

american libraries DIRECT

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[ALA gets Google grant for library entrepreneurship centers](#)

ALA has received a \$2 million grant from Google.org to develop library entrepreneurship centers and enable libraries across the country to double down on their support for people looking to start a new business. The grant builds on Google's ongoing support of ALA and libraries, including the [Libraries Lead with Digital Skills](#) collaboration funded by Grow with Google, which gave ALA \$1 million to help libraries provide digital skills training to their patrons. That initiative, announced [earlier this year](#), has already supported 130 libraries across 18 states and will continue to all 50 states in 2020....



ALA Public Policy and Advocacy Office, Oct. 3

[Libraries as community catalysts](#)

Miguel Figueroa writes: "OCLC's Americas Regional Council 2019 [Library Futures Conference](#) rallied an energetic audience October 2–3 in Phoenix to discuss libraries' future leadership in changing communities. The conference theme was 'Community Catalysts.' On October 2, OCLC President and CEO Skip Prichard opened the day by outlining the five Cs that libraries need to catalyze their communities."...



AL: The Scoop, Oct. 4

[First Amendment audits in public libraries](#)

Deborah Caldwell-Stone writes: "A loosely organized social media campaign to 'audit' government spaces and agencies for alleged First Amendment violations has begun to

target public libraries. The individuals and groups undertaking these self-described 'First Amendment audits' claim a right to film in any space accessible to the public, arguing that they're entitled to do so as taxpayers and citizen journalists. Based on their output, their goal is to create videos of their encounters with police, security officers, and public officials that document a claimed violation of the cameraperson's rights. Here are some guidelines and resources.”...



Intellectual Freedom Blog, Oct. 2



Global themes and reflections in LIS education

Raymond Pun writes: “On September 24–26, more than 300 LIS faculty, students, and practitioners gathered in Knoxville, Tennessee, to hear and share the latest research trends and new ideas at the 2019 Association of Library and Information Sciences Education conference. This year’s theme centered on exploring learning in a global information context. Sessions covered advocacy; curriculum development; LIS theories; data and technologies; and diversity, equity, and inclusion.”...



AL: The Scoop, Oct. 1

EU rules against Facebook in global takedown case

Europe’s top court said on October 3 that an individual country can order Facebook to take down posts, photographs, and videos and restrict global access to that material, in a ruling that has implications for how countries can expand content bans beyond their borders. The European Court of Justice’s decision came after a former Austrian politician, Eva Glawischnig-Piesczek, sought to have Facebook remove disparaging comments about her that had been posted on an individual’s personal page. The decision is a blow to big internet platforms like Facebook, placing more responsibility on them to patrol their sites for content ruled illegal....



New York Times, Oct. 3

Traveling exhibition: Americans and the Holocaust

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and ALA have announced [50 libraries](#) that will host “[Americans and the Holocaust](#),” a traveling exhibition that examines the motives, pressures, and fears that shaped Americans’ responses to Nazism, war, and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s. The touring library exhibition, based on the special exhibition of the same name at the museum in Washington, D.C., will travel to US libraries from 2020 to 2022. The exhibition challenges the commonly held assumptions that

Americans knew little and did nothing about the Nazi persecution and murder of Jews as the Holocaust unfolded....

ALA Public Programs Office, Oct. 2



The case for eliminating library fines

Linda Poon writes: "The decision to remove library fines is a growing nationwide movement. Already, dozens of US libraries have fully or partially eliminated overdue fines (usually for teens and children), according to a [fine-free map](#) from the Urban Libraries Council (ULC). In 2019, public libraries in Phoenix, Dallas, and Palm Beach, Florida, have changed their policies, and Curtis Rogers, ULC communications director, expects more to follow suit. San Francisco Public Library reformed its overdue fine policy in September. Before that, more than a third of library cardholders owed libraries money, averaging roughly \$24 per adult, according to the [city's own research](#)."...



CityLab, Oct. 2; Urban Libraries Council; San Francisco Public Library, Jan.



The prison library as an agent of rehabilitative change

If you are a current professional prison librarian or LIS student interested in prison librarianship, have a strong interest in services to prisoners, or are motivated to partner with prison librarians to expand library services to prisoners, ASGCLA invites you to register for "[The Prison Library As an Agent of Rehabilitative Change](#)," a five-week course beginning on October 7. The instructor is William D. Mongelli (right), librarian for the Massachusetts Correctional Institution. The course will discuss ways to advocate for the library as a program environment (as opposed to being a simple management tool)....



ASGCLA, Oct. 2

Libraries help create a healthier South Carolina

Lindsay Street writes: "Combating the state's high obesity level and food insecurity could come from a surprising source: your local library. That's the hope of a new statewide initiative from the South Carolina State Library, [Read Eat Grow](#). It focuses on *food literacy*, a phrase that equates learning to read with



learning about food from farm to table, including how its grown, nutritional information, how to cook and serve it, and what to do with leftovers.”...

Statehouse Report, Sept. 27

New graphic novel imprint to highlight LGBTQ+ creators

George Gene Gustines writes: “They’re here! They’re queer! They’re graphic novels! The publisher Abrams is beginning a graphic novel imprint dedicated to expanding the presence in the medium of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual creators and stories. The line, Surely Books, will premiere in spring 2021 and will be curated by Mariko Tamaki.”...



New York Times, Oct. 3



Garth Brooks to receive Gershwin Prize for Popular Song

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden announced that country musician Garth Brooks is the next recipient of the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song. Brooks is the youngest recipient of the prestigious prize. Brooks is one of the major changemakers in the history of country music. His music weaves together the beauty of poetry, the universality of the human experience, and the inclusiveness of other musical genres, making him one of the most influential performers in country music today. He will receive the prize at an all-star tribute concert in Washington, D.C., in March 2020, and the concert will air on PBS stations nationwide in the spring....



Library of Congress, Oct. 2

Happy TeenTober!

Happy [TeenTober!](#) TeenTober is a new, nationwide celebration hosted by libraries every October and aims to celebrate teens, promote year-round teen services and the innovative ways teen services helps teens learn new skills, and fuel their passions in and outside the library. TeenTober replaces YALSA’s previous Teen Read Week and Teen Tech Week celebrations. [Download](#) the logo and social media graphics to help you promote your programs, and don’t forget to share your photos and programs with YALSA on Twitter by tweeting [@yalsa](#) and using #TeenTober....



YALSA Blog, Oct. 1

AL Direct is a free electronic newsletter emailed every Tuesday and Friday to personal members of the [American Library Association](#).

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