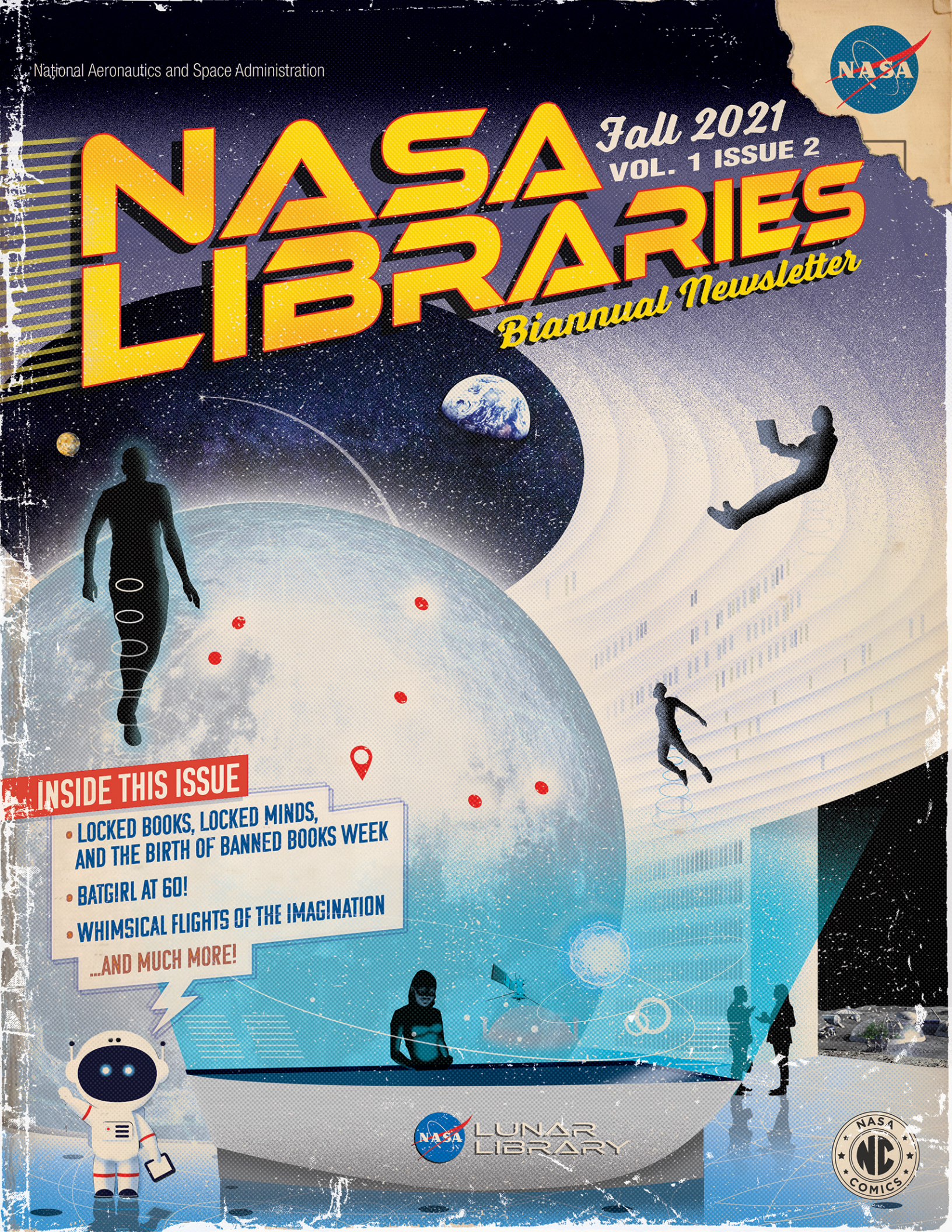
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NASA LIBRARIES

Fall 2021
VOL. 1 ISSUE 2

Biannual Newsletter



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- LOCKED BOOKS, LOCKED MINDS, AND THE BIRTH OF BANNED BOOKS WEEK
- BATGIRL AT 60!
- WHIMSICAL FLIGHTS OF THE IMAGINATION

...AND MUCH MORE!

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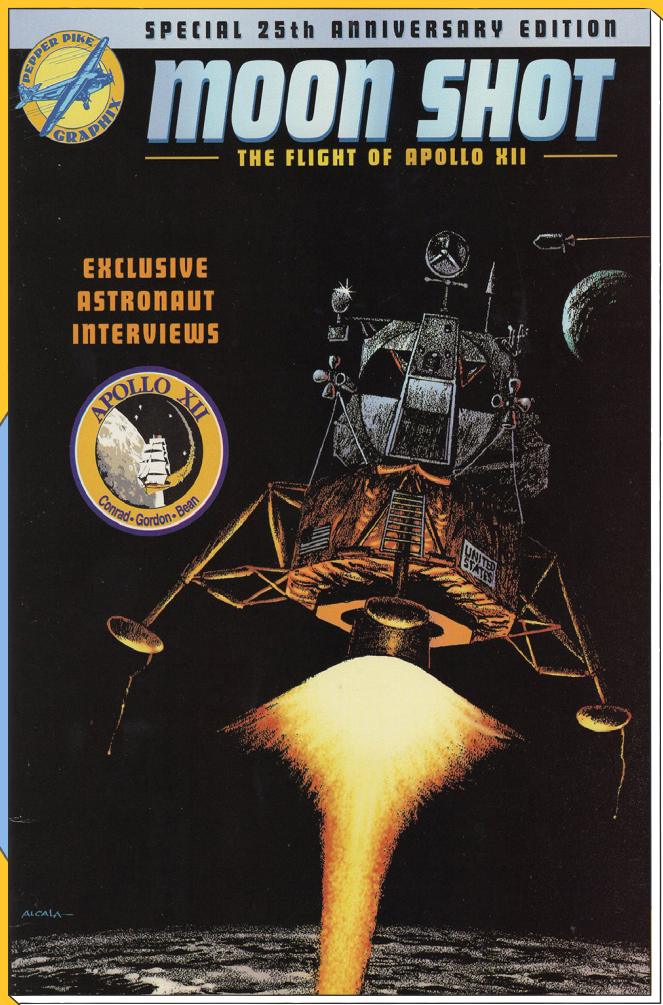
MOON SHOT

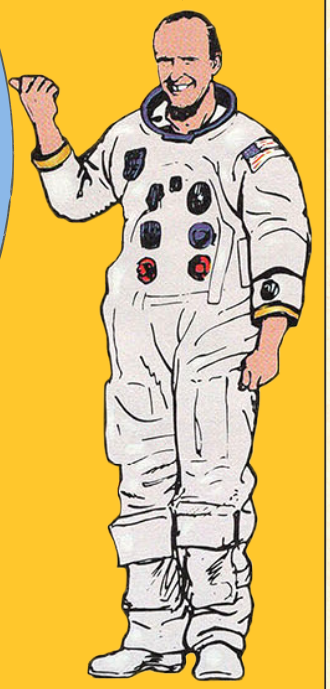
THE FLIGHT OF APOLLO XII

INCLUDES ORIGINAL STORY PLUS BRAND NEW CONTENT!

LUNAR TRIVIA INSIDE!



DICK GORDON
CM PILOT, APOLLO XII



ALAN BEAN
LM PILOT, APOLLO XII

50TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL REPRODUCTION

READ THE FULL ISSUE ONLINE @ https://www.nasa.gov/specials/apollo50th/media.html

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THE NASA LIBRARY NETWORK PRESENTS...

NASA LIBRARIES

Fall 2021
VOL. 1 ISSUE 2

Biannual Newsletter

"THE COMIC BOOK EDITION"

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PRODUCED BY BOB SHEROUSE

DESIGN & LAYOUTS BY MICHAEL PRITZ

EDITED BY DAWN SEDOR

COVER ART BY WADE MICKLEY

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AMONG THE CONTRIBUTORS

KARL
BENDER
WRITER / AFRC

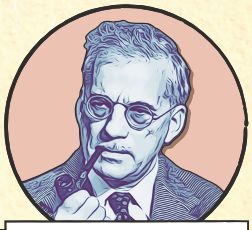
TONIA
REYNOLDS-POPE
WRITER / GSFC

GRADY
KOCH
ENGINEER / LARC

DAWN
SEDOR
EDITOR / GRC

BOB
SHEROUSE
PRODUCER / HQ

JILLIEN
ZUDELL
WRITER / GRC



JULIUS JOHN
LANKES
ARTIST / NACA

PAULA
LAURITA
WRITER / MSFC

MICHAEL
PRITZ
EDITOR / LARC

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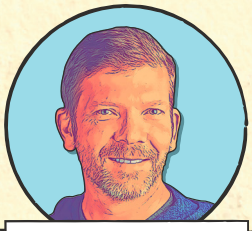
WRITER / HQ



WADE
MICKLEY
ARTIST / LARC

DOROTHA
SEVERANCE
ARTIST / NACA

WE MUST BE DOING SOMETHING — *WRITE!*

SPECIAL MESSAGE

Welcome to the second edition of the *NASA Libraries* newsletter. I am pleased to announce progress in providing a common access, user authentication, search, and visualization platform. Approval and partial funding are provided through the OCIO IT Investment Fund. This will be a two-phased Agency Library Portal System (ALPS) project. Phase-1 is a Technology Demonstration and concept exploration. Phase-2 comes 12 months later, and will deliver a single NASA library web portal with integrated user authentication, search, visualization, virtual Ask-a-Librarian assistance, and analytical tools. Conceptually, this will tear down significant barriers and silos that impede common access to a $7.7 million portfolio of 130+ subscribed electronic resources and NASA-held physical electronic reference holdings. This is a complex, multimillion-dollar project with ambitious expectations. As I write, the contract proposal has been delivered to NASA and approval is expected momentarily with programming scheduled for September.

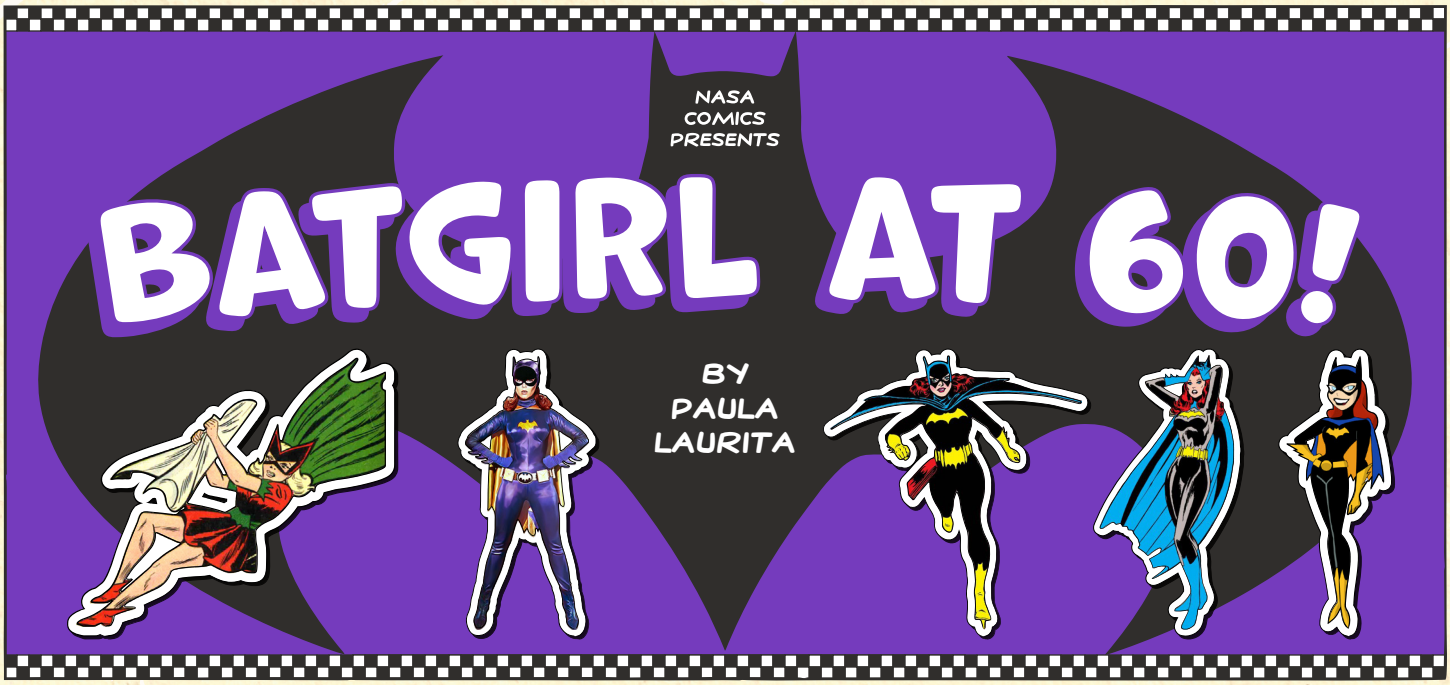
User authentication problems continue to frustrate researchers and librarians. Although the ALPS project offers a fix, we need a more immediate solution to resolve frustrations and address vendor complaints about potential license violations. We are working an interim fix that will bridge to a permanent ALPS solution. Please keep your local librarians informed if you are impacted by intermittent access denials.

