



February 23, 2016

**FOR RELEASE MARCH 1, 2016**

### Librarian Sarah Burris Named Outstanding New Librarian

(DAYTONA BEACH, FL) – Sarah Burris, a reference librarian at the Bay County Public Library in Panama City, was named the 2016 Outstanding New Librarian by the Florida Library Association at their annual conference in Daytona Beach.

Sarah received her Master of Library and Information Science degree from Kent State University (Ohio) in 2013, and began her first professional librarian job with the library in 2014. Sarah also has a Master of Fine Arts degree from Kent State, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida. Sarah has successfully combined her expertise in librarianship and art in innovative and original ways.

Sarah's innovative programming has turned the library's book and film club into an exciting, well-attended, community event that patrons look forward to each month. When Sarah took over the book and film club, it was in danger of being cancelled due to lack of interest. Attendance had dwindled to less than ten patrons, and we were unable to justify paying the annual movie licensing fee. With no funds, Sarah took charge and partnered with PBS Point of View. She received permission to show documentaries in our library, and then paired each documentary with an excellent book and a fun activity.

Sarah has made a substantial contribution to librarianship in her area of expertise by combining librarianship with art. She started her blog, *The Artist and the Librarian*, in 2014. There she posts articles highlighting art history resources and open access digital image collections. She also coordinates, interviews, and edits posts featuring other librarians and digital imaging specialists who are also artists to show how the two fields complement each other. Sarah was also featured in another blog, *The Library as Incubator Project*.

Sarah was invited to present a poster session showcasing her blog interviews at the Art Libraries Society of North America conference in Fort Worth in 2015. To further share her art expertise with patrons, Sarah developed a Google Art Project class where she teaches patrons how they can explore museums and view famous artwork from their computer.

Sarah has far exceeded the requirements of her job description. One example of this is her creation of the Books at a Glance video series. Each quarter, Sarah spotlights books from our collection. She has created videos on the Cooking Corner, Travel, and NaNoWriMo.

Sarah's ability to work with patrons is truly exceptional. She shows kindness and patience in all situations. She is an excellent teacher, helping patrons learn technology, both on the fly and during Book-A-Librarian sessions.

All the staff at the Bay County Public Library and the Northwest Regional Library System are proud of Sarah for her accomplishments!

###

Contact:

Regina Burgess, MLS

Community Relations & Marketing Coordinator

Northwest Regional Library System

Bay County Public Library • 898 W 11<sup>th</sup> St • Panama City, FL 32401

(850) 522-2120 Office • (850) 522-2138 Fax

Email: [rburgess@nwrls.com](mailto:rburgess@nwrls.com) • Website: [www.nwrls.com](http://www.nwrls.com)

