



**2025 Annual Conference**  
**Back to the Basics and Beyond**  
**September 17 – 18, 2025**  
**At Bay Community College**  
**Iron Mountain, MI**

## **Conference Sessions, Schedule, and Events**

### **Wednesday, September 17 – Bay College – Iron Mountain Campus**

**10:00am – 11:00am**

- **Registration – *Lower Commons***
- **Visit with Vendors – *Lower Commons***

**11:00am – 12:00pm**

#### **Welcome and Opening Keynote**

We are so excited to welcome back Kristin Fontichiaro from the University of Michigan for our Wednesday Opening Keynote! More details on Kristin's presentation will be coming soon!! – *Fornetti Hall* (lower level)

**12:00pm – 1:00pm**

- **Lunch and Visiting with Vendors—Lower Commons**

#### **Breakout Sessions**

**1:00pm – 1:50pm**

- **Beyond Microfilm:** The partnership between the library and local historian and museums will be presented. Included are the advantages for both businesses and members of the community. Also, examples of programming on and offsite will be shared.

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*Emily Cummings, Dickinson County Library – Location*

- **Browse Method: Why Not Dewey?** Alpena County Library is changing over our Juvenile non-fiction collection from Dewey to the Browse Method. We will discuss why we decided to move over to the Browse Method and how we are doing it.  
*Christina Markowski and Jessica Luther, Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library – Location*
- **Put Your Money Where Your Community's Mouth Is:** This session will focus on how to conduct and use community survey results to determine your library's budget and how to create a budget to meet their needs based on the results.  
*Lisa Waskin, Superior District Library – Location*
- **What to Read or Not to Read? That's Their Question:** Although we would love to read every book our libraries own, sadly, we cannot. Life is also too short to force yourself to read books you're not interested in. During this presentation, I will demonstrate how I approach Reader's Advisory with a few online tools such as Novelist, GoodReads, Canva, and others. I will also show how to include your patrons in the books and topics they like and why.  
*Heather Harris, Menominee County Library – Location*

## **Breakout Sessions**

**2:00 – 2:50**

- **Ask the Experts: Law, Penal Fine, and State Aid:** Can you boost the budget by making library employees "tipped" employees? Can you stage a "hostile takeover" for state aid purposes of the township population that uses your library instead of their own? Should you digitize the donated but haphazard collection of "notable" newspapers? If you have wondered about these issues or others, you may wish to attend this session where experts in Library Law; Library State Aid, Penal Fines and Data; and Preservation and Digitization will be present to answer your questions!  
*Clare Membiela, Joe Hamlin, and Biz Gallo, Library of Michigan –Location*
- **Gather 2 Grow: Supporting Summer Literacy with Food:** This session will discuss the creation, implementation, and expansion of the food banks program that collaborates with libraries to serve free, shelf-stable meals to kids in the summertime. Discussion will include all prominent program elements and requirements.  
*Shay Kovacs, Feeding America – Location*
- **What Every Library Worker Wants to Understand about the Library Catalog:** Bib record? OPAC? Boolean search? Library systems are complicated. Ellen from SLC

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will present on overview of how our library item records are constructed so you can better help patrons search and find items in our shared public catalog, Enterprise.

*Ellen Moore, Superiorland Library Cooperative – Location*

- **Patchwork Quilt of Reparative Description:** Introducing the wide-range of topics that fall under Reparative Description in cataloging. Exploring the history of reparative description initiated by pioneer African American librarians, to present day projects underway at the Library of Congress and through use of vocabularies. Modernizing gallery, library, archives and special library (GLAMS) records to include accurate tribal names, replacing derogatory terminology, identifying married women as individuals, giving equal respect (and space) in your classification system to all religions and classes of people, all falls under the umbrella of reparative cataloging in description!

*Rebecca Daly, Northern Michigan University – Location*

## **2:50pm – 3:10pm**

- **Break and Visiting with Vendors – Lower Commons**

## **Breakout Sessions**

### **3:10pm – 4:00pm**

- **The Community Closet: How to Expand the Social Safety Net at Your Library:** Develop additional resources for your community that focuses on filling in the gaps specific to your needs. Community closets provide free access to personal hygiene products and other living necessities that unhoused individuals and those in other unstable circumstances can benefit from. This session will detail how to create a community closet, where to get resources and funding, and how to advertise this service in a thoughtful way.

