



# Weekly Memo

Serving Member Libraries Since 1959

Grace Riario • Executive Director/Outreach Coordinator

Ramapo Catskill Library System • <http://www.rcls.org>

619 Route 17M • Middletown, NY 10940-4395 • 845.243.3747

October 7, 2019

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## National Library Legislative Day 2020

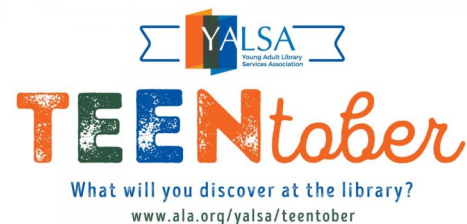
*[ALA Public Policy and Advocacy Office, Sept. 9](#)*

The 45th annual [National Library Legislative Day](#) will be held May 4–5, 2020, at the Georgetown Conference Center in Washington, D.C. This two-day educational advocacy event is designed to gather hundreds of library workers, supporters, leaders, patrons, and community stakeholders to learn from policy experts and raise awareness among federal legislators about how and why libraries are vital to communities across America. The event begins on Monday with a full day of advocacy training, with the next day devoted to meetings with elected officials to discuss resources for libraries in their communities.



## Celebrate Teen Services with YALSA in October

TeenTober is now an annual, nationwide celebration of teens, youth services, and coordinated efforts to educate teens about everything libraries have to offer. Starting in 2019, TeenTober is replacing YALSA's previous Teen Read Week and Teen Tech Week. TeenTober allows libraries to choose what to focus on while celebrating teen services, whether it's digital literacy, reading, writing, technology, or much more. Libraries should use TeenTober as an opportunity to advocate for the importance of year-round teen services in libraries. Learn more about TeenTober's soft launch on the [YALSA website](#).



YALSA has released an [official logo for TeenTober](#), (see above) including social media graphics.

Also, YALSA encourages libraries to share their celebrations, photos, and programs on Twitter by tweeting @yalsa and using #TeenTober.

## News Worthy

- **National**
- [Security blanket: Dover library looks to enhance safety](#) | Delaware State News 9.25.19
- [Censorship Beyond Books](#) | American Libraries Magazine 9.24.19
- [How Libraries Are Bridging the Digital Divide](#) | WNYC Studios 9.24.19
- [Pay a Visit to Your Local Library](#) | My Little Falls 9.23.19
- [Why This Librarian Is Using Twitter To Fight Changes To Library Ebook Pricing Terms](#) | Forbes 9.20.19
- [How Libraries Have Become Public Health Hubs In The Middle Of Rural Health Deserts](#) | Kaiser Health News 9.19.19
- [Editorial: Fine-free policy is smart for libraries](#) | Herald-Tribune 9.18.19
- [Texas library making history with accommodations for those with sensory needs](#) | Fort Worth Star-Telegram 9.12.19
- [New Orleans po-boy shop dishes out free books & authors are eating it up](#) | NOLA.com 9.4.19
- [Macmillan Expands Library e-book Embargo](#) | American Library Association Intellectual Freedom Blog 9.3.19
- [Harry Potter books removed from school due to 'curses and spells'](#) | Nashville Tennessean 8.31.19
- [We're in a Data Literacy Crisis. Could Librarians Be the Superheroes We Need?](#) | Fortune 8.31.19

## Webinar

### ✓ A Recipe for Reading: Culinary Literacy at Your Library

**Wednesday, October 16 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Note:** This webinar will be recorded

Inspired by the work of the Free Library of Philadelphia's Culinary Literacy Center, the Athens Regional Library System's staff and community partners lead a range of classes and events for patrons from a series in which students learn basic kitchen skills while practicing English as a second language, to family events in which kids and their parents recreate fictional foods from picture books. Local chefs have used the equipment to demonstrate their signature creations, and they've even helped special needs patrons become more independent in the kitchen!

