

AMERICAN LIBRARIES



December 6, 2006

AL Direct is a free electronic newsletter e-mailed every Wednesday to personal members of the [American Library Association](#).

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U.S. & WORLD NEWS

[D.C. Council committee tables plan for new central library](#)

Plans for a new central library on the site of the District of Columbia's old convention center hit a snag November 21 when a city council committee voted 3–2 to table the proposal. Library Board President John W. Hill expressed concern that the council's reluctance might derail a proposal in President Bush's FY2007 budget for \$30 million towards construction of a new central library and renovation of branches....

[Copyright Office grants DMCA exemptions](#)

Despite its reluctance to do so in the past, the U.S. Copyright Office November 22 granted six exemptions to the 1998 Digital Millennium Copyright Act. In the government's triennial [review](#), Librarian of Congress James H. Billington approved the exemptions, ruling that "persons making noninfringing uses [in these areas] will not be subject to the prohibition against circumventing access controls during the next three years."...



[Bill would disclose presidential library donors](#)

The House Leadership and Open Government Act (H.R. 4682), which Democrats intend to pass after taking majority control in 2007, includes a section that would require the disclosure of all donations to a presidential library of \$100 or more. Currently presidential libraries are federally maintained but use private endowments to offset operating costs....

[Gates Foundation offers library grants to Latvia, Lithuania, Botswana](#)

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has expanded its [Global Libraries](#)



[Advance Registration](#) rates close December 8!

The [ALA Placement Center](#) will operate Friday through Monday at the 2007 ALA Midwinter Meeting. Job seekers and employers should now register on the [JobLIST](#) website. Employers who want to have a booth on site in the Placement Center should complete the [space reservation form](#) and fax it to 312-280-3256.

Professional Development for Your Library Staff... Includes More Than Just LIS Skills
 click here for details

ALA-Working for Our Member Libraries



[initiative](#) and plans to invest \$328 million over the next seven years to support computer and internet access in as many as 15 developing countries. The first round of grants, announced November 30, will provide \$17.5 million to the governments of Latvia, Lithuania, and Botswana to support internet connections in public libraries with little or no access and equipment....

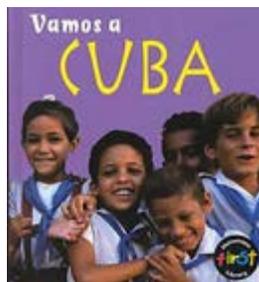
[Chicago mayor hosts reading summit](#)

Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley has called for librarians, educators, health and recreation officials, and parents to join him in a "call to action to ensure Chicago's future." During an all-day conference titled "Creating a City of Readers, Starting at Birth," held at the Chicago Public Library November 30, the mayor spoke with more than 300 key representatives from city government and from dozens of private educational and philanthropic organizations....



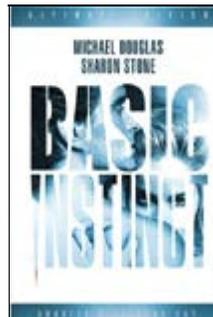
[Groups file amicus briefs in *Vamos* case](#)

The Freedom to Read Foundation has joined the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression and other groups in filing an amicus brief in the lawsuit against the Miami-Dade County School Board for ordering in June the removal of the children's picture book *Vamos a Cuba* from all district media centers. The brief ([PDF file](#)), filed November 21 with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, argues that the book and its English-language counterpart *A Visit to Cuba* are "educationally significant and developmentally appropriate" for its school-age audience....



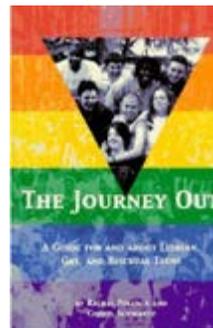
[Arkansas library curbs *Basic Instinct*](#)

The board of the Rogers (Ark.) Public Library decided November 22 to retain in the collection the director's cut of *Basic Instinct* but to place an adult-content warning label on the video case. The decision came six weeks after complainant Nieves Egelkraut had testified at a trustees meeting that she had found the movie pornographic after randomly borrowing it and had worried that teens would come across it in the same manner....



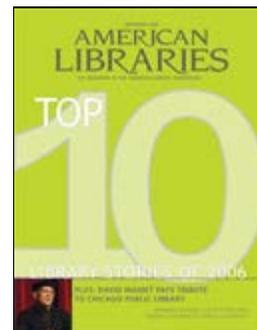
[Board refuses to bar teen titles](#)

The board of the Cape May County (N.J.) Library voted unanimously November 15 to accept the recommendation of Director Andrew Martin to retain three books about adolescent issues that had been challenged by a patron. "Parents don't address these things," library Commissioner Eileen Massey contended before the vote on the titles. "Some of them do," Martin replied, according to the November 22 *Cape May County Herald*. "Most of the topics are



In This Issue

December 2006



Stories inside include:

David Mamet on the Chicago Public Library

Public Library Rebirth

The Top 10 News Stories of 2006



New from ALA Graphics! [One World: Many Stories](#) poster—Reading around the world.

seen on television.”...

[Voters support library funding in referenda](#)

A national report on library referenda released by *American Libraries* shows that the majority of voters approved funding referenda for public, school, and academic libraries—including a \$90 million funding package for Austin (Texas) public libraries. The state-by-state Referenda Roundup ([PDF file](#)) is based on reports from state library agencies and online news reports....

[Library bomb suspect claims innocence](#)

An Illinois man charged with setting off an explosive device at the Salt Lake City Public Library September 15 said in the November 30 Salt Lake City *Deseret News* that federal authorities have the wrong man. Tom Zajac, 53, of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, contacted reporters from the Weber County Jail in Ogden, Utah, where he has been held since his extradition in early November, and told them, “I’ll have been found guilty for some of the things I didn’t do.”...

[Niagara Falls branch closure averted](#)

Niagara Falls (N.Y.) Public Library trustees avoided a vote to close the LaSalle branch at their November 29 meeting, despite reports in the media that the board president had enough votes to close the branch due to budget constraints and concerns about accessibility....



ALA NEWS

[ALA welcomes letter to EPA on library closures](#)

ALA applauded House leaders November 30 for directly addressing the issue of library closures and reduced public access to vital environmental and health information at the Environmental Protection Agency. In a letter ([PDF file](#)) to EPA administrator Stephen Johnson, ranking members Reps. Bart Gordon (D-Tenn.), John Dingell (D-Mich.), Henry A. Waxman (D-Calif.) and James Oberstar (D-Minn.) expressed their serious concerns over the current implementation of “library reorganization” plans and the “destruction or disposition” of library holdings....

[ALA Library launches two new web tools](#)

The ALA Library announced December 5 the launch of two new web tools to aid ALA members, librarians, and library workers in accessing professional information online. The [Librarian’s E-Library](#) uses tools from Google Co-Op to create a customized search engine. The [ALA Professional Tips wiki](#) provides a pathfinder to using the rich resources of ALA’s website, compiles the library’s responses to questions received from the field, and enables the library community to share new resources for advancing the practice of librarianship....

[ALA books appear on Google Book Search](#)

ALA Editions has partnered with Google to offer content through Google Book Search. Users can now preview ALA Editions titles, conduct multiple searches within



Save the date—

[Gaming, Learning, and Libraries](#)

[Symposium](#) to be held in the Chicago area, July 22–24, developed by ALA *TechSource* and Jenny Levine.

Classifieds

[REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,](#)

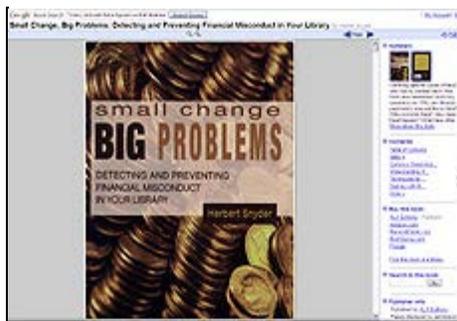
Mankato, Minnesota. Traverse des Sioux Library System is seeking a dynamic and innovative leader. This position could be yours if you have a passion for library services, a vision for the future, an essential commitment to lobbying the state and national legislature, demonstrated leadership skills, strong interpersonal skills, strength in business and financial management, good listening and speaking skills, and the ability to work with a small staff committed to providing excellent service to public libraries in the region....



See [JobLIST](#) for more career opportunities.

Thus Said

“Judson, I’ve been the librarian here for over a year now, and in that time I have saved

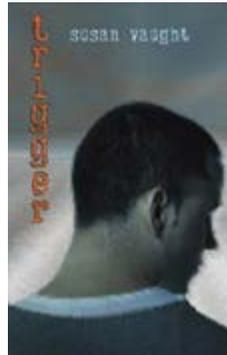


the books, and browse through the available pages. Whenever books in the Google Book Search index contain content that matches user search terms, these books are returned as links under Book Results on the search results page. Links to the ALA Online Bookstore along with other online retailers make it easy for users to go from browsing to buying...

Booklist — ONLINE —

Featured review: Books for youth

Vaught, Susan. *Trigger*. Dec. 2006. 304p. Bloomsbury, hardcover (1-58234-920-7). Seventeen-year-old Jersey Hatch returns home after a year in a brain-injury treatment center. Having no memory of the event, Jersey has been informed that he shot himself in the head. With no internal points of reference, he is compelled to confirm through those around him that he really pulled the trigger, and more importantly, to discover *why*. Plagued by numerous physical challenges, and struggling to think sequentially and to avoid inappropriate vocalization, this proves difficult. Worse yet, Jersey has returned to parents broken by his actions and to peers who despise him....



the world from magic spears and time-traveling ninjas and everything else you can think of. I think I'm doing a pretty good job."

—Librarian-adventurer Flynn Carsen (played by Noah Wyle) discusses his performance with his boss (played by Bob Newhart) in the TNT made-for-cable movie, *The Librarian: Return to King Solomon's Mines*, Dec. 2.

Poll

What do YOU think?

Rate TNT's 2006 made-for-cable feature *The Librarian: Return to King Solomon's Mines*.

Click here to [ANSWER!](#)

For cumulated results and selected responses to *AL Direct* polls, visit the AL Online [website](#).

SEATTLE UPDATE

Chris Crutcher to headline Freedom to Read Foundation fundraiser

Chris Crutcher, who has been one of the most frequently challenged authors over the past two decades, will be the featured speaker at a fundraiser for the Freedom to Read Foundation on Sunday, January 21. Doors will open at 5:45, and Crutcher's talk will begin at 6:30 p.m., to be followed by a book signing. The event will take place at the Seattle Public Library....



Terry Trueman featured at USBBY program

The United States Board on Books for Young People will



The December issue

host a program featuring YA author Terry Trueman on Friday, January 19, at 8:00 p.m. The event will also describe USBBY's various projects....
United States Board on Books for Young People



DIVISION NEWS

Teen Tech Week registrants get access to online resources

YALSA is offering access to online resources from Rosen Publishing and Tutor.com to anyone who [registers](#) for Teen Tech Week by February 1. The event is a new celebration aimed at getting teens to use their libraries for the different technologies that are offered there, such as DVDs, databases, audiobooks, and video games....



YALSA offers four online courses

YALSA is offering four online courses: "Making the Match: Finding the Right Book for the Right Teen at the Right Time"; "New Technologies and New Literacies for Teens"; "Reaching Teens Virtually"; and "YALSA Competencies Live," to run from February 5 through March 2. Registration opens on December 15....

YALSA Teen Gaming Discussion Group to meet in Seattle

The focus will be on tabletop games, but anyone interested can bring gaming questions and share programming stories. The meeting is January 20, 1:30–3:30 p.m. Can't attend but still want to participate or listen in? Join in the discussion at the [Second Life](#) Open Air Auditorium, Coordinates 126, 81, 33, or via [Skype](#) (kellyc411 or informationgoddess29) where the meeting will be broadcast live....

YALSA blog, Dec. 4

Register for a RUSA Midwinter Institute

RUSA will present two full-day institutes, "Business Librarianship 101: Core Competencies for Business Librarianship" and "Behind the Genealogy Reference Desk: Want Land, Will Travel," on Friday, January 19, during the Midwinter Meeting in Seattle....



AWARDS

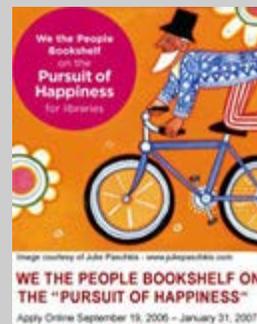
Eugene Garfield wins lifetime achievement award

Scientific information provider Thomson Scientific awarded Eugene Garfield November 29 with its 2006 Online Information Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of more than 50 years of dedication, leadership, and innovation in the information industry. Garfield is founder and chairman emeritus of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI)—now Thomson Scientific....

Thomson Scientific, Nov. 30



of *College & Research Libraries News* contains some thoughts on the [value of academic libraries](#) to their institutions by Ray Metz, chief of staff for the chancellor at the University of Michigan at Dearborn.



Apply for a [We the People Bookshelf grant](#) by January 31.

Ask the ALA Librarian

C. BROWN

Q. My library is looking into badges for employees to wear to identify them to the public. What are the pros and cons of badges?

A. The matter of staff badges is a balancing of customer service and security on the one hand and personal privacy on the other. For more, see the [ALA Professional Tips wiki](#).

Datebook

[Plymouth State librarian wins Mellon Award for Technology Collaboration](#)

Casey Bisson, information architect for Plymouth (N.H.) State University's Lamson Library, has received the prestigious Mellon Award for Technology Collaboration for his ground-breaking software application known as [WPopac](#). The award was presented at a ceremony hosted by the Mellon Foundation on December 4 at the fall meeting of the Coalition for Networked Information, in Washington, D.C. Bisson's project was selected as one of only 10 recipients out of several hundred nominees for 2006....

Plymouth State University, Dec. 4



[ASCLA accepting applications for Century Scholarship](#)

ASCLA is accepting applications for the Century Scholarship, an annual monetary award of up to \$2,500 to fund services or accommodation for a library school student or students with disabilities admitted to an ALA-accredited library school. The application deadline is March 1....

[Coming Up Taller in 2007](#)

Librarians and library advocates are encouraged to nominate their favorite library's arts and humanities program for a [2007 Coming Up Taller](#) Award. The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, have announced the availability of the nomination application ([PDF file](#)). The deadline for nominations is January 31....

President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities

[National Leadership Grant applications](#)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is accepting grant applications to the agency's 2007 National Leadership Grant program. The previously published deadline of February 1 has been moved to March 1. Since 1998 National Leadership Grants have supported the innovative thinking that is needed to help libraries and museums meet the changing needs of the American public. This year the agency is bringing back its Library and Museum Community Collaboration category....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Dec. 1

[Indiana State to reward students for library research](#)

In honor of former English Professor Jane Bakerman, the Indiana State University library is now offering an annual award for graduate and undergraduate students who make creative and skillful use of library resources to write outstanding research papers. The Bakerman Student Research Awards consist of \$1,000 for an undergraduate paper and \$1,500 for a graduate paper....

ISU Indiana Statesman, Nov. 29

SEEN ONLINE

[Generous offer raises library governance questions](#)

Apply for:

By Dec. 7:

[ProLiteracy Worldwide's National Book Scholarship Fund](#) distributes grants of books and educational materials to qualified adult literacy providers in the continental United States for use with adults and older teens seeking instruction in basic literacy, English as a second language, or GED preparation. Contact: [Mara Roberts](#), 315-422-9121, ext. 345.

By Dec. 15: [IMLS](#)

[Laura Bush 21st Century Librarians Program](#) awards grants up to \$1,000,000 over 3-4 years, to all types of libraries, save federal and for-profit libraries. The program supports efforts to recruit and educate the next generation of librarians and the faculty who will prepare them for careers in library science. Contact: [Stephanie Clark](#), Senior Program Officer, 202-653-4662.

By Dec. 29:

[PEN/Newman's Own Award](#) will award \$20,000 to a U.S.-based First Amendment champion.

By Jan. 15: [The Unshelved Pimp My Bookcart contest](#)

seeks photos of customized

A Woodsville, New Hampshire, man's desire to give a huge chunk of money for improved library services has raised questions about whether four community libraries are being operated in a legal manner. Robert G. Fillion said he may be willing to give a minimum of \$100,000 to improve library services for residents in the town of Haverhill, but he is requiring as a condition that the select board have some control over the library facility....

St. Johnsbury (Vt.) Caledonian-Record, Dec. 4

[Guadalajara's record-breaking 20th book fair](#) (in Spanish)

Raúl Padilla López, president of the Guadalajara Book Fair (La Feria Internacional del Libro) in Guadalajara, Mexico, announced that this year's fair hosted more than 500,000 people, a record-breaking attendance. The fair, held November 24–December 3, also featured 1,608 exhibit spaces, 823 separate events, 351 authors, 296 book presentations, and 11 awards. This was the ninth year of the [ALA-FIL Free Pass program](#), which helps 150–200 ALA members involved in Spanish-language collection development attend each year to review and purchase materials....

El Universal (Mexico City), Dec. 4



[Library funding method overruled](#)

The West Virginia Supreme Court ruled December 4 that a law requiring the Kanawha County Board of Education to use its levy money to fund county libraries is unconstitutional and shortchanges students. The opinion overturns a Kanawha Circuit Court decision that said the county was not entitled to reimbursement of the \$2.2 million it paid to support the county's libraries in 2003....

Charleston (W. Va.) Gazette, Dec. 5

[Famous library cat dies](#)

One of the world's most famous felines, Dewey Readmore Books, died November 29 in the arms of Spencer (Iowa) Public Library Director Vicki Myron who had acted as his "mother" for most of the last 19 years. Dewey was adopted as the library cat in January 1988 when he was found in the book drop on a cold Monday morning and attained instant media attention....

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Dec. 1



[Bay County to cut library services](#)

On January 1, the historic Sage library (right) and South Side branch of the Bay County Library System in Bay City, Michigan, will close, its bookmobile will park permanently, and more than 100 employees will be out of jobs. The three remaining branches will offer shorter hours, fewer new books, and a reduced slate of programs, reflecting cuts made December 4 by trustees, who had no other option after two millage requests failed, slicing 60% of the operating budget....

