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Trending..The Latest From PLOnline

- It seems that everyone in the United States is glued to the story about Flint and the water crisis. What role does a public library play in a civic crisis such as this? Flint Public Library (FPL) has defined three specific ways in which the library supports the local community. How does the library fit into the solutions for the longer term issues? First, and perhaps most importantly, FPL staff are actively engaged in the conversations about what to do and how to mobilize resources. “We are at the table,” says Kay Schwartz, Library Director. “We have to know who is doing what and how people can get help. Flint has a well-developed network of organizations that collaborate effectively. We don’t need to create the solution. We just need to know what it looks like and know how people can access it.” Read the entire article, "[Flint Public Library: A Gateway to Critical Information.](#)"
- Librarians are very fond of pointing out that we are not our stereotypes. We’re not all shrill older ladies in horn rimmed glasses with a wicked “Shhh!” We’re not all meek or mild-mannered men in V-neck sweaters. We like relaxed dress codes, and we’re very comfortable with tattoos and bright blue hair. When we’re not getting people books, we’re putting on [pub trivia nights](#) or showing off [3D printers](#). These are not our stereotypes. Read more in "[Snark, Sarcasm, and Your Friendly Neighborhood Librarian.](#)"
- Immigrating to a new country is a daunting and complicated task. You are surrounded by new customs, new people, possibly a new language, and paperwork. Finding help for questions as well as a welcoming place during this transitional time can make all the difference in a person’s life. As a [recent article](#) illustrates, libraries can be the place that helps newcomers to find information, services, and small comforts, as well as new acquaintances. Find out more in "[Immigration Services in Libraries.](#)"
- [Nicola Yoon’s](#) debut novel Everything, Everything tells the coming-of-age story of Maddy, a witty eighteen year-old diagnosed with Severe Combined



with the arrival of Olly, her charming next-door neighbor who's as equally adept at parkour as he is at crafting swoon-worthy e-mails. Their unusual courtship is charted through their droll email and IM exchanges, where they crack wise about everything from suicidal

Bundt cakes to the state fish of Hawaii. *School Library Journal* listed *Everything, Everything* as one of its **Best Books 2015** and *The New York Times* praised it as "offbeat, pragmatic and sweetly romantic." Brendan Dowling interviewed Nicola Yoon on March 1, 2016. Author photo courtesy of Sonya Sones. Read the interview, "**Many Strange Things Occur to You at 4 a.m.**"

- The Toronto Public Library is working on installing a book-lending kiosk at Toronto Union Station, which services approximately a quarter of a million commuters daily. TPL hopes to have the kiosk up and running by April 2016 and to increase its library user base. The project is modeled after similar book-lending systems that already exist in the United States in places like **Pittsburgh** and **San Diego**, and **the Bay Area**, as well as in Europe, Japan, and other parts of Canada. It's not just going to be books; the plan is to lend out DVDs, video games, and even e-books, as well as popular fiction and nonfiction titles. If the pilot program succeeds, additional kiosks will be put in place throughout the rest of Toronto. Read more in "**Toronto Public Library Installs Book Kiosk at Union Station.**"
- Providing equal access to all library patrons is an essential component of every library's mandate. In fact, the ALA Mission Statement asserts that librarians must "ensure access to information for all." With that in mind, the ALA Task Force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion hosted a workshop at ALA Midwinter on how librarians can become more aware of and even work against systemic racism: "If I Hadn't Believed It, I Wouldn't Have Seen It: Exploring Systemic Racism and Its Implications for Our Lives and Work." Read the entire article "**ALA Addressing Systemic Racism in the Library.**"
- Trends are showing a flattening of the e-book explosion. According to the Association of American Publishers, e-book sales fell by 11 percent through third quarter of 2015. Five years ago, experts predicted e-book sales would become 50 percent of the book sales market. They also predicted that the sales of e-books through online retailers would cause brick-and-mortar stores to decline. While e-book sales did increase exponentially, we have a seen a flattening of this trend. Even the marketplace is beginning to demonstrate physical presence has its place. Online-only retailer Amazon has made the move to expand into the brick-and-mortar market. Find out more in "**E-book Trends Flattening, Paper Books Holding Their Own.**"
- The Library Board of the Park Ridge Public Library, in a suburb of Chicago, has enacted a new policy: a \$10 per hour fee for using the library space to tutor children. This applies to for-profit as well as not-for-profit tutors. The policy was enacted February 1, 2016, but the hourly fees were not applied until March 1 so that patrons had time to adjust to the new rule. The overall community **response** so far appears to be negative, as parents worry about where their children can now go to be tutored. A local pastry shop and eye care clinic are offering up space in their facilities to be used for tutoring purposes at no cost and no pressure to purchase their items. Read more in "**To Charge or Not to Charge?**"



library. In the past year, Pierce County (Washington) Library System has positioned itself within the county as a convenient and customer-oriented service to connect residents to training, employment services, and certification options. Find out more in "[Get Smart. Get Hired.](#)"



Can't Make It to PLA 2016?

Check out the Virtual Conference. Over two days, April 7 & 8, PLA will host a Virtual Conference in tandem with PLA 2016. Each day will feature five live programs, author interviews, networking opportunities and more. [Get more information and register here.](#)

Midweek Media Mash-Up

A Choice Selection of Links for Your Perusal

- [Denver Public Library Has Released a Vinyl Record](#)
- [March is Women's History Month - Here's a List of Essential Feminist Reading](#)
- [Rethinking Expulsions](#)
- [Rowling Unveils New Story on Salem Witch Trials](#)
- [Spoilers, Sweetie! - Because You Can't Read it All](#)
- [How to Make Science Fairs Cool Again](#)
- [Falconcam at Evanston \(Illinois\) Public 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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