



# VLA News

## May 2015

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## President's Letter

*by Toni Josey*

When I was a graduate student, I was super annoyed when one of my classes was cancelled due to low enrollment. It wasn't that I had to choose another class, I was annoyed that the program didn't make an exception for the course: library services for special users, addressing the needs of patrons with mental illness, physical disabilities, etc. Of all the courses that should always run, no matter the enrollment, I thought this would be the one that could ignore an enrollment requirement and accept the financial loss. Just because only a handful of students showed interest, the program denied these future professionals the skills to better serve our patrons. (Clearly, I'm still disappointed).

That's why I'm incredibly excited about one of the VLA's newest committees, created a few years ago and now with new leadership. The Inclusion Committee is charged with bringing awareness and resources to Vermont libraries about the diverse populations in our state. By taking a broad understanding of diversity, the Inclusion Committee will help Vermont libraries provide better services to racial and ethnic minorities, refugee communities, LGBTQI communities, poor and homeless populations, patrons with mental illness, patrons in or exiting the justice system, veterans, the elderly, and other under-served populations throughout the state.

I recently sat in on the newly revitalized committee's first meeting. The small core of enthusiastic members, led by Amanda Perry (Winooski), were immediately inspired by each other's reasons for joining the committee. To the above list of diverse populations, one member added migrant workers, causing another member to realize that her library could better serve the migrant workers in its community. Vermont's libraries, though widespread, share similar types of patrons; the Inclusion Committee will be a fantastic bridge between libraries to foster communication, collaboration, and resource sharing to better serve Vermont's diverse populations. I envision the Inclusion Committee having among the largest number of members of a VLA committee and a strong, statewide reach. And it needs many members from across the state to reach its potential. Every library in Vermont will benefit from the work of the Inclusion Committee and I am sure that every library has something to contribute, whether it's advice from successful outreach and programming or simply questions to spark discussion.

Contact Amanda Perry, [aperry@winooski.vt.org](mailto:aperry@winooski.vt.org), to join the committee's contact list. Tell her what diverse populations you serve. What would you hope to provide to your patrons?

Speaking of new leadership in the VLA, it's nearly election time. We'll elect our new officers and representatives at the annual business meeting, held at the Vermont Library Conference, May 19 at 2:00. Visit the Nominations and Elections Committee's website [www.vermontlibraries.org/elections/2015candidates/](http://www.vermontlibraries.org/elections/2015candidates/) for information about leadership positions. The committee coordinates but a handful of the many leadership roles: section leaders are elected by their sections' members and committee chairs are appointed from their respective memberships. (If you're interested in those leadership roles, speak with the current presidents and chairs.)

## Back Issues

Did you miss previous issues of the *VLA News*? Don't despair! You can read them on the VLA website!

[VLA News back issues](#)

## Substitute Pool

Check out what's happening with the [Vermont Library Substitute Pool!](#)

Employers: 22  
Substitutes: 43

Availability in pool by county:

Addison: 17  
Bennington: 2  
Caledonia: 6  
Chittenden: 25  
Essex: 3  
Franklin: 14  
Grand Isle: 7  
Lamoille: 12  
Orange: 7  
Orleans: 4  
Rutland: 5  
Washington: 19  
Windham: 6  
Windsor: 7

Check out the [VLA Job Postings](#)

## Meet Your Leaders

VLA is here to help you. The people who make up the Executive Board, Section & Committee leaders and Representatives volunteer their time for VLA because they feel that it is important to be involved in an organization that benefits their fellow Vermont librarians and their profession as a whole. Below is a list of your VLA Leaders

We're recruiting early for the 2016-2018 VLA Treasurer. Jimmy Allen (UVM) is doing a fantastic job of streamlining our financial reporting and ensuring smoother transitions during leadership changes. In the coming year, we seek a successor who will shadow Jimmy to better understand the intricacies of the position. Are you the treasurer of your Board of Trustees? Are you responsible for the budgets and finances at your library? Consider this leadership opportunity and contact Jimmy Allen, [vermontlibrariestreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:vermontlibrariestreasurer@gmail.com), to learn more. The term begins in May 2016.