*Emily Schwartz, Oak Park Public Library – Location*

- **From Institutional Knowledge to Personnel Manual: Staff Turnover:** In a climate of increased staff turnover, relying on institutional knowledge and seasoned staff to train in new staff is a thing of the past. Learn how PWPL moved toward a stronger on-boarding process, increased employee documentation, and implemented programs to build connection between staff in different departments.

*Andrea Ingmire, Peter White Public Library – Location*

- **So Many Books, So Little Time: Tips and Tricks for Providing Excellent Readers' Advisory:** Did a patron recently finish a series and is looking for help finding their next read? Do you spend time reading beyond your favorite genres? Do you wish that you had a greater depth of knowledge to share books and authors with your

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community? Is it your job to purchase books, create fresh displays, or share books on your library's social media accounts? If you answered yes to any of these questions, come to this session and join MeL's Public Library Engagement Specialist to learn about doing excellent Readers' Advisory--even in genres that you rarely read. This session will include information about providing book suggestions in multiple formats, as well as how to utilize the content and features of NoveList Plus and NoveList K-8 Plus from MeL.

*Laura Warren-Gross, Midwest Collaborative for Library Services – **Location***

- **What's Wrong with this MARC Record:** The mistakes we make every day: how to spot them, how to fix them, and how to get help. Ellen from SLC will share what she knows. Bring your cataloging questions! Catalog trivia game – win prizes!

*Ellen Moore, Superiorland Library Cooperative – **Location***

**6:00pm – 7:45pm: Evening Events (I'll get all the details)**

**6:00pm – 7:00pm: Museum open, if you'd like a guided tour please arrive by 6 PM.**

**7:00pm – 7:45pm: Refreshments and networking**

## **Thursday, September 18 – Bay College – Iron Mountain Campus**

**8:00am – 9:00am**

- **Registration – *Lower Commons***
- **Breakfast (note what will be available) – *Fornetti Hall?***

**8:30am – 3:00pm**

- **Vendor Exhibits Available – *Lower Commons***

**9:00am – 9:50am**

**Keynote Address**

What a pleasure, Cathy Russ from the West Bloomfield Township Public Library will be joining us to kick off day two of our UPRLC Annual Conference! More details on Cathy's presentation will be available soon!! *Fornetti Hall* (lower level)

**Breakout Sessions**

**10:00am – 10:50am**

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- **Adding anyThing you Want:** Ellen and Jeremy of SLC will present tips and tricks to finding good bib records in Smart port, building basics for DYI records, and an overview of how to make your things look good on the patron end.  
*Ellen Moore and Jeremy Morelock, Superiorland Library Cooperative – Location*
- **Bridge the Digital Divide.** In an age where technology is REQUIRED, it's important for libraries to be a welcoming and informed place for seniors to bring their technology questions. This session will go over some statistics of the digital divide and give some resources for staff to help bridge the digital divide.  
*Heather Harris, Menominee County Library – Location*
- **Haunting, Hair-Raising Horror at Your Hometown Library:** Summer Scares is sponsored by the Horror Writers Association, Booklist, IRead, Novelist, and Book Riot, and every year they select nine excellent novels of horror, three for each reading level, Middle Readers, Young Adults, and Adults. The Crystal Falls District Community Library has been participating in this program since 2020, one year after its conception. In this workshop, you will learn how to market and promote the program, how to secure talks with the authors via zoom, and how to use the programming guide to maximize your summer scares gatherings. Don't be afraid to honor horror with hosting Summer Scares at your library!!! You will find your patrons gravitating to this graphically gruesome genre in no time!!!  
*Evelyn Gathu, Crystal Falls District Community Library – Location*
- **Public Speaking 101 or Safe Space Public Speaking Practice (Part 1):** Does the thought of giving a presentation in front of a group of people have you breaking out in a cold sweat? Did you ever realize how much speaking you would have to do as a librarian? This workshop will help prepare you for the next time you have to speak at a City Council meeting for funding, answer Book Challenges, do an interview, or even just introduce a library presentation.  
*Lisa Waskin, Superior District Library – Location*

