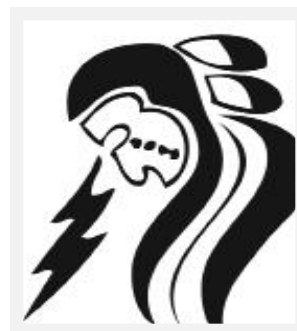


# American Indian Library Association Newsletter



FALL 2013

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## Message from the AILA President

Hatito!

As we move into fall, I want to introduce myself as AILA's 2013-2014 president. My name is Heather Devine and I have been involved with AILA since I became secretary in 2009. I've also been involved in various groups in ALA, particularly with the Spectrum Scholars. I currently work as the project manager for the Circle of Learning grant at San Jose State University (<http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/col>), and as of this summer, I am now serving as AILA's President.

One of my goals as president is to increase involvement. I know that with a geographically diverse group such as AILA, it is difficult for everyone to gather in the same place, so I would like to try to host some online membership meetings. I'm also hoping to be more in touch with the other ALA ethnic caucuses and the ALA leadership, to make sure AILA's voice is heard.

Did you know that next year AILA will celebrate its 35th year? As part of that, I think it would be great to learn more about AILA's history, and to document it. Most importantly, as we move forward, I hope that we can make sure the work we do is helping Indigenous people and Indigenous libraries, and that we continue to stay relevant and increase awareness and involvement. Next

**Message cont'd on pg. 2**

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## Join AILA!

Join AILA or renew your membership at <http://ailanet.org/membership/>

Membership includes a subscription to our Newsletter and the AILA-L listserv, a discussion group for AILA members.

**President's Message (cont'd)**

year, we will also present our American Indian Youth Literature Awards, an important way of promoting and increasing awareness of culturally appropriate literature.

The success of AILA depends on the voluntary efforts of the membership. I recognize that everyone is very busy in their day-to-day life with work, family, and other obligations, but if you are able to, we would love to have you help with an AILA committee. You can find out more about AILA's committees on our website ([www.ailanet.org](http://www.ailanet.org)). The more people who volunteer, the better success AILA can have. As always, if you have questions, comments, or ideas, I would love to hear them, so please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Heather Devine  
[hhdevine@gmail.com](mailto:hhdevine@gmail.com)

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Member at Large:	Valarie Kingsland (Inupiaq)	2013-2015
Member at Large:	Mary Gibson (Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone)	2012-2014

## W e l c o m e , N e w A I L A M e m b e r s !

### **Individual Memberships**

Terri Burr, Interim Director,  
University of Alaska Southeast,  
Ketchikan Campus Library, AK

Elena Dock, Library Aide,  
Lower Kuskokwim School District, AK

Isabel Espinal,  
President, REFORMA, MA

David Freeburg,  
Mohegan Tribe Library & Archives, CT

Katherine Freund, NY

LouAnn Gagne,  
Librarian, AK

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Amelia Jenkins,  
Juneau Public Library, AK

Molly Lane,  
Library Technician, AK

Marguerite LaRiviere,  
Library Director,  
Kegoayah Kozga Library, AK

Aquilina Lestenkof, Director,  
Aleut Community of St. Paul Island,  
Office of Cultural Affairs, AK

Amy Love, OR

Marsha Lytle, Library Director,  
Seminole Tribe of Florida-Dorothy Scott Osceola  
Memorial Library, SD

Jacob Metoxen,  
Librarian, University of Alaska—Fairbanks, AK

Jo Monahan,  
University of North Texas, TX

Anahera Morehu,  
Te Ropu Whakahau,  
Auckland, New Zealand

Marilyn Nicely,  
University of Oklahoma Law Library, OK

Maggie Otton,  
School Librarian,  
Koyuk Malemute School, AK

Kathryn Oxborrow, Senior Tutor,  
Victoria University of Wellington,  
Information Studies Programmes, New Zealand

Katie Sanders,  
Director of Library Media Services,  
Fairbanks North Star Borough School  
District, AK

Nellie Sears, Librarian,  
Tikigaq School Community Library, AK

John Snead, OK

Jacqueline Welsh,  
Los Angeles Public Library, CA

Kendra Wight, Sno-Isle Libraries, WA

Renee Williams,  
Senior Reference Librarian,  
Stark County District Library, OH