As the presidential year of my term draws to a close, I look forward to the projects I have in mind for my past-presidential year. I plan to focus on the VLA's documentation in the form of a handbook as well as working with each committee and section to build a robust calendar of events that will guide our activities and assist with the transition in leadership by serving as an accessible form of institutional memory. By documenting our organization's activities and each section and committee's unique organizational calendar, we'll also make it easier for potential members and leaders to see what we're all about.

I'll see you at the Vermont Library Conference!

Connect With Us:

Website: [www.vermontlibraries.org](http://www.vermontlibraries.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/VTLibraryAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/VTLibraryAssociation)

Twitter: [twitter.com/@VLALib](https://twitter.com/VLALib)

Instagram: [instagram.com/vlalib](https://www.instagram.com/vlalib)

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/groups/Vermont-Library-Association-5172256](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/Vermont-Library-Association-5172256)

Toni Josey  
VLA President  
[vermontlibrariespresident@gmail.com](mailto:vermontlibrariespresident@gmail.com)  
[@ToniJosey](https://www.instagram.com/ToniJosey)

## Vice President's Letter

by *Virgil Fuller*

It's hard to believe that the Vermont Library Conference is less than a month away; I am looking forward to seeing you all there! By working with Amber Billey, Toni Josey and the rest of the VLA board since last May, I have learned a lot and am looking forward to new challenges and accomplishments as your VLA President. It should be a great year as we continue to work together to strengthen Vermont's Libraries.

### Candidates for VLA leadership:

On behalf of the Nominations and Elections Committee and the VLA membership at large, I would like to thank the following folks for putting their names into nomination for VLA leadership:

**Executive Vice-President/President Elect:** Margaret Woodruff, Director, Charlotte Library

**Secretary:** Kelly L. Tomaseski, Director, Burnham Memorial Library

**ALA Councilor:** Amy Wisheart, Director, Hartland Public Library

**NELA Representative:** Karson Kiesinger, Reference and Adult Services Librarian, Bennington Free Library

Be sure to attend our annual business meeting at conference to vote! If you are unable to attend, please contact Sarah Costa at [sbjackman@gmail.com](mailto:sbjackman@gmail.com) to submit an absentee ballot by May 12. For more information about your VLA candidates, please refer to [www.vermontlibraries.org/elections/2015candidates/](http://www.vermontlibraries.org/elections/2015candidates/)

(for more contact information, see the [VLA Leadership Directory](#). Let them know if you would like to be involved in VLA, too!

### **Executive Board**

**President:**

[Toni Josey](#)

**Vice**

**President/President Elect:**

[Virgil Fuller](#)

**Past President:**

[Amber Billey](#)

**Secretary:**

[Sarah Costa](#)

**Treasurer:**

[James Allen](#)

### **Section**

#### **Representatives**

#### **College & Special Libraries Section**

**President:**

[Prudence Doherty](#)

Organizes workshops and assists college and special librarians.

#### **Public Libraries**

**Section President:**

[Amy Wisehart](#)

Organizes workshops and assists public librarians.

#### **Technical Services**

**Section President:**

[Tom McMurdo](#)

Organizes workshops & assists technical services librarians.

#### **Trustees**

**President:**

[Howard Burrows](#)

Organizes workshops and assists library trustees.

#### **Youth Librarians**

**President:**

Respectfully submitted,

Virgil Fuller

VLA Vice President

[vermontlibrariesvicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:vermontlibrariesvicepresident@gmail.com)

Library Director, [Chelsea Public Library](#)

[vermontlibrariesvicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:vermontlibrariesvicepresident@gmail.com)

[802-685-2188](tel:802-685-2188)

## Come to the Conference! "Reveal your Superpower!"

The 2015 Vermont Library Association annual conference is just around the corner! Come learn, network and rejuvenate with your colleagues. Choose one or one and a half days on Monday, May 18th and Tuesday May 19th. Tuesday's keynote is Scott Bonner, Director of the Ferguson, Missouri Public Library. The day includes four breakout sessions with many interesting choices for all types of library staff, and a reception at the end of the day.

For full information on workshop sessions and registration please visit the [VT Library Conference webpage](#).

