

MEETING OF THE LIBRARY COMMISSION
Minutes

DATE: Thursday, November 20, 2019

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chair Don McCormick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

| LASTNAME | FIRSTNAME | TITLE | REPRESENTING | PRESENT | ABSENT | EXCLUDED |
|----------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------|--------|----------|
| | | VACANT | CCC District 1 | | | |
| Bracken | Katherine | Library Commissioner | City of Pleasant Hill | X | | |
| Chong | Adriana | Library Commissioner | Town of Danville | x | | |
| Chong | William | Library Commissioner | District II | x | | |
| DaoJensen | Dr. Thuy | Library Commissioner | City of Brentwood | x | | |
| Dozier | Julia | Library Commissioner | City of Martinez | | | x |
| Faye | Vivian | Library Commissioner | City of Brentwood (Alternate) | x | | |
| Ferree | Jacalyn | Library Commissioner | City of Clayton | x | | |
| Fitzpatrick | Arnold | Library Commissioner | City of Oakley (Alternate) | | | x |
| Fischer | Michael | Library Commissioner | City of El Cerrito | x | | |
| Ford | James | Library Commissioner | City of Pleasant Hill (Alt) | | | x |
| Gilcrest | Kathy | Library Commissioner | City of San Ramon | x | | |
| Harlan-Ogbeidi | Dr. Charlene | Library Commissioner | City of San Pablo (Alternate) | | x | |
| Hoisington | Mary Ann | Library Commissioner | City of Lafayette | x | | |
| Huh | Dr. John M. | Library Commissioner | City of Antioch | x | | |
| Kelly | Juan | Library Commissioner | City of Orinda | x | | |
| Knoll | Carolyn | Library Commissioner | District II (Alternate) | x | | |
| Koops | J. Barry | Library Commissioner | City of El Cerrito (Alternate) | x | | |
| LaLanne | Yvonne | Library Commissioner | City of Walnut Creek | x | | |
| LeFrak-Bellici | Zelda | Library Commissioner | City of Pittsburg | | x | |
| Ma | Shudong | Library Commissioner | City of San Ramon (Alt) | x | | |
| Mackey | Lynn | Library Commissioner | Office of Education | | | x |
| Maher | Janette | Library Commissioner | Town of Moraga (Alternate) | | | x |
| McCormick | Don | Library Commissioner | CCC District 3 | x | | |
| Medrano | Antonio | Library Commissioner | City of San Pablo | x | | |
| Merchant | Kathy | Library Commissioner | City of Orinda (Alternate) | x | | |
| Molinelli | Jasun | Library Commissioner | City of Walnut Creek (Alt) | x | | |
| Pena-Mendrek | Yolanda | Library Commissioner | City of Oakley | | | x |
| Pursley | George | Library Commissioner | City of Pinole | x | | |
| Robison | Rich | Library Commissioner | CCCCD | | x | |
| Smith | Alan B. | Library Commissioner | CCC District 4 | x | | |
| Smith | Tommy | Library Commissioner | City of Concord | x | | |
| Valdez | Margie | Library Commissioner | Central Labor Council | x | | |
| Ward-Jackson | Dr. Evangelia | Library Commissioner | City of Hercules | | | x |
| Wernet | Patty | Library Commissioner | Town of Moraga | | | x |
| Wilson | Peter | Library Commissioner | CCC District 5 | x | | |

Total Commission positions: 24
 Commission positions filled: 23
 Commission positions vacant: 1
 Commission quorum: 13

With eighteen commissioners present, a quorum was established.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair requested everyone introduce themselves and explained to any members of the public that this was not required. No visiting audience members came forward.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public came forward to comment.

4. ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Gilcrest: Met today with the president of the SR Library Foundation and ended up volunteering to build links to local businesses in San Ramon. With the number of businesses in Bishop Ranch alone, this will keep her quite busy.

Commissioner A. Smith: There was an article in the paper and on the news last week that two thirds of U.S. citizens don't know what news sources they can trust. Alan mentioned the number of factual errors he has run into in printed media. The author of a new biography of Walter Cronkite (Douglas Brinkley), a noted historian, has quite a few errors in this latest book. No wonder people are confused!

