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PUBLIC LIBRARIES ONLINE WEEKLY

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Issue #8

Trending...

New on PLOnline This Week



IMLS will provide support to Open eBooks Initiatives and the ConnectED Library Challenge in an effort to allow e-book access to thousands of low-income students. Learn more in Barbara Alvarez's [Downloading Hope: Providing E-Books to Low-Income Students](#). Professional listservs can often be a wealth of information, but what happens when people aren't answering the questions

being posed? Su Epstein gives advice on how to provide helpful content in [Making Sure Help is Helpful](#). Providing health insurance for library staff can be an expensive but important part of the library's budget. Amy Crump shared how her library kept health insurance costs to a minimum in [Health Insurance for Small Libraries](#). How-To Fairs are becoming more and more popular in public libraries. Check out Susan Manalli's detailed account of how her library created just such an event in [From Come-Do to How-To](#).

Midweek Media Mash-Up

A Choice Selection of Links for Your Perusal

- Watch: 2015 ALA Annual Conference Wrap-Up -- [Live Webcast](#)

promoted to Principal Dancer at American Ballet Theater

- [Summer Books to Look Forward To](#)

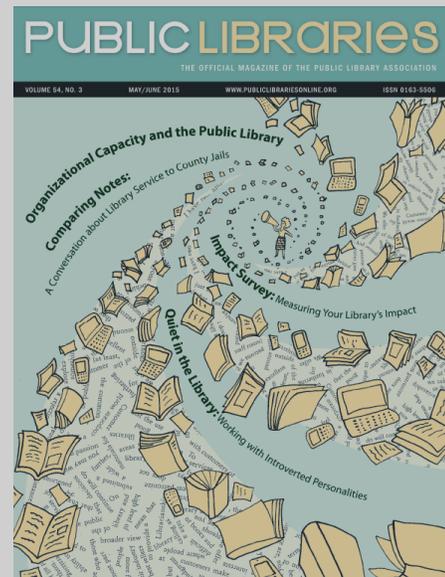
From the May/June 2015 Issue

Quiet in the Library: Working with Introverted Personalities

By Tom Cooper and Deborah Ladd

Towards the end of her book "Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking," Susan Cain sums up her advice to introverts. "Figure out what you are meant to contribute to the world and make sure you contribute it," she writes, and advises, "Quit your job as a TV anchor and get a degree in Library Science." There are some of us in the profession who may still blanch at this offhand reference to librarians as stereotypical introverts, but in the context of Cain's book, which is informed with humanity, experience, and solid research, it is not in any sense a criticism.

It is her contention that during the twentieth century, American society developed an "extrovert ideal," in which extroverts were celebrated and honored, while introverts were sidelined, derided, and finally even pathologized as being antisocial or having inferiority complexes. But Cain insists that the world is richer for the presence of varying personality types, believes that we need the unique gifts of the extroverts and the introverts, and we need to stop praising one at the expense of the other. Introverts are often more creative than extroverts, many of them excel at complex problem-solving, and they tend to prepare meticulously when asked to speak in public. When she identifies librarianship as one of the great bastions of introverted personality types, she tacitly credits these traits. The question is: Are we as a profession ready to acknowledge and embrace this element of who we are? [Read the entire article here.](#)



Ask Us Anything

We want this newsletter to be a dialogue. If you have questions about PLOnline, *Public Libraries*, PLA or anything else, send them in! Just hit reply and ask us anything. We'll try to answer every email and maybe even share our conversation in future newsletters.

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