

Here's this week's PLOnline Newsletter - the latest from the Public Library Association's online magazine - recent articles and more! Check it out!

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PUBLIC LIBRARIES ONLINE WEEKLY

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Issue #19

Trending...

New on PLOnline This Week

- Sadly, abuse and neglect exist everywhere. In some states, librarians are mandated reporters, and they get training and develop relationships with trained state personnel. In other places, the librarian's view is moot. Should librarians everywhere be mandated reporters? I think so. Read the reasoning for this in [Should Librarians Be Mandated Reporters?](#)



- In a thestar.com article dated June 18, 2015, Vickery Bowles of Toronto Public Library lamented that the Big Five Publishers charge libraries up to \$135 per e-book, sometimes five times the cost consumers pay. These publishers supply nearly half of all library books, according to the story. Purchasing multiple copies of high interest titles has put tremendous strain on some library's budgets. [Is There Hope on the Horizon for Unsustainable E-book Prices?](#) provides insight on the current e-book market.

- I was at a recent gathering of library directors where the subject of dress codes arose. Our policies weren't very different, but our personal views about what is acceptable for staff and administration were almost as varied as our zip codes. Most policies considered the work being performed. Pages have to bend, stretch, climb up, and crawl on the ground – jeans, neat t-shirts, and gym shoes are considered perfectly acceptable. For clerks and



they promoted a library reading program. Learn more about differences in dress code policies in [Dress Codes at the Library](#).

- Recent collection development policy changes transformed the weeding policy and process at the Berkeley (California) Public Library (BPL) to a more centralized method. This change has ruffled feathers in the community. In July, a group of about 30 protesters, consisting of retired librarians and community members, gathered in front of the library to encourage patrons to check out 50 items, which is the max number of checkouts allowed. The protesters intended this move to save some of the books that would otherwise be weeded out, as well as to protest the changes in the weeding policy and related changes in staffing. Read more about this recent controversy in [Weeding Backlash at Berkeley Public Library](#).

Midweek Media Mash-Up

A Choice Selection of Links for Your Perusal

- Coloring may reduce stress! Here are 21 of [the Best Adult Coloring Books](#).
- [Remember Google Books?](#)
- [What to do if your flight gets canceled.](#)
- [Can your 3D printer do this?](#)
- We all do it so why not [Make Venting Productive?](#)

Snapshot

Last week, we asked: As far as helping patrons with computer-related issues, what do you find that you are most often helping with. Here are your answers:

General computer usage - 57.1%
Using the library's website - 4.8%
Online job application - 9.5%
Online governmental forms - 0
Creating resumes - 9.5%
Social media - 4.8%
Downloading ebooks or other e-book issues - 9.5%
Downloading music or other online music issues - 0
Mobile technology (phones and tablets) - 4.8%

This week, a simpler question:

device?

Yes

No



From the Print Issue

Feature Article -- From the July/August 2015 Print Issue

Project Outcome: Helping Libraries Capture Their Community Impact
by Denise Davis & Emily Plagman on September 15, 2015

Project Outcome is PLA's latest field-driven initiative, helping libraries to capture their impact in the communities they serve. In 2013, libraries and researchers formed a task force with a mission to develop and test a simple set of outcome-based surveys for any library type to use when measuring the outcomes of their services and programs. Project Outcome builds on the task force's work by providing resources and support to help any library set strategic goals, measure outcomes, communicate their findings, and successfully achieve their goals.



Project Outcome started as just an idea when then-PLA President Carolyn Anthony announced that she would make outcome measurement a primary initiative during her tenure. “What is needed,” she wrote in an [August 2013 Public Libraries Online article](#), “is a set of performance measures that can capture the services public libraries are currently providing in their communities, with guidelines for conducting the measures to ensure consistency and validity. We also need to measure the outcome or impact regarding the difference that some of these services make in the lives of individuals and the well-being of the community.” Read the entire article [here](#).

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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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