

TOP SHELF

REFERENCE

A BOOKLIST NEWSLETTER

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March 2019

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NEW ESSENTIAL STATISTICAL & GOVERNMENT REFERENCES

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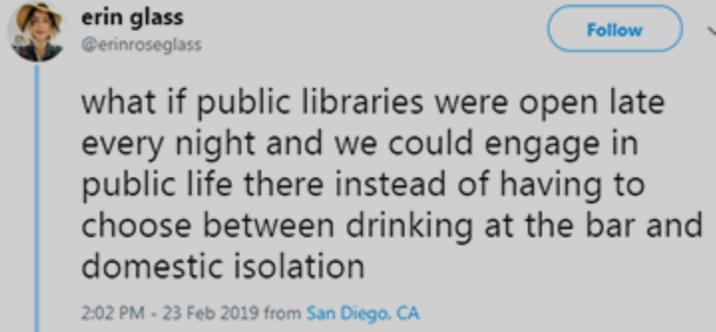


FROM THE EDITOR



Do you ever love your job so much that you wish you could do it ALL THE TIME?

A few weeks ago, a well-meaning person sent the following tweet:



Clearly, this is a person who has never managed a circulation department with four public service desks during flu season.

On the one hand, I totally get why an all-night library seems like a good idea. Libraries have great stuff! People who work in libraries are awesome! You don't have to spend money to have the right to exist in a library!

But then there's reality: how much would a library's budget increase to accommodate additional staffing? And who are the additional staff—reference? circ? security? Also—and maybe this is just my reality—staying up that late? For work? Is not something I want to do?

Because I like to look at things optimistically (and because I don't have the space in this newsletter nor in my brain to lay out a balanced, thoughtful essay on the topic), I'm going to take the strength of the response as an indication that a) libraries are beloved and b) we need to think hard about what spaces and services people want, and whether libraries are the best ones to provide them.

But, listen, libraries do a pretty good job of meeting community needs. That's why libraries are popular enough to inspire a semi-viral tweet about how they should be even more available! That's also why Ahliah Bratzler worked with her co-workers at the Indianapolis Public Library to create the LGBTQ+ Services Committee, which she details in [this issue's Notes from the Field](#). I also throw out some book suggestions for meeting patron needs, whether it's [pop culture curiosity](#) or [bridging the digital divide](#). Finally, I delve even further into the fun of [Librarian Twitter](#), because if there is one thing I will never do, dear readers, it is learn my lesson.

Yours until closing time,

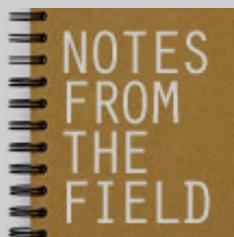
—Susan Maguire
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5 Ways to Promote Digital Equity in Your Library

Friday, March 22
1 PM Central

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Notes from the Field: The LGBTQ+ Services Committee at the Indianapolis Public Library

Ahliah Bratzler

I met Ahliah Bratzler on a shuttle bus at ALA Annual in New Orleans last year. This is not that interesting. Fortunately for you all, she has a much more interesting story to tell: how she formed the LGBTQ+ Services Committee at the Indianapolis Public Library. [read more→](#)



Top 10 Reference: Pop Culture

Susan Maguire

If you're looking to build up your pop culture reference collection, these books, reviewed in *Booklist* or on *Booklist Online* between January 1, 2018 and March 15, 2019, will fulfill your patrons' infotainment needs. [read more→](#)

#TwitterReference: Patrons Say the Darndest Things

Susan Maguire

Oh, patrons. Bless all of their hearts. And bless the hearts of the librarians who tweet about them. [read more→](#)



Featured Reference Review: *Your Technology Outreach Adventure*

Anyone who's worked a reference desk since Y2K turned out to be NBD has had to field some kind of technology query, whether it's setting up an email, downloading an ebook, or getting to do the thing with that thing. (You know, the thing.) Erin Berman's *Your Technology Outreach Adventure* is an excellent resource for anyone with a stake in how the library responds to community technology needs. [read more→](#)

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