Statewide Public Library eBook Conference – November 3 & 4, 2022
Hotel Murano, Tacoma, WA

Draft Agenda and Schedule (subject to revision)

Thursday, November 3

8:30 – 9:00 AM: Welcome and Remarks from the State Library, Will Stuivenga, Conference Convener & Sara Jones, Washington State Librarian

9:00 – 10:00 AM: Keynote Speaker, Kelvin Watson

As executive director of the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, Kelvin Watson oversees 25 branches run by 600+ employees, spanning 8,000 square miles, with a budget of $77 million and a collection of 3.2 million items. Regarded as one of the most highly respected thought leaders in the library industry, Kelvin has been credited, in multiple library management roles, with expanding his customer base through outreach efforts to underserved and diverse populations.

Previous positions include director of the Broward County Libraries Division, where he managed 38 locations in the Ft. Lauderdale, Florida region and COO/senior vice president for Queens Library, New York. He is a past president of Black Caucus of the American Library Association and past Public Library Association Board member.

Kelvin serves on the San Jose State University School of Information, Leadership, and Management Program Advisory Committee, co-chairs the ALA Digital Content Working Group, and serves on the ALA Business Advisory Group, REALM Project Steering Committee, and on the Board of the Book Industry Study Group. [A more complete bio is available online.]

10:00 – 10:15: break

10:15 – 12:30: Panel Discussion: Trends in eBook Selection and Purchasing—During Covid and Beyond

Panel members: Robin Bradford, Collection Development Librarian, Pierce County Library System; Frank Brasile, Selection Services Librarian, Collections and Access Services, Seattle Public Library; Lisa Gresham, Collection Services Manager, Administrative Services, Whatcom County Library System; Mike Hawkins, Electronic Resources Librarian, Sno-Isle Libraries; Sarah Johnson, Librarian, Mid-Columbia Libraries; Will Stuivenga, WSL Library Development Cooperative Projects Manager, Moderator.

12:30 – 1:30: “Working” Lunch with speaker or program to be determined.

1:30 – 2:45: OverDrive: Making the Most of your Digital Collection

Steve Potash, OverDrive CEO, will appear via a pre-recorded video. Kate Connell: Prior to joining OverDrive as an Account Manager, she worked at the Akron Law Library and The University of Akron Archives. She enjoys partnering with public libraries to assist them in developing their digital collections.

2:45 – 3:00: Break
3:00 – 4:00: Sustaining a Digital Library Book Collection, Carmi Parker

With costs continuing to outpace budget increases, how can libraries sustainably offer a reasonable digital collection? A brief presentation will summarize challenges, ongoing research, and some of the solutions libraries are considering, including legislation. Group discussion will follow.

Carmi Parker is the ILS Administrator for the Whatcom County Library System and Executive Advisory Committee member for the Washington Digital Library Consortium, serving 850,000 state residents. She is also a member of the ReadersFirst.org Working Group. She is honored to have been named a 2021 Mover & Shaker by Library Journal.

4:00 – 5:00: New Kid on the Block: The Palace Project, Mike Buschman

Thanks to funding from the Knight Foundation in 2021, the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) and LYRASIS have teamed up to develop and implement the Palace Project with the goal of “supporting public libraries in their mission to provide equitable access to digital content, while restoring the direct relationship between library and patron.” This session will describe the Palace Project in detail as well as the Washington State Library’s involvement and strategic objectives around the project.

Mike Buschman is the Library Development Program Manager for the Washington State Library. More than 20 years ago, as the Microsoft Library Collections Manager, Mike led the adoption and usage of ebooks within Microsoft, which became Overdrive’s first corporate customer. Later Mike was the Microsoft Book Search product manager coordinating the effort to mass-digitize books in academic libraries including the U. of California, U. of Toronto, British Library, Cornell, and Yale. Mike was the original product manager of ProQuest’s Summon Discovery Service before co-founding Plum Analytics, a company that measures the impact and reach of scholarly research, now part of Elsevier.

Friday, November 4

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (10:30 – 11:00 break with time for hotel checkout): Guided Topics Discussion in small group breakouts (table by table) with reporting in at the end; each person will rotate through 2 or 3 different topic discussions. Discussion Topics are being solicited through the registration process, and by direct submission to Conference Convener, Will Stuivenga. This is an opportunity for staff from libraries of different sizes to connect with one another around the eBook issues that are most important to them. In the 2017 iteration of this conference, many comments indicated that attendees found this to be the most valuable and engaging portion of the event. Coordinators: Will Stuivenga and Brianna Hoffman, WLA Executive Director.