

american libraries DIRECT

May 2, 2007

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U.S. & World News

[New York Public Library acquires gay rights archive](#)

A major archive of papers relating to the early gay-rights movement in America has been donated to the New York Public Library's Manuscripts and Archives Division. The Barbara Gittings and Kay Tobin Lahusen Gay History Papers and Photographs consist of letters, photographs, handbills, manuscripts, publications, and ephemera accumulated over nearly 50 years by the late activist and writer Gittings (1932–2007) and her life partner, photojournalist and author Lahusen....



[Congressional chairmen request EPA briefing](#)

Four committee chairmen in the U.S. House of Representatives have signed a letter to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Stephen Johnson requesting an update on the agency's recent activities with regard to its libraries. With a deadline of May 4, the inquiry concerns recent reports about the continued disposal or dispersal of library materials, even after recent testimony from Johnson that a moratorium on such activities had been put into place....

[Providence okays 60 pink slips, just in case](#)

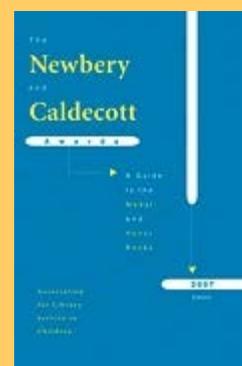
With negotiations continuing between Providence (R.I.) Public Library officials and city leaders about the municipal contribution for FY2008 to the operating budget of the private nonprofit library, the PPL board approved April 26 sending layoff notices to as many as 60 of the library's nearly 100 staff members. The action came as the May 1 deadline approached to give workers 60 days' notice of a possible reduction in force, as mandated by the union contract that covers more than half of PPL's employees....

ALA News

[Rettig elected president.](#)



Be at conference 7:30 p.m. on June 22 for the world premiere of [The Hollywood Librarian](#), a film by writer and director Ann Seidl that focuses on the work and lives of librarians in the entertaining and appealing context of American movies.



Each year, the [Newbery and Caldecott Awards](#) are presented to the most distinguished children's books published the previous year. Fully

[Hersberger elected treasurer](#)

James Rettig (left), university librarian at the University of Richmond, has been elected ALA president for the 2008–2009 term by a vote of 7,033–6,908, defeating Nancy Davenport. Rettig will become president-elect in July 2007 and will assume the presidency in July 2008, following ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, California. By a 6,607–6,429 vote, Rodney M. Hersberger, dean of the university library at California State University at Bakersfield, was elected to a three-year term as ALA treasurer....



[Councilors elected](#)

Forty-one members have been elected to the ALA Council for three-year terms. The terms begin at the conclusion of the 2007 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., and extend through the end of the 2010 Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida. Full election results, including those for divisions and round tables, are on the [ALA website](#)....

[Vitali to serve as endowment trustee](#)

John E. Vitali, Brooklyn Public Library's deputy director for business administration and CFO, has been elected to serve as ALA's newest Endowment Trustee. The Executive Board made the selection during its Spring Meeting in Chicago April 13–15....

[ALA joins anti-National ID campaign](#)

ALA has joined a large and diverse group of 43 organizations to launch a campaign against the first national identification system, REAL ID. The groups are concerned about the increased threat of counterfeiting and identity theft, lack of security to protect against unauthorized access to the document's machine-readable content, increased cost to taxpayers, diverting of state funds intended for homeland security, increased costs for obtaining a license or state issued ID card, and because the REAL ID would create a false belief that it is secure and unforgeable....

[Help rebrand the library profession](#)

Six participants in this year's [Emerging Leaders program](#) have been charged with creating or finding options for "rebranding the library profession in the digital world." The [Project KK](#) group has crafted a survey intended to go out to as broad a spectrum of library professionals as possible to analyze current perceptions and future trends in librarianship. Find a couple minutes to [take the survey](#)....

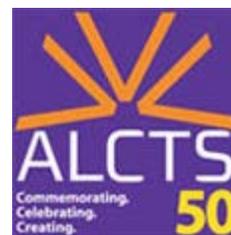
Booklist

ONLINE

[Featured review: Books for Youth](#)

Kirkpatrick, Katherine. *The Snow Baby: The Arctic Childhood of Robert E. Peary's*

indexed by title and author/illustrator, the 2007 edition includes background on the awards and photos of the new medalists and their books. New to the 2007 edition is a feature essay by author, *Booklinks* founder, and former children's book editor for *Booklist*, Barbara Elleman, "The John Newbery Medal: The First Decade." **NEW!**
From ALA Editions.



Celebrate [50 years of the ALCTS experience](#)

June 20–21 in Washington, D.C., prior to ALA Annual Conference. The division is featuring several invited speakers and a gala dinner cruise.

In this issue

May 2007

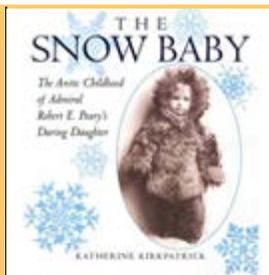


Roger Mudd on the Love of Books

Bookstore Tourism

Daring Daughter. Apr. 2007. 48p. Illus. Holiday, hardcover (978-0-823-41973-9).

When Marie Peary, daughter of the famous explorer Robert Peary, was six weeks old, her mother wrapped her in a caribou skin bag, furs, and an American flag. Young Marie had a childhood like no other. Called Snow Baby by the Inuit, who had never seen a blonde, blue-eyed child, she moved back and forth between the icy domains where her father kept camp as he continued his expeditions and the United States, where her mother's relatives led a genteel life....



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

D.C. Update

[D.C. on the cheap](#)

If you're one of those people who brings your own shopping cart to the exhibit hall to stock up on all the freebies—or if you just like to save a few bucks—take heed of this list of 12 free things to do in our nation's capital. Among them: Visit the [Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens](#) (above), stroll by [JFK's former house](#), check out the [Chesapeake and Ohio Canal](#), and examine the original [Declaration of Independence at the National Archives](#)....



DistrictColumbia.com; National Park Service; Georgetown *La Hoya*; National Archives

Division News

[U.S. Senate celebrates El día de los Niños](#)

Several members of the U.S. Senate, including Sens. Jack Reed (D-R.I.) and Robert Menendez (right, D-N.J.), were joined at the U.S. Capitol by children from the Oyster Bilingual School April 30 to honor El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day), an annual celebration of children, families, cultures, and reading promoted by ALSC. The senators both discussed advocating for literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds, and Menendez read to the attending children....



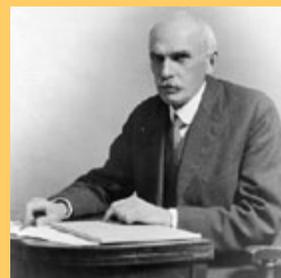
[RUSA selects Spectrum Scholar for internship](#)

RUSA has selected Kelvin Watson, a 2007 Spectrum Scholar attending the School of Library and Information Sciences at North Carolina Central University in Durham as the 2008 RUSA intern. Watson will work for 1.5 years with RUSA's vice-president/president-

Gamers in the Library

Mattering in the School Blogosphere

From the CentennialAL Blog



The outspoken director of the Newark (N.J.) Public Library, [John Cotton Dana](#) (1856–1929), frequently targeted ALA activities. As his obituary in the September 1929 *ALA Bulletin* noted, "He was like a gadfly to stodgy conservatism. He was always calling for a reassessment of old traditions and standards in library work." A lengthy letter read to Council at the Midwinter Meeting December 29–31, 1927, and published in the January 1928 issue, expressed his opposition to a number of ALA activities, among them a library school board of examiners, adult education, library extension efforts, member surveys, and a curriculum study. He frequently spoke in favor of converting *Booklist* into a review

elect, David Tyckoson, head of public services at the Henry Madden Library, California State University at Fresno....

[ACRL Intentional Teacher program](#)

The deadline to apply for ACRL's "The Intentional Teacher: Renewal through Informed Reflection" program is May 11. Participation is limited to 40 individuals. The program will be 3.5 days of learning and reflection for academic librarians and will offer a mixture of structured and coconstructed learning segments such as peer discussions, individual reading and reflection times, and participant-led communities of practice....

Round Table News

[Creating a staff development plan](#)

The Continuing Library Education and Networking Exchange Round Table is holding a half-day preconference in Washington, D.C., June 22, on how libraries can encourage staff to participate in staff development. SOLINET's Cal Shepard is the speaker....



Awards

[Beta Phi Mu Award recipient](#)

Barbara Immroth, professor in the School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin, has been selected as the 2007 winner of the ALA/Beta Phi Mu Award. This annual award is given to a library school faculty member or to an individual for distinguished service to education for librarianship, and is sponsored by the Beta Phi Mu International Library Science Honorary Society....



[Keith Kuhn named Sullivan Award winner](#)

Keith Kuhn is the recipient of the 2007 Sullivan Award for Public Library Administrators Supporting Services to Children. This award, donated by former ALA Executive Director Peggy Sullivan, honors an individual who has shown exceptional understanding and support of public library service to children while having general management/supervisory/administrative responsibility that has included public library service to children in its scope....

