Trending...The Latest From PLOnline

- Just last month, seventeen libraries in the St. Louis (Mo.) area were victims of a ransomware attack. The cyber-attack disabled the library computer system, and the attackers demanded a ransom to bring them back online. The library did not pay the ransom but brought in computer specialists and the FBI to identify the attackers and bring the systems back online. Read "Protecting Your Library from Ransomware."

- The Library of Congress has recently digitized the Sigmund Freud Collection. Seventy years after his death, Freud remains one of the most identifiable figures in psychology. He was the founder of psychoanalysis, a clinical method of treating issues through dialogue between a patient and a psychoanalyst. Among his most prominent contributions were dream analysis and his theoretical model of the unconscious balance between the id, ego, and superego. Read "Library of Congress Digitizes Freud Collection."

- Some libraries have adopted an alternative to face-to-face storytimes: Dial-A-Story, a free program that allows patrons to call the local library and listen to taped stories. Many libraries record their own staff reading stories, but not all have the extra time. Dial-A-Story offers a starter program with fifty-two taped stories but has more than seventy-five additional titles libraries can choose from. Many libraries change the story by the week, but some leave the same story up for as long as a month. Read "Dial-A-Story Offers Storytime Experience at Home."

- History buffs get excited whenever a state or local agency announces the digitization of a huge collection of newspapers, birth and death records, and other archives. We all want the Holy Grail: convenient online access from home that lets us drill down and find information from genealogy records to crime reports. Such was the buzz when the State Historical Society of Iowa announced it was partnering with a Cedar Rapids business, Advantage Companies, to digitize 12 million pages of Iowa newspaper history. However, the reality of creating a digital archive is much more complex, and making it available online is risky and
expensive. For a library, a museum, or any other state agency to create an online archive is harder than you think. Read "Creating a Digital Archive: It's Harder Than You Think."

- Our positions in public libraries have never been more important and the work we do is needed now more than ever. To that end, I try to keep in mind the goals laid out in our 5 year strategic plan. This year I’m particularly focusing on our goal of partnership within the community. Read "Library Partnerships Bring People Together."

FYI: The Public Libraries Podcast

New Podcast Available! PLA’s Project Outcome

PLA’s Project Outcome (PO) is a free online toolkit consisting of surveys, a survey portal, and an interactive data dashboard that helps librarians measure the outcomes of their programs and services. Join us as we discuss this project with Emily Plagman, PO’s Project Manager and Samantha Lopez, Project Coordinator. Listen here.

Midweek Media MashUp

A Choice Selection of Links for Your Perusal

- Editing Wikipedia Entries Can Teach Kids Digital Literacy
- Why It Is Hard for Good Ideas to Survive in the Workplace
- Will YouTube Kill Cable?
- If You Want to Be Happy at Work Have a Life Outside of It
- No Budget for Video Cameras? Just use your phone (and this app).

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!