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PUBLIC LIBRARIES
ONLINE WEEKLY

Trending..The Latest From PLOnline

- On November 14 and 15, 2015, the Toronto Public Library (TPL) was invaded by hackers – fourteen teams of invited programming enthusiasts – as part of the first TPL Hackathon. Hackathons are common events in the programming world and can last fro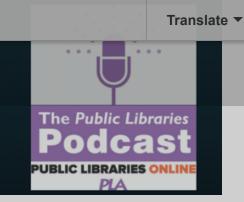m hours to days as programmers work to create apps, websites, games, and other projects. With TPL in the middle of developing a new strategic plan, the staff decided to theme their hackathon by posing this question to participants: "How can the library make our communities more resilient, more knowledgeable, more connected and more successful?" Find out more in "Toronto Public Library Brings Community, Data Together at Hackathon."

- Finding a unique approach to a topic as popular as adult coloring is a challenge. There have been countless articles both in the popular press and library specific publications about this hot new trend. Coloring books aimed at adults feature more complex, artistic designs from repeating pattern mandalas to fantastical cityscapes. But how does a library actually pull off a successful adult coloring night? The following is a case study of one small library's adult coloring program, including what worked and what didn't. The Emerson Public Library (where I work), located in suburban Emerson, NJ and serving a population of 7,500, ran an Adult Coloring program every Tuesday evening in October 2015. Attendance was more than 20 patrons per night. For a small investment in supplies and refreshments, the library was able to engage a new user base. Read the entire article, "Adult Coloring, An Easy and Cheap Programming Option."

- In episode three of FYI The Public Libraries Podcast, we talk to Sarah Kittrell, author of the new PLA book, "The Bed Bug Guide for Public Libraries" Kittrell, collection development division manager of the Wichita Public Library, has served as her library's pest management coordinator since 2012 and has amassed a lot of experience in the arena. In this podcast, we go over how to recognize the signs of a bed bug infestation; creating an action plan; related policies and procedures; and much more! Listen to the podcast (19:29).

teams can use to defuse groupthink and make it safe to speak up for change. An individual might be labeled a "heretic" and shunned for pushing back on group norms. Silence, however, may feed into groupthink and cause an organization to miss out on opportunities to improve and innovate. Instead of going it alone, Dattner suggests we try randomly assigning team members to argue for and against the issue under discussion. "Structured debates can provide the opportunity to rigorously discuss and dispute interpretations of current trends, as well as future predictions, in a kind of organizational 'safe mode' that enables teams to explore risks without putting individual members of the team at internal risk," he said. Read "Tackling Library Sacred Cows with Structured Debate."

- The state of Indiana is thrilled to celebrate its Bicentennial in 2016, but the Indiana State Parks are also celebrating an important milestone–their hundredth birthday. The Indiana State Parks system was a gift to the people of Indiana in 1916 in celebration of the state's centennial. And what better way to celebrate than to give the people of Indiana the gift of discovering their state parks—for free! The State Park Centennial Annual Pass Library Check-out Program is a partnership between Indiana State Parks and the Indiana State Library to encourage people to visit libraries and parks. The Indiana State Library helped pay for the program and distributed one state park pass to each of the 240 public library systems in the state. Read more about this program in "Check Out a State Parks Pass at Indiana Libraries."

Midweek Media Mash-Up

A Choice Selection of Links for Your Perusal

- How the Smithsonian Is Crowdsourcing History
- Stride and Prejudice - An App with a Jane Austen Twist
- Clean Slate Day -- Library Partners to Offer Programming on Expunging Criminal Records
- Ten Ways to Have Better Conversations (Listen 11:44)
- Successful Entrepreneurs Take Fewer Risks
- The Only Surviving Recording of Virginia Woolf's Voice, 1937 (Listen7:39)
- The End of Average

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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