



Mid-America Library Alliance

# Courier/ILL Newsletter

| October 10, 2025

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Sept. Stats are due  
NOW

## MALA Updates

**MALA is open on Columbus Day, Monday, October 13 and on Veteran's Day, Wednesday, November 11.**

If your library is closed on either of those days, please report your closure to our 2025-26 Scheduled Holidays and Closures form [here](#) if you have not already done so.

### Quick update on MALA's new label tracking project

MALA is still working out some of the details of the new tracking system with Capital Express. We hope to have our pilot libraries on board by the end of October. Stay tuned for more information to follow – hopefully in the late fall.

### Courier delivery and bag care

Please make sure that your library is inserting delivery labels into the provided window on courier bags and do not glue, tape or adhere the labels to the outside of the window or bag.

Please always use a courier bag to send any correspondence to the MALA office or another library; insert your envelope into a courier bag with the appropriate labeling on the outside. Communications sent only in an envelope can easily be misplaced or lost within the courier system. Thank you!

### October Meet and Greet Courier Meeting

*Join Katrina High for the monthly Meet & Greet. Meet new librarians, share information and learn what's going on around the state.*

**Topic: Meet and Greet**

**Time: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at 2:00 PM**

**\*\* Note NEW Time**

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83433495689?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83433495689?pwd=7iqyuh5gGK3paLaPxxgSAKnRjM24uch.1)

[pwd=7iqyuh5gGK3paLaPxxgSAKnRjM24uch.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83433495689?pwd=7iqyuh5gGK3paLaPxxgSAKnRjM24uch.1)

Meeting ID: 834 3349 5689

Passcode: 757172

## Upcoming MALAPro Webinars

*Network. Learn. Grow.*

## **Alternative Literacy: What is it and Why is it Important to Implement**

*Sarah Vail, Library Specialist, Garfield County Library*

### **Thursday, October 16th at 2 p.m.**

Alternative Literacy is the process of teaching children and young adults literacy skills through nontraditional means. In this presentation, Sarah will cover three big examples of this: graphic novels, tabletop role-playing games (TTRPGs), and video games. Further, Sarah will provide an overview of how educators, librarians, and individuals can implement them into their work or daily life. In this presentation, you can expect to learn:

- What Alternative Literacy is and What Benefits it Has
- Definitions of Graphic Novels, TTRPGs, and Video Games
- Why Graphic Novels, TTRPGs, and Video Games are effective in teaching literacy
- How to utilize Graphic Novels, TTRPGs, and Video Games in Libraries and Classrooms

[Register here](#)

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## **Boost Attendance at Programs: How to Increase Awareness of and Attendance at Library Programs**

*Annice Sevett, Library Director, Albert Lea Public Library*

### **Wednesday, October 22nd at 10 a.m.**

Is your library looking to increase attendance at programs? Do community members mention that they didn't know about a program you've been offering for years? In 2023, the Albert Lea Public Library made a concerted effort to increase awareness of library programs, resulting in a 30% increase in program attendance. In this session, attendees will learn what the Albert Lea Public Library did to increase awareness and attendance of programs, including many low or no cost options. At the end of the session, attendees will be able to identify strategies they can put into practice in their own libraries and communities to increase awareness of and attendance at library programs.

[Register here](#)

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## **Engaging Grown-Ups: Programming for Adult Patrons**

*Anna Merrit, Assistant Director, Richland Community Library*

### **Thursday, November 13th at 10 a.m.**

While some questions might never be answered - "What came first, the chicken or the egg?" "Is one really the loneliest number?" Other questions- "How do we get more people using the library?" can be a bit easier – Programming! It isn't the only answer, but it is key to keeping your library active within your community. Examining the importance of both in-person & passive adult programming will allow your library to provide much needed information and entertainment to your patrons.

[Register here](#)

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## **Craft Your Way to a Job You Love**

*Christine Kreger, Professional Development Consultant, Colorado State Library*

### **Wednesday, November 19th at 2 p.m.**

Do you feel unconnected or disengaged at work? Are you lacking motivation to complete daily tasks? Do you wish you could design the perfect job?

While the perfect job may not exist, job crafting allows individuals to rethink themselves, their tasks, and their relationships with others to increase job satisfaction, engagement, and motivation.

In this session, we will discuss what job crafting is and explore activities that can help you reinforce your natural strengths, redefine your purpose, and re-invigorate your work.

This is a 75 minute presentation.

[Register here](#)

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This service is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.



Missouri Secretary of State  
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