

american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | December 5, 2007

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SCHOOLROOMS
A new learning portal for K-12

- ✓ Teacher-selected Content
- ✓ 71 Subjects – Aligned to Curriculum
- ✓ 3 Million High-quality Sites Searchable



american
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BUYERS GUIDE

U.S. & World News

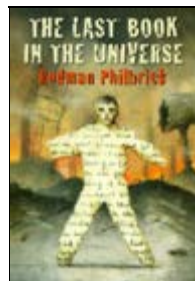
[The Golden Compass accused of anti-Catholic bias](#)

Several Toronto-area Catholic school boards in Ontario have removed Philip Pullman's *The Golden Compass* fantasy novel from library shelves for review following a complaint in the municipality of Halton in late November. The novel and its two companions in the "His Dark Materials" trilogy are receiving heightened scrutiny for their allegedly anti-Catholic content prior to the December 7 U.S. release of *The Golden Compass* movie (right) starring Nicole Kidman and Donald Craig. ALA President Loriene Roy issued a [statement](#) December 4 urging libraries to resist calls for censoring the books or boycotting the film....



[Book talk flap followed by librarian's dismissal](#)

Bellevue (Calif.) Unified School District Superintendent Tony Roehrick terminated the library consultant contract of Richie Partington November 21, two days after Partington declined to discuss with Kawana School Principal Jesse Escobedo the merits of *The Last Book in the Universe* until after Escobedo read the book. The termination came six weeks after Partington, a member of the 2008–09 ALSC Caldecott Committee, became the first professional librarian to serve the 58-year-old K–6 district in at least a decade. He announced the action on several library discussion lists, triggering a flood of protest letters to the district....



[Sexy stirs mixed feelings in Montana](#)

A materials reconsideration committee at Jefferson High School in Boulder, Montana, voted 4–1 November 27 to retain Joyce Carol Oates's *Sexy* in the school-library collection, declining a request by an English teacher on the faculty there to have the book removed. Complainant Victoria Foster had filed an objection this fall after a student brought the

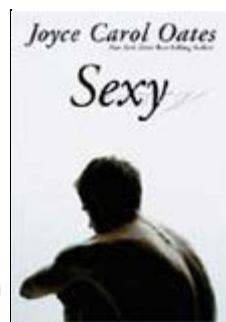


www.kingsley.com



[ALA Midwinter Meeting](#)

in Philadelphia, January 11–16. The [full daily schedule](#) is now available in an Excel file (locations will be available on the Event Planner, to be posted later).



book to her attention, directing her to chapter seven "and that the f-word came up quite a bit."...

[Ottawa's outrage may save 10 branches](#)

The board of Ottawa (Ont.) Public Library reversed course November 26, opting not to support a plan trustees floated just a few weeks earlier to close 10 branches, cut hours from the remaining branches, and freeze the collection budget to meet a proposed \$3.2-million budget cut. The board had originally proposed the plan to meet the library's share of \$152 million in citywide cuts proposed by Mayor Larry O'Brien to keep his campaign pledge of freezing property taxes for four years....

[Branch's future uncertain after mold destroys collection](#)

The board of Lenawee County (Mich.) Library voted 4–1 November 20 to dispose of the entire collection of 8,760 books and 2,054 magazines in the Ridgeway branch because they have been contaminated by mold. Teresa Calderone, director of the system since August 1, told *American Libraries* she discovered the problem on her first visit to the branch shortly after she was hired. She found the building in such poor condition that books had become moist and were molding....

ALA News

[ALA and the FCC team up for Digital TV Transition Week](#)

This week, December 1–7, is Digital Television (DTV) Transition Week in America's public libraries. Through a partnership with ALA, the FCC is conducting informational sessions at local public libraries across the country about the transition from analog to digital broadcast television by February 2009. Reforma's Betty Valdés [spoke](#) at the FCC on December 4 on the role of libraries in supporting the Spanish-speaking community during the DTV transition. ALA is also joining forces with the Association of Public Television Stations to launch a [grassroots outreach effort](#) to educate consumers about the rapidly approaching transition. ALA President Loriene Roy discusses DTV in this Washington Office [podcast](#) (7:22)....



[Happy birthday, OIF!](#)



It's no accident that [Academic Librarianship by Design](#), by Steven J. Bell and John D. Shank, is a big hit. Scenarios, case studies, and profiles throughout the book illustrate the successes that "blended librarians" are having on campuses. And check out Steven Bell's [design video](#), "Design Thinking: How a Design Approach Can Help Create Better User Experiences," as a free online supplement. **NEW! From ALA Editions.**

New Member wiki

ACRL has a [New Member Wiki](#), designed to guide new members of the division. The topics were suggested by more than 200 new members who attended the ACRL 101 program in Washington, D.C., in June 2007. ACRL members are welcome to add new content, exchange information, and help expand and develop the site.

In this issue
December 2007

The [Office for Intellectual Freedom](#) turned 40 years old December 1. Its mission is to implement "ALA policies concerning the concept of intellectual freedom as embodied in the Library Bill of Rights, the Association's basic policy on free access to libraries and library materials . . . [and to] . . . educate librarians and the general public about the nature and importance of intellectual freedom in libraries."...

ALA Marginalia blog, Dec. 1



[Jazz violin virtuoso to headline Curley Memorial Lecture](#)

The 9th Annual Arthur Curley Memorial Lecture promises to be one of the highlights of the ALA's Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia. Grammy-nominated jazz violinist Regina Carter, described by *Time* magazine as "taking the listener into the future of jazz," will add a new chapter to the lecture's history of distinguished guests when she appears at 1:30 p.m. January 12, in the Lecture Hall at the Pennsylvania Convention Center....



[ALA election opens March 17](#)

For the fifth year, ALA will hold its election online. All paid ALA members as of January 31, 2008, are eligible to vote in the 2008 election. Polls will open March 17. Paper ballots will be sent to ALA members who do not have a valid e-mail address, or request a paper ballot prior to March 3....

[Three states, two library systems ready for Prime Time](#)

Prime Time, an affiliate of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, in cooperation with the ALA Public Programs Office, has selected public libraries in Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, Oklahoma, and New York to participate in the national expansion of the award-winning family reading and discussion program, Prime Time Family Reading Time. National expansion of Prime Time at these libraries will target Spanish-speaking families and is made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities....

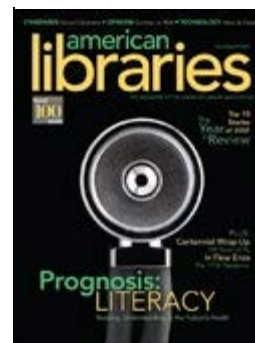


[Apply for the Great Stories Club](#)

Applications from all types of libraries for the [Great Stories Club](#) will be accepted through February 1. Funding has been provided by a grant from Oprah's Angel Network. The Great Stories Club is a reading and discussion program designed to reach underserved, troubled teen populations through books that are relevant to their lives....

[Idearc-ALA renovation in Massachusetts](#)

For the first time since it opened in 1969, the children's area of the Wilmington (Mass.) Memorial Library received a thorough renovation in November, thanks to volunteers from Idearc Media, home to Superpages.com and publisher of the Verizon Yellow Pages. Idearc is partnering with ALA to refurbish



Health-Information Literacy

The 1918 Influenza Pandemic

Highlights from 100 Years of AL History

Top 10 Library Stories of 2007

Michael Gorman on RDA

Last week to take our news survey

American Libraries and the ALA Washington Office want to find out how to serve your news needs better. Take this [brief survey](#) and tell us how you use the suite of services that the two offices provide.

Career Leads from

ALA JobLIST

[Librarian for Law of the Islamic World.](#)

Harvard Law School. Under the general direction of the Cataloging Services Librarian, this position bears primary responsibility for building and organizing the Library's collections

reading areas in public libraries. The library is holding a [grand reopening party](#) for the room December 10....

AL Focus

[Welcome to Anaheim: ALA Annual Conference 2008 preview](#)

Thinking about attending Annual Conference in Anaheim, California? After this rollercoaster ride of a preview (6:44), you won't be able to resist. Several Orange County librarians tell us about the area's obvious draws (Disneyland, shopping, the beaches) as well as some attractions you might not know about—including a beautiful library or two. Also covered: your airport options, public transportation and hotel availability, and some adventurous daytrips. We'll see you in Anaheim June 26–July 2, 2008!...

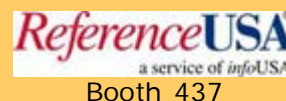


of materials on Islamic law and the positive law of the Islamic world. Also catalogs Arabic monographs, serials, and electronic resources....

@ [More jobs...](#)



Visit ALA's three new [Library Champions](#) at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia



Booklist ONLINE

[Featured review: Adult books](#)

Banks, Ray. *Saturday's Child*. Jan. 2008. 320p. Harcourt, hardcover (978-0-15-101322-7).

One British newspaper has referred to Banks (*The Big Blind*, 2004) as a member of the "post-Rankin generation." Although we don't like to think of Rankin in past tense, there clearly is a new pot of crime writers on the boil. Banks reads like Ken Bruen and Allan Guthrie stirred with Bill James and Irvine Welsh. *Saturday's Child* is a skinned-knuckle crime story set in the cold and dour north of England: Cal Innes has been paroled from prison in Manchester and is going straight-ish, working as a private investigator from the gym of his patron, Paulo. But when his parole officer, DS Donkin, likes Cal for a crime he didn't commit, and a crime boss, Morris Tiernan, calls in a favor Cal doesn't owe, suddenly a life of crime seems the only way to avoid doing more hard time....



@ Visit [Booklist Online](#) for other reviews and much more....

Philadelphia Update

[RMG's Annual President's Seminar](#)

"Checks and Balances in the ILS Industry: Founders' Values, Investors' Interests, Open Source ILSs" is the topic of RMG Consultants' 18th Annual Presidents' Seminar: The View from the

Ten ways adults can support teen reading

The number of 17-year-olds who say they never read for pleasure has doubled in the past 20 years to 19%. But good reading habits start at home and at the library. Here are [ten ways](#) that YALSA suggests can help



Top, to be held in Room 103C, Philadelphia Convention Center, Friday, January 11, 2–5 p.m. The panel will include chief executives of major integrated library system companies....

RMG Consultants

[Historic Philadelphia](#)

It's just one square mile, but the area between Front to 7th Streets and Spruce to Race Streets covers three different neighborhoods, all jam-packed with restaurants, galleries, shops, and attractions. Each puts its own distinctive spin on history. And together, they make up Historic Philadelphia....

Go Philly



[Obnoxious hidden airline fees](#)

George Hobic writes: "The airlines often try lining their coffers by coming up with a slew of obnoxious extra charges. Whatever additional costs these services could possibly impose on the airlines are clearly lower than what passengers pay. Read on for the 10 most egregious examples."...

MSNBC, Dec. 2

Division News

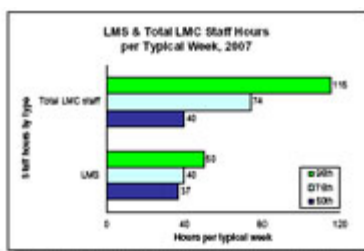
[RDA task force to develop implementation plan](#)

The RDA (Resource Description and Access) Implementation Task Force was created by the ALCTS Cataloging and Classification Section in the spring of 2007. The task force, chaired by Shawne Miksa of the University of North Texas Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences, is slated to complete its work by the 2009 Annual Conference....



[AASL's longitudinal survey report](#)

AASL has released the results of its first longitudinal survey, *School Libraries Count!* ([PDF file](#)). The survey, conducted January–March 2007, gathered data in a number of areas, including library staff, collections, technology, class visits, and budgets. AASL will be using the data to develop tools to help library media specialists advocate at the local, state, and national level....



[SPARC-ACRL Forum on student engagement](#)

The 16th SPARC-ACRL Forum, "Working with the Facebook Generation: Engaging Student Views on Access to Scholarship," will be held at the Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia on January 12. Cosponsored by SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) and ACRL, the semiannual forum focuses on emerging issues in scholarly communication....

[Teen Tech Week minigrants](#)

YALSA will award up to 20 minigrants, consisting of \$450 cash and \$50 worth of Teen Tech Week products, to librarians who plan to offer inventive activities, resources, and services to celebrate Teen Tech Week, March 2–8....

teens get interested in reading.

Digital Library of the Week



[The Catich Collection](#)

at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, provides digital access to the artwork of Fr. Edward Catich (1906–1979), one of the world's finest calligraphers. Catich was known as an international authority on stone incising, typography, and stained glass fabrication, and as the foremost authority on the Roman alphabet, its origin, nature, and history. The university owns nearly 5,000 Catich works, ranging from sketch books and small drawings to major pieces of art: primarily watercolors, ink drawings, and carved slates. A long-term goal of this project is to promote public and scholarly awareness of his achievements and to develop a broader appreciation for the aesthetics of his work.

Do you know of a digital library collection that we can mention in this *AL Direct* feature? [Tell us about it.](#)

Public

[ALCTS Midwinter forums](#)

ALCTS will offer a stellar lineup of provocative forums at the Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia, ranging from the LC Working Group Report to the IMLS "Connecting to Collections" initiative and new roles for acquisitions. [Find out more](#) in the *ALCTS Newsletter Online*....

[RUSA Business Reference 101](#)

Learn the basics of business reference and research during [Business Reference 101](#), a four-week online course offered by RUSA, January 28–February 22. The course is designed to teach the basics of business reference and the process of business research to library staff, library school students, international information professionals, and researchers....

[RUSA to offer five online courses in the spring](#)

RUSA is presenting five internet-based courses that offer training in specialized areas of reference and user services. The topics include business reference, genealogy, marketing basics, readers' advisory, and the reference interview....

[ACRL/LAMA call for proposals](#)

Don't miss the opportunity to play an active part in the 2008 ACRL/LAMA Joint Virtual Institute, "Leading from the Middle: Managing in All Directions." Submit a [proposal](#) now for an interactive webcast or online poster session. Submissions will be accepted through Monday, December 10. The institute, to be offered April 29–30, 2008, will offer a forum for the exploration of issues and challenges facing middle managers and leaders....

Leads from LAMA blog, Dec. 3

Round Table News

[SRRT on the Environment](#) (PDF file)

Join members of the Social Responsibilities Round Table Task Force on the Environment's Environment and Literacy Discussion Group in Philadelphia January 14 to learn about writing nature journals as a means for children to record their words, ideas, pictures, and feelings about the environments where they live, work, and play. Discussion leaders include Doug Wechsler, director of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia; Mark Baldwin, director of education for the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History; and Andy Boyles, science editor, Boyds Mill Press....

SRRT Newsletter, no. 160/161 (Dec. 2007): 7



Awards

[Great Interactive Software for Kids 2008](#)

ALSC has selected its Fall 2007 list of Great Interactive Software for Kids, which recognizes high-quality computer programs and digital media for children 14 years of age and younger. Among them

Perception

How the World Sees Us

"Banning has precedents. There was the obvious Nazi fondness for bonfires. Perhaps, more aptly, in the 17th century Catholic missionaries in Central America burned all Mayan books because they thought their words were the language of the devil. As a result, only five texts in the Mayan language survive. In Halton Region's defence, I don't think any public school board was involved in the incident."

—Drew Hayden Taylor, commenting on the Halton, Ontario, Catholic school board's decision to pull Philip Pullman's *The Golden Compass* from library shelves because of the author's professed atheism, in Toronto's *Now* magazine, Nov. 29.

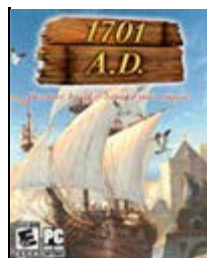
Ask the ALA Librarian



Q. When will there be a revised AACR?

A. The *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*, maintained by the [Joint Steering Committee for](#)

are *1701 A.D.* (right), *Big Brain Academy*, *Crazy Machines 1.5*, *Nancy Drew: The Creature of Kapu Cave*, and *Snapshot Adventures: Secret of Bird Island*...



[RUSA awards reception at Midwinter](#)

The RUSA Collection Development and Evaluation Section is hosting its annual Awards Recognition Reception, 4–6 p.m. on January 13 in the Ritz-Carlton Hotel during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia. Attendees are invited to join colleagues and members of the publishing industry at a cocktail reception honoring the best literature of the year for adult readers and in reference....

[Time to apply for the Big Read](#)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, has announced the fourth deadline for the Big Read program. The purpose of the Big Read is to revitalize the role of literature in American popular culture. Grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000 are available to encourage local communities to inspire reading through the Big Read program. This will be the only application deadline in 2008....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Nov. 30



[Fired West Virginia archivist receives award](#)

Members of the West Virginia Historical Society honored Fred Armstrong with the Virgil A. Lewis award December 2. Armstrong was the West Virginia archivist director before losing his job last month. In 1992 the Virgil A. Lewis Award was established by WVHS to be given each year to the party or parties making the greatest contribution to West Virginia history....

WSAZ-TV, Huntington, W.Va., Dec. 2

[Revision of AACR](#), are being replaced by a new standard: [RDA: Resource Description and Access](#), scheduled for release in early 2009. The current [text of AACR](#) is the Second Edition, 2002 Revision (with 2003, 2004, and 2005 updates) which incorporates all changes approved by the JSC through February 2005. The rules are published by ALA, the Canadian Library Association, and CILIP. The current text may be [purchased](#) through the publisher appropriate to your location (for the U.S. and Mexico, it's the [American Library Association](#). See the [ALA Professional Tips wiki](#) for more....

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



Seen Online

[King and King still reigns in Lower Macungie](#)

The board of directors of the Lower Macungie (Pa.) Library on November 29 for the second time denied a couple's request to remove the children's book *King and King* by Linda de Haan and Stern Nijland. The book will remain on the shelf despite the complaints of John and Eileen Issa and about 40 other residents who think its homosexual content is inappropriate....

Allentown (Pa.) Morning Call, Nov. 30



Calendar

Mar. 2–4:
[Ohio Digital Commons for Education 2008 Conference](#), Columbus. "The Convergence of Learning, Libraries, and Technology."

Mar. 5–7:
[WebWise Conference](#), Miami Beach, Florida.

[Florida library offers commercial coupons](#)

On December 1, the Leesburg (Fla.) Public Library kicked off a program to link patrons with community vendors and activities. The program, Youniquely 4 U, is free for anyone who holds a Lake County Library card, and it offers personal recommendations and coupons based on what a library patron checks out, drawing from general categories of the patron's book or video selections to suggest similar events or businesses....

Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel, Dec. 2

[Copper thieves close down Houston library for a day](#)

The Julia Ideson Building, which houses reference and circulation services for the Houston Central Library while it is under renovation, reopened December 4 following repairs to electrical wiring left damaged by copper thieves. Early the previous morning, intruders cut the wiring leading to the generator and emergency panel for the downtown library complex. Copper thefts in the Houston area have been on the upswing as prices for the metal increased to as much as \$4 a pound a year ago....

Houston Chronicle, Dec. 4

[Kid tries out homemade bomb at Princeton library](#)

A 12-year-old boy terrified patrons at the Princeton (N.J.) Public Library December 1 by exploding a homemade bomb inside the building. The bomb did not cause any injuries or fire, but it sent a deafening explosion through the library, police said. The boy learned how to make the bomb by watching a video on YouTube....

Trenton (N.J.) Times, Dec. 4

[Waldseemüller map a puzzle for researchers](#)

The only surviving copy of the 500-year-old map that first used the name America goes on [permanent display](#) December 13 at the Library of Congress, but even as it prepares for its debut, the 1507 Martin



Waldseemüller map remains a [puzzle](#) for researchers. Why did the mapmaker name the territory America and then change his mind later? How was he able to draw South America so accurately? Why did he put a huge ocean west of America years before European explorers discovered the Pacific?...

Reuters, Dec. 3; Library of Congress, Nov. 29; New York Times Magazine, Dec. 2

[Jamaica Plain conditions a result of Menino-Margolis dispute?](#)

Boston's Jamaica Plain branch was forced to close briefly this month when its heating system failed—just one case of conditions that patrons say leave them freezing, boiling, or wet in the aging building. The building is slated for major renovation and expansion, but that is years away. The backdrop for the discussion is a leadership change at the Boston Public Library, which reportedly will result in an increased focus on the neighborhood branch libraries....

Jamaica Plain (Mass.) Gazette, Nov. 30

YOUNIQUELY 4 U™

"WebWise 2.0: The Power of Community."

Mar. 6–7: [The Emerging Research Library: Our Role in the Digital Future](#),

University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City. Register by Feb. 15.

Mar. 12–14: [South Carolina Association of School Librarians](#), Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. "Power Up @ your library."

Mar. 14–15: [Northern Illinois University Children's Literature Conference](#), DeKalb. "Male Call: Boys and Books."

Mar. 18–21: [Electronic Resources and Libraries](#), Atlanta, Georgia.

Mar. 19–22: [Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association Conference](#), San Francisco Marriott. "Libraries, Archives, and Popular Culture."

Mar. 24–28: [American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting and Exhibition](#), New York City. "Research on Schools, Neighborhoods, and Communities: Toward Civic Responsibility."

@ [More...](#)

[Politically charged prints cause talk at NYPL](#)

Controversy has erupted on the third floor of the New York Public Library, where "Line Up," a series of politically inflammatory digital prints by the team of Nora Ligorano and Marshall Reese, is on display. Each print is a mugshot-style diptych in which a member of the Bush administration appears in profile and face forward, holding a police identification sign and the date on which he or she made a statement of questionable veracity relating to Iraq. YouTube has the [video](#) (6:29) that accompanies the display....

New York Times, Dec. 4; YouTube



[Advocates stump for Florida libraries](#)

Library advocates were in Tallahassee November 29 to bring awareness to the cause. The Florida Library Association held a news conference at the Leon County Public Library to call for continued funding and support of library services. New property-tax laws have led to budget and program cuts at libraries across the state. And county officials say more cuts could come next year if voters pass a constitutional amendment January 29 to double the homestead exemption. FLA has printed [posters](#) (right) and bookmarks to publicize the issue....

Tallahassee (Fla.) Democrat, Dec. 2; Florida Library Association



[Judge rejects motion to dismiss CRS transgender discrimination case](#)

A federal judge November 28 denied a motion to dismiss a lawsuit charging that the Library of Congress engaged in sex discrimination in 2004 by refusing to hire a transgendered woman as an antiterrorism expert for the Congressional Research Service despite her recognized qualifications for the job. United States District Court Judge James Robertson ruled that former U.S. Army Special Forces Officer Diane Schroer has legal grounds to file a sex discrimination claim against the library under the Civil Rights Act of 1964....

Washington (D.C.) Blade, Nov. 29



[Former library director found guilty of theft](#)

Judge Robert Lavery, although perplexed at the cost of upholstering a chair, convicted a former library official of theft. Magdaline Engle, former director of the Rodman Public Library in Alliance, Ohio, will start serving her 10 days in jail January 17. Lavery found her guilty of stealing four chairs from the facility, and having them reupholstered and delivered to her home at the library's expense. She told Lavery it was her intention to reimburse the library for the \$2,088 cost....

