

MOBAC Administrative Council

September 18, 2026

9:30 a.m.

Monterey Peninsula College
Karas Room, Library and Technology Center, Building 16
980 Fremont Street, Monterey, CA 93940

MOBAC Administrative Council

Christopher Platt, Santa Cruz Public Libraries (Chair)

Vacant, Cabrillo College Library

Jacqueline Grallo, CSUMB

Tara Myers, Gavilan College Library

Heather Cousin, Harrison Memorial Library

Deborah Stephens, Hartnell College Library

Joelle Mellon, Middlebury Institute of International Studies

Hillary Theyer, Monterey County Free Library

Jeff Sundquist, Monterey Peninsula College (V. Chair)

Brian Edwards, Monterey Public Library

Edward Corrado, Naval Postgraduate School

Rachel Gaither, Pacific Grove Public Library

Kristan Lundquist, Salinas Public Library

Austin Curtis, San Benito County Free Library

Rochelle Eagen, San Juan Bautista City Library

Alicia Martinez, Watsonville Public Library

1. Call to Order, Introductions, Announcements, Proxies

Platt

2. Approval of Consent Items (Action Item)

Platt

A. Approval of Agenda

B. Approval of Minutes of June 12, 2026 Meeting

Attachment 1, pg. 3

3. Administrative Business

A. Disaster Preparation Discussion

All

B. Collection Development and AI Discussion

Platt

4. Reports

A. ILL Resource Sharing Annual Report

Haskin

B. Reference Annual Report

Addison

Attachment 2, pg. 5

C. SPLAMBA Annual Report

Weyant

Attachment 3, pg. 7

D. Technology Annual Report

Tozier

Attachment 4, pg. 8

E. Literacy Annual Report

Andrews

Attachment 5, pg. 10

F. MOBAC Chair

Platt

G. MOBAC Administration

Frost

5. Public Comment – (Individuals are allowed three minutes; groups in attendance, five minutes. It is system policy to refer matters raised in this forum to staff for further investigation or action if appropriate. Translator/interpreter will be available upon request at least three days prior to the meeting. The Brown Act prohibits the Administrative Council from discussing or acting on any matter not agendaized pursuant to State law.)

6. Other Business

- | | |
|---|-------|
| A. News from Libraries | All |
| B. Agenda Items for December 18, 2026 Virtual Meeting | Platt |

7. Adjournment



Monterey Bay Area Cooperative Library System
32 West 25th Avenue, Suite 201, San Mateo, CA 94403-2265
Phone (650) 349-5538 Fax (650) 349-5089

MOBAC Administrative Council

June 12, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

Action Minutes

Council: Heather Cousin (HML); Hillary Theyer (MCFL); Jeff Sundquist (MPC); Edward Corrado (NPG); Rachel Gaither (PGPL); Austin Curtis (SBC); Rochelle Eagen (SJB); Christopher Platt (SCPL); Alicia Martinez (WPL)

Proxies: Alicia Martinez for HAR; Teri Rodriguez for SAL

Others: Cathy Andrews (Literacy); Joy Camp (Reference); Joelle Mellon (MIIS); Carol Frost (PLP); Justin Wasterlain (PLP)

1. Call to Order, Introductions, Announcements, Proxies

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 a.m. by Chair Martinez.

2. Approval of Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

B. Approval of Minutes of March 20, 2026 Meeting

A motion was made, and passed unanimously by roll call vote, to approve the consent items. (M/S Platt/Gaither)

3. Administrative Business

A. Review and Approval of FY 2026-27 OCLC Contract

Frost discussed a five-year renewal option offered by OCLC to avoid annual cost increases. She noted Middlebury is not included in the quote since they are scheduled to close in FY 27-28. A motion was made, and passed unanimously by roll call vote, to approve a five-year renewal agreement with OCLC beginning in FY 2026-27. (M/S Theyer/Martinez)

B. Committee Funding Requests

Andrews clarified the Literacy committee would not require funding between July 2026 through December 2026. The Reference Committee requested \$600 for its fall workshop. A motion was made, and passed unanimously by roll call vote, to approve the Reference Committee request for \$600 for its fall workshop. (M/S Theyer/Gaither)

C. FY 2026-27 MOBAC Administrative Council Meeting Schedule

Locations for the September and March meeting were discussed. Pacific Grove's room was unavailable in September. Sundquist volunteered Monterey Peninsula College for September. Theyer and Eagen volunteered to host in March 2027.

