

1645 W. Valencia Rd. #109-432  
Tucson, AZ 85746  
(602)614-2841



---

## **AzLA Report to the State Librarian, September 2019**

*Arizona Library Association*  
*Michelle Simon*  
*President*

### **Great Year for AzLA!**

The changes we implemented to the management of AzLA are paying off. Executive Board members have stepped up and are running the organization like professionals! We continue to migrate business processes to G-Suite, including the creation of AzLA email addresses for all Executive Board members and committee/interest group chairs. G-Suite tools are used in a collaborative and productive manner. The change has resulted in increased communication and transparency while reducing costs to the organization.

### **AzLA Annual Conference**

Registration for this year's Annual Conference, "Libraries=Strong, Sustainable Communities" is now open. Go to our website, [www.azla.org](http://www.azla.org), to register. We will convene in Tucson on November 7-8. We have some new additions to the regular conference this year:

- **E-Resource Vendor Fair**, November 6 from 8am-5pm at the Joel D. Valdez Main Library. This event is free to all AzLA members and registration is on the conference registration page of our website. Major e-resource vendors will be on-hand to demonstrate their products and answer questions one-on-one. Of course, there will be food!
- **School Librarian and Educator Forum**, November 9 from 8:30am-2pm at the Flowing Wells Library. This event is included with a full conference registration. Members must indicate their wish to attend when registering for the annual conference. The focus of this forum is Pre-K through 12th grade education and engagement. Join us! Lunch is included!

### **AzLA Legislative Priorities**

During the August Board Meeting, we discussed various topics to bring forward to our legislative lobbyist. Erin Macfarlane, Legislative Committee Chair, provided the following details:

- **State Grants in Aid for Libraries:** Lobbying for an increase in the SGIA funding for Arizona Libraries is possible during the next legislative session (January 2020). Erin and Jessica Rainbow (AzLA Lobbyist) are currently researching the best strategy for this effort. The current SGIA award is \$651,400 and Jessica feels it is reasonable to ask for an increase up to \$1M total.
- **Making Libraries exempt from the TPT:** This may be a difficult sell with the Arizona legislature. There are very few exemptions from the TPT, including municipal departments. If this is something we want to pursue, the angle of "we are using taxes to pay taxes" would be our best bet. We will work toward discussing the topic with a few prominent legislators to "test the waters."

- **Requiring certified librarians on every school campus:** Based on the climate of Arizona's education system, this is an unrealistic request. AzLA will continue to work with the lobbyist, the legislature, and partner agencies to advocate for increased funding for education and equity of pay for Teacher Librarians.
- **Weapons in Public Libraries:** The lobbyist and Maricopa Government Relations are hesitant to pursue changes to ARS 13-3102 (A10). Concerns that additional cost-prohibitive security measures would be required to support any changes are forefront in their minds.

### **AzLA supports ALA; asks Macmillan Publishers to reconsider ebook embargo**

Please read our post: <https://azlaweb.blogspot.com/2019/09/azla-supports-ala-asks-macmillan.html> about the important issues surrounding the embargo scheduled to begin on November 1. PCPL is also making inroads against the ebook embargo and difficult lending models: <https://azlaweb.blogspot.com/2019/08/econtentforlibraries.html>. Watch Michelle's interview with KOLD news.

We are asking everyone to participate in ALA's online petition: [ebooksforall.org](https://ebooksforall.org). As of this morning, the petition has collected more than 12,000 signatures.

### **AzLA on Social Media**

The Professional Development Committee has done a fantastic job of highlighting librarians from across the state as part of the #WeAreAzLA campaign. Please visit our Facebook page to see your favorite librarian in action.

### **Arizona State Library and AzLA Early Literacy Summit**

We have a great team of people working on this early 2020 event. The focus will be to connect and enlighten early literacy providers in public libraries, schools, and community agencies on best practices for early literacy, parent awareness, and school readiness. The three-day summit will be held in Chandler. Stay tuned for more information to come on our website.