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Trending..

The Latest From PLOnline

- According to the United States Census Bureau, the estimated Hispanic population as of 2014 is roughly 17.4% of the United States' 319,000,000 population. While not all of the individuals who classify themselves as Hispanic or Latino speak Spanish, according to a 2015 report released by the prestigious Instituto Cervantes "the United States is now the world's second largest Spanish-speaking country after Mexico." The U.S has 41 million native speakers and 11 million who are bilingual. Those are some serious numbers and public libraries are at the forefront of assisting many of these Hispanics with whatever resources they have available. Many Spanish speakers go to public libraries to look for answers regarding a path to citizenship, questions about the I-90 form, services offered for Spanish speakers, and my favorite, "Donde tienes tus libros españoles?" (Where do you have your Spanish books?) Publishing companies are doing their best to cater to this large community, but answer this question: Even with more Spanish books readily available, who are the librarians assessing community needs and building these Spanish and bilingual collections? It is one thing to be a Hispanic librarian, as I am, but it is another thing to truly understand the Hispanic community to know how a collection should be built. Read the entire article "[Collection Development: Catering to the Hispanic Community.](#)"



- Students in Uxbridge, UK, recently had the chance of a lifetime—to meet dozens of authors and talk with them about YA and middle-grade books as part of the local library system's [YA Shot](#) festival. YA Shot was held on October 28 in Uxbridge, near London, England. A total of 240 adults, teens, and tweens attended the all-day festival spread out across three locations: the Uxbridge

library hosted workshops on writing, blogging, and vlogging while the Waterstone's and the Civic Centre focused on panels and conversations with local authors. Many of the panels and workshops covered hot topics in the teen and middle-grade world, including diversity, female heroines, trigger warnings, and activism. The festival was



also a jumping-off point for the [Year-Long Legacy Programme](#), a year's worth of visits by festival authors to the Hillingdon area libraries funded by a grant from Arts Council England. These author visits will be held in the neighborhood libraries, and local schools, especially those in disadvantaged areas, will be invited to attend the events for free. Read the entire article "[YA Shot: A Teen Book Festival with Lasting Impact.](#)"

- The fifth post in this series will focus on using conversation with your staff. I review the book "Talk, Inc.: How Trusted Leaders Use Conversation to Power Their Organizations" by Boris Groysberg and Michael Slind. PART 1:



INTIMACY "Distance is a disease that cripples true conversation." The first sentence of the book. Whoa. I agree, and I feel the pains of working in a twelve-location system. It is hard to have a true conversation without intimacy. Leaders must share thoughts about strategy and operations, while also giving away intimate pieces of their own history. This is not easy! This takes practice, but it truly sets the stage for the rest of the working relationship. The value of listening to someone in a face-to-face interaction is incredible. As I read this book, I adjusted our probation guidelines – we should be rating managers on their ability to listen. Listen. We tend to focus on formal modes of conversation to push information to employees—if you do that, they start to fill in the gaps themselves; they start to create scenarios that probably never happened. This is why we must be diligent to create an open forum to converse with each other. But how? Find out more in "[Talk the Talk.](#)"

- Tech mobiles are popping up in big cities as well as small, narrowing the digital divide for underserved communities. These tech mobiles offer a variety of resources including classes, Wi-Fi access, computers for the homeless to apply for jobs, opportunities for youth to mess around with technology, as well the ability for patrons to borrow Wi-Fi hotspots to take home. As the advent of technology becomes more and more a regular part of our lives and a requirement for schools, it's imperative to provide the same opportunities for everyone in order to be able to become modern twenty-first century learners and professionals. Read the entire article "[From Bookmobile to Techmobile.](#)"
- How many times has someone approached you for a book recommendation, but when you ask "What do you like to read," they only reply with sheepish

that the patron is already a reader. To answer the questions we typically ask to gauge their interests, the patron needs to have at least a vague idea of the authors, genres, or types of stories they like. Thus, a non-reader or someone who can't articulate their reading preferences

presents a challenge. When you are stuck on how to suss out what a patron likes, try the following unconventional readers' advisory question. Read more in "[Books are the New TV: Unconventional Readers' Advisory Techniques.](#)"



FYI - The Public Libraries Podcast

In the second episode of our podcast, PL Online Editor Kathleen Hughes talks to Valerie Gross, President and CEO of the Howard County Library System (Maryland) about the principles of two library initiatives, Libraries = Education and Choose Civility. [Check it out here.](#)



Midweek Media Mash-Up

A Choice Selection of Links for Your Perusal

- [Time to revisit those old favorites?](#) Why you should reread your best-loved books.
- The Techfugees Conference explores new technologies aimed at assisting refugees. [Watch presentations here.](#)
- [The Ways Women Speak](#)
- [Explore the British Museum Without Leaving Home](#)
- [Preschoolers Working More, Learning Less?](#)

email and maybe even share our conversation in future newsletters.

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