As I mentioned in the last edition of *NASA Libraries*, library reference collections are generally split, with 97% virtual (electronic) and 3% physical. This provides you with access to a huge investment in reference collections, around the clock, and from any location with internet access. Managing your access and the content requires significant resources including a staff and a physical presence at each NASA library. Keep in mind that no two library locations or their geographic research specialization and content are the same. Some libraries and their staff specialize in aeronautical engineering, while staff at another library may specialize in astrophysics, bioengineering, propulsion, national policy, legislation, or law. These attributes require each of our libraries to uniquely tailor services to specialized local programs.

As your NASA Library Program Manager, managing a program with no funded budget has been extraordinarily frustrating the past 3 years. Fragmented budget oversight is slowing progress to consolidate and centralize the procurement of NASA's $7 million subscription portfolio of 130+ subscription vendors. Imagine for a moment, trying to consolidate 11 Center contracts with a single vendor, funded through 18 NASA mission support, science and engineering organizational codes across 11 locations. Imagine multiplying this complexity against each of 130+ vendors we have in the subscription portfolio. Worse, imagine that the funding landscape changes each year as librarians struggle to find funding sources at each Center. Yup, it's kind of like herding cats. And the nature of this landscape risks failure should only one of the 18 localized fund sources fail to contribute their fair share of funding. There's a simple solution - centralize subscription funding at the HQ level. This elusive endeavor has been partially resolved under the Mission Support Future Architecture Program (MAP). MAP appears to provide a partial fix in FY22 by consolidating the Mission Support Directorate portion of subscription funds, about $2.1 million of the $7.7 million portfolio. However, the remaining $5.6 million is still decentralized under separate Center Engineering and Science Organizational Codes at each Center. We desperately need more centralized control over this remaining subscription funding. It's time to centralize this $5.6 million at HQ.

I am excited by changes and improvements as we transition into the new year. Library modernization and improved services are taking root. There's a lot of momentum and we see good things on the horizon for the research community and for our NASA Library program.

BOB SHEROUSE
PROGRAM MANAGER, NASA LIBRARIES



***Batgirl turns 60 in 2021!** What made Dr. Barbara Gordon more than just a sidekick to Batman? ...How much of a **punch** was her character to the portrayal of women in comics? ...And how has Batgirl changed from her original debut in 1961?...*

1961

The arrival of Bat-Girl (note the hyphen) in April 1961 was not with the daring librarian Barbara Gordon, but with Betty Kane (niece of the crimefighting Batwoman, Karen Kane). In ***Batman #139*** [1], Betty decided to create her own costume and become a superhero. She carried a "crime compact" and "trick lipstick" and eventually caught the eye of Dick Grayson (Robin).

Two years after her debut in ***Batman #139***, Bat-Girl quietly disappeared. While not the most well-known version of Batgirl, Betty Kane deserves to be recognized as the original.

1967

In 1966, the TV show Batman debuted with the Caped Crusader smashing the campy criminals of Gotham. When ratings began to slip, producers asked DC Comics for a new Batgirl to be added to the series. In January 1967, Barbara Gordon, daughter of police commissioner Jim Gordon, crashed the Batman print party in ***Detective Comics #359*** [2]. Soon after, Yvonne Craig donned the stylish purple Batgirl suit for television.

Batgirl did not set out to join Batman and Robin in stopping crime, nor was she the demure, shy librarian stereotype, or a wealthy socialite. Barbara Gordon held a Ph.D in Library Science and served as the director of the Gotham Public Library. It is easy to forget how the world has changed in 54 years. Depicting a woman with that level of academic and professional success was uncommon in mainstream entertainment. With Barbara Gordon—a star athlete trained in multiple martial arts, including a black belt in Judo—DC Comics chose to portray a female character who is intelligent, strong, and accomplished.

That's not to say all DC Comics showed Batgirl as more interested in fighting crime than fixing a run in her tights. There were many scenes where Batgirl appeared more focused on her make-up than joining Batman and Robin in taking down criminals. These were often ploys that caused outlaws to underestimate her.

Barbara's adventures as Batgirl began as an act of bravery. She was attending a masquerade ball and created a Batgirl costume. On her way to the ball, she saw Killer Moth trying to kidnap Bruce Wayne. Barbara rescued Wayne, eventually helping to capture Killer Moth, and decided that life as a masked superhero was a way to protect her community. In the beginning Batman and Robin find her an annoyance, but that changes as she proves her abilities. Batgirl became an integral part of the Justice League of America.

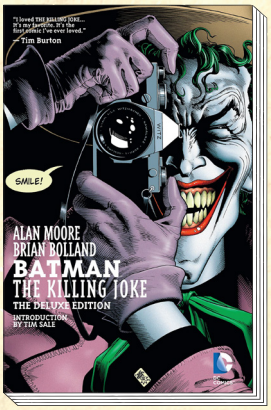
1972

Throughout her many adventures, Barbara Gordon looked for a way to serve the people of Gotham. In April 1972, she unmasked herself to her father in ***Detective Comics #422*** [3] when Jim Gordon was running for Congress.

She asked him to step aside and allow her to run in his place. One of Congresswoman Gordon's prime platforms was prison reform. Of course, there was opposition from the criminal element of Gotham. Barbara was victorious and turned to creating laws that secured the safety of the citizens of her beloved city.

1988

Batgirl has undergone many changes over the years. One of the greatest shocks came in the 1988 graphic novel ***Batman: The Killing Joke*** [4].



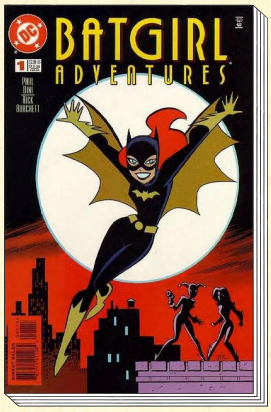
The Joker shoots Barbara, severing her spinal cord. Gordon is physically confined to a wheelchair, but her spirit is not. She reinvents herself again as Oracle, using her computer skills to become the greatest intelligence asset of the Suicide Squad. As Oracle, she continued to provide invaluable support to Batman, and founded the Birds of Prey vigilante force with Black Canary.

1993

While Oracle lived on the comic book pages, in 1993 Barbara Gordon returned as Batgirl to TV. ***Batman: The Animated Series*** found her fighting to exonerate her father on false corruption charges.

1998

A few years later, Batgirl returned to print in the Batman Adventures comic books. In 1998, she had her own special one-shot issue in ***Batgirl Adventures #1*** [5] featuring Harley Quinn.



Since then, Batgirl's adventures have continued in the many iterations of the world of the Dark Knight.

It has been a remarkable 60 years, from Betty Kane's entrance to the superhero librarian Barbara Gordon. From a U.S. representative in Congress to the computer genius Oracle, Batgirl has always fought to serve and protect. In all her iterations, Batgirl has never been dull. Her spirit of daring and service exists in all librarians. How well do you know your local superhero librarian?

* * *

[1] "Bat-Girl." *Batman*, Vol. 1, No. 139, DC Comics, 1961.

[2] "The Million Dollar Debut of Batgirl." *Detective Comics*, Vol. 1, No. 359, DC Comics, 1967.

[3] "The Unmasking of Batgirl!" *Detective Comics*, Vol. 1, No. 422, DC Comics, 1972.

[4] *Batman: The Killing Joke*. Written by Alan Moore, illustrated by Brian Bolland, color art, John Higgins, DC Comics, 1988.

[5] *Batgirl Adventures*, Vol. 1, No. 1, DC Comics, 1998.

THE END • WATCH FOR THE NEXT ADVENTURE

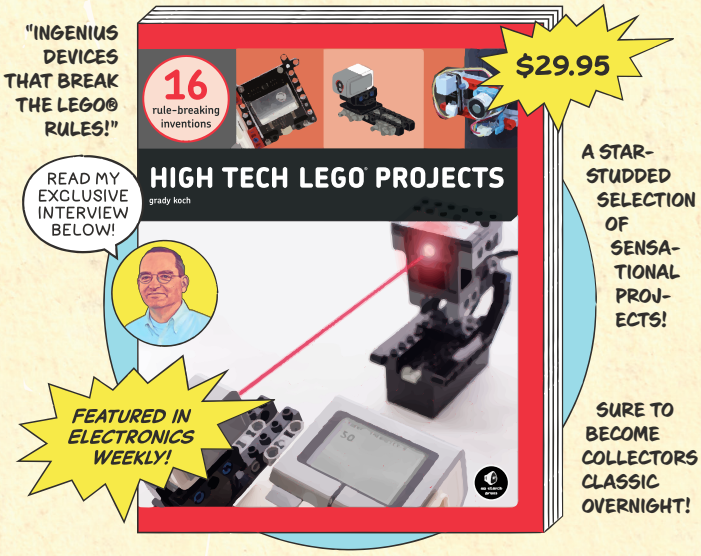
PAULA LAURITA HAS BEEN A LIBRARIAN FOR NEARLY 25 YEARS, EARNING HER MLIS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA. SHE JOINED MSFC IN MARCH 2020 TO BEGIN THE NEW TECHNICAL LIBRARY. PAULA HAS BEEN A SCHOOL LIBRARIAN, PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR, AND IS ALABAMA'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. SHE IS AN ADVANCED TEACHER FELLOW OF THE U.S. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM & A LERNER TEACHER FELLOW OF THE JEWISH FOUNDATION FOR THE RIGHTEOUS. SHE IS ALSO AN ARMY VETERAN, THE WIFE OF A RETIRED ARMY OFFICER, AND THE MOTHER OF TWO ARMY VETERANS. PAULA IS A GRADUATE OF GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY, THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA, AND WAS A SCHOLAR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA, HUNTSVILLE. SHE LIVES IN ALABAMA AND ENJOYS COOKING, WINE, AND TRAVEL.

NASA COMICS PRESENTS:

HIGH TECH LEGO PROJECTS

featuring Grady Koch

GRADY KOCH IS THE CREATOR OF HIGHTECHLEGO.COM AND AUTHOR OF ***HIGH TECH LEGO® PROJECTS: 16 RULE-BREAKING INVENTIONS.*** *GRADY HAS A PH.D. IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AS A RESEARCH ENGINEER AT NASA LANGLEY, AND* ***3 PATENTS*** *IN THE FIELD OF LIDAR FOR STUDYING THE ATMOSPHERE. HE HAS WRITTEN/CONTRIBUTED TO OVER 175 CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PAPERS, INCLUDING 13 PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL PAPERS AS FIRST AUTHOR. THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER, KOCH HAS WORKED WITH STUDENT INTERNS AND HAS LEARNED HOW TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN A STUDENT'S ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION & LABORATORY PRACTICE...*



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DR. KOCH, HOW DID YOU GET YOUR START WORKING AT NASA?

