership in the advancement of library or information services
- Significant influence on attitudes of public or private officials who are in a position to support the improvement of library and information services
- Promotion of a sustained legislative approach to improving the ability of libraries to provide for expanded services to users

Specifically, the DCLA Executive Board cited the coordination of National Library Legislative Day and ALA's efforts to secure funding for libraries as evidence of the WO's significant contributions to library service nationwide. At the local level, DCLA has been greatly enriched by the Washington Office staff who have generously donated their time to our association by serving as officers, contributing to *Intercom*, and speaking at programs.

Mike Kolakowski Recognized for Distinguished Service

Mike has been an active member of DCLA since 1978. He served on the DCLA Executive Board for four years, first serving as Director, then as Membership Secretary. Mike was DCLA's point person for the Third Edition of the jointly sponsored *Washington Area Library Directory*, published in 2003. He spent countless hours working to produce this seminal reference work, sales of which earn royalties for DCLA. As Membership Secretary, Mike maintained the membership database and took charge of mailing the *Intercom*. Mike's attention to detail, dependability and enthusiasm are exemplary. With no paid staff, the success of this Association depends on members who take on responsibilities for the greater good of our profession. Mike is among the most active librarians on our membership roster. He served in many leadership roles in DC/SLA. In the national organization, he chaired the Social Science Division and served on the Government Relations Committee. At LC, he was a trustee of the Library of Congress Professional Association Continuing Education Fund. As busy as Mike is, he always takes time to answer members' questions and offer sage advice to colleagues. His service is distinguished and he remains an invaluable asset to our Association.

Sharon Lenius Commended for Outstanding Community Service

During the day, Sharon works full time as a military/special librarian for the National Guard. Many (if not most) evenings she spends attending library-related meetings. Sharon recently completed a two year term on the board of DCLA and over the years has held many positions of responsibility with SLA.

Monday evenings, however, Sharon reserves for her volunteer work at Fairfax County Public Library's Centreville Regional Library. Sharon once mentioned to me that she loves volunteering on the reference desk at the busy Regional Library because it keeps her reference skills current. Volunteers like Sharon allow the Centreville Library to provide services to the Fairfax community seven days per week, and most evenings.

Centreville's branch manager, Pat White-Williams, told me that Sharon's tenure as a volunteer at Centreville is longer than her own as manager. Ms. White-Williams told me that the staff relies on Sharon's expertise, energy, enthusiasm and dedication. Sharon's contribution to FCPL has been significant and long-term. Her volunteer efforts directly benefit the community in Northern Virginia. Sharon is a DCLA member who gives back to the community and is well-deserving of DCLA's Community Service Award.



News of Note ...

Update on D.C. Public Libraries

The new Library Director, **Ginnie Cooper**, was introduced to DC during her June 15 Council testimony on Bill 16-732 the "Library Transformation Act of 2006." Ms. Cooper advocated for a new central library. By way of introduction, she said, "I bring more than 30 years of experience in library leadership, leading libraries in 5 states through transformation, as well as overseeing several hundred million dollar capital construction projects. As the new Library Director, I will be charged with setting the course for the District's Library system...Let's plan for the long run. We have an opportunity to create the service and operational improvements that are desperately needed and place them in a building that will support and embody a capital library – in every way: from its look and presence, to the experience of those who use that library...Residents of this city deserve a library that generates excitement, improves life, and provides access to knowledge – a library system that works – anchored by a new central library."

Council Committee on Libraries staffer, Jason Jeffres, estimates that 40-50 people testified. The staff is now analyzing the "massive" amount of information presented during the public hearing, including Elaine Cline's letter offered on behalf of DCLA. While the Council is in recess from July 15 through September 15, no action will be taken on the bill until the fall.

The next DC Library Board of Trustee Meeting has been rescheduled to meet on Wednesday, August 9, 2006. The meeting will be held at the Chevy Chase Branch Library, 5625 Connecticut Avenue, NW, at 6:00 pm.

—*Kathryn Ray*

TESTIMONY OF ELAINE CLINE FOR THE D.C. LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (DCLA) on Bill 16-734, the "Library Transformation Act of 2006"

Presented, June 15, 2006, at 10 a.m. before the Committee on Education, Libraries and Recreation, Councilmember Kathy Patterson, Chair.

Good morning. My name is Elaine Cline. I am V.P./President-Elect of the D.C. Library Association, a resident of Ward 3, and the Chief Librarian at the U.S. Department of State.

In 1894, among the first goals articulated by the newly established D.C. Library Association was to lobby for the creation of a public library for the National Capital. Within two years, largely due to the efforts of DCLA members, Congress granted a charter for the first D.C. Public Library. DCLA was present at the creation.

