MALA Updates

President's Day courier holiday
The MALA office is closed on Monday, February 21 in observance of President's Day. There will be NO courier service on that day.

Courier Bag Labels
Please make sure that the courier bag labels that are being used are the most current version from the MALA website. Older labels make it much more challenging for materials to be delivered in a timely manner. The latest version can be found here.

New
- Benedictine College has left MALA service as of January 1.
- Cedar County Library has a new address

Please discard any old labels.

Courier Bags & Totes
Please send back to the MALA office via the courier any excess courier bags and totes. We are running low and need to get them back into the system. Any bags that are damaged and can't be used, can be thrown away and not returned to MALA.

March Meet and Greet Courier Meeting
Join Linda Tarantino for the monthly Meet & Greet. Meet new librarians, share information and learn what's going on around the state.
Wednesday, March 9 at 2:30 PM
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/93346028198?pwd=VVdjZWlUZWZERN5TFljYVAzdDZz09

Inclement Weather closures
If your library is closing for any reason such as inclement weather, Covid exposure or an emergency repair, please make sure to notify MALA immediately by using the Courier Delivery Service form found here so we can notify your courier. The online form is available to all MALA staff, and is the most efficient and immediate way to report to us. Please do not email or phone the office.

Upcoming MALAPro Webinars

Introduction to Intellectual Freedom
Wednesday, February 23, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
In this 90-minute webinar the Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) from Mid-Continent Public Library will introduce Intellectual Freedom as a core value of library service. Attendees will be given a brief overview of intellectual policy building and be provided examples of how these are practically applied in libraries. IFC members will then present scenarios that they have experienced while working in branches and facilitate small group discussions that will provide best-practices to better protect the intellectual freedom rights of library users.

Register Here

Youth Programming Panel: Network, Share, & Learn
with Jenny Cook, Lawrence Public Library, Patrick Peterson, Basehor Community Library
Lauren Taylor, Lawrence Public Library and Keri Wiester, Mid-Continent Public Library

Thursday, March 10, 10 to 11 a.m.
Join panelists Jenny Cook, Patrick Peterson, Lauren Taylor, and Keri Wiester as they share new and innovative youth programs and ideas. During the first half of this hour-long webinar, the panelists will present storytime reading recommendations, craft ideas, and passive programming relating to the summer reading theme along with a variety of both in-person and virtual programs including book club kits, take-and-makes, and more! During the second half of the webinar, attendees will have the opportunity to network, ask questions, and share ideas.

Register Here

Access Challenged
with the Intellectual Freedom Committee, Mid-Continent Public Library
Wednesday, March 16, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
The Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) from Mid-Continent Public Library will present their step-by-step guide to having advocacy conversations about intellectual freedom with users who express concern and even challenge library materials. The latest censorship data from the ALA will be discussed and reconsideration policies and procedures will be reviewed.

Register Here