2023 AISLE Conference Descriptions

Sunday, October 1 Monday, October 2 Tuesday, October 3

Sunday, October 1		
5:00-7:00 pm	Award Celebration	Chancellor Ballroom
		Help us celebrate our award winners and recognize their accomplishments at our annual Awards Banquet.
7:30-9:00 pm	Late Night At Lit!	Literary Book Bar, Champaign, IL
		Come celebrate and socialize at the Literary Book Bar. Transportation will be made available. Drinks, snacks, and books will be available for purchase.

	Monday, October 2		
6:00-7:00 am	Movement & Mindfulness Yoga Presenter: Jeanne' Aken Level: All Room: Foyer of Conference Center near Registration	We've set aside space just for you! Learn and practice a few simple movements and techniques that can help you or your students create mental clarity and calmness, increase body awareness, relieve stress, relax the mind, center attention, and sharpen concentration. Please bring your own mat, small blanket, or towel. (This general session does count for 1 PDH)	
8:15-9:45 am	Welcome and General Session Speaker Fair Use for Library Educators Presenter: Sara Rachel Benson - Copyright at U of I Level: All Room: Illinois Ballroom	Fair use is a powerful tool, but many librarians and educators are unaware of how to use it. In this welcome address, Sara Benson will highlight some examples of how fair use operates to enhance K-12 learning both in the library and throughout the school.	
10:00-11:00 am	General Session with Heartland, RAILS, and CPS Presenters: Representatives from Heartland, RAILS, and CPS Level: All Rooms: Heartland: Illinois Ballroom RAILS: Lincoln CPS: Alma Mater	Partnership is the theme of our conference this year and we want to bring awareness to all the wonderful partners we have to utilize. Our Illinois library systems are excited to share how they can work with us and grow our partnerships. This session will be divided into three rooms based on the system members. Please attend the session for the system for which you are a part. If you are not sure which system to attend, please don't hesitate to ask!	

12 - 1: 30 pm	Readers' Choice Author Award Luncheon and General Session with Kelly Jensen Presenter: Kelly Jensen Level: All Room: Illinois Ballroom	Enjoy the company of Illinois authors and guest speaker Kelly Jensen. "Neutrality Is NOT An Option: The State of Book Bans and the Library in 2023" Coordinated book banning efforts have been underway for nearly 2 years, and each week brings with it new tactics from the censors to accomplish their work. This presentation will look at how these groups are organizing, the tools they're using, and what potential next targets may be. The presentation will include how to respond to these challenges, how book bans are contributing to trauma in library workers, and ways to counter the mental health impact of the cultural assault on library workers and educators.
1:45 - 2:45 pm	Session 1 Copyright for K-12 Librarians Level: All Levels Presenter: Sara Rachel Benson Room: Lincoln	Learn more about other areas of copyright law as it pertains to school librarianship. This will be a hands-on session, so come ready to discuss and engage in active learning activities. Bring your questions, too!
	Session 2 Mastering the 2024 Monarchs Level: Elementary School Presenters: Michelle Simpson and Nichole Folkman Room: Humanities	Do you love getting kids excited about books? Are you looking to shake up your teaching with newer titles? Then, come and meet the new Monarchs! In this session, we will learn about all of the 2024 Monarch Award nominees and explore ways to promote, share, and utilize each title with your community.
	Session 3 Organizing Collections for our Youngest Readers Level: Elementary School Presenter: Kelly Jahng Room: Knowledge	How can we organize our collections to promote independence for our youngest readers? Explore the information-seeking behaviors of young children and how they should inform our collection design. See the process one library used to transform their collection, and begin reimagining your own.
	Session 4 The Middle School's Manga Madness Level: Middle School Presenter: Alan Holtz Room: Innovation	Many middle school readers are anime and manga fans, but many teachers and librarians are not aware of the subculture, literary subgenre and hobby. Manga is a Japanese graphic novel and its popularity of translations is growing fast. This session will cover what is manga, a brief history, why we need manga in our collections, cultural differences, where to find it, and a booktalk of several current titles. Session intended for the novice manga librarian who wishes to add manga to their middle school collection.