During a half day pre-conference on Monday, Tammy Boudah from the Howard Center will be discussing Tools for Safe and Confident Patron Interactions. This will take place from 2-5 pm at the Fletcher Free Library.

Also at the Fletcher Free Library, Library Libations from 6:30-8:30 pm on Monday, May 18th, open to all conference attendees.

## Passport to Vermont Libraries Report

*by Virgil Fuller*

As of this writing there are 59 libraries signed up, 54 public libraries and 5 academic libraries. To those libraries who have signed up, thank you! To those who have not, we would love your participation in this program. To sign your library up, please go to [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1cWU7e0\\_S3XxDdlqALbsAsyLSUG9DOFFwtb4xxlExbsU/vieworm](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1cWU7e0_S3XxDdlqALbsAsyLSUG9DOFFwtb4xxlExbsU/vieworm). The passport committee has been busy recently getting things ready to go. We now have our very own facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/vermontpassport> (be sure to "like" our page!) as well as a page on the VLA website: <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/passport> (in progress) for those looking for more information.

We will have a table at this year's conference during both the poster session and during registration for those wishing to get an official Passport to Vermont Libraries poster, passports for their patrons, and we would be happy to answer any questions during those times. Look for me, Joy Worland, Jessamyn West, Amanda Perry or Nancy Tusinski. Not going to be at conference? The committee can hand deliver those items to libraries that are close to them. Just email one of us to let us know!

Thanks, the VLA Passport to Vermont Libraries Committee:

Virgil Fuller: [vermontlibrariesvicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:vermontlibrariesvicepresident@gmail.com)

Amanda Perry: [aperry@winooski.vt.org](mailto:aperry@winooski.vt.org)

Nancy Tusinski: [left-handed-librarian@gmail.com](mailto:left-handed-librarian@gmail.com)

Jessamyn West: [jessamyn@gmail.org](mailto:jessamyn@gmail.org)

Joy Worland: [jworland@kelloggshubbard.org](mailto:jworland@kelloggshubbard.org)

[Amy McMullen](#)

Organizes workshops and assists youth librarians.

### **Committees**

#### **Archivist:**

[Paul Carnahan](#)

#### **Awards Chair:**

[Amy Grasmick](#)

#### **VT Dept. of Libraries Representative to the Board:**

[Tom McMurdo](#)

#### **Government**

##### **Relations Chair:**

[Selene Colburn](#)

Assists libraries with connections to legislators.

##### **Inclusion Chair:**

[Amanda Perry](#)

Supports libraries in providing better service to diverse populations

##### **Intellectual**

##### **Freedom Chair:**

[Ray Brior](#)

Assists librarians with challenges to library materials and issues related to patron privacy.

##### **Membership & Outreach Chair:**

[Helen Linda](#)

Maintains membership roster.

##### **Personnel Chair:**

[Shara McCaffery](#)

Assists librarians with questions related to personnel issues.

##### **Vermont Library Conference Chair:**

[Jessica Summer](#)

##### **VLA News Editors:**

[Janet Clapp](#)

## Public Libraries Section

*by Amy Wisehart*

Around 30 public librarians gathered at Midstate on Monday, April 13th for our Public Libraries Section workshop, "Reference Services Redefined." Monica Kuryla from the Fayetteville (NY) Free Library was our keynote speaker, and she shared some of the innovative ways her library is providing reference and readers' advisory services.

Kevin Unrath, Director of the Ilsley Public Library and current Public Libraries Section Vice President, will become the section president after the VLA conference in May. We are still seeking a candidate for section vice president who will serve for two years (becoming section president in 2016). Primary duties are serving on the VLA conference committee, helping to organize a spring section workshop, and serving on the VLA board. Contact Kevin at [Kevin.unrath@ilsleypubliclibrary.org](mailto:Kevin.unrath@ilsleypubliclibrary.org) if you're interested or would like more information.

We hope you will join us for our section meeting during the VLA conference at 12:30pm on May 19th!