**Presenters:** Liz Fitzgerald, Free Library of Philadelphia's Culinary Literacy Center Director; Valerie Bell, Athens Regional Library System Executive Director; Austin Jenkins, Branch Manager of the Oglethorpe County Library and Tracy Guillorn, Children's Specialist at the Royston Public Library

**Register:** [Programming Librarian \(ALA\) website](#)

## IMLS Accelerating Promising Practices for Small Libraries Grants

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is accepting grant applications for Accelerating Promising Practices for Small Libraries (APP). APP is a special initiative of the National Leadership Grants for Libraries Program. The goal of this initiative is to support projects that strengthen the ability of small and/or rural libraries and archives to serve their communities and to build grantee capacity through participation in a community of practice. IMLS invites applications that focus on the following topics:

- Transforming school library practice
- Community memory
- Digital inclusion

These two-year grants are available for projects in the range of \$10,000–\$50,000. For more information, visit the [APP general information page](#). IMLS program staff are available to answer questions and discuss your proposal ideas. A [FAQ page](#) is also available.

Application deadline is **Monday, December 2**.

Share your library news with the

*RCLS Weekly Memo*

Send your press ready article to

[rlsmemo@rcls.org](mailto:rlsmemo@rcls.org)



## Photo of the Week



Congratulations to the 2019 Moffat Team!

Left to right (back row): Dylan Tarace, Joliet McGregor, Bianca Ring, Emily Kinney (coach)

Left to right (front row): Ben Tarace, Julia Ariano, Lydia Ring, Anne Hagan, Peyton Andretta and Johanna Wichmann (not pictured)

On Sunday, September 8, the Moffat Library of Washingtonville team won first place in the RCLS 2019 Teen Battle of the Books! This year 19 teams from libraries in the Ramapo Catskill Library System competed. Each teen read eight Young Adult books of various genres such as fantasy, non-fiction and historical fiction in preparation for the competition.

The Moffat team teens began reading and practicing months in advance. All of their hard work and dedication clearly made a difference at the competition.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible, including the parents and guardians who have supported these teens through many summers of this competition; the library staff who endured the team's frequently loud and impassioned practice sessions; and most of all to the teens who put in so much of their time and energy analyzing, debating, practicing, and reading.

Congratulations to all the teams that participated!

—Carol McCrossen, Director, Moffat Library of Washingtonville

Share a library-related photo, include a brief caption, your name, position and the library's name. A photo release is required from recognizable individuals in the photo. [Click here](#) for the RCLS photo release. Submit the picture to [rclsmemo@rcls.org](mailto:rclsmemo@rcls.org) with 'Photo of the Week' in the subject line.



## Warwick Children's Book Festival

Albert Wisner Public Library (Warwick) invites and welcomes ALL to the *Warwick Children's Book Festival* on **Saturday, October 12** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Railroad Avenue in Warwick. (Rain location: Warwick Valley Middle School, 225 West Street, Warwick). Sixty-eight authors and illustrators of books for children in Pre-K through high school will be on hand to meet readers and book lovers and to inscribe and sell their books. Admission is free, and there will be a free concert for children on Railroad Green at 12 noon (bring a blanket, lawn chair, picnic if you'd like!). Therapy dogs, simple crafts for children and light refreshments for sale by the Friends of the Library will round out the event. Make a day of it on October 12 in Warwick. After the festival, browse the shops on Main Street, check out the restaurants and cafes, visit a farm market, go pumpkin- or apple-picking. Full festival details can be found on the [Warwick Children's Festival website](#). We

hope you can join us and look forward to seeing you there!



## System Calendar

For a complete and up-to-date list of events, including links to additional information, see the [RCLS Calendar](#). To add information, contact [Ruth Daubenspeck](#).

### October

#### Monday, 7

Battle of the Books / RCLS Teen Librarians, RCLS – 9:00 a.m.

