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Trending...The Latest From PLOnline

- As many librarians can attest, libraries, with their public bathrooms and quiet nooks, are often used for purposes of substance abuse. [San Francisco Public Library](#) (SFPL) security guards say many users end up in the library stacks shooting up, or in the bathroom when nobody is around. In fact, San Francisco health department spokeswoman Rachael Kagan said, “San Francisco is a city with lots of drug use, and we consider people with drug-use issues part of the population we feel responsible for.” Currently the San Francisco Department of Public Health has taken action towards the rising number of drug users in and around the library by assigning a few staff members to patrol the area during peak population times (9-10 a.m. and 5-6 p.m.). These representatives try to talk to users about the risks of heroin and also can administer the opioid-blocking drug [Naloxone](#) if needed. Read "[Preventing Overdoses in the Library.](#)"
- Hala Alyan’s debut novel *Salt Houses* spans four generations in the life of a family on the West Bank, following their journey from the early 60s to the present day. Through all of the challenges the family endures—wars, invasions, love affairs, and displacement—they are held together by the luminous Alia. Equal parts headstrong and effervescent, Alia loves her family with a fierce compassion and remains bonded to them as various forces compel them to move to Kuwait, Beirut, Boston, and Paris. Alyan’s background as a clinical psychologist is evident throughout the novel, as characters big and small thrum with an emotional complexity that stays with the reader long after she’s finished the book. *The Millions* praised *Salt Houses* as a “heartbreaking and important story” while *Bustle* said that it “illuminates the heartache and permanent unsettledness experienced by refugees all over the world.” Alan spoke with Brendan Dowling via telephone on April 18th. Read "[Hala Alyan On Piecing Together A Narrative From The Jigsaw Puzzle Pieces Of Life.](#)"

geographic area, or project area. The data available covers grants received by academic, public, archives and special libraries, and school libraries and media centers since 2006. The tool makes it easy to identify trends and potential grant sources. Read "[Visualize the Possibilities: Turning Data Into Dollars.](#)"

- Reading out loud helps to increase literacy skills for struggling readers or children still learning to read. [A school in Iowa has taken this to the next level by creating a program where students struggling to read go to a local shelter and read to cats.](#) Yes, you've read that right: cats. Beyond making the typical librarian's heart palpitate from too many warm and fuzzy feelings all at once, this would be a great program to begin at one's own library. What a "purrfect" way to combine early literacy, community engagement, and community partnerships, as well as teaching kids to care about animals. Read "[A "Purrfect" Literacy Program.](#)"



FYI: The *Public Libraries* Podcast - New Episodes Available

- Episode 19 - [FYI 019 — A Conversation with Author Yoojin Grace Wuertz](#)
PL's Brendan Dowling talks with author Yoojin Grace Wuertz about her recently released novel "Everything Belongs to Us."
- Episode 20 - [Brendan Dowling Talks with Author Michael Callahan](#)
PL Assistant Editor Brendan Dowling talks with Michael Callahan, author of 2015's "Searching for Grace Kelly." Michael is also a contributing editor at Vanity Fair and a former deputy editor at Town and Country and Marie Claire. His new book, "The Night She Became Miss America" was released in April, 2017.

Midweek Media MashUp

A Choice Selection of Links for Your Perusal

- [A Path Out of Multi-Generational Poverty](#)
- [How to Expand Your Vocabulary](#)
- [Why Most People Like the Color Blue](#)
- [Pathology of a Fake News Story](#)
- [Join the Fight For Libraries](#)

Ask Us Anything

If you have questions about PL Online, *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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