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Trending..The Latest From PLOnline

- The first full week of January in Las Vegas is absolute madness. Tech vendors, journalists, and enthusiasts from all over the world gather in Vegas to see the smartphones, tablets, TVs, smart cars, and other gadgets headed to market in the coming year. The chaos of the [Consumer Electronics Show \(CES\)](#), with its walls of giant flat screen TVs and rush of business suits, might seem like an odd place for library staff to be. But as Jason Griffey has shown in his previous years' CES coverage for [American Libraries](#) and on [his blog](#), librarians and staff should, at the very least, be paying attention to the news coming out of the show. Not only is CES a useful tool for your library's own technology planning, but it can also help inform staff training. After all, those shiny new tablets and smartphones might be making their way to your reference desk in a few months. Read more in "[CES 2016 Is Your Library's Crystal Ball.](#)"
- Some messages are easier to deliver – and also receive – than others. In libraries, we find ourselves delivering both negative and positive information to peers, supervisors, and the community. In my role selecting and evaluating e-resources, I've received and delivered both positive and negative information about project performance. Given the dynamic nature of the e-content environment, I focus on a strategy of turning information about poor performance into a pivot point for improvement. Read the entire article "[Welcoming Unwelcome News.](#)"
- The article "[Will A Nebraska Community Tech Center Force Us To Consider Libraries Without Books?](#)" asks the same typical question that libraries have been hearing for the past fifteen years. The answer is no, public libraries will not be



makerspaces/labs, public interest for technology programs, and technology help from libraries. And the [Do Space](#) in Omaha, Nebraska is another aspect of what is a part of the future for libraries; although the Omaha Public Library doesn't have the space or money to do what Do Space can, they are affiliated with the tech center and encourage their patrons to use it. They provide their digital resources and databases through the center, which people can access with their library card. Do Space, like the OPL, is free to use and provides separate spaces for kids, teens, and adults to play around with technology and sign up for classes like 3D printing and laser cutting. The space is funded by local donors and, the article stresses, is “‘responding to an equity gap’ in the availability of technology to thousands of area residents.” [Read "Tech Centers are Coming to a Library Near You."](#)

- The St. Joseph County (IN) Public Library (SJCPL), in preparation for their strategic planning process, decided to take a closer look at the surrounding community and find out just who was using (and not using) the library. When they looked at the data that showed where their patrons were coming from, they found a big gaping hole in their user base, right where the University of Notre Dame was located. So, when representatives from Notre Dame's Hesburgh Library approached SJCPL about a possible collaboration involving borrowing materials, they knew it was something they wanted to be a part of. Read more about this idea in "[Public and University Library Collaboration.](#)"

From the Nov/Dec Issue of Public Libraries

Using GIS to Assess Public Libraries by Dilnavaz Mirza Sharma on January 7, 2016

About the Author

DILNAVAZ MIRZA SHARMA is Survey and Report Coordinator in the Office of Research, Planning, and Assessment at Meredith College, Raleigh (NC). Contact Dilnavaz at sharmadi@meredith.edu. Dilnavaz is currently reading *Vanity Fair* by William Makepeace Thackeray.

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Simply put, a Geographic Information System (GIS) is a tool for organizing data so that it can be displayed and analyzed based on its geospatial characteristics. Using GIS allows users to combine multiple data sets in order to suss out connections in the subject matter that might not necessarily have been fully apparent without the added element of geographic references.

also enables the user to visualize large quantities of disparate data and relate features of one dataset to those of another within the familiar structures of a map.

GIS and Public Libraries

GIS in public libraries has been used primarily to assess facilities usage and the impact of services in the community. Offering GIS services to patrons is still not as widespread in public libraries as it is in academic and map libraries. A 2014 survey of 115 member libraries, conducted by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), found that 100 percent of the 54 institutions responding to the survey provided GIS and mapping services to its users. I failed to turn up a similarly comprehensive survey of GIS offerings in public libraries. [Read the entire article here.](#)

Midweek Media Mash-Up

A Choice Selection of Links for Your Perusal

- [In Memoriam: David Bowie's Top 100 Books](#)
- [Ace the Interview: Advice from Monster](#)
- [What Makes a Good Life?](#) (Watch 12:46)
- [7 Questions to Help You Figure Out Your Life's Purpose](#)
- [15 Classics to Read \(or Re-read\)](#)
- [What Motivates Us at Work?](#) (Watch 2:50)

Ask Us Anything

If you have questions about PLOnline, *Public Libraries*, PLA or anything else, send them in! Just hit reply and send your question on its way! We'll try to answer every email and maybe even share our conversation in future newsletters.

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