#### Monday, 7

RCLS 2020 Budget Hearing – CANCELED

#### Tuesday, 8

[Algorithms in Everyday Life: How Hidden Biases Impact Our Most Vulnerable Neighbors](#), Valley Cottage – 10:00 a.m.

#### Wednesday, 9

Directors Association, RCLS – 9:30 a.m.

#### Thursday, 10

LARC-Teen Librarians, Nanuet – 10:00 a.m.

#### Thursday, 10

[Introduction to Foundation Directory Online](#), Newburgh, – 11:30 a.m.

#### Friday, 11

SUPLA, Monticello – 9:30 a.m.

#### Friday, 11

[Finding Your Time Management Style](#), Nanuet – 10:00 a.m.

#### Monday, 14

**Columbus Day—RCLS CLOSED  
 NO DELIVERIES**

#### Tuesday, 15

[eContent Buyers Session](#), RCLS – 10:00 a.m.

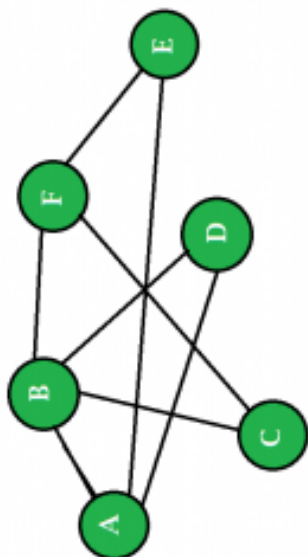
#### Wednesday, 16

[Is Facial Recognition technology providing you with a full picture?](#), RCLS – 10:00 a.m.

## RCLS Headquarters E-mail and Extension Directory (845.243.3747)

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## Algorithms in Everyday Life: How Hidden Biases Impact Our Most Vulnerable Neighbors

Describes how biased thinking makes its way into computerized systems. Provides hands-on activities to help learners understand algorithms. Helps participants identify next steps for assisting impacted populations.

Computer systems are increasingly tasked with making decisions for and about human beings. They are making decisions about which ads to show us, whether or not we make it to the second round of a job interview, and even how long prison sentences should be.

These systems are reliant on algorithmic processes. Algorithms are often considered a company's "secret sauce," and usually the public doesn't know what's in them. This session will demystify the concept of an algorithm and will shed light on what we *do* know about the systems that make some of the more pressing decisions in our lives.

We will learn how our human biases are incorporated into algorithms, discuss the venues in which algorithm-based systems are pernicious, and discuss new ways of helping our communities better understand this new backdrop of machine-based decision making.

**Tuesday,  
October 8,  
2019**

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Valley Cottage  
Free Library**

110 Route 303  
Valley Cottage, NY  
845.268.7700

### Presenter

Davis Erin Anderson's work focuses on understanding the impact of technology on the culture at large, translating these challenges into real solutions for library staff. She is project lead for NYC Digital Safety, an NYC-funded program that keeps library staff informed about evergreen topics in data privacy and digital security.

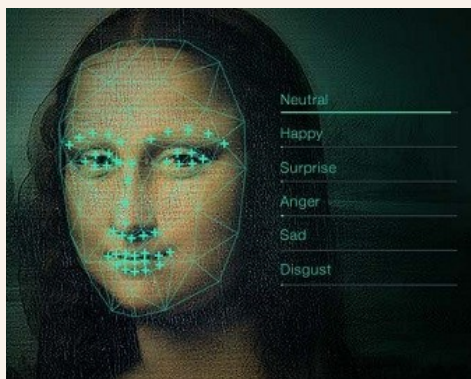
Davis worked with Mozilla Foundation to review and update their web literacy curriculum, resulting in the launch of Mozilla's Core Curriculum for Web Literacy in March 2018. In addition to planning and emceeding METRO's symposia series, Davis has designed and facilitated workshops on data privacy and security, web mechanics, and personal networking skills for library staff.

### Registration

Registration is required by 8 a.m. Monday, September 9. Use the [RCLS online calendar](#) to guarantee your seat today.



