

# REPORT

## PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Philadelphia, PA  
March 12-14, 2014



Of the many divisions of the American Library Association that serve more “niche” librarians, few host a book fair as widely regarded as the Public Library Association. The fair, which takes place every two years—the years opposite its school and university library counterparts—draws a larger audience, no doubt because it covers larger ground (case in point: school libraries concern themselves with k-12, university libraries concern themselves with higher level and technical and text books; Public Library covers everything). PLA is one of those book fairs that everyone talks about on its off year, excited for what the latest edition of the fair will bring. 2014 was no different, and the excitement was well deserved.

When the fair kicked off with its usual two hour opening, the exhibit hall immediately filled. When attendees were in the hall, they stormed the array of exhibitors, leaving practically no single booth unvisited. Because PLA only takes place once every two years, the largest percentage of activity took place outside the exhibit hall, but that only served to make the time spent in the exhibit hall that much more valuable. When in the exhibit hall, attendees did more than just wait in line to get autographs from authors signing at large publisher booths, they explored the entirety of hall, and many spent significant time in the Combined Book Exhibit.

Within the Combined Book Exhibit, attendees were attracted to books from smaller publishers that they wouldn't otherwise be able to see elsewhere. Some of the most popular displays in the Combined Book Exhibit came from **Bella and Harry**, **Gihon River Press**, **Princeton University Press**, **Omnigraphics** (particularly the

**Defining Moments Series), Scholastic, Xlibris, the entirety of the exhibit containing Choice Outstanding Academic Titles, and a lot of attention to children's books.**

This year's booth representatives were Chris Malinowski and Seth Dellon. The 2016 Public Library Association Conference will take place in Denver, CO.