Commissioner Hoisington: Maryann commented that the articles Brooke Converse writes for the local newspaper are wonderful. She sees them monthly and they are so well written and informative she just wanted to let everyone know. The Lafayette Library and Learning Center (LLLC) just celebrated their 10th anniversary with a very nice affair. The bookshop there is still sending books to all sorts of places; hospital waiting rooms, the Salvation Army, College Prep in Oakland and assorted others. They are grateful for the donations of such nice books that they are able to share. Next she passed around a brochure about the Berkeley OLLI program. The introductory meeting where you are able to meet the instructors is coming up on January 9th. She also brought a flyer for Jazz at the San Ramon Library that she was sent and passed that around the table as well.

Commissioner Medrano: Commissioner Medrano has written a number of articles about Christopher Columbus (he's of Native American descent) that he will bring to a future meeting to share.

Commissioner DaoJensen: The Brentwood Library Foundation received a \$3,072 donation from the Art Guild of The Delta. Also, the Citrus County (Florida) Library Commission just voted down the renewal of their subscription to the New York Times. The commissioner quoted in the article cited the reason that the NYT is fake news. A quick Google search will bring up the article for anyone who would like to read it.

Commissioner Ferree: The Clayton Library will be celebrating its 25th anniversary on March 7, 2020. Also the Friends there have purchased 60 new chairs for the library, replacing many old ones including some of the originals!

Commissioner Faye: Attended a fantastic John Muir Log presentation at the Brentwood Library that had over 90 attendees.

Commissioner Huh: Brought 26 copies of the book San Francisco Korean-American History to share with each of the County's libraries.

Commissioner A. Chong: Had the opportunity to speak at a town hall meeting at the Danville Library about the MacMillan ebook embargo. The town Hall meeting was well attended so the message was received by quite a few people as a result. She was invited to return in January. Also, \$4,500 was raised at the recent book sale.

Commissioner W. Chong: Shared the press release about new library cards with the Superintendent of Schools, who mentioned passing it along to the district teachers.

Commissioner Bracken: Since the last commission meeting the Pleasant Hill Friends have held three book sales.

Commissioner Pursley: The Pinole Library just held their semi-annual book sale. People came from as far away as Fresno because of the quality of the books at previous sales. George was also able to have a conversation with a member of the city council about the roof of the library. The council member is in favor of owning the library for mixed use/income generation.

Commissioner Kelly: Michael Beller is now the senior Community Library Manager at the Orinda Library. Also the city is still recovering from the Halloween shooting that took place at a short-term rental property in Orinda.

Commissioner Lalanne: Both of the Walnut Creek libraries had their community service days in October. Both were well attended with many folks cleaning and straightening both indoors and out.

Commissioner Valdez: Margie began by explaining to the rest of the commissioners that she is a commission member because the Central Labor Council is the union of the unions. All of the unions that operate in Contra Costa County are members of Central Labor. They all work together and support one another. Central Labor in Contra Costa also works with Alameda Central Labor to coordinate their efforts. One such effort is a ballot measure coming next November that's called Children and Families First. This measure seeks to take on Prop 13 for businesses (leaving homes and small businesses untouched). This will level the playing field for businesses that are new in California and have to pay the higher tax rates and therefore find themselves at a competitive disadvantage. Companies that have been here a while will be the ones to fight it.

Commissioner Fischer: Change.org has a survey re: the MacMillan e-book embargo that anyone can participate in. Earlier this week BART presented plans to the city council and the public for their vision for the Plaza BART station there. Notable among those plans was mention of 21,000 square feet for a library in one of the buildings. This will be a game changer for the city of El Cerrito. Michael then recommended a book titled *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean. Finally, Michael mentioned that regarding the Citrus County/New York Times story, those county commissioners are reconsidering their position after the amount of backlash they have received as a result.

Commissioner Molinelli: Unfortunately had to miss the forum this year because of the previously mentioned Community Service Day. He participates annually at the Ygnacio Valley Library and they count on him and his pick-up truck to help out. As Yvonne mentioned it was well attended and the community really does turn out for the event.