Amy Wisehart  
VLA Public Libraries Section President  
Director, [Hartland Pubic Library](#)  
[director@hartlandlibraryvt.org](mailto:director@hartlandlibraryvt.org)  
[802-436-2473](tel:802-436-2473)

## Technical Services Section

*by Tom McMurdo*

There are a couple of exciting updates for technical services-related events coming up in the next couple of months! First, the very popular book repair workshop will make its return to the Vermont Library Conference this year at Champlain College. Many thanks to VLATSS member Helen Linda for making this happen!

Second, another VLATSS member, Amber Billey, is arranging a NACO certification training in Vermont for late spring or early summer. NACO is the Name Authority Cooperative Program, which is part of the Library of Congress Program for Cooperative Cataloging. Acronyms aside, this training offers participants the chance to get certified with just one day of instruction. It will be a real boon to catalogers in Vermont. If you are interested in participating, please contact me.

Both Helen and Amber gave presentations at the Annual New England Technical Services Librarians (NETSL) conference on April 10. The conference was held at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA, and featured an array of interesting talks and topics. Four of your Vermont colleagues presented at the conference and several more attended.

Amber Billey spoke about BIBFRAME, which is truly the next step in cataloging. This Library of Congress sponsored effort aims to see the realization of linked data for bibliographic description. BIBFRAME has not hit ground level, yet, but promises to be an interesting step in the evolution of cataloging.

Helen Linda told us "How to Effectively Communicate with Techies." Helen gave practical advice about how to talk to your IT person or department. She demonstrated tools and techniques for meeting your IT people halfway.

Rachel Gravel gave a lightning talk about her experience with Koha at Marlboro College, entitled, "Improving Bibliographic Record Display in an Open-Source ILS." Rachel saw excellent genre

[Amber Billey](#)

**Webmasters:**

[Helen Linda](#)  
[Jessamyn West](#)

**Representatives**

**ALA Councilor:**

[Charlotte Gerstein](#)  
Represents Vermont  
in the national  
organization.

**NELA**

**Representative:**

[Karson Kiesinger](#)  
Represents Vermont  
in the New England  
Library Assoc.

terms, contributors, and related works listed in cataloging records that just weren't displaying in the OPAC. She told us about the process of getting that information out there.

Tom McMurdo (yours truly) co-presented a talk with Caitlyn Lam of Yale University entitled, "Digitization: What you Need to Know about Outsourcing." This discussion focused on practical steps one can take to make sure that you get the most out of your relationship with a digitization vendor and provided real world examples.

There were numerous other excellent presentations and talks at the conference. Check out the NETSL conference webpages to see more: <https://netsl.wordpress.com/2015con/>. Slides from all of the talks will be available soon. If you have questions about talks that Vermonters gave, I am sure that each of us would be happy to respond. It was great to see a larger group of Vermonters at this year's conference and hope to see the trend continue in subsequent years!

Tom McMurdo  
VLA Technical Services Section Chair  
Collections and Digital Initiatives Librarian  
[VTLIB](#)  
[thomas.mcmurdo@state.vt.us](mailto:thomas.mcmurdo@state.vt.us)  
[802-828-6953](tel:802-828-6953)

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## Trustees Section

*by Howard Burrows*

Friends and Foundations, this year please send a Friends representative with your trustees to the May 19 Vermont Library Conference. The VLA Trustee Section will meet just after lunch to discuss our response to the large cuts in the state library budget. I'd like to explore expanding the group, as has been done at the national level within ALA. In 2009 the ALA Trustees Division joined with friends, foundations, and advocates to form a combined ALA United for Libraries Division.

But such a united group may not be appropriate for VLA. Trustees and advocates can lobby; friends and library volunteers play a very different role. In 2013 a state inventory reported on 41 Vermont friends groups. Clearly, that would be sufficient to justify their own VLA Section to represent them. Many things could become more efficient if we shared efforts across regions within the state. Combined groups can engage in larger fund raising activities, such as regional speakers, artistic events, maker fairs, or concerts. Drawing nationally recognized performers can greatly increase the yield on fund raising efforts. In addition, with combined activities larger libraries can help the smaller libraries to form critical mass in their fund raising.