Bay City (Mich.) Times, Dec. 5



[Plainfield Public Library joins MySpace](#)

For the Plainfield (Ill.) Public Library, MySpace has been a key to

bookcarts. Winners receive Overdue Media Store gift certificates. Contact: [Unshelved](#).

By Feb. 15: [The National Awards for Museum and Library Service](#) recognize museums and libraries that demonstrate a core commitment to public service through innovative programs and active partnerships. Contact: [Michele Farrell](#), 202-653-4656.

By Mar. 1: [American Library Association Spectrum Scholarships](#) will present at least 60 \$5,000 scholarships to American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students planning to attend an ALA-accredited graduate program in library and information studies or an ALA-recognized NCATE School Library Media program.

By Apr. 3: [National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants](#) awards grants of up to \$30,000 for planning or initial stages of digital initiatives in all areas of the humanities. The April 3 deadline is for

reaching teenagers. Young Adult Librarian Joe Marcantonio noticed that nearly every teenager on a library computer terminal had their MySpace.com website pulled up the entire time. Librarians decided to join them in the world of social cyber-networking and put up their own MySpace site....

Joliet (Ill.) Herald News, Dec. 4

Pascagoula library employees return to work

Technical service employees who have been working in the Gautier (Miss.) Public Library while Katrina-related repairs were completed began moving back to the Pascagoula branch December 4, which serves as the headquarters for the Jackson-George Regional Library System. Library officials said the branch could reopen by the end of January....

Pascagoula Mississippi Press, Dec. 5



New Rockville regional library

Montgomery County's new flagship library, in the heart of Rockville, Maryland's revitalized town square, has more space, more computers with internet access, more WiFi hookups and more materials to lend than the old Rockville library, which was smaller, darker, and short on parking spaces. The \$26.3-million regional library opened at noon on November 28 and features a 200-foot-long wall of wavy glass....

Washington Post, Nov. 28



Alaskan library aims to show boys that guys read

This winter a dedicated team of Fairbanks men will be teaming up with Captain Underpants—the defender of truth, justice, and all that is preshrunk and cottony—to show young boys that reading isn't just for girls. In January, the Noel Wien Public Library will be sending male volunteers into three Fairbanks schools for several weeks to read books to 4th-grade boys. The program, called Guys Read, is funded by a \$5,000 grant from Auto Service Co. of Fairbanks....

Fairbanks (Alaska) Daily News-Miner, Nov. 23

South Dakota State Library shifts its efforts

November 30 was busy for the South Dakota State Library in Pierre, as it was the last day the library would send out large-print titles to nursing homes and other public libraries. This is just one of many changes being implemented at the state library in an effort to redirect its focus from a public library to one that services public libraries across the state....

Pierre (S. Dak.) Capital Journal, Dec. 1

Historic Montreal library set to close

After 121 years of serving its community, one of Montreal's oldest libraries is slated to close at the end of December unless it can replace the city's drastic cuts to its funding. The Notre-Dame-de-Grace borough and the city of Montreal have



projects beginning September 2007. Contact: [NEH](#), 202-606-8401, TDD 866-372-2930.

More [Datebook](#) items...

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been partially funding the [Fraser-Hickson Library](#) with \$400,000 per year since October 2003, but the agreement expired in October. While the borough is willing to continue funding the library, the city has refused to give any more....

McGill Daily, Dec. 4

[UK library protesters angry at betrayal](#)

Leaders in rural communities said they were disgusted by a decision to close a number of libraries across Northumberland county. The county council's executive sealed the fate of 12 libraries December 4, following a review last year. Head of libraries Marguerite Gracey said those buildings owned by the council would either be sold or used for another purpose. Communities campaigning against the changes said they felt betrayed....

Newcastle Journal, Dec. 5

TECH TALK

[Yahoo snubs Google in copyright case](#)

In a setback to Google's efforts to fend off a copyright infringement suit stemming from its ambitious plan to create digital copies of millions of books, rival search engine Yahoo has declined to provide information about its own book digitization efforts. Neither Yahoo nor Google would comment, but reports suggest Yahoo refused to cooperate with Google because it felt the request for information was an attempt to capture trade secrets....

E-Commerce Times, Nov. 30

[Microsoft releases book search in beta](#)

Microsoft released Live Search Books, its competitor to Google Book Search, in beta December 6. The book search engine performs keyword searches for books that have been scanned as part of Microsoft's book scanning project, in the same way that Windows Live Search searches the Internet, said Danielle Tiedt, the general manager of Live Search Selection for Microsoft....

C|net news.com, Dec. 6

[Six new ideas in IM](#)

Nick Gonzalez offers his views on "some of the big ideas emerging in web instant messaging," among them interoperability, in-browser chat, and flexible identities....

Techcrunch blog, Nov. 24

[On the catalog](#)

Andrew Pace writes: "When I talk about the online catalog, I try hard (with varying metaphors that have varied success) to frame its improvement as only one piece of a much larger puzzle. That includes layer upon layer of services that somehow seem easier to add once the complexity of search and discovery has been replaced with new and easy-to-use technology."...

Hectic Pace blog, Dec. 6



[Library Literature and Information Science Retrospective, 1905–1983](#)

H. W. Wilson has announced a new reference to debut in January—a wide-ranging and deep retrospective index of library and information science articles. Offered exclusively on WilsonWeb, *Library Literature and Information Science Retrospective: 1905–1983* covers citations in

more than 1,200 key LIS periodicals, as well as full-text articles from 70 years of *Wilson Library Bulletin*, indexing from *Library Work* (1905–1911), and citations to book reviews, books, book chapters, and library school theses....

H. W. Wilson, Dec. 5

[YBP Library Services to distribute EBL ebooks to academic libraries](#)

Academic book supplier YBP Library Services announced plans November 29 to market a comprehensive collection of ebooks in partnership with ebook lender EBL. Slated for launch in the first half of 2007, the deal will make EBL's growing list of over 40,000 titles available to YBP library customers worldwide....

Ebooks Corporation, Nov. 29

[EBSCO enhances *Book Index with Reviews*](#)

EBSCO Publishing announced December 4 that it has significantly expanded the latest version of its *Book Index with Reviews (BIR)* to include information on thousands of music and video titles. In addition to more than 4 million popular and classic book titles, *BIR* now features detailed information on more than 450,000 music titles and more than 200,000 DVD/video titles....

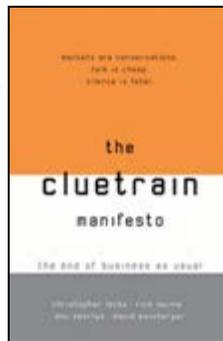
EBSCO Publishing, Dec. 4

ACTIONS & ANSWERS

[Radical transparency, crummy meetings, and micromanagement](#)

Michael Stephens recommends revisiting [chapter 5](#) of *The Cluetrain Manifesto: The End of Business As Usual* (1999) in the light of 2006, with its plugged-in social networks, library and librarian's blogs, [YouTube videos](#), and a return to human conversations via online technology. Some suggestions: Flatten that org chart, don't kill your staff with bad meetings, and micromanagement has no place in a hyperlinked organization....

ALA Tech Source blog, Nov. 30



[What if the library worked like Netflix?](#)

Lori Ayre writes: "Netflix is easy, personal, fast, and convenient. It assists users in finding titles they will not only enjoy but titles that they are probably very excited to find because they are surprised that they could be found or they've never heard of them before. If libraries made it as personal, easy, and convenient to find and borrow titles as Amazon and Netflix do, circulation in libraries would skyrocket. Instead, business is booming at Amazon and Netflix and circulation is holding relatively steady in public libraries."...

Lori Bowen Ayre's Weblog, Nov. 30

[Oakland library posts photos of city's past](#)

Rarely seen photos of bygone days in Oakland, California—an 1870 horse-drawn bus, Jack London setting sail on the *Snark* in 1907, a Chinese vegetable peddler in 1885, the 1918 flu epidemic (right)—have been [posted online](#) by the Oakland Public Library. The 199-item



sampler of the library's image collections also features historic maps and manuscripts, as well as photos from Piedmont and Emeryville dating back to the mid-1800s....

San Francisco Chronicle, Nov. 29

[The who and why behind the dismantling of Buffalo's School of Informatics](#)

Some characterize it as gross misconduct and an abuse of power. Others see it as a justifiable administrative decision. Either way, the departments, programs, and people that, until this semester, made up the University at Buffalo School of Informatics are now in the process of transitioning to other schools after Provost Satish Tripathi abruptly proposed to dissolve the seven-year-old school over the summer....

University at Buffalo, *The Spectrum*, Nov. 29

[Libraries in southwestern Ohio are good for the economy](#)

A study released November 29 shows that nine Ohio public library systems in Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren counties create an annual economic impact of nearly four times the amount invested in their operations. The report ([PDF file](#)) from Levin, Driscoll, and Fleeter in Columbus concludes that the libraries' cumulative expenditure of about \$74 million returned a quantifiable direct economic benefit of \$238.6 million—or \$3.81 for each dollar expended in 2005. The study also recognizes that these libraries add significant value to their communities that cannot be assigned a dollar value, such as "improved economic prospects and an enhanced quality of life."...

9Libraries.info, Nov. 29

[Hear American Libraries editor on LiSRadio](#)

University of Missouri at Columbia Associate Professor Charley Seavey talks with *American Libraries* Editor in Chief Leonard Kniffel about issues in librarianship on the "First Tuesday" School of Information Sciences and Learning Technologies LiSRadio webcast. QuickTime and MP3 formats are provided....

LiSRadio, Dec. 4



[Find a library job in 10 minutes a day](#)

Sara R. Paul reveals how she used RSS feeds to locate her new position as a reference librarian at a law firm in San Francisco: "Suppose you have 45 job websites and e-mail listservs that you check on a regular basis. Going to each website and combing through e-mails every day could take hours. However, by using RSS feeds to concentrate all the listings in one place, you can eliminate a great amount of time and effort."...

LIscareer.com, Dec.

[A video tour of the CLA exhibit floor](#)

Bernadette Swanson (UC-Davis) and the California Library Association's Marketing and Public Relations Round Table created a 3-minute video tour of the exhibit floor at the 108th Annual CLA Conference, Nov. 10–13, in Sacramento. Among the exhibits featured are poster sessions, St. Mary's College of California, and the



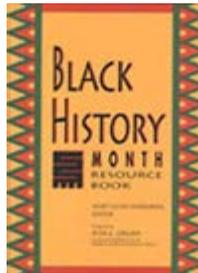
Infopeople Technology petting zoo....
California Library Association, Nov. 26

[How researchers discover information resources](#)

The UK Research Information Network has published a report ([PDF file](#)) on the behavior, perceptions, and needs of researchers as users of discovery services. This work, based on a detailed survey of 400 researchers and 50 librarians, is intended to promote better arrangements for researchers to find out what information resources relevant to their work are available, where these are, and how they may have access to them....
Research Information Network, Nov.

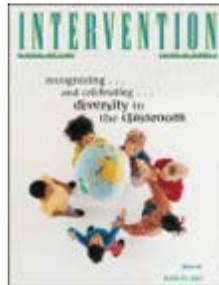
[Thomson Gale offers free resources for Black History Month](#)

In recognition of Black History Month (February), Thomson Gale, part of the Thomson Corporation, is launching a [free website](#) full of historical facts and figures, biographies, relevant web links and lesson plans. The site is designed to help students, teachers, and families celebrate the month....
Thomson Gale, Dec. 6



[Special issue on media centers and special ed](#) (available full-text on EBSCO)

The November issue of *Intervention in School and Clinic* is devoted to collaborative relationships between school media centers and special educators. An introduction by Joyce Anderson Downing discusses the various roles the media center can play in the lives of students with disabilities, describes the ways teachers and library media specialists can collaborate, and provides an overview of access to library resources from both physical and technological perspectives....
Intervention in School and Clinic 42, no. 2 (Nov.)



[Poetry in children's literature](#)

Southern Connecticut State University LIS student Ann Dixon traces the development of poetry for children, primarily in the United States and Great Britain, from oral traditions to electronic formats....
Library Student Journal, issue 2 (Nov.)

[Call for scholarly publishing papers](#)

The 2007 Public Knowledge Project Scholarly Publishing Conference (at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, B.C., July 11–13) is calling for papers from librarians and information specialists on the themes of alternate forms of scholarly communication, open access publications, and using open source tools in libraries. The deadline for submitting an abstract is January 15....
Public Knowledge Project

[40 years of resistance music](#)

The struggle for social justice has always had a rousing soundtrack—from solidarity-inspiring union hymns to folk songs to hardcore anthems. *This Magazine* put together a list of 40 essential “songs of resistance,” starting with 1966 and going right up to the present. Video or audio clips are included for most (except those



removed for terms-of-use violations)...

This Magazine, Nov. 1

Are books in danger? No, says *Forbes*

The conventional wisdom would say yes. But surprise—the conventional wisdom is wrong. *Forbes* magazine's special report on books and the future of publishing is brim-full of reasons to be optimistic. People are reading more, not less. The internet is fueling literacy. Giving books away online increases off-line readership. New forms of expression—wikis, networked books—are blossoming in a digital hothouse....

Forbes, Dec. 1

AMERICAN LIBRARIES DIRECT

December 06, 2006

AL Direct is a weekly electronic newsletter sent by the American Library Association every Wednesday to personal members by e-mail as a perquisite of membership.

Click here to view the online version of our email:

<%= util.viewHtmlLink %>

POLL: What do YOU think?

Results of the
November 22 poll:

Rate TNT's 2006 made-for-cable feature *The Librarian: Return to King Solomon's Mines*.

Click here
to ANSWER!

For cumulated results and selected responses to AL Direct polls, visit the AL Online website.

U.S. & WORLD NEWS

D.C. Council committee tables plan for new central library

<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2006abc/december2006/dcpl.htm>

Plans for a new central library on the site of the District of Columbia's old convention center hit a snag November 21 when a city council committee voted 3–2 to table the proposal. Library Board President John W. Hill expressed concern that the council's reluctance might derail a proposal in President Bush's FY2007 budget for \$30 million towards construction of a new central library and renovation of branches....

Copyright Office grants DMCA exemptions

<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2006abc/december2006/dmcaexempt.htm>

Despite its reluctance to do so in the past, the U.S. Copyright Office November 22 granted six exemptions to the 1998 Digital Millennium Copyright Act. In the government's triennial review, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington approved the exemptions, ruling that "persons making noninfringing uses [in these areas] will not be subject to the prohibition against circumventing access controls during the next three years."...

Bill would disclose presidential library donors

<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2006abc/december2006/presdonors.htm>

The House Leadership and Open Government Act (H.R. 4682), which Democrats intend to pass after taking majority control in 2007, includes a section that would require the disclosure of all donations to a presidential library of \$100 or more. Currently presidential libraries are federally maintained but use private endowments to offset operating costs....

Gates Foundation offers library grants to Latvia, Lithuania, Botswana

<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2006abc/december2006/gatesglobal.htm>

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has expanded its Global Libraries initiative and plans to invest \$328 million over the next seven years to support computer and internet access in as many as 15 developing countries. The first

round of grants, announced November 30, will provide \$17.5 million to the governments of Latvia, Lithuania, and Botswana to support internet connections in public libraries with little or no access and equipment....

Chicago mayor hosts reading summit

<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2006abc/december2006/cityofreaders.htm>

Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley has called for librarians, educators, health and recreation officials, and parents to join him in a “call to action to ensure Chicago’s future.” During an all-day conference titled “Creating a City of Readers, Starting at Birth,” held at the Chicago Public Library November 30, the mayor spoke with more than 300 key representatives from city government and from dozens of private educational and philanthropic organizations....

Groups file amicus briefs in Vamos case

<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2006abc/december2006/vamosamicus.htm>

The Freedom to Read Foundation has joined the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression and other groups in filing an amicus brief in the lawsuit against the Miami–Dade County School Board for ordering in June the removal of the children’s picture book *Vamos a Cuba* from all district media centers. The brief (PDF file), filed November 21 with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, argues that the book and its English-language counterpart *A Visit to Cuba* are “educationally significant and developmentally appropriate” for its school-age audience....

Arkansas library curbs *Basic Instinct*

<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2006abc/december2006/rogersinstinct.htm>

The board of the Rogers (Ark.) Public Library decided November 22 to retain in the collection the director’s cut of *Basic Instinct* but to place an adult-content warning label on the video case. The decision came six weeks after complainant Nieves Egelkraut had testified at a trustees meeting that she had found the movie pornographic after randomly borrowing it and had worried that teens would come across it in the same manner....

Board refuses to bar teen titles

<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2006abc/december2006/capemay.htm>

The board of the Cape May County (N.J.) Library voted unanimously November 15 to accept the recommendation of Director Andrew Martin to retain three books about adolescent issues that had been challenged by a patron. “Parents don’t address these things,” library Commissioner Eileen Massey contended before the vote on the titles. “Some of them do,” Martin replied, according to the November 22 Cape May County Herald. “Most of the topics are seen on television.”...

Voters support library funding in referenda

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/november2006/libraryfundingreferenda.htm>

A national report on library referenda released by American Libraries shows that the majority of voters approved funding referenda for public, school, and academic libraries—including a \$90 million funding package for Austin (Texas) public libraries. The state-by-state Referenda Roundup (PDF file) is based on reports from state library agencies and online news reports....

Library bomb suspect claims innocence

<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2006abc/december2006/utahbomb.htm>

An Illinois man charged with setting off an explosive device at the Salt Lake City Public Library September 15 said in the November 30 Salt Lake City Deseret News that federal authorities have the wrong man. Tom Zajac, 53, of Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, contacted reporters from the Weber County Jail in Ogden, Utah, where he has been held since his extradition in early November, and told them, “I’ll have been found guilty for some of the things I didn’t do.”...

Niagara Falls branch closure averted

<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2006abc/december2006/niagarafalls.htm>

Niagara Falls (N.Y.) Public Library trustees avoided a vote to close the LaSalle branch at their November 29 meeting, despite reports in the media that the board president had enough votes to close the branch due to budget constraints and concerns about accessibility....

ALA NEWS

ALA welcomes letter to EPA on library closures

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/november2006/epaletter.htm>

ALA applauded House leaders November 30 for directly addressing the issue of library closures and reduced public access to vital environmental and health information at the Environmental Protection Agency. In a letter (PDF file) to EPA administrator Stephen Johnson, ranking members Reps. Bart Gordon (D-Tenn.), John Dingell (D-Mich.), Henry A. Waxman (D-Calif.) and James Oberstar (D-Minn.) expressed their serious concerns over the current implementation of "library reorganization" plans and the "destruction or disposition" of library holdings....