Commissioner Knoll: The Orinda book sale and holiday bazaar are both happening this Saturday in Orinda. Michael Beller is doing a great job there, too. She feels bad for YVL but they do love him there in Orinda.

Chair McCormick: Attended the Urban Libraries Council annual meeting in Salt lake City with Melinda last month. The meeting was probably attended by the 50 to 100 largest library systems in the country and the big topic this year was AI (artificial intelligence). He appreciated the CEO's comment that libraries wouldn't make the same mistakes they did when the internet first came around. Next, the countywide foundation he's been working on is now working to secure seed money to get things off of the ground. The Supervisors are all on board, the business plan is in place pending a few updates and Peter and Kathy have been working with Don on vetting companies who might be potential donors. Commissioner Kelly has approached the group to volunteer his help in the effort and Don approached Commissioner Fischer and asked him to come on board also. Finally, while on a recent business trip, Don

received an email from the president of the Oakley Friends group asking if he'd like to attend a city council meeting with him. The topic of interest on the agenda was a proposal to spend \$25,000 to explore the possibility of turning an empty (since February) police station there into a new stand-alone library. The proposal was approved at the meeting. Don spoke with some folks from the city and this is a good opportunity for them as they don't have the sort of money it would require for new construction. It has a much better shot than the 2016 bond measure, which most admit was marketed poorly. The right people are involved in this and they're all saying the right things so right now things look good.

5. E-RESOURCES AND DEMONSTRATION

Virtual Librarian Susan Kantor-Horning began with a brief introduction of the e-resources available at the library, including a PowerPoint presentation about the Libby app (attached to these minutes). At this point Susan and several of the deputies assisted those commissioners who brought their smart phones/tablets to the meeting to load the Libby app onto those devices then helped them to get started using it. The meeting continued after about 20 minutes.

6. A.) WORKING COMMITTEE REPORTS/Legislative Working Committee

Commissioner A. Smith announced the state would have a \$7 billion budget surplus next year. Next, Alan shared that he had been reading an article recently about how to advocate for libraries. One thing mentioned in the article was the advice that instead of approaching legislators with facts and figures, go in and tell stories. He reminded everyone of a time when they would go to their annual Legislative Day meetings with former pupils of Project Second Chance and they would share their stories and you could hear a pin drop. Legislators won't remember the numbers you share but they DO remember stories. With 26 branches of the library in Contra Costa County, we've got 26 stories to tell. What he went on to propose is that the commissioners put together one or two of those stories each month, keeping them to one or two paragraphs and perhaps a photo, and send those stories out. He suggests sending them to the seven legislators that cover the districts where we have libraries, the Supervisors, David Twa, the State Librarian and the mayor of the town where the library being written about resides. He emphasized keeping the stories short so they would be easily remembered and not take up too much time to read. He then shared an example from Ernest Hemingway's work of an impactful story using only six words: "For sale: Baby shoes. Never worn." He proposed that as a first story perhaps the San Pablo Library, where students flock to the repurposed building with a mural/map of the entire city on one wall and attempt to find their home on the map of the city. He offered several other examples as well, then proposed the commission consider taking on the effort. He then offered the floor for discussion. One question asked was whether or not the legislators would even see these stories. Melinda offered that at a minimum, staffers would see them and a good many would get bumped up to the legislators, especially if they were short. Alan mentioned that sending them to the State Librarian was on his list because he hoped it might catch on and soon library commissions all over the state might begin to follow suit. Commissioner Faye asked about the possibility of getting school children involved. Commissioner T. Smith mentioned this idea could have a social media application as well. Don commended Alan for the idea, saying he was really onto something great. Melinda stated it was exactly the work of the commission and asked Alan to put some framework around the idea for the rest of the commissioners so they would have some guidelines for moving forward.

