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A Publication of the Public Library Association

PUBLIC LIBRARIES ONLINE WEEKLY

Wednesday, June 1, 2016

Issue #55

Trending..The Latest From PLOnline

- Amidst the wake of the first criminal charges filed against three government workers accused of covering up evidence of lead contamination in the Flint, Michigan, water crisis, the Flint Public Library (FPL) holds strong to a transformational plan they set in motion in July 2014. With one foot in the past and one in the present, this library knows where it has been and where it is going. If you visit the FPL [website](#), you will notice there is a lot of activity not unlike what you find at a library—ads promoting various programs and links to e-books, data sources, and downloadable material. Additionally, the library has created a web page of sources about the [Flint water emergency](#). Now, FPL is embarking on creating its own digital collection of stories with *Flint Voices Matter*, a project that combines collaboration of StoryCorps and Flint residents. StoryCorps' is an independently funded organization whose mission is to “preserve and share humanity’s stories in order to build connections between people and create a more just and compassionate world.” Read more in "[Flint Residents: In Their Own Words](#)."
- Once your library is slated to get security staff, how do you know what to look for in your personnel search? Former correctional officers and police workers are a good place to start, but there are other aspects to consider and find in your



protectors. **Customer service experience:** Since it's their job to constantly patrol the library, your security workers will come in contact with patrons for many reasons other than safety or loss prevention. Make sure you choose security staff that is able to assist the public

with general library logistics such as finding different sections, explaining checkout rules, and which programs are occurring on a specific day. The extent of this may vary between large branches with full-coverage staff and small locations that need more help, but every security worker should be aware of what

- Anyone who is familiar with the library world knows that libraries have recently faced a number of budgetary challenges. In the United States, this has manifested in shorter hours and reduced staff. You are also probably aware that in the United Kingdom, libraries have been systematically closed. An [article](#) by Amelia Dimoldenberg specifies that in the last six years, the United Kingdom has closed 350 libraries, and another 111 are slated for closure next year. The reason is due to “drastic cuts to local authority spending.” This is indeed a troubling trend. It has resulted in [the loss of eight thousand library jobs](#), and the slow elimination of “freely accessible community spaces.” Despite the closures, U.K. patrons still need their local libraries. Not only do patrons use libraries for homework help and job searches, but they act as community hubs that foster education and learning. Libraries also serve the same purpose here in the States. Read "[Despite U.K. Library Closures, Patrons Need Their Libraries.](#)"



- Imagine shopping for groceries with your toddler. Suddenly, your phone lights up with a text: “Play with math. Go on a shape hunt...use geometric terms to describe what you find.” You turn down the aisle and begin hunting for circles on cereal boxes with your toddler. This kind of interaction, in which a caregiver “plays” with their child in a way that promotes early childhood literacy, is exactly what Jessica Ralli, coordinator of early literacy programs, and Rachel Payne, coordinator of early childhood services, at Brooklyn Public Library (BPL), seek to promote through “Ready, Set, Kindergarten (RSK) on the Go!” a texting campaign that complements BPL’s face-to-face early literacy program, “Ready, Set, Kindergarten!” [Read "Brooklyn Public Library's Ready, Set, Kindergarten! Texting Initiative" here.](#)



New! Quick Reads Series

Quick Reads for Busy Librarians Series

Weeding Manual

Weeding is an important step in collection management, and one that must be handled sensibly. Under-weeded collections can quickly look messy, old, and unappealing. Overweeded collections become irrelevant, lacking materials that patrons want and need. There is a fine balance in weeding, and it all begins with knowing your community and what they expect from their public library. Weeding also has implications for public relations. This manual will help library workers weed smartly. [Learn more about this digital download.](#)



The Bed Bug Guide for Public Libraries

The Bed Bug Guide for Public Libraries is a thorough look at managing what is becoming an increasingly common problem for public libraries. The book’s expert author, Sarah 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. As



necessary to ensure introductions are caught and dealt with as quickly as possible, stopping infestation scenarios before they have a chance to truly start. Libraries around the country and world have successfully dealt with bed bugs and you can too.” [Learn more about this digital download.](#)

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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