

# american libraries DIRECT

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## The State of America's Libraries 2019

On April 8, ALA released [The State of America's Libraries 2019](#), an annual summary of library trends released during [National Library Week, April 7–13](#), that outlines statistics and issues affecting all types of libraries. The report finds that library workers are on the front lines addressing community challenges, often in roles outside of traditional library service—as first responders, career counselors, social workers, teachers, and technology instructors. The report reaffirms that [Libraries = Strong Communities](#). National Library Week this year prompted much [press coverage](#), including a [love letter to libraries](#) from a Maine patron. The Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked 347 challenges to library, school, and university materials and services in 2018. Overall, 483 books were challenged in 2018. OIF selected the [Top 11 Most Frequently Challenged](#) items....



*AL: The Scoop, Apr. 7; American Libraries digital supplement; ALA Communications and Marketing Office, Apr. 7; Aiken (S.C.) Standard, Apr. 7; Bangor (Maine) Daily News, Apr. 6*

## Celebrating National Library Week with Star Wars

Apparel and accessories company Out of Print is collaborating with ALA for a National Library Week fundraiser and officially debuting its new Star Wars READ collection. Through April 14, Out of Print will donate 10% of all merchandise sales to ALA's Disaster Relief Fund. The donations will support libraries in Puerto Rico as they rebuild following devastation from Hurricane Maria. Out of Print is also launching the Star Wars READ collection, featuring Yoda and Darth Vader tees with vintage ALA READ poster designs from the 1980s and 1990s—as well as a brand-new Princess Leia. They are all available at [Out of Print](#)....



## National Library Workers Day 2019

The theme for this year's National Library Week is "Libraries = Strong Communities," and it's fitting; [The State of America's Libraries 2019](#) shows how libraries and library workers are addressing community challenges. April 9 is National Library Workers Day, a day to recognize the hard work, dedication, and expertise of library support staff and librarians. To celebrate library workers, the ALA–Allied Professional Association asked patrons to nominate stellar library workers from their libraries. Here are some of the nominations included in the [Galaxy of Stars](#) on ALA–APA's National Library Workers Day website....



*American Libraries feature, Apr. 9*

## Colson Whitehead to keynote Freedom to Read celebration

Colson Whitehead (right), the Pulitzer Prize–winning author of *The Underground Railroad*, will be the keynote speaker for the Freedom to Read Foundation's 50th anniversary celebration in Washington, D.C., on June 22. Tickets for this commemorative celebration are [now available](#). The celebration will take place during the ALA Annual Conference in the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. FTRF was founded in 1969 to promote and protect the freedom of speech, the freedom of the press, and the public's right of access to information and materials stored in the nation's libraries....



*Freedom to Read Foundation, Apr. 4*



## Obama's presidential library is already digital

Dan Cohen writes: "As the highly anticipated Obama presidential library in Chicago morphed into the Obama Presidential *Center* (without a place to hold the records of his administration), reactions ranged from slight confusion to rote dismissiveness. '[The Obama Presidential Library That Isn't](#)' led the coverage in the *New York Times*. Philip Terzian complained in an [op-ed](#) in the *Washington Examiner* that what was proposed was 'not, in fact, a library at all.' Instead of the physical research library that 13 previous presidents had established as the centerpiece of their buildings, there would be a digital library, providing online access to Barack Obama's years in office."...



*The Atlantic, Apr. 9; New York Times, Feb. 20; Washington Examiner, Mar. 22*

## House to vote on net neutrality bill today

The House of Representatives is set to vote April 9 on a bill to [reinstate net neutrality](#) rules repealed by the FCC under President Donald Trump. The bill would repeal the order introduced by FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, bar the FCC from reinstating it or a substantially similar order, and reinstate the 2015 Obama-era rules barring providers from blocking or slowing internet content or offering paid “fast lanes.” On April 8, the White House told Congress that if the bill were approved Trump’s advisers would recommend he veto it...



*Reuters, Apr. 8; Battle for the Net*

## When a real lion lived at Milwaukee Public Library

On April 13, 1929, Simba, an African lion cub, arrived in Milwaukee with public museum director Samuel Barrett (right) and a team from the museum. The cub, whose name means *lion* in Swahili, was found burned and hungry following a wildfire in Tanganyika (now Tanzania) and sold for the equivalent of around \$7 in today’s dollars. The cub, nicknamed Sim, warmed to the humans and became a companion as the Milwaukee Public Museum team traveled through East Africa. When the team returned home, Sim lived in the building now housing the Milwaukee Public Library’s Central Library. (Until the early 1960s, the museum was in the same location.) A lion house was built for Sim on the building’s roof....