B.) WORKING COMMITTEE REPORTS/Work Plan and Annual Report Working Committee

Vice Chair Wilson explained to the commissioners that this would be their third and final opportunity to suggest changes to either the 2019 annual report or the 2020 work plan for the commission before it is submitted to the Board of Supervisors. The 2019 attendance report is also included for review. Peter reviewed the process the committee had been through to get to this point and described the changes that had been made from previous reports. He then opened the floor for comments on the Annual Report. There being none, Peter then made a motion to approve the 2019 Annual Report as printed in the meeting packet. Commissioner A. Smith seconded the motion. ***The approval to submit the report as written to the Board of Supervisors was approved by the consensus of the commission.***

Next, Peter opened the floor for comments on the 2020 work plan. Commissioner Fischer suggested that the phrase "Library issues generally" be added to the bullet that mentions keeping the elected officials who made the commission appointments informed. County Librarian Cervantes observed that in the work plan, libraries are referred to as both branches and community libraries and suggested the work plan always use community libraries when describing them for the sake of consistency. Commissioner Faye inquired about using "Public Libraries" instead and County Librarian Cervantes shared that community libraries was the preference of the Board of Supervisors when the system was initially set up. Commissioner Hoisington once again mentioned her thought that the fourth bullet of Goal One be moved ahead of the first bullet, explaining that it made more sense to her that the commission would first work with the branch libraries on sustainable funding before looking for funding elsewhere. There being no further comments, Peter then made a motion to submit the 2020 Work Plan to the Board of Supervisors with the changes suggested by the group. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fischer. ***The approval to submit the work plan with changes to the Board of Supervisors was approved by the consensus of the commission.***

Peter then thanked the other members of the committee, Commissioner T. Smith and Commissioner Kelly for their efforts in producing the reports by year's end.

C.) WORKING COMMITTEE REPORTS/Nominating Committee

Commissioner Valdez, chair of the nominating committee, began by walking the commission through the process of the committee. The committee met twice, first on October 15th via conference call, then again tonight prior to the full meeting. During the conference call, the committee members (Commissioners Valdez, A. Smith and Pursley) discussed their choices for chair and vice-chair, considering things such as attendance, participation level, affiliation (city or county appointee) and a number of other factors when putting together their ranked list of choices. Walter was on the call as well, documenting the actions taken by the group and their ranked list of candidates for the positions. This list was then given to County Librarian Cervantes so that she could approach those proposed candidates to determine their interest in serving as officers of the commission. The primary candidates for each position agreed to accept the nomination to serve, which Melinda confirmed with the committee at their second meeting earlier this evening. Commissioner Valdez agreed to introduce the following recommended slate of candidates at the appropriate time during the full meeting:

2020 Commission Chair: Don McCormick, District Three

2020 Commission Vice-Chair: Michael Fischer, City of El Cerrito

OTHER BUSINESS

7. **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF 2020 LIBRARY COMMISSION OFFICERS**

Because Chair Don McCormick was being considered for another term as chair, Vice Chair Wilson agreed to manage this item on the agenda. Commissioner Valdez began by introducing the slate (above) of candidates that the nominating committee wanted to put forth to the full commission. Next, Vice Chair Wilson suggested taking the nominations one at a time, then asked if there were any additional nominations for the position of Vice Chair for 2020. There being none, **the commissioners agreed by acclamation that the 2020 Vice Chair of the Library Commission would be Michael Fischer (City of El Cerrito).**

Next, Vice Chair Wilson asked if there were any additional nominations for the position of Commission Chair for 2020. There being none, **the commissioners agreed by acclamation that the 2020 Chair of the Library Commission would be Don McCormick (District Three).**

Finally, a round of applause was given for Vice Chair Peter Wilson for his two years of service as the Vice Chair of the commission.

8. **SET COMMISSION MEETING DATES/LOCATIONS FOR 2020**

There being no disagreements with the schedule as put forth in the meeting packet, the following schedule of commission meetings and locations for 2020 was adopted by the consensus of the commission:

Thursday, January 16, 2020.....Concord Library
Thursday, March 19, 2020.....Concord Library
Thursday, May 21, 2020.....Concord Library
Wednesday, July 15, 2020.....El Sobrante Library
Thursday, September 17, 2020.....Concord Library
Thursday, November 19, 2020.....Concord Library

9. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Hoisington made a motion to accept the Minutes of the September 19, 2019 Commission Meeting as written. Commissioner A. Smith seconded the motion. ***By consensus of the commission, the minutes of the September 19, 2019 Library Commission Meeting were approved as submitted.***

10. **COUNTY LIBRARIAN REPORT**

Contributions: Melinda began by passing around an addendum to her report published in the packet. It shows the direct contributions to the various libraries as requested by the commission. The figure for the

year is nearly \$2.2 million, with the Lafayette being the swing contributor to the total. She mentioned that some cities pay for extra hours and there are various other contributions made so the comparison isn't quite apples to apples as you look down the list. However, the total is a significant sum and amounts to a lot of work by the members of the affiliated friends and foundations groups.