4. Reports

Verbal reports from the Literacy Committee, Reference Committee, and SPLAMBA were provided.

5. Public Comment – none

6. Other Business

- A. **News from libraries** – The libraries shared updates.
- B. **Agenda Items and New Date for September 18, 2026 Meeting**
 - At Monterey Peninsula College

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 a.m. by Chair Martinez.

Annual Report to the MOBAC Administrative Council

Fiscal Year Reporting on: 2025-26
Committee Name: Reference Committee
Committee Chair: David Addison, co-chair; Joy Camp, co-chair
Active Committee Members: Joy Camp, CSUMB; Joelle Mellon, MIIS; David Tavarez, MCFL; Watonka Addison, WPL; Elisabeth Thomas, MPC; Kathy Lo, MPL; Catrina Coyle, PGPL; Estrella Esparza-Johnson, SJB; Evageline Tremaine, Salinas PL

Date: September 18th, 2026

1. What did your committee accomplish during the last fiscal year?

The Reference Committee met 6 times this past fiscal year, every other month. We shared tips and techniques for providing better reference and research methods; exchanged ideas on the best resources for our patrons, both print and digital and gave general professional support to each other. We shared in depth updates regarding our respective libraries and talked about the differences and similarities of working in a public or academic library setting. We talked a lot about the ever-growing presence of AI and how it will impact our everyday work in reference/research services. We hosted a hybrid workshop (in person and on Zoom) on November 14th 2025 at the Marina Branch Library whose topics included library advocacy, the impact of weekend and evening hours on libraries and library staff, community resources and the topic of misinformation. We couldn't decide on one topic for the workshop so we went big and chose them all! The presentations by Carol Frost, Hillary Thayer and Joelle Mellon were engaging and lively. Most of the active committee members attended an informal meeting luncheon in June 2026 in lovely Pacific Grove which was enjoyed by all.

2. What activities, workshops, etc. are you planning for the current fiscal year?

We will continue to meet every other month to discuss professional development, new trends and methods of providing reference services, activities of interest for the general public for each library system and continue our new conversations involving the impacts of AI on library services. Our fall workshop on Friday November 6th will include an engaging local history display from each active MOBAC library system. A local history and special collections show and tell. Participants will spend the first hour browsing our collections at each table. We will then host 3 presentations regarding local history collections at our respective library systems. The committee will present some of the topics in house and we are currently searching for at least one more presenter from our consortium. We also had an important annual conversation this coming year which involves sharing our current reference service model at each library. This is a great chance for us to share and learn about each library's service model and how it impacts our library users, staff and the organization. Lastly, we will share our anticipated new knowledge about AI and its impacts on library service as well as any AI workshops that will be attended by committee members.

3. Are there any obstacles/issues/challenges you wish to convey?

We are all a bit challenged with staying focused on the committee goals while keeping a very busy schedule at our respective libraries. We have managed to make time and effort for the committee this past year and we expect to do the same this coming fiscal year. We will continue to be challenged by the ever-changing information landscape and how best to serve our communities. The issue of AI and its impacts on library services will continue to be a hot topic at our meetings.

Estimate funding need for current FY:

We have requested and have been granted \$600 for our upcoming fall workshop on November 6th in Marina. Thank you!

Annual Report to the MOBAC Administrative Council

Fiscal Year Reporting on: 2025-26
Committee Name: SPLAMBA
Committee Chair: Mary Weyant

Active Committee Members:

Michele Beske, Teri Rodriguez, Abbi Strawser, Alison Day, Kim Smith, Bianca Nabarrete-Lopez, Mary Weyant (Chair), Anne Scanlon, Joe Rodgers, Julia Soto, Laura Blasingame, Laura Albrecht, Jacqueline Danziger, Sierra Hampton-Eng, Valerie Murphy, Claire Cocchi, Catherine Upton, Elizabeth Griffo, Lea Ann McDonald, Emily Bresett, Amber Baumbach, Heather Norquist, Be Astengo, Annie Finch, Barbara Lawrence, Andrea Osejo, Sarah Muhlenhaupt, and Karen Brown