Alliance (Ohio) Review, Dec. 1

[Gunpowder Plot "skin" book sold](#)

A private buyer paid £5,400 (\$11,100 U.S.) at a December 2 auction for a book alleged to be bound in the skin of a Jesuit priest executed over the 1605 Gunpowder Plot. The macabre lot, deemed "a bit spooky" by auctioneer Sid Wilkinson of

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Doncaster, South Yorkshire, has the mysterious image of a face on the cover, said to be that of Father Henry Garnet. *A True And Perfect Relation of the Whole Proceedings against the Late Most Barbarous Traitors, Garnet a Iesuite and His Confederats* [sic] was printed by Robert Barker, printer to the king, and published in 1606, only months after Garnet's execution....
 BBC News, Nov. 27, Dec. 3



Biography Index Retrospective 1946-1983 40 Years of Wilson's Classic Biography Reference
 H.W. Wilson www.hwwilson.com

Tech Talk

[E-book malaise](#)

Andrew Pace writes: "One of the phrases that I used to use about e-books is 'the second mouse always gets the cheese.' I thought that for sure early failures in e-book devices would lead to the perfect handheld device, software that made digital reading a pleasure, and a DRM acceptable to most libraries—or at least their patrons. I sincerely thought that by now we would have a device that *smelled* like a paperback, and we still don't have anything that even feels like one."...



Hectic Pace, Dec. 3

[Edit your photos directly in Flickr](#)

Popular photo sharing website Flickr has partnerted with online image editing website Picnik to integrate photo editing directly in your Flickr account. To use it, just log into your Flickr account, click on a picture, and then click the new Edit Photo button. When you do, you'll be asked if you want to enable Picnik to open. It allows you to crop, rotate, resize, sharpen, correct red-eye, and tons more from the comfort of your Flickr account....

Lifehacker, Dec. 4

[Bubble 2.0: The video](#)

The Richter Scales offer an amusing video (2:43), "Here Comes Another Bubble," that describes the current state of web technology to the tune of "We Didn't Start the Fire": Need a good domain name / Must be cheap, can't be lame / Something cool like flickr, meebo, / wikiyou, mahalo, bebo....

YouTube, Dec. 3



[A big list of sites that teach you how to do stuff](#)

Josh Catone writes: "The Web offers a large number of helpful sites that teach you how to do things. These are do-it-yourself sites, but

we're not talking about building a deck or baking a cake. In this horribly-titled, but hopefully useful round-up we will specifically focus on such general-purpose sites that include some sort of rich media instruction (generally video)."

Read/Write Web, Nov. 28

[Faster data entry in Excel](#)

Anytime you can enter data without having to type it yourself, you improve accuracy and save yourself effort. There are plenty of opportunities in Excel to enter data in a faster and smarter way than via the keyboard. Helen Bradley offers a few tips on custom-fill lists, drop downs, and forms....

PC Magazine, Nov. 14

[50 more things to do with Google Maps mashups](#)

Mike Pegg has come up with another set of ways to use Google Maps creatively, among them: [find a Wi-Fi hotspot](#) in the U.S., [find a public toilet](#), explore and [map the Bible](#), [find a U.S. mailbox](#), find a [place to eat](#), find out [who is sick](#) around you, and [make your own map](#)....



Google Maps Mania, Dec. 3

[Special characters in HTML and XHTML](#)

Elizabeth Castro offers a set of tables containing the 252 allowed special characters in HTML 4 and XHTML 1.0, as described in [section 24](#) of the official HTML 4 specifications. Keep this handy if you are coding accented characters, punctuation, math, or Greek....

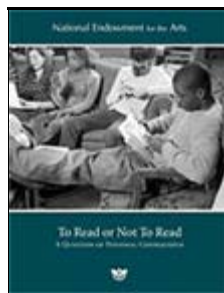
World Wide Web Consortium

Actions & Answers

[To Read or Not to Read skews its data](#)

Nancy Kaplan points out that the National Endowment for the Arts has distorted the data it used in its recent report, which concluded that reading proficiency is declining and the number of people who choose to read books in their leisure time is also declining: "Despite the numerous charts, graphs, and tables in *To Read or Not to Read*, a careful and responsible reading of the complete data provided by the National Assessment of Educational Progress and the National Assessments of Adult Literacy undermine the conclusions the NEA draws."...

if:book, Nov. 30



[LC report available for comment](#)

You can now read and comment on the draft final report ([PDF file](#)) of the Library of Congress Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control. The period for public comment on the report is open until December 15. Comments can be submitted via the website. Electronic submission of comments is encouraged. The group intends to submit the final report to the Library of Congress by January 9, 2008....

LC Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control, Nov. 30

[The OCLC WorldMap](#)

The OCLC WorldMap is a prototype

system that provides an interactive visual tool for selecting and displaying international library holdings represented in WorldCat, and publishing, library, cultural heritage, and collection data. It allows users to select countries of interest, compare various library and cultural heritage data by country, and create graphs displaying data for up to four countries at a time....

OCLC



[Locating lawyers online](#)

Scott Russell writes: "Obtaining background information on attorneys is a common question asked of law librarians. Yet as routine as it may sound, it isn't always as simple as going to [Martindale Hubbell](#). While Martindale has long been a primary reference point for finding attorneys, some firms are opting out of the directory. Information on corporate counsel can prove even more difficult to locate. For instances where you cannot find an in-house or private practice lawyer in any other source, searching an online state bar directory may offer your best bet."...



LRRX, Nov. 24

[A Casual Conversation with Meredith Farkas](#)

American Libraries columnist Meredith Farkas is distance learning librarian at Norwich University in Vermont. On December 7 at 2 p.m. Eastern time she will be participating in an OPAL Casual Conversation [online program](#). The Casual Conversations series allows leaders in various library fields to discuss informally what they currently are working on, their future plans and goals, the challenges and opportunities facing librarianship, and their personal pet peeves. Other upcoming programs will feature Curtis Rogers, Lori Bell, Michelle Boule, and Marshall Breeding....



Online Programming for All Libraries

[Interview with Nancy Pearl](#)

Nancy Pearl, rock star librarian and model for the Librarian Action Figure, is interviewed (16:00) at the 2007 Missouri Library Association Conference by Karen Robinson. Pearl shares the story of how she was chosen to be the model for the Librarian Action Figure. What do you wear when you're being "digitized" to become a 5-inch plastic action figure?...



LISRADIO webcast, Nov. 26

[Special librarian salaries outpace inflation](#)

According to the results of a Special Libraries Association salary survey, average salary increases for SLA members in the United States and Canada have outpaced inflation once again. Based on salaries as of April 2007 for U.S. respondents, the increase in salaries for 2007 over 2006 was 5.1%. This is 1.1% higher than the increase from 2005 to 2006. The average salary for U.S. members who answered the survey was \$69,446, compared with \$67,400 reported in 2006....

Special Libraries Association, Dec. 4

[Duct-tape addiction](#)

Angela Reynolds writes: "I'm addicted to duct tape, and it is all the library's fault. During Teen Read Week, I put together some duct-tape programs, and had so much fun looking at the amazing creations that teenagers came up with and making my first-ever duct-tape wallet. I also found out about *clear* duct tape—and now, I am addicted."...

ALSC Blog, Dec. 3



[Vote for the best video and comic](#)

The New Jersey State Library has opened up voting for the best "How I Have Fun at My Library" video and comic submitted by teens in the state. All you have to do is go to the contest site and click on the YouTube Video icon, read the comics, view the videos, and cast your vote. Not only do you get to vote, you'll also see the results immediately. Voting ends December 31....

New Jersey State Library



[Holiday gift guide](#)

Brian Smith offers this selection of holiday gifts, many of them irreverent, that you might want to consider if you're doing last-minute online shopping. Included are such novelties as giant plush microbes, a potty chair with a book rack, an Orcish librarian card, illustrated librarian temporary tats, Dorothy Parker martini glasses (right), and a book safe....

The Laughing Librarian, Dec. 1



[Melvil Dewey's Library Bureau](#)

The Library Bureau and its predecessors were the first significant providers of library supplies and "fittings" for America's libraries. Although this envelope, mailed in 1885 to the Librarian of Cornell University, indicates that the Library Bureau was founded by Melvil Dewey in 1876, it was not legally established under that name until 1881. Visit Larry Nix's website to see items from an 1886 Library Bureau supply catalog....

Library History Buff



AL Direct, December 5, 2007

Having trouble viewing this HTML e-mail? Click here [[util.viewHtmlLink %>\].](#)]

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | December 5, 2007

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[<http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com>]

U.S. & World News

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accused of anti-Catholic bias

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/november2007/compass.cfm>]

Several Toronto-area Catholic school boards in Ontario have removed Philip Pullman's The Golden Compass fantasy novel from library shelves for review following a complaint in the municipality of Halton in late November. The novel and its two companions in the "His Dark Materials" trilogy are receiving heightened scrutiny for their allegedly anti-Catholic content prior to the December 7 U.S. release of The Golden Compass movie (right) starring Nicole Kidman and Donald Craig. ALA President Loriene Roy issued a statement

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/gcb07.htm>]

December 4 urging libraries to resist calls for censoring the books or boycotting the film....

Book talk flap followed by librarian's dismissal

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/december2007/lastbook.cfm>]

Bellevue (Calif.) Unified School District Superintendent Tony Roehrick terminated the library consultant contract of Richie Partington November 21, two days after Partington declined to discuss with Kawana School Principal Jesse Escobedo the merits of *The Last Book in the Universe* until after Escobedo read the book. The termination came six weeks after Partington, a member of the 2008–09 ALSC Caldecott Committee, became the first professional librarian to serve the 58-year-old K–6 district in at least a decade. He announced the action on several library discussion lists, triggering a flood of protest letters to the district....

stirs mixed feelings in Montana

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/november2007/sexymontana.cfm>]

A materials reconsideration committee at Jefferson High School in Boulder, Montana, voted 4–1 November 27 to retain Joyce Carol Oates’s *Sexy* in the school-library collection, declining a request by an English teacher on the faculty there to have the book removed. Complainant Victoria Foster had filed an objection this fall after a student brought the book to her attention, directing her to chapter seven “and that the f-word came up quite a bit.”...

Ottawa’s outrage may save 10 branches

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/november2007/ottawasave.cfm>]

The board of Ottawa (Ont.) Public Library reversed course November 26, opting not to support a plan trustees floated just a few weeks earlier to close 10 branches, cut hours from the remaining branches, and freeze the collection budget to meet a proposed \$3.2-million budget cut. The board had originally proposed the plan to meet the library’s share of \$152 million in citywide cuts proposed by Mayor Larry O’Brien to keep his campaign pledge of freezing property taxes for four years....

Branch’s future uncertain after mold destroys collection

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/december2007/moldlenawee.cfm>]

The board of Lenawee County (Mich.) Library voted 4–1 November 20 to dispose of the entire collection of 8,760 books and 2,054 magazines in the Ridgeway branch because they have been contaminated by mold. Teresa Calderone, director of the system since August 1, told American Libraries she discovered the problem on her first visit to the branch shortly after she was hired. She found the building in such poor condition that books had become moist and were molding....

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[<http://www.maintainITproject.org>]
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ALA News
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ALA and the FCC team up for Digital TV Transition Week

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/november2007/dtvweek.htm>]

This week, December 1–7, is Digital Television (DTV) Transition Week in America’s public libraries. Through a partnership with ALA, the FCC is conducting informational sessions at local public libraries across the country about the transition from analog to digital broadcast television by February 2009. Reforma’s Betty Valdés spoke

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/valdesfcc.htm>] at

the FCC on December 4 on the role of libraries in supporting the Spanish-speaking community during the DTV transition. ALA is also joining forces with the Association of Public Television Stations to launch a grassroots outreach effort

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/november2007/aptsdtv.htm>] to

educate consumers about the rapidly approaching transition. ALA President Loriene Roy discusses DTV in this Washington Office podcast

[<http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=306>] (7:22)....

Happy birthday, OIF!

[<http://discuss.ala.org/marginalia/2007/12/01/happy-birthday-oif/>]

The Office for Intellectual Freedom

[<http://blogs.ala.org/oif.php?cat=194>] turned 40 years old December 1.

Its mission is to implement “ALA policies concerning the concept of intellectual freedom as embodied in the Library Bill of Rights, the Association’s basic policy on free access to libraries and library materials . . . [and to] . . . educate librarians and the general public about the nature and importance of intellectual freedom in libraries.”...

ALA Marginalia blog, Dec. 1

Jazz violin virtuoso to headline Curley Memorial Lecture

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/curley07.htm>]

The 9th Annual Arthur Curley Memorial Lecture promises to be one of the highlights of the ALA’s Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia.

Grammy-nominated jazz violinist Regina Carter, described by Time magazine as “taking the listener into the future of jazz,” will add a new chapter to the lecture’s history of distinguished guests when she appears at 1:30 p.m. January 12, in the Lecture Hall at the Pennsylvania Convention Center....

ALA election opens March 17

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/election07.htm>]

For the fifth year, ALA will hold its election online. All paid ALA members as of January 31, 2008, are eligible to vote in the 2008 election. Polls will open March 17. Paper ballots will be sent to ALA members who do not have a valid e-mail address, or request a paper ballot prior to March 3....

Three states, two library systems ready for Prime Time

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/primetime07.htm>]

Prime Time, an affiliate of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, in cooperation with the ALA Public Programs Office, has selected public libraries in Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, Oklahoma, and New York to participate in the national expansion of the award-winning family reading and discussion program, Prime Time Family Reading Time. National

expansion of Prime Time at these libraries will target Spanish-speaking families and is made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities....

Apply for the Great Stories Club

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/great07.htm>]

Applications from all types of libraries for the Great Stories Club

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/ppo/currentprograms/greatstories/club.cfm>] will be accepted through February 1. Funding has been provided by a grant from Oprah's Angel Network. The Great Stories Club is a reading and discussion program designed to reach underserved, troubled teen populations through books that are relevant to their lives....

Idearc-ALA renovation in Massachusetts

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/cro/projectsandactivities/idearcala.cfm>]

For the first time since it opened in 1969, the children's area of the Wilmington (Mass.) Memorial Library received a thorough renovation in November, thanks to volunteers from Idearc Media, home to Superpages.com and publisher of the Verizon Yellow Pages. Idearc is partnering with ALA to refurbish reading areas in public libraries. The library is holding a grand reopening party [<http://www.wilmlibrary.org/Dec%2010%20party.html>] for the room December 10....

AL Focus

Welcome to Anaheim: ALA Annual Conference 2008 preview

[<http://alfocus.ala.org/videos/welcome-anaheim-ala-annual-conference-2008-preview>]

Thinking about attending Annual Conference in Anaheim, California? After this rollercoaster ride of a preview (6:44), you won't be able to resist. Several Orange County librarians tell us about the area's obvious draws (Disneyland, shopping, the beaches) as well as some attractions you might not know about—including a beautiful library or two. Also covered: your airport options, public transportation and hotel availability, and some adventurous daytrips. We'll see you in Anaheim June 26–July 2, 2008!...

Featured review: Adult books

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=2090614]

Banks, Ray. *Saturday's Child*. Jan. 2008. 320p. Harcourt, hardcover (978-0-15-101322-7).

One British newspaper has referred to Banks (*The Big Blind*, 2004) as a member of the "post-Rankin generation." Although we don't like to think of Rankin in past tense, there clearly is a new pot of crime writers on the boil. Banks reads like Ken Bruen and Allan Guthrie stirred with Bill James and Irvine Welsh. *Saturday's Child* is a skinned-knuckle crime story set in the cold and dour north of England: Cal Innes has been paroled from prison in Manchester and is going straight-ish, working as a private investigator from the gym of his patron, Paulo. But when his parole officer, DS Donkin, likes Cal for a

crime he didn't commit, and a crime boss, Morris Tiernan, calls in a favor Cal doesn't owe, suddenly a life of crime seems the only way to avoid doing more hard time....

@ Visit Booklist Online [<http://www.booklistonline.com>] for other reviews and much more....

Philadelphia Update

RMG's Annual President's Seminar

[<http://www.rmgconsultants.com/page6/page12/page12.html>]

"Checks and Balances in the ILS Industry: Founders' Values, Investors' Interests, Open Source ILSs" is the topic of RMG Consultants' 18th Annual Presidents' Seminar: The View from the Top, to be held in Room 103C, Philadelphia Convention Center, Friday, January 11, 2-5 p.m. The panel will include chief executives of major integrated library system companies....

RMG Consultants

Historic Philadelphia

[http://www.gophila.com/C/Things_to_Do/211/Historic_Philadelphia/624.html]

It's just one square mile, but the area between Front to 7th Streets and Spruce to Race Streets covers three different neighborhoods, all jam-packed with restaurants, galleries, shops, and attractions. Each puts its own distinctive spin on history. And together, they make up Historic Philadelphia....

Go Philly

Obnoxious hidden airline fees [<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/22041918/>]

George Hobic writes: "The airlines often try lining their coffers by coming up with a slew of obnoxious extra charges. Whatever additional costs these services could possibly impose on the airlines are clearly lower than what passengers pay. Read on for the 10 most egregious examples."...

MSNBC, Dec. 2

Division News

RDA task force to develop implementation plan

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/rda07.htm>]

The RDA (Resource Description and Access) Implementation Task Force was created by the ALCTS Cataloging and Classification Section in the spring of 2007. The task force, chaired by Shawne Miksa of the University of North Texas Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences, is slated to complete its work by the 2009 Annual Conference....

AASL's longitudinal survey report

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/longitude07.htm>]
AASL has released the results of its first longitudinal survey, School Libraries Count! (PDF file [http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/school_libraries_count07_report.pdf]). The survey, conducted January–March 2007, gathered data in a number of areas, including library staff, collections, technology, class visits, and budgets. AASL will be using the data to develop tools to help library media specialists advocate at the local, state, and national level....

SPARC-ACRL Forum on student engagement
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/SPARCACRL07.htm>]
The 16th SPARC-ACRL Forum, “Working with the Facebook Generation: Engaging Student Views on Access to Scholarship,” will be held at the Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia on January 12. Cosponsored by SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) and ACRL, the semiannual forum focuses on emerging issues in scholarly communication....

Teen Tech Week minigrants
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/connected07.htm>]
YALSA will award up to 20 minigrants, consisting of \$450 cash and \$50 worth of Teen Tech Week products, to librarians who plan to offer inventive activities, resources, and services to celebrate Teen Tech Week, March 2–8....

ALCTS Midwinter forums
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/ALCTSforums07.htm>]
ALCTS will offer a stellar lineup of provocative forums at the Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia, ranging from the LC Working Group Report to the IMLS “Connecting to Collections” initiative and new roles for acquisitions. Find out more [<http://www.ala.org/ala/alcts/alctspubs/alctsnewsletter/v18n5/18n5news/18n5alcts/mw08/alctsmw.htm>] in the ALCTS Newsletter Online....

RUSA Business Reference 101
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/basics07.htm>]
Learn the basics of business reference and research during Business Reference 101, [<http://www.ala.org/ala/rusa/rusaevents/professionaldevelopmentonline/businessreference101course/busref101ce.cfm>] a four-week online course offered by RUSA, January 28–February 22. The course is designed to teach the basics of business reference and the process of business research to library staff, library school students, international information professionals, and researchers....

RUSA to offer five online courses in the spring
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/spring07.htm>]
RUSA is presenting five internet-based courses that offer training in specialized areas of reference and user services. The topics include business reference, genealogy, marketing basics, readers’ advisory, and the reference interview....

ACRL/LAMA call for proposals
[http://blogs.ala.org/lamaleads.php?title=acrl_lama_call_for_proposals&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1]

Don't miss the opportunity to play an active part in the 2008 ACRL/LAMA Joint Virtual Institute, "Leading from the Middle: Managing in All Directions." Submit a proposal

[<http://www.acrl.org/ala/acrl/acrlvents/springvirtualinstitute.cfm>] now for an interactive webcast or online poster session. Submissions will be accepted through Monday, December 10. The institute, to be offered April 29–30, 2008, will offer a forum for the exploration of issues and challenges facing middle managers and leaders....

Leads from LAMA blog, Dec. 3

Round Table News

SRRT on the Environment [<http://libr.org/srrt/news/srrt160.pdf>] (PDF file)
Join members of the Social Responsibilities Round Table Task Force on the Environment's Environment and Literacy Discussion Group in Philadelphia January 14 to learn about writing nature journals as a means for children to record their words, ideas, pictures, and feelings about the environments where they live, work, and play. Discussion leaders include Doug Wechsler, director of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia; Mark Baldwin, director of education for the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History; and Andy Boyles, science editor, Boyds Mill Press....

SRRT Newsletter, no. 160/161 (Dec. 2007): 7

Awards

Great Interactive Software for Kids 2008

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/interactive07.htm>]
ALSC has selected its Fall 2007 list of Great Interactive Software for Kids, which recognizes high-quality computer programs and digital media for children 14 years of age and younger. Among them are 1701 A.D. (right), Big Brain Academy, Crazy Machines 1.5, Nancy Drew: The Creature of Kapu Cave, and Snapshot Adventures: Secret of Bird Island....

RUSA awards reception at Midwinter

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/adultread07.htm>]
The RUSA Collection Development and Evaluation Section is hosting its annual Awards Recognition Reception, 4–6 p.m. on January 13 in the Ritz-Carlton Hotel during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia. Attendees are invited to join colleagues and members of the publishing industry at a cocktail reception honoring the best literature of the year for adult readers and in reference....

Time to apply for the Big Read [<http://www.imls.gov/news/2007/113007.shtm>]

The Institute of Museum and Library Services, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, has announced the fourth deadline for the Big Read program. The purpose of the Big Read is to revitalize the role of literature in American popular culture. Grants ranging from

\$5,000 to \$20,000 are available to encourage local communities to inspire reading through the Big Read program. This will be the only application deadline in 2008....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Nov. 30

Fired West Virginia archivist receives award

[<http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/12036491.html>]

Members of the West Virginia Historical Society honored Fred Armstrong with the Virgil A. Lewis award December 2. Armstrong was the West Virginia archivist director before losing his job last month. In 1992 the Virgil A. Lewis Award was established by WVHS to be given each year to the party or parties making the greatest contribution to West Virginia history....

WSAZ-TV, Huntington, W.Va., Dec. 2

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[<http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com>]
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Seen Online

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still reigns in Lower Macungie

[http://www.mcall.com/news/local/all-a1_5king.6161310nov30,0,2885794.story]

The board of directors of the Lower Macungie (Pa.) Library on November 29 for the second time denied a couple's request to remove the children's book King and King by Linda de Haan and Stern Nijland. The book will remain on the shelf despite the complaints of John and Eileen Issa and about 40 other residents who think its homosexual content is inappropriate....