## W e l c o m e , N e w A I L A M e m b e r s !

### **Student Members**

Vina Begay, AZ

Lisa Brown, AZ

Stephen Curley, AZ

Sara Guzman, AZ

Jessie Morgan, Education/Cultural Coordinator,  
Haines Borough Library, AK

Debbie Sierra, Library Assistant, Ignacio Community  
Library, CO

Vanessa Vigil, CA

Rebekah VonSchriltz, CA

Mary Wise, OH

### **Institutional Members**

AWE, AZ (Lisa Maestas, Senior Account Executive)

Karuk Tribal Libraries, CA (Julie Burcell)

Kenaitze Indian Tribe, AK (Alexandra Lindgren)

Ontario Library Service – North, ON, Canada (Mette  
Kruger, First Nation Skills Development Advisor)

Seminole Tribe of Florida-Dorothy Scott Osceola  
Memorial Library, FL

Santa Clara Pueblo Community Library, NM

## U p c o m i n g E v e n t s !

### **American Library Association Annual and Midwinter Meetings**

**2014 Midwinter Meeting, Philadelphia, PA** (<http://alamw14.ala.org/>) January 24-28, 2014

**2014 Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV** (<http://ala14.ala.org/>) June 26-July 1, 2014

The 2014 American Indian Youth Literature Awards will be presented at ALA Annual in Las Vegas

## Update from Wisconsin: Convening Culture Keepers Continues!

by Omar Poler

Dozens of tribal librarians, archivists, and museum curators from across Wisconsin, undaunted by an early-May 2013 snowstorm, gathered at the Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe Community for the sixth Convening Culture Keepers professional development mini-conference.

Sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) and hosted by Teresa Mitchell of the George W. Brown, Jr. Ojibwe Museum & Cultural Center, the gathering featured tours of tribal facilities, a feast prepared by youth in the public school's ENVISION service-learning program, and birchbark etching with artist Greg "Biskakone" Johnson. (Check out Biskakone on the beautifully produced *The Ways* video, *Hunting Deer: Sharing the Harvest*, here: <http://theways.org/story/hunting-deer>.)

Attendees also had a full day of workshops and an inspiring keynote by Dr. Anton Treuer on the importance of language. Among other things, Treuer shared his collaboration with elders to create *Awesiinyensag: dibaajimowinan ji-gikinoo'amaageng*, the award-winning monolingual Ojibwe language children's book published by Wiigwaas Press. (*Awesiinyensag* was a 2012 AIYLA Middle Grades Honor Book.) To learn more about this wonderful book, and see the newest addition to their series, *Naadamaading: Dibaajimowinan Ji-Nisidotaading*, check out the Birchbark Press website: <http://birchbarkbooks.com/wiigwaas-press>.

And now, as snow starts to fall again, we have two more gatherings in the works!

In November, the Ho-Chunk Nation will

host our final Convening Culture Keepers. Along with the usual tours, feast, and social events, Sam Olbekson, a White Earth Ojibwe tribal member and architect with Minneapolis-based Cunningham Group, will discuss successful building designs for tribal cultural institutions. The Midwest Arts Conservation Center will also lead hands-on workshops on topics like cleaning feathers and care of photographs.

While it may be our last mini-conference, it doesn't mean our meetings are over.

Thanks to a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Grant provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, will host Convening Great Lakes Culture Keepers in April 2014. This institute will bring together tribal librarians, archivists, and museum curators from throughout Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin for four days of training and networking.

SLIS graduate students are playing a major role in the new grant, too. This past summer, for instance, six students respectively spent two weeks at the College of Menominee Nation Library, the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College Library, and the Oneida Nation Museum to help out, learn about continuing education priorities, and draft preliminary institute designs.

So, happily, Convening Culture Keepers continues. We plan to keep meeting, networking, sharing, and advocating for the amazing tribal cultural institutions in our state

**Convening Culture Keepers cont'd on pg. 15**

## Member Spotlight: Daisy Domínguez



### What do you do?

I'm a reference librarian at The City College of New York, which is part of the CUNY system. I do collection development for history, among other areas, and I also serve as the Exhibits Coordinator. One of my research interests is Indigenous film and video, and I maintain a related blog here: [daisilla.org](http://daisilla.org)

### What brought you to AILA?

I became an AILA member because I'm interested in indigenous culture and history. My research has typically focused on Ecuador (my history masters thesis, *Modernity and Otavalo Dress in Ecuador and Abroad*, is available online at <http://digital-archives.ccnycunycunyu.edu/gallery/thesis/2010suhu01.pdf>), but, I write about American Indian film on my blog as well.