ALA Library launches two new web tools

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/december2006/ALALibraryWebtools.htm>

The ALA Library announced December 5 the launch of two new web tools to aid ALA members, librarians, and library workers in accessing professional information online. The Librarian's E-Library uses tools from Google Co-Op to create a customized search engine. The ALA Professional Tips wiki provides a pathfinder to using the rich resources of ALA's website, compiles the library's responses to questions received from the field, and enables the library community to share new resources for advancing the practice of librarianship....

ALA books appear on Google Book Search

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/december2006/ALAEditionsGooglepartner.htm>

ALA Editions has partnered with Google to offer content through Google Book Search. Users can now preview ALA Editions titles, conduct multiple searches within the books, and browse through the available pages. Whenever books in the Google Book Search index contain content that matches user search terms, these books are returned as links under Book Results on the search results page. Links to the ALA Online Bookstore along with other online retailers make it easy for users to go from browsing to buying....

Booklist Online

Featured review: Books for youth

http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=1823616

Vaught, Susan. Trigger. Dec. 2006. 304p. Bloomsbury, hardcover (1-58234-920-7).

Seventeen-year-old Jersey Hatch returns home after a year in a brain-injury treatment center. Having no memory of the event, Jersey has been informed that he shot himself in the head. With no internal points of reference, he is compelled to confirm through those around him that he really pulled the trigger, and more importantly, to discover why. Plagued by numerous physical challenges, and struggling to think sequentially and to avoid inappropriate vocalization, this proves difficult. Worse yet, Jersey has returned to parents broken by his actions and to peers who despise him....

SEATTLE UPDATE

Chris Crutcher to headline Freedom to Read Foundation fundraiser

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/december2006/CrutcherFRFfundraiser.htm>

Chris Crutcher, who has been one of the most frequently challenged authors over the past two decades, will be the featured speaker at a fundraiser for the Freedom to Read Foundation on Sunday, January 21. Doors will open at 5:45, and Crutcher's talk will begin at 6:30 p.m., to be followed by a book signing. The event will take place at the Seattle Public Library....

Terry Trueman featured at USBBY program

<http://www.usbby.org/events.html>

The United States Board on Books for Young People will host a program featuring YA author Terry Trueman on Friday, January 19, at 8:00 p.m. The event will also describe USBBY's various projects....

United States Board on Books for Young People

DIVISION NEWS

Teen Tech Week registrants get access to online resources

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/december2006/TeenTechWeekonlineresour.htm>

YALSA is offering access to online resources from Rosen Publishing and Tutor.com to anyone who registers for Teen Tech Week by February 1. The event is a new celebration aimed at getting teens to use their libraries for the different technologies that are offered there, such as DVDs, databases, audiobooks, and video games....

YALSA offers four online courses

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/december2006/TTWonlineresources.htm>

YALSA is offering four online courses: "Making the Match: Finding the Right Book for the Right Teen at the Right Time"; "New Technologies and New Literacies for Teens"; "Reaching Teens Virtually"; and "YALSA Competencies Live," to run from February 5 through March 2. Registration opens on December 15....

YALSA Teen Gaming Discussion Group to meet in Seattle

http://blogs.ala.org/yalsa.php?title=yalsa_gaming_discussion_group&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1

The focus will be on tabletop games, but anyone interested can bring gaming questions and share programming stories. The meeting is January 20, 1:30–3:30 p.m. Can't attend but still want to participate or listen in? Join in the discussion at the Second Life Open Air Auditorium, Coordinates 126, 81, 33, or via Skype (kellyc411 or informationgoddess29) where the meeting will be broadcast live....

YALSA blog, Dec. 4

Register for a RUSA Midwinter Institute

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/december2006/RUSAInstitutes.htm>

RUSA will present two full-day institutes, "Business Librarianship 101: Core Competencies for Business Librarianship" and "Behind the Genealogy Reference Desk: Want Land, Will Travel," on Friday, January 19, during the Midwinter Meeting in Seattle....

AWARDS

Eugene Garfield wins lifetime achievement award

http://www.thomson.com/content/pr/tsh/tsh_scientific/147117

Scientific information provider Thomson Scientific awarded Eugene Garfield November 29 with its 2006 Online Information Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of more than 50 years of dedication, leadership, and innovation in the information industry. Garfield is founder and chairman emeritus of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI)—now Thomson Scientific....

Thomson Scientific, Nov. 30

Plymouth State librarian wins Mellon Award for Technology Collaboration

<http://www.plymouth.edu/thirdtier/fullstory.phtml?number=5224>

Casey Bisson, information architect for Plymouth (N.H.) State University's Lamson Library, has received the prestigious Mellon Award for Technology Collaboration for his ground-breaking software application known as WPopac. The award was presented at a ceremony hosted by the Mellon Foundation on December 4 at the fall meeting of the Coalition for Networked Information, in Washington, D.C. Bisson's project was selected as one of only 10 recipients out of several hundred nominees for 2006....

Plymouth State University, Dec. 4

ASCLA accepting applications for Century Scholarship

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/december2006/ASCLACenturyscholarship.htm>

ASCLA is accepting applications for the Century Scholarship, an annual monetary award of up to \$2,500 to fund services or accommodation for a library school student or students with disabilities admitted to an ALA-accredited library school. The application deadline is March 1....

Coming Up Taller in 2007

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/november2006/cominguptalleraward.htm>

Librarians and library advocates are encouraged to nominate their favorite library's arts and humanities program for a 2007 Coming Up Taller Award. The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, have announced the availability of the nomination application (PDF file). The deadline for nominations is January 31....

President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities

National Leadership Grant applications

<http://www.imls.gov/news/2006/120106.shtm>

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is accepting grant applications to the agency's 2007 National Leadership Grant program. The previously published deadline of February 1 has been moved to March 1. Since 1998 National Leadership Grants have supported the innovative thinking that is needed to help libraries and museums meet the changing needs of the American public. This year the agency is bringing back its Library and Museum Community Collaboration category....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Dec. 1

Indiana State to reward students for library research

<http://www.indianastatesman.com/media/storage/paper929/news/2006/11/29/Campus/Isu-Library.To.Award.Students.For.Excellent.Research.Papers-2512476.shtml>

In honor of former English Professor Jane Bakerman, the Indiana State University library is now offering an annual award for graduate and undergraduate students who make creative and skillful use of library resources to write outstanding research papers. The Bakerman Student Research Awards consist of \$1,000 for an undergraduate paper and \$1,500 for a graduate paper....

ISU Indiana Statesman, Nov. 29

SEEN ONLINE

Generous offer raises library governance questions

http://www.caledonianrecord.com/pages/local_news/story/bfc95e955

A Woodsville, New Hampshire, man's desire to give a huge chunk of money for improved library services has raised questions about whether four community libraries are being operated in a legal manner. Robert G. Fillion said he may be willing to give a minimum of \$100,000 to improve library services for residents in the town of Haverhill, but he is requiring as a condition that the select board have some control over the library facility....

St. Johnsbury (Vt.) Caledonian-Record, Dec. 4

Guadalajara's record-breaking 20th book fair (in Spanish)

<http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/cultura/50725.html>

Raúl Padilla López, president of the Guadalajara Book Fair (La Feria Internacional del Libro) in Guadalajara, Mexico, announced that this year's fair hosted more than 500,000 people, a record-breaking attendance. The fair, held November 24–December 3, also featured 1,608 exhibit spaces, 823 separate events, 351 authors, 296 book presentations, and 11 awards. This was the ninth year of the ALA-FIL Free Pass program, which helps 150–200 ALA members involved in Spanish-language collection development attend each year to review and purchase materials....

El Universal (Mexico City), Dec. 4

Library funding method overruled

<http://wvgazette.com/section/Today/2006120416>

The West Virginia Supreme Court ruled December 4 that a law requiring the Kanawha County Board of Education to use its levy money to fund county libraries is unconstitutional and shortchanges students. The opinion overturns a Kanawha Circuit Court decision that said the county was not entitled to reimbursement of the \$2.2 million it paid to support the county's libraries in 2003....

Charleston (W. Va.) Gazette, Dec. 5

Famous library cat dies

<http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/articles/2006/12/01/news/top/12E475ADBDB71592862572370014EF50.txt>

One of the world's most famous felines, Dewey Readmore Books, died November 29 in the arms of Spencer (Iowa) Public Library Director Vicki Myron who had acted as his "mother" for most of the last 19 years. Dewey was adopted as the library cat in January 1988 when he was found in the book drop on a cold Monday morning and attained instant media attention....

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Dec. 1

Bay County to cut library services

<http://abclocal.go.com/wjrt/story?section=local&id=4823141>

On January 1, the historic Sage library (right) and South Side branch of the Bay County Library System in Bay City, Michigan, will close, its bookmobile will park permanently, and more than 100 employees will be out of jobs. The three remaining branches will offer shorter hours, fewer new books, and a reduced slate of programs, reflecting cuts made December 4 by trustees, who had no other option after two millage requests failed, slicing 60% of the operating budget....

Bay City (Mich.) Times, Dec. 5

Plainfield Public Library joins MySpace

http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/heraldnews/news/158984,4_1_JO04_MYSPACE_S1.article

For the Plainfield (Ill.) Public Library, MySpace has been a key to reaching teenagers. Young Adult Librarian Joe Marcantonio noticed that nearly every teenager on a library computer terminal had their MySpace.com website pulled up the entire time. Librarians decided to join them in the world of social cyber-networking and put up their own MySpace site....

Joliet (Ill.) Herald News, Dec. 4

Pascagoula library employees return to work

<http://www.gulflive.com/news/mississippipress/index.ssf?/base/news/116531747139860.xml>

Technical service employees who have been working in the Gautier (Miss.) Public Library while Katrina-related repairs were completed began moving back to the Pascagoula branch December 4, which serves as the headquarters for the Jackson-George Regional Library System. Library officials said the branch could reopen by the end of January....

Pascagoula Mississippi Press, Dec. 5

New Rockville regional library

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/11/28/AR2006112801581_pf.html

Montgomery County's new flagship library, in the heart of Rockville, Maryland's revitalized town square, has more space, more computers with internet access, more WiFi hookups and more materials to lend than the old Rockville library, which was smaller, darker, and short on parking spaces. The \$26.3-million regional library opened at noon on November 28 and features a 200-foot-long wall of wavy glass....

Washington Post, Nov. 28

Alaskan library aims to show boys that guys read

<http://newsminer.com/2006/11/23/3519/>

This winter a dedicated team of Fairbanks men will be teaming up with Captain Underpants—the defender of truth, justice, and all that is preshrunk and cottony—to show young boys that reading isn't just for girls. In January, the Noel

Wien Public Library will be sending male volunteers into three Fairbanks schools for several weeks to read books to 4th-grade boys. The program, called Guys Read, is funded by a \$5,000 grant from Auto Service Co. of Fairbanks.... Fairbanks (Alaska) Daily News-Miner, Nov. 23

South Dakota State Library shifts its efforts

<http://www.capjournal.com/main.asp?SectionID=2&SubSectionID=2&ArticleID=16318>

November 30 was busy for the South Dakota State Library in Pierre, as it was the last day the library would send out large-print titles to nursing homes and other public libraries. This is just one of many changes being implemented at the state library in an effort to redirect its focus from a public library to one that services public libraries across the state....

Pierre (S. Dak.) Capital Journal, Dec. 1

Historic Montreal library set to close

<http://www.mcgilldaily.com/view.php?aid=5703>

After 121 years of serving its community, one of Montreal's oldest libraries is slated to close at the end of December unless it can replace the city's drastic cuts to its funding. The Notre-Dame-de-Grace borough and the city of Montreal have been partially funding the Fraser-Hickson Library with \$400,000 per year since October 2003, but the agreement expired in October. While the borough is willing to continue funding the library, the city has refused to give any more....

McGill Daily, Dec. 4

UK library protesters angry at betrayal

http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/journallive/thejournal/tm_headline=library-protesters-angry-at-%2Dbetrayal%2D%26method=full%26objectid=18210083%26siteid=50081-name_page.html

Leaders in rural communities said they were disgusted by a decision to close a number of libraries across Northumberland county. The county council's executive sealed the fate of 12 libraries December 4, following a review last year. Head of libraries Marguerite Gracey said those buildings owned by the council would either be sold or used for another purpose. Communities campaigning against the changes said they felt betrayed....

Newcastle Journal, Dec. 5

TECH TALK

Yahoo snubs Google in copyright case

<http://www.ecommercetimes.com/story/54494.html>

In a setback to Google's efforts to fend off a copyright infringement suit stemming from its ambitious plan to create digital copies of millions of books, rival search engine Yahoo has declined to provide information about its own book digitization efforts. Neither Yahoo nor Google would comment, but reports suggest Yahoo refused to cooperate with Google because it felt the request for information was an attempt to capture trade secrets....

E-Commerce Times, Nov. 30

Microsoft releases book search in beta

http://news.com.com/Microsoft+releasing+book+search+in+beta/2100-1038_3-6141162.html?tag=nefd.top

Microsoft released Live Search Books, its competitor to Google Book Search, in beta December 6. The book search engine performs keyword searches for books that have been scanned as part of Microsoft's book scanning project, in the same way that Windows Live Search searches the Internet, said Danielle Tiedt, the general manager of Live Search Selection for Microsoft....

C|net news.com, Dec. 6

Six new ideas in IM

<http://www.techcrunch.com/2006/11/24/the-six-biggest-new-ideas-in-chat/>

Nick Gonzalez offers his views on "some of the big ideas emerging in web instant messaging," among them interoperability, in-browser chat, and flexible identities....

Techcrunch blog, Nov. 24

On the catalog

http://blogs.ala.org/pace.php?title=on_the_catalog&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1

Andrew Pace writes: "When I talk about the online catalog, I try hard (with varying metaphors that have varied success) to frame its improvement as only one piece of a much larger puzzle. That includes layer upon layer of services that somehow seem easier to add once the complexity of search and discovery has been replaced with new and easy-to-use technology."...

Hectic Pace blog, Dec. 6

Library Literature and Information Science Retrospective, 1905–1983

http://www.hwwilson.com/Databases/liblit_retro.htm

H. W. Wilson has announced a new reference to debut in January—a wide-ranging and deep retrospective index of library and information science articles. Offered exclusively on WilsonWeb, Library Literature and Information Science Retrospective: 1905–1983 covers citations in more than 1,200 key LIS periodicals, as well as full-text articles from 70 years of Wilson Library Bulletin, indexing from Library Work (1905–1911), and citations to book reviews, books, book chapters, and library school theses....

H. W. Wilson, Dec. 5

YBP Library Services to distribute EBL ebooks to academic libraries

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/061129/lnw006.html?.v=35>

Academic book supplier YBP Library Services announced plans November 29 to market a comprehensive collection of ebooks in partnership with ebook lender EBL. Slated for launch in the first half of 2007, the deal will make EBL's growing list of over 40,000 titles available to YBP library customers worldwide....

Ebooks Corporation, Nov. 29

EBSCO enhances Book Index with Reviews

http://www.ebsco.com/home/whatsnew/enhanced_book.asp

EBSCO Publishing announced December 4 that it has significantly expanded the latest version of its Book Index with Reviews (BIR) to include information on thousands of music and video titles. In addition to more than 4 million popular and classic book titles, BIR now features detailed information on more than 450,000 music titles and more than 200,000 DVD/video titles....

EBSCO Publishing, Dec. 4

ACTIONS AND ANSWERS

Radical transparency, crummy meetings, and micromanagement

<http://www.techsource.ala.org/blog/2006/11/the-hyperlinked-organization-radical-transparency-crummy-meetings-micromanagement.html>

Michael Stephens recommends revisiting chapter 5 of *The Cluetrain Manifesto: The End of Business As Usual* (1999) in the light of 2006, with its plugged-in social networks, library and librarian's blogs, YouTube videos, and a return to human conversations via online technology. Some suggestions: Flatten that org chart, don't kill your staff with bad meetings, and micromanagement has no place in a hyperlinked organization....

ALA Tech Source blog, Nov. 30

What if the library worked like Netflix?

<http://www.galecia.com/weblog/mt/archives/000248.php>

Lori Ayre writes: "Netflix is easy, personal, fast, and convenient. It assists users in finding titles they will not only enjoy but titles that they are probably very excited to find because they are surprised that they could be found or they've never heard of them before. If libraries made it as personal, easy, and convenient to find and borrow titles as Amazon and NetFlix do, circulation in libraries would skyrocket. Instead, business is booming at Amazon and Netflix and circulation is holding relatively steady in public libraries."...

Lori Bowen Ayre's Weblog, Nov. 30

Oakland library posts photos of city's past

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/11/29/BAGTMMLPIA1.DTL&hw=library&sn=007&sc=678>
Rarely seen photos of bygone days in Oakland, California—an 1870 horse-drawn bus, Jack London setting sail on the Snark in 1907, a Chinese vegetable peddler in 1885, the 1918 flu epidemic (right)—have been posted online by the Oakland Public Library. The 199-item sampler of the library's image collections also features historic maps and manuscripts, as well as photos from Piedmont and Emeryville dating back to the mid-1800s....
San Francisco Chronicle, Nov. 29

The who and why behind the dismantling of Buffalo's School of Informatics

<http://spectrum.buffalo.edu/article.php?id=29774>

Some characterize it as gross misconduct and an abuse of power. Others see it as a justifiable administrative decision. Either way, the departments, programs, and people that, until this semester, made up the University at Buffalo School of Informatics are now in the process of transitioning to other schools after Provost Satish Tripathi abruptly proposed to dissolve the seven-year-old school over the summer....

University at Buffalo, The Spectrum, Nov. 29

Libraries in southwestern Ohio are good for the economy

<http://9libraries.info/>

A study released November 29 shows that nine Ohio public library systems in Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren counties create an annual economic impact of nearly four times the amount invested in their operations. The report (PDF file) from Levin, Driscoll, and Fleeter in Columbus concludes that the libraries' cumulative expenditure of about \$74 million returned a quantifiable direct economic benefit of \$238.6 million—or \$3.81 for each dollar expended in 2005. The study also recognizes that these libraries add significant value to their communities that cannot be assigned a dollar value, such as “improved economic prospects and an enhanced quality of life.”...