Allentown (Pa.) Morning Call, Nov. 30

Florida library offers commercial coupons

[<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/lake/orl-llivestory0207dec02,0,2613646.story>]

On December 1, the Leesburg (Fla.) Public Library kicked off a program to link patrons with community vendors and activities. The program, Youniquely 4 U, is free for anyone who holds a Lake County Library card, and it offers personal recommendations and coupons based on what a library patron checks out, drawing from general categories of the patron's book or video selections to suggest similar events or businesses....

Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel, Dec. 2

Copper thieves close down Houston library for a day

[<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/5349376.html>]

The Julia Ideson Building, which houses reference and circulation services for the Houston Central Library while it is under renovation, reopened December 4 following repairs to electrical wiring left damaged by copper thieves. Early the previous morning, intruders cut the wiring leading to the generator and emergency panel for the downtown library complex. Copper thefts in the Houston area have been on the upswing as prices for the metal increased to as much as \$4 a pound a year ago....

Houston Chronicle, Dec. 4

Kid tries out homemade bomb at Princeton library

[<http://www.nj.com/news/times/index.ssf?/base/news-3/119674485029570.xml&coll=5>]

A 12-year-old boy terrified patrons at the Princeton (N.J.) Public Library December 1 by exploding a homemade bomb inside the building. The bomb did not cause any injuries or fire, but it sent a deafening explosion through the library, police said. The boy learned how to make the bomb by watching a video on YouTube....

Trenton (N.J.) Times, Dec. 4

[<http://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/waldexh.html>]Waldseemüller map a puzzle for researchers

[<http://www.reuters.com/article/wtMostRead/idUSN0332239320071203?sp=true>]

The only surviving copy of the 500-year-old map that first used the name America goes on permanent display

[<http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2007/07-233.html>] December 13 at the Library of Congress, but even as it prepares for its debut, the 1507 Martin

Waldseemüller map remains a puzzle

[<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/02/magazine/02wwln-lede-t.html>] for researchers. Why did the mapmaker name the territory America and then change his mind later? How was he able to draw South America so accurately? Why did he put a huge ocean west of America years before European explorers discovered the Pacific?...

Reuters, Dec. 3; Library of Congress, Nov. 29; New York Times Magazine, Dec. 2

Jamaica Plain conditions a result of Menino-Margolis dispute?

[<http://jamaicaplaingazette.com/node/2351>]

Boston's Jamaica Plain branch was forced to close briefly this month when its heating system failed—just one case of conditions that patrons say leave them freezing, boiling, or wet in the aging building. The building is slated for major renovation and expansion, but that is years away. The backdrop for the discussion is a leadership change at the Boston Public Library, which reportedly will result in an increased focus on the neighborhood branch libraries....

Jamaica Plain (Mass.) Gazette, Nov. 30

Politically charged prints cause talk at NYPL

[<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/04/arts/design/04nypl.html>]

Controversy has erupted on the third floor of the New York Public Library, where "Line Up," a series of politically inflammatory digital prints by the team of Nora Ligorano and Marshall Reese, is on display. Each print is a mugshot-style diptych in which a member of the Bush administration appears in profile and face forward, holding a police identification sign and the date on which he or she made a statement of questionable veracity relating to Iraq. YouTube has the video [<http://youtube.com/watch?v=AviOb1Y6qHQ>] (6:29) that accompanies the display....

New York Times, Dec. 4; YouTube

Advocates stump for Florida libraries

[<http://www.tallahassee.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2007712020312>]

Library advocates were in Tallahassee November 29 to bring awareness to the cause. The Florida Library Association held a news conference at the Leon County Public Library to call for continued funding and support of library services. New property-tax laws have led to budget and program cuts at libraries across the state. And county officials say more cuts could come next year if voters pass a constitutional amendment January 29 to double the homestead exemption. FLA has printed posters [http://www.flalib.org/value_of_libraries.html] (right) and bookmarks to publicize the issue....

Tallahassee (Fla.) Democrat, Dec. 2; Florida Library Association

Judge rejects motion to dismiss CRS transgender discrimination case

[http://www.washblade.com/thelatest/thelatest.cfm?blog_id=15466]

A federal judge November 28 denied a motion to dismiss a lawsuit charging that the Library of Congress engaged in sex discrimination in 2004 by refusing to hire a transgendered woman as an antiterrorism expert for the Congressional Research Service despite her recognized qualifications for the job. United States District Court Judge James Robertson ruled that former U.S. Army Special Forces Officer Diane Schroer has legal grounds to file a sex discrimination claim against the library under the Civil Rights Act of 1964....

Washington (D.C.) Blade, Nov. 29

Former library director found guilty of theft

[<http://www.the-review.com/news/article/2929162>]

Judge Robert Lavery, although perplexed at the cost of upholstering a chair, convicted a former library official of theft. Magdaline Engle, former director of the Rodman Public Library in Alliance, Ohio, will start serving her 10 days in jail January 17. Lavery found her guilty of stealing four chairs from the facility, and having them reupholstered and delivered to her home at the library's expense. She told Lavery it was her intention to reimburse the library for the \$2,088 cost....

Alliance (Ohio) Review, Dec. 1

Gunpowder Plot “skin” book sold

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/south_yorkshire/7124761.stm]

A private buyer paid £5,400 (\$11,100 U.S.) at a December 2 auction for a book alleged to be bound in the skin of a Jesuit priest executed over the 1605 Gunpowder Plot. The macabre lot, deemed "a bit spooky" by auctioneer Sid Wilkinson of Doncaster, South Yorkshire, has the mysterious image of a face on the cover, said to be that of Father Henry Garnet. A True And Perfect Relation of the Whole Proceedings against the Late Most Barbarous Traitors, Garnet a Iesuite and His Confederats [sic] was printed by Robert Barker, printer to the king, and published in 1606, only months after Garnet's execution....

BBC News, Nov. 27, Dec. 3

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[<http://www.hwwilson.com>]
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Tech Talk
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E-book malaise

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

Andrew Pace writes: “One of the phrases that I used to use about e-books is ‘the second mouse always gets the cheese.’ I thought that for sure early failures in e-book devices would lead to the perfect handheld device, software that made digital reading a pleasure, and a DRM acceptable to most libraries—or at least their patrons. I sincerely thought that by now we would have a device that smelled like a paperback, and we still don’t have anything that even feels like one.”...

Hectic Pace, Dec. 3

Edit your photos directly in Flickr

[<http://lifehacker.com/software/flickr/edit-your-photos-directly-in-flickr-330034.php>]

Popular photo sharing website Flickr has partnerted with online image editing website Picnik to integrate photo editing directly in your Flickr account. To use it, just log into your Flickr account, click on a picture, and then click the new Edit Photo button. When you do, you'll be asked if you want to enable Picnik to open. It allows you to crop, rotate, resize, sharpen, correct red-eye, and tons more from the comfort of your Flickr account....

Lifehacker, Dec. 4

Bubble 2.0: The video [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fi4fzvQ6I-o>]

The Richter Scales offer an amusing video (2:43), “Here Comes Another Bubble,” that describes the current state of web technology to the tune of “We Didn’t Start the Fire”: Need a good domain name / Must be cheap, can’t be lame / Something cool like flickr, meebo, / wikiyou, mahalo, bebo....

YouTube, Dec. 3

A big list of sites that teach you how to do stuff

[http://www.readwriteweb.com/archives/tutorial_sites.php]

Josh Catone writes: “The Web offers a large number of helpful sites that teach you how to do things. These are do-it-yourself sites, but we’re not talking about building a deck or baking a cake. In this horribly-titled, but hopefully useful round-up we will specifically focus on such general-purpose sites that include some sort of rich media instruction (generally video).”...

Read/Write Web, Nov. 28

Faster data entry in Excel

[<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2704,2224429,00.asp>]

Anytime you can enter data without having to type it yourself, you improve accuracy and save yourself effort. There are plenty of opportunities in Excel to enter data in a faster and smarter way than via the keyboard. Helen Bradley offers a few tips on custom-fill lists, drop downs, and forms....

PC Magazine, Nov. 14

50 more things to do with Google Maps mashups

[<http://googlemapsmania.blogspot.com/2007/12/50-more-things-to-do-with-google-maps.html>]

Mike Pegg has come up with another set of ways to use Google Maps creatively, among them: find a Wi-Fi hotspot [<http://hotspotr.com/wifi>] in the U.S., find a public toilet, [<http://safe2pee.org/beta/>] explore and map the Bible, [<http://www.biblemap.org/>] find a U.S. mailbox, [<http://www.mailboxmap.com/>] find a place to eat, [<http://www.toeat.com/>] find out who is sick [<http://whoissick.org/sickness/>] around you, and make your own map [http://www.google.com/intl/en_us/help/maps/tour/#create_a_map]....
Google Maps Mania, Dec. 3

Special characters in HTML and XHTML [<http://www.cookwood.com/entities/>] Elizabeth Castro offers a set of tables containing the 252 allowed special characters in HTML 4 and XHTML 1.0, as described in section 24 [<http://www.w3.org/TR/html401/sgml/entities.html>] of the official HTML 4 specifications. Keep this handy if you are coding accented characters, punctuation, math, or Greek....
World Wide Web Consortium

Actions & Answers

skews its data [http://www.futureofthebook.org/blog/archives/2007/11/reading_responsibly_nancy_kaplan.html]
Nancy Kaplan points out that the National Endowment for the Arts has distorted the data it used in its recent report, which concluded that reading proficiency is declining and the number of people who choose to read books in their leisure time is also declining: "Despite the numerous charts, graphs, and tables in To Read or Not to Read, a careful and responsible reading of the complete data provided by the National Assessment of Educational Progress and the National Assessments of Adult Literacy undermine the conclusions the NEA draws."...
if:book, Nov. 30

LC report available for comment [<http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/news/draft-report.html>]
You can now read and comment on the draft final report (PDF file [<http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/news/lcwg-report-draft-11-30-07-final.pdf>]) of the Library of Congress Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control. The period for public comment on the report is open until December 15. Comments can be submitted via the website. Electronic submission of comments is encouraged. The group intends to submit the final report to the Library of Congress by January 9, 2008....
LC Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control, Nov. 30

The OCLC WorldMap [<http://www.oclc.org/research/projects/worldmap/default.htm>]
The OCLC WorldMap is a prototype system that provides an interactive visual tool for selecting and displaying international library holdings represented in WorldCat, and publishing, library, cultural heritage, and collection data. It allows users to select countries of interest, compare various library and cultural heritage data by country, and create graphs displaying data for up to four countries at a time....

Locating lawyers online [<http://www.llrx.com/features/locatinglawyers.htm>]
Scott Russell writes: "Obtaining background information on attorneys is a common question asked of law librarians. Yet as routine as it may sound, it isn't always as simple as going to Martindale Hubbell [<http://www.martindale.com/>]. While Martindale has long been a primary reference point for finding attorneys, some firms are opting out of the directory. Information on corporate counsel can prove even more difficult to locate. For instances where you cannot find an in-house or private practice lawyer in any other source, searching an online state bar directory may offer your best bet."...
LRRX, Nov. 24

A Casual Conversation with Meredith Farkas
[<http://www.opal-online.org/progschnono.htm>]
American Libraries columnist Meredith Farkas is distance learning librarian at Norwich University in Vermont. On December 7 at 2 p.m. Eastern time she will be participating in an OPAL Casual Conversation online program.
[<http://www.conference321.com/masteradmin/room.asp?id=rs1641902f62b4>] The Casual Conversations series allows leaders in various library fields to discuss informally what they currently are working on, their future plans and goals, the challenges and opportunities facing librarianship, and their personal pet peeves. Other upcoming programs will feature Curtis Rogers, Lori Bell, Michelle Boule, and Marshall Breeding....
Online Programming for All Libraries

Interview with Nancy Pearl
[http://lisradio.missouri.edu/view.php?id=393&type=summary&title=Nancy+Pearl+Interview&cast_date=November+26,+2007&pageBefore=archive]
Nancy Pearl, rock star librarian and model for the Librarian Action Figure, is interviewed (16:00) at the 2007 Missouri Library Association Conference by Karen Robinson. Pearl shares the story of how she was chosen to be the model for the Librarian Action Figure. What do you wear when you're being "digitized" to become a 5-inch plastic action figure?...
LISRadio webcast, Nov. 26

Special librarian salaries outpace inflation
[<http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/pressroom/pressrelease/07pr/pr2725.cfm>]
According to the results of a Special Libraries Association salary survey, average salary increases for SLA members in the United States and Canada have outpaced inflation once again. Based on salaries as of April 2007 for U.S. respondents, the increase in salaries for 2007 over 2006 was 5.1%. This is 1.1% higher than the increase from 2005 to 2006. The average salary for U.S. members who answered the survey was \$69,446, compared with \$67,400 reported in 2006....
Special Libraries Association, Dec. 4

Duct-tape addiction [<http://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/?p=130>]
Angela Reynolds writes: "I'm addicted to duct tape, and it is all the library's fault. During Teen Read Week, I put together some duct-tape programs, and had so much fun looking at the amazing creations

that teenagers came up with and making my first-ever duct-tape wallet. I also found out about clear duct tape—and now, I am addicted.”...
ALSC Blog, Dec. 3

Vote for the best video and comic

[<http://web.mac.com/ndowd/iWeb/Comic%20Contest/Contest%20submissions.html>]

The New Jersey State Library has opened up voting for the best “How I Have Fun at My Library” video and comic submitted by teens in the state.

All you have to do is go to the contest site and click on the YouTube Video icon, read the comics, view the videos, and cast your vote. Not only do you get to vote, you’ll also see the results immediately. Voting ends December 31....

New Jersey State Library

[http://www.philosophersguild.com/index.lasso?page_mode=Product_Detail&item=0032] Holiday gift guide

[http://www.laughinglibrarian.com/2007_12_01_archive.html]

Brian Smith offers this selection of holiday gifts, many of them irreverent, that you might want to consider if you’re doing last-minute online shopping. Included are such novelties as giant plush microbes, a potty chair with a book rack, an Orcish librarian card, illustrated librarian temporary tats, Dorothy Parker martini glasses (right), and a book safe....

The Laughing Librarian, Dec. 1

Melvil Dewey’s Library Bureau

[<http://www.libraryhistorybuff.org/library-bureau.htm>]

The Library Bureau and its predecessors were the first significant providers of library supplies and “fittings” for America’s libraries. Although this envelope, mailed in 1885 to the Librarian of Cornell University, indicates that the Library Bureau was founded by Melvil Dewey in 1876, it was not legally established under that name until 1881. Visit Larry Nix’s website to see items from an 1886 Library Bureau supply catalog....

Library History Buff

[<http://www.kingsley.com>]

=====
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/midwinter/2008/geninfo.htm>]

ALA Midwinter Meeting

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/midwinter/2008/home.htm>] in Philadelphia, January 11–16. The full daily schedule

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/midwinter/2008/sessions.htm>]

is now available in an Excel file (locations will be available on the Event Planner, to be posted later).

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=product_detail&_op=2342]

It's no accident that *Academic Librarianship by Design*, [http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=product_detail&_op=2342] by Steven J. Bell and John D. Shank, is a big hit. Scenarios, case studies, and profiles throughout the book illustrate the successes that "blended librarians" are having on campuses. And check out Steven Bell's design video, [<http://stevenbell.info/designvidpage.htm>] "Design Thinking: How a Design Approach Can Help Create Better User Experiences," as a free online supplement. NEW! From ALA Editions.

ACRL has a New Member Wiki, [http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/ACRL_New_Member_Wiki] designed to guide new members of the division. The topics were suggested by more than 200 new members who attended the ACRL 101 program in Washington, D.C., in June 2007. ACRL members are welcome to add new content, exchange information, and help expand and develop the site.

In this issue
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Health-Information Literacy

The 1918 Influenza Pandemic

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Top 10 Library Stories of 2007

Michael Gorman on RDA

Last week to take our news survey

American Libraries and the ALA Washington Office want to find out how to serve your news needs better. Take this brief survey [<http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB2276WMTEKR5>] and tell us how you use the suite of services that the two offices provide.

Career Leads from
[<http://joblist.ala.org/>]

Librarian for Law of the Islamic World,
[<http://joblist.ala.org/modules/jobseeker/controller.cfm?scr=jobdetail&jobid=8732>] Harvard Law School. Under the general direction of the Cataloging Services Librarian, this position bears primary responsibility for

building and organizing the Library's collections of materials on Islamic law and the positive law of the Islamic world. Also catalogs Arabic monographs, serials, and electronic resources....

@ More jobs [<http://joblist.ala.org/>]...

Visit ALA's three new Library Champions [<http://www.ala.org/ala/supportforala/librarychampions/librarychampions.htm>] at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/supportforala/librarychampions/currentchampions/greenwood.htm>]
Booth 1342

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/supportforala/librarychampions/currentchampions/ReferenceUSA.htm>]
Booth 437

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/supportforala/librarychampions/currentchampions/tutorcom.htm>]
Booth 1253

Ten ways adults can support teen reading

The number of 17-year-olds who say they never read for pleasure has doubled in the past 20 years to 19%. But good reading habits start at home and at the library. Here are ten ways

[<http://www.ilovelibraries.org/news/topstories/teenreading.cfm>] that YALSA suggests can help teens get interested in reading.

Digital Library of the Week

[http://catich.sau.edu/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=%2FCatich&CISOPTR=845&DMSCALE=100.00000&DMWIDTH=600&DMHEIGHT=600&DMMODE=viewer&DMFULL=0&DMOLDSCALE=46.29630&DMX=0&DMY=0&DMTEXT=&DMTHUMB=1&REC=19&DMROTATE=0&x=77&y=146]

The Catich Collection [<http://catich.sau.edu/>] at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, provides digital access to the artwork of Fr. Edward Catich (1906–1979), one of the world's finest calligraphers. Catich was known as an international authority on stone incising, typography, and stained glass fabrication, and as the foremost authority on the Roman alphabet, its origin, nature, and history. The university owns nearly 5,000 Catich works, ranging from sketch books and small drawings to major

pieces of art: primarily watercolors, ink drawings, and carved slates. A long-term goal of this project is to promote public and scholarly awareness of his achievements and to develop a broader appreciation for the aesthetics of his work.

Do you know of a digital library collection that we can mention in this AL Direct feature? Tell us about it. [mailto:aldirect@ala.org]

Public Perception
How the World
Sees Us

“Banning has precedents. There was the obvious Nazi fondness for bonfires. Perhaps, more aptly, in the 17th century Catholic missionaries in Central America burned all Mayan books because they thought their words were the language of the devil. As a result, only five texts in the Mayan language survive. In Halton Region’s defence, I don’t think any public school board was involved in the incident.”

?Drew Hayden Taylor, commenting on the Halton, Ontario, Catholic school board’s decision to pull Philip Pullman’s *The Golden Compass* from library shelves because of the author’s professed atheism, in *Toronto’s Now* magazine, Nov. 29.

Ask the ALA Librarian

Q. When will there be a revised AACR?

A. The Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, maintained by the Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR, [http://www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/index.html] are being replaced by a new standard: RDA: Resource Description and Access, [http://www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/rda.html#background] scheduled for release in early 2009. The current text of AACR [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Cataloging_and_Classification] is the Second Edition, 2002 Revision (with 2003, 2004, and 2005 updates) which incorporates all changes approved by the JSC through February 2005. The rules are published by ALA, the Canadian Library Association, and CILIP. The current text may be purchased [http://www.aacr2.org/] through the publisher appropriate to your location (for the U.S. and Mexico, it’s the American Library Association. [http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=sub_category&_op=25] See the ALA Professional Tips wiki [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Revised_Cataloging_Rules] for more....

@ The ALA Librarian [<mailto:AskTheLibrarian@ala.org>] welcomes your questions.

Calendar

Mar. 2–4:

Ohio Digital Commons for Education 2008 Conference [<http://www.ohn.org/conferences/ODCE2008>], Columbus. “The Convergence of Learning, Libraries, and Technology.”

Mar. 5–7:

WebWise Conference, [<http://www.ims.gov/news/2007/082307.shtm>] Miami Beach, Florida. “WebWise 2.0: The Power of Community.”

Mar. 6–7:

The Emerging Research Library: Our Role in the Digital Future [<http://libraries.ou.edu/conference>], University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City. Register by Feb. 15.

Mar. 12–14:

South Carolina Association of School Librarians [<http://www.scasl.net>], Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. “Power Up @ your library.”

Mar. 14–15:

Northern Illinois University Children’s Literature Conference [http://www.cedu.niu.edu/oep/children_lit.html], DeKalb. “Male Call: Boys and Books.”

Mar. 18–21:

Electronic Resources and Libraries [<http://www.electroniclibrarian.org/ocs/index.php/erl/2008>], Atlanta, Georgia.

Mar. 19–22:

Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association Conference [<http://www.pcaaca.org/>], San Francisco Marriott. “Libraries, Archives, and Popular Culture.”

Mar. 24–28:

American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting and Exhibition [http://www.aera.net/meetings/Default.aspx?menu_id=342&id=2936], New York City. “Research on Schools, Neighborhoods, and Communities: Toward Civic Responsibility.”

@ More [<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/calendar/calendar.cfm>]...

Contact Us

American Libraries Direct

AL Direct is a free electronic newsletter emailed every Wednesday to personal members of the American Library Association [<http://www.ala.org>].

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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.

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american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | December 12, 2007

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SCHOOLROOMS
A new learning portal for K-12

- ✓ Teacher-selected Content
- ✓ 71 Subjects – Aligned to Curriculum
- ✓ 3 Million High-quality Sites Searchable



american
libraries
BUYERS GUIDE

U.S. & World News

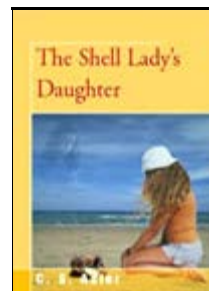
[King and King reigns in Pennsylvania](#)

After several rounds of consideration, the board of Lower Macungie (Pa.) Library decided November 29 to keep *King and King* by Linda de Haan and Stern Nijland in the children's section. Parents Eileen and Jeff Issa had asked the library to remove the book from circulation due to its homosexual content, and collected about 40 signatures from like-minded residents....



[Shell Lady still nestles in Wyoming schools](#)

A reconsideration committee for the Campbell County (Wyo.) School District voted 11–2 December 3 to keep C. S. Adler's *The Shell Lady's Daughter* districtwide. Parent Sarah Foster challenged the book after her daughter read it in 2006 when she was a 4th-grader at Wagonwheel Elementary School, arguing that the book's discussion of sexual thoughts and actions, lying to parents, and suicide were inappropriate for elementary-school students....



[Update on Sandia National Labs library](#)

David Williams, director of information solutions and services for Sandia National Laboratories Technical Library in New Mexico, told the ALA Washington Office that the library has not been properly cared for or funded for a while. His intent all along has been to provide a continuity of library services. Unfortunately, the recent decision to close the physical collection was based on statistics that did not accurately reflect how the materials were being used. Steps have now been taken to ensure that there is continued physical access to the books....

