

Montana State Library Fall Workshops 2018

Presenter biographies



Jennifer Birnel Jennifer Birnel has a Masters of Education Degree, a BS in Middle Grades Education, and BA in Organizational Communications. She taught middle school language arts and social studies for 12 years. She was hired by the State Library in 2011 as a technology trainer. In 2013 she became the Montana Memory Project Director for the Montana State Library. The Montana Memory Project is a digital library of items related to Montana history and culture. In this role she oversees the ongoing implementation of this project including the addition of new collections, website design, and communication with the MMP membership. She recruits new content contributors and provides training and technical support. Jennifer lives in Choteau where she works as a remote employee. She enjoys travel, camping, kayaking, and reading in her hammock.



Melody Condron is the Resource Description & Management Coordinator at the University of Houston Libraries, where she manages data organization and record quality control projects. She is passionate about information organization and personal digital archiving methodology. Previous to her time in Houston, Melody worked at the Montana State Library and Lincoln County Public Libraries in Montana, where she did everything from technology training to genealogy research. She holds an MLS from the University of North Texas and a BA in Communications and Media Studies from Penn State, the Behrend College. At home Melody is a vegetable gardener, Lego enthusiast, Scrabble player, family archivist, and animal rescue volunteer.



Terri Davis is the Director of the Rapid City Public Library in South Dakota; she seeks out collaborative relationships in the community and in the Black Hills area, and serves on the board for the Black Hills Library Consortium. She was previously was Coordinator Library Services for the Shire of Dardanup in Western Australia, and served in leadership roles with the South West Library Consortium there. She has also managed libraries in Fremantle, Western Australia and Deadwood, South Dakota.

Terri's experience includes facilitating organizational change management, coaching and developing managers and staff, and leading multidisciplinary teams.



Joann (Jo) Flick is the Continuing Education Coordinator at the Montana State Library. Previous to that position, Jo spent decades in the field of educational technology: for a PBS station and for a video publishing company. She served as education coordinator and director/curator at an historic house museum as well. Jo holds a Masters in Instructional Systems Technology from Indiana University, a Bachelors in Studio Art from the State University of New York, and is a distinguished SUNY scholar. Beyond instructional technology and art, Jo enjoys hiking, art-making, gardening, book club, game nights, and the challenge of a slow-rise levain loaf.



Sonia Gavin0 has served as the Legislative Librarian since 2008. She has a BA in Political Science from the University of Montana and her MLA from the University of North Texas. Sonia is also the current president of the Lewis and Clark Library Foundation Board. In her spare time, she likes to quilt, cook, spend time with her two hound dogs, and hosting several Helena Area Librarians Organization gatherings.



Pam Henley is a Statewide Consulting Librarian with the Montana State Library. Originally from New Jersey, several family trips to the west led to a life-long interest in travel; marriage to an Air Force officer fueled this. With a BA in Anthropology (University of Wyoming) and Masters in Library Information Studies (University of Oklahoma), Pam worked in school and public libraries as the family moved around (to include Germany and Japan) before settling in Bozeman and a 16-year career with the public library. The position of consulting librarian continues to offer travel opportunities around the state, assisting public libraries with their educational and informational needs. Other interests include knitting and reading; both are portable enough to work nicely with travel.



Officer Thomas Keightley is the Crime Prevention Officer for the Billings Police Department. His mission covers both crime prevention and community relations, which means he never really runs out of things to do. Keightley takes care of most of the public speaking requests that come into the department, along with coordinating all of the prevention programs utilized by the BPD. He has served with the BPD since 2005.



Chris Hines is the new Regional Director for the National Geographic Society supporting Montana. He brings diverse experience in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to National Geographic. This experience includes time in Tanzania with a nonprofit organization that trains rats to detect landmines, a State Department fellowship, and most recently Chris was the Deputy Superintendent at Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary. Throughout his career, Chris has focused on partnership development, informal education, fundraising, and other non-profit management roles. Originally hailing from California, Chris received his B.S. in Business from Purdue University and M.S. in International Public Service from DePaul University. He lives in Houston, Texas and enjoys paddling, diving, eating, and anything else outdoors with his better half, Amanda.



Lauren McMullen is a Statewide Consulting Librarian for the Montana State Library. She has an MLS from the University of North Texas. Before coming to the State Library, Lauren was the director at the Carnegie Public Library in Big Timber, Montana. When not traveling around the state helping public library directors and boards move their libraries forward, she raises sheep and a big garden on her ranch near Big Timber.



Hannah Nash is the Youth Services Librarian for the Miles City Public Library. An enthusiastic adopter of technology and joiner of a multitude of social networking opportunities online, she's equally zealous to share her expertise with others for the greater good: regularly presenting on technology topics, children's books and activities, comics and other fun endeavors. She can be found slaving at the office, on her cell phone, reading in bed, playing with her kids, or hiding at the community theatre playhouse.



Cara Orban is the Statewide Projects Librarian at the Montana State Library. An Oklahoma native, Cara worked in public libraries in Oklahoma and Kansas, and with an academic library consortium in southern Appalachia (North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia), before arriving in Montana six years ago. Her family, which includes two elementary school-aged boys, are avid MontanaLibrary2Go audiobook listeners, a

blessing which has brought many a cross-country road trip back from the brink of insanity. Besides being a librarian, Cara enjoys trail running, filling her yard with perennials, and making things out of fabric and fiber.



Jane Rhodes is the Management Trainer at the Professional Development Center, Montana State Human Resources Division, Department of Administration since June, 2005. Conducts management and communications training offered to state and local governments as well as private organizations and businesses. As an adjunct professor, Jane developed and conducted Math and Science workshops to pre-service and graduate students in the teaching profession. Women's conference speaker dealing with life issues.

Jane received her BS Secondary Education from Western Montana College; an Elementary Education Endorsement and a Masters in Education from MSU-Northern.



Lynette Rodi is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, Licensed Addiction Counselor, and Certified Compassion Fatigue Professional based in Livingston, MT. Over the last 20 years, Lynette has worked as a therapist in many different clinical settings in Florida, Hawaii, and Montana. In recent years, Lynette's attention has turned to supporting the work of professionals and paraprofessionals on the "front lines" of the helping and healing

professions. She currently works nationally as a consultant to businesses as diverse as small non-profits to a Fortune 200 company supporting employee well-being in the areas of Compassion Fatigue, Mindful Leadership, and Clinical Supervision.



Beck Tench is a partner, daughter, friend, teacher, gardener, cyclist, kind stranger, and PhD student at the University of Washington Information School. She researches how the design of physical and digital spaces cultivates contemplative experience and practice. She is particularly interested in understanding how space facilitates a greater capacity for accessing personal wisdom, connecting with others through compassion and friendship, improving the quality of our lives through greater awareness of life as we're living it, and coping with the distractions of digital culture.

She was formally trained as a designer at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and spent her career before returning to academia helping museums, libraries, and non-profits embrace risk-taking, creativity, and change through technology and personal space-making. Her work from that time was mentioned in the New York Times, National Public Radio, Scientific American, and several books and blogs.



Gavin Woltjer is the director of the Billings Public Library. He is passionate about developing research and leadership skills for the next generation of library leaders. Before coming to the Billings Public Library, Woltjer was the Dean of Library Services and University Archivist for Oklahoma Wesleyan University. Woltjer holds a MLIS from the University of Oklahoma, MAs in Political Rhetoric and Literature from the University of South Dakota, and recently completed the Library Leadership in the Digital Age program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. His research interests include: library leadership; librarians as public historian; and methods used to sustain cultural economies.