APLS Director Nancy pack kicked off the January 25th Administrators’ Meeting by welcoming new directors and giving a legislative update. We are expected to be level funded in the next fiscal year, so librarians are encouraged to ask legislators for an increase in State Aid. Telling your library story and explaining how funding impacts your community is the best way to advocate for your library. Even one person’s story about how much the public library helped better their life can show impact.

Tim Lewis, Director of the Supreme Court and State Law Library, spoke about net neutrality, the principle that mandates equal access to all Internet content. In December 2017 the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) voted to repeal it. This means that Internet providers no longer have to provide equal access to customers once the repeal goes into effect. Though we are not sure what this repeal will bring, it could mean that service providers will charge extra to view certain websites or content. This is particularly upsetting news to libraries for two reasons:

1. We are already dealing with a lack of funding for basic needs.
2. It goes against the library’s philosophy of intellectual freedom.

What can we do? Mr. Lewis agreed to help APLS draft a petition to encourage Governor Ivey to adopt an executive order to protect net neutrality in Alabama, similar to what New York and Montana have done. Additionally, you can advocate at a local and federal level by contacting your elected officials to say you are in favor of protecting net neutrality.
On January 19th, Inglenook Branch Library’s bi-monthly program, *An Expression of Appreciation for the Women of Inglenook Community*, focused on building healthy marriages. January’s theme was “Relationship Goals,” and featured a talk from Alethea and Eddie Fells III, award-winning authors of *Till Death Do Us Part: Chronicles of a Christian Marriage*. They led a discussion on how couples can build a positive, healthy relationship.

*An Expression of Appreciation for the Women of the Inglenook Community* arose from a need to provide women who either work or live in the Inglenook Community with an environment of empowerment and relaxation while addressing issues that affect them daily. The first program was held in May 2017 and has since averaged almost 20 women per program, according to Karnecia Williams, branch manager of Inglenook Library. “Women who attend are excited about the programs and have even established a bond amongst themselves,” Williams said.

As part of the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Birmingham Public Library’s Department of Archives and Manuscripts annually sponsors *Begin the Day: The Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Lecture*, now in its 15th year. For the 2018 King Lecture on January 16th, Dr. Erin Mauldin from Samford University explored environmental racism. Discrimination over generations in urban planning, industrial development, and access to natural resources means that African Americans and other people of color disproportionately shoulder the burden of environmental risk in the U.S. Nowhere is this pattern of environmental injustice more starkly displayed than Birmingham, Alabama.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, Birmingham’s economy depended on heavy industry and loose environmental regulations. And as early as the 1890s, whites cut roads "over the mountain" to escape the city’s industrial core, leaving African American families behind to live among higher levels of pollution, filth, disease, and industrial contamination. Many white Birmingham residents eventually associated African Americans with the dirt and pollution of many black neighborhoods, and this stigma encouraged continued disenfranchisement, racially segmented economies, and further environmental degradation. Historical environmental racism and the resulting "separate but unequal" access to clean air and water still affect Birmingham’s citizens today.

Mauldin (photo below) is assistant professor in the Department of History at Samford University. A graduate of Samford, she holds a Ph.D. in U.S. Environmental History from Georgetown University. Her forthcoming book, “Unredeemed Land: An Environmental History of the Civil War and Emancipation in the Cotton South,” will be published in May 2018 by Oxford University Press.
Daphne Seed Library

Library Technician Michael Neyers from Daphne Public Library implemented an honor-system seed library that houses various vegetable, flower, and herb seeds. Packets of information with planting schedules, seed propagation methods, and seed saving methods are available as well. Patrons can sign up to become a member and check out up to six types of seeds. In return, they should properly save a portion of the seeds and donate them to the library so that others can enjoy growing seeds too.

Winfield LEAD

The Winfield Public Library staff put together gift baskets for local officers for Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (L.E.A.D) on January 9th. Their local officers work so hard to protect the community, so staff were excited to give them something to show their appreciation.
Magnolia Springs Public Library held a Mock Caldecott Awards program where patrons got to vote for their favorite books. It was a great way to get young adults involved with the library!

Regardless of what your interests are, there’s probably a podcast for you. Podcasts are digital audio programs you can listen to from a computer, smartphone, or tablet - and most are free. They range in a wide variety of topics from true crime, history, and politics to science, comedy, and literature. There is a great opportunity for public libraries to incorporate podcasts into their reader advisory recommendations, both to supplement their own audio collections and to provide additional resources for those with visual impairments.

The February/March 2017 issue of Library Technology Reports had a comprehensive article on podcasts and how you can use them in the library. The report covers not only how libraries can use podcasts, but also how to access them from different devices and how to find podcasts that will be interesting to you and your patrons. The report is available to view in full on the Alabama Virtual Library (AVL) if you are in Alabama: http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&db=buh&db=funk&db=hxh&db=hch&db=mth&db=nfh&db=bwh&db=voh&bquery=&cli0=FT&clv0=Y&cli1=SO&clv1=Library+Technology+Reports&cli2=DT1&clv2=201702-201703&type=1&site=efhost-live

2 Resources, 1 Goal: Helping Alabama Succeed

LearningExpress Library & HomeworkAlabama

-Online Tutoring for Grades K-12
-College Placement Resources
-Help for all ages and all skill levels
-Certification Test/GED Preparation
-Career Resources

Find both on the APLS Resources and Research Links Page