9Libraries.info, Nov. 29

Hear American Libraries editor on LiSRadio

http://lisradio.missouri.edu/view.php?id=324&type=summary&title=First+Tuesday%3A+American+Libraries+Editor+Leonard+Kniffel&cast_date=December+4,+2006&pageBefore=series&sid=2

University of Missouri at Columbia Associate Professor Charley Seavey talks with American Libraries Editor in Chief Leonard Kniffel about issues in librarianship on the “First Tuesday” School of Information Sciences and Learning Technologies LiSRadio webcast. QuickTime and MP3 formats are provided....

LiSRadio, Dec. 4

Find a library job in 10 minutes a day

http://liscareer.com/paul_job.htm

Sara R. Paul reveals how she used RSS feeds to locate her new position as a reference librarian at a law firm in San Francisco: “Suppose you have 45 job websites and e-mail listservs that you check on a regular basis. Going to each website and combing through e-mails every day could take hours. However, by using RSS feeds to concentrate all the listings in one place, you can eliminate a great amount of time and effort.”...

LIScareer.com, Dec.

A video tour of the CLA exhibit floor

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4275983695449670302&hl=en>

Bernadette Swanson (UC-Davis) and the California Library Association's Marketing and Public Relations Round Table created a 3-minute video tour of the exhibit floor at the 108th Annual CLA Conference, Nov. 10–13, in Sacramento. Among the exhibits featured are poster sessions, St. Mary's College of California, and the Infopeople Technology petting zoo....

California Library Association, Nov. 26

How researchers discover information resources

<http://www.rin.ac.uk/whats-new-discovery-services>

The UK Research Information Network has published a report (PDF file) on the behavior, perceptions, and needs of researchers as users of discovery services. This work, based on a detailed survey of 400 researchers and 50 librarians, is intended to promote better arrangements for researchers to find out what information resources relevant to their work are available, where these are, and how they may have access to them....

Research Information Network, Nov.

Thomson Gale offers free resources for Black History Month

http://www.gale.com/press_room/2006_12_01_BlackHistory.htm

In recognition of Black History Month (February), Thomson Gale, part of the Thomson Corporation, is launching a free website full of historical facts and figures, biographies, relevant web links and lesson plans. The site is designed to help students, teachers, and families celebrate the month....

Thomson Gale, Dec. 6

Special issue on media centers and special ed (available full-text on EBSCO)

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/proedcw/in/2006/00000042/00000002/art00001;jsessionid=11hpqx7f8ohdt.henrietta>

The November issue of *Intervention in School and Clinic* is devoted to collaborative relationships between school media centers and special educators. An introduction by Joyce Anderson Downing discusses the various roles the media center can play in the lives of students with disabilities, describes the ways teachers and library media specialists can collaborate, and provides an overview of access to library resources from both physical and technological perspectives....

Intervention in School and Clinic 42, no. 2 (Nov.)

Poetry in children's literature

http://informatics.buffalo.edu/org/ljsj/articles/dixon_2006_11_poetry.php

Southern Connecticut State University LIS student Ann Dixon traces the development of poetry for children, primarily in the United States and Great Britain, from oral traditions to electronic formats....

Library Student Journal, issue 2 (Nov.)

Call for scholarly publishing papers

<http://ocs.sfu.ca/pkp2007/callforpapers.php>

The 2007 Public Knowledge Project Scholarly Publishing Conference (at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, B.C., July 11–13) is calling for papers from librarians and information specialists on the themes of alternate forms of scholarly communication, open access publications, and using open source tools in libraries. The deadline for submitting an abstract is January 15....

Public Knowledge Project

40 years of resistance music

http://blog.thismagazine.ca/archives/2006/11/how_long_must_w.html

The struggle for social justice has always had a rousing soundtrack—from solidarity-inspiring union hymns to folk songs to hardcore anthems. This Magazine put together a list of 40 essential “songs of resistance,” starting with 1966 and going right up to the present. Video or audio clips are included for most (except those removed for terms-of-use violations)....

This Magazine, Nov. 1

Are books in danger? No, says Forbes

http://www.forbes.com/2006/11/30/books-publishing-internet-tech-media_cx_mm_mn_books06_1201book_land.html

The conventional wisdom would say yes. But surprise—the conventional wisdom is wrong. Forbes magazine's special report on books and the future of publishing is brim-full of reasons to be optimistic. People are reading more, not less. The internet is fueling literacy. Giving books away online increases off-line readership. New forms of expression—wikis, networked books—are blossoming in a digital hothouse....

Forbes, Dec. 1

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AMERICAN LIBRARIES



December 13, 2006

AL Direct is a free electronic newsletter e-mailed every Wednesday to personal members of the [American Library Association](#).

Contents:

- [U.S. & World News](#)
- [ALA News](#)
- [Booklist Online](#)
- [Seattle Update](#)
- [Division News](#)
- [Round Table News](#)
- [Awards](#)
- [Seen Online](#)
- [Tech Talk](#)
- [Actions & Answers](#)
- [Poll](#)
- [Datebook](#)
- [AL Direct FAQ](#)

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U.S. & WORLD NEWS

[Opposition to EPA cutbacks increases](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency faces escalating resistance to its cost-saving plan to replace printed library materials with online resources. The transition is part of the agency's response to President Bush's proposed \$2-million budget reduction in EPA operations for FY2007. In 2006, the agency has already closed regional libraries in Chicago, Dallas, and Kansas City, and has reduced hours or public access to libraries in Boston, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington....



[Iraq National Library and archive closes for three weeks due to violence](#)

In the wake of increasing sectarian violence that resulted in the deaths of several staff members, Iraq's National Library and Archive in Baghdad, which houses the country's largest depository of books and documents, closed for three weeks on November 21. In a December 6 e-mail to the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Director-General Saad Bashir Eskander said the library is in an area where fighting between Shi'a and Sunni militias has intensified, resulting in gunfire and bomb explosions in neighboring buildings....

[Internet2 marks 10th anniversary with tenfold speed increase](#)

Some 700 [Internet2](#) members gathered December 4-7 in Chicago to mark the 10th anniversary of the data network that connects nearly two-thirds of college campuses and one-third of high schools in the United States. The meeting included the unveiling of a tenfold increase in the network's already ultra-fast connectivity....

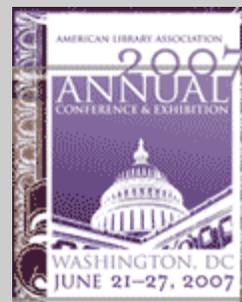
[Michigan library closes branches, slashes jobs after tax defeat](#)

The board of the Bay County (Mich.) Library voted December 4 to



american library association
midwinter meeting 2007

New members or first-time Midwinter-goers might want to attend [these meetings](#).



Registration is now open for the 2007 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Reduced preliminary rates are good until **January 5**.

close two of the system's branches, reduce hours at the remaining three branches, and cut 120 positions. The move follows the defeat of a 1.2-mill tax renewal in November, which reduced the system's operating budget from \$5.5 million in 2006 to \$2.2 million; the measure had previously failed in an August vote....

[Berkeley Public Library gets new director](#)

The Berkeley (Calif.) Board of Library Trustees named Donna Corbeil director of library services at the Berkeley Public Library December 6. Corbeil is currently deputy director of Solano County (Calif.) Library. She will start at Berkeley January 8 at an annual salary of \$143,000. The former director, Jackie Griffin, resigned in June in the midst of controversy over the installation of RFID devices and complaints about managerial style.



ALA NEWS



[Burger hosts summit on a national library agenda](#)

ALA President Leslie Burger gathered some 40 policy and decision-makers at the ALA Washington Office December 10–11 for a National Library Agenda Summit. One of the summit's major agenda items was building a case for investing in libraries at the local, state, and national levels. For more details, see the [summit wiki](#)....

[ALA calls for real update on EPA library status](#)

President Leslie Burger responded to the Environmental Protection Agency's December 11 [update](#) on the status of agency libraries by saying that it "raised more questions than it answered. . . . The EPA referenced American Library Association guidelines and subsequently pointed to a [fact sheet on our website](#) as the basis for decision-making. This loose collection of resources is a good starting point for

OPRAH'S BOOK CLUB IS BACK... TO FEATURING CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS! ALA Organizational Members receive free books.

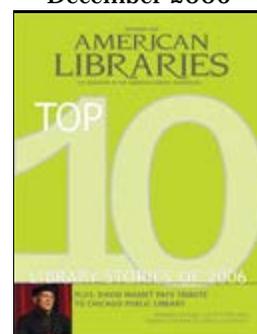
click here for details



ALA—Working for Our Member Libraries

In This Issue

December 2006



Stories inside include:

David Mamet on the Chicago Public Library

Public Library Rebirth

The Top 10 News Stories of 2006

ter
Technology Electronic Reviews

Doug Addison's *Web Site Cookbook* (O'Reilly, 2006) and Leander Kahney's *The Cult of iPod* (No Starch, 2005) are two of the books reviewed in the December issue of LITA's [Technology Electronic Reviews](#).

Classifieds

[HEAD OF TECHNICAL](#)

thinking about collection development policies, but does not constitute 'ALA guidance and criteria.'..."

[Burger to speak on EPA library closings at NACEPT meeting](#)

On December 14 at 12:30 p.m., ALA President Leslie Burger will speak at a meeting of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) on the impact of the EPA library closings. The meeting will be held on December 14–15 at the Madison Hotel, 1777 15th Street NW, in Washington, D.C., and it is open to the public, with limited seating....

[Have you completed your survey?](#)

ALA and Florida State University's College of Information are surveying ([PDF file](#)) a national sample of public libraries regarding internet connectivity and computing access. Your library may have been chosen to participate (and incidentally be eligible to win a 2 GB [iPod nano](#)). The deadline for responding is February 1. More information on the project is available from the FSU [Information Use Management and Policy Institute](#)....

[Online registration extended for Advocacy Institute](#)

The deadline for registering online to attend the [Advocacy Institute](#) at the 2007 ALA Midwinter Meeting has been extended to January 5. By registering online for \$25, both members and nonmembers alike will save 50% off the \$50 onsite registration fee....

[Web retreat scheduled](#)

With the results of its web usability study in hand, ALA will host members and staff in a Web Planning Retreat on December 18 to develop a vision and plan outline for revamping the ALA website. Begun in July, the usability assessment includes interviews of major stakeholder groups, an online survey, hands-on usability testing, focus group discussions, and heuristic analysis. A [wiki](#) and [blog](#) have been established to share information and encourage participation across the Association....

[Washington Office is now podcasting](#)

ALA's Washington Office launched its first District Dispatch Podcast December 7, featuring Emily Sheketoff, Lynne Bradley, and Andy Bridges with an introduction to the office, what it does, and what to expect in future podcasts. In [Podcast #2](#), Rick Weingarten discusses the Office for Information Technology Policy and what it's been working on recently....

District Dispatch blog, Dec. 7, 12



Booklist
— ONLINE —

[Booklist Book Club partners with Downers Grove](#)

The Booklist Book Club now has a

[SERVICES](#)

St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa. The O'Keefe Library is seeking an energetic and service-oriented librarian for Head of Technical Services. Responsibilities include supervising all aspects of technical services, including supervision and training of four full-time staff and several student workers; original cataloging of materials; overseeing the acquisition and processing of library materials; and working with the Art Department on digital imaging projects....



See [JobLIST](#) for more career opportunities.

Thus Said

Carsen: "I destroyed the book, which wasn't very librarian of me."

Judson: "You sacrificed what you really wanted for the greater good. Only a great librarian would do that."

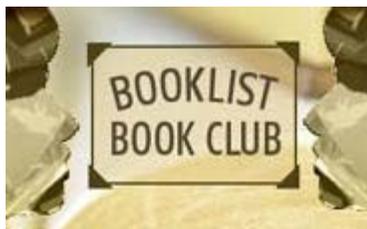
—Librarian-adventurer Flynn Carsen (played by Noah Wyle) briefs his boss Judson (played by Bob Newhart) on his latest adventure in the TNT made-for-cable movie, *The Librarian: Return to King Solomon's Mines*, Dec. 2.

Poll

What do
YOU think?

Results of the
December 6 poll:

library partner—[Downers Grove \(Ill.\) Public Library](#). Downers Grove is a national leader in innovative readers' advisory services and also has an active book discussion program. Every month the Book Club will be adding forums for the same books being talked about at Downers Grove, and its [online discussions](#) will be co-moderated by Downers Grove staff....



Featured review: Media

Secrets of the Dead: The Sinking of the Andrea Doria, Dec. 2006. 60 min. PBS Video. DVD (978-0-7936-5114-6).

On July 25, 1956, the *Andrea Doria*, an Italian luxury liner crossing the foggy North Atlantic, was struck "off Nantucket by a Swedish liner going at full speed." Sixteen hundred passengers were rescued shortly before the ship sunk; 51 persons perished in the tragedy. Relying on reenactment footage and original sources, including newsreel clips, newspaper reports, and archival photos, this intriguing film reexamines the catastrophe....



Rate TNT's 2006 made-for-cable feature *The Librarian: Return to King Solomon's Mines*.

Great.....34%
Mediocre.....37%
Awful.....13%
Other.....3%
Didn't see....13%

(116 responses)

For cumulated results and selected responses to *AL Direct* polls, visit the AL Online [website](#). (Sorry, we're a bit behind.)

SEATTLE UPDATE

Interactive Seattle map

ALA Conference Services now offers an interactive, scalable, customizable map of downtown Seattle that pinpoints the conference hotels as well as nearby dining, nightlife, recreation, and attractions. You can also mark your own destinations and print out whatever portion of the map shows in the viewer. A Seattle regional map is available in case you want to visit Redmond or Issaquah....



King County Library System welcomes Midwinter Meeting-goers

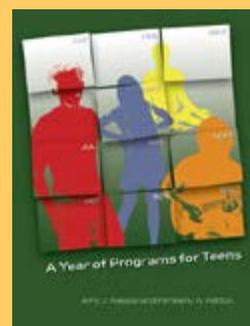
Attendees are welcome to visit and tour any of the 43 King County Library System [branches](#) surrounding Seattle—including its shipping operations and graphics/print shop. A tour of the Youth Service Center Library at the [King County Juvenile Detention Facility](#) is available Monday, January 22. To arrange for a tour, contact [Julie Wallace](#) at 425-369-3273....



Seattle and Puget Sound area museums

The King County Library System maintains a set of links to museums in the area, including the

The [Library Education Forum](#) at the Midwinter Meeting, January 19, will continue the dialogue on issues in LIS education and identify new issues and new challenges. Visit the [Forum blog](#) as the date gets closer.



In [A Year of Programs for Teens](#) (new from ALA Editions), **Amy J. Alessio** and **Kimberly A. Patton** take teen services to a new level with step-by-step instructions for



[Center for Wooden Boats](#), the [Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection](#), the [University of Washington Fish Collection](#), and the [Museum of Communications](#)....
King County Library System

DIVISION NEWS

[PLA's proposed new service responses: A draft](#)

June Garcia and Sandra Nelson have reviewed all of the comments from the three open meetings during the 2006 Annual Conference and on the PLA Service Response blog, and they have identified 17 new or revised service responses. As the process continues, the service response descriptions will be expanded to include suggested target audiences, common library services and programs, required resources, and suggested measures for each. PLA will be accepting comments on this draft until January 1 and will present a revised draft at the upcoming Midwinter Meeting....

PLA Blog, Dec. 6

[New ALSC wiki offers communication opportunities](#)

Joining in on the latest technology and communication phenomenon, ALSC has established a [wiki space](#) to provide its members and others interested in library service to children a place to share ideas and best practices; network with colleagues; discuss issues, trends, and opportunities; and communicate ALSC committee happenings and events....

[ALCTS will hold forums at Midwinter](#)

As part of the inauguration of its 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2007, ALCTS will present a series of forums at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Seattle. The ALCTS Forums encourage open discussion of timely topics covering a broad range of ALCTS' interests from cataloging to collections and a celebration of the division's 50 years....

[YALSA launches new music discussion list](#)

[YA-MUSIC](#), a new discussion list hosted by YALSA, will explore how libraries can use music in all its forms to serve the teens in their communities. The list is open to both members and nonmembers. Librarians are encouraged to discuss recommended practices in collections and programming, as well as specific media, including CDs, MP3s and new emerging technologies....

ROUND TABLE NEWS

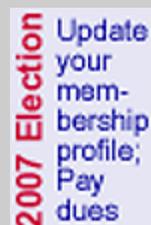
[The ethnic press, libraries, and the community](#)

(PDF file)

The January issue of the Social Responsibilities Round Table has a report on the Alternatives in Publication Task Force panel that met at ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans. Representatives from the Grass Roots Media Project, the National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the alternative *Louisiana Weekly* offered their views on the role of libraries in promoting access and intellectual freedom....

SRRT Newsletter, no. 156-157 (Jan.), p. 3

planning teen programs. Each chapter covers one month of the year.



Your ALA membership must be fully current as of **January 31** to vote in the spring elections. See the [FAQ](#) for more election details.

Ask the ALA Librarian



Q. My library is working to define and implement its enterprise brand. Key to this is our website. Have you identified any member websites that embody best practices or are award-winning?

A. Yes, we do have an award for library websites, one of the categories in LAMA's Public Relations and Marketing Section [Swap and Shop Best of Show](#) competition. In 2006, the [Ann Arbor \(Mich.\) District Library](#) was the winner. See the library's [blog](#) for details.

AWARDS

[25 receive 2006 New York Times Librarian Awards](#)

The *New York Times* announced December 8 the names of the 25 winners of the 2006 *New York Times* Librarian Awards. Now in its sixth year, the program honors librarians from around the country who have provided outstanding public service and have had a strong and positive impact on their nominators. Included for the first time are three academic librarians....

New York Times Company, Dec. 8

[Information Professional of the Year named](#)

The Special Libraries Association announced that Rachel Kolsky, president of SLA Europe and manager of information resources with AIG Research and Development in London, has been named Information Professional of the Year at the fourth annual International Information Industry Awards....

