Trending..The Latest From PLOnline

- Undocumented, unauthorized, illegal, immigrant, migrant, alien, noncitizen. Words are powerful, and the Library of Congress (LC) regularly changes its subject headings to reflect the preferred or most neutral terminology used by the population. Most of the time, there is no major uproar when a subject heading is changed, but the recent retirement of the “illegal alien” subject heading has caused some politicians in Congress to order the Library of Congress to keep the subject heading to match the current legal language. Read "Illegal Alien," See Noncitizen."

- I’m fascinated by highly specialized libraries. These are usually small, very well curated, and often noncirculating. One example of a beautiful specialized space is the San Francisco Airport’s Aviation Museum and Library. I can’t say I have a need for airline-themed books, model plane magazines from the ’60s, or ephemera like their collection of in-flight sick bags, but I’m glad all that’s there! They serve a variety of research and niche needs in a gorgeous setting. There are also libraries which are special not because of what they carry as much as who they serve, like the library system discussed in “The Most Precious Cargo for Lighthouses Across America was a Traveling Library,” by Atlas Obscura’s Natalie Zarrelli. She writes about the steamer trunk libraries that were ported along the US seaboards for a very small and select group of patrons: lighthouse residents. Read "The Tiniest Libraries for the Most Remote Patrons."

- Sometimes life happens, and we mess up. We lose our keys, we forget about our cell phone bill payment, and sometimes we forget to return library books. For Cathy and Melvin Duren of Tecumseh, Michigan, simple human error caused them quite a headache. In April 2016, the Durens faced legal action and jail time for two overdue library books. Read more in "Police Involved with Overdue Books."
Considering your future career can be daunting for anyone. For a teen, thinking about what you want to be when you grow up can be that much harder. Many of us don’t have the opportunity to learn about a profession before we start studying it after high school. Students wind up changing their majors, possibly spending money on classes they didn’t really need. With that uncertainty in mind, Pikes Peak Library District teen services staff wanted to give young adults a glimpse into potential job fields through their Career Conversations program. Read "Career Conversations: Job Information for Teens."

- Were you born without the mysterious charisma gene? Does managing people or projects make you feel queasy? Are you new to management, or just struggling with new responsibilities? Here’s the deal—management is a skill that must be learned. Don’t beat yourself up over not knowing how to handle each situation in the best way. You have to devote some time to learning this new skill. There are many tools available to help you through the journey. Let’s look at some ways you can become a better manager in your library. Read "Tips for Library Managers Part 1."

- A recent New York Times article by Cecilia Kang profiled a Detroit, Michigan, community struggling with Internet access. The article highlights how residents without broadband access struggle to participate in Detroit’s economic recovery and reports that “Detroit has the worst rate of Internet access of any big American city, with four in ten of its 689,000 residents lacking broadband, according to the Federal Communications Commission.” Today, Internet access is essential for finding job listings, submitting applications, completing employment exams, corresponding with hiring managers throughout the interview process, and pre-employment online processes. Moreover, residents without access to technology lack opportunities to develop digital literacy skills that are required in many jobs today. Read "Reaching Across the Digital Divide."

- When you think of finding the latest breaking news updates online, which social network comes to mind? The Pew Research Center recently published a report on a survey it conducted between January and February, 2016, with 4,654 members of the center’s American Trends Panel. The survey examined news-seeking habits of adults across social media platforms. For libraries, these survey findings provide insight on how to best reach patrons on social media as well as how adults find information online. Read "Pew Report: Facebook Most Popular Platform for Seeking Information."

- Recently I wrote here about extremely accurate facial recognition software could literally change the face of how libraries do business. It’s one of many amazing advancements on the horizon, and all of them will transform libraries from what they are now to something…well, we don’t know yet. All this can only come about if libraries adopt a form of change management. Change has become the norm for libraries as it has with many other businesses who wish to remain competitive. The rise in popularity of the e-book and digital libraries, the transformation to digital centers featuring computer and Wi-Fi access, and libraries as community meeting centers has challenged what used to be the norm, and replaced it with an ever evolving one instead. Read "Emerging Tech Trends Require Change Management."
• Study Looks at Associations between Public Library Use and Reading Aloud Among Families with Young Children
• An Online Guide to Down-Ballot Races
• Are Children Learning Rudeness from Speaking to Computers?
• Binge-Reading Books
• Can Embracing Emotional Distress Be Good For You?
• Website Pairs Syrian Refugees With People Who Want to Practice Their Arabic
• Millions of Kids Go Hungry in the Summer

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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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