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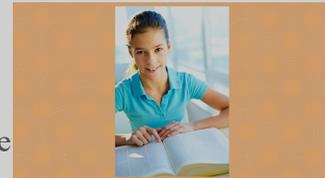
# PUBLIC LIBRARIES ONLINE WEEKLY

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Issue #49

## Trending..The Latest From PLOnline

- Although I am a “younger” librarian, I do remember learning the tools for researching and writing a paper in high school. In fact, we had to write and research a topic in order to graduate high school. As students we had to compile sources by searching through the card catalog, and then we had to locate the physical books in the stacks. It was by doing this that we learned how to use indexes, how to create a ‘Works Cited’ page, how to sift through information on an assigned topic, and how to use the card catalogs. We did not have to worry about the quality of the research on our desired topics. Read more in "[Teach Effective Research Skills Early.](#)"
- The United States is far from the only country facing library closures and budget cuts. According to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy annual survey of libraries in Great Britain, there was a £50 million cut from library budgets across Britain in 2014–2015, and 106 libraries closed. In *The Guardian*'s “Student” section, Greta Bellamacina recently made a strong argument for the importance of public libraries, particularly as a vital resource for students. Bellamacina recognizes the importance public libraries played in her own development—she says, “I absorbed a canon of books I could never have afforded to buy,”—and she often observes students utilizing libraries. She was dismayed to hear people say that the closure of one north London library branch didn't matter because kids use their own laptops and buy books on Amazon. “This is a middle-class perspective and it ignores the hundreds of kids in social housing in the Belsize Park area who do not necessarily have laptops or one-click Amazon accounts,” Bellamacina wrote. Read "[We Can't Lose our Public Libraries--in Britain or America.](#)"
- Douglas County, Oregon has been financially impacted by the demise of the logging industry and declining safety-net funds. As a result, county officials are weighing ideas about cutting some of its public services. Over the past eight years, the county budget's general fund (a portion of this fund currently pays for





the library system) has been reduced from \$29 million, which means the library system's budget was originally \$2.6 million and is now \$1.2 million. One implication of this financial reduction is an increasing reliance upon volunteer support instead of paid staff

members. The library system hopes to keep its ten branches open, but to do so it will need to determine how to increase its funding. Donations and grant money help with some of the expenses, but these funds are not enough to cover the full scale of expenditures needed to run the libraries. Find out more in "[Library Property Taxing Districts As a Strategy for Keeping Libraries Open.](#)"

- Quick—how do you deal with a patron who is wearing a big coat on a hot day? Who do you tell when your shelver trips and breaks their arm rearranging the westerns? What can be done about the DVDs you keep having to replace because they go missing from the collection so often? If you are lucky, you can consult with your security team on these issues. Read "[Safety and Security Workers Are An Integral Part of the Library.](#)"
- *"If anyone ever thought they'd become a librarian because they liked books or reading, they would be sorely disappointed if they did not also like people too."* —The Guardian. Every decade or so, I complete a career check. I don't know if you do the same, but I find it's a way for me to measure who I am against what I do. Now, since I'm in the fourth quarter of my life's game, I really shouldn't bother, but if I don't stop measuring and evaluating, I'll stop learning and growing, and that just doesn't appeal to me. So, I trotted out the old question, "Am I happy with what I'm doing?" and set up my check list. Read more in "[I Was Just Wondering.](#)"
- In February 2016, President Obama nominated Dr. Carla Hayden to be the next Librarian of Congress. Currently the CEO of the [Enoch Pratt Free Library](#) in Baltimore, Dr. Hayden would not only be the first female Librarian of Congress but also the first African-American, if she is confirmed. She has previously been the Deputy Commissioner and Chief Librarian of the Chicago Public Library from 1991 to 1993. Get more information in "[Dr. Carla Hayden Nominated for Librarian of Congress.](#)"
-  Managing vendor relationships can be an uncomfortable task for some library staff. Given the general collaborative nature of library staff, working with vendors can feel competitive and unnatural. In my current position, I manage e-content for a public library system where vendors are my allies in helping my library better serve the community. Based on my experience, here are some tips for making the most in working with vendors. Read the entire article "[Helping Vendors Help Us.](#)"



## FYI: The Public Libraries Podcast Is On The Air!

All six episodes (recorded live at PLA 2016) are now available. Check it out:

- FYI-005- Kari Chapin - Live from PLA 2016! (17:35)

- [FYI-007 - The BOOMbox at Skokie Illinois Public Library with Amy Holcomb and Mikael Jacobson \(13:40\)](#)
- [FYI-008 - Disasters Bring Out the Best In Us - Providing Community Support \(10:44\)](#)
- [FYI-009 -- Where the Black and Brown Boys Aren't \(and Why\) Nichole Shabazz and Phyllis C. Hunter \(15:24\)](#)
- [FYI-010 - Engaged and Inclusive: Institutional Approaches to Racial Equity and Social Justice \(19:37\)](#)

Click here to learn more or listen to any of our Podcasts.

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## Midweek Media Mash-Up

A Choice Selection of Links for Your Perusal

- [Doctors to Prescribe Novels](#)
- [Can Prison Literacy Programs Fix Our Mass Incarceration Problem?](#)
- [The Link Between Literacy and Nutrition](#)
- [The Librarian Who Saved Timbuktu's Cultural Treasures](#)
- [Supreme Court Rejects Google Books Copyright Case](#)

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### 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 get back to you as soon as possible. Thanks for reading!

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