Special Libraries Association, Dec. 8

[Libraries Transform Communities essay contest](#)

Friends of Libraries USA has extended the deadline until January 2 for its new award for a 700-word essay that focuses on how the library can transform a community (see [contest rules](#)).

The Friends group or library designated in the entry information must be a FOLUSA member with a current membership valid through January 31....

Friends of Libraries USA



[Billie M. Levy Travel and Research Grants](#)

Travel grants ranging from \$500 to \$1,200 are available for individuals to use materials in the Northeast Children's Literature Collection, a nationally recognized facility housed at the University of Connecticut's Dodd Research Center in Storrs. The deadline for applications is March 1 for the following summer and academic year....

University of Connecticut Libraries

[First round of 2007 NEA grants](#)

The National Endowment for the Arts announced December 12 that it will award \$19.4 million to fund 848 grants in FY2007. The Arts Endowment will distribute funds to nonprofit national, regional, state, and local organizations across the country, funding Access to Artistic Excellence grants as well as Literature Fellowships for individuals....

National Endowment for the Arts, Dec. 12

SEEN ONLINE

[How to bring our schools out of the 20th century](#) (subscription required)

The cover story on the December 18 issue of *Time* magazine is a status report on the need for including information literacy, people skills, global awareness, and other Learning 2.0 skills into the K-12 curriculum. Claudia Wallis and Sonja Steptoe write: "American schools aren't exactly frozen in time, but considering the pace of change in other

A library's website is integral to its PR campaign.

Considerations include aesthetic design, content, accessibility, and usability. One resource is ALA's [Library Success wiki](#), which includes a [Library Website Hall of Fame](#).

For more, see the [ALA Professional Tips wiki](#).

Datebook

International events:

Jan. 30–

Feb. 1:

[Australian Library and Information Association](#),

Information Online Exhibition and Conference, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Australia. Contact: [ALIA](#), +61 (2) 9437 9333.

Feb. 13–15:

[Search Engine Strategies Conference and Expo](#), London, United Kingdom. Contact: [Incisive Media](#), 203-295-0050.

Feb. 21–

Mar. 5:

[Alexandria International Book Fair](#), Alexandria, Egypt. Contact: [Mona Helmy](#), 203-483-9999, x1093.

Mar. 11–13:



areas of life, our public schools tend to feel like throwbacks."...

Time, Dec. 10

[D.C. school libraries see improvements](#)

District of Columbia public school libraries are undergoing their most substantial upgrades in decades as the school system, federal government, and private donors invest millions of dollars to add new books, update computer technology, and redesign spaces to spruce up the aging media centers. In November, improvements to three public school libraries in the Capitol Hill area were completed as part of a \$2.4 million public-private initiative that ultimately will include eight schools....

Washington Post, Dec. 7

[Blackpool library calendar canceled](#)

Eleven workers at the Queen Street library in Blackpool, England—nine women and two men—stripped down to make a calendar to raise cash for charity. But horrified library bosses banned it from going to the printers after seeing the saucy proofs. One worker branded council bosses "killjoys" and said: "It's ridiculous. They're tasteful and nothing like you would see in a lads' magazine."...

Blackpool Gazette, Dec. 13

[Budget approval may not spare Minneapolis libraries](#)

The Minneapolis city council unanimously approved Mayor R. T. Rybak's 2007 budget December 11. Included in the \$1.3-billion package is money for crime-fighting measures, including adding 43 new police officers and buying more security cameras. The council also included additional money to keep some libraries open. However, library board members say it may not be enough....

Minnesota Public Radio, Dec. 12

[Fugitive caught at Philadelphia Free Library computer](#)

The man in the Donovan McNabb jersey got to the Philadelphia Free Library's main branch at 9 a.m., as usual, and was seated at a public computer terminal, tapping away at his MySpace.com page, as usual. So he did not notice that 15 armed officers were quietly converging on him. That, authorities say, is how a fugitive wanted in Georgia and Massachusetts was captured December 7 without a fight....

Philadelphia Inquirer, Dec. 12

[Finders keepers at Brigham Young](#)

A Brigham Young University maintenance worker is \$10,000 richer because of an act of honesty 10 years ago. On March 7, 1996, a BYU employee found \$10,000 in \$100 bills in two PVC pipes in the Harold B. Lee Library. The man immediately turned the property over to police, but no leads were discovered and no rightful owner was identified. On December 6, the money went to the unnamed finder....

[European Association of Information Services](#)

Annual Conference, Roskilde University, Denmark. Contact: [Johan van Halm](#).

Apr. 14–17: [Iberoamerican Conference on Librarianship](#)

Asociación de Bibliotecarios Graduados, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Apr. 17– May 8: [Buenos Aires International Book Fair](#)

Buenos Aires, Argentina. Fair organizers are offering free registration and four nights in a hotel to any U.S. librarians to attend professional activities April 16–19 before the fair opens to the public April 20. Contact: [Adan Griego](#) 650-723-3150.

June 17–22: [Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians](#)

2007 Conference, Helderberg College, Somerset West, South Africa. Contact: [Sabrina Riley](#), 402-486-2600, ext. 2154.

Provo (Utah) Daily Herald, Dec. 6

[Chilean protesters burn valuable university library books](#)

Masked arsonists entered the University of Chile philosophy and humanities library in the Macul district of Santiago November 28 and stole 1,200 volumes from the collection to create a bonfire outside the building. The action was carried out in the name of the Mapuche Liberation Movement. Some of the books destroyed were rare, including the writings of the Chilean historian Benjamin Vicuña MacKenna (1831–1886) and a copy of Pope Leo XIII’s 1891 encyclical *Rerum Novarum*....

Santiago Times, Dec. 5

TECH TALK

[Net Neutrality proponents prepare for next battle](#)

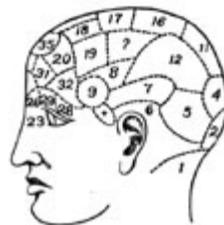
A bill that would have allowed telecommunications and cable companies to prioritize internet content by allowing higher-speed information delivery for higher-paying customers has died. The 109th Congress closed early December 9 without action on the Communications Opportunity, Promotion, and Enhancement (COPE) Act of 2006. But the Save the Internet coalition is gearing up to continue lobbying for network neutrality when the 110th Congress convenes....

Information Week, Dec. 11

[Microsoft’s Live Search Books](#)

Tom Peters writes: “After playing around for an hour or so with the recently released public beta version of Microsoft’s [Live Search Books](#), I have to admit—against some vague sense that my better judgment is failing me—that I like it. On December 6, when the beta version was released to the public, I conducted a couple of sample searches on *phrenology* and *spontaneous combustion*.” Discover what he found out....

ALA TechSource blog, Dec. 12



[Dotto Tech show promotes Canadian library resources](#)

The Canadian TV show *Dotto Tech* recently featured a segment demonstrating the benefits of using licensed database resources found in many public libraries. Host Steve Dotto walks viewers through the process of logging in, selecting a database, conducting a search, and refining search parameters. The show appears on the national CHUM network and on Canada’s independent educational channels....

Dotto Tech



[Social tool added to LISZEN](#)

By now, your library blog may be included in [LISZEN](#). The creator of this library-blog search engine, Garrett Hungerford, has updated his project with LISZEN Trends, which he says is a supplement that adds a social tool to the portal....

June 19–21:
[Joint Use Libraries: An International Conference](#), The Lowry, Manchester, United Kingdom.
Contact: [Evidence Base](#).

Aug. 19–23:
[International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions](#), World Library and Information Congress, Durban, South Africa.
“Libraries for the Future: Progress, Development, and Partnerships.”
Contact: [IFLA](#).

More [Datebook](#) items...

Contact Us

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AL Direct FAQ:



ALA TechSource blog, Dec. 13

[Tulane expands its digital resources](#)

Tulane University's main library has worked hard after Hurricane Katrina to find opportunities among its new challenges. The Howard-Tilton Memorial Library has negotiated with a number of prominent publishers to acquire a vast array of new digital archival collections, among them Thomson Gale's *18th Century Collection*, ProQuest's *Gerritsen Women's Studies Collection*, and Readex's *Early American Newspapers* series....

Tulane University *New Wave*, Nov. 27

[The Middle East goes digital](#)

Since the 1960s and 1970s, libraries in the West have been digitizing their catalogs and even the contents of their shelves, but a lack of resources has kept all but the most well-funded Middle Eastern libraries from doing the same. The Yale University Library hopes to correct this situation, bringing the fruits of Middle Eastern scholars' labors into the digital age....

Egypt Today 27, no. 12 (Dec.)

[OverDrive launches audiobook and ebook package for schools](#)

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OverDrive, Dec. 12

ACTIONS & ANSWERS

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Library of Congress, Dec .1

[Spanish for library staff](#)

www.ala.org/aldirect/

All links outside the ALA website are provided for informational purposes only. Questions about the content of any external site should be addressed to the administrator of that site.

American Libraries

50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611
www.ala.org/alongline/
800-545-2433,
ext. 4216

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McAfee, Dec. 11

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Public Interest Registry



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Haworth Press

AMERICAN LIBRARIES DIRECT

December 13, 2006

AL Direct is a weekly electronic newsletter sent by the American Library Association every Wednesday to personal members by e-mail as a perquisite of membership.

Click here to view the online version of our email:

<%= util.viewHtmlLink %>

POLL: What do YOU think?

Results of the December 6 poll:

Rate TNT's 2006 made-for-cable feature *The Librarian: Return to King Solomon's Mines*.

Great.....34%
Mediocre.....37%
Awful.....13%
Other.....3%
Didn't see....13%

(116 responses)

For cumulated results and selected responses to AL Direct polls, visit the AL Online website. (Sorry, we're a bit behind.)

U.S. & WORLD NEWS

Opposition to EPA cutbacks increases

<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2006abc/december2006/epaopposition.cfm>

The Environmental Protection Agency faces escalating resistance to its cost-saving plan to replace printed library materials with online resources. The transition is part of the agency's response to President Bush's proposed \$2-million budget reduction in EPA operations for FY2007. In 2006, the agency has already closed regional libraries in Chicago, Dallas, and Kansas City, and has reduced hours or public access to libraries in Boston, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington....

Iraq National Library and archive closes for three weeks due to violence

<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2006abc/december2006/iraqclosed.cfm>

In the wake of increasing sectarian violence that resulted in the deaths of several staff members, Iraq's National Library and Archive in Baghdad, which houses the country's largest depository of books and documents, closed for three weeks on November 21. In a December 6 e-mail to the Chronicle of Higher Education, Director-General Saad Bashir Eskander said the library is in an area where fighting between Shi'a and Sunni militias has intensified, resulting in gunfire and bomb explosions in neighboring buildings....

Internet2 marks 10th anniversary with tenfold speed increase

<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2006abc/december2006/internet2.cfm>

Some 700 Internet2 members gathered December 4-7 in Chicago to mark the 10th anniversary of the data network that connects nearly two-thirds of college campuses and one-third of high schools in the United States. The meeting included the unveiling of a tenfold increase in the network's already ultra-fast connectivity....

Michigan library closes branches, slashes jobs after tax defeat

<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2006abc/december2006/baycounty.cfm>

The board of the Bay County (Mich.) Library voted December 4 to close two of the system's branches, reduce hours at the remaining three branches, and cut 120 positions. The move follows the defeat of a 1.2-mill tax renewal in November, which reduced the system's operating budget from \$5.5 million in 2006 to \$2.2 million; the measure had previously failed in an August vote....

Berkeley Public Library gets new director

<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2006abc/december2006/berkeley.cfm>

The Berkeley (Calif.) Board of Library Trustees named Donna Corbeil director of library services at the Berkeley Public Library December 6. Corbeil is currently deputy director of Solano County (Calif.) Library. She will start at Berkeley January 8 at an annual salary of \$143,000. The former director, Jackie Griffin, resigned in June in the midst of controversy over the installation of RFID devices and complaints about managerial style.

ALA NEWS

Burger hosts summit on a national library agenda

<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2006abc/december2006/summit.cfm>

ALA President Leslie Burger gathered some 40 policy and decision-makers at the ALA Washington Office December 10-11 for a National Library Agenda Summit. One of the summit's major agenda items was building a case for investing in libraries at the local, state, and national levels. For more details, see the summit wiki....

ALA calls for real update on EPA library status

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/december2006/epacall06.htm>

President Leslie Burger responded to the Environmental Protection Agency's December 11 update on the status of agency libraries by saying that it "raised more questions than it answered. . . . The EPA referenced American Library Association guidelines and subsequently pointed to a fact sheet on our website as the basis for decision-making. This loose collection of resources is a good starting point for thinking about collection development policies, but does not constitute 'ALA guidance and criteria.'"...

Burger to speak on EPA library closings at NACEPT meeting

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/december2006/burgerspeakepa.htm>

On December 14 at 12:30 p.m., ALA President Leslie Burger will speak at a meeting of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) on the impact of the EPA library closings. The meeting will be held on December 14-15 at the Madison Hotel, 1777 15th Street NW, in Washington, D.C., and it is open to the public, with limited seating....

Have you completed your survey?

<http://www.ala.org/ala/ors/publiclibraryfundingtechnologyaccessstudy/pullibfunandtechaccstudy.htm>

ALA and Florida State University's College of Information are surveying (PDF file) a national sample of public libraries regarding internet connectivity and computing access. Your library may have been chosen to participate (and incidentally be eligible to win a 2 GB iPod nano). The deadline for responding is February 1. More information on the project is available from the FSU Information Use Management and Policy Institute....

Online registration extended for Advocacy Institute

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/december2006/OnlineregAdvocacyInstitu.htm>

The deadline for registering online to attend the Advocacy Institute at the 2007 ALA Midwinter Meeting has been extended to January 5. By registering online for \$25, both members and nonmembers alike will save 50% off the \$50 onsite registration fee....

Web retreat scheduled

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/december2006/webretreat.htm>

With the results of its web usability study in hand, ALA will host members and staff in a Web Planning Retreat on December 18 to develop a vision and plan outline for revamping the ALA website. Begun in July, the usability assessment includes interviews of major stakeholder groups, an online survey, hands-on usability testing, focus group discussions, and heuristic analysis. A wiki and blog have been established to share information and encourage participation across the Association....

Washington Office is now podcasting

http://blogs.ala.org/districtdispatch.php?title=district_dispatch_podcast_1&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1

ALA's Washington Office launched its first District Dispatch Podcast December 7, featuring Emily Sheketoff, Lynne Bradley, and Andy Bridges with an introduction to the office, what it does, and what to expect in future podcasts. In Podcast #2, Rick Weingarten discusses the Office for Information Technology Policy and what it's been working on recently....

District Dispatch blog, Dec. 7, 12

Booklist Online

Booklist Book Club partners with Downers Grove

http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=1836548

The Booklist Book Club now has a library partner—Downers Grove (Ill.) Public Library. Downers Grove is a national leader in innovative readers' advisory services and also has an active book discussion program. Every month the Book Club will be adding forums for the same books being talked about at Downers Grove, and its online discussions will be co-moderated by Downers Grove staff....

Featured review: Media

http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=1825225

Secrets of the Dead: The Sinking of the Andrea Doria, Dec. 2006. 60 min. PBS Video. DVD (978-0-7936-5114-6). On July 25, 1956, the Andrea Doria, an Italian luxury liner crossing the foggy North Atlantic, was struck "off Nantucket by a Swedish liner going at full speed." Sixteen hundred passengers were rescued shortly before the ship sunk; 51 persons perished in the tragedy. Relying on reenactment footage and original sources, including newsreel clips, newspaper reports, and archival photos, this intriguing film reexamines the catastrophe....

SEATTLE UPDATE

Interactive Seattle map

<http://map.mapnetwork.com/tradeshows/seattle/ala/>

ALA Conference Services now offers an interactive, scalable, customizable map of downtown Seattle that pinpoints the conference hotels as well as nearby dining, nightlife, recreation, and attractions. You can also mark your own destinations and print out whatever portion of the map shows in the viewer. A Seattle regional map is available in case you want to visit Redmond or Issaquah....

King County Library System welcomes Midwinter Meeting-goers

<http://www.kcls.org/>

Attendees are welcome to visit and tour any of the 43 King County Library System branches surrounding Seattle—including its shipping operations and graphics/print shop. A tour of the Youth Service Center Library at the King County Juvenile Detention Facility is available Monday, January 22. To arrange for a tour, contact Julie Wallace at 425-369-3273....

King County Library System

Center for Wooden BoatsSeattle and Puget Sound area museums

<http://www.kcls.org/sws/subcategories.cfm?parentid=446>

The King County Library System maintains a set of links to museums in the area, including the Center for Wooden Boats, the Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection, the University of Washington Fish Collection, and the Museum of

DIVISION NEWS

PLA's proposed new service responses: A draft

<http://plablog.org/2006/12/proposed-new-service-responses-draft.html>

June Garcia and Sandra Nelson have reviewed all of the comments from the three open meetings during the 2006 Annual Conference and on the PLA Service Response blog, and they have identified 17 new or revised service responses. As the process continues, the service response descriptions will be expanded to include suggested target audiences, common library services and programs, required resources, and suggested measures for each. PLA will be accepting comments on this draft until January 1 and will present a revised draft at the upcoming Midwinter Meeting....

PLA Blog, Dec. 6

New ALSC wiki offers communication opportunities

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/december2006/ALSCWiki.htm>

Joining in on the latest technology and communication phenomenon, ALSC has established a wiki space to provide its members and others interested in library service to children a place to share ideas and best practices; network with colleagues; discuss issues, trends, and opportunities; and communicate ALSC committee happenings and events....

ALCTS will hold forums at Midwinter

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/december2006/ALCTSforumsMidwinter.htm>

As part of the inauguration of its 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2007, ALCTS will present a series of forums at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Seattle. The ALCTS Forums encourage open discussion of timely topics covering a broad range of ALCTS' interests from cataloging to collections and a celebration of the division's 50 years....

YALSA launches new music discussion list

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/december2006/YALSAelectroniclist.htm>

YA-MUSIC, a new discussion list hosted by YALSA, will explore how libraries can use music in all its forms to serve the teens in their communities. The list is open to both members and nonmembers. Librarians are encouraged to discuss recommended practices in collections and programming, as well as specific media, including CDs, MP3s and new emerging technologies....

