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Trending...The Latest From PLOnline

- In public libraries, most managers have an impressively broad range of duties. Our training and background may be primarily in some audience or service specialty and our day-to-day responsibilities may still include significant quantities of work related to that area. Whatever our duties, they can leave us little time or energy to develop our supervisory, management, or leadership knowledge and skills. Read "[Cultivating Your Inner Leader.](#)"
- The body of a homeless man, who frequented the Oak Park Public Library in suburban Chicago might have been there for days before a maintenance worker unlocked the building on a Monday morning in April. The cause? An accidental heroin overdose. The security company responsible for clearing the library was fired. "On both a personal and a professional level, we were all very shocked and of course worried about how this could happen in our spaces," Executive Director [David Seleb told CBS News.](#) Read "[Just Say No: Keeping Your Library Drug-Free and Safe.](#)"
- The library's reach isn't limited to just its walls. The library's reach should extend to the whole community. In a way, the whole community is part of the library: the schools, the civic groups, the offices of local politicians, the senior centers, the playgrounds, and much more. Read "[Connecting Community Groups at the Library.](#)"
- [A recent story sparked](#) my interest in the reasons we read and the psychological, emotional, and social effects of being surrounded by books and reading. You may have seen the story as it made its way through social media circles. It's about a secret library in a war torn suburb of Damascus. Tucked away in a basement lined with shelves and furnished with two couches and a desk, volunteers have amassed more than 14,000 books of all subjects. For 14-year-old Amjad, who lives next door, visits to the library are a daily occurrence. He takes such good care of the books that visitors have dubbed him, "deputy librarian." Read "[Democracy, Libraries, and the Human Spirit: We Learn From Syria.](#)"

campaign to remind the public to change the batteries in our smoke alarms. I am sorry to say that without these reminders, both the smoke detector and the fire fighters would be ‘out of sight and out of mind.’ Read "[Don't Forget Your Emergency Plan.](#)"

- As the presidential election season endures, librarians and other information professionals in public libraries may be tempted to express fondness for one political party and dislike for the other. Sometimes expression of one’s political stance is done unintentionally. Whether such expression is intentional or benign, it may convey a perceived bias to patrons and to the community that the library is for or against a certain candidate running for office whether that is for president, governor, mayor, senator, etc. Read "[Political Ethics: Keeping Your Library Neutral.](#)"

Midweek Media MashUp

A Choice Selection of Links for Your Perusal

- [President Obama's Essential Reads](#)
- [The Benefits of Reading Short Stories \(Infographic\)](#)
- [How Thinking Like a Kid Can Spur Creativity](#)
- [Rhode Island Looks at Making College Textbooks Free](#)
- [The National Archive Launches GIFs Created From Its Collections](#)

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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