



# 2015 FLA Annual Awards



# LIBRARIES, LIBRARIANS AND LIBRARY SUPPORTERS HONORED

The Florida Library Association (FLA) honored outstanding libraries, individuals, businesses and library supporters during its annual conference held May 13-15, 2015 at the Caribe Royale Hotel and Convention Center. Award recipients were selected from a large number of applicants for the quality of their service to their local communities and to the library profession.



# Betty Davis Miller Youth Services Award for Children's Programming: **Seminole County Public Library**

It is well known that chess teaches children to use higher level thinking skills, math and reading skills and builds self-confidence. In a 2000 study, students who received chess instruction scored significantly higher on all measures of academic achievement. (Smith and Cage, 2000) To that end the Seminole County Public Library created a chess program, which is highly effective in bringing children in for the summer reading program.

In fact, the library reports a 16% increase in participation each year, for four years. Last summer, however, they expanded the program to include all branches. The result: 1,677 school-age children 12-and-under participated in 30 chess classes, offered over 6 weeks. The children learned from local area experts how to play chess and had the opportunity to play with another children of matched ability. The game of chess crosses all socio-economic boundaries, as a universal game that is played around the world. As a result of this program elementary school girls and boys learned to play chess and had the opportunity to engage with children of different ethnic backgrounds, cultures and speakers of other languages.



# Betty Davis Miller Youth Services Award for Children's Programming: **Seminole County Public Library**



# Betty Davis Miller Youth Services Award for Teen Programming: Broward County Library

“Show Us Your Bookface” was innovative program in which teens had the opportunity to get creative by using a book cover to augment or obscure any part of their body with a book cover. Teens created the illusion that they “merged” themselves with their favorite book. Teens then submitted pictures of themselves to the library to enter the contest.

Driven by a team of dedicated teen librarians, the “Show Us Your Bookface” contest and exhibit:

- engaged teens by encouraging and recognizing their creativity in regards to books and literacy
- allowed teens to become stakeholder in the library as a whole
- raised community awareness of the library's services to teens
- involved teens in one of the Division's largest celebrations of the year and in Broward County's Centennial

The result: a new generation of library users with a new perspective on the power of books, libraries, creativity, and the role these elements play in the present and the future.



# Betty Davis Miller Youth Services Award for Teen Programming: Broward County Library



# Maria Chavez Hernandez “Libraries Change People’s Lives”: Claudia Gonzalez, Hispanic Outreach Liaison, Clearwater Public Library System

Claudia Gonzalez has helped the Clearwater Library System reach out to the Hispanic community in the area to tell them what libraries can do for them. She has greatly increased the number of Spanish-speaking families who use the library. She assists patrons in using library resources. She has made the library a safe place where they can go to ask for help. In a position totally funded by the Clearwater Library Foundation, she has had a true impact on a major part of the community and on the library itself.



# Maria Chavez Hernandez “Libraries Change People’s Lives”: Claudia Gonzalez, Hispanic Outreach Liaison, Clearwater Public Library System





# Exemplary Instruction Program or Services Award: **Rose Petralia, Faculty Librarian, Assistant Dean, User Experience and Learning, Evans Library, Florida Institute of Technology**

Rose Petralia designed and delivered Florida Tech.'s first Massive Open Online Course, titled, "Mastering Academic Research: Information Skills for Successful Students" to help them find, evaluate, and use academic information efficiently, effectively, and ethically. Over 1,600 students worldwide enrolled in this 6-module course based on the Association of College and Research Library's Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education. The results:

- a high degree of satisfaction
- a higher-than-average completion rate, and
- a set of take-aways that will impact learning on campus and beyond

Ms. Petralia's pedagogically sound strategies, her deep involvement in discussions, and her genius in assembling a team of gifted instructors are remarkable.



