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The badass librarians of *Jeopardy!*

Anne Ford writes: "The category: Beloved TV Programs. The answer: Roughly 150 librarians have competed on this game show since 2005. And the correct question: What is *Jeopardy!*? Here, 11 librarians who have appeared on *Jeopardy!* share their stories of applying for and competing in one of the nation's most popular game shows, which first aired in its current form in 1984. 'Trust me, we've seen some librarians—they're a lot of fun,' said longtime *Jeopardy!* staffer Maggie Speak."...



American Libraries feature, Nov./Dec.

50 years of intellectual freedom

Eleanor Diaz and James LaRue write: "When you need the Office for Intellectual Freedom, you need it now. Many mornings in the office at ALA headquarters in Chicago begin with a panicked call or email: A school principal yanks a book from the shelf. People are protesting outside the library against a speaker. A board member objects to a display. A national coalition targets a database. This December, OIF is celebrating 50 years of fighting for intellectual freedom. It's an evolving role to be cherished and safeguarded."...



American Libraries feature, Nov./Dec.

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Hurricanes Harvey and Irma

Hurricane Harvey hit the Texas coast as a Category 4 storm near Rockport the night of August 25. On September 8, Congress passed a measure for a total of \$15.3 billion in relief aid, taking quick action to help victims of the devastating floods. Depending on their location, some libraries sustained significant damage from the ensuing flood waters, while others escaped with only a little cleanup required. The flood also affected many librarians and other library workers due to the damage to their homes....



American Libraries Trend, Nov./Dec.

A disaster relief strategy

ALA President Jim Neal writes: "What do you think about this idea? The recent natural disasters in Mexico, the southern US, and the Caribbean demonstrate the catastrophic consequences, damage, loss of life, and economic devastation that can result. One way we could help would be to consider establishing an ALA Library Disaster Relief Foundation, a collaborative initiative among the Association, the book publishing community, and vendors serving libraries. Your [input](#) is invited."...



American Libraries column, Nov./Dec.



Open government data legislation advances

In recent years, there has been a significant movement to improve public access to government data. Republicans and Democrats alike increasingly recognize that unlocking data can unleash innovation, with major economic and social benefits for businesses, researchers, and the general public. Legislation in support of those goals has been passed in the Senate and is now on a fast track for a floor vote in the House. The Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary (OPEN) Government Data Act would make more government data freely available online....

Sec. 9003. <i>Justifications of availability of financial statements of the organization</i>	Sec. 9004. <i>Report of the Department of Defense</i>
Sec. 9005. <i>Report on implementation of Central Weather Protection Initiatives for the Department of Defense, Department of State, and U.S. Space Agency for International Development</i>	Sec. 9006. <i>Report on construction on Iran Domestically-launched rocket defense system and Israeli Cooperative Missile Defense Program</i>
Sec. 9007. <i>Report on plans to develop and improve additive manufacturing technologies</i>	Sec. 9008. <i>Report on modernization of missile defense and containment of nuclear trials</i>
TITLE LXIX— <i>MATTERS RELATING TO FOREIGN NATIONS</i>	
Sec. 9011. <i>Advancement in defense cooperation between the United States and India</i>	Sec. 9012. <i>Comptroller General of the United States report on Department of Defense critical telecommunications equipment or services obtained from suppliers outside</i>

District Dispatch, Nov. 3

Tell ED to make libraries grant-eligible

The US Department of Education has asked for public comment on its recently released "[Proposed Supplemental Priorities of Discretionary Grant Programs](#)." Each time the ED

revisits its priorities is an opportunity for libraries to demonstrate the many ways we provide high-quality education for students of all ages. By using our voices to [help the ED set priorities](#), we can increase the chances libraries are eligible for federal funding. The ED is asking for [public comment](#) by November 13....

Government Grants

District Dispatch, Nov. 2; Federal Register, Oct. 12; Home Room, Oct. 11



Submit your mock YMA election results

Mary Voors writes: "Every year, libraries and schools in North America offer Mock Election programs—Mock Coretta Scott King, Mock Newbery, Mock Caldecott, Mock Geisel, Mock Sibert, Mock Pura Belpré Award—in preparation for the annual [Youth Media Awards](#). These discussions are a great opportunity for all of us who love children's literature to gather and discuss the topic and to learn more about some of the outstanding books published for youth in the past year. Add your results to the [ALSC Mock Elections page](#)..."



ALSC Blog, Nov. 3

Fire destroys a part of Hewlett-Packard archives

California's deadly wildfires destroyed much of an archive from tech pioneers William Hewlett and David Packard, such as a decades-old memo in which Hewlett proposes designing a calculator that can fit in his pocket. The [more than 100 boxes](#) of letters and other materials from the early days of Hewlett-Packard were stored in two modular buildings at the Santa Rosa offices of Keysight Technologies, an electronics measurement company that acquired the historical trove through a series of spinoffs....



San Francisco Chronicle, Oct. 30; IEEE Spectrum, Oct. 30

Alert Salt Lake librarian spotted murder suspect

As Austin Jeffrey Boutain stepped out of an elevator at Salt Lake City Main Library on October 31, an unnamed alert librarian recognized him as the man officers had sought in a massive overnight hunt after the fatal shooting of a University of Utah student. The librarian greeted Boutain—as he does everyone who visits the third floor—then waited until Boutain was out of earshot and called security, according to City Library Communications Director Andrew Shaw....



Salt Lake Tribune, Oct. 31



Student sent heartfelt letter protesting *Mockingbird* ban

When the Biloxi, Mississippi, school district announced it was [pulling *To Kill a Mockingbird*](#) from its junior high reading list, prompting a nationwide protest in October, Emily Matteson of Tenafly (N.J.) High School sprang into action. The 11th-grader penned a passionate letter to the Biloxi superintendent and school board, urging them to continue teaching the novel by Harper Lee. The Biloxi district subsequently [relented](#), although school officials couldn't be reached to confirm that her plea had swayed them....



North Jersey Media Group, Oct. 30; Biloxi (Miss.) Sun Herald, Oct. 12, 25

The Cooper Hewitt digital collection of designs

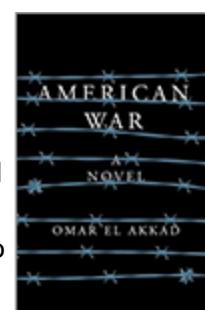
The Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum has provided a valuable gift to the design world: a [digitized catalog](#) of more than 220,000 objects in its collection. Some 90% of the museum's items are all viewable online. The collection can be explored through different categories, ranging from [country of origin](#), [period](#), and [publications](#) to [highlights](#), [conservation](#), and [colors](#)....



ArchDaily, Oct. 28

The top 10 first novels of 2017

Donna Seaman writes: "The finest first novels reviewed in *Booklist* over the last 12 months take readers into a climatically and socially dire future and a traumatic past as well as the churning minds of an autistic girl, a reluctant mother, a concerned daughter, an intrepid college freshman, and an undocumented Mexican immigrant. For example, *American War* by Omar El Akkad, in which the American South has once again attempted to secede from the Union amid the ravages of global warming." ...



Booklist Online, Nov. 1

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