Trending...The Latest From PLOnline

- Few were surprised when the Ferguson Municipal Public Library in Ferguson, Missouri was named the 2015 Gale/Library Journal Library of the Year. In an email sent late last month to those who were so generous with their support of the library, Scott Bonner provided an update on what Ferguson has been able to accomplish and where he and his staff hope to take the library in the days to come. Read "Ferguson Municipal Library Shares its Good Story."

- Wayfinding is a subject that planners and signage designers love, but nobody else understands. The word isn’t even in the Merriam-Webster dictionary. Read "Finding Your Way with Wayfinding."

- The Lawrence Public Library (LPL) in Kansas has started a new program for local patrons to help combat those pesky winter blues. LPL recognizes that many people suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) and have scheduled times in their auditorium for patrons to come in and soak up some light from therapy lamps that mimic natural outdoor light. Read "Library Program Combats Winter Blues."

- While 77 percent of Americans have smartphones and nearly 50 percent have tablets, that doesn’t necessarily mean they know how to use them well. A recent international study shows nearly 40 percent of adults age 16-65 have little to no technology skills. Read "Your Mission: Technology Guru."

- It’s important to go into each budget season prepared. Prepare to explain every penny. Prepare the details of why something deserves an increase or to be created. Most importantly prepare all the answers for the questions you hope you don’t get asked. I’m new to Library Management, as I’ve been a director only about four years, and I’m reminded how new I am during each budget cycle, as I continue to improve in my process and preparation. I’ve learned to treat it like painting, it’s never as easy as you think, and always takes more time than you expect. Preparation is key. Read "It's Never Too Early to Start the Budget."
Musicalized
November/December Public Libraries

How much fun has it been for librarians to watch everyone get excited about a piece of US history, the American Revolutionary War? And it’s all thanks to a peppy piece of musical theatre named Hamilton. It may be the music that’s moving folks, but the subject matter is sparking renewed interest in America’s birth story. Here are some suggestions in various formats to satisfy patrons ranging from musical theatre geeks to history buffs. Read more.

Midweek Media MashUp

A Choice Selection of Links for Your Perusal

- A Handy List of Social Media Acronyms
- Analog Experiences Can Help Us Recharge
- A Prison Writing Program in Florida is Changing Lives
- Diversity Doesn't Stick Without Inclusion
- 2017 Amelia Bloomer List of Recommended Feminist Literature For Birth-18

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!