### What other interests do you have?

I've become interested in animal studies and I am currently developing a service-learning course on animal-human relationships.

### Is there a resource or project you'd like to alert us to?

There are several interesting resources for librarians looking to expand their video collections. Vision Maker Media (<http://visionmakermedia.org>) distributes a lot of great films. Another good source for learning about American Indian films, as well as Indigenous films from throughout the Americas and the Pacific, is the National Museum of the American Indian's Native Networks website (<http://www.nativenetworks.si.edu/nn.html>). If you are interested in Latin American films in particular, Third World Newsreel (<http://www.twn.org/>) is about to begin a limited time distribution of some hard-to-find Bolivian documentaries, docudramas, and feature films made by Indigenous filmmakers in the CEFREC-CAIB collective. If you are considering expanding your film collection, please look out for these films.

### Why is AILA important to you?

I don't work at a tribal college and there isn't an American Indian Studies program or department at my institution, so AILA is a virtual community of people with similar interests. The members on the AILA mailing list help make me aware of issues that American Indian librarians and communities are concerned about. They also share recommended resources that I have used for my collection development work or my blog.

Daisy V. Domínguez

Reference Librarian/Assistant Professor  
The City College of New York, CUNY  
Cohen Library

Subject Areas: History; Latin American,  
Caribbean & Latino Studies; and Spanish &  
Portuguese Literature

## Member Spotlight: Robin Amado



**Photo:** Robin Amado at the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College Library

### **What do you do?**

I'm currently a high school librarian and English teacher at Memorial High School in Madison, Wisconsin. When I'm not planning lessons or grading papers, I continue my work with the Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums (TLAM) Project at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I just recently graduated from the School of Library and Information Studies at the UW-Madison this past August.

### **What brought you to AILA?**

Not what, but who! Janice Rice guest-lectured in the TLAM graduate course in Spring 2012 and told us all about AILA. I joined soon after!

### **What other interests do you have?**

First and foremost: food! Home-cooking, lots of vegetables, chocolate, and ice cream. I read a lot of magazines; the short bursts are appropriate to my lifestyle now. I like traveling around the U.S., especially if it's in the car with some friends. And I love writing letters to send to people.

### **Is there a resource or project you'd like to alert us to?**

The TLAM Project out of UW-Madison is planning for a 4-day professional development institute, thanks to the help of IMLS and the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grant. The regional gathering of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan tribal cultural workers will be held at the incredible Ziibiwing Center for Anishinabe Culture and Lifeways in April 2014. Through this project, I was able to intern with Caryl Pfaff at the Lac Courte Oreilles Community College Library in northern Wisconsin for two weeks this past summer! It was a great experience. We planned a summer reading program for kids, and I made wild ricing knockers and ate a lot of delicious traditional Ojibwe foods. It's been exciting to work on implementing a grant.

### **Why is AILA important to you?**

It helps keep me focused on what I really want to do with my life: to (someday!) work in a tribal library and continue to provide relevant professional development for tribal librarians, archivists, and museum curators. And it always feels good to be part of a community. As overwhelming as ALA conferences can be, being a member of AILA is a relief. Out of thousands of attendees, I saw people I knew, liked, and respected all in the same room for AILA events!



## HiPSTAS: An Institute Advancing Tools for Analyzing Digital Audio Collections

Dr. Tanya Clement and Dr. Lorie Roy (Anishinabe)  
School of Information, the University of Texas at Austin

In July 2012, Dr. Tanya Clement received news that a proposal she had submitted with the Illinois Informatics Institute at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)'s Office of Digital Humanities was funded. This funding supported the planning and hosting of an institute on an advanced topic in the digital humanities. The first of two meetings for the Institute for High Performance Sound Technologies for Access and Scholarship (HiPSTAS) was subsequently held in the School of Information in May 2013.

The goal of HiPSTAS is work with humanities scholars, archivists, librarians, and graduate students to develop the skills in using tools that help in the study of digital audio collections, especially collections of freely accessible spoken word recordings. A call for participation was broadly distributed, inviting prospective applicants to submit proposals indicating the projects they would focus on over the year of the project. Several collections were available for study, including those at the American Philosophical Society Native American Projects, the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, and PennSound. Participants could also nominate other collections upon which they would base their work.