"I started at NASA in 1987 as a co-op student, which is sort of like what Pathways is now. Co-op students were generally earlier undergraduates. I was a sophomore at Virginia Tech when I started working as a co-op student at Langley. I was 19 years old and started as GS-3 and started working full-time after I graduated with my bachelor's degree"

...WHAT IS THE NATURE OF YOUR WORK AT LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER?

"Throughout my 30-plus years working at NASA, I've spent the majority of my time working with lasers and optical systems for measuring the earth's atmosphere, mostly measuring wind for various applications. These days I've been measuring wind as it pertains to the operation of drone vehicles or unmanned aerial systems. One of the many tasks of NASA is to figure out how to facilitate the air traffic control of all these different vehicles that are predicted to be flying in the future—delivering packages, carrying people, air taxis, air ambulances, etc. There's quite a lot of promise in that field, but it's tricky to figure out how to do the air traffic control for such a system. In particular, the aspect that I work on is the weather—wind being the primary feature to be concerned about (i.e., how you manage all those vehicle operations in inclement weather)."

...WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WRITE AND PUBLISH YOUR BOOK, *HIGH TECH LEGO® PROJECTS*?

"LEGO has been a hobby of mine for many years, and it got folded into my hobby-interest of inventing things and tinkering with things. I've kind of got a "mad scientist" thing going on in my off-hours, and I found that working with LEGO, it made inventing things really quite easy. And really quite powerful, the things you could do with it!

One of the nice things in particular about LEGO is that it can be enjoyed on many levels. It's of course a toy (or so I'm told). And that's part of the appeal of it—you can really connect with a lot of people, both kids and adults. My kids and I played a lot with LEGO, but then more and more I started to realize the wide range of things you could build from them, so I started creating some pretty sophisticated, high-tech inventions. Then I thought, "well, maybe I should let the world know that this kind of thing works," so I started writing about it.

I wrote my first self-published book, ***LEGO Optics***, in 2014. Then I wrote a second self-published book that has now become ***High Tech LEGO® Projects***, which had to do with using computer controlled bricks. This is part of a system called MINDSTORMS, which is a little computer with LEGO mounting ports attached to it, front panel controls, a display, and connectors for attaching all sorts of motors and sensors. It's really quite a powerful system for doing inventions.

After that I caught the attention of No Starch Press, which is a book publisher that has done a lot of LEGO-reltaed books in the past. No Starch prides itself in being "the finest in geek entertainment" and they have a library of probably close to two dozen different LEGO books. Anyways, they approached me about writing a book, sort of redoing the stuff I'd self-published and redoing some stuff I'd done online; that's how *High Tech LEGO® Projects* came about."

...COULD YOU TALK MORE ABOUT THE DIFFERENT PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES INSIDE *HIGH TECH LEGO® PROJECTS*?

"Well, people have been using LEGO robotic systems for a long time, making tabletop robots or other educational things. So I started building projects that you could do all kinds of inventions with, and that's what's in the book. For example, I used a LEGO setup to control a single-lens reflex camera for taking high quality pictures of, say, wildlife...

I'm also very much into lasers, so I thought it would be fun to use a laser with LEGO. However, LEGO doesn't make a laser brick, and so I decided to make my own. I also made a laser light show out of mirrors, which is in the book. There's also a setup in my first book, *LEGO Optics*, for recording holograms of LEGO mini-figures.

I always had this sort of juvenile fascination with things that light up, and LEGO makes what they call a "light brick," which is essentially a light emitting diode inside of a brick, and there's a switch on the back that allows you to light it up. LEGO is always making these little breakthrough advances, like new sensors, new devices, etc. That being said, there are a lot of things that they don't do. For example, LEGO makes these LED bricks, but they only make them in either red or yellow. Well, I wanted any color, and it's actually a fairly simple hack to change the color. So that's another project that's in the book—how you can make it any color you want.

In addition, you can make these in either infrared or ultraviolet wavelengths, which have scientific purposes. There's a series of projects in the book on night vision. It's not really commonly known, but most cameras on your cell phone can see in infrared wavelengths. Now, a lot of smartphones have two cameras—one on the front and one on the back. Very commonly, usually on just one camera, they'll put a little glass filter in there that blocks the infrared because it makes the image look a little weird. But on a lot of phones, the camera has no filter, so you can you can actually see in the dark with it if you have an infrared illumination source. So, I worked out a way to add infrared illumination to bricks, which allows you to see in the dark, or send Morse code messages in the dark.

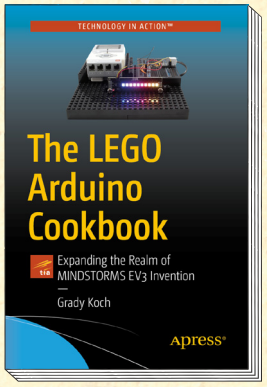
Then you go to the other end of the spectrum with ultraviolet wavelengths, which are wavelengths shorter than blue. Humans cannot see ultraviolet, but insects can. So one of the projects I developed was a trap that attracts insects at night to the ultraviolet light.

Lastly, if you look at our US currency, all of the bills above one dollar have a glowing, fluorescent strip embedded in them as an anti-counterfeiting measure. You can see that strip if you illuminate it with ultraviolet light. So that's another project that's in the book: putting an ultraviolet light source in a light brick to develop a LEGO-based anti-counterfeiting system."

...BROADLY SPEAKING, WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH WITH *HIGH TECH LEGO® PROJECTS?*

"I would say the book is equal parts fun and practical. It's right to have fun with it. You don't have to just build models or things that sit on the tabletop. You can take it outdoors and do all sorts of interesting things. And because it's LEGO, it's going to appeal to kids, and so there are projects in there that a middle-schooler can do, but there's also some more advanced stuff geared more to a high school student or an adult."

...ARE THERE OTHER PUBLISHING PROJECTS ON THE HORIZON?



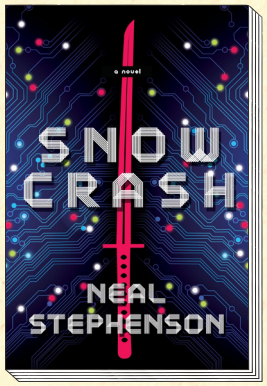
"I actually do have one other book that came out right after this one by coincidence called ***The LEGO Arduino Cookbook***. That book is a little more complex and hyper-technical and it's with a different publisher (Apress). I'm also working on a book with No Starch Press about using LEGO to both teach and demonstrate various engineering concepts. It's kind of like your typical fundamental engineering book, so sort of similar to a textbook, but not dull. There will be hands-on examples that will teach you how to build things, like gears and gear ratios, how to build structures strong, etc. That one will be aimed more towards middle-school students."

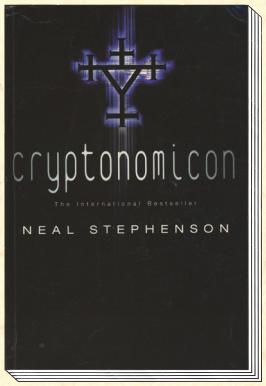
...WHAT DO YOU LIKE THE MOST ABOUT WORKING FOR NASA?

"Oh, that would be the very expensive toys and all the technology I get to work with! I really enjoy a device called an oscilloscope, which shows you the patterns of electrical signals. Over the years working at Langley, they've never been shy about buying the latest and the greatest oscilloscope."

...LAST QUESTION: WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO READ FOR FUN? DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE BOOK OR AUTHOR?

"I'm a big fan of Neal Stephenson—he's famous for a book called ***Snow Crash***. He also wrote a book called ***Cryptonomicon***. I don't read many books more than once, but I think I've read that four or five times. It's really good!"





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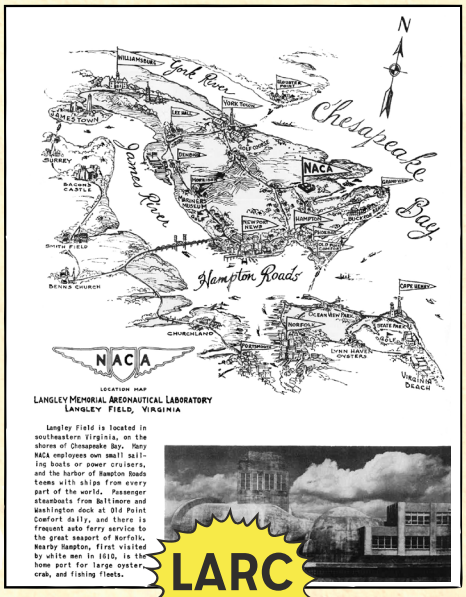
INCLUDES HISTORIC MAPS CREATED BY ME! (...SEMI-FAMOUS NACA ARTIST, J.J. LANKES)



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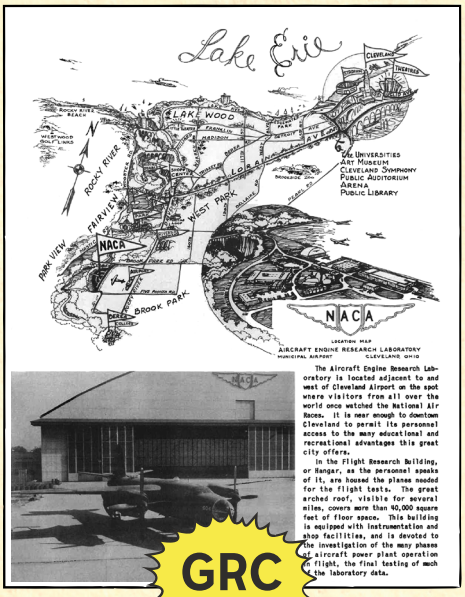

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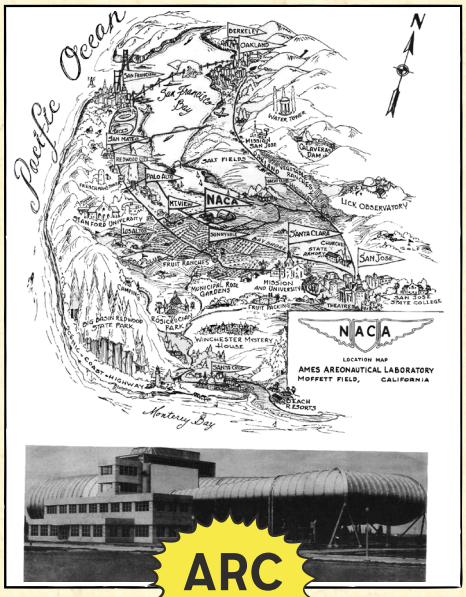

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HOW MUCH IMPACT AND WHEN?

BY GSFC & JPL STAFF

***A** COLLABORATIVE PROJECT BETWEEN THE **GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER** AND THE **JET PROPULSION LABORATORY** HAS SHOWN THAT NASA'S LIBRARIES CAN PROVIDE SERVICES **DIRECTLY** TO THE AGENCY'S LEADERSHIP, THAT WE CAN SOLVE PROBLEMS IN AD HOC TEAMS DRAWN FROM MULTIPLE CENTERS, AND THAT WE CAN SUPPORT **BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS** OF THE SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING INDUSTRY...*

NASA Library Network (NLN) Librarians from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) Library and NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) Library received a request from an Associate Chief Scientist at NASA Headquarters to determine the top 10 astronomy and astrophysics journals according to impact factor, from 1998 to 2010.

Journal Impact Factor (JIF) is associated with the scholarly database Web of Science and its companion products InCites and Journal Citation Reports. It is calculated for each year by counting the number of citations to articles in a journal during a span of previous years, typically the two previous years.

The impact factor data was requested for an artificial intelligence project to analyze publications for the Astronomy and Astrophysics Decadal Survey. In addition to the data request, the Associate Chief Scientist had questions about how to gather and use the impact factor data, and if JIF was the best metric for the analysis.