	Session 5 Mystery (Library) Science Theater! Level: Middle, High School Presenters: Katherine Nelson, DJ Barraca Room: Alma Mater Session 6 Flying Solo: Tips and Tricks for Managing the Chaos Level: Middle School, High School Presenter: Aimee Miller Room: Excellence	This session will provide attendees with a variety of ideas to engage students within a mystery unit including podcasts, digital scavenger hunts, board games, and book groups. While focus will be on mystery, the resources and ideas shared can be easily transferred to any kind of book group or unit. How can a solo librarian get it all done? Tips and tricks will be discussed about how to manage all aspects of a library as a solo librarian. Important partnerships will be discussed that are imperative in aiding library management.
	Session 7 Community Partnerships Through Service Learning Level: All grades Presenter: Heather McCarthy Room: Honors	Service learning is an effective tool for connecting libraries with communities. By implementing service learning programs, libraries can build partnerships and promote community engagement. This presentation will provide middle school examples along with ways to adapt projects to the elementary and high school levels.
	Session 8 From Forgotten to Fabulous: Transforming a High School Library in 1 Year Level: High School Presenters: Becca Leslie, Jill Lamer, Melanie Fessler Room: Loyalty	This presentation will narrate how I came into this position and the strides made to transform the library. It was a library space and program that was forgotten by the district, the school, the teachers, and patrons. We will outline step-by-step what was done to help bring the Jersey Community High School library back to an integral and necessary component of the school culture and programs, as well as the hub and heart of the school.
3:00 - 4:00 pm	Session 9 Neutrality Is NOT An Option: The State of Book Bans and the Library in 2023 Level: All Presenter: Kelly Jensen Room: Lincoln	Coordinated book banning efforts have been underway for nearly 2 years, and each week brings with it new tactics from the censors to accomplish their work. This presentation will look at how these groups are organizing, the tools they're using, and what potential next targets may be. The presentation will include how to respond to these challenges, how book bans are contributing to trauma in library workers, and ways to counter the mental health impact of the cultural assault on library workers and educators.

Session 10 Establishing a Student-Run Help Desk in Your Media Center Level: Middle School, High School Presenter: Janet Meyers Room: Humanities	Empower students by establishing an iTeam! This student-led group manages the busy iPad help desk before and during the school day. iTeam assists peers and staff with a variety of services, including new device set-up, password recovery and device maintenance. They also host staff professional development and enrichment sessions for students. Make your students leaders in your school.
Session 11 STEAM-infuse Your Library Lessons Level: Elementary School Presenter: Tonya Tjarks Room: Knowledge	If you've been struggling with ways to incorporate more Makerspace and STEAM into your lessons, this is the session for you! Teach your students to play with purpose in the library.
Session 12 Caudill Award Community & Collaboration Level: Middle School Presenter: Michelle Glatt Room: Innovation	After a few 2024 booktalks, we'll explore resources to enhance your RCYRBA program: Activities Packet, crowd-sourced BoB questions & read-alikes, Caudill Community Google Classroom, Caudill Quarterly, and new Caudill merchandise, too. Come ready to learn AND share with other Caudill-loving partners.
Session 13 Vote for Me: The 2024 Lincoln Award Nominees Level: High School Presenter: Jean Lietz Room: Excellence	Bank robberies, communal crushes and (maybe) mass murder - are you ready to hear more? Join this session for summaries and reviews of the 2024 Lincoln Award nominees from a member of the reader panel. In this session, you will learn about the 20 titles and explore ways to promote and utilize each book at your school.
Session 14 Clear, Consistent, Inclusive, and Transparent Level: All Grades Presenter: R. David Lankes Room: Alma Mater	This session will be a discussion format for ideas presented in the upcoming 6:00 pm general session. Lankes will talk about building trust, standing ground, and advocating for better partnerships. Share your ideas and ask questions.