Among the 25 applicants accepted into HiPSTAS were several working with Native cultural audio collections, including the following highlighted cases. Harwell Francis

and Kristen Suagee-Beauduy from Western Carolina University are developing an educational resource for their Cherokee language program, studying the use of vowels in their audio collection to understand the similarities and differences among Cherokee dialects. Gena Peone, Assistant Cultural Collections Manager of Cultural Preservation with the Spokane Tribe, is investigating how the tribe might use recordings in various formats (analog tape; CD; MP3 files) in Salish language study. Dustin Tahmahkera is studying the American Philosophical Society's audio collection to identify markers of Native identity. Other participants are affiliated with institutions such as the Library of Congress, University of Oregon, Georgia State University, StoryCorps, Oklahoma State University, University of Virginia, and Emory University. Participants received training in using ARLO (Adaptive Recognition with Layered Optimization), an open source tool that helps scholars in visualizing and classifying sound files.

The first workshop included sessions on foundational issues in working and understanding digital sound, including talks by Lorie Roy on "Indigenous Cultural Heritage: Becoming More Informed for Work with Sound Technologies," and Timothy Power on the Native American Projects at the American Philosophical Society, including "Gibagadinamaagoom: An Ojibwe Digital

**HiPSTAS cont'd on pg. 15**



## Q & A with Cherokee Author and Former Principal Chief Chad “Cornassel” Smith

Interview conducted by AILA member and Congressional Librarian Jennifer Manning (Cherokee)



Former Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Chadwick “Cornassel” Smith appeared at the Library of Congress’s National Book Festival in September 2013 to discuss his new book, *Leadership Lessons from the Cherokee Nation: Learn from All I Observe* (McGraw-Hill Education, 2013).

Jennifer Manning caught up with him during the Festival.

**JM:** Is this your first book?

**CCS:** No, I published one previously, *Building One Fire: Art + World View in Cherokee Life* (Cherokee Nation, distributed by University of Oklahoma Press, 2010) about the development of a distinctive Cherokee art style.

**JM:** How was the writing process for *Leadership Lessons* different? And why was this book published by McGraw-Hill rather than the University of Oklahoma Press, like your previous book was?

**CCS:** *Building One Fire* was very much an artistic exercise. *Leadership Lessons* was a very different process—it was analytical, linear, and designed to produce a specific result. It grew out of a Cherokee Nation staff training manual.

I sought out McGraw-Hill instead of working with the University of Oklahoma Press again because I didn’t want this to be pigeonholed as an “Indian” book, and I don’t want to be pigeonholed as just a Native author. “Indian” books tend to be marketed only to a narrow audience. I looked at my favorite books to see who published them. I found a contact at McGraw-Hill and sent them an unsolicited manuscript—and ended up with a book contract.

**JM:** How are Cherokee concepts of leadership different from other concepts of leadership?

**CCS:** They aren’t really different from other

**Q&A cont’d on pg. 10**

## Q&A (cont'd)

tribal leadership styles. There are really only 5 or 6 leadership styles and models—everything is just variations on those models. In this book, the overarching idea is to have a principle-based leadership style. There is value in every idea of leadership—the key is learning from what you observe. The most difficult job of leadership is to visualize and articulate where you want you, and your organization, to go.

**JM:** Your book has chapter titles in Cherokee. What are some of your thoughts on Native language revitalization?

**CCS:** Language is a form of competitive intelligence. Think of the WWII Code Talkers, using their Native languages as competitive intelligence.

We need to recapture our fluency in native languages—not just spoken, but written as well. Literacy is so important—oral tradition is frail, but literacy is permanent. Native language fluency lets us communicate concepts in more ways; it reinforces and molds our relationships to each other. It gives us an edge.

**JM:** Did you frequent your local library as a child?

**CCS:** The school library—but really only because it was required. I didn't read a lot as a child, and never expected to become an author.

**JM:** Are you ever invited to speak at tribal libraries, or libraries in predominantly Native communities?

**CCS:** No. But I am invited to speak to schools. K-12 students are my favorite audience.

**JM:** Do you have any advice for Native American libraries or librarians? Any specific advice about the struggle to secure stable funding for our institutions?