Data posted online by the University of Illinois Library listed the top 10 astronomy and astrophysics journals according to JIF for 2019, and was shared with the NLN Librarians by the Associate Chief Scientist. This data was a helpful starting point, but one challenge facing the NLN Librarians was that not only did the ranking of these journals vary over time, but some slid on and off the top 10 list over the years while others took their place. A second challenge to providing meaningful results is that review journals, which only publish a few articles per year, have high JIF scores that inflate their importance relative to highly cited journals with more varied content and a robust publishing schedule. A third challenge was that the NLN Librarians had direct access to Web of Science, but not its companion products, which limited their ability to explore trends in scholarly publishing.

NLN Librarians were able to address these challenges and provide a deliverable that addressed the Associate Chief Scientist's needs, as well as provide an explanation of what we did, and how and why we did it. Our team of librarians took a two-pronged approach.

The first effort was a spreadsheet that used publication data in Web of Science to closely estimate the journals' two-year (2017-18) and five-year (2014-18) 2019 JIF values. The spreadsheet compared these values to the actual JIF values for the journals, which were available in Web of Science for 2019. After demonstrating this methodology, it was then applied to the 13-year span 1998-2010, providing estimated JIFs for each of the top 10 journals during this time period. (Nature Astronomy, which was first published in 2017, fell outside the targeted timeframe and was not included in our 2019 JIF value calculations.)

The second effort consisted of spreadsheets based on data provided by our Caltech colleague Joy Painter, who used the tool Journal Citation Reports. These spreadsheets provided year-by-year JIF values for the 19 journals that rotated in and out of the top 10 category during the 1998-2010 time span. These two efforts were combined into a single workbook that contained branding for NLN and the participating libraries, as well as JIF rankings in each spreadsheet according to the method used.

Team members met with the Associate Chief Scientist to describe the strengths and limitations of the methods we used, and after sending individual spreadsheets and receiving positive feedback, provided the workbook as a final deliverable. Our project has shown that NASA's libraries can provide services directly to the Agency's leadership, that we can solve problems in ad hoc teams drawn from multiple Centers, and that we can support bibliometric analysis of the scientific publishing industry.

* * *

Many thanks to the following librarians for collaborating on a project that will serve as a precedent for the future endeavors of the NASA Library Network.

Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Caroline Coward

Dudee Chiang

JPL Library

Goddard Space Flight Center

Robin Dixon

Tonia Reynolds-Pope *(Select Federal)*

Michael Chesnes *(Select Federal)*

THE NASA Goddard LIBRARY

THE END • WATCH FOR THE NEXT ADVENTURE!

NASA COMICS PRESENTS:

BOOKS UNITE. CENSORSHIP DIVIDES.

by JILLIEN ZUDELL

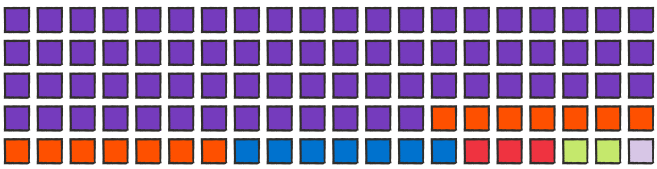
***Banned Books Week (September 26-October 2, 2021) is an annual event that celebrates the* FREEDOM TO READ. *Commemorated across the U.S. with trivia, read-outs, and other special events, it advocates for free and open access to information--even the* UNORTHODOX *or* UNPOPULAR...**

Since 1982, a coalition of organizations including the American Library Association (ALA), the American Booksellers Association, the Association of University Presses, and several others have celebrated the freedom to read by hosting Banned Books Week. When this year's theme, "Books Unite Us, Censorship Divides Us" was announced in April, the coalition stated, "the 2021 theme is intended to be inclusive and emphasizes the ways in which books and information bring people together, help individuals see themselves in the stories of others, and aid the development of empathy and understanding for people from other backgrounds." Sharing stories important to us means sharing a part of ourselves. Books reach across boundaries and build connections between readers. Censorship, on the other hand, creates barriers.

Books are still being banned and challenged today. A ***challenge*** is an attempt to remove or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group. A ***banning*** is the removal of those materials. While books have been and continue to be banned, part of the Banned Books Week celebration is the fact that, in a majority of cases, the books have remained available. This happens only thanks to the efforts of librarians, teachers, students, and community members who stand up and speak out for the freedom to read.

BOOKS AND BEYOND...

The ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked 156 challenges in 2020. Here's the breakdown...



73% BOOKS, GRAPHIC NOVELS

14% PROGRAMS, MEETING ROOMS

7% OTHER*

3% SOCIAL MEDIA

2% DISPLAYS, PHOTOS

1% FILMS

**Includes filtering, access, databases, magazines, online resources, and legislation*

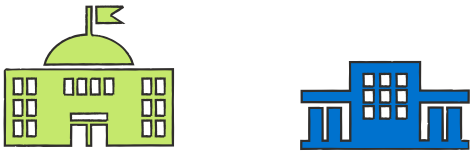
ALA American Library Association

WHERE DO CHALLENGES TAKE PLACE?

43% PUBLIC LIBRARIES

38% SCHOOLS

15% SCHOOL LIBRARIES



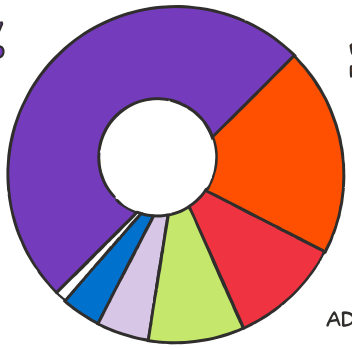
2% ACADEMIA

2% OTHER

Statistics based on 156 responses

ALA American Library Association

WHO INITIATES A CHALLENGE?



50% PARENTS

20% PATRONS

1% STUDENTS

11% BOARD / ADMINISTRATION

4% LIBRARIANS / TEACHERS

5% ELECTED OFFICIALS

9% POLITICAL / RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Statistics based on 147 responses

ALA American Library Association

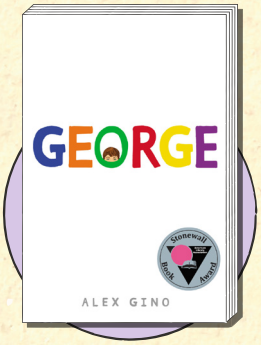
The books featured during Banned Books Week have all been targeted for removal or restriction in libraries and schools **(see next page for the 2020 Top 10 List)**. By focusing on efforts across the country to remove or restrict access to books and materials of all types, Banned Books Week draws national attention to the harms of censorship.

THE END • WATCH FOR THE NEXT ADVENTURE!

TOP 10 MOST CHALLENGED BOOKS

THE ALA OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM TRACKED 156 CHALLENGES TO LIBRARY, SCHOOL, AND UNIVERSITY MATERIALS AND SERVICES IN 2020. OF THE 273 TARGETED BOOKS, HERE ARE THE "TOP 10 MOST CHALLENGED BOOKS OF 2020"...

1

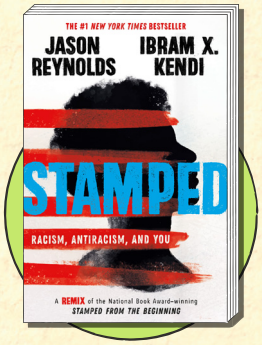


GEORGE
by Alex Gino

Banned, Challenged, Restricted

LGBTQIA+ content; conflicting with a religous viewpoint; and not reflecting "the values of our community"

2

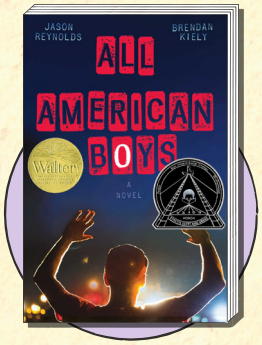


STAMPED
by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi

Banned, Challenged

Author's public statements; use of "selective storytelling incidents"; and does not encompass racism against all people

3



ALL AMERICAN BOYS
by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely

Banned, Challenged

Profanity; drug use; alcoholism; divisive topics; and promotion of anti-police views

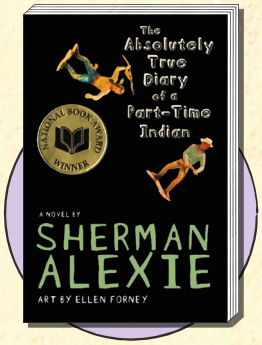
4

SPEAK
by Laurie Anderson

Banned, Challenged, Restricted

Political viewpoint; bias against male students; and the inclusion of rape and profanity

5



THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE DIARY OF A PART-TIME INDIAN
by Sherman Alexi

Banned, Challenged

Profanity; sexual references; and allegations of sexual misconduct by the author

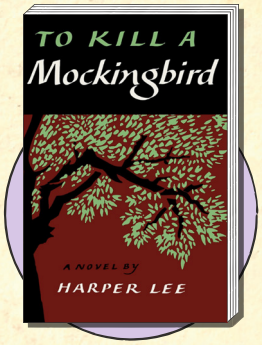
6

SOMETHING HAPPENED IN OUR TOWN
by Marianne Celano, Maretta Collins, Ann Hazzard, and Jennifer Zivoin

Challenged

Divisive language and promotion of anti-police views

7

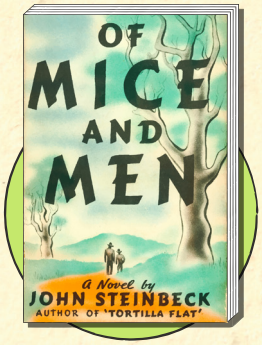


TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD
by Harper Lee

Banned, Challenged

Featuring a "white savior" character; racial slurs; and its perception of the Black experience

8

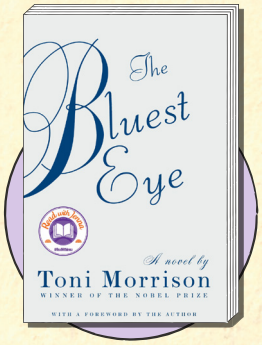


OF MICE AND MEN
by John Steinbeck

Banned, Challenged

Racial slurs, racist stereotypes and their negative effect on students

9

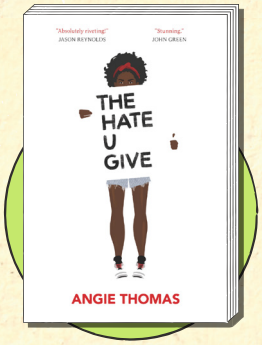


THE BLUEST EYE
by Toni Morrison

Banned, Challenged

Considered sexually explicit and its depection of child sexual abuse

10

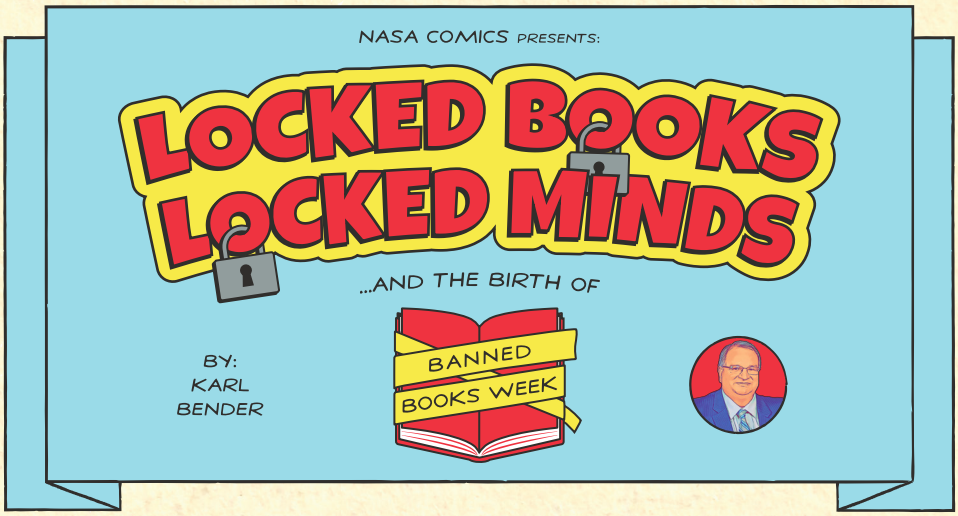


THE HATE U GIVE
by Angie Thomas

Challenged

Profanity and promoting of an anti-police message

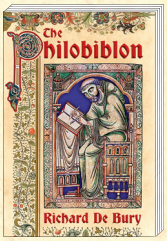
LEARN MORE ABOUT BANNED & CHALLENGED BOOKS AT HTTPS://WWW.ALA.ORG/ADVOCACY/BBOOKS



Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, librarian and freedom of speech proponent **Judith Krug** went on an aggressive writing campaign under the theme "**Locked Books, Locked Minds,**" with the message "In all eras, in all societies, some people will try to make things better by limiting information," [1] and protecting information freedom rights, especially in libraries, is everyone's responsibility...