ROUND TABLE NEWS

The ethnic press, libraries, and the community

<http://www.libr.org/srrt/news/srrt156.pdf>

(PDF file)

The January issue of the Social Responsibilities Round Table has a report on the Alternatives in Publication Task Force panel that met at ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans. Representatives from the Grass Roots Media Project, the National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the alternative Louisiana Weekly offered their views on the role of libraries in promoting access and intellectual freedom....

SRRT Newsletter, no. 156-157 (Jan.), p. 3

AWARDS

25 receive 2006 New York Times Librarian Awards

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=105317&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=940423&highlight=>

The New York Times announced December 8 the names of the 25 winners of the 2006 New York Times Librarian Awards. Now in its sixth year, the program honors librarians from around the country who have provided outstanding

public service and have had a strong and positive impact on their nominators. Included for the first time are three academic librarians....

New York Times Company, Dec. 8

Information Professional of the Year named

<http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/pressroom/pressrelease/2006release/pr2625.cfm>

The Special Libraries Association announced that Rachel Kolsky, president of SLA Europe and manager of information resources with AIG Research and Development in London, has been named Information Professional of the Year at the fourth annual International Information Industry Awards....

Special Libraries Association, Dec. 8

Libraries Transform Communities essay contest

<http://www.folusa.org/resources/libraries.transform.php>

Friends of Libraries USA has extended the deadline until January 2 for its new award for a 700-word essay that focuses on how the library can transform a community (see contest rules). The Friends group or library designated in the entry information must be a FOLUSA member with a current membership valid through January 31....

Friends of Libraries USA

Billie M. Levy Travel and Research Grants

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/online/research/speclib/ASC/research/travelgrants/levy/about.htm>

Travel grants ranging from \$500 to \$1,200 are available for individuals to use materials in the Northeast Children's Literature Collection, a nationally recognized facility housed at the University of Connecticut's Dodd Research Center in Storrs. The deadline for applications is March 1 for the following summer and academic year....

University of Connecticut Libraries

First round of 2007 NEA grants

<http://www.arts.gov/news/news06/Announce12-06.html>

The National Endowment for the Arts announced December 12 that it will award \$19.4 million to fund 848 grants in FY2007. The Arts Endowment will distribute funds to nonprofit national, regional, state, and local organizations across the country, funding Access to Artistic Excellence grants as well as Literature Fellowships for individuals....

National Endowment for the Arts, Dec. 12

SEEN ONLINE

How to bring our schools out of the 20th century (subscription required)

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1568480,00.html>

The cover story on the December 18 issue of Time magazine is a status report on the need for including information literacy, people skills, global awareness, and other Learning 2.0 skills into the K-12 curriculum. Claudia Wallis and Sonja Steptoe write: "American schools aren't exactly frozen in time, but considering the pace of change in other areas of life, our public schools tend to feel like throwbacks."...

Time, Dec. 10

D.C. school libraries see improvements

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/06/AR2006120600803.html>

District of Columbia public school libraries are undergoing their most substantial upgrades in decades as the school system, federal government, and private donors invest millions of dollars to add new books, update computer technology, and redesign spaces to spruce up the aging media centers. In November, improvements to three public school libraries in the Capitol Hill area were completed as part of a \$2.4 million public-private initiative that ultimately will include eight schools....

Washington Post, Dec. 7

Blackpool library calendar canceled

<http://www.blackpoolonline.co.uk/ViewArticle2.aspx?SectionID=62&ArticleID=1927451>

Eleven workers at the Queen Street library in Blackpool, England—nine women and two men—stripped down to raise cash for charity. But horrified library bosses banned it from going to the printers after seeing the saucy proofs. One worker branded council bosses “killjoys” and said: “It’s ridiculous. They’re tasteful and nothing like you would see in a lads’ magazine.”...

Blackpool Gazette, Dec. 13

Budget approval may not spare Minneapolis libraries

<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2006/12/11/budget/>

The Minneapolis city council unanimously approved Mayor R. T. Rybak’s 2007 budget December 11. Included in the \$1.3-billion package is money for crime-fighting measures, including adding 43 new police officers and buying more security cameras. The council also included additional money to keep some libraries open. However, library board members say it may not be enough....

Minnesota Public Radio, Dec. 12

Fugitive caught at Philadelphia Free Library computer

<http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/local/states/pennsylvania/16217962.htm>

The man in the Donovan McNabb jersey got to the Philadelphia Free Library’s main branch at 9 a.m., as usual, and was seated at a public computer terminal, tapping away at his MySpace.com page, as usual. So he did not notice that 15 armed officers were quietly converging on him. That, authorities say, is how a fugitive wanted in Georgia and Massachusetts was captured December 7 without a fight....

Philadelphia Inquirer, Dec. 12

Finders keepers at Brigham Young

<http://www.heraldextra.com/content/view/202192/3/>

A Brigham Young University maintenance worker is \$10,000 richer because of an act of honesty 10 years ago. On March 7, 1996, a BYU employee found \$10,000 in \$100 bills in two PVC pipes in the Harold B. Lee Library. The man immediately turned the property over to police, but no leads were discovered and no rightful owner was identified. On December 6, the money went to the unnamed finder....

Provo (Utah) Daily Herald, Dec. 6

Chilean protesters burn valuable university library books

http://www.tcgnews.com/santiagotimes/index.php?nav=story&story_id=12395&topic_id=15

Masked arsonists entered the University of Chile philosophy and humanities library in the Macul district of Santiago November 28 and stole 1,200 volumes from the collection to create a bonfire outside the building. The action was carried out in the name of the Mapuche Liberation Movement. Some of the books destroyed were rare, including the writings of the Chilean historian Benjamin Vicuña MacKenna (1831–1886) and a copy of Pope Leo XIII’s 1891 encyclical Rerum Novarum....

Santiago Times, Dec. 5

TECH TALK

Net Neutrality proponents prepare for next battle

<http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=196603104>

A bill that would have allowed telecommunications and cable companies to prioritize internet content by allowing higher-speed information delivery for higher-paying customers has died. The 109th Congress closed early December 9 without action on the Communications Opportunity, Promotion, and Enhancement (COPE) Act of 2006. But the Save the Internet coalition is gearing up to continue lobbying for network neutrality when the 110th Congress convenes....

Information Week, Dec. 11

Microsoft’s Live Search Books

<http://www.techsource.ala.org/blog/2006/12/microsofts-live-search-books.html>

Tom Peters writes: “After playing around for an hour or so with the recently released public beta version of

Microsoft's Live Search Books, I have to admit—against some vague sense that my better judgment is failing me—that I like it. On December 6, when the beta version was released to the public, I conducted a couple of sample searches on phrenology and spontaneous combustion.” Discover what he found out....

ALA TechSource blog, Dec. 12

Clip from Dotto Tech featuring Steve DottoDotto Tech show promotes Canadian library resources

http://dottotech.com/library_video.php

The Canadian TV show Dotto Tech recently featured a segment demonstrating the benefits of using licensed database resources found in many public libraries. Host Steve Dotto walks viewers through the process of logging in, selecting a database, conducting a search, and refining search parameters. The show appears on the national CHUM network and on Canada's independent educational channels....

Dotto Tech

Social tool added to LISZEN

<http://www.techsource.ala.org/blog/2006/12/custom-zen-enlightened-information-retrieval.html>

By now, your library blog may be included in LISZEN. The creator of this library-blog search engine, Garrett Hungerford, has updated his project with LISZEN Trends, which he says is a supplement that adds a social tool to the portal....

ALA TechSource blog, Dec. 13

Tulane expands its digital resources

http://www2.tulane.edu/article_news_details.cfm?ArticleID=6958

Tulane University's main library has worked hard after Hurricane Katrina to find opportunities among its new challenges. The Howard-Tilton Memorial Library has negotiated with a number of prominent publishers to acquire a vast array of new digital archival collections, among them Thomson Gale's 18th Century Collection, ProQuest's Gerritsen Women's Studies Collection, and Readex's Early American Newspapers series....

Tulane University New Wave, Nov. 27

The Middle East goes digital

<http://www.egypttoday.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=7091>

Since the 1960s and 1970s, libraries in the West have been digitizing their catalogs and even the contents of their shelves, but a lack of resources has kept all but the most well-funded Middle Eastern libraries from doing the same. The Yale University Library hopes to correct this situation, bringing the fruits of Middle Eastern scholars' labors into the digital age....

Egypt Today 27, no. 12 (Dec.)

OverDrive launches audiobook and ebook package for schools

<http://www.overdrive.com/news/pr/20061212.asp>

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http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/cip/proposal_access_level_dec06.pdf

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Government Printing Office, Dec.

LC sets up working group on the future of bibliographic control

<http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2006/06-222.html>

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Library of Congress, Dec .1

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<http://webjunction.org/do/Navigation?category=10564>

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http://www.siteadvisor.com/studies/search_safety_dec2006.html

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<http://www.protectyour.org/fivesteps.html>

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Public Interest Registry

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<http://jweblib.livejournal.com/2903.html>

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Haworth Press

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AL Direct FAQ: www.ala.org/aldirect/

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AMERICAN LIBRARIES



December 20, 2006

AL Direct is a free electronic newsletter e-mailed every Wednesday to personal members of the [American Library Association](#).

Contents:

- [U.S. & World News](#)
- [ALA News](#)
- [Booklist Online](#)
- [Seattle Update](#)
- [Division News](#)
- [Round Table News](#)
- [Awards](#)
- [Seen Online](#)
- [Tech Talk](#)
- [Actions & Answers](#)
- [Poll](#)
- [Datebook](#)
- [AL Direct FAQ](#)

Click Here for More Information

U.S. & WORLD NEWS

[American Libraries celebrates its first 100 years](#)

More than 29 million copies of *American Libraries*—ALA's flagship news magazine and the chief perquisite of membership in the Association—have been published since 1907, helping library workers do their jobs better for 100 years. Sharing best practices, offering updates and debates on the library profession's hot issues of the day, and bringing every member the latest news of the Association's work have all contributed to the magazine's century-long popularity. A number of anniversary events and articles, including an official commemorative issue in June/July, will culminate in the new ALA pavilion in the exhibit hall at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., in June....



[Harry Potter wins third Georgia challenge](#)

A Georgia mother of four Gwinnett County elementary-school students has lost her third attempt to get the Harry Potter series banned from the county schools' libraries and classrooms. The Georgia Board of Education ruled December 14 that Laura Mallory had failed to prove her contention that the series "promote[s] the Wicca religion," and therefore that the books' availability in public schools does not constitute state-sponsored advocacy of a religion....

[Manatee County pulls the plug on MySpace](#)

Patrons of the Manatee County (Fla.) Library System no longer have access to the social networking website MySpace.com, effective December 11. Manager of Library Services John Van Berkel told *American Libraries* that the decision was made by county administrators rather than the library. "But it's not a new policy," he added. "It's an enforcement of our current policy," which prohibits chat-room access, e-mail, and recreational uses....

No AL Direct next week



Don't miss out on the Midwinter Meeting's [parties and receptions.](#)



American Libraries Senior Production Editor Karen Sheets and Editor-in-Chief Leonard Kniffel look at the final proof pages of the January issue, the first to feature the **magazine's new design** that will coincide with its 100th anniversary.

AL Direct is taking a week off December 27 for the holidays to allow the editors to play some catch-up in adding content to the *American Libraries* website. Look for a new edition in the new year on January 3.

ALA NEWS

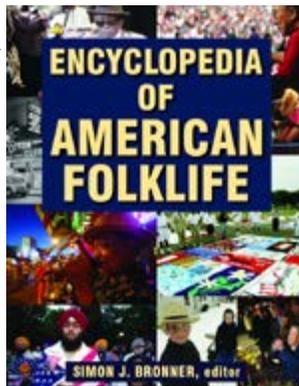
[Changes proposed for Standards for Accreditation](#)

The Committee on Accreditation has released proposed changes to the *Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library and Information Studies 1992*. COA asks for input and commentary on the draft ([PDF file](#)) by March 15....

Booklist — ONLINE —

[Featured review: Reference](#)

Bronner, Simon, J., editor. *Encyclopedia of American Folklife*, Dec. 2006. 1,337p. Sharpe, hardcover (978-0-7656-8052-5). Although it overlaps somewhat with publications such as *American Folklore: An Encyclopedia* (Garland, 1996), this work differs from other reference books in its emphasis on folklife rather than folklore, which is primarily concerned with oral or written literary traditions—the songs and stories that convey and give expression to a community's identity. Here, entries discuss “the material and social genres of architecture, craft, food, ritual, belief, and festival as evidence of cultural practice” throughout the continental U.S. and its territories. Editor Bronner (Pennsylvania State University) draws from his own experience as former director of the Archive of New York State Folklife....



SEATTLE UPDATE

[Seattle Public Library events](#)

SPL will set up an ALA Information Station on Level 3 during the Midwinter Meeting to answer questions about the library. Other activities include docent-led tours, special



[ALA Headquarters holiday hours](#)



When Olympic medallist Sasha Cohen isn't on the ice, she enjoys promoting her favorite charities, acting, reading, and spending time at the beach. **NEW** [Sasha Cohen celebrity READ poster](#) from ALA Graphics.

In This Issue

December 2006



Stories inside include:

David Mamet on the Chicago Public Library

Public Library Rebirth

The Top 10 News Stories of 2006

events held at the library by outside sponsors, demos of the Tech Logic automated materials handling system, a retail shop operated by the Friends, and a booth at the convention center....

Seattle Public Library



[Murder in the rain](#)

SPL recommends these titles of detective fiction for those who like to spice their Midwinter visit with a bit of murder and mayhem. One is Jayne Ann Krentz's *Smoke in Mirrors* (Putnam, 2002): Settling her swindling half-sister's estate, college librarian Leonora Hutton uncovers embezzlement, murder, and a seductive handyman. What answers will be reflected in an antique mirror collection?

Seattle Public Library



[Online Social Networking and Intellectual Freedom](#)

is a presentation created by the Office for Intellectual Freedom on IF issues involving social networking websites. You can [listen to it](#) in MP3 audio format, [view it](#) in Power Point, or [read it](#) in HTML script.

DIVISION NEWS

[RUSA reception honors best books for reference and adult readers](#)

The RUSA Collection Development and Evaluation Section is hosting its annual Awards Recognition Reception January 21, 4:30–6:30 p.m., in the Fairmont Olympic Hotel, Spanish Ballroom, during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Seattle....



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Po Bronson, author of the bestselling *What Should I Do with My Life?* (Random House, 2002), will present the keynote address at the 2007 PLA Spring Symposium Author Luncheon, March 2, in San Jose, California, at the Fairmont San Jose....



[Register for the ACRL/Harvard Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians](#)

Registration is now open for the [ACRL/Harvard Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians](#). The institute will be held in Cambridge, Massachusetts, August 5–10, 2007. The goal of this innovative program is to increase the participants' capacity to lead and to manage. Two [scholarships](#) are available for the institute, to support the participation of academic and research librarians working at historically black colleges and universities, tribal colleges or universities, or those employed at Hispanic-serving institutions....

Classifieds

[EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.](#)

The Basalt (Colo.) Regional Library District seeks an experienced Executive Director to administer our growing library district and to lead us through the exciting process of building a new library. Building experience is preferred....



See [JobLIST](#) for more career opportunities.

Thus Said

“How do you meet someone without being completely hammered? Try the institution we are here for—school! The library is a great place to chat up potential hook-ups. That way you can get a sober

ROUND TABLE NEWS

[A brief history of CLENE](#) (PDF file)

Anne Masters presents a history of the Continuing Library Education Network and Exchange Round Table in the December issue of *CLENExchange*. The round table had its origins in a group founded in the mid-1970s by Catholic University Professor (and later ALA President) Betty Stone. Also included is an article by Gail McGovern on the Infopeople Technology Petting Zoo at the California Library Association conference....
CLENExchange 23, no. 2 (Dec.)



look at their physical assets, their conversational skills, and a peek at their work to gauge their intelligence.”

—Student Jenny Paradise advocating non-drunk sex at the University of California at Santa Barbara, *Daily Nexus*, Nov. 29.



The [Online Resource Center for Library Cultural Programming](#) is a professional development tool and digital library where librarians and library supporters can find the resources and framework for developing high-quality humanities programming. Models of past ALA Public Programs Office initiatives are featured to encourage replication, enhancement, and inspiration.

AWARDS

[New digital innovation grants](#)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services and the National Endowment for the Humanities invite applications to a new digital humanities grant competition sponsored by the two federal agencies. The grant program, “Advancing Knowledge: The IMLS/NEH Digital Partnership,” is looking for innovative and collaborative humanities projects using the latest digital technologies for the benefit of the American public, humanities scholarship, and the nation’s cultural community....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Dec. 20

[Newman’s Own First Amendment award](#)

For the 15th consecutive year, Newman’s Own, the food company whose founder and president, actor Paul Newman, donates all after-tax profits to charity, is funding a First Amendment Prize administered by PEN American Center. The \$20,000 award is presented to a U.S. resident who has fought courageously to safeguard the First Amendment right to freedom of expression as it applies to the written word. Joan Airoidi of the Whatcom County (Wash.) Library System, won the award in 2005. Nominations are due December 29....

PEN American Center



[WebFeat awards nominations announced](#)

WebFeat President Todd Miller announced December 19 his company’s nominations for the 4th annual President’s Awards for Innovation. The awards, presented to libraries with the most innovative federated search systems, recognize innovation in design and function in WebFeat clients’ information systems. Winners will be announced at the annual President’s Awards Dinner ceremony to be held January 20 during the 2007 ALA Midwinter Meeting....

WebFeat, Dec. 19



SEEN ONLINE

[Three new California libraries reflect civic priorities](#)

Architecturally, libraries can symbolize a

Poll

What do YOU think?

Does your library currently have an in-house coffee shop or restaurant?

Click here to ANSWER!

For cumulated results and selected responses

community's self-image. That's the case with three distinctive new Bay Area libraries in Hercules (right), Belmont, and San Mateo that seem shaped by the aspirations of each city as much as the need to find space for books. Computers are everywhere, but the exterior of each library is quite different, and each strikes a quite different pose....

