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Trending...The Latest From PLOnline

- I myself am an immigrant to the United States. My family came here when I was four years old. I remember how hard it was to learn English. I despaired that I would never learn how to speak and read English, but I did it! Learning another language was very rewarding and has reaped a lot of dividends, like being able to write this blog entry for instance. A few years ago, I went to Japan for six weeks and I took some Japanese classes there. It was so much fun. Learning a language, although a tad difficult is also extremely rewarding because it is an excuse to socialize with other people in a fun and yet productive way. In my experience, people wanting to learn a language are quite diverse in both background and age. I remember studying Japanese with people from America, Asia, Europe, and Africa. What brought us together was our curiosity to learn and our drive to improve ourselves. We had a lot of good times and we made friends along the way. Read "[Language Learning at the Library.](#)"
- **Public Libraries Online: RA for genre readers seems as if it could be a minefield. How do I know if the reader who loves Zane Grey will like William Johnstone if I've never read a Western?** *Becky Spratford*: I am not going to lie, this is not an intuitive skill. I call this type of question RA 201. To help genre readers you need to take the time to learn about the conventions of each genre. How the writers write and what readers are looking for. I spend a lot of time training library workers both how to learn the basics and then "stay in genre shape," so that you know the trends and changes to every genre. It's not that hard once you make a workout plan to stay in shape. But these are things you would have had to have done before you got this question. Read "[Secrets of Readers' Advisory — Part Two.](#)"
- Earlier this month, I presented as part of a panel titled "Graphic Design on a Shoestring" at NJLA's (New Jersey Library Association) [annual conference](#). The purpose of this session was to identify multiple free and low-cost graphic design

- At a time when polarization is the defining and dividing feature in American politics, public libraries are the place to bring communities together to solve local problems both big and small. In general, civic engagement means people and groups working together to make a change that promotes the quality of the community. Read "[Civic Engagement: Democracy Thrives at the Library.](#)"
- While readers might be familiar with [Dana Schwartz](#) through her extremely popular twitter parody accounts, [@guyinyourmfa](#) and [@dystopianya](#), they will be introduced to another side of her with her charming and insightful novel, *And We're Off*. Nora Holmes is set to spend the summer before her senior high school at a prestigious art institute in Ireland, the perfect place to be with like-minded students, escape the gaze of her tightly wound mother, and shed the memories of a fizzled relationship. All of this is thrown away when her mother, nursing her own wounds after a painful divorce, decides at the last moment to accompany Nora on the trip. With a deft eye for character and plotting, Schwartz crafts a winning road trip while also exploring topics like identity, creativity, and of course, mother-daughter relationships. Schwartz spoke to Brendan Dowling via telephone on May 9th, 2017. Read "[Dana Schwartz on the Dangers of Twitter and Pigeonholing Yourself.](#)"
- It's a Friday night and library staff are planning to be awake for the next twelve hours, plus the time it takes for them to drive home and fall exhausted into bed. It's another lock-in, but this time the youngest attendees are 18. It's an adult lock-in, and just like when they were in high school, there is no expectation of sleep. Squeezed in around jobs and school, new adults make time to gather with their friends at the library and be kids again. Read "[Library Lock-ins for Adults.](#)"

Media MashUp

A Choice Selection of Links for Your Perusal

- [Stop Telling People to Love Libraries](#)
- [What Is Ransomware? \(Watch 1:33\)](#)
- [You Are What You Read](#)
- [Sound Waves Enhance Deep Sleep and Memory](#)
- [Twelve Lessons from the 100 Most Creative People - 2017](#)

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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