In the beginning, **protecting** the word was easy...

The written word was invented to allow information to be stored and transferred for future use. As soon as it first appeared, however, so did the office of censor. As old empires fell and religion became the basis of new empires, religions proclaimed their written works to be given from their God and therefore blessed. In the Western world, a primary task for bookmakers as described in the 14th-century essay collection ***The Philobiblon*** (a medieval paean to books and library management) was to ensure selfish men and unworthy words not corrupt the knowledge realm of God. As long as books were handmade and produced in one of three cities [2], control of the written word could be easily maintained for the greater good.



New **technology** brings a brand new headache...

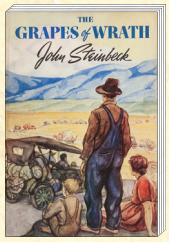
As luck would have it, a questionable businessman working in the jewelry industry sold a get-rich scheme to some business partners to produce small papal indulgences for sale that appeared hand made at upcoming major religious events. However, due to a weather cancellation, he missed the event dates by a full year. Now desperate to recover his partners money and to save his hide, he hit on another idea: printing bibles and underselling the Roman church. Setting up shop at the 1453 Frankfurt Trade Fair, Johannes Gutenberg started pre-selling his bibles (as was the standard practice of the day), promising them to be as good as the hand-copied versions for significantly less than the church price. After the first completed books were delivered, religious scholars noticed several printing errors on the same pages and declared the new books to be the work of Satan and therefore cursed; surprisingly, this statement was not bad for business.

While movable type launched the information revolution, Gutenberg again proved to be a poor businessman, losing everything to his partners and dying penniless. However, his invention created a new headache for all the major religions as it quickly became difficult to control printed information. By 1559, it seemed like every town had a printing press, so to keep to the spirit of *The Philobiblon*, the solution for the Roman church was to create the ***Index Librorum Prohibitorum***, a list of heretical, unapproved works to be banned from any and all God fearing homes and businesses. It would remain in active publication until 1966.

When all else fails...just **burn** 'em!

By the 20th century, ideas of censorship were not unique or limited to any religion. Thanks to the introduction of rail transportation, California's San Joaquin Valley (stretching from Bakersfield in the south to Sacramento in the north) was quickly becoming known as the grocery basket of America. While the rest of the country was in the grips of the Great Depression of the 1930s, the San Joaquin Valley flourished and small government funded camps were being set up to support the growing numbers of "non-Californians" entering the state. At the southern end of the valley, the Weedpatch Camp was established in 1936 and was quickly overrun, resulting in rumors of mismanagement and racial violence that attracted several newspaper writers to cover the stories.

One of those writers was John Steinbeck, who besides his news reporting wrote a fictional version of the conflict that occurred between the day laborers, farm owners, and the U.S. Government. Published in 1939, ***The Grapes of Wrath*** successfully outraged everybody. While highlighting the plight of the day laborers, most felt the book portrayed them in a negative light. Potato farmers [3] disliked being labeled the bad guys, and the U.S. Government publicly stated that their Federal Camp Program was not a failure. In the days that followed, Steinbeck and his book were declared "obscene in the extreme" by the



powerful potato growers, and the book was openly burned on the steps in front of the Kern County Library in Bakersfield. All Kern County schools and libraries were ordered to remove the book immediately for proper destruction (i.e., public burning), and Head Librarian Gretchen Knief was tasked with this duty. Instead of allowing for their destruction, Knief shipped the books to "more friendly" libraries across the country. Working behind the scenes, Knief slowly changed the attitude of the Kern County Board of Supervisors, allowing the book to return to library shelves in 1941. In later years, she influenced other county librarians who worked toward restoring the book to public school library shelves. Despite all this, it was not until 2002 that Kern County formally lifted the ban for Steinbeck's 100th birthday.

SOMETIMES...REALITY BEGETS FICTION

As ***Galaxy Science Fiction*** magazine sought to capitalize on its early successes, they scheduled to print Ray Bradbury's new short story "The Fireman." At the time, Bradbury was making his living as a penny-writer [4] when he first discovered the Gretchen Knief story; Knief ended up moving to Alabama and was in the news again for trying to help African Americans into the library profession. Around the same time, a librarian named Ruth Brown was fired in Oklahoma for refusing to remove books and attempting to desegregate the Bartlesville Public Library. Over the course of Knief and Brown's struggle to integrate America's libraries, stories about the book burnings in both Bakersfield and Bartlesville resurfaced in the news. Unlike Knief, Brown stayed in Bartlesville and had her legal fight supported by the American Library Association's newly formed Office for Intellectual Freedom, and her legal fees covered by none other than Hugh M. Hefner's *Playboy Magazine*.

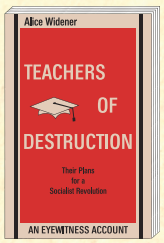
Meanwhile, Ray Bradbury continued to write and was trying to sell several short stories [5] about burning books and how librarians save the day; it was these stories that laid the foundation for "The Fireman". Following the huge success of the story in *Galaxy*, Bradbury was asked to expand the story into a full-length novel which he titled ***Fahrenheit 451***. Due to its topic of censorship, he sold the rights to Hugh Hefner, who admired its themes of repression, freedom, and democracy. Hefner would serialize the novel in his *Playboy Magazine* at the height of the U.S. Senate's hearing on the censorship of comic books. [6]

AND FINALLY, A BRIEF HISTORY OF BANNED BOOKS WEEK...

"A truly great library contains something in it to offend everyone"

– Jo Godwin, Editor & Librarian

By mid-century, America was in the midst of major social and political unrest. Alice Widener, a widely known lecturer and analyst for the Citizens Evaluation Institute, published the controversial book ***Teachers of Destruction*** [7]. In it, Widener concluded that American libraries were in the midst of being overrun with "un-American" books purchased at the expense of taxpayers. The solution? The creation of "textbook watchers" made up of local officials who could take control and return libraries to traditional principles and values. Almost immediately, Judith F. Krug, a prominent activist and American Library Association Director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom, began publishing a series of articles under the theme "Locked Books, Locked Minds." After several high-profile book bannings, the Association of American Publishers approached Krug for ideas to bring national attention to the increasing urge to censor information.



In 1982, Krug locked 500 banned books in huge, padlocked metal cages which were hung over the entrance of BookExpo America. The exhibit proved to be a huge success, and the American Library Association decided to continue that success as an annual event, now known as Banned Books Week, reminding readers that information hasn't always been free and that we have librarians to thank for protecting those freedoms. A reoccurring theme of Banned Books Week is to highlight and explain the difference between a challenged versus a banned book. A book is challenged when the topic discussed is considered inappropriate (remember those comic books) and may lead to juvenile delinquency, whereas a book is banned when local officials consider the topic discussion to be objectionable or offensive and is removed. Banned Books Week reminds us that as long as you have the written word, you will have censorship and with little fanfare, librarians will continue to be the silent warriors fighting for your right to read [8].

* * *

[1] Krug, Judith. (1985 Fall) *The Universal Urge to Censor*. American Bar Assoc. 9(3) 6-9;48.

[2] The 3 "true Christian cities" approved to produce books prior to Gutenberg's moveable type in the Holy Roman Empire were in Strasbourg, FR; Augsburg, DE; and Nuremberg, DE. During this time, Mainz was a commercial city and thus offered a more diverse intellectual environment.

[3] Official disclaimer: The grandfather to the author was one of those outraged potato farmers.

[4] A penny-writer is an author who receives one cent for every word in a published story. Bradbury was so poor when he wrote "The Fireman," he had to pay the UCLA library 10-cents per half-hour to rent a typewriter.

[5] The short stories that precede "The Fireman" are "Bonfire," "Bright Phoenix," and "The Pedestrian".

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE!

[6] Ray Bradbury regularly used the news as a source for his stories, and the censorship fights of the early 1950's caught his attention. After the success of the story in *Galaxy* magazine, Bradbury sold the book rights to Ballantine books while still unfinished and Playboy agreed to serialize the story. Bradbury commented later that the story had taken on a life of its own, and is not clear as to who brought the rights first.

[7] While J. Edgar Hoover contributed to writing and promoting this book, it is not clear in the book what the relationship was between Widener and Hoover.

[8] The Hugh M. Hefner First Amendment Award was established in 1979 to honor individuals who have made significant contributions in the vital effort to protect and enhance First Amendment rights for Americans. Since the inception of the award, more than 100 individuals including lawyers, librarians, journalists, and educators have been honored.

Epilogue for Gretchen Knief Schenk

In 1939, Gretchen Knief worked for the Kern County Library when the county Board of Supervisors ordered its public schools and libraries to remove copies of Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. Although Knief compiled the books, she did not discard them but instead offered them to other libraries. After another fight over a banned book in 1941, she left the state. From 1949 to 1950, as the president of the Alabama Library Association, she led the first discussion about admitting African Americans into its membership. Knief continued fighting to keep the book on California library shelves and died in 1989, the same year as *The Grapes of Wrath*'s 50-year publication anniversary. Knief was inducted into the California Library Hall of Fame posthumously in 2013.

Epilogue for Ruth W. Brown

The 1956 movie "Storm Center" (set in a small California town), starring Bette Davis as a librarian who refuses to remove a book from the library, is based on the life of Ruth W. Brown (1891-1975). Brown, a career librarian in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, was fired for refusing to remove or deny access to library materials. Like Gretchen Knief Schenk, Brown was attempting to desegregate the public library by encouraging the local children to play together. Brown is considered the first librarian to receive assistance from the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee, the same organization led by Judith Krug after 1966.

* * *

American Library Association. "Librarians Save The Day! 11 Great Movies in Which They Star."

Burke, James. *Connections*, 1978 and The Day the Universe Changed, 1985. Both books and related videos discuss the unexpected impacts of technology.

De Bury, Richard. *The Philobiblon*, 1344. Considered the first library science book.

Kern County Library. *A Century of Progress*, 2011.

Wartzman, Rick. *Obscene in the Extreme: The Burning and Banning of John Steinbeck's the Grapes of Wrath*. Perseus Book Group, 2008.

THE END • WATCH FOR THE NEXT ADVENTURE!

KARL A. BENDER GRADUATED FROM THE SJSU LIBRARY PROGRAM IN 2005. HIRED BY NASA IN 2007, KARL IS THE SENIOR LIBRARIAN AND SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL INFORMATION (STI) ADMINISTRATOR AT ARMSTRONG FLIGHT RESEARCH CENTER.