District Dispatch blog, Dec. 11



www.kingsley.com



[ALA Midwinter Meeting](#)
in Philadelphia, January 11–16.



[Cognotes](#) is the daily newspaper of the ALA

HOW DO YOU MAINTAIN PUBLIC COMPUTERS?
Librarians want to know.

Tell
US

MaintainIT

www.maintainITproject.org

ALA News

[Proposed changes to ALA Code of Ethics](#)

ALA's Code of Ethics will be 70 years old in 2009. In anticipation of this important anniversary, the Committee on Professional Ethics is proposing changes in Articles III, IV, and V. In addition, on the advice of ALA's legal counsel, COPE believes that the best approach is that libraries adopt the Code as part of their policy, thus making it enforceable on a local level. These proposals will be discussed at an open hearing on Sunday, January 13, 4–6 p.m., in the Petite Ballroom at Philadelphia's Ritz Carlton Hotel...

[Martin Luther King Jr. Sunrise Celebration](#)

Ganga B. Dakshinamurti, librarian at the Albert Cohen Management Library in the University of Manitoba's Asper School of Business, will be the keynote speaker of the sixth annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sunrise Celebration, January 14, 6:30–7:30 a.m., at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Room 113. The theme for this year is "A Challenging Inspiration Lighting Our Way: From Gandhi to King Jr. to Us."...



[An evening with Anthony Lewis](#)

The Freedom to Read Foundation, in cooperation with the National Constitution Center, will present an evening with Anthony Lewis on January 14, in conjunction with the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia. Lewis, a visiting professor at Columbia University since 1983, is one of the country's preeminent First Amendment experts and the winner of two Pulitzer Prizes....



[ALA reasserts role of libraries in e-government](#)

In a December 11 statement ([PDF file](#)) to the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, ALA addressed the critical yet unacknowledged role public libraries play in delivering e-government services to the American people. Increasingly, government agencies refer individuals to their local public libraries for assistance and access to the internet for citizen-government interactions. Yet public libraries are not considered members of the e-government team....

[OLA: The first 100 days](#)

ALA's newest office, the [Office for Library Advocacy](#), became official at the start of ALA's fiscal year, September 1. Its existence is a direct response to ALA member needs identified through a number of surveys over the last several years. Under the direction of interim director Marci Merola (right), OLA's purpose is to support the efforts of library advocates at the local, state, and national level....

ALA Marginalia blog, Dec. 10



Midwinter Meeting. It will be published Friday through Monday in Philadelphia and posted on the [ALA website](#) every day, with a Highlights issue mailed to all ALA members following the meeting.



Heroic reader [Sendhil Ramamurthy](#), who plays genetics professor Mohinder Suresh on the blockbuster television series *Heroes*, is featured with the Hardy Boys novel, *The Tower Treasure*, on this READ poster. **NEW! From ALA Graphics.**

How does your library use the results of evaluation to improve your Virtual Reference service? The RUSA/MARS Management of Electronic Resources and Services Committee would like you to share your successes through a [Virtual Poster Session](#). The deadline is January 3. Contact [Kathryn Millis](#) for more details.

In this issue

December 2007

[National Library Legislative Day 2008](#)

Come to Washington, D.C., May 13–14, and join hundreds of library supporters from across the country visiting members of Congress. National Library Legislative Day is a two-day event in which people who care about libraries participate in advocacy and issue training sessions, interact with Capitol Hill insiders, and visit congressional member offices to ask Congress to pass legislation that supports libraries. And don't forget, there's [Virtual Library Legislative Day](#)....

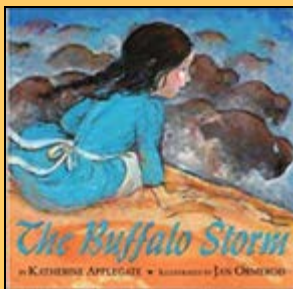
Booklist

ONLINE

[Featured review: Books for youth](#)

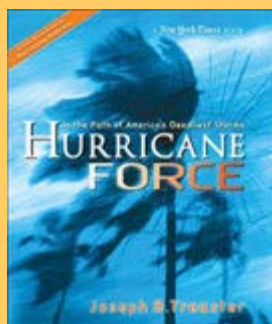
Applegate, Katherine. *The Buffalo Storm*. Illustrated by Jan Ormerod. Oct. 2007. 32p. PreS-Grade 2. Clarion, hardcover (978-0-618-53597-2).

Best known for titles in the Animorphs and Everworld series, Applegate writes a moving picture-book account of a pioneer family's journey. Young Hallie, who fears nothing, "except maybe storms," is excited that her family will be heading west to Oregon. Her beloved grandmother, who will stay behind, gives her images to look forward to: "You'll see buffalo, child, too many to count!" On the trail, the days are challenging, the storms are terrifying, and Hallie aches for her grandmother. Then, at a stop in Wyoming, Hallie finds a buffalo calf trapped in the rocks....



[Sci-tech top 10 books for youth](#)

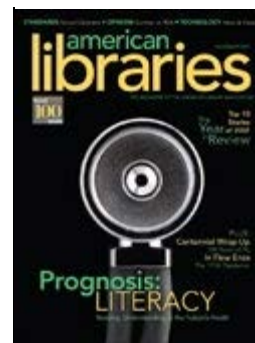
Animals—from exotic, venomous snakes to familiar, fuzzy house pets—dominate the pages of this year's best science books for youth, all reviewed in *Booklist* during the last year. Young readers concerned about climate change, *Booklist* editor Gillian Engberg writes, will also find several exciting titles to guide their research and personal reading, including *Hurricane Force*, by Joseph B. Treaster, which offers a gripping photo-essay that blends the grim particulars of the tragedy with meteorological science and hurricane history....



@ Visit [Booklist Online](#) for other reviews and much more....

Philadelphia Update

[The Library Company of Philadelphia](#)



Health-Information Literacy

The 1918 Influenza Pandemic

Highlights from 100 Years of AL History

Top 10 Library Stories of 2007

Michael Gorman on RDA



Nancy F. Stimson writes about how big library changes, like a building renovation, offer an opportunity to [reexamine the library brand](#)—in the December 2007 issue of ACRL's *College & Research Libraries News*.

Career Leads from

JobLIST

[Library Technologies and Content](#)

The Library Company houses over half a million rare books, manuscripts, pamphlets, broadsides, prints, and photographs relating to early American history. Founded in 1731 by Benjamin Franklin as a subscription library, the Library Company regularly presents exhibitions in its Louise Lux-Sions and Harry Sions Gallery, located off the lobby. The exhibitions are an easy way to discover some of the Library Company's many treasures....



[The Academy of Natural Sciences](#)

The Ewell Sale Stewart Library at the Academy of Natural Sciences is open to the public by appointment only, Monday through Friday from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Call (215) 299-1040 or [email](#) to inquire about a visit during Midwinter. Each Friday afternoon, a member of the library staff turns a page of Audubon's historic *The Birds of America*. It takes 8.5 years to page through the 435 plates, one week at a time....



[A book lover's walking tour of the Historic District](#)

Follow this suggested path to visit literary, printing, and publishing sites around Independence Hall and Washington Square. The tour can take anywhere from 90 minutes to all day, depending on how long you linger. All sites are free of charge unless otherwise noted.

Download a printable tour map ([PDF file](#))....

Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries

[The Athenæum of Philadelphia](#)

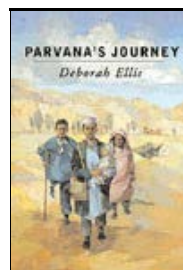
Visit the Athenæum's special photographic exhibit, "Palazzos of Power: The Generating Stations of the Philadelphia Electric Company, 1900–1930," open during Midwinter. These great power plants along the banks of the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers represent a singular building type, with an architectural vocabulary that simultaneously evokes Beaux Arts tradition and cutting-edge modernity....



Division News

[If you liked The Kite Runner...](#)

To coincide with the December 14 release of *The Kite Runner*, the film adaptation of Khaled Hosseini's best-selling novel, YALSA has created a list of companion titles to recommend to teens who are interested in reading more about Afghanistan. *The Kite Runner* was named one of YALSA's 2004 Alex Award winners, which honor adult books with specific teen appeal....



[YALSA Midwinter Gaming Extravaganza](#)

Check out the latest and greatest in video, tabletop, and role-playing games at the third annual YALSA Midwinter Gaming Extravaganza on Friday, January 11. Sponsored by Dungeons & Dragons, the extravaganza is the official kickoff event for Teen Tech Week 2008, to be held March 2–8....

Manager, City of Scottsdale, Arizona, provides direction and leadership for the delivery of library services in four essential areas: information technologies including library automation systems; print, electronic, and digital collection development; cataloging and acquisitions; and virtual library services including website development....

@ [More jobs...](#)



Looking to improve your advocacy skills? Want to meet fellow library supporters from across the country? Get the tools to become an effective library advocate at the [Midwinter Meeting Advocacy Institute](#), January 11, in Philadelphia.

Digital Library of the Week



The [Digital Library of Georgia](#) is an initiative based at the University of Georgia Libraries that

[YALSA launches diversity campaign](#)

Thanks to an ALA grant to fund initiatives that support the ALAhead to 2010 strategic plan, YALSA has launched YALSA Unity: A Diversity Initiative. The \$8,000 grant, along with \$1,000 in funding from YALSA, will support a Young Adult Services Spectrum Scholar, establish a new conference scholarship for a member with a diverse background, and recruit young adult librarians at ALA affiliate conferences and events....

Round Table News

Round Table activities at Midwinter

Many of the ALA round tables have listed their activities at the Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia on their websites. See, for example, the [Continuing Library Education Network and Exchange Round Table](#), the [Government Documents Round Table](#), the [International Relations Round Table](#), the [Library History Round Table](#), the [Library Support Staff Interests Round Table](#), the [Map and Geography Round Table](#), and the [Video Round Table](#).

Awards

[Barbara M. Jones wins Downs IF Award](#)

Wesleyan University Librarian Barbara M. Jones has received the 2007 Robert B. Downs Intellectual Freedom Award, given by the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Her work on behalf of the Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression has taken her to several different countries to present workshops on access to HIV/AIDS information, internet access, and libraries in the fight against government corruption....



University of Illinois GSLIS, Dec. 3

[2007 Mellon awards for technology collaboration](#)



The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation on December 10 awarded \$650,000 in prizes to 10 not-for-profit institutions in the second annual Mellon Awards for Technology Collaboration. The awards honor organizations for leadership in the collaborative development of open source software tools with application to scholarship in the arts and humanities. The Georgia Public Library Service was given an award for developing the Evergreen open-source library automation system....

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Dec. 10

[Nominate someone for a psychology librarianship award](#)

The American Psychological Association seeks nominations for the 2008 APA Excellence in Librarianship Award, which will be presented at the ACRL Educational and Behavioral Sciences Section Research Forum at ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim. The award recognizes an outstanding contribution to psychology and behavioral sciences librarianship....

American Psychological Association, Dec. 10

connects users to 500,000 digital objects in 105 collections from 60 institutions and 100 government agencies. Users can browse by topic, time period, county, institution, media type, or collection. One of the collections is [Vanishing Georgia](#), comprising nearly 18,000 photographs. Ranging from daguerreotypes to Kodachrome prints, the images span over 100 years of Georgia history. The broad subject matter of these photographs, shot by both amateurs and professionals, includes family and business life, school and civic activities, important individuals and events in Georgia history, and landscapes. The wide variety of the collected visual images results from efforts by archivists from the Georgia Division of Archives and History who sought, between 1975 and 1996, to preserve Georgia's endangered historical photographs.

Do you know of a digital library collection that we can mention in this *AL Direct* feature? [Tell us about it.](#)

Public Perception

How the World Sees Us

"I've gotten more email, more postcards, more mail, more phone calls, and more stops on the streets and in the stores on that subject alone"

[Coming Up Taller award nominations](#)

Nominations are being accepted for the 2008 Coming Up Taller awards that recognize and reward outstanding after-school, out-of-school, and summer arts and humanities programs for underserved children and youth. The program, in its 11th year, is sponsored by 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....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Dec. 6



Seen Online

[Indianapolis Central Library reopens](#)

With a flourish of trumpets, hundreds of people poured into the Indianapolis Central Library December 9, the first chance for the general public to set foot in the facility in five years. Visitors walked through the painstakingly restored 1917 Paul Cret building and then into the glass atrium, which leads to the new six-story addition with its floor-to-ceiling glass walls. Concrete problems led to cost overruns and a delay in finishing the project, but now the library is back in business, and one Seattle [architecture critic](#) calls it "a stunningly good building."...

Indianapolis Star, Dec. 9-10



[Space crunch hurts Stanford's East Asian collection](#)

When an aging library is torn down, Stanford University's historic East Asian collection will suddenly find itself homeless. The collection comprises 520,000 Chinese, Japanese, and Korean volumes that now reside in the 41-year-old Meyer Library—a seismically unsafe structure slated for demolition within the next several years....

San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News, Dec. 9



[Golden Compass needles Oshkosh](#)

At least one school in the Oshkosh, Wisconsin, area has temporarily pulled the novel *The Golden Compass* from its library shelves over concerns about what critics call its "anti-Christian message." Mary Miller, media specialist at St. John Neumann Middle School and Lourdes High School, said she has taken the series off the shelf at the shared school library because she wants to have a chance to read them and decide for herself if they are appropriate for students....

Oshkosh (Wis.) Northwestern, Dec. 7

[Sandpiper wades through Alabama challenge](#)

The novel *Sandpiper* by Ellen Wittlinger will stay on

than I have anything else in the entire seven years I have been on the council."

—Butte County (Calif.) Councilman Larry Wahl on the public outcry after county officials proposed eliminating funding for the Chico library, NBC affiliate KNTV-TV, Chico, Nov. 27.

Spectrum Doctoral Fellowship

Know someone interested in a dynamic career in library and information science education, research, or executive-level administration? The [Spectrum Doctoral Fellowship program](#) is currently accepting applications for students beginning doctoral studies in the fall of 2008. The fellowship provides full tuition and annual stipends of \$20,000 for the first two years of study at 10 participating institutions. The deadline to apply is **January 18**.

Ask the ALA Librarian



Q. We're reviewing our policies on overdue fines. Do you have anything to help?

A. Several state libraries and

Brookwood High library shelves—but not necessarily because the Tuscaloosa County (Ala.) school board wants it there. After three months of debate and conflict over the book, the board announced December 10 that it would remain because of U.S. Supreme Court rulings that found that students' first amendment rights can be directly affected by the removal of books from a school library....

Tuscaloosa (Ala.) News, Dec. 11



[Salinas looks to expansion](#)

Just a few years ago, the Salinas (Calif.) Public Library system was on the brink of collapse. Today, it's entertaining ambitious strategies for growth. On December 11, the Salinas City Council heard plans to expand the existing three library branches, and ultimately, to add a fourth in a future housing development in the city's northeast. Salinas libraries soon will be better able to serve all city residents, Library Director Elizabeth Martinez told the council....

Salinas Californian, Dec. 12

[Former director jailed for chair theft](#)

Ten days in jail is what the former executive director of Rodman Public Library in Alliance, Ohio, will serve after being found guilty of taking chairs out of the library. Magdaline Engle, who resigned in mid-November from her job at the library, was convicted recently in municipal court of misdemeanor theft. Judge Robert Lavery, while suspending 20 days of the 30-day sentence, decided Engle should be incarcerated for 10 days in the Stark County Jail....

Canton (Ohio) Repository, Dec. 12

[Enterprising Alabama teen restocks Kansas library](#)

Thinking of possible projects to earn his Eagle Scout status, 17-year-old Christopher Skrzypczak of Enterprise, Alabama, began considering a book drive late last April. But after he heard of the May 4 tornado that flattened Greensburg, Kansas, he vowed to send the Kiowa County Library as many books as he could. When he visited Greensburg on November 23, the trailer he'd towed from Alabama was filled with more than 500 books....

Kiowa County (Kans.) Signal, Nov. 28

[Lost Boy works to build Sudanese library](#)

A civil war refugee from Sudan who eventually settled in Fargo, North Dakota, is realizing a dream of building a library in his homeland. Justin Machien Luoi was one of thousands of Sudanese who went to refugee camps in neighboring countries and became known as the Lost Boys. He returned last spring to the African village he'd fled on foot 20 years before as a child. It was a joyous reunion with family members and an early milestone in a development project with ties to Concordia College, where Luoi graduated last spring....

Fargo (N.Dak.) Forum, Dec. 9

[Library Man pontificates again](#)

Brad Barker, school library media specialist at Mark Twain Junior High School, sets Modestans straight on library matters: "Q. Dear Library Man: Is it your ambition to become the powerful Librarian of Congress? A. You caught me. These 21 years at a junior high library in west Modesto have just been a stepping stone in my scheme to dominate the library universe."...

Webjunction have assembled [collections of sample policies](#)—and these are as varied as the libraries preparing them. Some can also be found with this pre-structured [web search](#) and additional tips may be found in the [Fines and Overdues](#) portion of this wiki. See the [ALA Professional Tips wiki](#) for more....

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

Calendar

Apr. 7–9:

[Computers in Libraries](#), Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, Virginia.

Apr. 9–12:

[Museums and the Web](#), Montreal, Quebec.

Apr. 10–14:

[Information Architecture Summit](#), Miami. "Experiencing Information."

Apr. 13–16:

[TechEd 2008](#), Ontario, California. "Realizing the Vision."

Apr. 15–18:

[Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians](#), Annual Conference, Holiday Inn, Manitowoc.

Modesto (Calif.) Bee, Dec. 10

Biography Index
Retrospective 1946-1983

40 Years of Wilson's Classic Biography Reference


H.W. Wilson
www.hwwilson.com

Tech Talk

[How the next billion users will reshape the Net](#)

Michael Geist writes: "With more than a billion internet users worldwide, doubling that number—which should happen within the next decade—will have a profound effect on the network, technology, the computer software industry, access to knowledge, and our environment. Most new internet users will not speak English as their first language, which should lead to increased pressure to accommodate different languages within the domain name system. Moreover, many new users will have different cultural and societal views on hot-button issues such as online free speech, privacy, and copyright."...

Toronto Star, Dec. 10

[15 media managers to organize your photos](#)

Techlicious reviews 15 software packages that help you organize, modify, and access your digital content, including Picasa, CompuPic Pro, VisiPics, and Image Dupeless (which helps you search for and identify duplicate images based on their content, not depending on sizes, formats, and resolutions)....

Techlicious.tv, Dec.



[Ask.com offers private searches](#)

Will privacy sell? Ask.com is betting it will. The fourth-largest search engine company began a service called [AskEraser](#), which allows users to make their searches more private. The major search engines typically keep track of search terms typed by users and link them to a computer's internet address, and sometimes to the user. However, when AskEraser is turned on, Ask.com discards all that information....

New York Times, Dec. 11

[CoveritLive](#)

Emily Chang recommends [CoveritLive](#) to "broadcast an event live on your blog or website for free. Embedding a bit of code in your blog or website gives your readers a resizable window to interact with you as you cover your live event. Show photos, cue videos, or run polls during your broadcast. Allows you to search for media using Google while you're on the air." Freeware, for now at least....

Emily Chang's eHub, Dec. 6

[Time to believe in the god box?](#)

Jon Oltsik writes: "A 'god box' is a single system packed with ridiculous amounts of functionality. Think of an all-in-one television, cable box, TiVo, and home entertainment speaker system and you get the idea. In the past, god boxes were always either underpowered or overpriced. Times have changed. No, we aren't quite yet at a point where the industry can produce Scott McNealy's

Apr. 17–18:

[Center for Summer Learning](#), National Conference, Hyatt Regency, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Apr. 26:

[University of South Carolina Celebration of Latino Children's Literature Conference](#), Columbia.

Apr. 30–

May 3:

[Living the Future Conference](#), Sheraton Hotel and Suites, Tucson. "Transforming Libraries Through Collaboration."

May 1–3:

[LOEX 2008](#), Oak Brook, Illinois.

"Librarian as Architect: Planning, Building, and Renewing."

May 7–8:

[Amigos Conference and Vendor Fair](#), Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dallas.

May 8–10:

[GLBT Archives, Libraries, Museums, and Special Collections Conference](#), City University of New York.

May 14–17:

[National Genealogical Society](#), Annual Conference, Kansas City, Missouri.

July 24–27:

[Digipalooza '08](#), OverDrive partner libraries' user group conference, Cleveland, Ohio. Contact: [Shannon Mangan](#).

visionary 'big honkin' Web switch,' but we are getting closer."...
C|Net news blog, Dec. 10

Actions & Answers

[Yahoo! Answers: 120 million users can be wrong](#)

Jacob Leibenluft writes: "While Yahoo! Answers is a valuable window into how people look for information online, it looks like a complete disaster as a traditional reference tool. It encourages bad research habits, rewards people who post things that aren't true, and frequently labels factual errors as correct information. It's every librarian's worst nightmare about the Web."...

Slate, Dec. 7

[On the LC Working Group report](#)

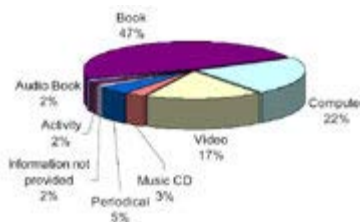
Diane Hillman writes: "In general I found the report ([PDF file](#)) to be an interesting mix of sound recommendations and blinkered thinking. Some of this was a result of the fact that although the Library of Congress commissioned this group, they have felt free to aim their recommendations to other organizations and the profession at large. This is the good news and the bad news: sometimes it was difficult to prise out of a recommendation why the WG chose to target a particular institution, other times the recommendations seemed well targeted and nicely put."...

Diane I. Hillman

[Challenged materials in Colorado public libraries](#) (PDF file)

In 2006, out of the 115 public libraries in Colorado, 23 reported that they received a formal challenge during the year. There were a total of 89 individual challenges to books, materials, events, exhibits, and internet-related services in the state's public libraries. There were 63 challenges to materials and events, which was the lowest number since 2003....

Fast Facts (Colorado Library Research Service), no. 254 (Dec. 6)



[Pay some attention to the research](#)

Steven Bell writes: "Academic librarianship's mainstream research journals are looking more like prizefighters in the twilight of their careers. As far as attracting readers, it seems like they're about to go down for the count at any moment. But every now and then an article will emerge from the pack that will grab your attention and have you kicking yourself for not coming up with that idea. In other words, you might actually learn something important. I came across two such articles recently."...

ACRLog, Dec. 10

[Survey on ethics in book reviewing](#)

According to a recent survey on book reviewing practices by the National Book Critics Circle, 76.5% of those responding think it's never ethical to review a book without reading the whole thing. And 52% think it's not okay for a book-review editor, in assigning books for review, to favor books by writers who also review regularly for that editor's book section....