*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Apr. 8*

## Atlanta mayor invites drag queen to read at City Hall

Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms has invited a drag queen to hold a children’s storytime at City Hall after the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System pulled its support for the event to be held at its [Alpharetta branch](#). Bottoms made the invitation April 5 over Twitter to Miss Terra Cotta Sugarbaker (right), the drag persona of 40-year-old Buford native Steven Igarashi-Ball. The tweet included a link to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*’s story about [Igarashi-Ball being snubbed](#), which came after Atlanta LGBTQ magazine *Project Q* first [reported](#) about the situation....



*Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Apr. 1, 5; Associated Press, Apr. 7; Project Q Atlanta, Mar. 27*

Get library news as it happens. **LATEST LIBRARY LINKS**

A graphic showing a row of blue bookshelves with books. The text "Get library news as it happens." is written in a light green font above the shelves. To the right, the text "LATEST LIBRARY LINKS" is written in white and green, with a white mouse cursor arrow pointing to the word "LINKS".

## Sexual harassment in libraries, post-#MeToo

Kelly Jensen writes: “On January 17, a survey was distributed via social media to ascertain where and how libraries have implemented changes relating to sexual harassment and their employees. Any library

**Sexual Harassment In Libraries, Post-#MeToo**

What has and hasn't changed in libraries and library professional organizations?

A graphic with a white background and a pink border. The text "Sexual Harassment In Libraries, Post-#MeToo" is written in a bold, pink font. Below it, the text "What has and hasn't changed in libraries and library professional organizations?" is written in a smaller, black font.

employee—self-defined—was welcome to respond to the series of questions, answering as many or as few as felt appropriate. The responses to this survey reflected a wide range of voices, institutions, and experiences. The survey shows that more change is vital to protect librarians from sexual harassment. Here are some ways to further the discourse and provide the tools necessary to help librarians do their job to provide information to their patrons while also staying safe.”...

*Book Riot, Apr. 8*

## Library services and patron privacy

Laura Hautala writes: “The new technology environment is at odds with traditional role libraries have played as champions of privacy. Librarians stood up to the US government over [requirements in the 2001 USA Patriot Act](#) to share records with law



enforcement. They designed policies that require that records of the books you’ve checked out are deleted as soon as you return them. And they’ve pushed every state to adopt protections for patron records. Ebooks and audiobooks make protecting privacy harder. And today’s software can create more comprehensive records about you than a simple list of the books you checked out.”...

*CNET, Apr. 8; May 9, 2005*



## When the Web loses its memory

Elena Cresci writes: “What do we lose when huge parts of what used to be central to our online experience are wiped out? Embarrassing Myspace photos aside, we lose crucial historical context to how we lived our lives online—which is why a number of institutions and groups have arisen to try

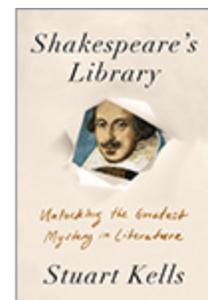


to archive the web. Some are professionals; others are volunteers. But what they all have in common is a concern for the historical gaps these shuttered sites leave behind. The world’s most comprehensive effort is the [Wayback Machine](#), run by the Internet Archive, a not-for-profit in San Francisco. There’s also the volunteer-run [Archive Team](#).”...

*Medium: OneZero, Apr. 3*

## What happened to Shakespeare’s library?

Stuart Kells writes: “An author of Shakespeare’s exemplary stature and accomplishment must have had an important personal library, rich with source books and letters and manuscripts, and perhaps even diaries and unpublished works. Late in the 18th century, the first searchers set out to find that library. Samuel Ireland was one of them. In the summer of 1793, he went to Shakespeare’s home town of Stratford-upon-Avon. Most people hadn’t seen anything, but one rumor sounded promising.



Apparently a quantity of manuscripts had been moved, at the time of the Stratford fire of 1742, from New Place, Shakespeare's former home, to Clopton House."...

*The Daily Beast, Apr. 5*

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