[Reference Service Press award](#)

C. Brandi Borman, team leader of undergraduate recruitment and admissions, and Pamela Jane McKenzie, associate professor of information and media studies, at the University of Western Ontario, London, are the 2007 corecipients of the RUSA Reference Service Press Award for the *Reference and User Services Quarterly* article, "Trying to Help without Getting in Their Faces: Public Library Staff Descriptions of Providing Consumer Health Information."...

[BRASS Thompson Student Financial Travel Award](#)

Anthony B. Lin, a master's candidate at the School of Information of the University of Michigan, is the recipient of the RUSA Business Reference and Services Section's Thomson Financial Student Travel Award. BRASS presents the \$1,000 cash award to a candidate who

journal for the public....



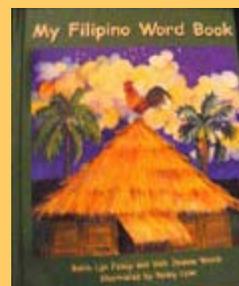
Career Leads from



[Bilingual Youth Librarian](#)

Multnomah County Library, Portland, Oregon. Seeking candidates for a full-time Bilingual Youth Librarian to enhance service to our multicultural community. We are seeking candidates who are bilingual in both English and in one of the library's four targeted languages (Chinese, Russian, Spanish, or Vietnamese)....

@ [More jobs...](#)



Robin Lyn Fancy, a University of Hawaii at Manoa LIS student, coauthored with Lanai High School teacher Vala Jeanne Welch this colorful picture book for Tagalog and

has demonstrated an interest in pursuing a career as a business reference librarian and has the potential to be a leader in the profession....

[Five winners of InfoTubey Award](#)

Five libraries received a national InfoTubey Award April 18 at the Computers in Libraries conference in Washington, D.C. The award was presented to those libraries that used YouTube to market their library or its services or enhance the standing of the library in its community. The winners (and their YouTube videos) were [Arlington Heights \(Ill.\) Memorial Library](#), [McCracken County \(Ky.\) Public Library](#), the [New Jersey State Library](#), [Seneca College's Markham Library](#), and [Williams College Libraries](#)...

Infotoday blog, Apr. 17



[Los Angeles librarian wins Urban Player Award](#) (PDF file)

In recognition of her successful leadership in the nation's largest library building program, which modernized and expanded Los Angeles Public Library's network of 72 libraries, City Librarian Fontayne Holmes has received the Urban Libraries Council's 2007 SirsiDynix Urban Player Award. ULC presents the award annually to the individual who most profoundly demonstrates library and community leadership. Holmes will receive the award at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., in June....

Los Angeles Public Library

[Los Angeles Times book prizes](#)

A haunting novel about the Israeli victim of a suicide bombing, a provocative biography of Walt Disney, and a probing analysis of the 9/11 attacks were among the winners of the 2006 *Los Angeles Times* Book Prizes, announced April 27 at UCLA. The awards ceremony, hosted by author and PBS news anchor Jim Lehrer, honored books in nine categories. A final prize, the Robert Kirsch Award for lifetime achievement, was given to author and memoirist William Kittredge....

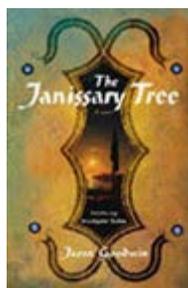
Los Angeles Times, April 28



[Edgar Award winners announced](#) (PDF file)

Mystery Writers of America has announced the winners of the 2007 Edgar Allen Poe Awards, honoring the best in mystery fiction, nonfiction, television, and film published or produced in 2006. *The Janissary Tree* by Jacob Goodwin (Farrar Straus Giroux) won for best novel, while *Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson (Morrow) won for best nonfiction....

Mystery Writers of America, Apr. 26



[Pritzker Military Library recognized by Webby Awards](#) (PDF file)

The Pritzker Military Library's 2006 event calendar was named an official honoree at the 11th Annual Webby Awards, a distinction that recognizes work exhibiting remarkable achievement in online programming. Watch video [highlights](#) (3:04) of the Chicago library's 2006 season....

Pritzker Military Library, Apr. 11

Ilocano speakers learning English. Read how *My Filipino Word Book* came about in the May issue of *The Basement Blotter* ([PDF file](#)), the newsletter of UHM's ALA Student Chapter.

Interface

In fall 2005, the [Delaware State Library](#) contracted with the Institute for Learning Innovation, an Annapolis-based nonprofit learning research and development organization, to develop a study to explore the motivations, prior experiences, attitudes, and expectations of users of the Dover Public Library. Find out the survey results in the Spring issue of *Interface*, the ASCLA newsletter.

Public Perception

How the World Sees Us

"[As a struggling actor on tour,] I was astonished to find that the libraries were free. You just filled the form in and gave your card and you got your book. I did all the libraries up and down the country. From then on I was never without a book."

—Actor Sir Sean Connery on why he is supporting a National Library of Scotland

Seen Online

[Fire claims Georgetown library](#)

For 140 years, residents of Georgetown have been compiling a rare trove of data on their past: oil paintings, leather-bound maps, photos, and files on nearly every property in the neighborhood—all kept in the stately, two-story Georgetown branch of the District of Columbia Public Library. In just a few hours April 30, a three-alarm fire devoured much of it. Onlookers gasped as D.C. firefighters—somewhat hampered by [broken fire hydrants](#) nearby—carried out [item after historical item](#). Most were severely damaged. The DCPL Foundation has established a [fund](#) where tax-deductible contributions can be made for restoring the artwork, the collections, and the building....



Washington Post, May 1–2; District of Columbia Public Library Foundation, May 1

[Medford library levy's pros and cons](#)

With less than three weeks before voters decide on Measure 15-75, Jackson County, Oregon, residents hold the fate of the 15-branch library system in their hands. For some, it is a matter of community pride and a moral responsibility to reopen the libraries, which were closed April 6 because of a lack of funding. For one vocal Talent resident, the “Taj Mahals” spread throughout the county are not a luxury taxpayers can afford, and he cites mismanagement in bringing the library system to its present state....

Medford (Oreg.) Mail Tribune, Apr. 29

[The 200-year story of Columbus libraries](#)

In 2007, the Columbus (Ohio) Metropolitan Library is celebrating 100 years of good work and public service. But the story of libraries in Columbus goes back much farther and is a somewhat convoluted one. People moving into Ohio in the years after the American Revolution brought with them much of the culture and society they had left behind. And they brought books....



ThisWeek Community Newspapers, Apr. 26

[Guam library branch reopens after seven years](#)

After having its doors shut to the public for more than seven years, the Merizo Branch Library held a reopening ceremony April 30, to the delight of residents of Guam's southernmost villages of Merizo, Umatac, and Inarajan. Some 6,000 residents had been deprived of an easily accessible library since 2000....

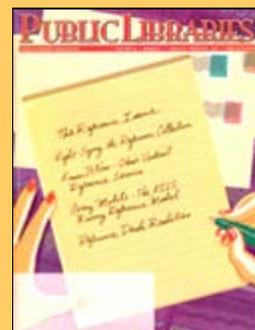
Guam Pacific Daily News, May 1

[Islamabad children's library relinquished](#)

The leader of Pakistan's ruling party declared April 25 that a standoff involving radicals at the Lal Masjid mosque in Islamabad had been “amicably resolved,” though the situation on the ground appeared unchanged. Men armed with Kalashnikovs guarded the passage through the compound to a public children's library that burqa-clad female students had been occupying since February 15 to protest the city authorities' demolition of illegally built mosques....

Karachi News, Apr. 29; Reuters, Apr. 26

campaign to raise funds for the John Murray Archive, *The Scotsman* (U.K.), Apr. 24.



[Keep your trustees current!](#)

For a limited time, PLA is offering a discounted price on group subscriptions to *Public Libraries*. Order a minimum of five subscriptions for your trustees and the cost is just \$30 per subscription. Fill out and return this [form](#) before June 1.

[Ask the ALA Librarian](#)



Q. Does ALA have any guidelines or sample policies for libraries wishing to offer Wi-Fi service?

A. Not specifically. The ALA Council has adopted a policy on [Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks](#), which was last amended in 2005. In addition, ALA has worked to ensure [patron privacy](#) in all

[The complete guide to book towns](#)

It all started at [Hay-on-Wye](#) in Wales, and now literary festivals are putting little towns in pretty settings on the map, luring bibliophiles and browsers alike, writes Hilary Macaskill. Book towns and villages have a delightfully disproportionate number of second-hand and antiquarian bookshops, and sometimes also have other associated businesses based on writing, reading, and publishing. In Hay, [it began in 1961](#) when Richard Booth, a 20-something anarchist and Oxford graduate with an abiding love for books, bought 800-year-old Hay Castle and declared himself King of Hay....

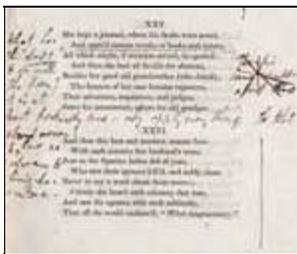
Independent (UK), Mar. 24; *Dallas (Tex.) Morning News*, Apr. 27



[Stars back literary archive plans](#)

A host of Scottish celebrities, including actor Sir Sean Connery and author Ian Rankin, have joined the National Library of Scotland's campaign to purchase the [John Murray Archive](#), which includes manuscripts and letters from Charles Dickens, Jane Austen, Lord Byron, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The National Library plans to make the archive widely accessible through exhibitions that will travel the country, digitization of items from the collection, and a significant education and outreach program....

