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A Publication of the Public Library Association

PUBLIC LIBRARIES ONLINE WEEKLY

Monday, January 30, 2017

Issue #83

Trending...The Latest From PLOnline

- We have all heard that we are gatekeepers of information. This is true, but we must not forget that we are also gatekeepers of materials and services. Being that we have so much power and influence, our professional association, the ALA, has created a Code of Ethics and a Library Bill of Rights to give patrons inalienable rights as they use library resources. Read "[Ethics of Library Meeting Rooms.](#)"
- [Booki Vivat's](#) exuberant *Frazzled* introduces readers to Abbie Wu, a wisecracking sixth grader struggling with the transition to middle school. Her two best friends have thrived in their respective activities, while at home she is bookended by a brilliant older brother and adorable younger sister. Abbie's voice, by turns droll and vulnerable, is bolstered by Vivat's witty drawings that accompany the text. *All Things Considered* labeled *Frazzled* as "hilarious," while *Kirkus Reviews* says it "packs a punch with fresh, lively pencil-and-ink drawings and lettering that set each mood perfectly." Vivat spoke with Brendan Dowling via e-mail January 14, 2017. Read "[Booki Vivat On Doodling, Finding Your Purpose, And Laughing At Life's Mortifying Moments.](#)"
- American Graphics Institute, located in Woburn, Massachusetts has a wicked program for libraries. In this case, wicked is a good thing. Read "[Free Courses Offered to Libraries by American Graphics Institute.](#)"
- A new app gives Twin Cities library card holders access to free and discounted tickets to local cultural institutions. Read "[Patrons Can Check Out a Museum Pass with smARTpass App](#)"
- We all know some strange things can happen in libraries, but a story out of the East Lake County Library in Sorrento, Fla., is leaving me scratching my head. A few staff members at the library decided to create a fake library patron called Chuck Finley, who "checked out" 2,361 book over nine months in an effort to boost the circulation stats of the library's classic books. Now, one staff member could lose their job. Read "[Fake Library Patron Causes Problems in Florida.](#)"

Diversity in Children's Picture Books

November/December *Public Libraries*



William Caxton printed Aesop's Fables in 1484, some saying it was the first book directed at children. Nearly two hundred years passed until *The Little Book for Little Children* by Thomas White was published in 1660, and the first modern picture book, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter, wasn't published until 1902. After a very slow start to the publication of children's picture books, diversity within these books was slower still, and progress even reversed during certain decades. I became interested in picture book diversity after discovering that the first picture book to feature an African American character, *The Snow Day* by Ezra Jack Keats, was not published until 1962. I began to investigate this subject further and became concerned by my findings. [Read more.](#)

Midweek Media MashUp

A Choice Selection of Links for Your Perusal

- [Read. Wine. Repeat. Welcome to Introvert Happy Hour.](#)
- [Arlington Heights librarians take on fake news](#)
- [Librarians of Timbuktu: how book lovers tricked Al-Qa'ida](#)
- [Why Hollywood is turning to books for its biggest productions](#)
- [Early childhood education is a great investment. And the earlier we start, the better.](#)

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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