Date: September 1, 2026

1. What did your committee accomplish during the last fiscal year?

As a committee, we met six times, either in-person or virtually. During these meetings, we shared ideas, information about grants and collection development, and our professional knowledge. In addition, we shared and promoted our libraries' summer event calendars. We've added new members and lost some in equal measure. So, we are 28 members strong! We offered an extremely popular workshop entitled, "Libraries are a Place for Everyone." Taylor Lahey was the presenter, who is an author and community organizer. Monterey Public Library hosted the event with an amazing turnout of 17 participants. One of our members was so inspired she included Taylor Lahey in their summer reading program lineup.

2. What activities, workshops, etc. are you planning for the current fiscal year?

We are planning a hands-on puppet story time workshop in January! As librarians we seek opportunities to enhance our programs to best meet the needs of our community. This workshop will provide relevant and targeted professional development. The workshop introduces the fundamentals of three puppet styles librarians are most likely to use: moving-mouth (Muppet-style) puppets, hand puppets, and rod puppets. The goal of the workshop is to provide librarians with a knowledge of the basics of good puppetry and ways to practice and hone their skills to enrich story times.

3. Are there any obstacles/issues/challenges you wish to convey?

No

Estimate funding need for current FY:

\$725 (\$650 for Workshop presenter and \$75 for refreshments)

Annual Report to the MOBAC Administrative Council

Fiscal Year Reporting on: 2025-26

Committee Name: Technology

Committee Chairs: Bjorn Jones (Santa Cruz Public Libraries) – Fall/Winter 2025-26, Luke Young (Harrison Memorial Library) – Fall 2025

Incoming Co-Chairs (FY 2026-27, effective September 2026): Melissa Mejia (Monterey Public Library) and Glenn Tozier (Monterey Peninsula College)

Active Committee Members: Deborah Stephens (Hartnell College Library), Melissa Mejia (Monterey Public Library), Kim Smith (Monterey Public Library), Glenn Tozier (Monterey Peninsula College), Kristen Amaral (Monterey County Free Libraries), Luis Alejandro (Monterey County Free Libraries), Bjorn Jones (Santa Cruz Public Libraries)

Date: September 9th, 2026

1) What did your committee accomplish during the last fiscal year?

The Tech Committee's central accomplishment was planning and hosting "Connect and Share," our workshop held February 27, 2026 at the El Gabilan Library in Salinas. We had 27 attendees (18 in-person, 9 zoom) for the half-day, hybrid event, which featured five presentations from member library staff:

- Holds Lockers – Melissa Mejia, Monterey Public Library
- Controlled Digital Lending & Online Textbooks – Glenn Tozier, Monterey Peninsula College
- Digital Literacy Insights – Bjorn Jones, Santa Cruz Public Libraries
- AI for Literacy Tutoring – Susanne Crichton, Salinas Public Library
- Making a Makerspace – Evie Tremaine, Salinas Public Library

The event concluded with a tour of El Gabilan Library's makerspace. At our April meeting, the committee reviewed post-event survey responses and discussed lessons learned, which are reflected in the planning for next year's event below.

Beyond the workshop, the committee held its regular virtual meetings on the twice-fall/twice-spring cadence adopted last year (September 2, November 4, February 10, and April 14), continuing to prioritize member library news and resource-sharing at the top of each agenda. Recurring library updates covered technology projects across the consortium, including Santa Cruz Public Libraries' ongoing Communico website and mobile app migration and its new downtown branch construction; Monterey Public Library's holds locker rollout and its ILS migration with Bywater, forming a new peninsula consortium with Carmel Public Library and Pacific Grove (which went live May 6, 2026); Hartnell College Library's self-check replacement search and RFID software troubleshooting; and Salinas Public Library's John Steinbeck branch remodel and new makerspace and self-check equipment at the El Gabilan branch.

The committee also used its meetings to share and discuss emerging technology topics, including a demo of EBSCO's natural-language search tools (Glenn Tozier, November), discussion of the Amazon Business library discount program (Luke Young, September), and an extended discussion of AI safety and digital literacy (Bjorn Jones, April), for which Bjorn shared an AI Safety Awareness Project resource handout and several members attended outside AI conferences and coursework to bring insights back to the group.