	Session 15 Grant writing 101: Bringing Money to Your Library Level: All grades Presenter: Gail Janz Room: Loyalty	This will be a panel discussion on how to write a successful grant. Participants will include LBSS board members and past grant winners.
	Session 16 Building Professional Networks: AISLE and Beyond Level: All grades Presenters: Deborah Althoff Will and Mary Jo Matusek Room: Honors	Do you need support or a sounding board when you're planning programming? Do you need someone to talk to about a new idea or help you solve a problem? Would you like to develop professional partnerships and collaborate with other librarians who understand unique concerns related to your work? Our session provides avenues for building professional relationships and becoming involved in professional organizations such as AISLE. We'll also discuss networking via social media and how to build your network. Come connect with us and receive not only great information but also some incredible library swag!
4:00-5:00 pm	Poster Sessions Level: All	Heritage Hall Poster Titles: Bringing the Scripps Spelling Bee to your school Establishing an iTeam in Your Media Center Partnering with the CMC A Day in the Life: Simulation Activities to provide Independent Living Skills Implementing ISAIL
6:00-8:00 pm	Partnership Dinner with R. David Lankes Professional Development Clear, Consistent, Inclusive, and Transparent Level: All Presenter: R. David Lankes Room: Ballroom A	School librarians facilitate learning. They build on the interests of students in inquiry based learning. They fill the largest classroom in the school with tools rallied around a curriculum of information literacy and problem solving. In order to do this, school librarians must forge strong partnerships with not only teachers and administration, but parents, and increasingly, community organizations. In a time of increasing challenges to the expertise of librarians, to the materials collected, and the role of the community in the process, school librarians must have strong community development skills. Lankes will talk about building trust, standing ground, and advocating for better partnerships.

Tuesday, October 3		
7:30-9:00 am	Buffet Breakfast On Disasters, Stories, and Nachos Presenter: Adi Alsaid Room: Illinois Ballroom	A meditation on how disasters and stories can help us see humanity in each other.
9:00-9:45 am	Poster Sessions Level: All	Exhibit Hall Poster Titles: • Amplify Student Learning with Public Library Collaboration • Come on Down, You're the Next Contestant on "The Time is Right" for Collaboration • No Place for a Lizard: Lessons in SEL & STEAM • The Value of Wordless Graphic Novels
9:45-10:45 am	Session 17 Storytelling with Puppets Level: Elementary School Presenter: Todd Freer Room: Humanities	For young students, engagement is essential. Kids desperately want to share what they know. Through learning about storytelling, enhanced by making and using puppets, kids will learn communication skills, share stories and experiences, express thoughts and ideas, and learn how to handle (SEL included) as we know it.
	Session 18 Let's talk teaching! A guide to developing curriculum and assessment in the library. Level: Elementary School Presenters: Mindy Perry, Tracy Hubbard, Beth Schnecker Room: Honors	Wondering how to ramp up your curriculum and have admin buy in? Learn how the District 65 Library Department curriculum has been revamped to reflect 21st century learning standards and assessment while focusing on library orientation, social justice, STEAM, and research.
	Session 19 Continual Collaboration: Building a Community of Research Level: High School Presenters: Angela Burns, Marc Garneau, Jessica Malamuth Room: Knowledge	This panel discussion focuses on building long term relationships between teachers and librarians to support students in developing strong research skills for lifelong learning. The panel will include two Librarians and three English teachers who instruct a variety of classes at different ability levels. The session will provide some strategies for instruction and collaboration between Librarians and English teachers as well as a Q & A portion for those who attend. Come pick our brains!

Session 20 National Novel Writing Month in the Library Level: Middle, High School Presenter: Eric Rampson Room: Innovation	The Francis W. Parker Library has been running NaNoWriMo events for the last six years and has a lot of info and ideas to share! We'll give you tips and tricks to make National Novel Writing Month a fun, interactive, and rewarding event for students while opening up opportunities for cross-departmental collaboration.
Session 21 Anyone Can Be a Library Advocate with ILA's Ready, Set, Advocate! Level: All grades Presenters: Nanette Donohue, Cynthia Robinson Room: Excellence	Advocacy is such an easy word, yet so complicated in the minds of many. Ready, Set, Advocate has been created for school library supporters like you, who want to learn to be a true library advocate. Your voice will make a difference, especially if it is heard at the right time, in the right place, and by the right person. You can be the person to tell the important library story and make a difference. This session will give you the tools you need to tell your library's story to your administrators, school board members, community stakeholders, and legislators.
Session 22 Get Ready to TEAACH! Level: All grades Presenters: Sarah Park Dahlen, Asif Wilson, Hanna Kim, Simon Boonsripaisal Room: Lincoln	Librarians can partner with other teaching staff and community organizations to implement the TEAACH Act. Strong partnerships with the U of Illinois College of Education TEAACH team and other Asian American organizations ensures library educators are well prepared to implement the TEAACH Act.
Session 23 LAMB Panel: Building A New Chapter Level: All grades Presenters: Sara Bell, Jacob Roskovensky Room: Alma Mater	Join a panel of school librarians who are assigned to serve multiple buildings. Panelists are members of LAMB (Librarians Assigned to Multiple Buildings), a new AISLE chapter recently formed to support librarians in this unique role. Whether you are looking for support as a traveling librarian, looking for advocacy as your district eyes a similar change, or are just curious how they do it, this session hopes to answer your questions about being assigned to multiple buildings and the newest AISLE chapter.
Session 24 Summer Strong: Create an Open School Library Summer Program Level: All grades Presenters: Joanna Marek, Barb Hobe Room: Loyalty	Open the school library during the summer months to decrease the summer learning slide by creating an additional access point for students and families. This session will share a framework for planning or enhancing a summer open library program in your school or district.