Critical Mass blog, Dec. 10

[Blogs with a teen focus](#)

@ [More...](#)

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Library
Association

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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.

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In this YALSA podcast (53:32, [mp3 file](#)), Crystal Niedzwiadek interviews two YA services librarians about their teen-oriented blogs—Stephanie Iser of the [Alternative Teen Services](#) blog, and Eli Neiburger, who runs the Ann Arbor (Mich.) District Library's [Gaming Blog](#)...

YALSA Podcast, no. 29 (Dec. 9)

[Threadless t-shirts checked out too many times](#)

This clever t-shirt design by Mike Sayre circulated so well that the company is now out of stock. But if enough people want a second chance, Threadless is offering to reprint them. Click on your size and await an email response. Then again, they have a few [other offerings](#)....

Threadless



AL Direct, December 12, 2007

Having trouble viewing this HTML e-mail? Click here [[util.viewHtmlLink %>\].](#)]

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | December 12, 2007

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[<http://www.schoolrooms.net>]

[<http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com>]

U.S. & World News

reigns in Pennsylvania

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/december2007/kingreigns.cfm>]

After several rounds of consideration, the board of Lower Macungie (Pa.) Library decided November 29 to keep King and King by Linda de Haan and Stern Nijland in the children's section. Parents Eileen and Jeff Issa had asked the library to remove the book from circulation due to its homosexual content, and collected about 40 signatures from like-minded residents....

still nestles in Wyoming schools

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/december2007/shelllady.cfm>]

A reconsideration committee for the Campbell County (Wyo.) School District voted 11–2 December 3 to keep C. S. Adler's The Shell Lady's Daughter districtwide. Parent Sarah Foster challenged the book after her daughter read it in 2006 when she was a 4th-grader at

Wagonwheel Elementary School, arguing that the book's discussion of sexual thoughts and actions, lying to parents, and suicide were inappropriate for elementary-school students....

Update on Sandia National Labs library

[<http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=316>]

David Williams, director of information solutions and services for Sandia National Laboratories Technical Library in New Mexico, told the ALA Washington Office that the library has not been properly cared for or funded for a while. His intent all along has been to provide a continuity of library services. Unfortunately, the recent decision to close the physical collection was based on statistics that did not accurately reflect how the materials were being used. Steps have now been taken to ensure that there is continued physical access to the books....

District Dispatch blog, Dec. 11

[<http://www.maintainITproject.org>]

ALA News

Proposed changes to ALA Code of Ethics

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/ifgroups/cope/copeinaction/changestocode.htm>]

ALA's Code of Ethics will be 70 years old in 2009. In anticipation of this important anniversary, the Committee on Professional Ethics is proposing changes in Articles III, IV, and V. In addition, on the advice of ALA's legal counsel, COPE believes that the best approach is that libraries adopt the Code as part of their policy, thus making it enforceable on a local level. These proposals will be discussed at an open hearing on Sunday, January 13, 4–6 p.m., in the Petite Ballroom at Philadelphia's Ritz Carlton Hotel....

Martin Luther King Jr. Sunrise Celebration

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/mkjsc08.htm>]

Ganga B. Dakshinamurti, librarian at the Albert Cohen Management Library in the University of Manitoba's Asper School of Business, will be the keynote speaker of the sixth annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sunrise Celebration, January 14, 6:30–7:30 a.m., at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Room 113. The theme for this year is "A Challenging Inspiration Lighting Our Way: From Gandhi to King Jr. to Us."...

An evening with Anthony Lewis

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/freedom07.htm>]

The Freedom to Read Foundation, in cooperation with the National Constitution Center, will present an evening with Anthony Lewis on January 14, in conjunction with the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia. Lewis, a visiting professor at Columbia University since 1983, is one of the country's preeminent First Amendment experts and the winner of two Pulitzer Prizes....

ALA reasserts role of libraries in e-government

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/egov1207.htm>]

In a December 11 statement (PDF file

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/woissues/governmentinfo/egovernment/ALAEGovernmentStatem.pdf>]) to the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, ALA addressed the critical yet unacknowledged role public libraries play in delivering e-government services to the American people. Increasingly, government agencies refer individuals to their local public libraries for assistance and access to the internet for citizen-government interactions. Yet public libraries are not considered members of the e-government team....

OLA: The first 100 days

[<http://discuss.ala.org/marginalia/2007/12/10/ola-the-first-100-days/>]

ALA's newest office, the Office for Library Advocacy,

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/ola/index.cfm>] became official at the start of ALA's fiscal year, September 1. Its existence is a direct response to ALA member needs identified through a number of surveys over the last several years. Under the direction of interim director Marci Merola (right), OLA's purpose is to support the efforts of library advocates at the local, state, and national level....

ALA Marginalia blog, Dec. 10

National Library Legislative Day 2008

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washevents/nlld/nlld2008.cfm>]

Come to Washington, D.C., May 13–14, and join hundreds of library supporters from across the country visiting members of Congress. National Library Legislative Day is a two-day event in which people who care about libraries participate in advocacy and issue training sessions, interact with Capitol Hill insiders, and visit congressional member offices to ask Congress to pass legislation that supports libraries. And don't forget, there's Virtual Library Legislative Day

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washevents/nlld/virtuallibrarylegislative/day/vlld.cfm>]....

Featured review: Books for youth

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=2016204]

Applegate, Katherine. *The Buffalo Storm*. Illustrated by Jan Ormerod. Oct. 2007. 32p. PreS-Grade 2. Clarion, hardcover (978-0-618-53597-2).

Best known for titles in the *Animorphs* and *Everworld* series, Applegate writes a moving picture-book account of a pioneer family's journey. Young Hallie, who fears nothing, "except maybe storms," is excited that her family will be heading west to Oregon. Her beloved grandmother, who will stay behind, gives her images to look forward to: "You'll see buffalo, child, too many to count!" On the trail, the days are challenging, the storms are terrifying, and Hallie aches for her grandmother. Then, at a stop in Wyoming, Hallie finds a buffalo calf trapped in the rocks....

Sci-tech top 10 books for youth

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=2399903]

Animals—from exotic, venomous snakes to familiar, fuzzy house

pets—dominate the pages of this year’s best science books for youth, all reviewed in Booklist during the last year. Young readers concerned about climate change, Booklist editor Gillian Engberg writes, will also find several exciting titles to guide their research and personal reading, including Hurricane Force, by Joseph B. Treaster, which offers a gripping photo-essay that blends the grim particulars of the tragedy with meteorological science and hurricane history....

@ Visit Booklist Online [<http://www.booklistonline.com>] for other reviews and much more....

Philadelphia Update

The Library Company of Philadelphia

[<http://www.librarycompany.org/about/index.htm>]

The Library Company houses over half a million rare books, manuscripts, pamphlets, broadsides, prints, and photographs relating to early American history. Founded in 1731 by Benjamin Franklin as a subscription library, the Library Company regularly presents exhibitions in its Louise Lux-Sions and Harry Sions Gallery, located off the lobby. The exhibitions are an easy way to discover some of the Library Company’s many treasures....

The Academy of Natural Sciences [<http://www.anasp.org/library/visit.php>]

The Ewell Sale Stewart Library at the Academy of Natural Sciences is open to the public by appointment only, Monday through Friday from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Call (215) 299-1040 or email [<mailto:library@anasp.org>] to inquire about a visit during Midwinter. Each Friday afternoon, a member of the library staff turns a page of Audubon’s historic The Birds of America. It takes 8.5 years to page through the 435 plates, one week at a time....

A book lover’s walking tour of the Historic District

[http://www.pacscl.org/tours/historic_district/index.html]

Follow this suggested path to visit literary, printing, and publishing sites around Independence Hall and Washington Square. The tour can take anywhere from 90 minutes to all day, depending on how long you linger. All sites are free of charge unless otherwise noted. Download a printable tour map (PDF file

[http://www.pacscl.org/tours/historic_district/historic_district.pdf])....

Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries

The Athenæum of Philadelphia

[<http://www.athenaonline.org/upcoming.html>]

Visit the Athenæum’s special photographic exhibit, “Palazzos of Power: The Generating Stations of the Philadelphia Electric Company, 1900–1930,” open during Midwinter. These great power plants along the banks of the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers represent a singular building type, with an architectural vocabulary that simultaneously evokes Beaux Arts tradition and cutting-edge modernity....

Division News

...

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/companion07.htm>]

To coincide with the December 14 release of *The Kite Runner*, the film adaptation of Khaled Hosseini's best-selling novel, YALSA has created a list of companion titles to recommend to teens who are interested in reading more about Afghanistan. *The Kite Runner* was named one of YALSA's 2004 Alex Award winners, which honor adult books with specific teen appeal....

YALSA Midwinter Gaming Extravaganza

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/register07.htm>]

Check out the latest and greatest in video, tabletop, and role-playing games at the third annual YALSA Midwinter Gaming Extravaganza on Friday, January 11. Sponsored by Dungeons & Dragons, the extravaganza is the official kickoff event for Teen Tech Week 2008, to be held March 2-8....

YALSA launches diversity campaign

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/diversity07.htm>]

Thanks to an ALA grant to fund initiatives that support the ALAhead to 2010 strategic plan, YALSA has launched YALSA Unity: A Diversity Initiative. The \$8,000 grant, along with \$1,000 in funding from YALSA, will support a Young Adult Services Spectrum Scholar, establish a new conference scholarship for a member with a diverse background, and recruit young adult librarians at ALA affiliate conferences and events....

Round Table News

Round Table activities at Midwinter

Many of the ALA round tables have listed their activities at the Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia on their websites. See, for example, the Continuing Library Education Network and Exchange Round Table, [<http://www.ala.org/ala/clenert/conferences/conferences.cfm>] the Government Documents Round Table, [<http://www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortconferences/index.htm>] the International Relations Round Table, [<http://www.ala.org/ala/irrt/midwintermtgs.cfm>] the Library History Round Table, [<http://www.ala.org/ala/lhrt/conferenceinfo/08mwlhrt.cfm>] the Library Support Staff Interests Round Table, [<http://www.ala.org/ala/lssirt/lssirt.cfm>] the Map and Geography Round Table, [<http://www.ala.org/ala/magert/meetingsa/mid2008.htm>] and the Video Round Table. [<http://www.ala.org/ala/vrt/vrtconferenceinfo/conferences.htm>]

Awards

Barbara M. Jones wins Downs IF Award

[<http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/oc/news/displaynews.html?source=JtsHJ0cm0fcMwbdjwm9gNQ==&year=Tpfh-axYyS2d3HIF5XQQxw==>]

Wesleyan University Librarian Barbara M. Jones has received the 2007 Robert B. Downs Intellectual Freedom Award, given by the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Her work on behalf of the Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression has taken her to several different countries to present workshops on access to HIV/AIDS information, internet access, and libraries in the fight against government corruption....

University of Illinois GSLIS, Dec. 3

2007 Mellon awards for technology collaboration

[<http://matc.mellon.org/winners/2007-matc-awardees-announced/>]

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation on December 10 awarded \$650,000 in prizes to 10 not-for-profit institutions in the second annual Mellon Awards for Technology Collaboration. The awards honor organizations for leadership in the collaborative development of open source software tools with application to scholarship in the arts and humanities. The Georgia Public Library Service was given an award for developing the Evergreen open-source library automation system....

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Dec. 10

Nominate someone for a psychology librarianship award

[<http://www.apa.org/librarians/award.html>]

The American Psychological Association seeks nominations for the 2008 APA Excellence in Librarianship Award, which will be presented at the ACRL Educational and Behavioral Sciences Section Research Forum at ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim. The award recognizes an outstanding contribution to psychology and behavioral sciences librarianship....

American Psychological Association, Dec. 10

Coming Up Taller award nominations

[<http://www.imls.gov/news/2007/120607.shtm>]

Nominations are being accepted for the 2008 Coming Up Taller awards that recognize and reward outstanding after-school, out-of-school, and summer arts and humanities programs for underserved children and youth. The program, in its 11th year, is sponsored by 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....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Dec. 6

[<http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com>]

Seen Online

[<http://www.flickr.com/photos/shushmuckle/sets/72157603415686110/>]Indianapolis Central Library reopens

[<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2007712100386>]

With a flourish of trumpets, hundreds of people poured into the Indianapolis Central Library December 9, the first chance for the general public to set foot in the facility in five years. Visitors walked through the painstakingly restored 1917 Paul Cret building and then into the glass atrium, which leads to the new six-story addition with its floor-to-ceiling glass walls. Concrete problems led to cost overruns and a delay in finishing the project, but now the library is back in business, and one Seattle architecture critic

[<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071209/LOCAL/312090001>] calls it “a stunningly good building.”...

Indianapolis Star, Dec. 9–10

Space crunch hurts Stanford’s East Asian collection

[http://www.mercurynews.com/peninsula/ci_7676086]

When an aging library is torn down, Stanford University’s historic East Asian collection will suddenly find itself homeless. The collection comprises 520,000 Chinese, Japanese, and Korean volumes that now reside in the 41-year-old Meyer Library—a seismically unsafe structure slated for demolition within the next several years....

San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News, Dec. 9

needles Oshkosh

[<http://www.thenorthwestern.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2007712070450>]

At least one school in the Oshkosh, Wisconsin, area has temporarily pulled the novel *The Golden Compass* from its library shelves over concerns about what critics call its “anti-Christian message.” Mary Miller, media specialist at St. John Neumann Middle School and Lourdes High School, said she has taken the series off the shelf at the shared school library because she wants to have a chance to read them and decide for herself if they are appropriate for students....

Oshkosh (Wis.) Northwestern, Dec. 7

wades through Alabama challenge

[<http://www.tuscaloosaneews.com/article/20071211/NEWS/712110305/1007>]

The novel *Sandpiper* by Ellen Wittlinger will stay on Brookwood High library shelves—but not necessarily because the Tuscaloosa County (Ala.) school board wants it there. After three months of debate and conflict over the book, the board announced December 10 that it would remain because of U.S. Supreme Court rulings that found that students’ first amendment rights can be directly affected by the removal of books from a school library....

Tuscaloosa (Ala.) News, Dec. 11

Salinas looks to expansion

[<http://thecalifornian.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071212/NEWS01/712120303/1002>]

Just a few years ago, the Salinas (Calif.) Public Library system was on the brink of collapse. Today, it’s entertaining ambitious strategies for growth. On December 11, the Salinas City Council heard plans to expand the existing three library branches, and ultimately, to add a fourth in a future housing development in the city’s northeast. Salinas libraries

soon will be better able to serve all city residents, Library Director Elizabeth Martinez told the council....
Salinas Californian, Dec. 12

Former director jailed for chair theft

[<http://www.cantonrep.com/index.php?ID=391059&Category=9&subCategoryID=0>]

Ten days in jail is what the former executive director of Rodman Public Library in Alliance, Ohio, will serve after being found guilty of taking chairs out of the library. Magdaline Engle, who resigned in mid-November from her job at the library, was convicted recently in municipal court of misdemeanor theft. Judge Robert Lavery, while suspending 20 days of the 30-day sentence, decided Engle should be incarcerated for 10 days in the Stark County Jail....

Canton (Ohio) Repository, Dec. 12

Enterprising Alabama teen restocks Kansas library

[<http://www.kiowacountysignal.com/homepage/x118353652>]

Thinking of possible projects to earn his Eagle Scout status, 17-year-old Christopher Skrzypczak of Enterprise, Alabama, began considering a book drive late last April. But after he heard of the May 4 tornado that flattened Greensburg, Kansas, he vowed to send the Kiowa County Library as many books as he could. When he visited Greensburg on November 23, the trailer he'd towed from Alabama was filled with more than 500 books....

Kiowa County (Kans.) Signal, Nov. 28

Lost Boy works to build Sudanese library

[http://www.in-forum.com/articles/index.cfm?id=185669§ion=News&freebie_check&CFID=73872164&CFTOKEN=17925323&jsessionid=883029f6dc145157466b]

A civil war refugee from Sudan who eventually settled in Fargo, North Dakota, is realizing a dream of building a library in his homeland. Justin Machien Luoi was one of thousands of Sudanese who went to refugee camps in neighboring countries and became known as the Lost Boys. He returned last spring to the African village he'd fled on foot 20 years before as a child. It was a joyous reunion with family members and an early milestone in a development project with ties to Concordia College, where Luoi graduated last spring....

Fargo (N.Dak.) Forum, Dec. 9

Library Man pontificates again

[<http://www.modbee.com/opinion/community/story/147462.html>]

Brad Barker, school library media specialist at Mark Twain Junior High School, sets Modestans straight on library matters: "Q. Dear Library Man: Is it your ambition to become the powerful Librarian of Congress? A. You caught me. These 21 years at a junior high library in west Modesto have just been a stepping stone in my scheme to dominate the library universe."...

Modesto (Calif.) Bee, Dec. 10

=====
[<http://www.hwwilson.com>]
=====

Tech Talk

=====

How the next billion users will reshape the Net

[<http://www.thestar.com/printArticle/284021>]

Michael Geist writes: “With more than a billion internet users worldwide, doubling that number—which should happen within the next decade—will have a profound effect on the network, technology, the computer software industry, access to knowledge, and our environment. Most new internet users will not speak English as their first language, which should lead to increased pressure to accommodate different languages within the domain name system. Moreover, many new users will have different cultural and societal views on hot-button issues such as online free speech, privacy, and copyright.”...

Toronto Star, Dec. 10

15 media managers to organize your photos

[<http://www.techlicious.tv/2007/12/16-great-media-managers-to-organize.html>]

Techlicious reviews 15 software packages that help you organize, modify, and access your digital content, including Picasa, CompuPic Pro, VisiPics, and Image Dupeless (which helps you search for and identify duplicate images based on their content, not depending on sizes, formats, and resolutions)....

Techlicious.tv, Dec.

Ask.com offers private searches

[<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/11/technology/11ask.html>]

Will privacy sell? Ask.com is betting it will. The fourth-largest search engine company began a service called AskEraser, [<http://sp.ask.com/en/docs/about/askeraser.shtml>] which allows users to make their searches more private. The major search engines typically keep track of search terms typed by users and link them to a computer’s internet address, and sometimes to the user. However, when AskEraser is turned on, Ask.com discards all that information....

New York Times, Dec. 11

CoveritLive [<http://www.emilychang.com/go/ehub/app/coveritlive/>]

Emily Chang recommends CoveritLive [<http://www.coveritlive.com/index.php>]

to “broadcast an event live on your blog or website for free. Embedding a bit of code in your blog or website gives your readers a resizable window to interact with you as you cover your live event. Show photos, cue videos, or run polls during your broadcast. Allows you to search for media using Google while you’re on the air.” Freeware, for now at least....

Emily Chang’s eHub, Dec. 6

Time to believe in the god box?

[http://www.news.com/8301-10784_3-9832090-7.html]

Jon Oltsik writes: “A ‘god box’ is a single system packed with ridiculous amounts of functionality. Think of an all-in-one television, cable box, TiVo, and home entertainment speaker system and you get the idea. In the past, god boxes were always either underpowered or overpriced. Times have changed. No, we aren’t quite yet at a point where the industry can produce Scott McNealy’s visionary ‘big honkin’ Web switch,’ but we are

getting closer.”...

C|Net news blog, Dec. 10

Actions & Answers

Yahoo! Answers: 120 million users can be wrong

[<http://www.slate.com/id/2179393/fr/rss/>]

Jacob Leibenluft writes: “While Yahoo! Answers is a valuable window into how people look for information online, it looks like a complete disaster as a traditional reference tool. It encourages bad research habits, rewards people who post things that aren’t true, and frequently labels factual errors as correct information. It’s every librarian’s worst nightmare about the Web.”...

Slate, Dec. 7

On the LC Working Group report

[http://docs.google.com/View?docid=dn8z3gs_51dsqc77]

Diane Hillman writes: “In general I found the report (PDF file

[<http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/news/lcwg-report-draft-11-30-07-final.pdf>]) to be an interesting mix of sound recommendations and blinkered thinking. Some of this was a result of the fact that although the Library of Congress commissioned this group, they have felt free to aim their recommendations to other organizations and the profession at large. This is the good news and the bad news: sometimes it was difficult to prise out of a recommendation why the WG chose to target a particular institution, other times the recommendations seemed well targeted and nicely put.”...

Diane I. Hillman

Challenged materials in Colorado public libraries

[http://www.lrs.org/documents/fastfacts/254_Challenges.pdf] (PDF file)

In 2006, out of the 115 public libraries in Colorado, 23 reported that they received a formal challenge during the year. There were a total of 89 individual challenges to books, materials, events, exhibits, and internet-related services in the state’s public libraries. There were 63 challenges to materials and events, which was the lowest number since 2003....

Fast Facts (Colorado Library Research Service), no. 254 (Dec. 6)

Pay some attention to the research

[<http://acrlblog.org/2007/12/10/pay-some-attention-to-the-research/>]

Steven Bell writes: “Academic librarianship’s mainstream research journals are looking more like prizefighters in the twilight of their careers. As far as attracting readers, it seems like they’re about to go down for the count at any moment. But every now and then an article will emerge from the pack that will grab your attention and have you kicking yourself for not coming up with that idea. In other words, you might actually learn something important. I came across two such articles recently.”...

ACRLog, Dec. 10

Survey on ethics in book reviewing

[<http://bookcriticscircle.blogspot.com/2007/12/ethics-in-book-reviewing-survey-results.html>]

According to a recent survey on book reviewing practices by the National Book Critics Circle, 76.5% of those responding think it's never ethical to review a book without reading the whole thing. And 52% think it's not okay for a book-review editor, in assigning books for review, to favor books by writers who also review regularly for that editor's book section....

Critical Mass blog, Dec. 10

Blogs with a teen focus

[<http://www.pod-serve.com/podcasts/show/yalsa-podcasts>]

In this YALSA podcast (53:32, mp3 file

[http://pod-serve.com/audiofile/filename/7611/ttw_bloggers.mp3]), Crystal Niedzwiadek interviews two YA services librarians about their

teen-oriented blogs—Stephanie Iser of the Alternative Teen Services

[<http://www.yalibrarian.com/index.html>] blog, and Eli Neiburger, who runs the Ann Arbor (Mich.) District Library's Gaming Blog

[<http://www.aadl.org/aadlgt>]....

YALSA Podcast, no. 29 (Dec. 9)

Threadless t-shirts checked out too many times

[http://www.threadless.com/product/1020/November_Was_A_Good_Month]

This clever t-shirt design by Mike Sayre circulated so well that the company is now out of stock. But if enough people want a second chance, Threadless is offering to reprint them. Click on your size and await an email response. Then again, they have a few other

[http://www.threadless.com/product/1046/Movies_Ruining_The_Book_Since_1920]

offerings [http://www.threadless.com/product/1082/The_Internet_Was_Closed]....

Threadless

[<http://www.kingsley.com>]

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[<http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/midwinter/2008/geninfo.htm>]

ALA Midwinter Meeting

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/midwinter/2008/home.htm>] in Philadelphia, January 11–16.