BBC News, Apr. 24



[Principal linked to \\$40,000 library theft](#)

David R. Bryan, the principal of Abrookin Vo-Tech Center in Albany, New York, has been placed on paid administrative leave amid charges he stole about \$40,000 from the Rensselaerville (N.Y.) Library. Bryan, who served as the library's unpaid president, is accused of writing several checks to himself and also depositing funds directly into his own checking account....

Albany (N.Y.) Times Union, Apr. 28

[Goucher breaks ground for Athenaeum](#)

What do a library, exercise equipment, an art gallery, and plants on the roof have in common? They're all part of the Athenaeum, a 100,000-square-foot building scheduled to open at Goucher College in Towson, Maryland, in fall 2009. The college broke ground April 27 for the structure, which will be Goucher's first green building, with high-efficiency mechanical systems, two green roofs, and the restoration of natural habitats around it....

Towson (Md.) Jeffersonian, Apr. 26



[Librarian helps student launch space experiment](#)

Librarian Jean Lowery, who has been at Bishop Woods School in New Haven, Connecticut, for 10 years, is off to the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico with one of her star pupils to help him launch his prize-winning science experiment into space. The astronaut-to-be is 4th grader Christopher Walker, who wants to see how exposure to gravity-free conditions in space will affect the performance and longevity of the batteries....

New Haven (Conn.) Independent, Apr. 27

library operations. The next step is taking those broad policy statements to a local operational level. For this, reviewing such conference discussions as the one held under the auspices of the Library Information and Technology Association at the [2005 Midwinter Meeting](#), published [policies from individual libraries](#), such as might be found on state library websites, or references from a literature search will be useful. See more at the **ALA Professional Tips wiki** [here](#) or [here](#).

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

Calendar

Exhibits

[Boston Public Library](#): "The John Adams Library Online." Browse and search 3,500 books, read thousands of handwritten notes, and learn about one remarkable founding father.

[British Library](#): "Sacred: Discover What We Share." The world's greatest collection of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim holy books.

[Buffalo and Erie County \(N.Y.\) Public Library](#): "The New York to Paris Race, 1908." The race was won by the made-in-

[Chicago State's brave new library](#)

It's not often that a librarian is warned to stay away from the bookshelves because of high voltage and that students aren't allowed to roam freely through the stacks. At Chicago State University, only robots are allowed to browse most books and archives. To get a particular book, students and faculty must log onto the library's website and place an order for a title. The library's computer system directs a robotic crane—dubbed "Rover"—to retrieve one of more than 6,300 bins. The crane then brings the bin to a workstation at the front of the warehouse, where a librarian picks up the book....

Los Angeles Times, Apr. 22



[Author claims library toned down book talk](#)

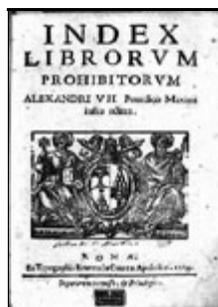
In her new book *Writing in an Age of Silence*, Sara Paretsky, author of the V. I. Warshawski mysteries, says she was asked in advance by the Toledo–Lucas County (Ohio) Public Library to rein in her political remarks on March 19, 2003—the night the United States invaded Iraq. Library officials vehemently deny the charge, which seems now to boil down to a difference in what each party recalls....

Toledo (Ohio) Blade, Apr. 30

[History's forbidden books](#)

An exhibit at the Loyola University Museum of Art in Chicago showcases books (including works by Copernicus and Galileo) that were once on the Index Librorum Prohibitorum, the Roman Catholic Church's list of works forbidden to the faithful lest they lead readers down the road to heresy. The exhibit, titled "Science and Faith Between Observance and Censorship," features 138 books lent by a consortium of libraries in Campania, Italy. The works are in Latin, the long-ago international language of scholarship, and are handsomely leather-bound....

Chicago Tribune, Apr. 27



[Graphic novels to be moved in Wanganui](#)

The young-adult area and the graphic novel collection of the Wanganui Public Library, New Zealand, will be moved away from the children's area in the wake of concern that explicit books could easily get into younger hands. The issue was raised by Wanganui mother and part-time Japanese-language teacher Julie Gordon after she found several volumes of the "sexually graphic" manga series *Chobits* available for borrowing....

Wanganui (N.Z.) Chronicle, May 1



[Honolulu libraries celebrate Free Comic Book Day](#)

Eight Oahu public libraries will host the sixth annual Free Comic Book Day on May 5. The libraries will distribute various titles, including *Transformers: The Movie Prequel*, *The Unseen Peanuts*, and *Little Archie: The Legend of the L*, said Hillary W. Chang, young adult librarian at the

Buffalo Thomas Flyer.

[Chicago Public Library](#): "Called to the Challenge: The Legacy of Mayor Harold Washington."

[Cleveland Public Library](#): "Mail Art."

[Cornell University](#): "Abuzz about Beekeeping: 400 Years of Bees and Beekeeping."

[Duke University](#): "Hugh Mangum Photographs, ca. 1890–1922."

[Harvard University](#): "Women Working, 1800–1930" focuses on women's role in the United States economy.

[Indiana University](#): "The Fine Art of British Bookbinding."

[Library of Congress](#): "On the Cutting Edge: Contemporary Japanese Prints."

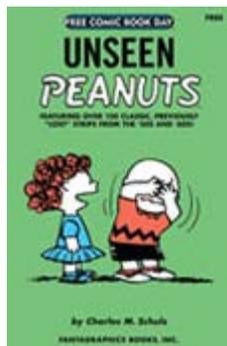
[New York Public Library](#): "Making the Scene: The Midtown Y Photography Gallery, 1972–1996." The Midtown Y Photography Gallery was the first nonprofit organization in New York City with a mission to provide a public space for the display of photographs.

[Oberlin College](#): "To Judge a Book by Its Cover: 19th-century American Pictorial Book Covers."

[Ohio State](#)

McCully-Mo'ili'ili branch of the Hawaii State Public Library System. "Libraries and comic books have such old-fashioned stereotypes, and events like this help to change that image." Free Comic Book Day is celebrated around the world....

Honolulu (Hawaii) Advertiser, Apr. 23



University: "Ohio Cartoonists: A Bicentennial Celebration."

Rice University: "The Life and Work of Architect William Ward Watkin."

University of Cincinnati: "The Strobridge Litho Company Calendar Cards."

University of Michigan: "St. Petersburg: Window on the East, Window on the West."

University of Nevada at Las Vegas: "Gaming Art Gallery."

University of Pittsburgh: "Documenting Pitt: Historic Publications and Images of the University of Pittsburgh."

University of Tennessee: "Albert 'Dutch' Roth," one of the most prolific early photographers of the Greenbrier and Mount Le Conte sections of the Great Smoky Mountains.

University of Virginia, Health Sciences Library: "The Plague Book." Explore 16th-century medicine with a look at a unique book of advice to combat the

Flood devastates New Hampshire library

Until last week, the children's room at the Weare (N.H.) Public Library was a place where parents could meet and chit-chat as their kids read books, heard stories, and did arts and crafts. But recent floods destroyed the room's carpets and walls. Now, the books are boxed up in the town offices, and librarians and townspeople are struggling to figure out the next step. "I'm overwhelmed by the enormity of what needs to be done," Library Director Christine Hague said. "It far exceeds anything I learned about library science."...

Concord (N.H.) Monitor, Apr. 27

Tech Talk

Google responds to Viacom's YouTube lawsuit

Google filed a response April 30 to Viacom's copyright infringement lawsuit over Google's video-sharing site YouTube, arguing that the site's activities are legal. Google said that YouTube respects the importance of copyrights and goes above and beyond what is required under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, which gives web hosts protection from copyright lawsuits as long as they comply with requests to remove unauthorized material....

ABC News, May 1

Joost video program officially launches



Joost, the video-on-demand program created by the founders of Skype and Kazaa, announced its commercial launch May 1. The free [downloadable software](#), which is based on a peer-to-peer model, includes commercial content from 32 advertising partners, such as Coca-Cola, Intel, Hewlett-Packard, and Nike. Joost also announced a number of content offerings that are included in new partnerships with Turner Broadcasting System, the National Hockey League, *Sports Illustrated*, Hasbro, and Sony Pictures Entertainment....

C|net news.com, May 1

Search engine shoot-out

Does Google deserve all the traffic it gets, or is it living off its reputation? Are people using it because they're not aware of other, potentially better search engines? To find out, *PC World* pitted Google against its big-name competitors, Yahoo and Microsoft Live Search, as well as against smaller challengers such as AlltheWeb, AltaVista, and Ask.com—plus a couple dozen of the specialty search services, including Blogdigger, Picsearch, and TubeSurf....

PC World, Apr. 25

[Video sharing made easy](#)

Just as easy photo-sharing applications like iPhoto, Flickr, and Picasa offer simple editing controls and take some of the pain out of uploading and sharing digital photos, Pure Digital's new Flip Video camera is packaged with editing software that will upload video clips to video-sharing sites YouTube and Grouper.