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NASA LIBRARIES VOL. 1, NO. 1

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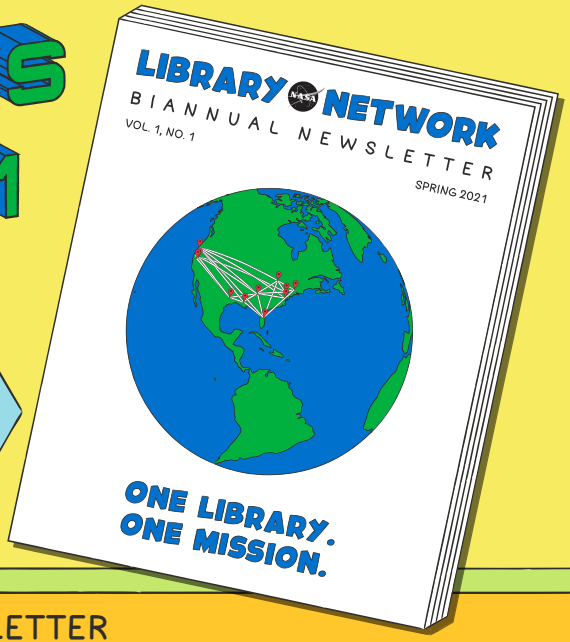

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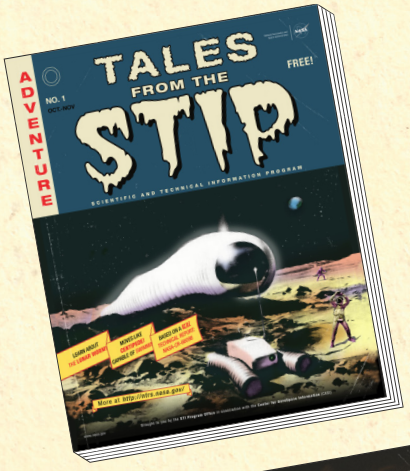
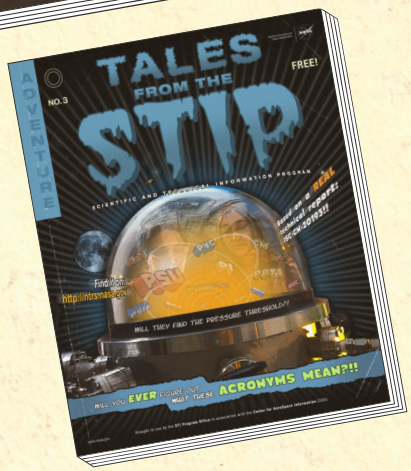
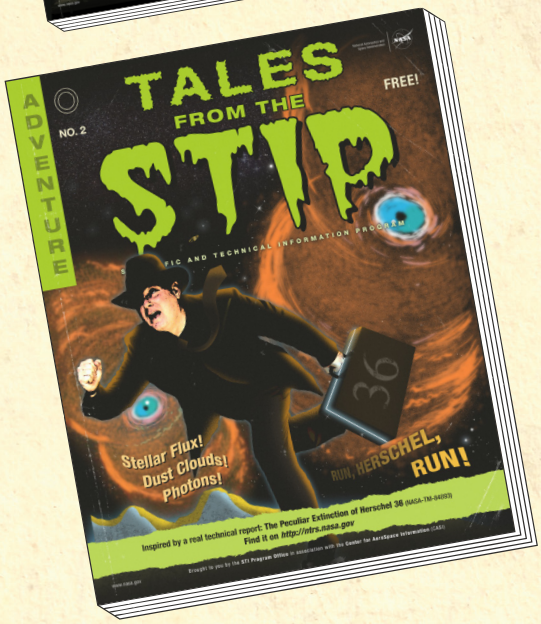


COLLECTS STI FROM ALL NASA CENTERS!





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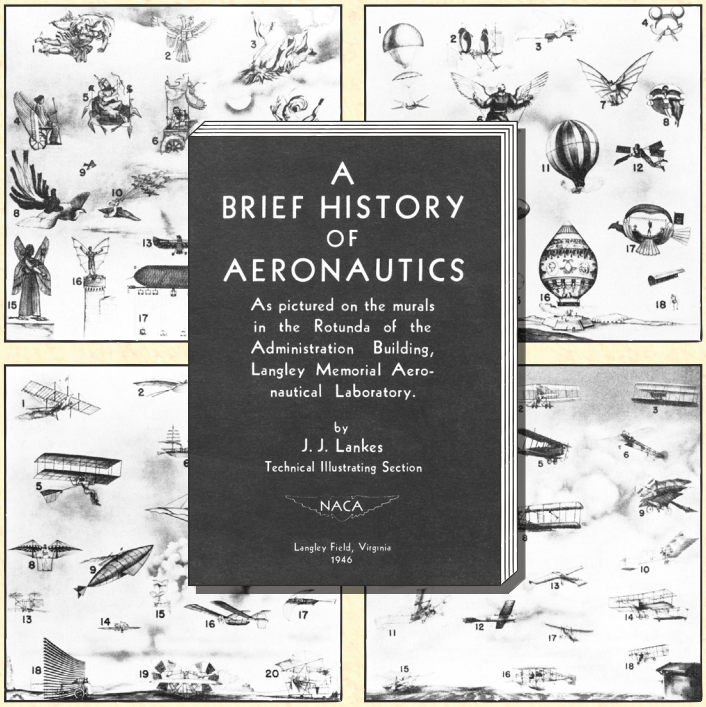
NASA COMICS PRESENTS:

WHIMSICAL FLIGHTS *of the* IMAGINATION

featuring J.J. Lankes

WHEN J.J. LANKES ARRIVED AT LANGLEY MEMORIAL AERONAUTICAL LABORATORY AS THE HEAD OF TECHNICAL ILLUSTRATING IN 1943, HIS REPUTATION AS A DRAFTSMEN AND WOODCUT PRINT ARTIST PRECEDED HIM. IN 1923, HE BEGAN A FRIENDSHIP AND ARTISTIC COLLABORATION WITH ROBERT FROST [1], ONE OF THE BEST-KNOWN AMERICAN POETS OF THE 20TH CENTURY--A MAN WHO WOULD LATER WIN A PULITZER PRIZE AND BECOME THE UNITED STATES POET LAUREATE. LANKES PRODUCED WOODCUTS TO ILLUSTRATE FROST'S POEMS, AS WELL AS WORKS BY OTHER NOTABLE WRITERS, INCLUDING BEATRIX POTTER...



In 1945, J.J. Lankes and his team of Langley artists unveiled a new mural depicting the history of flight. It was a staggering, at-times-reality-bending compilation of myths, legends, failed contraptions, and successful inventions. The mural was composed of four panels, each representing a distinct temporal epoch:

- Panel I – 3500 B.C. to 1499 A.D.
- Panel II – 1500 A.D. to 1799 A.D.
- Panel III – 1800 A.D. to 1899 A.D.
- Panel IV – 1900 A.D. to 1919 A.D.

Lankes stated that the original idea occurred during the heyday of the Works Progress Administration, one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs [2]. Considering the NACA's technical objectives, the aim of the project according to Lankes "was illustrative rather than, in the finer sense, artistic." [3] Upon completion, the panels, each 7 feet wide by 5 feet tall, were installed in the rotunda of the LMAL Administration Building.

One year later, Lankes published A Brief History of Aeronautics [3], a 15-page booklet arranged with a breakdown of the 76 illustrations that comprise the four panels. A handful of these illustrations have been highlighted as follows...

2220 *b.c.* EMPEROR SHUN

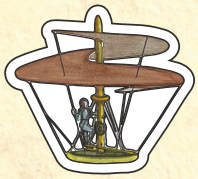
The first man to fly a self-powered flying machine was the Chinese Emperor Shun. According to the ***Annals of the Bamboo Books***, Shun was also the first to make a descent from a high tower by using two umbrella-shaped reed hats as a parachute. Legend has it that Emperor Yao's gifted daughters instructed Shun in the mysteries of bird flight—the "mysteries" which helped him escape on one occasion when his life was in danger. Afterwards, Shun was awarded his own share in ruling the empire.

1110 *b.c.* DAEDALUS

One of the best known Greek myths is that of Daedalus and his son Icarus. While imprisoned in a tower, Daedalus learned to fly by fashioning a pair of feathered wings with thread and wax.

Icarus was given his own set and warned not to fly near the sun, but after the immemorial ways of young men, he paid no heed to his father's warning. As the sun's heat melted the wax, Icarus's wings disintegrated, sending him crashing into the sea where he drowned—a cautionary tale for disobedient youth.

1490 *a.d.* LEONARDO *da* VINCI



Leonardo da Vinci created renowned masterpieces of art and sculpture. Equally remarkable, his aggregate achievements in engineering, mathematics, geology, music, aeronautics, anatomy, military technology, and physics not only stood without peer in his own time, but were strikingly prescient for the distant future. Among the numerous subjects he studied, the possibility of human mechanical flight held particular fascination for Leonardo. In his ***Codex on the Flight of Birds***, da Vinci outlined the concepts that would find a place in the development of a successful airplane in the early 20th century.

Altogether, da Vinci produced over 35,000 words and 500 sketches on the nature of flight, from birds to flying machines to helicopters and parachutes—even the nature of air itself!

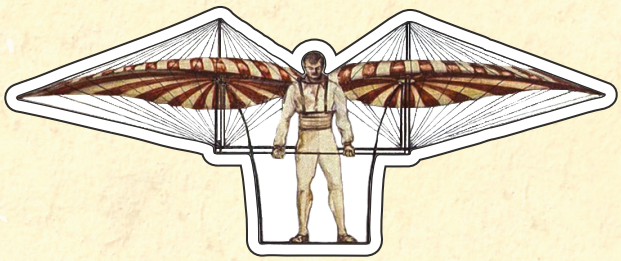
Hundreds of years before any progress towards practical flight was achieved, da Vinci expressed the seeds of ideas that led to humans spreading their wings.

1697 a.d. BESNIER the LOCKSMITH

In 1697, a French locksmith named Besnier designed a gliding machine made of winged wooden rods. The rods were placed over his shoulders and tied to his feet as he pulled the wings down alternately to create a flapping motion. Besnier tested his glider by jumping from chairs, tables, and window sills, and eventually, from the tops of garrets and over rooftops. Although he became fairly skilled at floating for short distances, Besnier's attempts at long distance flight only resulted in failure.

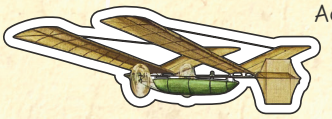
1812 a.d. JACOB DEGEN

Jacob Degen, a clock-maker from Vienna, built this machine in 1807 and claimed that "any man can fly!" He kept half of Europe in a state of excitement until 1812, when the city of Paris finally gave him an opportunity. After three futile attempts, his disappointed spectators beat him up.



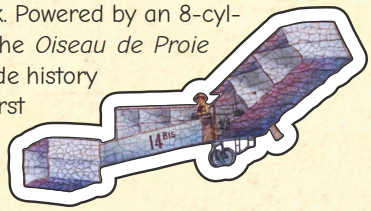
1896 a.d. SAMUEL P. LANGLEY

Dr. Samuel Pierpont Langley, after whom Langley Research Center is named, built this model in 1894 after years of research and many experimental models. It was 16 feet long with a 13-feet wingspread and twin propellers powered by a 1.5 horsepower steam engine. He improved the engine in 1896 and catapulted his Aerodrome No. 5 from a houseboat overlooking the Potomac River. It flew 3,200 feet until its fuel and water supply was exhausted.



1906 a.d. ALBERTO SANTOS-DUMONT

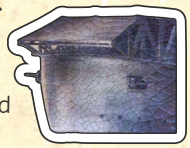
Influenced by Lawrence Hargrave's experiments with box kits, Alberto Santos-Dumont's pioneer-era 14-bis canard bi-plane was constructed from bamboo and pine joined by aluminum sockets and covered with Japanese silk. Powered by an 8-cylinder, 50 horsepower motor, the *Oiseau de Proie* (French for "Bird of Prey") made history when it flew ~200 feet tail-first and became Europe's first certified flight of a powered heavier-than-air machine.



1911 a.d. EUGENE ELY

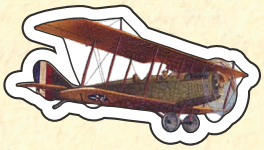
On January 18, 1911, Eugene Ely took off from an airfield in his Curtiss Pusher, headed for the *USS Pennsylvania* anchored in San Francisco Bay. During his final turn, he made a slight course adjustment and flew the plane downward at 40 knots. When Ely was directly over the edge of a special platform erected atop the ship's stern, he cut the engine...