**CCS:** Understand your constituency—get engaged in the community. Find partners in your neighborhood—other government departments, or local businesses. Take the library to the most popular places in the community—take the library to the local coffee shop, if that is where the people are.

Create hooks to bring your constituency into the library. Again, think about using competitive intelligence.

**JM:** Do you have any future writing projects?

**CCS:** I'm thinking about the opposite of leadership—what destroys an organization? What destroys a tribal nation?

Visit Chad Smith's website, Chad Smith Consulting, LLC, at

<http://www.chadsmith.com>

## IMLS Provides Three Years of Funding for “Collaborative Stewardship”

By Loriene Roy (Anishinabe), Professor, School of Information, the University of Texas at Austin

One of the most challenging professional responsibilities for those working in libraries, archives, and museums (LAMS) is how to negotiate access to traditional cultural expressions in ways that balance LAM standards with tribal values or protocols. While protocol documents have been developed by LAM professional organizations such as the First Archivists Circle and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library, Information and Resource Network (ATSILIRN), these documents provide advice on what to do, but do not detail how to accomplish the needed tasks.

Recently, in 2007, Dr. Kim Christen from Washington State University and her team have developed Mukurtu CMS as an innovative content management system that can provide the answer to these needs. Mukurtu CMS ([www.mukurtu.org](http://www.mukurtu.org)) provides tribal communities with an option of defining who can view images, read text, or listen to audio on websites. Thus, tribes can be assured that only certain members, defined by clans, age, or gender, for example, can engage with stories or songs, replicating traditional cultural ways of transmitting knowledge. Those who have heard about Mukurtu CMS or seen demonstrations of its capabilities are immediately supportive of and excited by its potential. Christen’s work continues to be recognized through awards such as the Outstanding Project Award from the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, & Museums (ATALM), and continued funding.

While Mukurtu CMS can be freely downloaded, not all who want to use it have the

skills to apply Mukurtu to their needs. This has pointed to the need for tribal LAM personnel to receive training and develop an extensive community of users devoted to not only Mukurtu, but also to the broader issues associated with caring for cultural heritage.

Recently, Christen, along with several partners, including the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries & Museums, the Center for Digital Archaeology at the University of California-Berkeley, and the California Indian Museum and Cultural Center, received a new three-year grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for a project called: “Collaborative Stewardship: Providing Sustainable Digital Heritage Training for Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums.” Between June 2013 and May 2016, the Collaborative Stewardship grant will develop and launch four efforts: (1) face-to-face regional workshops; (2) a Sustainable Heritage Knowledge Portal, including web-based tutorials for digital stewardship and other educational resources; (3) kits of downloadable training materials for tribal LAM personnel; and (4) a roster of individuals and institutions who can support each other in their training needs through a national registration process. Thus, the development and use of multi-format and delivery training materials will lead to skills exchanges through a supportive network. Local communities can then host their own local training activities and serve as ‘workbench’ locations to support others in extending their skills. Through including a number of tribal

**IMLS cont’d on pg. 15**

## 2013 Virginia Mathews Scholarship Awarded to Debbie Reese

The purpose of the Virginia Mathews Memorial Scholarship is to provide tuition to an American Indian individual who lives and works in an American Indian community, and who is enrolled, or has been accepted and will enroll, in a master's degree program at a university with a library and/or information sciences program accredited by the American Library Association for the 2013-2014 academic school year. The scholarship has been named to honor Virginia Mathews, one of the original founders of AILA.

Further details and scholarship criteria are available at <http://ailanet.org/awards/scholarships/>.

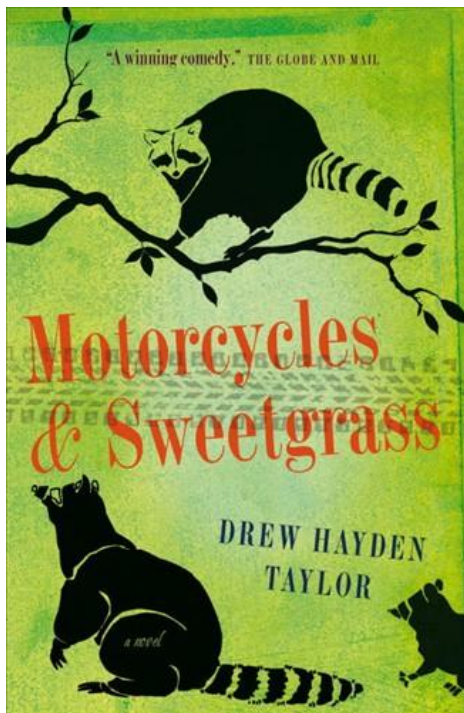
The American Indian Library Association is pleased to announce that its 2013 Virginia Mathews Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to Debbie Reese. Debbie is an enrolled member of Nambe Pueblo and is pursuing her Master of Library and Information Science at San Jose State University School of Library and Information Science.