Cognotes

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/midwinter/2008/cognotes.htm>]

is the daily newspaper of the ALA Midwinter Meeting. It will be published Friday through Monday in Philadelphia and posted on the ALA website

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/confservices/cognotes.htm>] every day, with a

Highlights issue mailed to all ALA members following the meeting.

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog&_pn=product_detai]

l&_op=2441]

Heroic reader Sendhil Ramamurthy, [http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog&_pn=product_detail&_op=2441] who plays genetics professor Mohinder Suresh on the blockbuster television series Heroes, is featured with the Hardy Boys novel, The Tower Treasure, on this READ poster. NEW! From ALA Graphics.

How does your library use the results of evaluation to improve your Virtual Reference service? The RUSA/MARS Management of Electronic Resources and Services Committee would like you to share your successes through a Virtual Poster Session. [<http://www.ala.org/ala/rusa/rusaourassoc/rusasections/mars/marssection/marscomm/mers.cfm>] The deadline is January 3. Contact Kathryn Millis [<mailto:millisk@depauw.edu>] for more details.

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Top 10 Library Stories of 2007

Michael Gorman on RDA

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/crlnews/backissues2007/december07/December.cfm>]

Nancy F. Stimson writes about how big library changes, like a building renovation, offer an opportunity to reexamine the library brand [<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/crlnews/backissues2007/december07/brandingopp.cfm>]
—in the December 2007 issue of ACRL's College & Research Libraries News.

Career Leads from
[<http://joblist.ala.org/>]

Library Technologies and Content Manager,
[<http://joblist.ala.org/modules/jobseeker/controller.cfm?scr=jobdetail&jobid=8833>] City of Scottsdale, Arizona, provides direction and leadership for the delivery of library services in four essential areas: information

technologies including library automation systems; print, electronic, and digital collection development; cataloging and acquisitions; and virtual library services including website development....

@ More jobs [<http://joblist.ala.org/>]...

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/issues/aiphiladelphia08.htm>]

Looking to improve your advocacy skills? Want to meet fellow library supporters from across the country? Get the tools to become an effective library advocate at the Midwinter Meeting Advocacy Institute, [<http://www.ala.org/ala/issues/aiphiladelphia08.htm>] January 11, in Philadelphia.

Digital Library of the Week

[<http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/cgi-bin/vanga.cgi?query=id%3Asum017>]

The Digital Library of Georgia [<http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/?Welcome>] is an initiative based at the University of Georgia Libraries that connects users to 500,000 digital objects in 105 collections from 60 institutions and 100 government agencies. Users can browse by topic, time period, county, institution, media type, or collection. One of the collections is Vanishing Georgia, [http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/vanga/html/vanga_homeframe_default.html] comprising nearly 18,000 photographs. Ranging from daguerreotypes to Kodachrome prints, the images span over 100 years of Georgia history. The broad subject matter of these photographs, shot by both amateurs and professionals, includes family and business life, school and civic activities, important individuals and events in Georgia history, and landscapes. The wide variety of the collected visual images results from efforts by archivists from the Georgia Division of Archives and History who sought, between 1975 and 1996, to preserve Georgia's endangered historical photographs.

Do you know of a digital library collection that we can mention in this AL Direct feature? Tell us about it. [<mailto:aldirect@ala.org>]

Public Perception How the World Sees Us

"I've gotten more email, more postcards, more mail, more phone calls, and more stops on the streets and in the stores on that subject alone than I have anything else in the entire seven years I have been on the council."

?Butte County (Calif.) Councilman Larry Wahl on the public outcry after county officials proposed eliminating funding for the Chico library, NBC

affiliate KNVN-TV, Chico, Nov. 27.

Spectrum Doctoral Fellowship

Know someone interested in a dynamic career in library and information science education, research, or executive-level administration? The Spectrum Doctoral Fellowship program [<http://www.ala.org/ala/diversity/spectrum/phdfellowship/phd.cfm>] is currently accepting applications for students beginning doctoral studies in the fall of 2008. The fellowship provides full tuition and annual stipends of \$20,000 for the first two years of study at 10 participating institutions. The deadline to apply is January 18.

Ask the ALA Librarian

Q. We're reviewing our policies on overdue fines. Do you have anything to help?

A. Several state libraries and Webjunction have assembled collections of sample policies

[http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Sources_of_Sample_Policies]—and these are as varied as the libraries preparing them. Some can also be found with this pre-structured web search

[<http://www.google.com/search?site=unclesam&restrict=unclesam&hl=en&safe=of&output=unclesam&q=%22library+fines%22+library+policy>] and additional tips may be found in the Fines and Overdues

[http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Fines_and_Overdues]

portion of this wiki. See the ALA Professional Tips wiki

[http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Collecting_Overdue_Fees]

for more....

@ The ALA Librarian [<mailto:AskTheLibrarian@ala.org>] welcomes your questions.

Calendar

Apr. 7–9:

Computers in Libraries, [<http://www.infotoday.com/cil2008/>] Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, Virginia.

Apr. 9–12:
Museums and the Web [<http://www.archimuse.com/mw2008>], Montreal, Quebec.

Apr. 10–14:
Information Architecture Summit [<http://www.iasummit.org/2008/>], Miami.
“Experiencing Information.”

Apr. 13–16:
TechEd 2008 [<http://www.techedevents.org/>], Ontario, California.
“Realizing the Vision.”

Apr. 15–18:
Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians,
[<http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/waal/conferences/2008/>]
[<http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/waal/conf.html>] Annual Conference, Holiday Inn,
Manitowoc.

Apr. 17–18:
Center for Summer Learning,
[http://www.summerlearning.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=105&Itemid=427] National Conference, Hyatt Regency, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Apr. 26:
University of South Carolina Celebration of Latino Children’s
Literature Conference [<http://www.libsci.sc.edu/latinoconf/savedate.htm>],
Columbia.

Apr. 30–
May 3:
Living the Future Conference
[<http://www.library.arizona.edu/conferences/ltf/2008/>], Sheraton Hotel
and Suites, Tucson. “Transforming Libraries Through
Collaboration.”

May 1–3:
LOEX 2008 [<http://www.loexconference.org/index.htm>], Oak Brook, Illinois.
“Librarian as Architect: Planning, Building, and Renewing.”

May 7–8:
Amigos Conference and Vendor Fair [<http://www.amigos.org/?q=node/105>],
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dallas.

May 8–10:
GLBT Archives, Libraries, Museums, and Special Collections Conference
[<http://web.gc.cuny.edu/clags/glbталms/>], City University of New York.

May 14–17:
National Genealogical Society,
[<http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/index.cfm?CFID=17839403&CFTOKEN=43091103>]
Annual Conference, Kansas City, Missouri.

July 24–27:
Digipalooza ’08, [<http://www.digipalooza.com/information.asp>]
OverDrive partner libraries' user group conference, Cleveland, Ohio.

Contact: Shannon Mangan. [mailto:shannon@overdrive.com]

@ More [http://www.ala.org/ala/online/calendar/calendar.cfm]...

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american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | December 19, 2007

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SCHOOLROOMS
A new learning portal for K-12

- ✓ Teacher-selected Content
- ✓ 71 Subjects – Aligned to Curriculum
- ✓ 3 Million High-quality Sites Searchable



No AL Direct next week

AL Direct is taking a week off December 26 for the holidays. Look for a new edition on Thursday, January 3. Have a Happy New Year!

U.S. & World News

[Bush signs library-friendly Head Start reauthorization](#)

In a victory for libraries and the cause of literacy, President Bush December 12 signed the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007. Since 1965, Head Start has provided comprehensive child-development services to millions of low-income children and their families to promote school readiness. The bill, which reauthorizes Head Start for another five years, had passed the House by a vote of 381–36 and the Senate by 95–0 November 14....



[Impact of revised child porn legislation on libraries uncertain](#)

The House approved a bill December 4 that expands an existing law penalizing internet service providers that knowingly fail to report to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children images passing along an ISP's network of child pornography or child sexual exploitation. The Securing Adolescents from Exploitation-Online (SAFE) Act of 2007 (H.R. 3791), sponsored by Rep. Nick Lampson (D-Tex.), passed by a vote of 409–2 and increases the maximum fines from \$100,000 to \$300,000....

[U.S. schools needed by Golden Compass](#)

The debate raging in some Canadian school dioceses over the presence of Philip Pullman's *The Golden Compass* on media center shelves has expanded from Canada to the United States, where a public school in Alamosa, Colorado, briefly removed the book in November and a Catholic school in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, is in the process of reconsidering it. Meanwhile, officials at the Greater Sudbury (Ont.) Public Library have declined to delete the novel from its 2007 list of books for 4th–6th-graders participating in the library's annual Battle of the Books competition....



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[ALA Midwinter Meeting](#)

in Philadelphia, January 11–16. After a one-year hiatus, The [Technology Showcase](#) is back! Join 10 exciting companies as they highlight the latest trends in library technology. Presentations will occur in the Franklin Theater and Liberty Theater simultaneously, 10 a.m.–1:10 p.m., Monday, January 14. Complimentary refreshments will be served on the Exhibits floor during the

[Sandpiper wades through Alabama challenge](#)

The Tuscaloosa (Ala.) County School Board grudgingly decided to keep *Sandpiper* by Ellen Wittlinger on the shelves at the Brookwood High School library December 10. The book was challenged in September due to a complaint that it has sexual content and language. The board decided to retain the book on the advice of legal counsel, who cited U.S. Supreme Court rulings that removing a book from a school library because of its content threatens students' First Amendment rights....



HOW DO YOU MAINTAIN PUBLIC COMPUTERS? Librarians want to know. Tell US **MaintainIT** www.maintainITproject.org

ALA News

[Welcome to Philly](#) (PDF file)

When the more than 10,000 attendees, exhibitors, authors, and guests converge upon the Philadelphia Convention Center January 11–16 for the ALA Midwinter Meeting, it won't be the first time the Association brings its business meeting to a city that is host to a wealth of historical sites as well as a number of firsts. Use this exclusive *American Libraries* preview to help plan your conference activities, both in and out of the Convention Center....

American Libraries 39, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 2008): 62–69



[Watch the live webcast of children/teen literary awards](#)

ALA will provide a free live webcast of its national announcement of the top books, video, and audiobooks for children and young adults—including the Caldecott, King, Newbery, and Printz awards—January 14 at 7:45 a.m. Eastern time. Unikron, a streaming content provider, will host the webcast. Anyone interested in following the action online should bookmark and use this [URL](#)....



[OITP launches major e-rate effort](#)

ALA's Office for Information Technology Policy is launching a major project to increase the benefit that the nation's public libraries obtain from the federal e-rate program. This effort will include data collection and developing and implementing strategies to make it easier for libraries to participate in the program. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation supported the project with a \$950,000 grant in November....

[International copyright advocates meet with Washington Office](#)

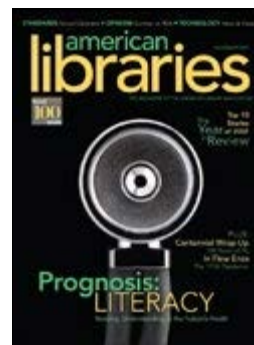
In early December, the ALA Office for Information Technology Policy met with three librarians recently appointed to become ALA's first

presentations.



Brad Eden, in [Information Organization Future for Libraries](#), looks at reinventing or getting away from the OPAC, and tackling such new areas as 3D information visualization, mass digitization, Library 2.0, and metadata related to digital resources. In January, [Library Technology Reports](#) will begin publishing eight times per year. **NEW! From ALA Publishing.**

In this issue December 2007



Health-Information Literacy

The 1918 Influenza Pandemic

Highlights from 100 Years of AL History

International Copyright Advocates to represent library interests on the world copyright stage. The International Copyright Advocate initiative was established this year to broaden library representation at international meetings, where copyright activities have intensified....

[Help form a Games and Gaming MIG](#)

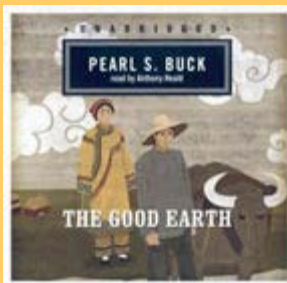
Scott Nicholson hopes to go to the Midwinter Meeting with 100 signatures, enough to start an ALA Member Interest Group on Games and Gaming. If you are willing to help start this group, print out the petition ([PDF file](#)), collect signatures and member numbers of ALA members in your organization, and send it to the address on the form in the next few weeks....

The Shifted Librarian, Dec. 12

Booklist ONLINE

[Featured review: Media](#)

Buck, Pearl S. *The Good Earth*. Read by Anthony Heald. Aug. 2007. 10.5 hr. Blackstone, CD (978-1-4332-0406-7). Heald's beguiling voice is used to great effect in his impressive reading of this 1932 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. Those familiar with the story know it is set in China during the early 1900s and traces the rising and falling fates of industrious farmer Wang Lung and his family. Heald does not attempt a Chinese accent in his reading of this classic. Instead, he softly eases into tonal shifts, adding hints of an accent that are hard to pin down but lovely to hear....



@ Visit [Booklist Online](#) for other reviews and much more....

Philadelphia Update

[From cozy to funky: Philadelphia's diverse dining choices](#) (PDF file)

Philadelphia's restaurant renaissance began in the late 1970s and is still going strong. Evelyn Minick, Sara Moran, Elliot Shelkrot, and Kevin Vaughan write in this *American Libraries* dining guide that terrific new restaurants are opening every week, and it's usually worth making a reservation. A recent trend is BYOBs, where you can enjoy some of the city's best food, while saving money on drinks....

American Libraries 39, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 2008): 70-73

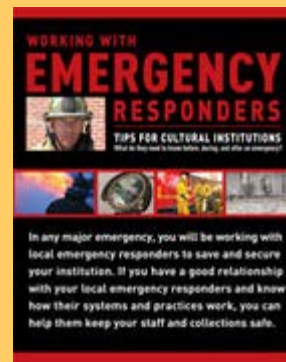


[ACRL's ArtsGuide Philadelphia](#) (PDF file)

Be sure to check out the ACRL Arts Section's ArtsGuide Philadelphia

Top 10 Library Stories of 2007

Michael Gorman on RDA



This handy downloadable poster, [Working with Emergency Responders](#), converted for printing as five 8.5 x 11 pages, tells how to find and build relationships with local emergency responders, as well as what responders need to know to better protect cultural institutions. Single-sheet posters are also available by mail for \$2.00, from Heritage Preservation.

Career Leads from



[W. Wayne Booker](#)
[Chair for Information Literacy and Professor of Library Science](#), Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. The Chair will provide leadership for the Libraries' teaching and learning mission internally, university-wide, and beyond, contributing to the evaluation and

as you plan your Midwinter activities. Prepared by local arts librarians, the guide will help conference attendees find arts-related venues and events in and around Philadelphia. They point out unique, off-the-beaten-path art, architecture, film, music, dance, and theater experiences that you might not discover from other types of tourist guides....

[Murals of Philadelphia](#)

Philadelphia's Mural Arts Program evolved from a simple 1984 project organized by muralist Jane Golden to combat the city's graffiti problem. *Time* magazine shows some of the more famous ones in this photogallery; others may be found in various books offered by the Mural Arts Program....

Time, Dec. 16



Division News

[Midwinter institute on teen advocacy](#)

Learn how to better advocate for teens by attending YALSA's Taking Teen Services to the Next Level, a pre-Midwinter Meeting institute. This full-day institute will take place 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Friday, January 11, in the Marriott Philadelphia Liberty BRC Room and includes lunch....

[Teen Tech Week promotional song contest](#)

Do you know any teens that make their own music? Perhaps they like to sing or have their own band? Now is the time to let them shine! Give teens an opportunity to showcase their talent in YALSA's [Teen Tech Week Promotional Song Contest](#). The purpose of the contest is for teens to create a song that promotes libraries and their many technology resources to teens. The deadline is March 8....

YALSA Blog, Dec. 16

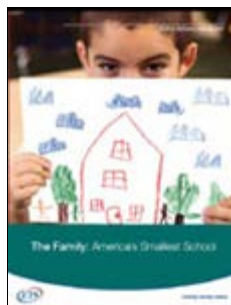


Seen Online

[Families and school test performance](#)

A new study ([PDF file](#)) by the Educational Testing Service concludes that many low scores on standardized state tests can be explained by factors that have nothing to do with schools. The study, *The Family: America's Smallest School*, suggests that a lot of the failure has to do with single-parent families, poor attendance records, TV watching, and parents not reading to their children at an early age....

New York Times, Dec. 9



[Just Listen spurs Tampa school review](#)

Not all teens are reading *Harry Potter*. The

influencing further development of a multi-faceted information literacy program....

@ [More jobs...](#)



The [Library Champions](#) are the highest level of ALA's corporate membership. Library Champions membership dues provide critical funding for ALA programs that promote library awareness, library advocacy, and the future of libraries in America through @ your library—The Campaign for America's Libraries. Becoming a Library Champion is a great way for business members to get more involved in promoting the work of libraries and to demonstrate leadership in the library field. See the [full list](#) of 2007–2008 Library Champions (and thank them when you see them at Midwinter).

Digital Library of the Week



The **Omaha (Nebr.) Public Library** hosts a website devoted to

Hillsborough County (Fla.) School Board discovered that at its December 11 meeting, when a mother read a graphic passage from Sarah Dessen's *Just Listen*, which her daughter checked out of her high school library. School board chairwoman Jennifer Faliero stopped the mother in mid-sentence, later explaining that the passage—describing an attempted rape—was too explicit for the televised meeting. The author comments about the situation in her [journal](#)....

Tampa (Fla.) Tribune, Dec. 13



[Harry Potter and the Amazon purchase](#)

Amazon.com [said](#) it bought J. K. Rowling's handwritten 157-page volume of fairy tales for £1.95 million (\$3.98 million U.S.) at a London charity auction December 13. *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*, a book of five wizardry fairy tales mentioned in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, is one of seven copies Rowling handmade after finishing the Potter series. The money will go to the Children's Voice, a charity cofounded by Rowling and Emma Nicholson, a member of the U.K. House of Lords....

Bloomberg, Dec. 14; Amazon.com



[Hennepin County approves Minneapolis merger](#)

The Hennepin County (Minn.) Board of Commissioners approved the merger December 18 of the Hennepin County Library and Minneapolis Public Library systems, pending approval by the Minneapolis council and mayor. The merger would be effective January 1. As a condition of the agreement, three closed Minneapolis branches—Roosevelt, Southeast, and Webber Park—will reopen January 3....

Eden Prairie (Minn.) News, Dec. 18



[Judge gives library a boost with court settlement](#)

Circuit Court Judge Richard Vance has given the Sevier County (Tenn.) Public Library System Foundation \$500,000, money that resulted from a class-action lawsuit in Cocke County for which the judgment was allowed to be given to charities of the judge's choosing. The contribution jumped the foundation's fundraising efforts to just under \$8 million—still short of the goal of \$8.5 million the foundation pledged to raise to pay for a new main library in Sevierville....

Sevierville (Tenn.) Mountain Press, Dec. 14

[Hawaii's libraries face challenges ahead](#)

When Richard Burns moves from his job as manager of Kapolei Public Library to take over as the new state librarian next year, he'll inherit a system on the rebound. Burns is tasked with establishing new libraries that reach out to underserved areas, such as the Wai'anae Coast and the Big Island. And, as the library system has become more dependent on computer technology for circulation and online resources, staff have struggled with a painfully slow network....

Honolulu Advertiser, Dec. 19



images from the [Trans Mississippi and International Exposition](#) and the concurrent [Indian Congress](#) that were held in Omaha, June 1–November 1, 1898. During the four months of the Exposition, more than 2.6 million people came to view its 4,062 exhibits. And the Indian Congress, occurring within a decade of the end of the Indian Wars, was the largest Native American gathering of its kind. The Omaha digital collection consists of approximately 1,800 photographs of the Trans Mississippi Exposition taken by F.A. Rinehart, its official photographer and the only photographer allowed on the grounds. Over 500 of these images include portraits and scenes from the Indian Congress.

Do you know of a digital library collection that we can mention in this *AL Direct* feature? [Tell us about it.](#)

Public Perception How the World Sees Us

“But who’s minding the Middleton Public Library while Rex [Libris] is gone? It’s frequently invaded by, as Rex notes, ‘some pretty tough patrons. Gods. Undead. Alien warlords. Vampires. Time travelers.’

[DCPL rejuvenates its staff](#)

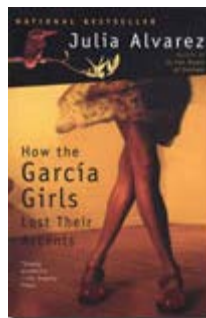
Almost 40 employees of the D.C. Public Library system—about 10% of the workforce—will be leaving their jobs in early January as part of what officials describe as a plan to transform the beleaguered system and rejuvenate its personnel. The group leaving includes the head librarians of seven of the District's 27 libraries. Eight were let go "without cause" and 30 others accepted financial incentives to retire....

Washington Post, Dec. 9

[N.C. school officials hunting for more books to remove](#)

After banning a popular coming-of-age tale, Johnston County, North Carolina, school officials are scouring library shelves for other potentially offensive books. The district review was prompted by a parent challenge to *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Alvarez, which was removed from school libraries and classrooms this fall. The school board has asked administrators to check all of the books in high school libraries and classrooms against lists of commonly challenged books to weed out other offensive material....

Raleigh (N.C.) News and Observer, Dec. 14



Luckily, Rex left the library in the hands of two capable women: Circe, the Greek goddess with a fondness for bedding men (including Odysseus) and for turning them into pigs, and Hypatia, a sexy librarian who just returned from the librarian version of special-ops training."

—Lori Mortimer, in a review of the graphic novel *Rex Libris: 1, Librarian, vol. 1*, about the "world's favorite kick-ass sesquipedalian librarian," *Blogcritics Magazine*, Dec. 16.

[Iraqi archive makes a comeback](#)

Some four years since it was looted, the Iraqi National Library and Archive's recovery is exceeding even the most optimistic predictions. Windows once shattered by stray bullets have been replaced. Fresh coats of paint cover newly renovated walls, and dozens of new desktop computers line refurbished work spaces. The library employed about 90 people before the war. Today, 400 mostly young staffers have turned it into a hive of activity....

ABC News, Dec. 16



[Chasing Newbery](#)

Over recent years, several parents have reported to ALSC that their child has read each and every Newbery Medal-winning book named since 1922 when the award was first given. Our hats are off to all those who have embraced this goal and faithfully read their way through decades of award-winning titles. That is quite an achievement. Twelve-year-old Sophie Blaylock (above) of San Diego, California, achieved her Newbery reading goal and tells us all about it in this exclusive [I Love Libraries interview](#)....