American Libraries owns a few of these cameras and they [work pretty well](#)....

C|net news.com, May 1; BlipTV



[Will the internet collapse?](#)

John Dvorak writes: "When is the internet going to collapse? The answer is *never*. The internet is amazing for no other reason than that it hasn't simply collapsed, never to be rebooted. Over a decade ago, many pundits were predicting an all-out catastrophic failure, and back then the load was nothing compared with what it is today. So how much more can this network take?"...

PC Magazine, May 1

[Wikipedia cofounder wants open-source search engine](#)

The folks behind the public encyclopedia Wikipedia have launched [Wikia](#), a project to develop a search engine, crawlers, and other indexing tools through a collaborative, open-source process. Contributors will likely include graduate students as well large companies that want to include search functionality in their products but don't want to pay royalties to a search company....

C|net news.com, Apr. 30



Actions & Answers

[Ideas for a successful library conference](#)

Amanda Etches-Johnson was at the Information Architecture Summit in Las Vegas in March, where the conference planners did a lot of things that she categorized as "good conference ideas." Her photo-essay on conference ideas that are definitely worth stealing includes fun icebreakers (right), conference at-a-glance cards, and a mentoring table....

Blogwithoutalibrary.net, Apr. 23



[Schools, children, and digital technology](#)

Mark van 't Hooft discusses how many schools are regulating student use of the internet outside of school, banning digital tools from schools, and blaming technology for deeper-rooted problems such as youth alienation and bullying. While he agrees that technology use does raise issues involving child safety and learning distraction, he argues that the responses of some schools have not resolved these issues but have instead created additional problems regarding First Amendment rights and means of enforcement....

Innovate: Journal of Online Education 3, no. 4 (Apr./May)

[An Iraqi woman and her library](#)

plague.

[Yale University, Beinecke Library:](#)

"Let It Resound: Sheet Music in the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection."

[Yale University, Cushing Medical Library:](#)

"Harvey Cushing: A Journey through His Life."

@ [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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All links outside the ALA

Much was made of the looting of Iraq's National Library after the fall of Baghdad and the collapse of order in the capital. Less is known about the role of small private libraries and how they continue to provide some of the only access to scholarly material for Baghdad's



intellectuals and academics. Hameeda Al-Bassam, a disabled Shi'a woman, describes in this video her work as a librarian, as well as the difficulties she faces, not only as a woman, but also as someone bound to a wheelchair....

Alive in Baghdad, Apr. 16

[Publishers celebrate World Intellectual Property Day](#)

The Association of American Publishers celebrated World Intellectual Property Day on April 26, cosponsoring a Capitol Hill event that focused on "Encouraging Creativity." Along with the World Intellectual Property Organization, the Creative and Innovative Economy Center, and others, AAP was highlighting "the importance of encouraging creativity while protecting the intellectual property rights of the creators." The event intended to spotlight "the cultural and economic benefits provided by the copyright industries."...

Association of American Publishers, Apr. 26

[Good at reviewing books but not each other](#)

Steven J. Bell writes: "Although many library pundits and A-list library bloggers would be quick to deny it, it seems increasingly the case that a speech chill has descended on the library blogosphere. On the few occasions when a dissenting comment is attached to a post in the spirit of discourse, the commenter is likely to find him or herself the target of an unpleasant post in which the blogger uses his or her bully pulpit to lash out against someone who's dared to take an opposing view. Ultimately, those who make an attempt at discourse are discouraged and the next time simply ask, 'Why bother?'" ...

Inside Higher Ed, Apr. 27

[MonsterLibrarian.com reviews horror books](#)

Part-time reference librarian Dylan Kowalewski is the monster-mind behind MonsterLibrarian.com, a website that offers public, academic, and school librarians advice and reviews on the latest horror literature for adults and teens. The site also reviews scary stories for children, includes lists of titles in horror subgenres, and provides links to a variety of authors, small press publishers, and online resources....



MonsterLibrarian.com

[Putin calls for Yeltsin presidential library](#)

Russian President Vladimir Putin has decided to establish a presidential library in Russia and suggested naming it after Boris Yeltsin. "The decision has been made to establish a presidential library, which could become an informational link for the entire library network of the country," Putin said April 26. The library will [amass electronic versions](#) of books and periodicals, with access provided from electronic terminals set up in libraries across the

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

American Libraries

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

ISSN 1559-369X.

country....

Interfax, Apr. 26; Ros Business Consulting, Apr. 26

[A scrapbook of Russian bookjackets](#)

The New York Public Library offers this visual gallery of some 640 Russian bookjackets published between 1917 and 1942. Each image is tagged by subject and provides item notes and a translation of the title. The archive also contains some Azerbaijani, Polish, Serbian, Ukrainian, and Belarusian jackets....

New York Public Library Digital Gallery



[In praise of slow reading](#)

John Miedema writes: "Slow reading is about leisurely reading a book, maybe just a page or two at a time; noticing the binding, paper, and font; seeking out and encouraging local publications; borrowing books from friends and neighbors; reading aloud with your kids; sharing thoughts about what you are reading with family and friends over dinner. Slow reading is better for mental and emotional health, socialization, and our global culture."...

John Miedema blog, Apr. 30

[New MEDLINE search engine](#)

Researchers at the University of Virginia School of Medicine have created a new online search engine, [ReleMed](#), that provides medical professionals, researchers, and the general public with a more efficient and targeted way to search PubMed for the latest, most relevant medical literature to answer medical queries....

University of Virginia, Feb. 13

[Surviving a month without the internet](#)

Stephen Elliott writes: "I was in Gaza when the Israeli soldiers were snatched from their posts. I was in New Orleans three days after Katrina smashed the levees to bits and the city flooded. But of all of my various adventures, people have been most curious about my recent decision to go offline for a month. I bought an old word processor and left my fancy laptop with a friend. 'How will you exist?' my roommate asked. 'You'll have no idea what's going on. You won't be able to find anything.'"...

Poets & Writers, May/June 2007

[Eric Bana to play time-traveling librarian](#)

Eric Bana (*Munich*, *The Hulk*) will play Henry De Tamble, a librarian at Chicago's Newberry Library who is afflicted with a gene that causes him to travel through time involuntarily, in New Line Cinema's adaptation of Audrey Niffenegger's best-selling novel *The Time Traveler's Wife*. He will be featured alongside costar Rachel McAdams (*Wedding Crashers*, *Mean Girls*) as Clare....



Entertainment Weekly, Apr. 17

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

May 2, 2007

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[\[http://www.schoolrooms.net\]](http://www.schoolrooms.net)

[\[http://www.sirsidynix.com\]](http://www.sirsidynix.com)

U.S. & World News

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New York Public Library acquires gay rights archive

[\[http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/april2007/gittingsarchive.cfm\]](http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/april2007/gittingsarchive.cfm)

A major archive of papers relating to the early gay-rights movement in America has been donated to the New York Public Library's Manuscripts and Archives Division. The Barbara Gittings and Kay Tobin Lahusen Gay History Papers and Photographs consist of letters, photographs, handbills, manuscripts, publications, and ephemera accumulated over nearly 50 years by the late activist and writer Gittings (1932–2007) and her life partner, photojournalist and author Lahusen....

Congressional chairmen request EPA briefing

[\[http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/april2007/epaletter.htm\]](http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/april2007/epaletter.htm)

Four committee chairmen in the U.S. House of Representatives have signed a letter to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Stephen Johnson requesting an update on the agency's recent activities with regard to its libraries. With a deadline of May 4, the inquiry concerns recent reports about the continued disposal or dispersal of library materials, even after recent testimony from Johnson that a moratorium on such activities had been put into place....

Providence okays 60 pink slips, just in case

[\[http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/april2007/providenceslips.cfm\]](http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/april2007/providenceslips.cfm)

With negotiations continuing between Providence (R.I.) Public Library officials and city leaders about the municipal contribution for FY2008 to the operating budget of the private nonprofit library, the PPL board approved April 26 sending layoff notices to as many as 60 of the library's nearly 100 staff members. The action came as the May 1 deadline approached to give workers 60 days' notice of a possible reduction in force, as mandated by the union contract that covers more than half of PPL's employees....

ALA News

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Rettig elected president, Hersberger elected treasurer

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/election07.htm>]

James Rettig (left), university librarian at the University of Richmond, has been elected ALA president for the 2008–2009 term by a vote of 7,033–6,908, defeating Nancy Davenport. Rettig will become president-elect in July 2007 and will assume the presidency in July 2008, following ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, California. By a 6,607–6,429 vote, Rodney M. Hersberger, dean of the university library at California State University at Bakersfield, was elected to a three-year term as ALA treasurer....

Councilors elected [<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/alace07.htm>]

Forty-one members have been elected to the ALA Council for three-year terms. The terms begin at the conclusion of the 2007 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., and extend through the end of the 2010 Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida. Full election results, including those for divisions and round tables, are on the ALA website

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/governanceb/electioninfo/election2007.htm>]....