Ramapo Catskill Library System  
presents



# Is Facial Recognition Technology Providing You with a Full Picture?

The use of Artificial Intelligence technology within agencies and companies is increasingly accelerating, especially given the widespread adoption of Facial Recognition technology. There are obvious security and bias concerns given this technology, such as the leaking of biometric information or the fact that much of this technology has been shown to not work for those with darker skin tones. However, the workshop will show how facial recognition and newly developed emotion recognition are being sold to public agencies by private vendors, and point to specific dangers that one needs to be aware when thinking about the large scale adoption of these technologies.

**Wednesday,  
October 16,  
2019**

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Ramapo Catskill  
Library System**

619 Route 17M  
Middletown, NY  
845.243.3747

## Presenter

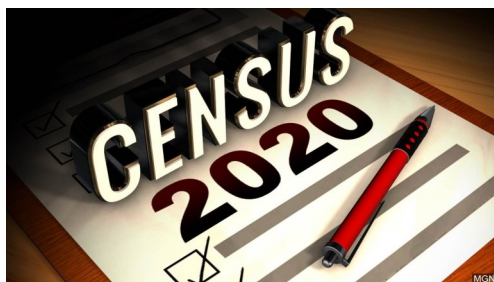
Varoon Mathur, as a Technology Fellow, Varoon conducts interdisciplinary research on the social implications of machine learning and related technologies on public domains. Varoon joins AI Now after serving as a Microsoft Data Science for Social Good Fellow and earning his software engineering degree from UBC with a focus on machine learning. He is also a global health activist, and is a Coordinating Committee Fellow with Universities Allied for Essential Medicines, a student-driven NGO focused on access to medicines issues for the vulnerable and marginalized population. He has advised on global health policy and research at the World Health Organization and is a former TEDx Speaker.

## Registration

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# Working Together to Get Everyone Counted!

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## Rockland County

Blauvelt Free Library  
541 Western Highway  
Blauvelt, NY  
845-359-2811

**Wednesday, October 16**

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

[Register here](#)

## Sullivan/Ulster County

Ethelbert B. Crawford  
Public Library  
479 Broadway  
845-794-4660

**Wednesday, October 30**

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

[Register here](#)

## Orange County

Goshen Public Library  
and Historical Society  
366 Main Street  
Goshen, NY  
845-294-6606

**Thursday, October 31**

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

[Register here](#)

The libraries are once again called upon to assist people to participate in the Census. Once again, we have no extra funds or resources to do this work. The 2020 Census will be online for the first time and we, the libraries, will be the ones helping our communities navigate the 2020 Census portal, answer questions and making sure everyone gets counted.

What can we offer to our communities with the resources we currently have? This is the question that we will answer together during this session.

Please join us for a discussion about what we need to consider before we help our communities. Together, we will develop the best practices for libraries that are able to help with the 2020 Census and can become a 2020 Census site for their County.

## Registration

Registration is required. Use the [RCLS online calendar](#) to guarantee your seat today.



Ramapo Catskill Library System  
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# 2020 Census Training

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## Orange County

RCLS Headquarters  
619 Route 17M  
Middletown, NY  
845-243-3747

Tuesday, September 24  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

[Register here](#)

## Orange County

RCLS Headquarters  
Thursday, October 17  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

[Register here](#)

## Sullivan County

Ethelbert B. Crawford  
Public Library

Thursday, October 24,  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

[Register here](#)

## Workshop

Once a decade, America comes together to count every resident in the United States. Counting an increasingly diverse and growing population is a massive undertaking. Ultimately, the success of the census depends on everyone's participation. Libraries, as always, will be playing a pivotal role in educating community members about the impact the Census data will have in our lives for the next ten years.

The 2020 Census data will be essential for you and your community. Please join us at one of the 2020 Census training sessions below. As library staff, you will face many questions about the 2020 Census; people will be coming to the libraries seeking help on filling out the online form. We want to be prepared!