As Ely touched down, hooks attached to a board between his wheels caught some arresting cables stretched across the ship's platform, stopping the plane within 30 feet. After a quick celebration with the crew, Ely turned around and departed, becoming the world's first aviator to perform a successful shipboard takeoff and landing.



1919 a.d. GLEN CURTISS

After the NACA was established in 1915, the first plane worked on at Langley Field was the Curtiss JN4H "Jenny". A two-seat advanced trainer biplane with ailerons on both wings, the 4H subvariant was rare but notable for introducing the use of the Wright Aeronautical license-built Hispano-Suiza 8 V-8 engine.



* * *

[1] Gainer, Mary. "Lankes: Little-Known Artist of the NACA." News & Notes, vol. 31, no. 1, NASA History Office Program, Office of Communications, 2014.

[2] Lankes, Julius John. "History of Murals in Rotunda of Administration Building." Air Scoop [Langley Field, VA], vol. 4, no. 44, 16 November 1945, pp. 1, 4.

[3] Lankes, Julius John. *A Brief History of Aeronautics*. Langley Field, NACA, 1946.

THE END • WATCH FOR THE NEXT ADVENTURE!

MICHAEL PRITZ RECEIVED HIS M.LI.S. FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS @ URBANA-CHAMPAIGN. A NATIVE OF CHICAGO, IL, HE BEGAN WORKING FOR NASA IN 2018 AS A LIBRARY & ARCHIVES INTERN VIA THE AGENCY'S PATHWAYS PROGRAM, AND NOW SERVES AS A LIBRARIAN AT LARC'S FLOYD L. THOMPSON TECHNICAL LIBRARY. MICHAEL LIVES IN HAMPTON, VA AND ENJOYS CAMPING, BASEBALL, AND SPENDING TIME WITH HIS TWO BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOGS.

NASA COMICS PRESENTS:

HIDDEN FIGURES STREET RENAMING

by Claudia Jones

THREE TRAILBLAZING AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN MATHEMATICIANS & ENGINEERS WHO HELPED APOLLO ASTRONAUTS REACH SPACE ARE NO LONGER HIDDEN FIGURES AT NASA. KATHERINE JOHNSON, DOROTHY VAUGHAN AND MARY JACKSON NOT ONLY HAVE A BOOK WRITTEN ABOUT THEM, BUT A PORTION OF E STREET SW, WHERE NASA HEADQUARTERS IS LOCATED, HAS BEEN RENAMED "HIDDEN FIGURES WAY"...

A bipartisan bill introduced by Senators Ted Cruz, Ed Markey, John Thune, and Bill Nelson and passed by Congress finally brought Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson the recognition they deserved. No longer lurking in the shadows, the new street name, "Hidden Figures Way," will forever be a reminder of their legacy as well as the legacies of other African American women so essential in contributing to the success of early U.S. spaceflight.

The celebration of the street renaming ceremony was held on Wednesday, June 12, 2019, outside of the NASA Headquarters building. This historical event was led by the previous NASA Administrator James Bridenstine. Joining him were U.S. Senator Ted Cruz, D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson, and Hidden Figures author Margot Lee Shetterly, as well as the NASA community to commemorate the invaluable contributions of these women.

On this sunny day, Joseph Williams, the NASA Headquarters Information Center Specialist, remembers this historical event, "It was an honor to witness the monumental recognition of these great African American women, who have undoubtedly influenced generations of young women who aspire to have careers in STEM."

The NASA Headquarters Library also celebrated this momentous event by displaying the 47 books about the lives and various accomplishments of African American astronauts, engineers, scientists, and other minorities who are working, or have worked at this leading space faring Agency paving the way to space exploration for all. To see the full list of the "Hidden Figures" books compiled by the NASA librarians, contact the library at library@hq.nasa.gov.

Selected titles from the Library's celebratory book display can be viewed on the next page.

More information about minorities and astronauts working at NASA can be found at the Headquarters Library's ***Minorities in Science*** and ***Astronaut Biographies*** bibliographies, respectively:

https://www.nasa.gov/centers/hq/library/find/bibliographies/

...And if you're interested in the NASA Headquarters Dr. T. Keith Glennan Memorial Library, visit the main Library's website:

https://www.nasa.gov/centers/hq/library

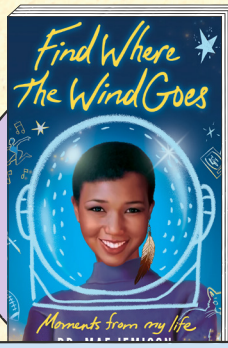
Your ideas, comments and suggestions are welcome by the NASA Headquarters Librarians Claudia Jones, Rick Spencer, and Tom Tuszynski.

THE END • WATCH FOR THE NEXT ADVENTURE!

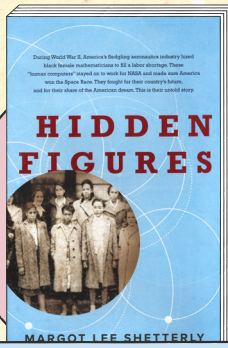
AS LIFE TAKES YOU ON DIFFERENT JOURNEYS, FATE WOULD HAVE IT THAT CLAUDIA JONES FOUND HER CALLING WHILE ADVOCATING FOR A PRISON INMATE WHO TOLD HER SHE WOULD MAKE A GOOD LIBRARIAN. AFTER DECIDING TO CHANGE CAREERS, CLAUDIA BECAME THE FIRST MEMBER OF HER FAMILY TO RECEIVE AN ADVANCED DEGREE WHEN SHE WAS AWARDED AN MLS FROM THE DEPT. OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE AT THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA. SINCE THEN, CLAUDIA HAS FOUND HER NICHE WORKING IN THE NASA HQ LIBRARY AND LOVES HELPING PATRONS FIND INFORMATION.

HIDDEN FIGURES STREET RENAMING

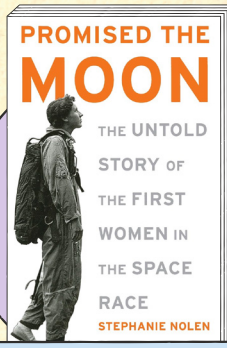
ROCKET GIRL
GEORGE D. MORGAN
TL781.85.M67 M67 2013



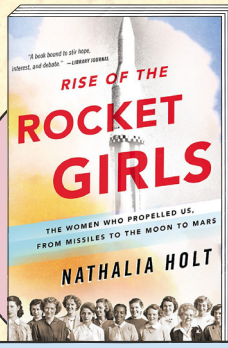
FIND WHERE THE WIND GOES
DR. MAE JEMISON
TL789.85 .J4 J45 2001



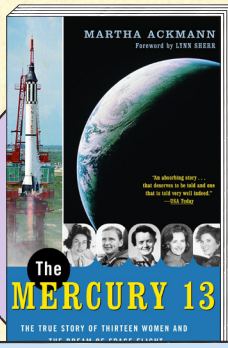
HIDDEN FIGURES
MARGOT LEE SHETTERLY
QA27.5 .L44 2016



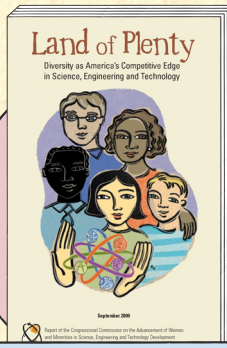
PROMISED THE MOON
STEPHANIE NOLEN
TL789.8.U5 N64 2002



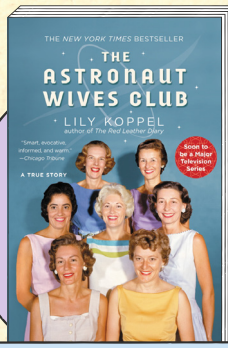
RISE OF THE ROCKET GIRLS
NATHALIA HOLT
QA27.5 .H65 2017



THE MERCURY 13
MARTHA ACKMANN
TL789.85 .A1 A35 2003

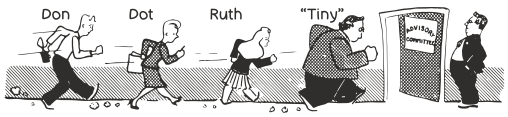


LAND OF PLENTY
U.S. CONGRESS
Q149.5 .U5 C66 2000



ASTRONAUT WIVES CLUB
LILY KOPPEL
TL 789.85 .A1 K67

WOMEN INTO SPACE
JERRIE COBB / JANE RIEKER
TL540.C59 A3 1963



TOWARDS THE END OF WWII, DOT SEVERANCE WAS APPOINTED ART EDITOR OF LANGLEY'S *AIR SCOOP* PUBLICATION. SHE WAS ALSO THE ART DIRECTOR FOR THE LAB'S *GREEN COW* SOCIAL CLUB, WHERE SHE CREATED A SERIES OF ILLUSTRATIONS DEPICTING THE MORE SPIRITED, PLAYFUL SIDE OF LANGLEY DURING ITS EARLY YEARS.

NOON IN THE EAST AREA CAFETERIA

NASA COMICS PRESENTS:

MEET-A-LIBRARIAN

FEATURING TONIA REYNOLDS-POPE

TONIA, WHERE ARE YOU FROM AND HOW DID YOU GET YOUR START WORKING AT NASA?

"I am from Savannah, Georgia, which is home to the Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), and the single largest and fastest-growing container terminal in America, the Port of Savannah.

In July of 2006, I was in the Bahamas on my honeymoon when I received a call from the former Deputy Program Manager of the NASA Goddard Library who offered me an interview. I was so excited about the upcoming interview for a reference librarian position at NASA that I almost forgot that I was in the Bahamas and on my honeymoon.

I had worked for several years as a corporate librarian for the Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation prior to coming to NASA. There I gained experience in conducting research for scientists and engineers on various subjects in the aerospace industry, as well as cataloging engineering reports and linking them to the catalog. The Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation is a very diverse organization with employees from all over the world, which is quite similar to the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center."

...WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES @ GSFC?

"As the Program Manager for the NASA Goddard Library, I am responsible for managing the staff and the various library projects. I am also responsible for writing weekly and monthly reports, which are deliverables for the federal government, and working on teams to provide reference and research services to the community of scientists and engineers."

...WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO BECOME A LIBRARIAN? IS THERE A CERTAIN MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE THAT STANDS OUT?

"When I was in undergrad many years ago, I had Work-Study in the library at Savannah State College, which is now Savannah State University. I knew that I wanted to be a librarian from my first research paper where I used *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature* to collect journal articles to support my research. At that time, the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature* was in print only and it took me on an investigative research journey."

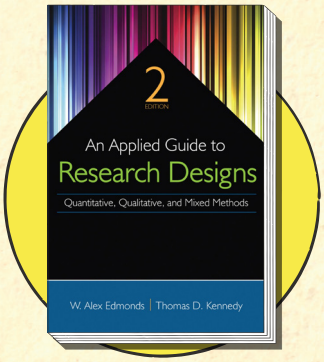
...WHAT DID YOU IMAGINE A CAREER AS A LIBRARIAN WOULD BE LIKE? COMPARE THAT TO THE REALITY OF THE FIELD TODAY.

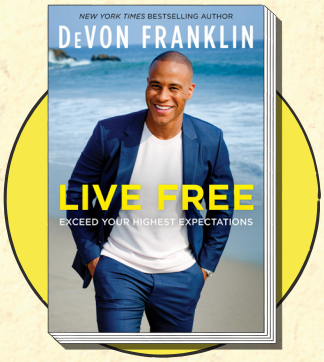
"The field of Library Science has changed drastically since I was in grad school back in the late 1990s. There was still a card catalog of index cards that held the library's bibliographic information. In 1998, I attended the American Library Association Conference and interviewed for my first position as a reference librarian at Alabama State University (ASU) and a database instructor for EBSCOhost. When my position started, the ASU Library had a ceremony where they buried the card catalog and transitioned to their new Integrated Library System, SIRSI.