MacMillan Embargo: Next Melinda reminded everyone of the discussion at the previous meeting about the ebook embargo by MacMillan Publishing. Since that meeting the library has been deciding on the most appropriate response to this embargo. After a number of meetings with the library managers and senior management, the verdict seems to be landing on suspending all business with MacMillan as the means to send a clear message. She will be running this by David Twa and of course presenting something to the Supervisors but that is the direction she and quite a number of library directors are favoring. This was not on the agenda as an action item but she would like to consider bringing this item back on the agenda in January to discuss the merits and address any concerns in order to secure the support of the commission.

New Libraries: Melinda mentioned she was glad that the possibility of the Oakley Library was mentioned earlier in the meeting. The building being considered is actually an old sheriff's substation and now sits vacant. It can take as much as ten years or more to start from scratch to fund and build a new library and perhaps this could be a way to shorten that process a bit. Melinda went on to mention that another community is considering a library. Not a city but the incorporated part of the county that is Bay Point. Their current library also resides at a school, the Riverview Middle School, which is part of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District. The community has grown to over 31,000 residents and they are being served by a 1500 square foot library, eighteen hours per week. This one falls on us, as this is in one of the unincorporated parts of the county. The developer is proposing building low cost housing on the property, which will also have some county services available as well. Recent discussion with the builder/architect were held to talk about what a library on the property might look like. This project is moving on a fast track so everyone is pretty excited. And, in case you haven't heard, there is a new library opening this Saturday in El Sobrante. At 10:30am the refurbished library reopens after an eighteen month rehab after the fire that happened there. She invited the commissioners to attend and advised them there is almost no parking so plan accordingly.


New Website: Next Melinda mentioned that the new website was in its preview period. She then gave the floor over to Deputy County Librarian Alison McKee. Alison explained that the preview just means that both the old and new websites are active and that the go-live date is set for December 16th. On that day the old website will be retired and no longer available to the public. Brooke Converse had sent out an email to 229,000 patrons giving them these details (the commissioners had received theirs a week earlier to give them advanced notice and the opportunity to access the site prior to the wider release). 127,000 of those recipients opened the email the first week and the library has already received hundreds of comments. Alison mentioned how proud she is of the team that has been working on this effort. They are far ahead of where she thought they'd be during this preview phase. There are still a few minor things to finish in some modules and a few other loose ends to clean up but the site looks great and works very well. Melinda then read a few of the comments from the public, all of which were favorable and were enthusiastic about the clean look and ease of use of the new offering. Next Walter recommended to the commissioners that they use the preview time to go onto the new site and explore the new site, specifically the Commission page, so that when the next meeting in January rolls around they will all know where to find the packet and next meeting information. Don congratulated Alison and her team for the monumental effort they put forth to make this happen and bring it in on time.

11. AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE TOPICS

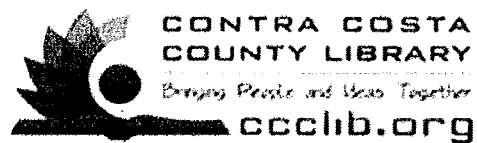
An update on the new website was suggested and Nancy Kreiser will present an update on the library's participation in the census. Peter suggested a follow up on the in-library forums like the one Commissioner Chong did in Danville. Commissioners were invited to send any additional suggestions to Walter at Library Administration.

12. ADJOURNMENT TO THE January 16, 2020 LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING AT THE CONCORD LIBRARY.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

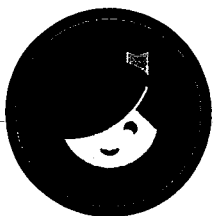


Submitted by Walter Beveridge
Executive Secretary, Contra Costa County Library



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The one-tap reading app

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New and existing users of OverDrive.