11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Session 25 Teaching Shelf Control: SEL Picture Books Level: Elementary, Middle Presenters: Carrie Upjohn, Sarah Wells Room: Humanities	This session will explain how curated picture book kits can be developed and used by librarians, teachers, administration, social workers, and counselors to help students in both social emotional learning and digital citizenship.
	Session 26 STEAM, Coding, Robotics and More @ Your Library! Level: Elementary School Presenter: Laura Gaytan Room: Honors	Participants will get a chance to hear how to include Bots, 3D printers, Coding and storytelling in your school library or classroom. The resources presented can be used in the classroom, library Maker Space, or as centers too!
	Session 27 Open arms and Brick Walls: Collaboration and the Power of Word of Mouth Level: Middle, High School Presenter: Lisa Marcum Room: Knowledge	As school librarians, we are always looking for new ways to support the curriculum. Sometimes the best way is to start small and make it happen one teacher at a time. This session will focus on collaborative efforts between teacher and librarian. Collaboration is sometimes met with open arms, and sometimes met with resistance. This is why we will discuss the difference between working in a building that has embraced its school librarian and working in a building that doesn't yet realize the value that a school librarian can bring. We will troubleshoot those obstacles and offer some possible solutions.
	Session 28 Difficult Conversations with Digital Citizenship Level: Middle, High School Presenter: Wamecca Rodriguez Room: Innovation	It's sometimes difficult to have critical and important conversations with students in a time of intense censorship and scrutiny. Almost every district who offers students devices or internet access are required by board policy to cover digital citizenship with students. Teaching students about their role in the digital landscape means being ready to have difficult conversations. Let's share how we can tie these topics to the approved curriculums and help our students be prepared for their futures.
	Session 29 Have NO Fear! Scaffolding Steps for the High School Research Process Level: High School Presenters: Erika Immel, Sarah Lahey Room: Excellence	Want to make new connections and learn about scaffolding the research process for high school students? Led by an English teacher and librarian who love to co-teach, we will share how we've collaboratively designed the research process to span the entire school year in a way that is fun and manageable. Furthermore, we will emphasize the myriad benefits a co-taught environment offers students. This session will showcase how we've eliminated research anxiety and transformed that into positive energy that results in a successful research experience!