There are 183 public libraries in Vermont, more per capita than any other state; 31 of these libraries serve communities with populations of more than 5000. Let's act to grow VLA with a larger number of personal memberships among both friends and trustees. The personal membership category seems to be a better choice than the institutional membership that most boards currently use, as individuals can vote and hold office. For about the same price as one institutional membership, boards and trustees can send three individual members.

Let me know what other issues you would like to see us address; let me know if you would prefer to expand our section to become VLA United, or, as I do, if you would prefer to form a new, separate friends VLA section. So we'll know what size room to reserve, I'd love to hear from anyone if you expect to come to the Vermont Library Conference on May 19. (Or, if not, let me know why not?) Thank you.

Howard Burrows  
VLA Trustees Section President  
[ghburrows@comcast.net](mailto:ghburrows@comcast.net)  
[603-630-0012](tel:603-630-0012)

# Membership Committee

*by Helen Linda*

Membership Has Joined the 21st Century!

That's right, after years of promising, we finally moved membership sign-up and payment online! If you are reading this it means you have already renewed for 2015 (THANK YOU!) but please feel free to share our membership page with anyone you think might be interested or need a reminder. Members receive a significant discount on registration for the conference coming up on May 19th, and that's just one reason to join!

<http://www.vermontlibraries.org/membership/>

As always, if you have any questions about VLA Membership, please don't hesitate to ask.

Helen Linda  
VLA Membership & Outreach Chair  
Systems & Technical Services Librarian, [Goddard College](#)  
[vermontlibrariesmembers@gmail.com](mailto:vermontlibrariesmembers@gmail.com)

# New England Library Association

*by Karson Kiesinger*

Cape or No Cape? You Decide at the Vermont Library Conference!

If the New England Library Association had superpowers what would they be? Dress the NELA Superhero on display by writing your questions, comments, and requests on various hero garb and build a better NELA! The NELA display will be next to VLA's display during the Poster Session on Tuesday, May 19. See you there!

Karson Kiesinger  
VLA New England Library Association Representative  
Reference and Adult Services Librarian  
[Bennington Free Library](#)  
[kkiesinger@nelib.org](mailto:kkiesinger@nelib.org)  
[802-442-9051](tel:802-442-9051)

# American Library Association

*by Charlotte Gerstein*

Choose Privacy Week May 1-7  
Theme: "Who's Reading the Reader?"

During Choose Privacy Week, ALA "invites librarians and library users to engage in a conversation about protecting and defending reader privacy rights and how to acquire the knowledge, skills and tools necessary to address the widespread surveillance and data mining that collects information about users' communications, reading and Web surfing habits."

Resources: <https://chooseprivacyweek.org>  
Privacy toolkit: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/privacyconfidentiality/toolkitsprivacy/privacy>  
Privacy: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of  
Rights: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/privacy>

ALA's State of America's Libraries Report 2015 detailing library trends was made available during

National Library Week (April 12-18). From the press release: "Academic, public and school libraries are experiencing a shift in how they are perceived by their communities and society. No longer just places for books, libraries of all types are viewed as anchors, centers for academic life and research and cherished spaces."

Read the report here:

<http://www.ala.org/news/state-americas-libraries-report-2015>

Preservation Week was April 27-May 2. See resources on preservation of collections of all kinds

<http://www.ala.org/alcts/preservationweek>

Money Smart Week was April 18-25. See resources for financial literacy programming

<http://www.ala.org/offices/money-smart-week>

Libraries Transforming Communities is "an ALA initiative that seeks to strengthen libraries' roles as core community leaders and change-agents. ALA has released a free online course designed to help libraries strengthen their role as core community leaders and work with residents to bring about positive change. Led by educators from the Harwood Institute, the webinars explain, step by step, how to use the 'turning outward' approach."

Resources: <http://www.ala.org/transforminglibraries/libraries-transforming-communities/resources-for-library-professionals>

Annual Conference at the end of June will be my last as your ALA Councilor. It has been a privilege to represent Vermont on ALA Council. I hope I have conveyed to you these last three years the activities of ALA and the resources it offers. You should know that truly dedicated ALA leaders and ALA staff are working hard to provide resources for us to do our jobs better, to advocate for libraries and our communities' needs, and to guide our profession into the future. Of course the association would be stronger with more participation. It would be great to see more at-large councilors from Vermont. Consider running next spring!