# Exemplary Instruction Program or Services Award: Rose Petralia, Faculty Librarian, Assistant Dean, User Experience and Learning, Evans Library, Florida Institute of Technology



# Outstanding New Librarian: Nancy Brockman, Gulf County Coordinator, Northwest Regional Library System

In her first six months as the Coordinator of Gulf County Libraries, Nancy Brockman made significant contributions to the library and to her community by:

- expanding programs and services
- forming partnerships with community agencies
- winning an \$8,800 Innovation Grant to support technology programs
- establishing relationships with county and city leadership, and
- participating in the Sunshine State Library Leadership Institute

She has accomplished all this despite a decrease in library funding. Nancy's efforts have had positive outcomes in Gulf County and she has inspired library staff. Nancy is:

- creative
- innovative
- professional
- positive, and
- approachable

Nancy Brockman is an outstanding new librarian!



# Outstanding New Librarian: Nancy Brockman, Gulf County Coordinator, Northwest Regional Library System



# Friends, Foundations & Boards Outstanding Member: Mr. Kay Yeuell, Treasurer of the Maitland Public Library Board of Trustees

Mr. Kay Yeuell is an exceptional Board member. He not only fulfills and exceeds his duties as Treasurer, but is an active part of all the library's programs, initiatives, and projects. Kay jumps right in to any project where help is needed, including deselecting books, assisting at the Fairy Tale Tea Party for children, rewriting the Board of Trustees handbook, updating the catalog, and so much more. His versatility and knowledge make him invaluable to Maitland Public Library as an organization, but his willingness to help in every aspect of running a library make him an irreplaceable individual.



# Friends, Foundations & Boards Outstanding Member: Mr. Kay Yeuell, Treasurer of the Maitland Public Library Board of Trustees



# Librarian of the Year: Ellen Schellhause, Director of the Maitland Public Library

Ellen is a firm believer that libraries in the 21st-century need to be vibrant centers of their communities. Her background as a medical librarian prompted her to partner with local health agencies in order to provide patrons with initiatives such as: Maitland Walks, Healthy Chefs of Maitland, and the Fresh for Kids cooking program too.

Ellen is a unique director, because she is incredibly hands-on in every aspect of the library. From grant writing to painting, remodeling to mentoring, reference work to puppeteering, weeding books to weeding gardens, Ellen does it all. She attends weekly City Council meetings for the City of Maitland, and she is a crusader for the library, making it clear that the library is important not only as an historic site within the city, but as a community center.



# Librarian of the Year: Ellen Schellhause, Director of the Maitland Public Library





# Outstanding Paraprofessional Award: Jo Ann Bailey, Library Technician, Florida Gateway College

Jo Ann Bailey, Library Technician II at Florida Gateway College, is deserving of the FLA Outstanding Paraprofessional Award because for over forty years she has consistently proven to have exceptional professional knowledge, enthusiasm for library services, dedication to her institution and compassion for the people and communities it serves.

The tangible outcome of her long career is the excellent, friendly reputation that the FGC library has always enjoyed. Jo Ann is valued by everyone from the College President's office to our work study students for her attention to detail, willingness to help and remarkable history within the library and college. Jo Ann merits the recognition of this award because, simply, she is the most outstanding paraprofessional.



# Outstanding Paraprofessional Award: Jo Ann Bailey, Library Technician, Florida Gateway College



# Library Web Presence Award: Florida Gulf Coast University Library

FGCU Library's website incorporates multiple points of access to a variety of users through good design and integration of resources and services. The website utilizes the latest upgraded LibApps modules, including a customized database portal, an interactive FAQ that reaches users at the point of need, a discovery tool, and social media through Facebook and a blog.

Usability studies are conducted and improvements incorporated based on the data and best practices. Statistics, usage, and traffic are analyzed regularly and adjustments made accordingly. Our web development librarian has a strong customer service approach, teaching background, and is highly collaborative with all library departments, giving the FGCU Library website the user-centric focus it needs to help our students succeed.



# Library Web Presence Award: Florida Gulf Coast University Library



# Library Research Award: Tina M. Neville and Deborah B. Henry, Both researchers work at the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg

In 2014, Neville and Henry published their research, evaluating scholarly book publishers: A case study in the field of journalism, in the Journal of Academic Librarianship. They say, "In many disciplines, book and book chapter publications continue to be the primary scholarly output. While there are many metrics available for journal and journal article evaluation, librarians struggle to find methods to analyze book publishers in an equivalent way.