Vitali to serve as endowment trustee

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/VitaliEndowmentTrustee.htm>]

John E. Vitali, Brooklyn Public Library's deputy director for business administration and CFO, has been elected to serve as ALA's newest Endowment Trustee. The Executive Board made the selection during its Spring Meeting in Chicago April 13–15....

ALA joins anti-National ID campaign [<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/natid.htm>]

ALA has joined a large and diverse group of 43 organizations to launch a campaign against the first national identification system, REAL ID. The groups are concerned about the increased threat of counterfeiting and identity theft, lack of security to protect against unauthorized access to the document's machine-readable content, increased cost to taxpayers, diverting of state funds intended for homeland security, increased costs for obtaining a license or state issued ID card, and because the REAL ID would create a false belief that it is secure and unforgeable....

Help rebrand the library profession [<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=371423757475>]

Six participants in this year's Emerging Leaders program

[http://wikis.ala.org/emergingleaders/index.php/Main_Page] have been charged with creating or finding options for "rebranding the library profession in the digital world." The Project KK

[http://wikis.ala.org/emergingleaders/index.php/Project_KK] group has crafted a survey intended to go out to as broad a spectrum of library professionals as possible to analyze current perceptions and future trends in librarianship. Find a couple minutes to take the survey

[<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=371423757475>]....

Booklist Online

Featured review: Books for Youth

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=1963344]

Kirkpatrick, Katherine. *The Snow Baby: The Arctic Childhood of Robert E. Peary's Daring Daughter*. Apr. 2007. 48p. Illus. Holiday, hardcover (978-0-823-41973-9).

When Marie Peary, daughter of the famous explorer Robert Peary, was six weeks old, her mother wrapped her in a caribou skin bag, furs, and an American flag. Young Marie had a childhood like no other. Called Snow Baby by the Inuit, who had never seen a blonde, blue-eyed child, she moved back and forth between the icy domains where her father kept camp as he continued his expeditions and the United States, where her mother's relatives led a genteel life....

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

D.C. Update

D.C. on the cheap [http://www.districtcolumbia.com/DC_Twenty_Five_Free.html]

If you're one of those people who brings your own shopping cart to the exhibit hall to stock up on all the freebies—or if you just like to save a few bucks—take heed of this list of 12 free things to do in our nation's capital. Among them: Visit the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens [<http://www.nps.gov/keaq/>] (above), stroll by JFK's former house

[<http://www.thehoya.com/guide/092002/guide1.cfm>], check out the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal [<http://www.nps.gov/choh/>], and examine the original Declaration of Independence at the National Archives [<http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/declaration.html>]....

DistrictColumbia.com; National Park Service; Georgetown La Hoya; National Archives

Division News

U.S. Senate celebrates El día de los Niños

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/diadelosninos/diacelebrations/SenateCelebratesDia.htm>]

Several members of the U.S. Senate, including Sens. Jack Reed (D-R.I.) and Robert Menendez (right, D-N.J.), were joined at the U.S. Capitol by children from the Oyster Bilingual School April 30 to honor El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day), an annual celebration of children, families, cultures, and reading promoted by ALSC. The senators both discussed advocating for literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds, and Menendez read to the attending children....

RUSA selects Spectrum Scholar for internship

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/april2007/SpectrumScholarinternshi.htm>]

RUSA has selected Kelvin Watson, a 2007 Spectrum Scholar attending the School of Library and Information Sciences at North Carolina Central University in Durham as the 2008 RUSA intern.

Watson will work for 1.5 years with RUSA's vice-president/president-elect, David Tyckoson, head of public services at the Henry Madden Library, California State University at Fresno....

ACRL Intentional Teacher program

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/april2007/ACRLInformationProgram.htm>]

The deadline to apply for ACRL's "The Intentional Teacher: Renewal through Informed Reflection" program is May 11. Participation is limited to 40 individuals. The program will be 3.5 days of learning and reflection for academic librarians and will offer a mixture of structured and coconstructed learning segments such as peer discussions, individual reading and reflection times, and participant-led communities of practice....

Round Table News

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Creating a staff development plan [<http://www.ala.org/ala/clenert/clenert.htm>]

The Continuing Library Education and Networking Exchange Round Table is holding a half-day preconference in Washington, D.C., June 22, on how libraries can encourage staff to participate in staff development. SOLINET's Cal Shepard is the speaker....

Awards

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Beta Phi Mu Award recipient

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/april2007/2007BetaPhiMuAward.htm>]

Barbara Immroth, professor in the School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin, has been selected as the 2007 winner of the ALA/Beta Phi Mu Award. This annual award is given to a library school faculty member or to an individual for distinguished service to education for librarianship, and is sponsored by the Beta Phi Mu International Library Science Honorary Society....

Keith Kuhn named Sullivan Award winner

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/april2007/SullivanAwardwinner.htm>]

Keith Kuhn is the recipient of the 2007 Sullivan Award for Public Library Administrators Supporting Services to Children. This award, donated by former ALA Executive Director Peggy Sullivan, honors an individual who has shown exceptional understanding and support of public library service to children while having general management/supervisory/administrative responsibility that has included public library service to children in its scope....

Reference Service Press award

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/april2007/ReferenceServiceAward.htm>]

C. Brandi Borman, team leader of undergraduate recruitment and admissions, and Pamela Jane McKenzie, associate professor of information and media studies, at the University of Western Ontario, London, are the 2007 corecipients of the RUSA Reference Service Press Award for the Reference and User Services Quarterly article, "Trying to Help without Getting in Their Faces: Public Library Staff Descriptions of Providing Consumer Health Information...."

BRASS Thompson Student Financial Travel Award

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/april2007/BRASSThompsonAward.htm>]

Anthony B. Lin, a master's candidate at the School of Information of the University of Michigan, is the recipient of the RUSA Business Reference and Services Section's Thomson Financial Student Travel Award. BRASS presents the \$1,000 cash award to a candidate who has demonstrated an interest in pursuing a career as a business reference librarian and has the potential to be a leader in the profession....

Five winners of InfoTubey Award

[<http://www.infotodayblog.com/2007/04/17/the-first-infotubey-award-ceremony/>]

Five libraries received a national InfoTubey Award April 18 at the Computers in Libraries conference in Washington, D.C. The award was presented to those libraries that used YouTube to

market their library or its services or enhance the standing of the library in its community. The winners (and their YouTube videos) were Arlington Heights (Ill.) Memorial Library,

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZcw9Zx4ejA>] McCracken County (Ky.) Public Library,

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjxkQKwkP3M>] the New Jersey State Library,

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZeQI25n8qPQ>] Seneca College's Markham Library,

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMVMgDWnoaA>] and Williams College Libraries.

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YwCUtpbUWgk>]...

Infotoday blog, Apr. 17

Los Angeles librarian wins Urban Player Award [http://www.lapl.org/press/Fontayne_ULC_Award.pdf] (PDF file)

In recognition of her successful leadership in the nation's largest library building program, which modernized and expanded Los Angeles Public Library's network of 72 libraries, City

Librarian Fontayne Holmes has received the Urban Libraries Council's 2007 SirsiDynix Urban Player Award.

ULC presents the award annually to the individual who most profoundly demonstrates

library and community leadership. Holmes will receive the award at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., in June....

Los Angeles Public Library

book prizes

[<http://www.calendarlive.com/books/la-me-bookawards28apr28,0,2252369.story?coll=cl-books-features>]

A haunting novel about the Israeli victim of a suicide bombing, a provocative biography of Walt Disney, and a probing analysis of the 9/11 attacks were among the winners of the 2006 Los Angeles

Times Book Prizes, announced April 27 at UCLA. The awards ceremony, hosted by author and PBS news anchor Jim Lehrer, honored books in nine categories. A final prize, the Robert Kirsch Award for

lifetime achievement, was given to author and memoirist William Kittredge....

Los Angeles Times, April 28

Edgar Award winners announced [<http://www.theedgars.com/2007EdgarWinners.pdf>] (PDF file)

Mystery Writers of America has announced the winners of the 2007 Edgar Allen Poe Awards, honoring the best in mystery fiction, nonfiction, television, and film published or produced in 2006. The

Janissary Tree by Jacob Goodwin (Farrar Straus Giroux) won for best novel, while Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson (Morrow) won for best nonfiction....

Mystery Writers of America, Apr. 26

Pritzker Military Library recognized by Webby Awards

[<http://www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/pdf/pressReleases/2007-04-13-webbyAwards-pressRelease.pdf>] (PDF file)

The Pritzker Military Library's 2006 event calendar was named an official honoree at the 11th Annual Webby Awards, a distinction that recognizes work exhibiting remarkable achievement in

online programming. Watch video highlights [<http://www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/playVideo.do?videoID=220&encodeType=rm>] (3:04) of the

Chicago library's 2006 season....
Pritzker Military Library, Apr. 11

Seen Online

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Fire claims Georgetown library

[<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/30/AR2007043000671.html>]

For 140 years, residents of Georgetown have been compiling a rare trove of data on their past: oil paintings, leather-bound maps, photos, and files on nearly every property in the neighborhood—all kept in the stately, two-story Georgetown branch of the District of Columbia Public Library. In just a few hours April 30, a three-alarm fire devoured much of it. Onlookers gasped as D.C. firefighters—somewhat hampered by broken fire hydrants [<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/01/AR2007050102089.html>] nearby—carried out item after historical item. [<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/30/AR2007043001591.html>] Most were severely damaged. The DCPL Foundation has established a fund [<http://www.dcplfoundation.org/>] where tax-deductible contributions can be made for restoring the artwork, the collections, and the building....

