



Mid-America Library Alliance ILL/Courier Listserv Announcement

March 4, 2019

New MALA Courier Service!

It's official!

Today, the Mid-America Library Alliance entered into an agreement with Henry Industries, Inc. to provide interlibrary loan delivery for the MALA Get Connected courier service, which connects 125+ Missouri libraries across the state. The service will commence April 1.

When MALA learned in early December last year that we were parting company with 1st Choice, our longtime courier partner, we worked hard to find the right vendor that would provide reliable and flexible delivery service to our libraries - including our many rural and smaller libraries in Missouri. I'm pleased to tell you that we have found in Henry Industries an experienced, national leader in courier delivery service that truly understand libraries.

Henry Industries has served the 300+ libraries in Kansas for over a decade now, as the principal contractor for the Kansas Library Express. Their service reputation is excellent. They will serve libraries across the state of Missouri with several distribution hubs, including connections in Springfield, Joplin, Kansas City, Cape Girardeau, and St. Louis.

MALA will continue to provide vital connections to other ILL delivery networks through our contract with Henry Industries, including our popular COKAMO (Colorado, Wyoming), Trans-Amigos (Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Iowa) and MOBIUS connectors. All of these services will continue without interruption as we transition our service this month to Henry Industries.

I would ask for your patience and understanding as we clear all of your materials from the 1st Choice warehouses and delivery routes and re-introduce them into Henry's hubs and sorting locations. 1st Choice will continue delivering materials to libraries through this month, with drop-off only service beginning March 15. Instructions for hard service cutoff dates with 1st Choice will be forthcoming, and new labeling procedures are in process right now. Please, carefully read the communications coming from MALA this month as we outline and execute the courier transition strategy we have developed in coordination with the State Library of Missouri. We need your help and cooperation to make this successful.

Our new website has been quietly phased in over the weekend, with redesigned self-service features which Marcy will tell you more about elsewhere in this newsletter. MALA is beginning a new and exciting chapter, and we're glad you are here to be part of it.

Thank you for all that you do,
Mickey

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New MALA website!

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new website at www.malalibraries.org! You'll find the new website easy to navigate and intuitive.

The **Courier Statistics** area (see directions below) has been simplified, and the self-serve **Job Bank** is ready for you to list your exciting openings. Load up your logo to make an even bigger impact. Job listings will be live for 45 days. If you fill your position before then, please let [Marcy](#) know via an email and she'll change the status.

The **Professional Development** area has been reordered, but the password is still MALAPRO, and the access is FLEX17M to watch videos.

We'll have the **Label Makers** up and running very soon, and we'll be adding other resources and easy reporting features in the next few weeks.

February Stats are due

Please submit February's statistics for your library on our new website. You'll see the big red square on the left side. Our new form is even easier than the previous, simply enter one total number of items, no password required!

1. Go to <http://www.malalibraries.org/courier-service/submit-courier-statistics/>
2. Enter the month you are reporting on, ex: February 2019.
3. Pick your library from the drop-down list.
4. Enter the total number of items sent/received - if you sent nothing out, enter 0.
5. Click submit.

New MALA Staff

As most of you know, [Mickey Coalwell](#) came on board at the beginning of the year as MALA's new Executive Director. In mid-February we welcomed [Marcy Chiasson](#) as our new Business Manager. She will take on some of Kirsten Myer's courier coordinator duties. You can reach Marcy at marcychiasson@mid-americalibraryalliance.org or at 816-521-7257 or toll free at 888-514-9271

Next MALA ILL/Courier Meeting - Wednesday, March 20 at 10 a.m.

To participate in the next MALA ILL Courier Meeting, you must first register to receive your unique login to participate.

Reserve your Webinar seat now at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/5115244045818183171> (*updated link*)

There is a pull-down list of meeting dates for the fiscal year. You can click the link in this message multiple times to register for as many sessions as you like; you simply need to register one at a time. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Meeting dates at a glance:

March 20, 2019

April 17, 2019

May 15, 2019

June 19, 2019

[Information for Attendees to Join](#)
[Troubleshooting Tips/FAQ for GoToWebinar](#)
[Information for Mobile attendees](#)

If you have any questions, please contact [Mickey](#).

Thank you for your participation with MALA!

Regards,

Mickey Coalwell
Executive Director
Mid-America Library Alliance