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American Libraries' July/August digital issue now online



Our latest issue features public librarians strategizing [the best ways to reach patrons](#) during COVID-19, this year's [Presidential Citations for Innovative International Library Projects](#), our Newsmaker interview with author [Yaa Gyasi](#), and a profile of the [refugee-run libraries](#) in Jordan's Zaatari camp.

American Libraries features, July/Aug.

ALA president, executive director on leading through crisis



[In his first column as president](#), Julius C. Jefferson Jr. reflects on taking the lead during a time of change and upheaval and invites readers to join him in the fight for social justice and humanity. ALA Executive Director Tracie D. Hall invites readers to explore the role of the library as both a vehicle and driver of justice and [issues three calls to urgent action](#) in her latest column.

American Libraries columns, July/Aug.

Congress introduces Library Stabilization Fund Act



Kathi Kromer writes: "On July 2, Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.) and Rep. Andy Levin (D-Mich.) introduced the Library Stabilization Fund Act, companion legislation endorsed by the American Library Association calling for \$2 billion in federal support for libraries. When the act was introduced with 13 cosponsors in the Senate (S. 4181) and 27 cosponsors in the House (H.R. 7486), ALA called for

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Rethinking police presence in libraries



Cass Balzer writes: “Amid mass protests of police violence against Black people, some libraries are revisiting the ways in which they’ve historically interacted with law enforcement—such as by hosting police-led community programming like Coffee with a Cop, hiring off-duty police as security officers, or calling 911 on disruptive patrons.” And in [On My Mind](#), Jarrett Dapier and Emily Knox write: “Every time library staffers call the police, we put the

lives of our Black patrons in danger.”

American Libraries feature, July 8; American Libraries column, July 8

Amplifying diverse voices in Jewish librarianship



Sally Stieglitz writes: “The Association of Jewish Libraries Digital Conference (June 28–July 2) was held online for the first time this year. Over the five-day conference, which drew nearly 350 worldwide participants, a thread quickly emerged: the importance of diverse representation in collections, voices, and scholarship.”

AL: The Scoop, July 7

ASU Library crafts land acknowledgment



Arizona State University Library’s first [Indigenous land acknowledgment](#) is a five-sentence statement about the place that the library and the university have inhabited in Tempe for more than a century. “The statement represents ASU Library’s intentions to begin a healing process,” said Lorrie McAllister, associate university librarian for collections and strategy. “We need to acknowledge that ASU is an occupant on Indigenous lands and

that we need to take active steps to forge relationships of reciprocity.”

ASU Now, July 2

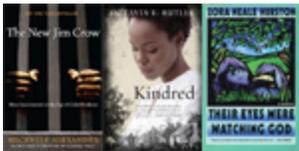
British Library commits to becoming an antiracist organization



At an online meeting on June 30 to which all British Library staff were invited, Chief Executive Roly Keating spoke of the urgent need for a “generational shift” to ensure that the library becomes truly representative in terms of its staff, collections, and users. Issues discussed included the long-standing lack of minority representation within executive management and senior curatorial staff, along with the urgent and overdue need to reckon fully and openly with the colonial origins and legacy of some of the library’s historic collections and practices.

British Library, July 6

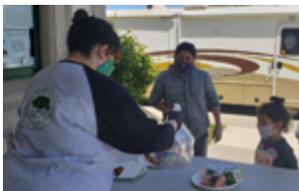
Mellon Foundation to send books to 1,000 prisons



The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the largest humanities philanthropy in the US, announced on June 30 that it is adjusting its mission and grant-giving to emphasize programs that promote social justice. A new \$5.3 million program will distribute collections of 500 books—“freedom libraries” of fiction, poetry, science, social thought, and more, curated by program leaders—to 1,000 prisons across the country.

New York Times, June 30

How libraries are fighting hunger during COVID-19

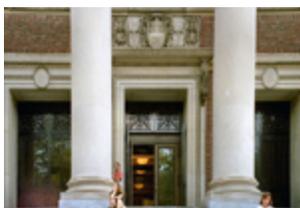


Lindsey Simon writes: “With food insecurity on the rise in the wake of COVID-19, libraries have continued to work tirelessly to keep local families fed. Many libraries across the country have been pursuing partnerships with local food banks and hunger relief organizations to distribute free meals to those in need. Curbside or drive-through pickup has allowed library staff to pass out the food while maintaining social distancing, mitigating further spread of COVID-19.”

I Love Libraries, July 7



Harvard and other universities go online for 2020–2021



Rutgers, Harvard, Princeton, and Georgetown Universities on July 6 announced plans for a largely online fall, following a [similar announcement on July 1](#) from University of Southern California. However, a [decision](#) from US Immigration and Customs Enforcement means students from other countries who are studying in the US will not be able take a fully online course load and remain in the country.

Inside Higher Ed, July 7; USC, July 1; ICE.gov, July 6

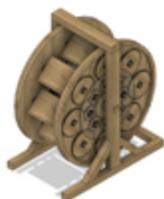
Visiting Europe's great libraries with Rick Steves



In the absence of in-person journeys, travel writer and TV host [Rick Steves](#) reminisces on his favorite European libraries, their ornate interiors, and their impressive histories. On his list: the [Bodleian Library](#) at England's Oxford University, the grand Baroque [King João's Library](#) at Coimbra University in central Portugal, and the library at [Strahov Monastery](#) in Prague.

Luxury Travel Advisor, July 6; American Libraries Newsmaker, Jan. 18, 2019

Read 8 books at once with a Renaissance bookwheel



Agostino Ramelli, a 16th-century Italian military engineer, designed many Renaissance-era contraptions, including a geared wooden wheel with angled shelves, which allowed users to read several books at once. A group of undergraduate engineering students at Rochester Institute of Technology built two of them—one resides in the Melbert B. Cary Jr. Graphic Arts Collection at RIT's Wallace Library, and the other at University of Rochester's

Rossell Hope Robbins Library. Each weighs about 600 pounds and has room for eight books.

Atlas Obscura, July 1

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