Washington Post, May 1–2; District of Columbia Public Library Foundation, May 1

Medford library levy's pros and cons

[<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070429/NEWS/704290307>]

With less than three weeks before voters decide on Measure 15-75, Jackson County, Oregon, residents hold the fate of the 15-branch library system in their hands. For some, it is a matter of community pride and a moral responsibility to reopen the libraries, which were closed April 6 because of a lack of funding. For one vocal Talent resident, the “Taj Mahals” spread throughout the county are not a luxury taxpayers can afford, and he cites mismanagement in bringing the library system to its present state....

Medford (Oreg.) Mail Tribune, Apr. 29

The 200-year story of Columbus libraries

[<http://www.thisweeknews.com/?story=sites/thisweeknews/042607/CanalWinchester/News/042607-News-342230.html>]

In 2007, the Columbus (Ohio) Metropolitan Library is celebrating 100 years of good work and public service. But the story of libraries in Columbus goes back much farther and is a somewhat convoluted one. People moving into Ohio in the years after the American Revolution brought with them much of the culture and society they had left behind. And they brought books....

ThisWeek Community Newspapers, Apr. 26

Guam library branch reopens after seven years

[<http://www.guampdn.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2007705010309>]

After having its doors shut to the public for more than seven years, the Merizo Branch Library held a reopening ceremony April 30, to the delight of residents of Guam's southernmost villages of Merizo, Umatac, and Inarajan. Some 6,000 residents had been deprived of an easily accessible library since 2000....
Guam Pacific Daily News, May 1

Islamabad children's library relinquished [<http://www.thenews.com.pk/print1.asp?id=53684>]

The leader of Pakistan's ruling party declared April 25 that a standoff involving radicals at the Lal Masjid mosque in Islamabad had been “amicably resolved,” though the

situation on the ground appeared unchanged. Men armed with Kalashnikovs guarded the passage through the compound to a public children's library that burqa-clad female students had been occupying since February 15 to protest the city authorities's demolition of illegally built mosques....
Karachi News, Apr. 29; Reuters, Apr. 26

The complete guide to book towns [<http://travel.independent.co.uk/uk/article2386053.ece>]
It all started at Hay-on-Wye [<http://www.hay-on-wye.co.uk/bookshops/frameset.htm>] in Wales, and now literary festivals are putting little towns in pretty settings on the map, luring bibliophiles and browsers alike, writes Hilary Macaskill. Book towns and villages have a delightfully disproportionate number of second-hand and antiquarian bookshops, and sometimes also have other associated businesses based on writing, reading, and publishing. In Hay, it began in 1961 [<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/fea/travel/thisweek/stories/042907dntravelhaydupe.1edeb319.html>] when Richard Booth, a 20-something anarchist and Oxford graduate with an abiding love for books, bought 800-year-old Hay Castle and declared himself King of Hay....
Independent (UK), Mar. 24; Dallas (Tex.) Morning News, Apr. 27

Stars back literary archive plans [<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/6586205.stm>]
A host of Scottish celebrities, including actor Sir Sean Connery and author Ian Rankin, have joined the National Library of Scotland's campaign to purchase the John Murray Archive, [<http://www.nls.uk/jma/index.html>] which includes manuscripts and letters from Charles Dickens, Jane Austen, Lord Byron, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The National Library plans to make the archive widely accessible through exhibitions that will travel the country, digitization of items from the collection, and a significant education and outreach program....
BBC News, Apr. 24

Principal linked to \$40,000 library theft [<http://timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=584799>]
David R. Bryan, the principal of Abrookin Vo-Tech Center in Albany, New York, has been placed on paid administrative leave amid charges he stole about \$40,000 from the Rensselaerville (N.Y.) Library. Bryan, who served as the library's unpaid president, is accused of writing several checks to himself and also depositing funds directly into his own checking account....
Albany (N.Y.) Times Union, Apr. 28

Goucher breaks ground for Athenaeum [http://news.mywebpal.com/news_tool_v2.cfm?show=localnews&pnPID=811&NewsID=802086&CategoryID=9045&on=1]
What do a library, exercise equipment, an art gallery, and plants on the roof have in common? They're all part of the Athenaeum, a 100,000-square-foot building scheduled to open at Goucher College in Towson, Maryland, in fall 2009. The college broke ground April 27 for the structure, which will be Goucher's first green building, with high-efficiency mechanical systems, two green roofs, and the restoration of natural habitats around it....
Towson (Md.) Jeffersonian, Apr. 26

Librarian helps student launch space experiment [http://www.newhavenindependent.org/archives/2007/04/_what_does_an_i.php]
Librarian Jean Lowery, who has been at Bishop Woods School in New Haven, Connecticut, for 10 years, is off to the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico with one of her star pupils to help him launch his prize-winning science experiment into space. The astronaut-to-be is 4th grader Christopher Walker, who wants to see how exposure to gravity-free conditions in space will affect the performance and longevity of the batteries....
New Haven (Conn.) Independent, Apr. 27

Chicago State's brave new library

[<http://www.latimes.com/technology/la-na-robots22apr22,1,5658009.story>]

It's not often that a librarian is warned to stay away from the bookshelves because of high voltage and that students aren't allowed to roam freely through the stacks. At Chicago State University, only robots are allowed to browse most books and archives. To get a particular book, students and faculty must log onto the library's website and place an order for a title. The library's computer system directs a robotic crane—dubbed “Rover”—to retrieve one of more than 6,300 bins. The crane then brings the bin to a workstation at the front of the warehouse, where a librarian picks up the book....

Los Angeles Times, Apr. 22

Author claims library toned down book talk

[<http://toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070430/NEWS16/704300335/-1/NEWS>]

In her new book *Writing in an Age of Silence*, Sara Paretsky, author of the V. I. Warshawski mysteries, says she was asked in advance by the Toledo–Lucas County (Ohio) Public Library to rein in her political remarks on March 19, 2003—the night the United States invaded Iraq. Library officials vehemently deny the charge, which seems now to boil down to a difference in what each party recalls....

Toledo (Ohio) Blade, Apr. 30

History's forbidden books

[<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chicago/chi-0704270401apr27,1,3573368.story>]

An exhibit at the Loyola University Museum of Art in Chicago showcases books (including works by Copernicus and Galileo) that were once on the Index Librorum Prohibitorum, the Roman Catholic Church's list of works forbidden to the faithful lest they lead readers down the road to heresy. The exhibit, titled “Science and Faith Between Observance and Censorship,” features 138 books lent by a consortium of libraries in Campania, Italy. The works are in Latin, the long-ago international language of scholarship, and are handsomely leather-bound....

Chicago Tribune, Apr. 27

Graphic novels to be moved in Wanganui

[<http://wanganuichronicle.co.nz/localnews/storydisplay.cfm?storyid=3731934&thesection=localnews&thesubsection=&thesecondsubsection=>]

The young-adult area and the graphic novel collection of the Wanganui Public Library, New Zealand, will be moved away from the children's area in the wake of concern that explicit books could easily get into younger hands. The issue was raised by Wanganui mother and part-time Japanese-language teacher Julie Gordon after she found several volumes of the “sexually graphic” manga series *Chobits* available for borrowing....

Wanganui (N.Z.) Chronicle, May 1

Honolulu libraries celebrate Free Comic Book Day

[<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2007/Apr/23/br/br9072315864.html>]

Eight Oahu public libraries will host the sixth annual Free Comic Book Day on May 5. The libraries will distribute various titles, including *Transformers: The Movie Prequel*, *The Unseen Peanuts*, and *Little Archie: The Legend of the L*, said Hillary W. Chang, young adult librarian at the McCully-Mo'ili'ili branch of the Hawaii State Public Library System. “Libraries and comic books have such old-fashioned stereotypes, and events like this help to change that image.” Free Comic Book Day is celebrated around the world....

