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Trending..The Latest From PLOnline

- At Bibliotheque et Archives Nationales du Quebec, in Montreal, Canada, the Alberto Manguel/ Robert Lepage collaboration “[La bibliotheque, la nuit](#),” a virtual reality exhibition of the interiors of libraries, is on display. “The experience felt so real it was disconcerting to look down and not see my own body in the virtual space,” says Jeff Peachey, a recent visitor, [in his blog](#). But what, if any, is the future of virtual reality (VR) in the library? What kind of role does this technology play? “Overall, it was oddly reflective and poetic.” Read more in ["Virtual Reality in the Library: Creating a New Experience."](#)


- If you are a library patron lacking Internet in your home, have no fear—many public libraries across the country are teaming up with cell phone providers like Sprint and Verizon to offer library hotspots for checkout. These hotspot devices can be checked out for an allotted period of time designated by participating public libraries. Unsure about what a hotspot is? Well, the [Chicago Public Library](#) has defined a library Wi-Fi hotspot as “a device you can use to connect a mobile-enabled device, such as a laptop, smartphone or tablet, to the Internet. The hotspot is portable, so you can connect your device almost wherever you are, like at home, on the bus or in the park.” In a world filled with endless technology, public libraries once again prove that they can continue being relevant in a world deeply embedded in a technological revolution that once “threatened” to put public libraries out of business for good. Read more in ["Check Out a Library Hotspot."](#)
- If you have ever planned a program for kids or teens, then you have probably had at least one program that was a total bust. You spent weeks flipping through magazines, scouring the Internet looking for ideas, collaborating with colleagues, Pinning, planning, prepping, and organizing what you think is a fabulous program idea, only to have a couple of kids (or even no kids) show up. There are plenty of reasons for low program attendance, but many librarians immediately

to ramp things up even more, hoping that if you work harder, the next program will bring in the patrons. But what if the opposite were true? What if you could do less and still have a successful program? Amy Koester, the “Show Me Librarian” and Youth & Family Program Coordinator at the Skokie (IL) Public Library, explains how that just might be possible with something she calls “unprogramming.” Read more in "[Unprogramming with Amy Koester.](#)"

- [The OCLC Library in the Life of the User meeting last fall](#) explored research and case studies about user expectations. Needs have shifted radically. It is no longer enough to design library services on what librarians think their users should be interested in. The time has come to “shift from looking at user in life of library to library in life of the user.” The library competes with choices from the outside world, including social networks. Librarians need to beware of assuming what users need and want. We also need to develop future services by focusing on user needs. Empowering the people who come through our doors and engaging them will help us to better serve them. The report “[Shaping the Library to the Life of the User: Adapting, Empowering, Partnering, Engaging](#)” highlights findings that were shared at the conference. Find out more in "[Is Your Library User-Centered?](#)"



- As library workers, we’re used to working with copyright on the spectator side. We have opinions about the [Google Book Project](#), can recite the [Fair Use Clause](#) by heart, and help thousands of patrons cite primary sources in just the ways to satisfy both their research needs and the law. But what about your library’s own creations? Your marketing department wants more authentic user experiences, so you recruit patrons to take photos and guest blog for your website; your program’s folks ask you to record a song for summer reading and hand out copies as catchy reminders; your writing group wants to publish an anthology of their best work — how do you protect all of this? Read more in "[The Other Side of Copyright.](#)"

- I recently read of a public library that has begun sending people door to door to register residents for library cards, similar to the manner that politicians canvas. They were offering a how-to webinar for others to do the same. The situation immediately took me aback. Not that long ago, a fairly high-level business executive beat up an Uber driver who couldn’t understand his drunken request for a ride. In a town near me, a pastor, seeking an inexpensive cell phone for his son, ended up hospitalized after meeting with a Craigslist seller. The attack occurred in daylight, in a public location, and with several witnesses. The thought of approaching an unknown person’s home fills me with fear. Check out the entire article, "[Canvassing Conundrum.](#)"



- I read in awe, as many others did, about the [Books and Butchers program](#), where approximately eighty patrons at the Johnson Public Library (KS) [watched a local butcher cut up a half pig](#). From the photographs, one could see the program attracted a predominantly adult male audience (some with their wives). It is that type of gutsy programming we need to keep our young men involved in the library. The makerspace, fabspace, STEM, STEAM, and gaming movements provide a plethora of programming ideas that keep boys moving, spark creativity, and engage young minds. Find out more in "[Man Up: Attracting the Male Patron.](#)"

communications and records. Have American opinions of privacy been affected? And how has it shaped online behavior? Since the June 2013 Snowden leaks, the Pew Research Center began an in-depth study on how Americans view privacy and sharing personal information. Pew's recently published report [The State of Privacy in America](#) reveals surprising results—and some interesting opportunities for public libraries to get involved in privacy and surveillance discussions. Read the entire article, "[How Public Libraries Play a Role in the State of Privacy in America.](#)"

Midweek Media Mash-Up

A Choice Selection of Links for Your Perusal

- [Can't Make the PLA 2016 Conference?](#)
- [A Horse-Drawn Library in Indonesia](#)
- [How to Use Open eBooks with Students](#)
- [It's Dr. Seuss's Birthday! Here's Eight Things You May Not Know About Him](#)
- [Managing Your Personal Book Collection](#)
- [Lots of 2016 Oscar-Nominated Films were Book Adaptations](#)
- [The Department of Health and Human Services Funds Expanded Head Start for Kids in Flint](#)
- [Restoring the World's Oldest Library](#)

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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