	Session 30 Bluestem 2024 Level: Elementary, Middle Presenter: Heidi Knuth Room: Lincoln	Listen to information about the titles on the 2024 Bluestem list and start thinking about ways to implement the Readers' Choice program at your library this year. Have you ever wanted to serve on the committee? If so, find out how you can be part of the program.
	Session 31 A New Training Event for School Library Workers Level: All grades Presenter: Daniel Bostrom Room: Alma Mater	In 2023, representatives from AISLE, IHLS, ILA, ISL, and RAILS came together to create a new training event for school library workers. This event was for individuals who are working in school libraries with no formal library education, certified or non-certified, paraprofessionals, and those considering getting a school library endorsement. This is the first time such an event has been held. In this panel presentation, organizers and speakers will come together to talk about the successes and failures of the event. Panelists will consider the future of the event and how this may impact school library work in Illinois going forward.
	Session 32 Creative Nonfiction Cataloging Level: All grades Presenter: Karrie Fisher Room: Loyalty	Creative Cataloging in the nonfiction section has made my students' library lives easier! Common sense cataloging using a modified Dewey system is more intuitive and useful for students. Why are money books in different sections when they can be found in one? Keeping the first three Dewey numbers and using words after has given my students the proverbial ah-ha moment! Now they can find anything in the library! Nonfiction circulation has gone up, too!
12:00-1:30 pm	Buffet Lunch with Secretary of State, Alexi Giannoulias and AISLE Business Meeting Presenters: Alexi Giannoulias and Janine Asmus Level: All Room: Illinois Ballroom	We are honored to have the Illinois Secretary of State visit us for lunch. As our State Librarian he has advocated for libraries and the right to read. He will start by letting us know about the issues facing libraries in Illinois and how his office is making changes. He will then have a Q & A session with the attendees- so come prepared with your questions! The lunch will continue with the AISLE Business Meeting that all school librarians are welcome to attend. Learn more about how the AISLE Board will partner with you to advocate for your library.
1:45-2:45 pm	Session 33 The One Where the Instructional Coach and the Librarian Partner Up Level: Elementary School Presenters: Barbeth Graal, Deanna King Room: Knowledge	A teacher librarian and instructional coach team up together to promote library programs, encourage readers, and create engaging lessons for students.

Session 34	
Session 35 Hosting an RPG Summer Camp in Your Library Level: High School Presenters: Tom Gross, Dan Reem Room: Alma Mater	Learn about how Tom Gross (Librarian) and Dan Reem (Teacher) created and developed their first RPG Summer Camp where 20 teens, alumni, and staff spent a week learning and playing D&D. Tom and Dan will discuss the logistics of planning the summer camp, partnerships they created to support the camp, and what they learned from the first two years of RPG Summer Camp . Join us with your knowledge and questions to create your own awesome camp for teens.
Session 36 Postcard Field Trip Level: All Grades Presenter: Nichole Folkman Room: Humanities	There is so much world out there and we see such tiny parts of it. Or at least that's true of most people. The kids in my small town don't get to travel much, so through our library curriculum, we travel the world! We learn about each state, US territory, and country of the world in alternating years. Come find book lists, resources, and more. Have you seen me present this before? I have more and new information to share!
Session 37 AISLE President's Townhall Q&A Level: All Grades Presenter: Janine Asmus Room: Lincoln	Have a great idea to bring to AISLE? Want to get more involved in the organization? Have a question, comment or concern? Meet Janine Asmus, AISLE President, and connect.
Session 38 10 years of eRead Illinois: How it started, how it's going, and why school libraries are essential to its success Level: All grades Presenter: Anna Behm Room: Excellence	Learn how this statewide, multi-type library e-content program supports school libraries and is also supported BY school libraries. Hear about the past, present, and future of eRead Illinois and how school libraries have been essential to its continued evolution.
Session 39 Unlock the Power of Data: Using the School Library Dashboard Level: All grades Presenters: Janette Derucki, Leah Gregory Room: Loyalty	Join RAILS and IHLS to explore school library data through the newly developed data dashboard and learn how to apply this tool in important conversations with administrators and within your school community.

	Session 40 Flex Scheduling: Serving Everyone, Always There, All At Once Level: All grades Presenters: Amy Walsh, Amy Lingafelter Room: Honors	How do you manage a library schedule that meets the needs of all users, builds partnerships, and is open for classes and individuals? Subscription and free tools will be discussed. We will consider pros and cons of each; participants will leave the session with ideas that best fit their library.
3:00-4:00 pm	Closing Speaker General Session with Sarah Park Dahlen Diversity Activism: History and Future of Children's Literature Presenter: Sarah Park Dahlen Level: All Room: Illinois Ballroom	The mid-2010s were a turning point in diversity activism: social media enabled activism to go viral, We Need Diverse Books was established, and Black Lives Matter went global. Dr. Sarah Park Dahlen will address the history of diversity activism, some persistent issues, and the challenges that writers and illustrators continue to face in diversifying publishing.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL SESSIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Sunday, October 1	Monday, October 2	Tuesday, October 3
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