Honolulu (Hawaii) Advertiser, Apr. 23

Flood devastates New Hampshire library

[<http://concordmonitor.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070427/REPOSITORY/704270306&SearchID=73279740172283>]

Until last week, the children's room at the Weare (N.H.) Public Library was a place where parents could meet and chit-chat as their kids read books, heard stories, and did arts and crafts. But

recent floods destroyed the room's carpets and walls. Now, the books are boxed up in the town offices, and librarians and townspeople are struggling to figure out the next step. "I'm overwhelmed by the enormity of what needs to be done," Library Director Christine Hague said. "It far exceeds anything I learned about library science."...
Concord (N.H.) Monitor, Apr. 27

Tech Talk

Google responds to Viacom's YouTube lawsuit

[<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory?id=3102863>]

Google filed a response April 30 to Viacom's copyright infringement lawsuit over Google's video-sharing site YouTube, arguing that the site's activities are legal. Google said that YouTube respects the importance of copyrights and goes above and beyond what is required under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, which gives web hosts protection from copyright lawsuits as long as they comply with requests to remove unauthorized material....
ABC News, May 1

Joost video program officially launches

[http://news.com.com/Joost+goes+one+beta+better/2100-1026_3-6180541.html]

Joost, the video-on-demand program created by the founders of Skype and Kazaa, announced its commercial launch May 1. The free downloadable software [<http://www.joost.com/>], which is based on a peer-to-peer model, includes commercial content from 32 advertising partners, such as Coca-Cola, Intel, Hewlett-Packard, and Nike. Joost also announced a number of content offerings that are included in new partnerships with Turner Broadcasting System, the National Hockey League, Sports Illustrated, Hasbro, and Sony Pictures Entertainment....
C|net news.com, May 1

Search engine shoot-out [<http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,130979-page,1/article.html#>]

Does Google deserve all the traffic it gets, or is it living off its reputation? Are people using it because they're not aware of other, potentially better search engines? To find out, PC World pitted Google against its big-name competitors, Yahoo and Microsoft Live Search, as well as against smaller challengers such as AlltheWeb, AltaVista, and Ask.com—plus a couple dozen of the specialty search services, including Blogdigger, Picsearch, and TubeSurf....
PC World, Apr. 25

Video sharing made easy

[http://news.com.com/2100-1041_3-6180402.html?part=rss&tag=2547-1_3-0-5&subj=news]

Just as easy photo-sharing applications like iPhoto, Flickr, and Picasa offer simple editing controls and take some of the pain out of uploading and sharing digital photos, Pure Digital's new Flip Video camera is packaged with editing software that will upload video clips to video-sharing sites YouTube and Grouper. American Libraries owns a few of these cameras and they work pretty well [<http://blip.tv/file/203139>]....
C|net news.com, May 1; BlipTV

Will the internet collapse? [<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1895,2124376,00.asp>]

John Dvorak writes: "When is the internet going to collapse? The answer is never. The internet is amazing for no other reason than that it hasn't simply collapsed, never to be rebooted. Over a decade ago, many pundits were predicting an all-out catastrophic failure, and back then the load was nothing compared with what it is today. So how much more can this network take?" ...

PC Magazine, May 1

Wikipedia cofounder wants open-source search engine

[http://news.com.com/2100-1032_3-6180379.html?part=rss&tag=2547-1_3-0-5&subj=news]

The folks behind the public encyclopedia Wikipedia have launched Wikia [<http://www.wikia.com>], a project to develop a search engine, crawlers, and other indexing tools through a collaborative, open-source process. Contributors will likely include graduate students as well large companies that want to include search functionality in their products but don't want to pay royalties to a search company....

C|net news.com, Apr. 30

Actions & Answers

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Ideas for a successful library conference [<http://www.blogwithoutalibrary.net/?p=266>]

Amanda Etches-Johnson was at the Information Architecture Summit in Las Vegas in March, where the conference planners did a lot of things that she categorized as "good conference ideas." Her photo-essay on conference ideas that are definitely worth stealing includes fun icebreakers (right), conference at-a-glance cards, and a mentoring table....

Blogwithoutalibrary.net, Apr. 23

Schools, children, and digital technology

[<http://innovateonline.info/index.php?view=article&id=376&action=synopsis>]

Mark van 't Hooft discusses how many schools are regulating student use of the internet outside of school, banning digital tools from schools, and blaming technology for deeper-rooted problems such as youth alienation and bullying. While he agrees that technology use does raise issues involving child safety and learning distraction, he argues that the responses of some schools have not resolved these issues but have instead created additional problems regarding First Amendment rights and means of enforcement....

Innovate: Journal of Online Education 3, no. 4 (Apr./May)

An Iraqi woman and her library

[<http://aliveinbaghdad.org/2007/04/16/an-iraqi-woman-and-her-library/>]

Much was made of the looting of Iraq's National Library after the fall of Baghdad and the collapse of order in the capital. Less is known about the role of small private libraries and how they continue to provide some of the only access to scholarly material for Baghdad's intellectuals and academics. Hameeda Al-Bassam, a disabled Shi'a woman, describes in this video her work as a librarian, as well as the difficulties she faces, not only as a woman, but also as someone bound to a wheelchair....

Alive in Baghdad, Apr. 16

Publishers celebrate World Intellectual Property Day

[<http://www.publishers.org/press/releases.cfm?PressReleaseArticleID=385>]

The Association of American Publishers celebrated World Intellectual Property Day on April 26, cosponsoring a Capitol Hill event that focused on "Encouraging Creativity." Along with the World Intellectual Property Organization, the Creative and Innovative Economy Center, and others, AAP was highlighting "the importance of encouraging creativity while protecting the intellectual property rights of the creators." The event intended to spotlight "the cultural and economic benefits provided by the copyright industries."...

Association of American Publishers, Apr. 26

Good at reviewing books but not each other [<http://insidehighered.com/views/2007/04/27/bell>]

Steven J. Bell writes: "Although many library pundits and A-list library bloggers would be quick to deny it, it seems increasingly the case that a speech chill has descended on the library

blogosphere. On the few occasions when a dissenting comment is attached to a post in the spirit of discourse, the commenter is likely to find him or herself the target of an unpleasant post in which the blogger uses his or her bully pulpit to lash out against someone who's dared to take an opposing view. Ultimately, those who make an attempt at discourse are discouraged and the next time simply ask, 'Why bother?'"...

Inside Higher Ed, Apr. 27

MonsterLibrarian.com reviews horror books [<http://www.monsterlibrarian.com/>]

Part-time reference librarian Dylan Kowalewski is the monster-mind behind MonsterLibrarian.com, a website that offers public, academic, and school librarians advice and reviews on the latest horror literature for adults and teens. The site also reviews scary stories for children, includes lists of titles in horror subgenres, and provides links to a variety of authors, small press publishers, and online resources....

MonsterLibrarian.com

Putin calls for Yeltsin presidential library

[http://www.interfax.ru/e/B/0/0.html?id_issue=11721671]

Russian President Vladimir Putin has decided to establish a presidential library in Russia and suggested naming it after Boris Yeltsin. "The decision has been made to establish a presidential

library, which could become an informational link for the entire library network of the country," Putin said April 26.

The library will amass electronic versions

[<http://rbcnews.com/free/20070426164922.shtml>] of books and periodicals, with access provided from electronic terminals set up in libraries across the country....

Interfax, Apr. 26; Ros Business Consulting, Apr. 26

A scrapbook of Russian bookjackets

[http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/dgkeysearchresult.cfm?parent_id=1030351&word=]

The New York Public Library offers this visual gallery of some 640 Russian bookjackets published between 1917 and 1942. Each image is tagged by subject and provides item notes and a translation

of the title. The archive also contains some Azerbaijani, Polish, Serbian, Ukrainian, and Belarusian jackets....

New York Public Library Digital Gallery

In praise of slow reading

[<http://johnmiedema.wordpress.com/2007/04/30/will-slow-reading-be-a-casualty-of-fast-libraries/>]

John Miedema writes: "Slow reading is about leisurely reading a book, maybe just a page or two at a time; noticing the binding, paper, and font; seeking out and encouraging local publications;

borrowing books from friends and neighbors; reading aloud with your kids; sharing thoughts about what you are reading with family and friends over dinner. Slow reading is better for mental and

emotional health, socialization, and our global culture."...

John Miedema blog, Apr. 30

New MEDLINE search engine

[<http://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/news/archives07/relemed.cfm>]

Researchers at the University of Virginia School of Medicine have created a new online search engine, ReleMed, [<http://www.relemed.com>]

that provides medical professionals, researchers, and the general public with a more efficient and targeted way to search PubMed for the latest, most relevant medical literature to answer medical queries....

University of Virginia, Feb. 13

Surviving a month without the internet [<http://www.pw.org/mag/0705/newselliott.htm>]

Stephen Elliott writes: "I was in Gaza when the Israeli soldiers were snatched from their posts. I was in New Orleans three days after Katrina smashed the levees to bits and the city flooded. But of all of my various adventures, people have been most curious about my recent decision to go offline for a month. I bought an old word processor and left my fancy laptop with a friend. 'How will you exist?' my roommate asked. 'You'll have no idea what's going on. You won't be able to find anything.'"... Poets & Writers, May/June 2007

Eric Bana to play time-traveling librarian [<http://www.ew.com/ew/article/0,,20035512,00.html>]
Eric Bana (Munich, The Hulk) will play Henry De Tamble, a librarian at Chicago's Newberry Library who is afflicted with a gene that causes him to travel through time involuntarily, in New Line Cinema's adaptation of Audrey Niffenegger's best-selling novel The Time Traveler's Wife. He will be featured alongside costar Rachel McAdams (Wedding Crashers, Mean Girls) as Clare....
Entertainment Weekly, Apr. 17

Ask the ALA Librarian

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Q. Does ALA have any guidelines or sample policies for libraries wishing to offer Wi-Fi service?