Finally, the committee managed a leadership transition: Bjorn Jones concluded his term as chair and the committee finalized Melissa Mejia and Glenn Tozier as incoming co-chairs for FY 2026-27, beginning in September 2026.

2) What activities, workshops, etc. are you planning for the current fiscal year?

The Tech Committee has tentatively scheduled Friday, February 26, 2027 for its next in-person event – a reprise of the 2026 Learn and Share Workshop. As with last year's well-received event, member libraries will be invited to deliver brief presentations on tools, techniques, and programs they are using, giving MOBAC libraries another opportunity to share ideas, ask questions, and learn from one another. Planning will incorporate feedback gathered from the February 2026 post-event survey, including refinements to hybrid meeting equipment and logistics.

In the meantime, the committee has set its fall 2026 meeting dates for Tuesday, September 8th and Tuesday, November 10th, and will continue its practice of opening each meeting with member library news and technology demos.

3) Are there any obstacles/issues/challenges you wish to convey?

As in the prior fiscal year, our greatest ongoing challenge is recruiting and retaining active committee representatives from member libraries. Several libraries were unable to send a representative to one or more meetings this year, and staffing shortages at member institutions compounded the problem. The Admin Council itself flagged a broader decline in committee engagement and is exploring strategies to improve attendance.

Committee leadership was also affected: our Harrison Memorial Library co-chair stepped down in November 2025, leaving an open co-chair seat. To address this issue proactively, incoming co-chairs Melissa Mejia and Glenn Tozier have committed to direct outreach this fall – Melissa to Watsonville, Pacific Grove, and Carmel, and Glenn to CSUMB – to recruit new and returning representatives and rebuild consistent attendance across our member libraries ahead of the February 2027 workshop.

Estimate funding needed for current FY:

\$200, consistent with the prior year's estimate, to cover incidental workshop materials and refreshments; no additional funding requests have been identified at this time.

Annual Report to the MOBAC Administrative Council

Fiscal Year Reporting on: 2025-2026

Committee Name: Literacy Committee

Committee Chair: Cathy Andrews (SPL)

Active Committee Members: Watonka Addison (WAT), Cathy Andrews (SAL), Susan Braga (MCFL), Susanne Crichton (SAL), Victoria Flores (WAT), Esperanza Gutierrez (WAT), Sarah Hoeffel (MCFL), Margarita Medina Romero (SAL), Elizabeth Pacheco (SAL), Juan Perez (SBC)

Date: 9-18-2026

1. What did your committee accomplish during the last fiscal year?

- Our quarterly meetings were held in July, October, January, and April on Zoom.
- We sponsored one workshop:
 - **Hear It, Feel It, Say It** was a 2-hour, interactive pronunciation workshop by Kathleen Rozeman, for literacy tutors and staff. 17 people attended, with feedback that the manipulatives and the demo led by the presenter were very useful.

2. What activities, workshops, etc. are you planning for the current fiscal year?

- We anticipate holding 1-2 trainings during the year, typically one in the winter and one in the spring, but increasing demand for services may make that a challenge; the topics and scheduling will be determined later this fall. Our workshops will be open to tutors/volunteers, program staff, and library staff across MOBAC.

3. Are there any obstacles/issues/challenges you wish to convey?

- While there was some shrinkage to the “core” funding for Adult Literacy Services through the State of California, the legislative permission to use some of the (existing) funding for ESL services is important. The 5-year ESL pilot project funding ends this year, and given budget constraints may not return as its own line item in the state budget any time soon. Being able to address on-going ESL needs within the 2026-27 grants will fund a level of service that keeps initiatives alive, but is unlikely to stretch to the needed expansion of services.
- Staffing continues to be an issue, but there are some innovations, such as Watsonville’s Opportunity to Read internship program.
- While literacy programs continue to find ways to serve our communities of low-literacy adults even while facing challenges, including lagging recruitment of volunteers for in-person assistance, most programs are again seeing a surge in demand.

Estimate funding need for current FY: July-Dec: \$0, Jan-June: \$500