## Breakout Sessions

11:00am – 11:50am

- **Collection Development and Weeding for Adult Collections:** Learn more about the process of collection management with PWPL Adult Services Librarian Amy Salminen. We will cover sources for finding out about books and media that are up and coming, along with the process of assessing collections and weeding using the CREW Method.  
*Amy Salminen, Peter White Public Library – Location*
- **Public Speaking 101 or Safe Space Public Speaking Practice (Part 2):** This workshop is a continuation of Part 1.

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*Lisa Waskin, Superior District Library – **Location***

- **Midday Music, Meaningful Collaboration:** Community collaboration can make your library programming pop! Get tried-and-true tips and tricks from a U.P. library that has had five summers of successful live music programming.

*Jane M. Lynch, Escanaba Public Library – **Location***

- **Serving Academic Library Needs in a Prison Setting:** Lake Superior State University started a Prison Education Program at the Chippewa Correctional Facility. Presenters will discuss the many challenges the campus library faced in supporting these students. This program will investigate the importance of collaborative partnerships and look at ongoing developments as this process is continually being reinvented.

*Marc Boucher, Ali Van Doren, and Jody Schopp, Lake Superior State University – **Location***

**12:00pm – 12:45pm**

- **Lunch and Visiting with Vendors – *Lower Commons***

**12:45pm – 1:45pm**

- **Library of Michigan Panel Discussion:** Join us for a panel discussion with Michigan library leaders from the Michigan Library Association, the Library of Michigan, Capital Area District Library (CADL), and the Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS).

**1:45pm – 2:30pm**

- **UPRLC Annual Meeting – *Fornetti Hall***

**2:30pm – 3:00pm**

- **Break and Visiting with Vendors – *Lower Commons***

**Breakout Session**

**3:00 pm – 3:50pm**

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- **Bookish Matchmaking through Top-Notch Customer Service:** A conversation about the connection between reader's advisory and customer service, along with how familiarity with your library's collection enhances this relationship.  
*Nicci Bigwood and Zac Larson, Crawford County Library – Location*
- **Contracting for the Future – How to say “no”.** Public libraries (and library staff) are by nature giving and service-minded entities. However, with budgets limited and controversies prevalent, no library can be all things to all communities. This presentation will discuss what libraries should consider when weighing the risks & benefits of a new contract or partnership, and what a clear, legal contract or agreement should look like, and, how to say “no” to an opportunity that isn't a good fit.  
*Clare Membiela and Joe Hamlin, Library of Michigan – Location*
- **Drag-and-Drop Digital Preservation for Local History Collections:** The Michigan Digital Preservation Network is a member-centered, collaborative statewide project to bring affordable and easy-to-use preservation services for a wide range of cultural memory organizations of all sizes and technical abilities. A key part of fulfilling this mission was to develop an accessible and interoperable workflow to transfer content from MDPN members to the LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe) preservation service. Chelsea and Regina will share information about various use cases, as well as a live demo of the complete workflow, focusing on both the member-facing experience and what happens to user content after being transferred to MDPN.  
*Chelsea Denault, Michigan Digital Preservation Network/Midwest Collaborative for Library Services – Location*
- **Serial-us-ly: Periodicals:** Are Workflows Predictions working for or against you? How do you process new issues, how long do you keep the old issues? This session will be an opportunity to review the Serials module in Workflows and to discuss Serials management with other members who think seriously about the magazines in their collection. Attendees are encouraged to bring samples and questions. Images emailed to [emoore@superiorlandlibrary.org](mailto:emoore@superiorlandlibrary.org) before September 16 will be added to the slide show.  
*Ellen Moore, Superiorland Library and Ben Sargent, Peter White Public Library – Location*

**4:00pm – 4:30pm**

- **Awards, Raffle, and Conference Wrap-up – Location**

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**4:30pm – 5:00pm**

- **UPRLC Executive Board Meeting – *Location***

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