Now celebrating 112 years of continuous service to the library community, DCLA is a "501c3" organization with members from academic, school, public, federal, military and special libraries. Anyone who has an interest in libraries and librarianship is welcome to join our association. With that introduction, the following testimony is offered:

Washington, D.C. is, in many respects, the library capital of the world, yet our public library system that is meant to serve the information and literacy needs of a large and diverse population, is not the institution it could and should be. Thanks to the efforts of Mayor Williams and the Blue Ribbon Commission, Washington is now poised to develop the library system that the citizens of the District of

MEET THE NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD

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National Library Legislative Day: A Report from the Hill By Jennifer Jones

May 2, 2006 marked the 32nd National Library Legislative Day. Over 525 librarians, friends and advocates representing forty-seven states visited members of Congress. Some states organized “virtual legislative days” during the same time period to provide even more opportunities for library supporters to contact their Congress person with regards to supporting libraries. The goal of this day is to raise awareness and support for library issues. Some of the issues this year included funding, network neutrality and copyright.

The Washington Office of American Library Association and DCLA worked tirelessly to put together this event. The Washington Office staff helped to prepare the delegates by writing issue papers and hosting briefings. DCLA, through the efforts of Bill Turner, coordinated volunteers to stuff folders and to greet and guide the delegates, and assembled the DC delegation.

I participated in this event as a volunteer and as a delegate. By helping to prepare information folders for the delegates, I had the opportunity to meet fellow librarians, DCLA representatives and Washington Office Staff. The office has a wonderful new building near Dupont Circle and the volunteers got a chance to take a tour and learn more about what the dedicated staff do.

The state coordinators of the DC delegation, Bette Ann Hubbard and Bill Turner, put together a delegation comprised of people from a variety of organizations and backgrounds. DC delegates met with staffers from the offices of Representative Frank Wolf, VA, Representative Steny Hoyer, MD, and Senator Richard Durbin, IL. In addition, we got a chance to meet and talk with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, the Non-Voting Delegate representing the citizens of the District of Columbia. Some of the issues that we addressed included copyright and orphan works, funding for the EPA libraries, the current state of DC’s public and school libraries, LSTA grants and their uses with the Adaptive Services Division at DC Public Library, and proposed digital flags that could inhibit use of television programming even for educational purposes.

There were mixed reactions to our delegation. During most of our visits, we had to explain why we were visiting the office since DC does not have voting representatives. Congressman Wolf represents Northern Virginia and is on the House Appropriations Committee that controls federal agency funding. Congressman Hoyer represents Southern Maryland and is also on the Appropriations committee. Senator Durbin is on the Senate Appropriations Committee and it’s subcommittee for D.C. funding and is also a supporter of libraries. Congresswoman Norton, despite her non-voting status, is a strong advocate for all issues concerning the District. She was most engaging and deeply concerned with issues involving the first amendment. Ms. Norton also noted that librarians must be involved in these discussions to fully highlight everyone’s right to information and to ensure access.

A reception was held that evening for participants and Congressional staff members. This was an opportunity to meet and talk with library supporters from across the country. The Friends of Libraries U.S.A. gave awards to Senator Durbin and Idaho Senator Larry Craig, for their work on legislation affecting libraries. The Washington Office also presented a certificate of recognition to retiring Representative Major Owens, NY, for his support of libraries throughout his career.

Mark your calendars and get involved next year – May 1 and 2, 2007!

DC Delegates: Lawrence S. Guthrie III, ILL librarian at Covington & Burling, Jennifer Jones, Adult Librarian, DCPL, Michael J. McLane, Director of Libraries at The Catholic University of America, Doug Newcomb, Chief Policy Officer at SLA and a DC Resident, Kathryn Ray, DCLA president, and Arthuree R. M.

DCLA’s NLLD Committee

Barbara Folensbee-Moore, Chair

Elaine Cline

Jennifer Manning

Bill Turner

Shirley Loo

Andrea Gruhl

Mari-Jan Oboroceanu (Treasurer)

Erin Haggerty (ALA coordinator)

Doug Newcomb (SLA representative)

Three Students Awarded 2006 Ruth Fine Memorial Student Loans

Cambria Backus, Kimberly Peach, and Robyn Weisman were recognized at the DCLA annual banquet on May 23 as the 2006 recipients of the Ruth Fine Memorial Student Loans. This is the first time that three students were selected for the \$5,000 loans since the Ruth Fine Memorial Student Loans were first awarded in 2002.

Cambria has held several positions at Reading is Fundamental, Inc. and she is currently the Assistant to the President. She has been a volunteer at the Mount Pleasant Branch of DC Public Libraries since 2004. Cambria is enrolled in the School Library Media program at the University of Maryland College of Information Studies and she expects to graduate in 2008.



Kimberly is in the Binding and Collections Care Division at the Library of Congress. A willing and able volunteer, Kimberly is the secretary of the Library of Congress Professional Association and the treasurer of the LC Cooking Club for 2006. She is also a book repair volunteer with the Washingtoniana Division at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library of DC Public Libraries. She is a student at Catholic University and expects her MLS in the fall of 2007.



Robyn Weisman is the Circulation Desk Specialist at the American University Library. She had previously worked at George Mason University Johnson Center Library while getting her B.A. in integrative studies concentrating on literature and drama. She has worked in libraries for ten years in various capacities including service as a volunteer at the Fairfax City Library from 1995-1996. She is enrolled at the University of Maryland College of Information Studies and she expects to graduate in May 2007. Her current career goal is to be a librarian in a public or academic library.