San Francisco Chronicle, Dec. 17



[Innovative reading idea grabs attention](#)

Dangling around students' necks at the West Hernando Middle School cafeteria in Brooksville, Florida, are book titles. Katelyn McDow, 11, was advertising *Can You Feel the Thunder?* while her friend Cynthia McDowell sported *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Reading teacher Kathy Eppley asked students and adults to wear cards around their necks with the titles of the books they're reading. National reading experts are vowing to steal the idea....

St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, Dec. 1

[Felines fail to qualify for top cat position](#)

A Dallas-area CPA's offer to give the Spencer (Iowa) Public Library a new cat has been turned down by Librarian Vicki Myron, who says she has also turned down more than 100 other offers from all over the country. Since longtime library kitty Dewey Readmore Books died in November, Myron says she has had more than 500 e-mailed messages of condolence....

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Dec. 17

[Financially strapped library sets fines, cuts staff](#)

With the failure of two library millage proposals in 2006, Lapeer (Mich.) District Library customers will find five fewer branches, books, hours, and employees in 2007, Director Kate Pohjola said. And for the first time in the library district's history, there will be fines for overdue books and materials. The cuts also involve laying off 33 part-time employees, reducing hours for 15 full-time employees, and closing five branches (including the Goodland branch, above) January 1....

Flint (Mich.) Journal, Dec. 19



[Glitch releases library user data](#)

As Chris VanOosterhout updated his account with the Hackley Public Library in Muskegon, Michigan, this week, he stumbled upon the personal information of more than 15,000 western Michigan library users. Officials with the Lakeland Library Cooperative—a service used by about 80 libraries in eight counties—say they have secured the data that included names, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, street addresses, and library card numbers of library patrons registered on its website....

Grand Rapids (Mich.) Press, Dec. 20

[Free Library of Philadelphia partners to help the homeless](#)

A group that helps homeless people get back on their feet is posting once-homeless "attendants" in the restrooms of a downtown library in

to *AL Direct* polls, visit the AL Online [website](#).

Ask the ALA Librarian



Q. We're thinking of adding a coffee shop to our library. What issues should we consider before doing so?

A. Some of the issues to be considered are the extent of service to be offered, how the service is managed, the impact on policies (such as food in the rest of the library), and the effect on tax revenues. Check out some readings—and a place for you to add information about your coffee shop, if you have one—at the [ALA Professional Tips wiki](#).

The [ALA Librarian](#) welcomes your questions.

Datebook

Exhibits

[Austrian National Library](#). "The Art of Cuisine and the Culture of Dining."

an effort to help manage the masses who flock there looking for shelter or a bathroom. Project HOME and the Free Library of Philadelphia hope the project, which started in mid-December, will prevent loitering and unsanitary conditions. But they also see the six-month pilot as a unique way to reach out to the homeless....

Associated Press, Dec. 15

[Black history trove seeks a home](#)

Painstakingly collected over a lifetime by Mayme Agnew Clayton—a retired university librarian who died in October at 83 and whose interest in African-American history consumed her for most of her adult life—a massive collection of books, films, documents, and other precious pieces of America's past has remained hidden for decades, most of it piled from floor to ceiling in a ramshackle garage behind Clayton's home in the West Adams district of Los Angeles. Only now is her son Avery close to forming a museum and research institute that would bring her collection out of the garage and into public view....

New York Times, Dec. 14

[Smithsonian-Showtime TV deal irks GAO investigators](#)

Two filmmakers were refused access to the Smithsonian Institution's collections for their projects, but researchers generally have not been restricted so far by the Smithsonian's semiexclusive deal with a cable network, congressional investigators say. Nonetheless, the public has justifiable concerns about the 30-year contract between the Smithsonian and Showtime Networks Inc., a cable network owned by CBS Corp., according to the Government Accountability Office....

Associated Press, Dec. 16

[Minority librarians seek to change profession's image](#)

Deborah Lilton is a black student at the University of Alabama who is pursuing a degree to become an academic librarian. She is one of a disproportionately small number of minorities entering a field that is trying to get past stereotypical images of the "bun lady." "Until this perception is changed, people who would make fine librarians will undoubtedly make another career choice," said Lilton, one of two Spectrum scholars at Alabama....

Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser, Dec. 17

[Vermont librarian a youthful 85](#)

Marybelle Mason Singer has been director of the Alburgh (Vt.) Public Library for the past 15 years, and at 85 she has no intention of quitting. But there has been nothing more unusual than the way this granddaughter of the first white child born in Abilene, Kansas, has, without seeming to expend any energy, made the library of this town (renamed Alburgh from Alburg last April) into a thriving community center....

Worcester (Mass.) Telegram and Gazette, Dec. 17

[Tulane's Lance Query to the NOLA library rescue](#)

Lance Query, dean of libraries and academic information resources at Tulane University, has been named special consultant for administration to the board of the New Orleans Public Library, guiding the staff of 85 and the post-Katrina rebuilding process until a new director is chosen. The library board appointed

[Boston College](#). "We Are Still Here: Contemporary Issues in Native America."

[Cornell University](#). French Revolution collections.

[Detroit Public Library](#). "Motor City Ad Art in the Age of Muscle and Chrome."

[Harvard Business School, Baker Library](#). "The Human Factor: Introducing the Industrial Life Photograph Collection."

[Huntington Library](#). "Treasures from Olana: Landscapes by Frederic Edwin Church."

[Indianapolis—Marion County Public Library](#).

Artifacts at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis.

[Library and Archives Canada](#).

"Building a Just Society: A Retrospective of Canadian Rights and Freedoms."

[Library Company of Philadelphia](#).

"Benjamin Franklin, Writer and Printer."

[National Library of the Czech Republic](#).

A sampling of digitized manuscripts in the Manuscriptorium project.

[National Library of Ireland](#). The 1916 Rising.



Query to the consulting administrative post in the wake of the departure of the city librarian and the deputy city librarian. "My wife and I love it here," says Query, who has worked at Tulane since 2000, explaining his decision to accept a part-time consultancy on top of his full-time job....

Tulane University *New Wave*, Nov. 21

[Cow stars in ad filmed at Aurora University library](#)

A commercial for Oberweis Dairy was shot at Aurora (Ill.) University December 18 because the remodeled library offered more room for 1,700-pound Bridget the Cow and a film crew than corporate headquarters. Outside the reference room, librarians and a handful of students ruminated over their work as usual....

Naperville (Ill.) Sun, Dec. 20

[Australian library offers speed-dating](#)

A 150-year old Australian public library has a new true-romance section after introducing speed-dating nights for lovers of classic texts. The State Library of Victoria in Melbourne introduced dating with a literary twist after the idea was raised at a staff party. Those who attend must bring a book they either love or loathe as a conversation starter, ensuring there are no uneasy silences during the series of five-minute encounters....

Reuters, Dec. 20

[Trawling for patrons in Gloucestershire pubs](#)

Gloucestershire County Council's library service hopes to convert UK binge drinkers into bookworms by handing out 20,000 beer mats in pubs across the county. The coasters give the *Oxford English Dictionary* definition of *lager lout*, "noun, a rowdy or aggressive male," and read, "Fill your head with something you'll remember tomorrow." On the reverse of the mat is a picture of a man flipping the top of his head open and pouring in a bottle of lager....

London *Times*, Dec. 14

TECH TALK

[Cambridge buys ProQuest Information and Learning](#)

In a press release issued December 15, Cambridge Information Group announced its intention to combine its subsidiary, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, with the ProQuest division, which includes ProQuest, Chadwyck-Healey, UMI, Micromedia ProQuest, Serials Solutions, SIRS, eLibrary, and CultureGrams. The new privately held company will maintain operations in both CIG's Bethesda, Maryland, and PQ's Ann Arbor, Michigan, locations....

Hectic Pace blog, Dec. 16

[Ingram goes academic](#)

Ingram Industries Inc. announced December 18 its

[New York State Library](#). Firefighters' Collection.

[San Diego State University](#). "L. Frank Baum and the Hotel del Coronado."

[University of California at Berkeley](#).

"Foundations of Anthropology at the University of California, 1901–1960."

[University of North Texas](#). Neal

Douglass Photography Collection, illustrating many aspects of Austin life during the years 1930–1969.

[University of Virginia Health Sciences Library](#).

"Twenty Medical Classics of the Jefferson Era."

[Vatican Library](#).

Images of the face of Christ.

More [Datebook](#) items...

Contact Us

American Libraries Direct

George M. Eberhart,
Editor:
geberhart@ala.org

Daniel Kraus,



acquisition of Coutts Information Services and its MyiLibrary affiliate—heralding Ingram’s entry into the academic library supply business. Coutts is based in the United Kingdom and has offices in the United States, Canada, and Holland. The company specializes in book and electronic content supply to academic, government, corporate, public, and institutional library and information sectors....

Coutts Information Services, Dec. 18

[Google Library Project triggers debate](#)

Already facing a legal challenge for alleged copyright infringement, Google’s crusade to build a digital library has triggered a philosophical debate with an alternative project promising better online access to the world’s books, art, and historical documents. The latest tensions revolve around Google’s insistence on chaining the digital content to its internet-leading search engine and the nine major libraries that have aligned themselves with the Mountain View-based company....

Associated Press, Dec. 20

[One-stop book printer](#)

After several years in development, the Espresso—a \$50,000 vending machine with a conceivably infinite library—is nearly consumer-ready and will debut in 10–25 libraries and bookstores in 2007. The New York Public Library is scheduled to receive its machine in February. The machine, built by On Demand Books, can print, align, mill, glue, and bind two books simultaneously in less than seven minutes, including full-color laminated covers. Prices for the finished product will vary depending on locations, but the production cost is about a penny per page. Watch a [video](#) of the machine in action....

Fortune Small Business magazine, Dec. 14



[A guide to anonymous blogging](#)

Ethan Zuckerman offers some advice on security measures for hiding your blog-contribution identity online: “I decided to write a quick technical guide to anonymous blogging, trying to approach the problem from the perspective of a government whistle-blower in a country with a less-than-transparent government.”...

TechSoup blog, Dec. 15

[LC launches RSS feeds](#)

The Library of Congress launched December 18 a series of news feeds using RSS technology. The feeds offer updates on LC news, upcoming events, new on the web, new webcasts, news from the John W. Kluge Center, and what’s new in science reference....

Library of Congress, Dec. 18

[Report on RFID meeting in Washington](#)

OITP Technology Policy Analyst Mark Bard attended a December 14 roundtable hosted by the Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee that focused on RFID chips for use in passports and driver’s licenses and offers a brief summary of the discussion. [Audio](#) is available on the committee’s website....

District Dispatch blog, Dec. 14

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ACTIONS & ANSWERS

[CSU Fresno library receives \\$10 million](#)

California State University at Fresno's Henry Madden Library will benefit from a \$10 million gift from the Table Mountain Rancheria band of Mission Indians, which operates a casino in nearby Friant. The gift is the largest single cash gift in the university's history and will enhance the \$95-million library project, which will be completed in fall 2008....

CSU at Fresno, Dec. 15



[Libraries as sanctuaries for criminals?](#)

(PDF file)

"In October, several Illinois libraries received FOIA requests for incident reports and records concerning patron and staff complaints about crimes and disturbing behavior taking place in the library," writes Illinois Library Association Executive Director Robert Doyle. "ILA recommended that libraries seek legal advice in complying." This article is in response to those developments....

ILA Reporter 24, no. 6 (Dec.), pp. 12-17



[YouTube opens an untamed copyright frontier](#)

Larry Richard is one of the millions to have discovered the world of YouTube, the free website that allows people to post, watch, and share video clips. But is it legal, given that at least some of what he's watching is copyrighted material being disseminated by individuals who clearly do not hold the copyright? The law on this matter is murky and likely to get murkier before it gets clearer, say experts in intellectual property law....

Christian Science Monitor, Dec. 18

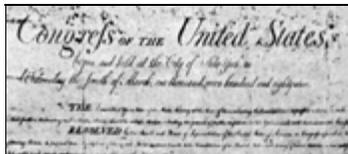
[DoE wants LSL proposal reviewers](#)

The U.S. Department of Education is in the planning stages for a possible 2007 funding competition for the Improving Literacy through School Libraries (LSL) program, and there is a need for proposal reviewers to assist with the peer review process. As many as 700 applications are expected this year. The program will be using the U.S. Department of Education's [e-Reader system](#). Reviewers will be sent hard copies of proposals to discuss with fellow peer reviewers during conference calls....

ALA Washington Office, Dec. 20

[Happy birthday, Bill of Rights!](#)

The Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution was ratified on December 15, 1791. "The very purpose of a Bill of Rights was to withdraw certain subjects from the vicissitudes of political controversy, to place them beyond the reach of majorities and officials and to establish them as legal principles to be applied by the courts. One's right to life, liberty, and property, to free speech, a free press, freedom of worship and assembly, and other fundamental rights may not be submitted to vote; they depend on the outcome of no elections."—Supreme Court Justice [Robert Jackson](#)....



Don Wood's Library 2.0 blog, Dec. 15

[Mozart catalog available online](#)

Mozart maniacs, enthusiasts, students, and scholars can now access the immortal composer's entire catalog through a free online [database](#), launched December 11, which contains more than 8,000 pages of critical commentary published since 1954. Ulrich Leisinger, head of research at the International Mozart Foundation in Salzburg, Austria, said site users can search for a specific work using key words and a scroll-down menu. They also have the option of printing out individual movements....



Associated Press, Dec. 13

[Polar Express pulls into San Francisco](#)

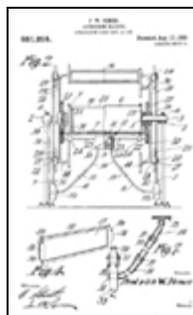
The electric train layout featuring the Polar Express and Thomas the Tank Engine trains has been a hit this winter with visitors to San Francisco's Main Library. Kids and adults delight in pushing the buttons that activate the trains, a ski gondola, animated sleds, and the village lights. A Lionel O scale replica of the Polar Express, which starred in Chris Van Allsburg's 1985 holiday classic and in a subsequent 2004 movie adaptation of the same name, is the highlight of the display....



San Francisco Public Library, Dec. 12

[Google Patent Search](#)

Google's new search engine for patents, launched December 13, covers the entire collection of patents made available by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, from the 1790s to the present. The company has converted the entire patent image database into a format, like Google Book Search, that on its advanced page is easy to search by details, classification, inventor, assignee, or date....



Google

[Search for a library](#)

Marshall Breeding's worldwide directory of libraries and their websites and catalogs, lib-web-cats, now has an [advanced search engine](#) designed to help identify libraries according to the library automation system used, collection size, and affiliations....

Marshall Breeding

[IFLA approves new code of ethics](#)

The governing board of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions approved a Code of Ethics in December that outlines a set of fundamental principles in order to help the board define what is right, fair, just, and good for the organization in meeting its mission and purpose....

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, Dec. 18

[Registration open for 2007 WebWise Conference](#)



The Institute of Museum and Library Services announces open registration for the eighth annual WebWise Conference on Libraries and Museums in the Digital World, to be held February 28–March 2, 2007, at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The conference is sponsored annually by IMLS and is cohosted again this year by the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) and the J. Paul Getty Trust....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Dec. 19

AMERICAN LIBRARIES DIRECT

December 20, 2006

AL Direct is a weekly electronic newsletter sent by the American Library Association every Wednesday to personal members by e-mail as a perquisite of membership.

Click here to view the online version of our email:

<%= util.viewHtmlLink %>

POLL: What do YOU think?

What do YOU think?

Does your library currently have an in-house coffee shop or restaurant?

Click here

to ANSWER!

For cumulated results and selected responses to AL Direct polls, visit the AL Online website.

U.S. & WORLD NEWS

American Libraries celebrates its first 100 years

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/december2006/AmericanLibrariescentenn.htm>

More than 29 million copies of American Libraries—ALA's flagship news magazine and the chief perquisite of membership in the Association—have been published since 1907, helping library workers do their jobs better for 100 years. Sharing best practices, offering updates and debates on the library profession's hot issues of the day, and bringing every member the latest news of the Association's work have all contributed to the magazine's century-long popularity. A number of anniversary events and articles, including an official commemorative issue in June/July, will culminate in the new ALA pavilion in the exhibit hall at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., in June....

Harry Potter wins third Georgia challenge

<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2006abc/december2006/gwinnett%20harry%20potter-dec1506.cfm>

A Georgia mother of four Gwinnett County elementary-school students has lost her third attempt to get the Harry Potter series banned from the county schools' libraries and classrooms. The Georgia Board of Education ruled December 14 that Laura Mallory had failed to prove her contention that the series "promote[s] the Wicca religion," and therefore that the books' availability in public schools does not constitute state-sponsored advocacy of a religion....

Manatee County pulls the plug on MySpace

<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2006abc/december2006/manatee.cfm>

Patrons of the Manatee County (Fla.) Library System no longer have access to the social networking website MySpace.com, effective December 11. Manager of Library Services John Van Berkel told American Libraries that the decision was made by county administrators rather than the library. "But it's not a new policy," he added. "It's an enforcement of our current policy," which prohibits chat-room access, e-mail, and recreational uses....

No AL Direct next week

AL Direct is taking a week off December 27 for the holidays to allow the editors to play some catch-up in adding

content to the American Libraries website. Look for a new edition in the new year on January 3.

ALA NEWS

Changes proposed for Standards for Accreditation

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/december2006/COAproposedchangesStandards.htm>

The Committee on Accreditation has released proposed changes to the Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library and Information Studies 1992. COA asks for input and commentary on the draft (PDF file) by March 15....

Booklist Online

Featured review: Reference

http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=1835805

Bronner, Simon, J., editor. *Encyclopedia of American Folklife*, Dec. 2006. 1,337p. Sharpe, hardcover (978-0-7656-8052-5).

Although it overlaps somewhat with publications such as *American Folklore: An Encyclopedia* (Garland, 1996), this work differs from other reference books in its emphasis on folklife rather than folklore, which is primarily concerned with oral or written literary traditions—the songs and stories that convey and give expression to a community's identity. Here, entries discuss “the material and social genres of architecture, craft, food, ritual, belief, and festival as evidence of cultural practice” throughout the continental U.S. and its territories. Editor Bronner (Pennsylvania State University) draws from his own experience as former director of the Archive of New York State Folklife....

