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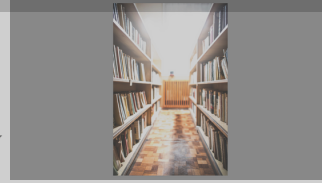
Issue #79

Trending...The Latest From PLOnline

- What is the purpose of a book? Is it to please the reader? To educate the reader? Challenge? The best books do all three, especially educate and challenge us as readers. For the newest head of the National Book Foundation, books are the best way to educate and challenge us not only as readers but as citizens of the world. Read "[Reading Beyond Your Own Borders.](#)"
- [M-E Girard's *Girl Mans Up*](#) tells the story of Pen, a gender-nonconforming high-school student, navigating a tumultuous year that involves breaking free from a domineering friend, seeking independence from overprotective parents, and embarking on a romance with an alluring classmate. Pen's vibrant and funny voice will draw readers in and has already garnered much creative praise. *The New York Times* praised it as "compulsively readable, by turns wrenching and euphoric" and it was recently named a finalist for the [William C. Morris Award: Best Young Adult Debut of the Year](#). M-E Girard spoke with Brendan Dowling via e-mail on December 15th. Read "[M-E Girard On Gaming, Rewriting, And Creating Her Multifaceted Main Character.](#)"
- Changing focus to allow time for play and creativity is essential to creating an innovative workplace. Daniel Pink's book *Drive* showed people who work on cognitive tasks are more motivated by autonomy and a sense of purpose than financial rewards. The Renaissance Society of America posted a summary on this topic: [Drive: The surprising truth about what motivates us](#). Read "[Make Space to Innovate.](#)"
- The maker movement has been filtering into the public library sphere for years, and libraries all over the U.S. now have their very own makerlabs and digital media labs. A big part of that digital DIY culture includes open source software, which Phil Shapiro, an educator and blogger for [opensource.com](#), argues needs to be more prevalent in the public library space. Perhaps librarians do need to be better educated on [open source](#). But arguably, we are already incorporating open



- Increasingly, libraries are offering programs specifically targeted to the homeless that provide opportunities to talk with library staff, social workers, job counselors, and other social service specialists. Customers who spend the better part of each day with us include a growing number of the homeless, those experiencing mental illness and or substance abuse issues, or those who need help following a variety of personal or family traumas. Many arrive at opening time and spend most of the day reading, using the computers or the WiFi, or simply enjoying a safe place away from the elements. Read "[Libraries Are A Lifeline.](#)"



New Year! New Goals!

Join the Public Library Association (PLA) to explore various ways to make goal-setting work for you, whether those goals are personal or work-related. The webinar "[New Year, New Goals! Setting Manageable Goals for 2017](#)" will take place on January 4 at 1:00 p.m. Central. Best-selling author Kari Chapin will discuss different systems for goal-setting, including for yourself and your teams, strategies to make sure your goals are manageable, and ways to stay on track. At the conclusion of this webinar, participants will:

- Know how to set a goal that has a starting and finishing line;
- Be able to develop a system for check-ins that keep your goals on track; and
- Understand why previous goals have either been successful or failed and what to do about it.

The cost to attend "[New Year, New Goals! Setting Manageable Goals for 2017](#)" is \$28 (PLA Members), \$31.50 (ALA Members) and \$35 (Nonmembers). Groups of any size can register for \$129. The registration deadline is 11:59 p.m. Central on Monday, January 2. Click [here](#) to register.

Midweek Media MashUp

A Choice Selection of Links for Your Perusal

- [This organization is working to harness the power of public libraries to improve population health.](#)
- [A Bob Dylan Archive](#)
- [Jane Austen and the Importance of Being Wrong](#)
- [Trying Not to Get Sick? Science Says You're Probably Doing It Wrong](#)

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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