Charlotte Gerstein

VLA Councilor to ALA

Reference & Instruction Librarian, [Castleton State College](http://www.castletonstate.edu)

[charlotte.gerstein@castleton.edu](mailto:charlotte.gerstein@castleton.edu)

[802-468-6409](tel:802-468-6409)

## Awards Committee

*by Amy Grasmick*

The Vermont Library Conference is just around the corner. What a great opportunity to recognize the wonderful qualities of our association members! All of you choose to participate in the Vermont library community. Your ideas, your energy, and your collegiality contribute to our professional values of equal access to information for everyone, as embodied in the Library Bill of Rights. I am so grateful to you!

The conference also provides the opportunity to applaud notable individuals in our VLA community – recent and imminent retirees, recent and imminent MLS grads, and VLA's annual award winners for Trustee of the Year, the Green Mountain Library Award, and the Sarah C. Hagar Award. Help honor your colleagues on May 19th at Ferguson (MO) Municipal Public Library Director Scott Bonner's keynote address!

Amy C. Grasmick

VLA Awards Committee Chair

Director, [Kimball Public Library](http://www.kimballpubliclibrary.org), Randolph [Amy@KimballLibrary.org](mailto:Amy@KimballLibrary.org)

[802-728-5073](tel:802-728-5073)

# Career Development

*by Toni Josey*

VLA is excited to note that Cindy Weber (Stowe Free Library) has been selected by ALA as one of two Career Development Facilitator (CDF) participants out of a cohort of 22 to present at ALA President Courtney Young's program at the upcoming ALA 2015 Annual Conference in San Francisco on Sunday, June 28, 1:00 – 2:00pm. From the announcement: "The program will give conference attendees an opportunity to see the innovative ways (participants) have developed to provide services and resources to assist job seekers."

Congratulations, Cindy! To learn more about assisting your patrons with career assistance, join VLA's Council on Career Development by contacting Cindy at [cweber@stowelibrary.org](mailto:cweber@stowelibrary.org) or (802) [253-6145](tel:253-6145).

## Co-Editor's Letters

*by Debbie Landauer*

After two years on the job, I will be stepping down as co-editor of the *VLA News*. My very capable colleague, Janet Clapp, will be joined starting with the August 2015 issue by Amber Billey as co-editor. It's been great working with Janet and I hope to be a part of the VLA in another capacity in the future!

*by Janet Clapp*

A huge thank you to Debbie for all of her hours and effort on the newsletter. She's been a great partner in this endeavor for the last couple of years!

## Tip of the Month

*by Debbie Landauer*

Need a new quote about libraries for your email signature line, your Facebook page, blog, website, or sign at the entrance to your library? Here is a collection for you - some profound, some silly, one or two even a little naughty!

Enjoy.

Without libraries what have we? We have no past and no future.  
–Ray Bradbury

The truth is libraries are raucous clubhouses for free speech, controversy and community.  
–Paula Poundstone

In the nonstop tsunami of global information, librarians provide us with floaties and teach us to swim.  
–Linton Weeks

A library is the delivery room for the birth of ideas, a place where history comes to life.  
–Norman Cousins

If truth is beauty, how come no one has their hair done in the library?  
–Lily Tomlin

Librarians are almost always very helpful and often almost absurdly knowledgeable. Their skills



are probably very underestimated and largely underemployed.  
–Charles Medawar

Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest.  
–Lady Bird Johnson

My two favourite things in life are libraries and bicycles. They both move people forward without wasting anything.  
–Peter Golkin

A library is a place where you can lose your innocence without losing your virginity.  
–Germaine Greer

To ask why we need libraries at all, when there is so much information available elsewhere, is about as sensible as asking if roadmaps are necessary now that there are so very many roads.  
–Jon Bing

If we can put a man on the moon and sequence the human genome, we should be able to devise something close to a universal digital public library.  
–Peter Singer

Librarians are the secret masters of the world. They control information. Don't ever piss one off.  
–Spider Robinson

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### Visit Us on the Web!

<http://www.vermontlibraries.org>

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