The selection of the students was made by the Student Financial Assistance Committee after careful review of all of the applications. The committee is chaired by Shirley Loo and members of the committee are Jean Craigwell, Betsy Knauff, Bill Tuceling, and Sue Uebelacker.

—Shirley Loo

Ruth Fine was the Director of the Bureau of the Budget Library. She served as President of DCLA from 1963-64. In the year 2000, when she passed away at age 92, she left a significant bequest to DCLA for the expressed purpose of assisting promising library students with the cost of their education. Thank you, Ruth; and, congratulations Cambria, Kimberly and Robyn! You are the future.

Clip this form and send it in with your check, or renew via the website, <http://dcla.org> and pay using PayPal. You do not need to set up your own PayPal account to use this service.

If you are not sure if you already renewed, call Kirsten Allen: 202 885-3239 or send her an email [allen\(at\)american.edu](mailto:allen(at)american.edu)

DCLA MEMBERSHIP Renew/Join Form Today's date: _____

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To renew online and pay with your credit card, go to <http://www.dcla.org/dcla-join.htm>.

The DCLA membership year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR PREFERENCES:

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This is your DCLA record for work information: (Check here ____ if information is same as last year)

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 Employer/Institution: _____
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 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Work Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

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Institutional members only — Please indicate the following:

Point-of-contact Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:	
Individual ____ Basic \$30 ____ Supporting \$40 ____ Part-time/Unemployed \$20 ____ Associate \$20 ____ Student \$20 ____ Continuing (Retired) \$20 Sustaining (names are listed in <i>Intercom</i>) ____ Supporter \$60 - \$99 ____ Donor \$100 - \$249 ____ Contributor \$250 -	Institutional (names are listed in <i>Intercom</i>) ____ Institutional Supporter \$60 - \$99 ____ Institutional Donor \$100 - \$249 ____ Institutional Contributor \$250 - \$499 ____ Institutional Sponsor \$500 - <hr/> Student Financial Assistance _____ Donation to enhance programs _____ TOTAL amount paid _____

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(Please see next page)



Please check up to three DCLA Interest Groups and Committees that especially interest you:

- Advocacy Intellectual Freedom Library Legislative Day
- Reference Children/Young Adults/School Libraries Library Instruction
- Genealogy/Local History/Preservation Audio Visual/Multimedia Technical Services
- Library Technology Support Staff Government Information
- Management Adaptive Library Services New Librarians

To help us better understand our membership, please respond to the following questions:

In what type of library do you work? (Please check one.)

- Academic School Public Federal Military Law Other Special

Are you Student Retired Part-Time Librarian Job Seeker

1. Are you retired? Yes No

2. Are you a student? Yes No

4. What type of library work do you do? (Please check up to three.)

- Acquisitions Archives Cataloging Children/YA Services Circulation
- Collection Development Community Outreach Database Management Genealogy Government Information
- Instruction Media Services Digital Libraries Preservation Public Services
- Reference Serials Systems/Technology Technical Services Management

5. What prompted you to join or renew your membership this year? Please check all that apply.

- Cost Newsletter (*Intercom*) Advocacy
- Networking List serv (DCLA-L) Scholarship
- Programs offered (please list a few) Web site Other (please specify)



Welcome to our new webmaster,
Anne Osterman
aosterma (at) american.edu

Testimony continued from page 5

Columbia need and deserve. A new Martin Luther King, Jr. Library is the essential cornerstone to build a vibrant library system that will enhance and enrich the educational, cultural, and economic vitality of Washington.

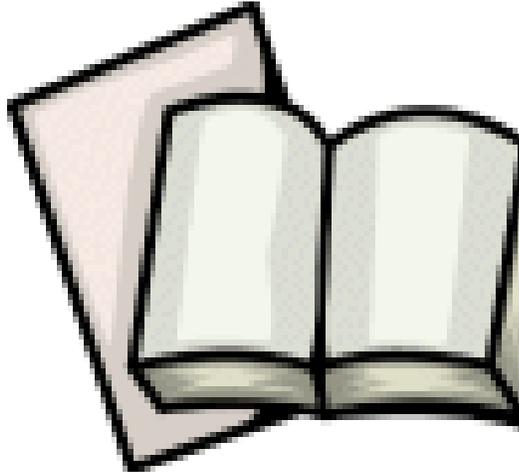
The D.C. Library Association advocates for a world class downtown library for the citizens of Washington. To that end, the discussion must be centered less on architecture and more on how a downtown library building can be designed, equipped and operated to deliver 21st century library services. A first class library should be inviting and welcoming for citizens of all ages and all walks of life. It should be designed to be flexible and environmentally sustainable. It should offer the most advanced technology available and house collections in all formats to meet the information needs of its patrons. It should be a designation facility that draws residents and visitors to the heart of our city.

TWO WAYS TO RENEW!

Go to dcla.org to pay via PayPal with your credit card. You do not need to create your own PayPal account to use your credit card. If you prefer, clip or print out the enclosed membership form and mail it in with your check.

Not sure if you have already renewed? Contact [Kirsten Allen\(at\)american.edu](mailto:Kirsten.Allen@american.edu) 202 885-3239

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