In 2020 the nation learned about COVID-19 and libraries all over the country began closing their doors for their safety. Employees were thrust into a teleworking environment, but library services continued. We began meeting using Microsoft Teams and stayed in contact throughout the day in virtual meetings. To ensure that we stayed connected as a cohesive team, each Tuesday a different staff member hosts our NASA Goddard Virtual Water Cooler. It is generally 30 to 45 minutes long and the host typically shares a topic of interest, with each staff member given an opportunity to talk about it."

...WHAT ARE YOU READING THESE DAYS? ARE THERE ANY BOOKS YOU'D RECOMMEND TO FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES?

"Right now, I'm reading ***An Applied Guide to Research Designs: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods***, as I am going into my second year in the Ph.D. Program at the Columbia International University, in Columbia, S.C. This book provides detailed and explanatory information and terminology on the different designs used for scientific inquiry. If I could recommend one book, it would be ***Live Free: Exceed Your Highest Expectations***, by DeVon Franklin.





THE END • WATCH FOR THE NEXT ADVENTURE!

CROSSWORD: BOOKS & TV IN SPACE

"A VARIETY OF FICTION & NON-FICTION BOOKS FOR ALL AGES. A COUPLE OF TV CLASSICS FOR FUN. (HINT: ALL WORDS ARE TITLES WITH NO SPACES)...GOOD LUCK!" -- PAULA

ACROSS

2. Wagon Train to the stars
4. Cowboys in space
6. Lem's story of a space cruiser encountering beings descended from self-replicating machines
10. First in Butler's Xenogenesis trilogy
11. Melvin catches a pass in the NFL and in space
12. The courage of solitude while Neil and Buzz took a walk
13. TV called it "From Earth to The Moon"
14. Hickam dreamed of space
15. A small mouse wants to travel to outer space

DOWN

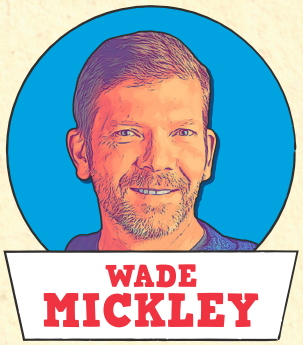
1. Women mathematicians who helped win the space race
3. Pilots who tested rocket-powered aircraft had it
5. Sagan's book spent 70 weeks on the NYT Best Seller list
7. Roach's fun/informative book about preparing for space travel
8. She handwrote the code that allowed a spacecraft's computer to solve any problem
9. Mark gets stranded alone on Mars in 2035
15. Floca's story of Apollo 11

WORD SEARCH: BANNED BOOKS

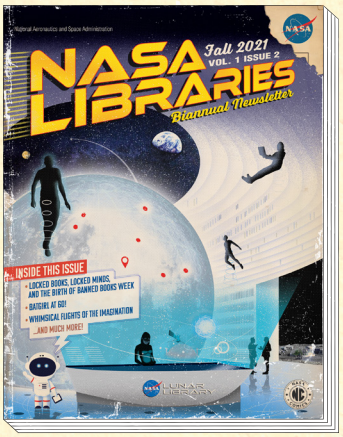
R	C	O	S	C	I	T	O	U	Q	X	L	B	C	B	U	V	O	P	V	M	P	Q	O	L
G	E	Q	I	V	U	Z	R	U	N	C	F	R	E	E	D	O	M	I	S	S	I	S	P	A
H	R	A	K	K	B	P	C	U	L	S	X	G	S	U	I	X	O	I	I	E	H	C	I	W
U	G	P	D	B	D	T	Y	X	O	J	U	E	Q	D	W	L	C	L	S	P	S	I	N	K
X	T	O	Z	I	F	E	Q	A	J	C	X	I	D	O	E	A	V	O	O	T	R	T	I	C
D	D	U	M	G	N	D	X	X	S	T	E	H	T	N	R	H	I	B	W	E	O	I	O	K
W	X	J	P	O	K	G	P	U	G	L	C	M	C	A	R	X	J	A	H	M	S	L	N	X
G	C	O	M	P	L	A	I	N	T	S	H	E	E	T	B	E	F	B	P	B	N	O	Y	M
T	N	E	M	D	N	E	M	A	T	S	R	I	F	R	C	L	Z	D	T	E	E	P	B	S
J	B	O	O	K	S	R	G	O	E	S	Z	E	E	T	P	J	E	Q	N	R	C	G	C	Y
K	B	S	M	W	Y	K	R	X	I	K	W	I	I	D	E	U	N	R	O	T	T	H	N	Q
A	E	S	S	E	G	A	A	P	F	J	L	O	E	J	D	G	S	F	E	K	O	L	L	P
X	F	W	R	M	B	A	H	O	K	X	N	G	L	E	O	S	A	J	D	O	L	S	F	Y
O	E	Z	P	A	R	A	I	T	E	A	N	S	Z	W	U	S	Y	U	L	R	Y	C	C	O
X	D	J	V	Z	O	N	N	Y	B	E	U	U	Z	W	I	G	L	S	G	L	U	A	I	B
V	V	I	E	N	F	G	I	L	L	N	O	I	G	I	L	E	R	A	L	N	H	G	R	J
D	E	N	N	A	B	Y	E	L	S	R	A	L	K	W	M	F	X	G	R	A	A	G	S	T
Y	W	H	K	H	R	C	A	K	T	L	X	X	L	U	P	V	T	S	P	O	W	L	V	F
D	I	M	K	A	O	H	G	E	H	Q	E	Q	I	H	B	V	I	T	Q	P	M	A	G	U
L	S	Q	R	N	C	N	T	M	G	K	W	R	W	B	D	T	L	J	H	H	D	L	R	N
M	N	B	T	B	N	E	L	S	I	V	X	W	X	U	K	K	S	T	V	H	S	A	J	W
M	I	E	H	A	B	X	G	P	R	B	W	P	E	M	E	C	R	M	Y	W	P	J	U	F
L	N	D	H	T	K	N	J	C	W	P	U	S	N	S	P	G	L	Q	C	D	T	A	F	J
T	U	Y	M	S	M	T	S	H	Z	B	V	B	M	E	R	A	N	S	K	E	G	F	A	D
C	M	B	W	R	S	R	L	Y	E	W	L	N	Z	Z	I	J	I	P	B	T	N	H	H	G

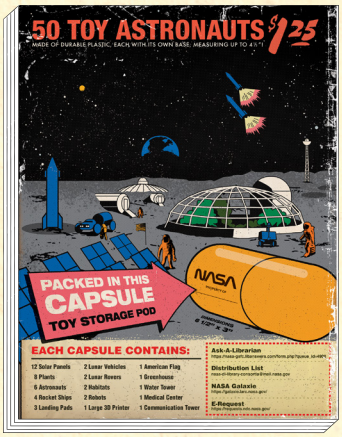
BANNED
BOOKS
CENSORSHIP
CHALLENGED
COMPLAINTS
DRUGS
FIRST AMENDMENT
FREEDOM
LANGUAGE
LAW
LIBRARY
MORALS
OBJECTIONABLE
OPINION
POLITICS
RACISM
READING
RELIGION
RIGHTS
SCHOOLS
SEPTEMBER
SEX
SUPREME COURT
UNSUITABLE
VIOLENCE

★ THE COVER ★

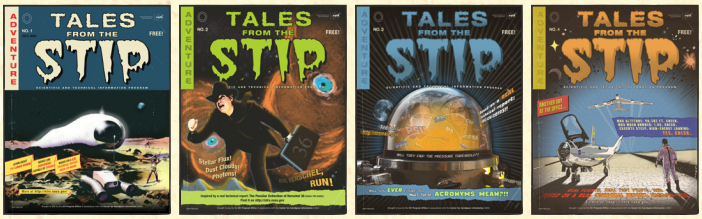


Our sincere thanks to **Wade Mickley** (NASA Langley Research Center, Media Solutions Branch) for designing the front and back covers for this edition of the *NASA Libraries* newsletter. As a graphics specialist, Wade helps scientists, engineers, researchers, and leaders communicate critical information both to each other and the public. Inspiring people to act, connect, learn, and grow, his uniquely designed materials help employees communicate. A translator of sorts, Wade helps interpret complex content to all. He attended Virginia Commonwealth University, where he studied Fine Art and Communication Arts & Design. He is a native of Newport News, VA and has worked at NASA Langley for 18 years.





Wade is also responsible for designing the pulp sci-fi themed ***TALES FROM THE STIP*** covers referenced on Page 17. Created for the NASA STI Program in 2011, the concept for the idea sprang from a series of illustrations discovered in the 1966 report ***Feasibility study for lunar worm planetary roving vehicle concept*** (NASA-CR-66098), which can be viewed at https://ntrs.nasa.gov



★ NEWS & NOTES ★

[August 27 2021] GSFC & MSFC migrated their library systems over to Langley's instance of Symphony (a.k.a. NASA Galaxie), successfully consolidating all agency library catalogs under one application. Congratulations to the migration teams for a job well done! Special thanks to **Jordan Rasmussen** & **Braxton VanGundy** (LaRC), **Paula Laurita** (MSFC), **Elissa Sperling** & **George Diez** (GSFC), and **Tracy Moyers** & **Damon Hunter** (SirsiDynix).

[September/October 2021] Video Librarian & Researcher **Sheva Moore** (HQ) was featured in the latest issue of *American Libraries* magazine. Sheva's profile, "Over the Moon," can be read online at https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/magazine/issues

[October 25-31 2021] Celebrate **International Open Access Week**, an annual event that provides Open Access advocates a platform to teach their communities, share information with colleagues, and inspire the world to make OA the new norm in research and scholarship. For more details, visit http://www.openaccessweek.org

[January 1 2022] The **American Astronomical Society** journal portfolio will permanently switch to Open Access. The transition will affect the *Astronomical Journal* (AJ), *Astrophysical Journal* (ApJ), *Astrophysical Journal Letters* (ApJL), and the *Astrophysical Journal Supplement Series* (ApJS). For more information, visit https://aas.org/press/aas-journals-open-access

★ GAME ANSWERS ★

WORD SEARCH: BANNED BOOKS

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	E						R		N		F	R	E	E	D	O	M	I	S	S	I	S	P	A
		A						U		S							O	I		E	H	C	I	W
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				I						C		I			E	A			O	T	R	T	I	
					N						E		T	N	R			B		E	O	I	O	
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE: BOOKS & TV IN SPACE

<u>Across</u>: **2.** Star Trek **4.** Firefly **6.** The Invincible **10.** Dawn **11.** Chasing Space **12.** Carrying the Fire **13.** A Man on the Moon **14.** Rocket Boys **15.** Moustronaut

<u>Down</u>: **1.** Hidden Figures **3.** The Right Stuff **5.** Cosmos **7.** Packing for Mars **8.** Margaret and the Moon **9.** The Martian **15.** Moonshot

IN MEMORIAM

NASA Libraries, Vol. 1, No. 2 is dedicated to the loving memory of Cheri Marie Spencer (1960-2021), who passed away on August 7, 2021. Letters of condolence may be sent to Cheri's husband of 35 years, Rick Spencer, at richard.d.spencer@nasa.gov.

PUBLISHED BY THE NASA LIBRARY NETWORK

For more than a century, NASA libraries have supported Agency projects and research by providing exceptional information services. Throughout that time, the libraries incorporated industry trends to provide the best resources and services that budgets allowed. The name of the group has changed over time, but the commitment to provide unparalleled support for NASA programs, projects, and research has remained constant. Today, the NASA Library Network continues that commitment as a formal program under the Logistics Management Division (LMD) of the Office of Strategic Infrastructure (OSI). This extraordinarily proficient cadre of information professionals comprises civil servant and support service contractor librarians and technicians. The diversity of skillsets, education, and experience combined with a customer-centric mission is the NLN's greatest asset.

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