SEATTLE UPDATE

Seattle Public Library events

http://www.spl.org/default.asp?pageID=audience_current_featuresdetail&cid=1165969860861

SPL will set up an ALA Information Station on Level 3 during the Midwinter Meeting to answer questions about the library. Other activities include docent-led tours, special events held at the library by outside sponsors, demos of the Tech Logic automated materials handling system, a retail shop operated by the Friends, and a booth at the convention center....

Seattle Public Library

Murder in the rain

http://www.spl.org/default.asp?pageID=collection_readinglists_category_detail&cid=1157064974812

SPL recommends these titles of detective fiction for those who like to spice their Midwinter visit with a bit of murder and mayhem. One is Jayne Ann Krentz's *Smoke in Mirrors* (Putnam, 2002): Settling her swindling half-sister's estate, college librarian Leonora Hutton uncovers embezzlement, murder, and a seductive handyman. What answers will be reflected in an antique mirror collection?

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<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/december2006/RegistrationopenLeadersh.htm>

Registration is now open for the ACRL/Harvard Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians. The institute will be held in Cambridge, Massachusetts, August 5–10, 2007. The goal of this innovative program is to increase the participants' capacity to lead and to manage. Two scholarships are available for the institute, to support the participation of academic and research librarians working at historically black colleges and universities, tribal colleges or universities, or those employed at Hispanic-serving institutions....

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<http://www.ala.org/ala/clenert/newsletter/dec2006clenex.pdf>

Anne Masters presents a history of the Continuing Library Education Network and Exchange Round Table in the December issue of CLENEExchange. The round table had its origins in a group founded in the mid-1970s by Catholic University Professor (and later ALA President) Betty Stone. Also included is an article by Gail McGovern on the Infopeople Technology Petting Zoo at the California Library Association conference....

CLENEExchange 23, no. 2 (Dec.)

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New digital innovation grants

<http://www.imls.gov/news/2006/122006.shtm>

The Institute of Museum and Library Services and the National Endowment for the Humanities invite applications to a new digital humanities grant competition sponsored by the two federal agencies. The grant program, "Advancing Knowledge: The IMLS/NEH Digital Partnership," is looking for innovative and collaborative humanities projects using the latest digital technologies for the benefit of the American public, humanities scholarship, and the nation's cultural community....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Dec. 20

Newman's Own First Amendment award

<http://www.pen.org/page.php/prmID/447>

For the 15th consecutive year, Newman's Own, the food company whose founder and president, actor Paul Newman, donates all after-tax profits to charity, is funding a First Amendment Prize administered by PEN American Center. The \$20,000 award is presented to a U.S. resident who has fought courageously to safeguard the First Amendment right to freedom of expression as it applies to the written word. Joan Airoidi of the Whatcom County (Wash.) Library System, won the award in 2005. Nominations are due December 29....

PEN American Center

WebFeat awards nominations announced

http://www.webfeat.org/releases/2Dec06_Nominees.htm

WebFeat President Todd Miller announced December 19 his company's nominations for the 4th annual President's Awards for Innovation. The awards, presented to libraries with the most innovative federated search systems, recognize innovation in design and function in WebFeat clients' information systems. Winners will be announced at the annual President's Awards Dinner ceremony to be held January 20 during the 2007 ALA Midwinter Meeting...
WebFeat, Dec. 19

SEEN ONLINE

Three new California libraries reflect civic priorities

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/12/17/LIBRARIES.TMP>

Architecturally, libraries can symbolize a community's self-image. That's the case with three distinctive new Bay Area libraries in Hercules (right), Belmont, and San Mateo that seem shaped by the aspirations of each city as much as the need to find space for books. Computers are everywhere, but the exterior of each library is quite different, and each strikes a quite different pose....

San Francisco Chronicle, Dec. 17

Innovative reading idea grabs attention

[http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/sptimes/access/1172684491.html?](http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/sptimes/access/1172684491.html?dids=1172684491:1172684491&FMT=FT&FMTS=ABS:FT&date=Dec+1%2C+2006&author=TOM+MARSHALL&pub=St.+Petersburg+Times&edition=&startpage=7.B&desc=Innovative+idea+grabs+attention)

dids=1172684491:1172684491&FMT=FT&FMTS=ABS:FT&date=Dec+1%2C+2006&author=TOM+MARSHALL&pub=St.+Petersburg+Times&edition=&startpage=7.B&desc=Innovative+idea+grabs+attention
Dangling around students' necks at the West Hernando Middle School cafeteria in Brooksville, Florida, are book titles. Katelyn McDow, 11, was advertising Can You Feel the Thunder? while her friend Cynthia McDowell sported The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Reading teacher Kathy Eppley asked students and adults to wear cards around their necks with the titles of the books they're reading. National reading experts are vowing to steal the idea....

St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, Dec. 1

Felines fail to qualify for top cat position

http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/articles/2006/12/17/news_living/local/56f9d9e3de0f2e898625724700138954.txt

A Dallas-area CPA's offer to give the Spencer (Iowa) Public Library a new cat has been turned down by Librarian Vicki Myron, who says she has also turned down more than 100 other offers from all over the country. Since longtime library kitty Dewey Readmore Books died in November, Myron says she has had more than 500 e-mailed messages of condolence....

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, Dec. 17

Financially strapped library sets fines, cuts staff

<http://www.mlive.com/news/fljournal/index.ssf?/base/news-3/116653986772920.xml&coll=5>

With the failure of two library millage proposals in 2006, Lapeer (Mich.) District Library customers will find five fewer branches, books, hours, and employees in 2007, Director Kate Pohjola said. And for the first time in the library district's history, there will be fines for overdue books and materials. The cuts also involve laying off 33 part-time employees, reducing hours for 15 full-time employees, and closing five branches (including the Goodland branch, above) January 1....

Flint (Mich.) Journal, Dec. 19

Glitch releases library user data

<http://www.mlive.com/news/grpress/index.ssf?/base/news-33/1166629949222120.xml&coll=6>

As Chris VanOosterhout updated his account with the Hackley Public Library in Muskegon, Michigan, this week, he stumbled upon the personal information of more than 15,000 western Michigan library users. Officials with the Lakeland Library Cooperative—a service used by about 80 libraries in eight counties—say they have secured the data

that included names, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, street addresses, and library card numbers of library patrons registered on its website....

Grand Rapids (Mich.) Press, Dec. 20

Free Library of Philadelphia partners to help the homeless

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=2729124>

A group that helps homeless people get back on their feet is posting once-homeless “attendants” in the restrooms of a downtown library in an effort to help manage the masses who flock there looking for shelter or a bathroom. Project HOME and the Free Library of Philadelphia hope the project, which started in mid-December, will prevent loitering and unsanitary conditions. But they also see the six-month pilot as a unique way to reach out to the homeless....

Associated Press, Dec. 15

Black history trove seeks a home

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/14/arts/14clay.html>

Painstakingly collected over a lifetime by Mayme Agnew Clayton—a retired university librarian who died in October at 83 and whose interest in African-American history consumed her for most of her adult life—a massive collection of books, films, documents, and other precious pieces of America’s past has remained hidden for decades, most of it piled from floor to ceiling in a ramshackle garage behind Clayton’s home in the West Adams district of Los Angeles. Only now is her son Avery close to forming a museum and research institute that would bring her collection out of the garage and into public view....

New York Times, Dec. 14

Smithsonian-Showtime TV deal irks GAO investigators

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/16/AR2006121600451.html>

Two filmmakers were refused access to the Smithsonian Institution’s collections for their projects, but researchers generally have not been restricted so far by the Smithsonian’s semiexclusive deal with a cable network, congressional investigators say. Nonetheless, the public has justifiable concerns about the 30-year contract between the Smithsonian and Showtime Networks Inc., a cable network owned by CBS Corp., according to the Government Accountability Office....

Associated Press, Dec. 16

Minority librarians seek to change profession’s image

<http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2006612170327>

Deborah Lilton is a black student at the University of Alabama who is pursuing a degree to become an academic librarian. She is one of a disproportionately small number of minorities entering a field that is trying to get past stereotypical images of the “bun lady.” “Until this perception is changed, people who would make fine librarians will undoubtedly make another career choice,” said Lilton, one of two Spectrum scholars at Alabama....

Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser, Dec. 17

Vermont librarian a youthful 85

<http://www.telegram.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061217/NEWS/612170482/1008/NEWS02>

Marybelle Mason Singer has been director of the Alburgh (Vt.) Public Library for the past 15 years, and at 85 she has no intention of quitting. But there has been nothing more unusual than the way this granddaughter of the first white child born in Abilene, Kansas, has, without seeming to expend any energy, made the library of this town (renamed Alburgh from Alburg last April) into a thriving community center....

Worcester (Mass.) Telegram and Gazette, Dec. 17

Tulane’s Lance Query to the NOLA library rescue

http://www2.tulane.edu/article_news_details.cfm?ArticleID=6951

Lance Query, dean of libraries and academic information resources at Tulane University, has been named special consultant for administration to the board of the New Orleans Public Library, guiding the staff of 85 and the post-Katrina rebuilding process until a new director is chosen. The library board appointed Query to the consulting administrative post in the wake of the departure of the city librarian and the deputy city librarian. “My wife and I love it here,” says Query, who has worked at Tulane since 2000, explaining his decision to accept a part-time consultancy

on top of his full-time job....

Tulane University New Wave, Nov. 21

Cow stars in ad filmed at Aurora University library

http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/napervillesun/business/178862,6_3_NA20_OBERWEIS_S1.article

A commercial for Oberweis Dairy was shot at Aurora (Ill.) University December 18 because the remodeled library offered more room for 1,700-pound Bridget the Cow and a film crew than corporate headquarters. Outside the reference room, librarians and a handful of students ruminated over their work as usual....

Naperville (Ill.) Sun, Dec. 20

Australian library offers speed-dating

<http://edition.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/asiapcf/12/20/australia.library.reut/>

A 150-year old Australian public library has a new true-romance section after introducing speed-dating nights for lovers of classic texts. The State Library of Victoria in Melbourne introduced dating with a literary twist after the idea was raised at a staff party. Those who attend must bring a book they either love or loathe as a conversation starter, ensuring there are no uneasy silences during the series of five-minute encounters....

Reuters, Dec. 20

Trawling for patrons in Gloucestershire pubs

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-2500945,00.html>

Gloucestershire County Council's library service hopes to convert UK binge drinkers into bookworms by handing out 20,000 beer mats in pubs across the county. The coasters give the Oxford English Dictionary definition of lager lout, "noun, a rowdy or aggressive male," and read, "Fill your head with something you'll remember tomorrow." On the reverse of the mat is a picture of a man flipping the top of his head open and pouring in a bottle of lager....

London Times, Dec. 14

TECH TALK

Cambridge buys ProQuest Information and Learning

http://blogs.ala.org/pace.php?title=another_big_buyout_1&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1

In a press release issued December 15, Cambridge Information Group announced its intention to combine its subsidiary, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, with the ProQuest division, which includes ProQuest, Chadwyck-Healey, UMI, Micromedia ProQuest, Serials Solutions, SIRS, eLibrary, and CultureGrams. The new privately held company will maintain operations in both CIG's Bethesda, Maryland, and PQ's Ann Arbor, Michigan, locations....

Hectic Pace blog, Dec. 16

Ingram goes academic

<http://www.couttsinfo.com/en/news/Ingram.htm>

Ingram Industries Inc. announced December 18 its acquisition of Coutts Information Services and its MyiLibrary affiliate—heralding Ingram's entry into the academic library supply business. Coutts is based in the United Kingdom and has offices in the United States, Canada, and Holland. The company specializes in book and electronic content supply to academic, government, corporate, public, and institutional library and information sectors....

Coutts Information Services, Dec. 18

Google Library Project triggers debate

<http://business.bostonherald.com/technologyNews/view.bg?articleid=173018>

Already facing a legal challenge for alleged copyright infringement, Google's crusade to build a digital library has triggered a philosophical debate with an alternative project promising better online access to the world's books, art, and historical documents. The latest tensions revolve around Google's insistence on chaining the digital content to its internet-leading search engine and the nine major libraries that have aligned themselves with the Mountain View-based company....

Associated Press, Dec. 20

One-stop book printer

http://money.cnn.com/magazines/fsb/fsb_archive/2006/12/01/8395114/index.htm

After several years in development, the Espresso—a \$50,000 vending machine with a conceivably infinite library—is nearly consumer-ready and will debut in 10–25 libraries and bookstores in 2007. The New York Public Library is scheduled to receive its machine in February. The machine, built by On Demand Books, can print, align, mill, glue, and bind two books simultaneously in less than seven minutes, including full-color laminated covers. Prices for the finished product will vary depending on locations, but the production cost is about a penny per page. Watch a video of the machine in action....

Fortune Small Business magazine, Dec. 14

A guide to anonymous blogging

<http://www.techsoup.org/learningcenter/internet/page6042.cfm?rss=1>

Ethan Zuckerman offers some advice on security measures for hiding your blog-contribution identity online: “I decided to write a quick technical guide to anonymous blogging, trying to approach the problem from the perspective of a government whistle-blower in a country with a less-than-transparent government.”...

TechSoup blog, Dec. 15

LC launches RSS feeds

<http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2006/06-223.html>

The Library of Congress launched December 18 a series of news feeds using RSS technology. The feeds offer updates on LC news, upcoming events, new on the web, new webcasts, news from the John W. Kluge Center, and what’s new in science reference....

Library of Congress, Dec. 18

Report on RFID meeting in Washington

http://blogs.ala.org/districtdispatch.php?title=title_22&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1

OITP Technology Policy Analyst Mark Bard attended a December 14 roundtable hosted by the Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee that focused on RFID chips for use in passports and driver’s licenses and offers a brief summary of the discussion. Audio is available on the committee’s website....

District Dispatch blog, Dec. 14

ACTIONS AND ANSWERS

CSU Fresno library receives \$10 million

<http://www.fresnostatenews.com/2006/12/librarygift.htm>

California State University at Fresno’s Henry Madden Library will benefit from a \$10 million gift from the Table Mountain Rancheria band of Mission Indians, which operates a casino in nearby Friant. The gift is the largest single cash gift in the university’s history and will enhance the \$95-million library project, which will be completed in fall 2008....

CSU at Fresno, Dec. 15

Libraries as sanctuaries for criminals? (PDF file)

<http://www.ila.org/pub/reporter/vol24no6.pdf>

“In October, several Illinois libraries received FOIA requests for incident reports and records concerning patron and staff complaints about crimes and disturbing behavior taking place in the library,” writes Illinois Library Association Executive Director Robert Doyle. “ILA recommended that libraries seek legal advice in complying.” This article is in response to those developments....

ILA Reporter 24, no. 6 (Dec.), pp. 12–17

YouTube opens an untamed copyright frontier

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/1218/p01s03-usju.html>

Larry Richard is one of the millions to have discovered the world of YouTube, the free website that allows people to post, watch, and share video clips. But is it legal, given that at least some of what he's watching is copyrighted material being disseminated by individuals who clearly do not hold the copyright? The law on this matter is murky and likely to get murkier before it gets clearer, say experts in intellectual property law....
Christian Science Monitor, Dec. 18

DoE wants LSL proposal reviewers

The U.S. Department of Education is in the planning stages for a possible 2007 funding competition for the Improving Literacy through School Libraries (LSL) program, and there is a need for proposal reviewers to assist with the peer review process. As many as 700 applications are expected this year. The program will be using the U.S. Department of Education's e-Reader system. Reviewers will be sent hard copies of proposals to discuss with fellow peer reviewers during conference calls....
ALA Washington Office, Dec. 20

Happy birthday, Bill of Rights!

http://blogs.ala.org/districtdispatch.php?title=department_of_education_seeks_help_in_fi&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1
The Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution was ratified on December 15, 1791. "The very purpose of a Bill of Rights was to withdraw certain subjects from the vicissitudes of political controversy, to place them beyond the reach of majorities and officials and to establish them as legal principles to be applied by the courts. One's right to life, liberty, and property, to free speech, a free press, freedom of worship and assembly, and other fundamental rights may not be submitted to vote; they depend on the outcome of no elections."—Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson....
Don Wood's Library 2.0 blog, Dec. 15

Mozart catalog available online

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory?id=2722671>

Mozart maniacs, enthusiasts, students, and scholars can now access the immortal composer's entire catalog through a free online database, launched December 11, which contains more than 8,000 pages of critical commentary published since 1954. Ulrich Leisinger, head of research at the International Mozart Foundation in Salzburg, Austria, said site users can search for a specific work using key words and a scroll-down menu. They also have the option of printing out individual movements....
Associated Press, Dec. 13

Polar Express pulls into San Francisco

<http://sfpl.lib.ca.us/news/releases/holidaytrain.htm>

The electric train layout featuring the Polar Express and Thomas the Tank Engine trains has been a hit this winter with visitors to San Francisco's Main Library. Kids and adults delight in pushing the buttons that activate the trains, a ski gondola, animated sleds, and the village lights. A Lionel O scale replica of the Polar Express, which starred in Chris Van Allsburg's 1985 holiday classic and in a subsequent 2004 movie adaptation of the same name, is the highlight of the display....
San Francisco Public Library, Dec. 12

Google Patent Search

<http://www.google.com/googlepatents/about.html>

Google's new search engine for patents, launched December 13, covers the entire collection of patents made available by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, from the 1790s to the present. The company has converted the entire patent image database into a format, like Google Book Search, that on its advanced page is easy to search by details, classification, inventor, assignee, or date....
Google

Search for a library

<http://www.librarytechnology.org/libwebcats/>

Marshall Breeding's worldwide directory of libraries and their websites and catalogs, lib-web-cats, now has an advanced search engine designed to help identify libraries according to the library automation system used, collection size, and affiliations....

Marshall Breeding

IFLA approves new code of ethics

<http://www.ifla.org/V/cdoc/Code-of-Ethics.htm>

The governing board of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions approved a Code of Ethics in December that outlines a set of fundamental principles in order to help the board define what is right, fair, just, and good for the organization in meeting its mission and purpose....

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, Dec. 18

Registration open for 2007 WebWise Conference

<http://www.ims.gov/news/2006/121906.shtm>

The Institute of Museum and Library Services announces open registration for the eighth annual WebWise Conference on Libraries and Museums in the Digital World, to be held February 28–March 2, 2007, at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The conference is sponsored annually by IMLS and is cohosted again this year by the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) and the J. Paul Getty Trust....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Dec. 19

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