Debbie exemplifies the scholarship criteria of “sustained involvement in the American Indian community and sustained commitment to American Indian concerns and initiatives,” and she has specific intentions and vision for returning to her community as a librarian. She has a track record of making an impact on the community and the profession. As one committee member stated, “Her blog, [American Indians in Children's Literature](#), is one of the best resources available for discussions, book reviews, etc. In addition, her publications are hard-hitting truths on what libraries should and should not have in their collections concerning Indigenous literature, and she lectures extensively on the issues. Not only does she work with the Nambe community, but she also strives to inform the dominant culture about issues facing Indian people today.”



Congratulations to Debbie!

## Book Reviews



*Motorcycles & Sweetgrass: A Novel.* By Drew Hayden Taylor. Knopf Canada, 2010. ISBN 978-0307398055

*"Hey, wanna hear a good story? Supposedly it's a true one. It's a long story but it goes something like this...."*

Set on the Otter Lake Reserve in Ontario, Canada, *Motorcycles & Sweetgrass* by Drew Hayden Taylor starts with a young, white man arriving in town on a 1953 Chief Indian motorcycle to say goodbye to Lillian Benojee, a well-respected community elder and a beloved mother and grandmother. "John" is Lillian's friend from the past, and her dying wish is for her daughter Maggie Second, the reserve chief, to find happiness and balance. While Maggie is busy juggling tribal politics as well as her life as a single mother, she still

finds time to spend with this charming yet mysterious stranger. But who is this man, really? He carves petro glyphs into limestone outcroppings, dances in the moonlight, ties sweetgrass braids, and his knowledge of the Anishinabe language is exceptional for an outsider, let alone for lifelong residents of the reserve. While "John" may have wooed Chief Maggie Second, he is not fooling her son Virgil, her brother Wayne, or the area's large population of raccoons. But can they give "John" the boot before he starts to stir up real trouble? Taylor uses a contemporary setting, clever characters, and a comedic plot to explore past and present Indigenous issues, including boarding school traumas, religion, tribal politics, and traditional Native mythology. *Motorcycles & Sweetgrass* is full of humor and magic that keeps the pages turning. This is one book you don't need to be tricked into reading; check it out today!

Reviewed by Hayley Johnson  
Librarian, Milwaukee Public Library

The *AILA Newsletter* has a number of fiction, young adult, and children's titles available for review. If you would be interested in writing a book review for the benefit of AILA's members, please contact the Editor at [danielle.geller@gmail.com](mailto:danielle.geller@gmail.com).



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**Photo:** Culture Keepers at Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin, May 2, 2013. Photo by Della Nohl.

### **HiPSTAS (cont'd)**

Archive.” The HiPSTAS participants had time to explore their projects and work on site. The second, and final, HiPSTAS institute will take place in May 2014, at which time the participants will demonstrate the work they were able to achieve on their research projects over the year. A final takeaway will be an open-source collection of tools that anyone might use in studies of audio files, and that might lead to further studies and the creation of new opportunities to develop access protocols and educational resources.

### **Convening Culture Keepers (cont'd)**

and region.

If you'd like to learn more about Convening Culture Keepers, Convening Great Lakes Culture Keepers, or our student service-learning projects, visit the Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums Project website at <http://www.tlamproject.org>. Or contact Omar Poler at 608-890-3817.

### **IMLS (cont'd)**

communities in these skills-building activities, a Sustainable Heritage Network would evolve.

Please watch for further developments and the opportunity to engage with Collaborative Stewardship. For news about this and other related projects see the news at <http://news.wsu.edu/2013/10/10/powering-cultural-preservation-new-grants-expand-archiving-of-indigenous-treasures/>.

If your institution would like to be part of the National Registry please contact Steve Bingo [steven.bingo@wsu.edu](mailto:steven.bingo@wsu.edu).

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