Biography Index
40 Years of Wilson's Classic Biography Reference
Retrospective 1946-1983
H.W. Wilson
www.hwwilson.com

Tech Talk

[A quick guide to Second Life for librarians](#)

Ellyssa Kroski writes: "Second Life is a massive virtual world with many opportunities for learning and entertainment. Over 60 colleges and universities have a virtual presence there and are joined by more than 500 librarians. If you are just starting out in this MMOG (massively multiplayer online game), this guide should get you up and running." *Note:* You will need to have established a SL account first and have the program installed before you can access the SLURLs, or Second Life URLs....

iLibrarian, Dec. 14



[A preview of HTML 5](#)

Lachlan Hunt offers an overview of HTML 5, which commenced in 2004 and is currently being carried out in a joint effort between the World Wide Web Consortium HTML Working Group and the Web Hypertext Application Technology Working Group. Many key players are participating in the W3C effort, including representatives from the four major browser vendors: Apple, Mozilla, Opera, and Microsoft....

A List Apart, Dec. 4



[NISO revises digital library document](#)

The National Information Standards Organization has released version 3 of its *Framework of Guidance for Building Good Digital Collections*. A community version of this document is being developed to allow for ongoing contributions from the community of librarians, archivists, curators, and other information professionals. The *Framework* establishes principles for creating, managing, and preserving digital collections, digital objects, metadata, and projects....

National Information Standards Organization, Dec. 13

[Google Profiles](#)

They're coming, and it will be difficult to get away without having one. [Google Profiles](#) will be integrated into most Google services so you have a coherent identity and a simple way to manage your contacts. A Google Profile lets you tell others a bit more about who you are and what you're all about. You control what goes into your Google Profile, sharing as much (or as little) as you'd like. The new Google Profiles are already available in [Shared Stuff](#), [Google Maps](#), [Google Reader](#), and will be added to other web applications....

Google Operating System blog, Dec. 15



[Facet-based search with LCSH](#)

Facet-based interfaces demonstrate some limitations of Library of Congress Subject Headings, which were designed to deal with constraints that do not exist in the current computerized environment. Kelley McGrath discusses some challenges for using LCSH for faceted browsing and navigation in library catalogs. She offers ideas for improving results through system design, changes to LCSH practice, and LCSH structure....

Code4Lib Journal, no. 1 (Dec. 17)

[Things you didn't know about Kindle](#)

Mike Elgan reveals some interesting facts about Amazon.com's new product that make it more than an e-book reader. Among them: You can surf the Web beyond Amazon and Wikipedia using Kindle's Basic web browser. Kindle gives you access to an experimental and free service called Kindle NowNow, which is a search engine powered by actual humans. Kindle is also an audiobook reader and MP3 player, and has both speakers and a headphone jack....

Computerworld, Nov. 26



Ask the ALA Librarian



Q. Our city manager is asking us for facts and figures to prove the value of the library. What is available to us?

A. This question is asked of all librarians, sooner or later, and in different forms. The answer builds on effective data gathering and solid advocacy. Beginning in September 2007, ALA has had an [Office for Library Advocacy](#), with a mission to support the efforts of library advocates at the local, state, and national level. But the Office will be building on important [work already done](#), including studies of libraries' ROI (return on investment) and development of [online toolkits to provide resources](#) to assist you in presenting your case. See the [ALA Professional Tips wiki](#) for more....

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

Actions & Answers

Calendar

[Book discussion questions for kids' books](#)



It can be hard to find discussion guides for children's books on the Web. With more and more parents leading children's book groups or parent/child book clubs, there is an increasing desire for discussion guides for kids' books. Luckily, librarians, publishers, and booklovers are making more guides available online. These are some resources that help parent book leaders find discussion questions for children's books for their clubs....

Book Group Buzz blog, Dec. 17

[Family Tree Maker 2008](#)

Lisa Ruefenacht writes: "Many of us want to know about our roots, but trying to track them down can be overwhelming. Luckily, tools for exploring your family history have just gotten kicked up a notch with the release of Family Tree Maker 2008. This wonderfully simple software, which almost does your genealogy for you, syncs with genealogy website [Ancestry.com](#) (you definitely want a paid subscription to that site, too), bringing you the utmost experience in family history research."...

PC Magazine, Dec. 4



[The bloggers among us](#)

Meredith Farkas writes about her survey of librarian bloggers: "A survey I conducted of 839 blogging librarians depicts a diverse and rapidly growing population. True, most respondents are under the age of 40, but more than one-third (37%) are over 40—a significant and growing segment. The blogs with the most reach, read by thousands of people, focus on how libraries can use technologies to improve services."...

Library Journal, Dec. 15

[Alice Walker archives will go to Emory](#)

Alice Walker, Pulitzer Prize winner and internationally known Georgia-born novelist and poet, will place her archive with Emory University, Provost Earl Lewis announced December 18. "The archive contains journals that she has been keeping since she was 14 or 15 years old," said American Studies Professor Rudolph Byrd, who also is a friend and colleague of Walker's. "There also are drafts of many of her early works of fiction, as well as the back and forth between Alice and the editors for each book."...

Emory University, Dec. 18



[Government info hiding in plain sight](#)

Vital government information appears "invisible" to millions of Americans who are combing the internet and looking for answers via the most popular search engines, according to a report ([PDF file](#)) released December 11 by the Center for Democracy and Technology and OMB Watch. The report, "Hiding in Plain Sight: Why Important Government Information Cannot Be Found through Commercial Search Engines," highlights the shortcomings some federal agencies exhibit when trying to comply with the mandates of the E-Government Act of 2002....

Center for Democracy and Technology, Dec. 11

[BookSwim: Netflix for books?](#)

May 1–5:

[Art Libraries Society of North America](#), 36th Annual Conference, Grand Hyatt Denver.

May 6–9:

[Substance Abuse Librarians and Information Specialists](#), 30th Annual Meeting, Seattle. "SALIS @ 30: Stepping into the Future."

May 8–10:

[GLBT Archives, Libraries, Museums, and Special Collections Conference](#), City University of New York Graduate Center.

May 16–21:

[Medical Library Association](#), Annual Meeting, Chicago. "Connections: Bridging the Gaps."

May 21–24:

[Canadian Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Vancouver, B.C. "Libraries and Publishing 3.0: Connecting Authors to Readers in the Digital Age."

May 30–

June 3:

[Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials](#), 53rd Annual Meeting, New Orleans. "Encounter, Engagement and Exchange: How Native Populations of the Americas Transformed the World."

[BookSwim](#) is being referred to as the Netflix of books, or as the “first online book library rental club.” The basic idea is that you pay \$14.99 a month (for three books out at a time), make a booklist of stuff you’d like to read based on titles that they have in their library, and as they become available you get the book. When you finish a book, you send it back, and they send you another one. A threat to libraries? No, says BookSwim’s Eric Ginsberg, in a comment to this post...

Infodoodads blog, Dec. 10–14



[Online identity management and search](#)

Internet users are becoming more aware of their digital footprint; 47% have searched for information about themselves online, up from just 22% five years ago. However, few monitor their online presence with great regularity. Indeed, most internet users are not concerned about the amount of information available about them online, and most do not take steps to limit that information....

Pew Internet & American Life Project, Dec. 16

[Five ways to protect your privacy online](#)

Dennis O’Reilly writes: “I consider everything I do online—searching, browsing, shopping, email, video-viewing, you name it—as public as anything I do on Main Street in midday. That doesn’t mean I don’t take precautions to protect my credit card numbers and other private information while online, just as I do my best to keep the information secure everywhere else. The following are my Online Privacy Rules.”...

C|Net Workers’ Edge blog, Dec. 17



[What Spanish-speaking users want](#)

Trainers Lucy Iraola and Lorie Vik facilitated a Spanish-language outreach workshop in Beaverton, Oregon, recently on how libraries can make the case for serving Spanish speakers and providing materials in Spanish. The WebJunction blog summarizes some of their arguments, tactics, and resources. An [earlier post](#) gathers comments from Spanish speakers in Arkansas and Arizona about what they want from their libraries....

BlogJunction, Nov. 2, Dec. 13

[Exploring early America interactively](#)

The new Library of Congress exhibit that opened December 13, “Exploring the Early Americas,” sports some high-tech interactive features to supplement the display of the physical artifacts. Some of these features are now online, where viewers can explore [The Buccaneers of America](#) (right) with a 3D digital model to simulate turning the pages of a real book, the Martin Waldseemüller maps, and the Mayan [Tortuguero Box](#) that allows rotation and examination of the image....

Library of Congress Blog, Dec. 10



[The future of descriptive enrichment](#)

Roy Tennant writes: “You may or may not have noticed it, but we just went from a world where we were the gatekeepers to information to one in which we are hanging on for dear life. We can

June 4–6:

[LOEX of the West](#), University of Nevada, Las Vegas. “Hit the Jackpot: Successful Experimentation and Innovation in Instruction.”

June 5–8:

[North American Serials Interest Group](#), 23rd Annual Conference, Tapatio Cliffs resort, near Phoenix, Arizona.

@ [More...](#)

Contact Us

American Libraries Direct



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

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either wise up or get out of the game. I prefer to wise up. For me this means forgetting about 'control' and getting good about 'enrichment.' Why not use all the descriptive information about an item we have at our disposal? Isn't more descriptive information better than less?"...

Digital Libraries blog, Dec. 10

[Take your Traveler IQ](#)

Here's a fun test of your geographic knowledge. Speed and accuracy both count, although at this scale it's tough to differentiate between Chicago and Rockford. Originally from [TravelPod](#). As someone commented, "The top guy overall worldwide got a 708,567 (IQ 147). I think you really get nailed if you are way off, like over 1,000 km."...

Virtual Earth / Live Maps blog, Dec. 12



[Columbia joins Google Book Search](#)

Columbia University Libraries and Google have signed an agreement to digitize a large number of Columbia's books in the public domain and make them available online. The project will evaluate and review hundreds of thousands of volumes from the libraries' collections over the next six years....

Columbia University Libraries, Dec. 13

[Pooling scholars' digital resources](#)

The various efforts to digitize university libraries' vast holdings have no lack of ambition, but access to documents and copyright issues have been two factors slowing the development of online scholarly repositories. Now, an effort at George Mason University seeks to bypass libraries entirely and delve into scholars' file cabinets instead. Rather than let all that scholarship rot, or waste away in data files, the university's [Center for History and New Media](#) sees an opportunity to create an open archive of scholarly resources in the public domain using Zotero....

Inside Higher Ed, Dec. 12



[Surviving in the Information Age](#)

Ruth V. Small writes: "Digital literacy may be thought of as knowing how to effectively use the electronic 'containers' of information (e.g., the internet, databases, certain software packages). This definition focuses on the means by which information is communicated or learned. While the types of containers for information were somewhat limited back in 1967, in today's world the number of types of containers has exploded, with everything from blogs to databases to wikis and websites. For 21st-century students, digital-literacy skills are essential for successful learning."...

Threshold, Winter 2008, pp. 23-27



[Innkeeper at the roach motel](#)

Dorothea Salo writes: "Institutional repositories have not fulfilled their early promise of increased access to the scholarly journal literature through faculty initiative. Academic libraries twist in the wind, enticed by possibilities but disillusioned by results, uncertain how to proceed. Thus far, doubts about the viability of institutional

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.

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www.ala.org/alonline/
800-545-2433,
ext. 4216

ISSN 1559-369X.

repositories have been kept quiet or denied altogether. As long as libraries and repository managers remain silent about the current deplorable situation, however, no one can rectify it.”...

Library Trends (forthcoming)

[Emerald Backfiles to launch at Midwinter](#)

The UK's Emerald Group Publishing (Booth #1938) will launch its Emerald Backfiles in conjunction with the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia. Emerald is releasing a digitized full archive of its journal titles in business, management, library and information services, materials science, and engineering. Working with the British Library, more than 50,000 articles some going back to the 1800s are now in PDF format and available electronically for the first time....

Emerald Group Publishing, Dec. 13

[Take a seat](#)

How hard is it to find a chair or something to sit on in the library? Usually they are taken up by people who spend all day reading the papers. Dutch designer [Jelte van Geest](#) found an amazing solution for it. You get your own seat the moment you enter the library, and it stays with you the entire time. Sounds weird? Watch the [video](#) to see it in action. (This is apparently a concept video; the robot chairs have not actually been manufactured.)...

Kimbooktu, Dec. 17; YouTube, Oct. 31



[Levenger bookends support Boston Public Library](#)

For nearly four generations, Bostonians have been welcomed to the Copley Square entrance of the Boston Public Library by two heroic figures, Science on the left and Art on the right. For the first time in their 95-year history, they are being reproduced on a scale that will fit on your desk. The Levenger company is casting 8¼" replicas of Science and Art as bookends, as well as casting its support for the library through the licensing fee it pays on each sale of the bookends....

Levenger, Nov. 26



[Surfin' NLA](#)

The National Library of Australia has an annual Christmas party in its public foyer where the unexpected talents of librarians, archivists, stacks staff, communication experts, digital specialists, and IT boffins are displayed. Enjoy the video (2:19) of the "Surfing NLA" team, which won first prize at the December 14 party after they waxed down their bookcarts....

YouTube, Dec. 16



AL Direct, December 19, 2007

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The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | December 19, 2007

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[<http://www.schoolrooms.net>]

[<http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com>]

No AL Direct next week

AL Direct is taking a week off December 26 for the holidays. Look for a new edition on Thursday, January 3. Have a Happy New Year!

U.S. & World News

=====

Bush signs library-friendly Head Start reauthorization

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/december2007/headstart.cfm>]

In a victory for libraries and the cause of literacy, President Bush December 12 signed the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007. Since 1965, Head Start has provided comprehensive child-development services to millions of low-income children and their families to promote school readiness. The bill, which reauthorizes Head Start for another five years, had passed the House by a vote of 381–36 and the Senate by 95–0 November 14....

Impact of revised child porn legislation on libraries uncertain

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/december2007/newsafeleg.cfm>]

The House approved a bill December 4 that expands an existing law penalizing internet service providers that knowingly fail to report to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children images passing along an ISP's network of child pornography or child sexual exploitation. The Securing Adolescents from Exploitation-Online (SAFE) Act of 2007 (H.R. 3791), sponsored by Rep. Nick Lampson (D-Tex.), passed by a vote of 409-2 and increases the maximum fines from \$100,000 to \$300,000....

Golden Compass

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/december2007/morecompass.cfm>]

The debate raging in some Canadian school dioceses over the presence of Philip Pullman's *The Golden Compass* on media center shelves has expanded from Canada to the United States, where a public school in Alamosa, Colorado, briefly removed the book in November and a Catholic school in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, is in the process of reconsidering it. Meanwhile, officials at the Greater Sudbury (Ont.) Public Library have declined to delete the novel from its 2007 list of books for 4th-6th-graders participating in the library's annual Battle of the Books competition....

wades through Alabama challenge

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/december2007/moresandpiper.cfm>]

The Tuscaloosa (Ala.) County School Board grudgingly decided to keep *Sandpiper* by Ellen Wittlinger on the shelves at the Brookwood High School library December 10. The book was challenged in September due to a complaint that it has sexual content and language. The board decided to retain the book on the advice of legal counsel, who cited U.S. Supreme Court rulings that removing a book from a school library because of its content threatens students' First Amendment rights....

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[<http://www.maintainITproject.org>]
=====

ALA News

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Welcome to Philly

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/resources/selectedarticles/MidwinterPreview2008.pdf>] (PDF file)

When the more than 10,000 attendees, exhibitors, authors, and guests converge upon the Philadelphia Convention Center January 11-16 for the ALA Midwinter Meeting, it won't be the first time the Association brings its business meeting to a city that is host to a wealth of historical sites as well as a number of firsts. Use this exclusive American Libraries preview to help plan your conference activities, both in and out of the Convention Center....
American Libraries 39, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 2008): 62-69

Watch the live webcast of children/teen literary awards

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/ymawc08.htm>]

ALA will provide a free live webcast of its national announcement of the top books, video, and audiobooks for children and young adults—including the Caldecott, King, Newbery, and Printz awards—January 14 at 7:45 a.m. Eastern time. Unikron, a streaming content provider, will host the webcast. Anyone interested in following the action online should bookmark and use this URL [<http://www.unikron.com/clients/ala-webcast-2008>]....

OITP launches major e-rate effort

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/gatesgranterate.htm>]

ALA's Office for Information Technology Policy is launching a major project to increase the benefit that the nation's public libraries obtain from the federal e-rate program. This effort will include data collection and developing and implementing strategies to make it easier for libraries to participate in the program. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation supported the project with a \$950,000 grant in November....

International copyright advocates meet with Washington Office

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/intlcopyright.htm>]

In early December, the ALA Office for Information Technology Policy met with three librarians recently appointed to become ALA's first International Copyright Advocates to represent library interests on the world copyright stage. The International Copyright Advocate initiative was established this year to broaden library representation at international meetings, where copyright activities have intensified....

Help form a Games and Gaming MIG

[<http://theshiftedlibrarian.com/archives/2007/12/12/help-form-an-ala-games-and-gaming-member-interest-group.html>]

Scott Nicholson hopes to go to the Midwinter Meeting with 100 signatures, enough to start an ALA Member Interest Group on Games and Gaming. If you are willing to help start this group, print out the petition (PDF file [<http://boardgameswithscott.com/ggmig.pdf>]), collect signatures and member numbers of ALA members in your organization, and send it to the address on the form in the next few weeks....

The Shifted Librarian, Dec. 12

Featured review: Media

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=2253466]

Buck, Pearl S. *The Good Earth*. Read by Anthony Heald. Aug. 2007. 10.5 hr. Blackstone, CD (978-1-4332-0406-7).

Heald's beguiling voice is used to great effect in his impressive reading of this 1932 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. Those familiar with the story know it is set in China during the early 1900s and traces the rising and falling fates of industrious farmer Wang Lung and his family. Heald does not attempt a Chinese accent in his reading of this classic. Instead, he softly eases into tonal shifts, adding hints of an accent that are hard to pin down but lovely to hear....

@ Visit Booklist Online [<http://www.booklistonline.com>] for other reviews and much more....

Philadelphia Update

From cozy to funky: Philadelphia's diverse dining choices
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/resources/selectedarticles/RestaurantGuide2008.pdf>] (PDF file)

Philadelphia's restaurant renaissance began in the late 1970s and is still going strong. Evelyn Minick, Sara Moran, Elliot Shelkrot, and Kevin Vaughan write in this American Libraries dining guide that terrific new restaurants are opening every week, and it's usually worth making a reservation. A recent trend is BYOBs, where you can enjoy some of the city's best food, while saving money on drinks....
American Libraries 39, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 2008): 70–73

ACRL's ArtsGuide Philadelphia
[<http://www.acrl.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/arts/artsguide/ArtsGuide-Philly-MW2.pdf>] (PDF file)

Be sure to check out the ACRL Arts Section's ArtsGuide Philadelphia as you plan your Midwinter activities. Prepared by local arts librarians, the guide will help conference attendees find arts-related venues and events in and around Philadelphia. They point out unique, off-the-beaten-path art, architecture, film, music, dance, and theater experiences that you might not discover from other types of tourist guides....

Murals of Philadelphia
[http://www.time.com/time/photogallery/0,29307,1649278_1421152,00.html]
Philadelphia's Mural Arts Program evolved from a simple 1984 project organized by muralist Jane Golden to combat the city's graffiti problem. Time magazine shows some of the more famous ones in this photogallery; others may be found in various books offered by the Mural Arts Program....
Time, Dec. 16

Division News

Midwinter institute on teen advocacy
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/december2007/institute07.htm>]
Learn how to better advocate for teens by attending YALSA's Taking Teen Services to the Next Level, a pre-Midwinter Meeting institute. This full-day institute will take place 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Friday, January 11, in the Marriott Philadelphia Liberty BRC Room and includes lunch....

Teen Tech Week promotional song contest
[http://blogs.ala.org/yalsa.php?title=teen_tech_week_promotional_song_contest&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1]
Do you know any teens that make their own music? Perhaps they like to sing or have their own band? Now is the time to let them shine! Give

teens an opportunity to showcase their talent in YALSA's Teen Tech Week Promotional Song Contest

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teentechweek/ttw08/contests/contests.cfm>].

The purpose of the contest is for teens to create a song that promotes libraries and their many technology resources to teens. The deadline is March 8....

YALSA Blog, Dec. 16

[<http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com>]

Seen Online

Families and school test performance

[<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/09/nyregion/nyregionspecial2/09Rparenting.html>]

A new study (PDF file

[http://www.ets.org/Media/Education_Topics/pdf/5678_PERCReport_School.pdf])

by the Educational Testing Service concludes that many low scores on standardized state tests can be explained by factors that have nothing to do with schools. The study, *The Family: America's Smallest School*, suggests that a lot of the failure has to do with single-parent families, poor attendance records, TV watching, and parents not reading to their children at an early age....

New York Times, Dec. 9

spurs Tampa school review

[<http://www2.tbo.com/content/2007/dec/13/me-repulsive-text-spurs-school-review/>]

Not all teens are reading Harry Potter. The Hillsborough County (Fla.) School Board discovered that at its December 11 meeting, when a mother read a graphic passage from Sarah Dessen's *Just Listen*, which her daughter checked out of her high school library. School board chairwoman Jennifer Faliero stopped the mother in mid-sentence, later explaining that the passage—describing an attempted rape—was too explicit for the televised meeting. The author comments about the situation in her journal [<http://writergrl.livejournal.com/403184.html>]....

Tampa (Fla.) Tribune, Dec. 13

Harry Potter and the Amazon purchase

[<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601088&sid=agHFV0ReKbX0>]

Amazon.com said

[http://www.amazon.com/gp/feature.html/ref=amb_link_6061462_3?ie=UTF8&docId=1000179911] it bought J. K. Rowling's handwritten 157-page volume of fairy tales for £1.95 million (\$3.98 million U.S.) at a London charity auction December 13. *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*, a book of five wizardry fairy tales mentioned in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, is one of seven copies Rowling handmade after finishing the Potter series. The money will go to the Children's Voice, a charity cofounded by Rowling and Emma Nicholson, a member of the U.K. House of Lords....

Bloomberg, Dec. 14; Amazon.com

Hennepin County approves Minneapolis merger

[<http://www.edenprairienews.com/node/3852>]

The Hennepin County (Minn.) Board of Commissioners approved the merger December 18 of the Hennepin County Library and Minneapolis Public Library systems, pending approval by the Minneapolis council and mayor. The merger would be effective January 1. As a condition of the agreement, three closed Minneapolis branches—Roosevelt, Southeast, and Webber Park—will reopen January 3....

Eden Prairie (Minn.) News, Dec. 18

Judge gives library a boost with court settlement

[<http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19116956>]

Circuit Court Judge Richard Vance has given the Sevier County (Tenn.) Public Library System Foundation \$500,000, money that resulted from a class-action lawsuit in Cocke County for which the judgment was allowed to be given to charities of the judge's choosing. The contribution jumped the foundation's fundraising efforts to just under \$8 million—still short of the goal of \$8.5 million the foundation pledged to raise to pay for a new main library in Sevierville....