Users who enjoy eBooks and eAudiobooks

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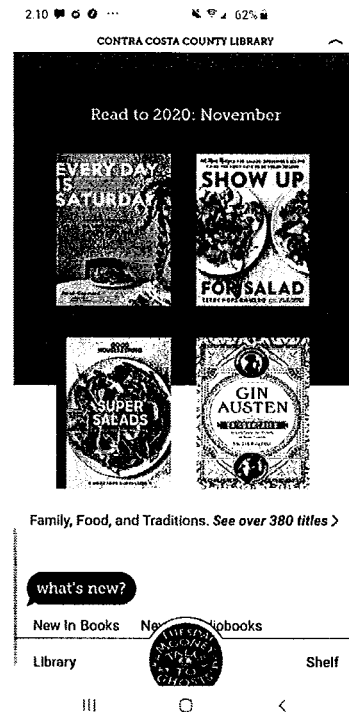
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3

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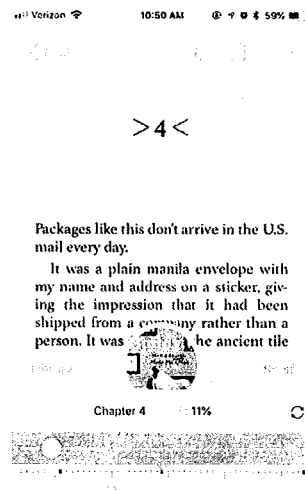
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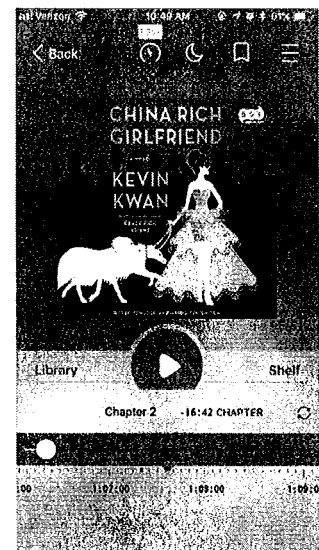
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Add bookmarks, highlights, and notes.

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eReader

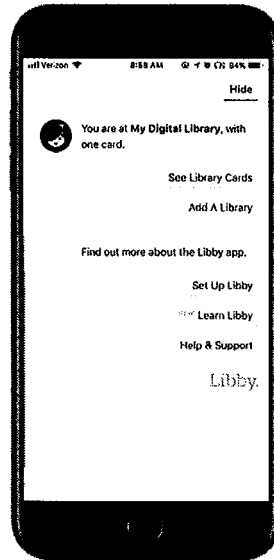
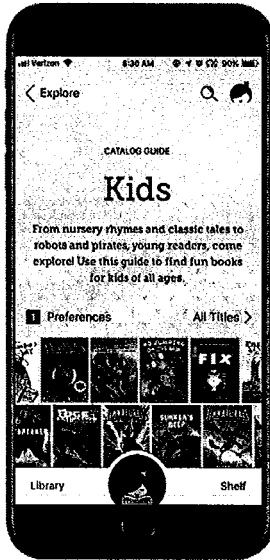


audiobook player

4

Rakuten
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Customize Libby



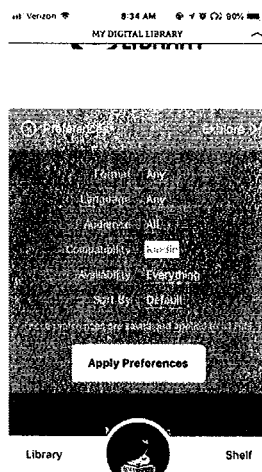
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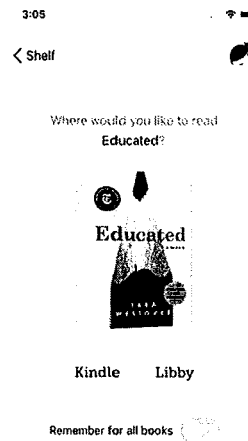
5

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6

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7

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