## Presenter

Mario Garcia, Partnership Specialist - Lower Hudson Valley Region/U.S. Census Bureau

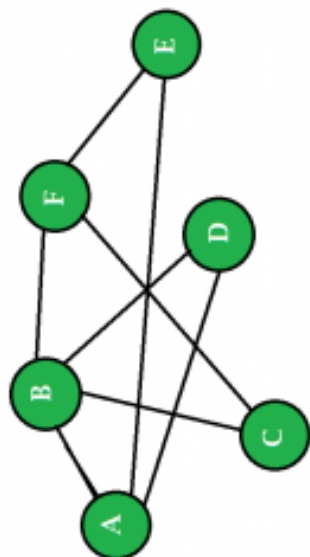
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We will learn how our human biases are incorporated into algorithms, discuss the venues in which algorithm-based systems are pernicious, and discuss new ways of helping our communities better understand this new backdrop of machine-based decision making.

Tuesday,  
October 22,  
2019

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Ramapo Catskill  
Library System

619 Route 17M  
Middletown, NY  
845.243.3747

### Presenter

Davis Erin Anderson's work focuses on understanding the impact of technology on the culture at large, translating these challenges into real solutions for library staff. She is project lead for NYC Digital Safety, an NYC-funded program that keeps library staff informed about evergreen topics in data privacy and digital security.

Davis worked with Mozilla Foundation to review and update their web literacy curriculum, resulting in the launch of Mozilla's Core Curriculum for Web Literacy in March 2018. In addition to planning and emceeding METRO's symposia series, Davis has designed and facilitated workshops on data privacy and security, web mechanics, and personal networking skills for library staff.

### Registration

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# Building Children's and Teen Spaces

Tuesday, October 22, 2019

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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If your library is in the beginning phases of a construction project, this panel discussion is for you. Learn a few tips and tricks about building children's and teen spaces from library stat who have gone through it! What did they enjoy, learn and wish they had known before their libraries were build?

Panelists included:

Beth Balogh - Josephine-Louise Public Library, Walden

Karen Golding, - Goshen Public Library & Historical Society

Michelle Muller - Goshen Public Library & Historical Society

Stephen Hofer - RCLS Fiscal Officer

Registration is required. Use the [RCLS Online Calendar](#) to guarantee your seat today.



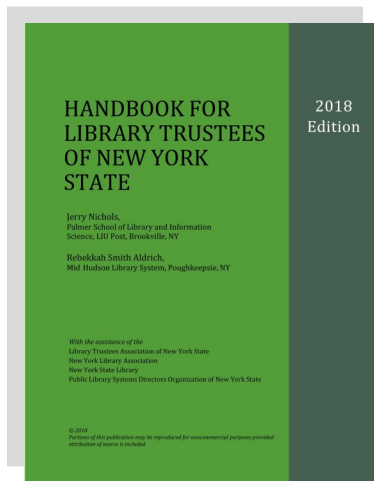
**Ramapo Catskill Library System**

619 RTE 17M

Middletown, New York 10940 | (845)243-3747

<http://rcls.org>

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# 101: Basic Library Trustee Education

**Tuesday,  
October 29,  
2019**

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Haverstraw  
King's  
Daughters  
Public  
Library**

10 West Ramapo Road  
Garnerville, NY  
845-786-3800

This session is designed to give new trustees a basic understanding of their duties and responsibilities.

It will cover basic financial practices, essential laws and other critical information you may need to ensure your confidence in serving as a Board member of a Library and a voice of your community. The items covered in this session are limited; it is advised that you familiarize yourself with the New York State Trustee Handbook, which will be distributed to each attendee at the program.

Light dinner will be served at 5:30pm.

## Presenter

Grace Riario, RCLS Assistant Director and  
Outreach Coordinator

## Registration

Registration is required. A minimum of 5 registrants is required or the workshop will be canceled. Use the [RCLS online calendar](#) to guarantee your seat today.

