

## About the Author

**Stephanie Gerding**, an independent consultant, focuses her publications on training, technology, and fundraising for libraries, and loves to share her experiences by writing. Her first book, *Grants for Libraries*, was published in 2006 and received a starred review in *Library Journal*. She has written many articles for the library profession, including “Training Technology Trainers” for *Computers in Libraries*, and is the “Bringing in the Money” columnist for the Public Library Association’s *Public Libraries* magazine. She has also been a newsletter editor for various library associations and is co-author of the Library Grants Blog ([librarygrants.blogspot.com](http://librarygrants.blogspot.com)).

Having done a variety of training during her library career for all types of libraries—school, public, academic, and special—Stephanie has presented at national conferences and conducted training across the U.S., from Seattle to Florida, Maine to Hawaii, and many places in between. She has been involved in technology training throughout her library career and has trained librarians, systems administrators, homeless children, university students, teachers and healthcare workers in rural South Africa, and senior citizens.

She actually began her library career as an accidental library technology trainer. Her first experience conducting training was when she was asked to be the technical services department e-mail trainer in 1996 at an academic library, training staff on their very first e-mail system. She soon discovered she was adept at translating technology basics into an easy-to-understand format for others to learn. Her first professional position was with SIRSI, a library

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automation company. The company's philosophy at that time was that it would rather hire librarians to be trainers and teach them the technology, instead of hiring techies and teaching them the basics of librarianship so that they could understand their learners. Stephanie traveled around the country training staff in different library institutions, often on their first automation system.

Later, these skills became invaluable, as she trained thousands of librarians who found themselves accidental technology trainers. While working for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Library Program, she conducted hundreds of workshops, developed curricula, and produced materials for new library technology trainers who found themselves "accidentally" in charge of training staff and patrons when granted computers from the Gates Foundation. She traveled to libraries and also conducted weeklong train-the-trainer programs in Seattle. Many of these libraries were getting computers for the first time and were suddenly responsible for teaching other staff members as well as patrons.

Stephanie has also managed statewide library training programs at New Mexico and Arizona State libraries, including administration of four technology institutes, and customized on-site technology training programs for public libraries, managed a corporate library as a systems administrator, and taught Web-based distance education technology courses on information literacy and online learning for Northcentral University.