William Scott, partnership specialist with the U.S. Census Bureau, speaks at the January administrator’s meeting to openly invite Alabama’s public libraries to participate as community partners in next year’s census.
Census officials seek library partners at APLS admin meeting

Approximately 100 Alabama public library directors attended January’s administrator’s meeting to learn more about upcoming plans for the 2020 census.

APLS invited all library directors statewide to its facility on Jan. 24 to learn more about the crucial role public libraries will play in achieving an accurate census count. Because the 2020 census will be online-based, public libraries can provide a necessary internet connection for persons without broadband at home to fill out and submit a census form.

William Scott, partnership specialist with the U.S. Census Bureau, openly invited Alabama’s public libraries to become community partners for next year’s count.

At the meeting, Ron Gilbert, executive director of Community Action Association of Alabama, underscored the importance of an accurate census count. Gilbert said that Alabama is one of six states in danger of losing a U.S. Congressional seat, and a complete and accurate count will decide the state’s Congressional representation and an adequate distribution of federal dollars.

Supplemental materials from the administrator’s meeting are now available on the APLS website and include:

- 50 Ways Census Data are Used
- Alabama Low Response Score (LRS) map
- American Library Association 2020 Census briefing
- Alabama Counting for Dollars 2020
- Census 101 (infographic)
- Counting Young Children in the 2020 Census (fact sheet)

This information is found at [http://aplsws1.apls.state.al.us/aplsnew/content/census-information](http://aplsws1.apls.state.al.us/aplsnew/content/census-information).

Additionally, if you are interested in a temporary position as a census worker, you may apply online at [https://2020census.gov/jobs/job-details.html](https://2020census.gov/jobs/job-details.html).
The Huntsville-Madison County Public Library is bridging the digital divide in its city by offering training and assistance for job seekers. The library was awarded a $7,500 digital inclusion fund grant by the Community Foundation of Greater Huntsville and sponsored by Google Fiber to create a workforce development lab.

The Workforce Development Lab is for those who need digital assistance to secure employment. The lab is located on the second floor of the Downtown Huntsville Library in the Technology Training Center. The lab offers the following services:

- create email addresses
- create resumes
- conduct online job searches
- complete online applications
- one-on-one training

“There are many talented people in our community that need digital skills to connect with the right employer, said Anthony Hale, HMCPL’s technology training coordinator. “We start by making sure that everyone has a resume in digital format and teaching basic file management skills so they can access that resume. From there we try to familiarize the participants with the process of searching for employment online.”

As part of the initiative, the library also debuted its mobile lab this fall, in partnership with the North Alabama Chapter of International Systems, who donated 10 computers for this purpose. The mobile lab travels to community centers and other job-related events to provide assistance to those looking for job openings.

Huntsville library helps job seekers navigate digital world

HMCPL debuted the mobile workforce development lab at an area job fair last fall

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Have story ideas or suggestions for upcoming issues?

Contact Ryan Godfrey at rgodfrey@apls.state.al.us or 334-213-3909.
The Satsuma Public Library Foundation hosted its first Mardi Gras Ball on Jan. 25. More than 200 attendees came to the Steele Creek Lodge in Satsuma for food, fun, and a night of dancing.

Among those in attendance were Mobile County Commissioner Merceria Ludgood, Satsuma Mayor Tom Williams, and Satsuma City Council members Mike Butler, Allison Reese, and Randy Little. Music was provided by Mobile’s own Excelsior Band with special guest Charles “Bo” Grant of the Platters.

All proceeds from the ball will go to support the Satsuma Public Library.

During the month of December, children throughout the River Region had an opportunity to drop off their own letters to Santa at the Juliette Hampton Morgan Memorial Library in downtown Montgomery. Here’s a sample of just a few of many letters placed in the mailbox:

“Dear Santa, Happy Holidays. This Christmas, I would like an art pack and a sharpener. You know you don’t really have to give me gifts, I want you to give to kids who don’t have toys, shoes, and clothes.”

“Dear Santa, What I would like for Christmas is a clear backpack and some tall brown boots (size 6 1/2 girl’s).”

“Dear Santa, I would gladly love to have a phone and a laptop.”

“Dear Santa, RC Hot Wheels trick track and Pokémon toys.”

The Newbern Public Library hosted a book signing with local artist/photographer Jean Woods Watson. She signed copies of her book, My Hometown: A Photographic History of Newbern, Alabama on Jan. 31. Additional copies of her book were also available for purchase at the library.

Early Literacy Calendar available from PLA

The Public Literacy Association (PLA) has developed a new product designed to boost early childhood literacy programming in libraries, schools, and daycare centers. The Early Childhood Literacy Activity Calendar emphasizes activities involving reading, writing, singing, talking, playing, and counting, and includes 12 months of learning activities, book lists, and nursery rhymes. One side of each page has a skills-building activity for each day, and the reverse contains additional supplemental content including early literacy tips and song lyrics.

Cost ranges from $23.99 for PLA members to $29.99 for non-members. For more information, please click here.