

The latest articles from PLA's online magazine
and more!

[View this email in your browser](#)

A Publication of the Public Library Association

PUBLIC LIBRARIES ONLINE WEEKLY

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Issue #78

Trending...The Latest From PLOnline

- Public libraries have seen a lot of change in the last three decades: the advent of the Internet and modern computer, the creation of the OPAC/ILS (bye-bye card catalog), the burgeoning eBook industry, and the rise of self-published authors, to name a handful. What hasn't changed is the ongoing plight of the LGBTQIA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual/Allied) community and the fact that they are often not provided relevant resources in public libraries. Read "[Making the Library a Positive Place for LGBTQIA Patrons.](#)"
- As a leader in public libraries, how are you encouraging nonconformity? Did you know that you should be? After reading the article "[Let Your Workers Rebel,](#)" I couldn't help but link it back to our profession. Let's start with a gross generalization: Libraries as an institution seem to prefer conformity within our organizations; but librarians as a profession also strive to counter conformity. We cater our services to various nonconformists, and provide service to those who want to learn something new on taboo topics, or to have access to materials they may have been denied elsewhere. We will fight to the death for the rights we all have to express ourselves, and privacy is very important to us. But as a profession, we shy away from change. Even the most forward thinking librarians can be afraid to rock the boat. Let's face it, we embrace the rules. Read "[Shaking Things Up at Your Library.](#)"
- Libraries are an important part of our democratic society. They serve as centers of knowledge as well as places where anyone can look for a job, get homework help, or attend an event. They enlighten and entertain, and serve their communities in ways other organizations cannot.



Although many of us already knew this, it's heartening to hear stories about the positive differences libraries can make in people's lives. One example of this comes from a blog post on the [Brainpickings](#) website. In it,

years. There is also a [video](#) detailing Reyes' experience. Read "[The Transformative Possibilities of Libraries.](#)"

- Recently I facilitated several workshops throughout Arizona's public libraries implementing the Aspen Institute's [Action Guide for Re-Envisioning Your Public Library](#). We focused on initiating a dialogue with the community that is centered on the community's priorities. Rather than ask questions like, "What can we do to increase the frequency of your visits to the library?" or "Do you prefer to read your fiction in print or on a screen?" the question we asked is, "What type of community do you want to live in?" Read "[Turning Outward at Your Library: Re-Envisioning.](#)"
- We've been throwing the term "user experience" around but we haven't taken a look at exactly who the 'U' in UX is. One of the critical steps in the UX process is identifying who your users are. Depending on the type of library you work in, these groups might apply: patrons (or customers, or whatever you call them); students; faculty; nonresidents; and staff. Read "[Identifying Your Library's Users.](#)"



News from ALA

Today, ALA and Rosen Publishing released the video "[Libraries Ready to Code.](#)" Introduced during Computer Science (CS) Education Week, the video depicts coding activities in public and school libraries and underscores how libraries can increase exposure and access to CS learning opportunities for youth. The video will be used as an advocacy tool to increase awareness of library coding activities among decision makers, influencers and other stakeholders at all levels.

"Libraries are community hubs for learning a variety of skills relevant to modern life, and computational thinking skills learned through coding are among the most critical," said ALA President Julie B. Todaro. "By showing what libraries can and are already doing to build a successful future for our nation's youth, the Libraries Ready to Code video powerfully communicates the infrastructure of expertise and resources found in school and public libraries."

Video sponsor and President of Rosen Publishing Roger Rosen added, "People today are not only digital information consumers, we are all digital producers – and the jobs of the future demand skills to create. Youth need places to practice and develop coding skills outside the traditional classroom environment, especially for girls and others who have less exposure to coding and computer science."

As part of the [Libraries Ready to Code project](#) launched earlier this year, the video released today is the first in a series to come out in 2017. It features library professionals engaged with youth in coding activities as well as interviews with youth and parents:

New York)

“It’s really not just coding. It is a way of thinking and perceiving and problem-solving.” – *Teacher Librarian (Norman, Oklahoma)*

“When I’m coding... I really feel like I accomplished something.” – *Student (Bronx, New York)*

“Coding is the new literacy.” – *Parent (Norman, Oklahoma)*

Midweek Media MashUp

A Choice Selection of Links for Your Perusal

- [How to Take a Great Family Photo](#) (Watch 1:38)
- [The Habits of Confident People](#)
- [Hate Crimes Happening at Libraries](#)
- [This Organic Food Company Doesn’t Discriminate Against Ex-Offenders—It Seeks Them Out](#)
- [Vending Machines Dispense Short Stories to French Commuters](#)

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!

PLA Public Library Association

A division of the
American Library
Association
50 E Huron
Chicago, IL 60611
Contact:
Kathleen Hughes,
khughes@ala.org

About Us

Publiclibrariesonline.org
is the companion website
to the bi-monthly print
publication “Public
Libraries,” the official
magazine of the Public
Library Association.

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Website](#)

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Public Library Association · 50 E Huron · Chicago, IL 60611 · USA