This research has been described as state of the art by peer-review, providing tested and reliable evidence of the applicability of several methods that can be used to evaluate book publishers. These findings will be valuable to collection managers and selectors, liaison librarians, and subject-bibliographers. The results promise to be of particular interest not only to library professionals, but also useful to the faculty we support in both their scholarly pursuits and curriculum support.



# Library Research Award: Tina M. Neville and Deborah B. Henry, Both researchers work at the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg



# Library Innovation Award: duPont Ball Library and Learning Technologies, Stetson University

Libraries have long provided technology to support academic programs. 3D printers are one more technology resource to add to the mix. Librarians discovered, however, that 3D printing has not yet been well-developed as a true learning technology integrated into curricular assignments. The Stetson Library implemented 3D printing as a curricular tool that supports faculty-developed assignments. The library takes a proactive approach in integrating technologies into engaged classroom learning. It is relatively rare to have direct curricular collaborations of this type. The goal is that the library not just be a repository for technology, but a catalyst for teaching and learning.



# Library Innovation Award: duPont Ball Library and Learning Technologies, Stetson University





# Libraries Mean Business: Broward County Library

During 2014, Broward County Libraries coordinated and produced a system-wide campaign, "Broward County Libraries Mean Business!" The purpose was to create programming to assist small business and entrepreneurial enterprises as well as raise awareness of the many business-related resources, assistance and support the library has available. It was launched in conjunction with Broward County Mayor Barara Sharief's 2014 leadership theme, "Broward Means Business."

To promote these events, library staff created a dedicated web portal for entrepreneurs and job seekers. The site features a list of upcoming business events and online resources for business. It is updated monthly and is a valuable, one-stop online resource to the community. BCL is a Patent and Trademark Resource Center and a depository for state documents. As libraries move into the 21st century, BCL is positioning itself as a valued "commodity" for small businesses, job seekers, employers and entrepreneurs.



# Libraries Mean Business: Broward County Library



# Library of the Year: Broward County Library

In 2014, Broward County Library (BCL) stressed innovation, creation and dedication. With programs, events and service launches designed specifically for today's library customer, BCL engaged the community with S.T.E.M. (science/technology/engineering/math) literacy programs and an emphasis on the Maker's Movement and Do It Yourself (DIY) programs. By engaging the community, BCL provides library customers, including children and teens, with top-notch services that addresses the changing needs of a tech-savvy society. Patrons can visit Broward County Libraries' [Online Business Calendar](#) to check out events and happenings 24/7.

The award-winning Broward County Libraries Division, founded in 1974, is the largest library system in Florida by square footage and one of the busiest, with more than nine million walk-in customers visiting its 37 locations annually. Broward County Libraries Division provides convenient access to a full range of innovative and cost-effective services that satisfy the changing needs of the people of Broward County for information, education and recreation. Visit our web site, [Broward.org/Library](http://Broward.org/Library) or follow Libraries on Facebook and Twitter.



# Library of the Year: Broward County Library



# Best Exhibitor: Bits N Pieces Puppet Theatre

Bits 'N Pieces Puppet Theatre is dedicated to influencing the world of tomorrow by enchanting the children of today. Through the theatrical retelling of classic children's stories, each with its own unique life lesson and moral, Bits 'N Pieces brings to life the magical wonderment of children's fantasy and reinforces the core values long told and emphasized by great storytellers.

Entertaining children since 1972.



# Best Exhibitor: Bits N Pieces Puppet Theatre



# 2015 President's Award: Maria Gebhardt

To honor a special FLA Member who's given her time, her totally positive, can-do energy and her graphic talent.

The FLA digital magazine, *Florida Libraries*, and the Annual Conference Program are both designed by Maria Gebhardt. Maria took over editing and designing Florida Libraries in 2010, as part of her responsibility she solicits articles from the membership, reviews them, she distributes them to the editorial committee and manages their work, she makes edits and works with the authors. She also layouts out the online conference program preview and the program guide which is printed, which she arranges for as well.

Maria is a long-time member of FLA, she designed the logo for the 2013 Conference, and she currently serves on FLA's Leadership Development Committee.



# 2015 President's Award: Maria Gebhardt

