



american libraries  
**DEWEY DECIBEL**  
PODCAST

Conversations about the library world with librarians, authors, and thinkers

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## The library as ballot box



Many states have [increased the opportunities](#) for voters to cast their ballots by mail this year as an alternative to gathering at a polling place during a pandemic. But in an environment where [some politicians](#) are trying to raise doubts about the security of voting by mail and the ability of the United States Postal Service to deliver mail-in ballots, many libraries are using their unimpeachable reputations to offer stability as ballot drop-off

sites....

*AL: The Scoop, Sept. 28; Pew Research Center, June 24; Fox News, May 26*

## Top 100 Most Banned and Challenged Books 2010–2019



ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom has been documenting attempts to ban books in libraries and schools since 1990. For Banned Books Week, OIF compiled this list of the most banned and challenged books from 2010–2019 by reviewing both the public and confidential censorship reports it received. This list

draws attention to literary censorship but only provides a snapshot of book challenges. OIF estimates about 82–97% of challenges remain unreported....

*ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom, Sept. 27*

## By the Numbers: Rural and Small Libraries

In honor of the [Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference](#) (September 28–October 2), *American Libraries* presents statistics on the buildings, staff, bookmobiles, and users



of small and rural libraries. ARSL was founded in 1982 by Bernard Vavrek, director of the Center for the Study of Rural Librarianship at Clarion (Pa.) University. The typical rural library employs 1.9 full-time staff members, in a space that is 2,600 square feet on average. Kentucky has the most bookmobiles of any state: 75....  
*American Libraries Trend, Sept./Oct.*



## [New Literary Landmark to honor first published Black poet](#)

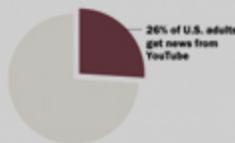


United for Libraries will designate Joseph Lloyd Manor in Lloyd Harbor, New York, as a Literary Landmark in honor of Jupiter Hammon, the first published African-American poet. Hammon (1711–ca.1806) was enslaved at Joseph Lloyd Manor, where he wrote powerfully about the social and moral conflicts of chattel slavery which he endured most of his life. Hammon’s known works include three essays and six poems, including “An Address to the Negroes of the State of New-York” and “An Essay on Slavery.” The designation will take place at 2 p.m. ET on October 17, which recognizes Hammon’s 309th birthday as well as Black Poetry Day....

*United for Libraries, Sept. 29*

## [Pew: Many Americans get news on YouTube](#)

About a quarter of U.S. adults get news from YouTube ...



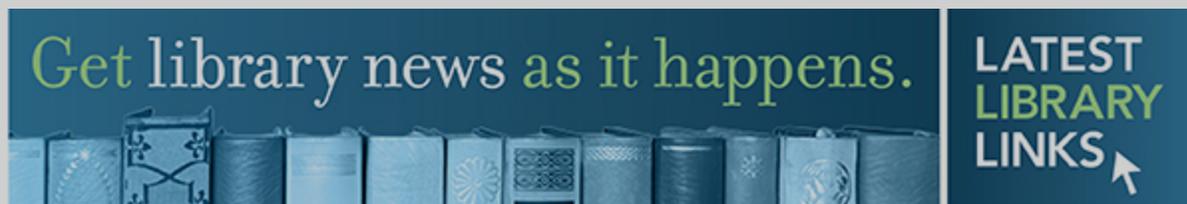
About a quarter of all US adults (26%) surveyed say they get news on YouTube, according to a new report from Pew Research Center. The study found that Americans are as likely to watch independent channels on the platform as they are to watch established news organizations; videos from independent news producers are more likely to cover subjects negatively and discuss conspiracy theories....

*Pew Research Center, Sept. 28*

## [Detecting deepfakes through heartbeats](#)



David Schneider writes: “In an article titled ‘[FakeCatcher: Detection of Synthetic Portrait Videos using Biological Signals](#),’ the authors describe software they created that takes advantage of the fact that real videos of people contain physiological signals that are not visible to the eye. In particular, video of a person’s face contains subtle shifts in color that result from pulses in blood



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## [Search 16 million newspaper pages for historical images](#)



The Library of Congress's new AI tool lets users search through 16 million historical US newspaper pages for images that help explain the stories of the past. The [Newspaper Navigator](#) shows how seminal events and characters, such as wars and presidents, have been depicted in the press....

*The Next Web, Sept. 16*

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## [Internet dead zones, rural schools, and distanced learning](#)



Kirk Siegler writes: "Across the country as American schools struggle with whether to reopen or stay virtual, many rural districts are worried their students will fall even further behind than their city peers. The pandemic has shone a glaring light on a lot of inequalities. The federal government estimates that [more than a third of rural America has little or no Internet](#). In numerous recent interviews, educators have told NPR they're concerned the rural-urban divide will only worsen if kids can't get online to learn."...

*NPR, Apr. 24, Sept. 28*

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## [Best antivirus protection for 2020](#)



Neil J. Rubenking writes: "We call it antivirus, but in truth it's unlikely you'll get hit with an actual computer virus. Malware these days is about making money, and there's no easy way to cash in on spreading a virus. [Ransomware](#) and data-stealing Trojans are much more common, as are bots that let the bot-herder rent out your computer for nefarious purposes. Modern antivirus utilities handle Trojans, rootkits, spyware, adware, ransomware, and

more."...

*PC Mag, Sept. 29; American Libraries Trend, June 2018*

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## Tween section, yay or nay?



Teen services librarian Amanda Borgia writes: “Terminology is always growing and changing, and libraries are no exception. Some use *tween* to describe 10–12 years, those in-between adolescence and the teenage years. Others use it to describe middle schoolers (typically 6th–8th graders aged 11–14). For some libraries the question arises, should we have a separate collection for tweens? Where should this section be located?

Should tweens have their own area?...”

*Teen Services Underground*, Sept. 29

## Podcast examines Anne Carroll Moore v. Goodnight Moon



The podcast *99% Invisible* looks at the 125th anniversary of New York Public Library and its list of the 10 most checked-out books in its history, which had an odd footnote—that Margaret Wise Brown’s classic *Goodnight Moon* was not included. The story behind that footnote involves a powerful librarian, a progressive school, and the creation of library spaces for children....

*99% Invisible*, Sept. 29

## 10 books about social media



Matthew Sperling writes: “Has anything ever caused a faster transformation in our practices of living than social media? Fifteen years ago, it barely existed; today, it occupies a large portion of the waking consciousness of a few billion people. The 10 books I’ve chosen here trace the development of social media across the last decade, explore its effects in everyday life, and place it in its wider context. They share a sense of its enormous dynamism and

power, as well as its vertiginous capacity for harm.”...

*The Guardian (UK)*, Sept. 23

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