Sevierville (Tenn.) Mountain Press, Dec. 14

Hawaii's libraries face challenges ahead

[<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071219/NEWS01/712190380/1001/NEWS01>]

When Richard Burns moves from his job as manager of Kapolei Public Library to take over as the new state librarian next year, he'll inherit a system on the rebound. Burns is tasked with establishing new libraries that reach out to underserved areas, such as the Wai'anae Coast and the Big Island. And, as the library system has become more dependent on computer technology for circulation and online resources, staff have struggled with a painfully slow network....

Honolulu Advertiser, Dec. 19

DCPL rejuvenates its staff

[<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/08/AR2007120801380.html>]

Almost 40 employees of the D.C. Public Library system—about 10% of the workforce—will be leaving their jobs in early January as part of what officials describe as a plan to transform the beleaguered system and rejuvenate its personnel. The group leaving includes the head librarians of seven of the District's 27 libraries. Eight were let go “without cause” and 30 others accepted financial incentives to retire....

Washington Post, Dec. 9

N.C. school officials hunting for more books to remove

[<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/829888.html>]

After banning a popular coming-of-age tale, Johnston County, North Carolina, school officials are scouring library shelves for other potentially offensive books. The district review was prompted by a parent challenge to *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Alvarez, which was removed from school libraries and classrooms this fall. The school board has asked administrators to check all of the books in high school libraries and classrooms against lists of commonly challenged

books to weed out other offensive material....
Raleigh (N.C.) News and Observer, Dec. 14

Iraqi archive makes a comeback

[<http://abcnews.go.com/International/IraqCoverage/story?id=4006405>]

Some four years since it was looted, the Iraqi National Library and Archive's recovery is exceeding even the most optimistic predictions. Windows once shattered by stray bullets have been replaced. Fresh coats of paint cover newly renovated walls, and dozens of new desktop computers line refurbished work spaces. The library employed about 90 people before the war. Today, 400 mostly young staffers have turned it into a hive of activity....

ABC News, Dec. 16

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[<http://www.hwwilson.com>]
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Tech Talk

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A quick guide to Second Life for librarians

[<http://oedb.org/blogs/ilibrarian/2007/a-quick-guide-to-second-life-for-librarians/>]

Ellyssa Kroski writes: "Second Life is a massive virtual world with many opportunities for learning and entertainment. Over 60 colleges and universities have a virtual presence there and are joined by more than 500 librarians. If you are just starting out in this MMOG (massively multiplayer online game), this guide should get you up and running."

Note: You will need to have established a SL account first and have the program installed before you can access the SLURLs, or Second Life URLs....

iLibrarian, Dec. 14

A preview of HTML 5 [<http://www.alistapart.com/articles/previewofhtml5>]

Lachlan Hunt offers an overview of HTML 5, which commenced in 2004 and is currently being carried out in a joint effort between the World Wide Web Consortium HTML Working Group and the Web Hypertext Application Technology Working Group. Many key players are participating in the W3C effort, including representatives from the four major browser vendors: Apple, Mozilla, Opera, and Microsoft....

A List Apart, Dec. 4

NISO revises digital library document

[<http://www.niso.org/news/releases/pr-Framework-12-07.html>]

The National Information Standards Organization has released version 3 of its Framework of Guidance for Building Good Digital Collections. A community version of this document is being developed to allow for ongoing contributions from the community of librarians, archivists, curators, and other information professionals. The Framework establishes principles for creating, managing, and preserving digital collections, digital objects, metadata, and projects....

National Information Standards Organization, Dec. 13

Google Profiles

[<http://googlesystem.blogspot.com/2007/12/google-profiles.html>]

They're coming, and it will be difficult to get away without having one.

Google Profiles [<http://www.google.com/help/profile/>] will be integrated into most Google services so you have a coherent identity and a simple way to manage your contacts. A Google Profile lets you tell others a bit more about who you are and what you're all about. You control what goes into your Google Profile, sharing as much (or as little) as you'd like.

The new Google Profiles are already available in Shared Stuff,

[<http://googlesystem.blogspot.com/2007/09/google-shared-stuff.html>]

Google Maps

[<http://googlesystem.blogspot.com/2007/10/google-maps-becomes-social.html>],

Google Reader

[<http://googlesystem.blogspot.com/2007/12/google-reader-shows-shared-items-from.html>], and will be added to other web applications....

Google Operating System blog, Dec. 15

[<http://minds.wisconsin.edu/handle/1793/22088>]Facet-based search with

LCSH [<http://journal.code4lib.org/articles/23>]

Facet-based interfaces demonstrate some limitations of Library of Congress Subject Headings, which were designed to deal with constraints that do not exist in the current computerized environment. Kelley McGrath discusses some challenges for using LCSH for faceted browsing and navigation in library catalogs. She offers ideas for improving results through system design, changes to LCSH practice, and LCSH structure....

Code4Lib Journal, no. 1 (Dec. 17)

Things you didn't know about Kindle

[<http://www.macworld.com/article/61186/2007/11/kindle.html>]

Mike Elgan reveals some interesting facts about Amazon.com's new product that make it more than an e-book reader. Among them: You can surf the Web beyond Amazon and Wikipedia using Kindle's Basic web browser. Kindle gives you access to an experimental and free service called Kindle NowNow, which is a search engine powered by actual humans. Kindle is also an audiobook reader and MP3 player, and has both speakers and a headphone jack....

Computerworld, Nov. 26

Actions & Answers

Book discussion questions for kids' books

[<http://bookgroupbuzz.booklistonline.com/2007/12/17/websites-with-book-discussion-questions-for-kids-books/>]

It can be hard to find discussion guides for children's books on the Web. With more and more parents leading children's book groups or parent/child book clubs, there is an increasing desire for discussion guides for kids' books. Luckily, librarians, publishers, and booklovers are making more guides available online. These are some resources that help parent book leaders find discussion questions for children's books for their clubs....

Book Group Buzz blog, Dec. 17

Family Tree Maker 2008

[<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2704,2228019,00.asp>]

Lisa Ruefenacht writes: “ Ancestry.com

[<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2704,2104969,00.asp>] (you definitely want a paid subscription to that site, too), bringing you the utmost experience in family history research.”...

PC Magazine, Dec. 4

The bloggers among us

[<http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6510669.html>]

Meredith Farkas writes about her survey of librarian bloggers: “A survey I conducted of 839 blogging librarians depicts a diverse and rapidly growing population. True, most respondents are under the age of 40, but more than one-third (37%) are over 40—a significant and growing segment. The blogs with the most reach, read by thousands of people, focus on how libraries can use technologies to improve services.”...

Library Journal, Dec. 15

Alice Walker archives will go to Emory

[http://news.emory.edu/Releases/alice_walker_archive_1197997696.html]

Alice Walker, Pulitzer Prize winner and internationally known

Georgia-born novelist and poet, will place her archive with Emory

University, Provost Earl Lewis announced December 18. “The archive contains journals that she has been keeping since she was 14 or 15 years old,” said American Studies Professor Rudolph Byrd, who also is a friend and colleague of Walker’s. “There also are drafts of many of her early works of fiction, as well as the back and forth between Alice and the editors for each book.”...

Emory University, Dec. 18

Government info hiding in plain sight

[<http://www.cdt.org/press/20071211press.php>]

Vital government information appears “invisible” to millions of Americans who are combing the internet and looking for answers via the most popular search engines, according to a report (PDF file [<http://www.cdt.org/righttoknow/search/Searchability.pdf>]) released December 11 by the Center for Democracy and Technology and OMB Watch. The report, “Hiding in Plain Sight: Why Important Government Information Cannot Be Found through Commercial Search Engines,” highlights the shortcomings some federal agencies exhibit when trying to comply with the mandates of the E-Government Act of 2002....

Center for Democracy and Technology, Dec. 11

BookSwim: Netflix for books? [<http://infodoodads.com/?p=263>]

BookSwim [<http://www.bookswim.com/>] is being referred to as the “Netflix of books, or as the “first online book library rental club.”

The basic idea is that you pay \$14.99 a month (for three books out at a time), make a booklist of stuff you’d like to read based on titles that they have in their library, and as they become available you get the book. When you finish a book, you send it back, and they send you another one. A threat to libraries? No, says BookSwim’s Eric Ginsberg, in a comment to this post....

Infodoodads blog, Dec. 10–14

Online identity management and search

[http://www.pewinternet.org/report_display.asp?r=229]

Internet users are becoming more aware of their digital footprint; 47% have searched for information about themselves online, up from just 22% five years ago. However, few monitor their online presence with great regularity. Indeed, most internet users are not concerned about the amount of information available about them online, and most do not take steps to limit that information....

Pew Internet & American Life Project, Dec. 16

Five ways to protect your privacy online

[http://www.cnet.com/8301-13880_1-9834148-68.html?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1023_3-0-5]

Dennis O'Reilly writes: "I consider everything I do online—searching, browsing, shopping, email, video-viewing, you name it—as public as anything I do on Main Street in midday. That doesn't mean I don't take precautions to protect my credit card numbers and other private information while online, just as I do my best to keep the information secure everywhere else. The following are my Online Privacy Rules."...

C|Net Workers' Edge blog, Dec. 17

What Spanish-speaking users want

[<http://blog.webjunctionworks.org/index.php/2007/12/13/response-to-english-only-article-by-julie-stephens-in-novembers-american-libraries/>]

Trainers Lucy Iraola and Lorie Vik facilitated a Spanish-language outreach workshop in Beaverton, Oregon, recently on how libraries can make the case for serving Spanish speakers and providing materials in Spanish. The WebJunction blog summarizes some of their arguments, tactics, and resources. An earlier post

[<http://blog.webjunctionworks.org/index.php/2007/11/02/what-spanish-speakers-want-from-the-library/>] gathers comments from Spanish speakers in Arkansas and Arizona about what they want from their libraries....

BlogJunction, Nov. 2, Dec. 13

Exploring early America interactively [<http://www.loc.gov/blog/?p=230>]

The new Library of Congress exhibit that opened December 13, "Exploring the Early Americas," sports some high-tech interactive features to supplement the display of the physical artifacts. Some of these features are now online, where viewers can explore The Buccaneers of America [<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/earlyamericas/online/interactives.html>] (right) with a 3D digital model to simulate turning the pages of a real book, the Martin Waldseemüller maps, and the Mayan Tortuguero Box [<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/kislak/kislak-interactive.html>] that allows rotation and examination of the image....

Library of Congress Blog, Dec. 10

The future of descriptive enrichment

[<http://www.libraryjournal.com/blog/1090000309/post/1920018592.html>]

Roy Tennant writes: "You may or may not have noticed it, but we just went from a world where we were the gatekeepers to information to one in which we are hanging on for dear life. We can either wise up or get out of the game. I prefer to wise up. For me this means forgetting about 'control' and getting good about 'enrichment.' Why not use all the descriptive

information about an item we have at our disposal? Isn't more descriptive information better than less?"...

Digital Libraries blog, Dec. 10

Take your Traveler IQ

[<http://virtualearth.spaces.live.com/blog/cns!2BBC66E99FDCDB98!10100.entry>]

Here's a fun test of your geographic knowledge. Speed and accuracy both count, although at this scale it's tough to differentiate between Chicago and Rockford. Originally from TravelPod.

[<http://www.travelpod.com/traveler-iq>] As someone commented, "The top guy overall worldwide got a 708,567 (IQ 147). I think you really get nailed if you are way off, like over 1,000 km."...

Virtual Earth / Live Maps blog, Dec. 12

Columbia joins Google Book Search

[<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/news/libraries/2007/2007-12-13.google.html>]

Columbia University Libraries and Google have signed an agreement to digitize a large number of Columbia's books in the public domain and make them available online. The project will evaluate and review hundreds of thousands of volumes from the libraries' collections over the next six years....

Columbia University Libraries, Dec. 13

Pooling scholars' digital resources

[<http://insidehighered.com/news/2007/12/12/zotero>]

The various efforts to digitize university libraries' vast holdings have no lack of ambition, but access to documents and copyright issues have been two factors slowing the development of online scholarly repositories. Now, an effort at George Mason University seeks to bypass libraries entirely and delve into scholars' file cabinets instead.

Rather than let all that scholarship rot, or waste away in data files, the university's Center for History and New Media

[<http://chnm.gmu.edu>] sees an opportunity to create an open archive of scholarly resources in the public domain using Zotero....

Inside Higher Ed, Dec. 12

Surviving in the Information Age

[<http://www.ciconline.org/thresholdwinter08>]

Ruth V. Small writes: "Digital literacy may be thought of as knowing how to effectively use the electronic 'containers' of information (e.g., the internet, databases, certain software packages). This definition focuses on the means by which information is communicated or learned. While the types of containers for information were somewhat limited back in 1967, in today's world the number of types of containers has exploded, with everything from blogs to databases to wikis and websites. For 21st-century students, digital-literacy skills are essential for successful learning."...

Threshold, Winter 2008, pp. 23-27

Innkeeper at the roach motel

[<http://minds.wisconsin.edu/handle/1793/22088>]

Dorothea Salo writes: "Institutional repositories have not fulfilled their early promise of increased access to the scholarly journal

literature through faculty initiative. Academic libraries twist in the wind, enticed by possibilities but disillusioned by results, uncertain how to proceed. Thus far, doubts about the viability of institutional repositories have been kept quiet or denied altogether. As long as libraries and repository managers remain silent about the current deplorable situation, however, no one can rectify it.”...

Library Trends (forthcoming)

Emerald Backfiles to launch at Midwinter

[<http://www.clickpress.com/releases/Detailed/55316005cp.shtml>]

The UK’s Emerald Group Publishing (Booth #1938) will launch its Emerald Backfiles in conjunction with the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia.

Emerald is releasing a digitized full archive of its journal titles in business, management, library and information services, materials science, and engineering. Working with the British Library, more than 50,000 articles some going back to the 1800s are now in PDF format and available electronically for the first time....

Emerald Group Publishing, Dec. 13

Take a seat [<http://kimbooktu.wordpress.com/2007/12/17/take-a-seat/>]

How hard is it to find a chair or something to sit on in the library?

Usually they are taken up by people who spend all day reading the papers.

Dutch designer Jelte van Geest [<http://www.jeltevangeest.nl/>] found an amazing solution for it. You get your own seat the moment you enter the library, and it stays with you the entire time. Sounds weird? Watch the video [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Dgaz6NIUFk>] to see it in action.

(This is apparently a concept video; the robot chairs have not actually been manufactured.)...

Kimbooktu, Dec. 17; YouTube, Oct. 31

Levenger bookends support Boston Public Library

[http://www.levenger.com/AboutLevenger/PressRelease/Boston_Library.asp]

For nearly four generations, Bostonians have been welcomed to the Copley Square entrance of the Boston Public Library by two heroic figures, Science on the left and Art on the right. For the first time in their 95-year history, they are being reproduced on a scale that will fit on your desk. The Levenger company is casting 8¼" replicas of Science and Art as bookends, as well as casting its support for the library through the licensing fee it pays on each sale of the bookends....

Levenger, Nov. 26

Surfin’ NLA [<http://youtube.com/watch?v=lvKntJKctoU>]

The National Library of Australia has an annual Christmas party in its public foyer where the unexpected talents of librarians, archivists, stacks staff, communication experts, digital specialists, and IT boffins are displayed. Enjoy the video (2:19) of the “Surfing NLA” team, which won first prize at the December 14 party after they waxed down their bookcarts....

YouTube, Dec. 16

[<http://www.kingsley.com>]

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[<http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/midwinter/2008/geninfo.htm>]

ALA Midwinter Meeting

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/midwinter/2008/home.htm>] in Philadelphia, January 11–16. After a one-year hiatus, The Technology Showcase

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/midwinter/2008/exhibits.htm>] is back! Join 10 exciting companies as they highlight the latest trends in library technology. Presentations will occur in the Franklin Theater and Liberty Theater simultaneously, 10 a.m.–1:10 p.m., Monday, January 14. Complimentary refreshments will be served on the Exhibits floor during the presentations.

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog&_pn=product_detail&_op=2441]

[<http://www.techsource.ala.org/ltr/information-organization-future-for-libraries.html>]

Brad Eden, in Information Organization Future for Libraries,

[<http://www.techsource.ala.org/ltr/information-organization-future-for-libraries.html>] looks at reinventing or getting away from the OPAC, and tackling such new areas as 3D information visualization, mass digitization, Library 2.0, and metadata related to digital resources. In January, Library Technology Reports

[<https://publications.techsource.ala.org/bookstore/displayItem.pl?itemID=2597>] will begin publishing eight times per year. NEW! From ALA Publishing.

In this issue

December 2007

Health-Information Literacy

The 1918 Influenza Pandemic

Highlights from 100 Years of AL History

Top 10 Library Stories of 2007

Michael Gorman on RDA

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/crlnews/backissues2007/december07/December.cfm>] [<http://www.heritagepreservation.org/lessons/>]

This handy downloadable poster, Working with Emergency Responders, [<http://www.heritagepreservation.org/lessons/>] converted for printing as five 8.5 x 11 pages, tells how to find and build relationships with local

emergency responders, as well as what responders need to know to better protect cultural institutions. Single-sheet posters are also available by mail for \$2.00, from Heritage Preservation.

Career Leads from
[<http://joblist.ala.org/>]

W. Wayne Booker Chair for Information Literacy and Professor of Library Science,
[<http://joblist.ala.org/modules/jobseeker/controller.cfm?scr=jobdetail&jobid=8906>] Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. The Chair will provide leadership for the Libraries' teaching and learning mission internally, university-wide, and beyond, contributing to the evaluation and influencing further development of a multi-faceted information literacy program....

@ More jobs [<http://joblist.ala.org/>]...

The Library Champions
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/supportforala/librarychampions/librarychampions.htm>]
] are the highest level of ALA's corporate membership. Library Champions membership dues provide critical funding for ALA programs that promote library awareness, library advocacy, and the future of libraries in America through @ your library—The Campaign for America's Libraries. Becoming a Library Champion is a great way for business members to get more involved in promoting the work of libraries and to demonstrate leadership in the library field. See the full list
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/supportforala/librarychampions/librarychampions.htm>]
] of 2007–2008 Library Champions (and thank them when you see them at Midwinter).

Digital Library of the Week

[<http://www.omahapubliclibrary.org/transmiss/research/cleanhtml/tmi00911.html>]

The Omaha (Nebr.) Public Library hosts a website devoted to images from the Trans Mississippi and International Exposition
[<http://www.omahapubliclibrary.org/transmiss/>] and the concurrent Indian Congress
[<http://www.omahapubliclibrary.org/transmiss/congress/congress.html>] that were held in Omaha, June 1–November 1, 1898. During the four months of the Exposition, more than 2.6 million people came to view its 4,062 exhibits. And the Indian Congress, occurring within a decade of the end of the Indian Wars, was the largest Native American gathering of its

kind. The Omaha digital collection consists of approximately 1,800 photographs of the Trans Mississippi Exposition taken by F.A. Rinehart, its official photographer and the only photographer allowed on the grounds. Over 500 of these images include portraits and scenes from the Indian Congress.

Do you know of a digital library collection that we can mention in this AL Direct feature? Tell us about it. [mailto:aldirect@ala.org]

Public Perception
How the World
Sees Us

“But who’s minding the Middleton Public Library while Rex [Libris] is gone? It’s frequently invaded by, as Rex notes, ‘some pretty tough patrons. Gods. Undead. Alien warlords. Vampires. Time travelers.’ Luckily, Rex left the library in the hands of two capable women: Circe, the Greek goddess with a fondness for bedding men (including Odysseus) and for turning them into pigs, and Hypatia, a sexy librarian who just returned from the librarian version of special-ops training.”

?Lori Mortimer, in a review of the graphic novel Rex Libris: I, Librarian, vol. 1, about the “world’s favorite kick-ass sesquipedalian librarian,” Blogcritics Magazine, Dec. 16.

[<http://www.ilovelibraries.org/news/topstories/chasingnewbery.cfm>]

Chasing Newbery

Over recent years, several parents have reported to ALSC that their child has read each and every Newbery Medal–winning book named since 1922 when the award was first given. Our hats are off to all those who have embraced this goal and faithfully read their way through decades of award-winning titles. That is quite an achievement. Twelve-year-old Sophie Blaylock (above) of San Diego, California, achieved her Newbery reading goal and tells us all about it in this exclusive I Love Libraries interview

[<http://www.ilovelibraries.org/news/topstories/chasingnewbery.cfm>]....

Ask the ALA Librarian

Q. Our city manager is asking us for facts and figures to prove the value

of the library. What is available to us?

A. This question is asked of all librarians, sooner or later, and in different forms. The answer builds on effective data gathering and solid advocacy. Beginning in September 2007, ALA has had an Office for Library Advocacy [<http://www.ala.org/ala/ola/index.cfm>], with a mission to support the efforts of library advocates at the local, state, and national level. But the Office will be building on important work already done [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Value_of_Libraries], including studies of libraries' ROI (return on investment) and development of online toolkits to provide resources [<http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Advocacy>] to assist you in presenting your case. See the ALA Professional Tips wiki [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Proving_the_Case] for more....

@ The ALA Librarian [<mailto:AskTheLibrarian@ala.org>] welcomes your questions.

Calendar

May 1–5:

Art Libraries Society of North America,
[<http://arlisna-mw.lib.byu.edu/denver2008/>] 36th Annual Conference, Grand Hyatt Denver.

May 6–9:

Substance Abuse Librarians and Information Specialists,
[<http://www.salis.org/conference/conference.html>] 30th Annual Meeting, Seattle. “SALIS @ 30: Stepping into the Future.”

May 8–10:

GLBT Archives, Libraries, Museums, and Special Collections Conference,
[<http://web.gc.cuny.edu/clags/glbталms/>] City University of New York Graduate Center.

May 16–21:

Medical Library Association,
[http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2007/pdf/mla08_call.pdf] Annual Meeting, Chicago. “Connections: Bridging the Gaps.”

May 21–24:

Canadian Library Association,
[<http://www.cla.ca/conference/2008/documents/Call%20for%20Proposals%202008.pdf>] Annual Conference, Vancouver, B.C. “Libraries and Publishing 3.0: Connecting Authors to Readers in the Digital Age.”

May 30–

June 3:

Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials,

[<http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/salalm/news/salalmneworleans.html>]
53rd Annual Meeting, New Orleans. "Encounter, Engagement and Exchange: How
Native Populations of the Americas Transformed the World."

June 4–6:
LOEX of the West, [<http://www.library.unlv.edu/conferences/loexw/>]
University of Nevada, Las Vegas. "Hit the Jackpot: Successful
Experimentation and Innovation in Instruction."

June 5–8:
North American Serials Interest Group,
[<http://nasig.org/conference/2008/>] 23rd Annual Conference, Tapatio
Cliffs resort, near Phoenix, Arizona.

@ More [<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/calendar/calendar.cfm>]...

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