

# american libraries

JULY/AUGUST 2011

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## PLUS

- The Power of Graphic Novels
- Nonprofit Digitization Success
- Movies and Beyond
- Annual Conference: 20,000 Strong

# Message

from **NOLA:**

Sue Gardner wants you  
on Wikipedia's front lines



# CONTENTS

AMERICAN LIBRARIES | July/August 2011

## Features

### 33 THE POWER OF WORDS AND PICTURES

Using students' visual vocabulary as a learning tool through graphic novels  
BY JESSE KARP

### 36 STEP EASILY INTO THE DIGITAL FUTURE

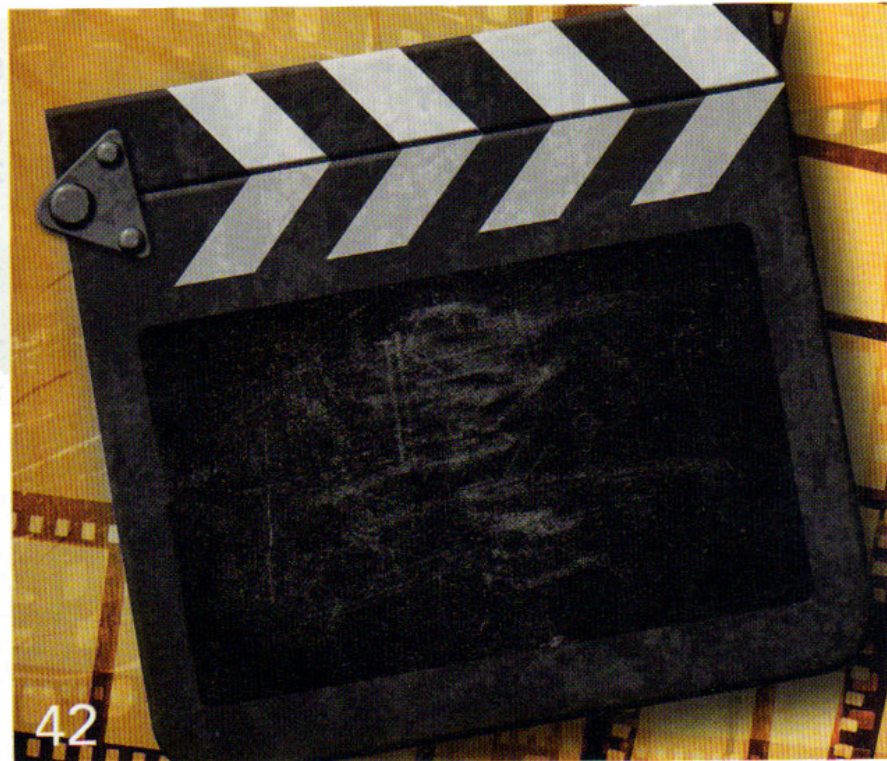
Lyrisis gets varied collections online quickly, and cheaply, through collaboration  
BY KATHY ANDERSON AND LAURIE GEMMILL

### 40 HOW ONE LIBRARY DIGITIZED ITS COMMUNITY'S NEWSPAPERS

Researchers enjoy a rich, accessible archive in Winona, Minnesota  
BY ALLISON QUAM

### 42 HOW TO OFFER MORE THAN A MOVIE

Producing film discussions that are serious cultural events  
BY ALAN JACOBSON



Cover design by Jennifer Brinson

#### COVER STORY

### 44 LIBRARIANS WITNESS NEW ORLEANS' RECOVERY

More than 20,000 return to the city for Annual

### 52 NEW TECHNOLOGIES, NEW DIRECTIONS EMERGE AT ALA 2011

The lowdown on high-tech trends showcased in the exhibit hall

BY LISA CARLUCCI THOMAS





Construction is underway on replacements for several of the libraries destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, including Jefferson Parish Library's Lakeshore branch.

throughout Annual. Some tied in directly to presentations, such as the Oscar-nominated documentary *The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers*. Others, including four episodes of the PBS series *Great Libraries of the World*, featured libraries directly, while titles like *Mine* and *Faubourg Tremé: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans*, offered insight into Annual's host city.

Battledecks once again proved to be a raucous and exhilarating event, as nine intrepid presenters gave impromptu talks with slides they'd never seen before, with the theme (revealed moments before) of "I believe that libraries are the future; fund them well and let them lead the way." Irmgarde Brown, manager of the Havre de Grace branch of the Harford County (Md.) Public Library, emerged victorious.

The "Many Voices, One Nation" series featured readings from Maya Soetero-Ng and Yuyi Morales, author and illustrator of *Ladder to the Moon*; journalist Jordan Flaherty; and the Neighborhood Story Project, founded by Rachel Breunlin and Abram Himelstein. Many Voices, One Nation is an evening of literature and performance that reminds

participants of the many unique cultures sharing one world.

Pat DiNizio, lead songwriter and vocalist for the band The Smithereens, performed for the Wrap Up Rev Up party. Taking place after the exhibit hall closed, the party gave attendees a chance to relax and recover while building excitement for next year's Annual Conference.

### Other notables

At her President's Program, ALA President Roberta Stevens interviewed Sue Gardner (see cover photo), executive director of the Wikimedia Foundation. Some 400 million people use Wikipedia every month, and Gardner said the nonprofit survives through donations but remains radical in its belief that people have the right to access information. "Wikipedia is where people are going to get their information," she said, so "it behooves us all to help it be as good as it can be."

Representing the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation at the Opening General Session, Jill Nishi announced that the foundation was pledging \$300,000 to the ALA Spectrum Scholarship Program.

Also at the Opening General Session, Yohannes Gebregeorgis was

awarded Honorary Membership, ALA's highest honor. Gebregeorgis, founder of Ethiopia Reads, was recognized for lifetime achievement in building libraries for the children of Ethiopia.

On the exhibit floor, some 700 vendors showed off their wares. New this year was a pavilion dedicated to mobile apps. The exhibit hall also featured a steady stream of author readings and demonstrations on four stages: the Live @ Your Library Reading Stage; What's Cooking @ ALA for cooking demonstrations; the PopTop Stage, which focused on mystery, romance, technology, and travel; and the Graphic Novel and Gaming Stage. Read the full exhibit report on pages 52–53.

ALA's Committee on Diversity hosted a town hall meeting to discuss issues related to diversity in library environments. Jacqueline Zaleski Mackenzie, an author and nonprofit business consultant, reported on school and youth services, indicating that empowering parents empowers the child because reading is the foundation of education. She also said her group called for aligning the goals of school libraries with the community, politicians, and churches. Mackenzie added that school librarians should also provide assistance for students who may not have an extensive digital background.

Robert Wedgeworth, former president and CEO of ProLiteracy Worldwide, used the Jean E. Coleman Library Outreach Lecture to call for a coordinated effort to address adult literacy education needs. "We know that even a modest increase in literacy rates produces a significant increase in GDP," he declared. Wedgeworth also told the audience about promising legislation, the Adult Education and Economic Growth Act of 2011, which has been introduced in both houses of Congress, which would create the