A. Not specifically. The ALA Council has adopted a policy on Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks, [<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/statementspols/statementsif/interpretations/accesselectronic.htm>] which was last amended in 2005. In addition, ALA has worked to ensure privacy [<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/statementspols/statementspolicies.htm#privacy>] in all library operations. The next step is taking those broad policy statements to a local operational level. For this, reviewing such conference discussions as the one held under the auspices of the Library Information and Technology Association at the 2005 Midwinter Meeting, [<http://www.ala.org/ala/lita/litaresources/toptechrends/midwinter2005.cfm#WIFI>] published policies from individual libraries, [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Sources_of_Sample_Policies] such as might be found on state library websites, or references from a literature search will be useful. See more at the ALA Professional Tips wiki here [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Policy_Development] or here [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Finding_Sample_Policies].

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

Calendar

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Exhibits

Boston Public Library: [<http://www.johnadamslibrary.org/>] "The John Adams Library Online." Browse and search 3,500 books, read thousands of handwritten notes, and learn about one remarkable founding father.

British Library: [<http://www.bl.uk/sacred>] "Sacred: Discover What We Share." The world's greatest

collection of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim holy books.

Buffalo and Erie County (N.Y.) Public Library [<http://becpldigital.cdm.oclc.org/>]: “The New York to Paris Race, 1908.” The race was won by the made-in-Buffalo Thomas Flyer.

Chicago Public Library: [<http://www.chipublib.org/003cpl/exhib/challenge/hwchallenge.html>] “Called to the Challenge: The Legacy of Mayor Harold Washington.”

Cleveland Public Library: [<http://www.cpl.org/cc-mail-art.asp>] “Mail Art.”

Cornell University: [<http://exhibits.mannlib.cornell.edu/beekeeping/>] “Abuzz about Beekeeping: 400 Years of Bees and Beekeeping.”

Duke University: [<http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/catalog/hmp/>] “Hugh Mangum Photographs, ca. 1890–1922.”

Harvard University: [<http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/ww/>] “Women Working, 1800–1930” focuses on women’s role in the United States economy.

Indiana University: [http://www.indiana.edu/~liblilly/binding/virtual_exhibit.html] “The Fine Art of British Bookbinding.”

Library of Congress: [<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/cwaj/>] “On the Cutting Edge: Contemporary Japanese Prints.”

New York Public Library: [<http://www.nypl.org/research/chss/spe/art/photo/midtowny/index.html>] “Making the Scene: The Midtown Y Photography Gallery, 1972–1996.” The Midtown Y Photography Gallery was the first nonprofit organization in New York City with a mission to provide a public space for the display of photographs.

Oberlin College: [<http://www.oberlin.edu/library/special/virtualexhibits/19c-bookcovers/>] “To Judge a Book by Its Cover: 19th-century American Pictorial Book Covers.”

Ohio State University: [<http://library.osu.edu/sites/exhibits/cartoonists/>] “Ohio Cartoonists: A Bicentennial Celebration.”

Rice University: [<http://www.rice.edu/fondren/woodson/exhibits/Watkin/>] “The Life and Work of Architect William Ward Watkin.”

University of Cincinnati: [<http://www.libraries.uc.edu/libraries/arb/exhibits/strobridge/>] “The Strobridge Litho Company Calendar Cards.”

University of Michigan: [<http://www.lib.umich.edu/spec-coll/stpetersburg/index.html>] “St. Petersburg: Window on the East, Window on the West.”

University of Nevada at Las Vegas: [<http://gaming.unlv.edu/gallery/index.html>] “Gaming Art Gallery.”

University of Pittsburgh: [<http://digital.library.pitt.edu/d/documentingpitt/>] “Documenting Pitt: Historic Publications and Images of the University of Pittsburgh.”

University of Tennessee:
[<http://diglib.lib.utk.edu/cgi/i/image/image-idx?c=rth;page=index;sid=18d128ac1737555c9aca37ff897cd81c;g=gsmc>] “Albert ‘Dutch’ Roth,” one of the most prolific early photographers of the Greenbrier

and Mount Le Conte sections of the Great Smoky Mountains.

University of Virginia, Health Sciences Library: [<http://historical.hsl.virginia.edu/plague/>] “The Plague Book.” Explore 16th-century medicine with a look at a unique book of advice to combat the plague.

Yale University, Beinecke Library: [<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/LetItResound/>] “Let It Resound: Sheet Music in the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection.”

Yale University, Cushing Medical Library: [<http://www.med.yale.edu/library/historical/cushing/>] “Harvey Cushing: A Journey through His Life.”

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

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May 9, 2007

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U.S. & World News

[Kiowa County Library destroyed in Greensburg tornado](#)

The mile-and-a-half wide tornado that destroyed 95% of Greensburg, Kansas, the night of May 4 and left nine people dead also wiped out the main branch of the Kiowa County Library, located in the city's downtown. Librarian Debbie Allison, whose historic home was also demolished by the storm, visited the ruined facility May 7 and reported that only a section of the walls was left standing, up to a height of three feet. She found that a few books remained, but they were completely soaked and unsalvageable....



[Fire devastates D.C.'s historic Georgetown branch](#)

The District of Columbia Public Library's Georgetown branch was struck April 30 by a three-alarm fire that destroyed the roof and much of the 1935 building's second floor, including the Peabody Room, which housed an invaluable collection of records and artifacts detailing the history of the neighborhood. Library officials said the Peabody Collection suffered less damage than initially feared, with about 95% of the items intact....

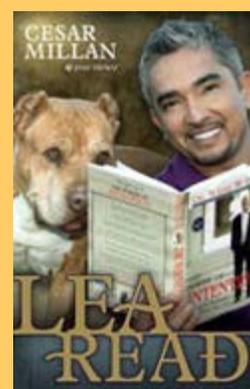


[Interview with Iraq National Library Director Saad Eskander](#)

Following the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, Saad Eskander left the relative safety of England to accept the directorship of the National Library and Archives of Iraq. Librarians and cultural organizations around the world had voiced outrage over the looting and burning that occurred after the takeover, and Eskander was determined to play a role in the recovery and the establishment of a democratic government. He spoke with *American Libraries* Editor in Chief



Special [advance registration rates](#) for ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., are available until **May 18**.



[Cesar Millan](#), *New York Times* bestselling author, is a renowned dog behavior expert and star of the Emmy-nominated program *The Dog Whisperer*. He founded the Dog Psychology Center more than eight years ago and has an international

Leonard Kniffel by mobile phone April 14 from Baghdad, where he and his staff are struggling against unimaginable odds to return the National Library to some semblance of normalcy....

[Urban librarians meet politicians in Cleveland](#)

"Help them make the right decisions," said Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson, welcoming the Urban Libraries Council to his city.



It was the mayor's way of saying that library administrators must be at the table with government officials when economic development is being discussed. Whether the funding is city, state, or federal, the 114 participants in the ULC's May 4-5 "Partners for Success" conference agreed that it must be won by demonstrating the value of libraries and librarians to the vitality of their communities....

[EPA libraries still disposing and dispersing materials](#)

According to an Environmental Protection Agency procedural document ([PDF file](#)) issued April 9, the agency is still requiring its libraries to "disperse or dispose of their library contents when appropriate," despite a February 6 commitment from EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson during Senate hearings to a moratorium on further library closings and discarding of holdings. Another April 9 document ([PDF file](#)), from the EPA's own Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, expresses concerns about the agency's effectiveness in prosecuting polluters if data and documents are dispersed outside the EPA to other libraries. The EPA [briefed](#) members of Congress on its libraries May 4....

[Vatican Library to close for three years](#)

The 559-year-old Vatican Library will close for urgent repairs July 14 and not reopen until September 2010. Vatican officials made the announcement, which came as a surprise to scholars and historians, April 26, emphasizing that the work was needed to safeguard some 72,000 manuscripts housed in an underground bunker built only 25 years ago. Library Prefect Raffaele Farina said the bunker needed extra fireproofing, upgraded electrical wiring, and new emergency exits....



[Arkansas Supreme Court saves library millage](#)

The Arkansas Supreme Court ruled April 26 that property taxes collected specifically for schools and libraries cannot be diverted to fund commercial development. The ruling goes against the city of Fayetteville's attempt to use the 25-mill tax to pay off bonds issued to clear land for a new downtown hotel....

[Wisconsin school restricts *What My Mother Doesn't Know*](#)

The School District of Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, voted April 30 to limit middle-school-library access to Sonya Sones's *What My Mother Doesn't Know* to 7th- and 8th-graders. Before the vote, 6th-graders could read the novel if permitted by the school library media specialist, Spring Hill Middle School librarian

reputation as a gifted tamer of dogs with behavioral issues. On this ALA poster, Cesar is reading *The Power of Intention*. **NEW!** From ALA Editions.



Register now for the **American Association of School Librarians** 13th National Conference and Exhibition in Reno, October 25-28, by visiting AASL's [conference website](#).

In this issue May 2007



Roger Mudd on the Love of Books

Bookstore Tourism

Gamers in the Library

Mattering in the School Blogosphere

From the CentennialAL Blog



Miranda Ladwig said in the May 3 *Baraboo News Republic*....

[Medway may get a state funding boost](#)

The Massachusetts House of Representatives has approved legislation that would earmark an additional \$250,000 in FY2008 for the cash-strapped Medway Public Library. The State Board of Library Commissioners revoked the library's certification in February, seven months after voters failed to override the state's Proposition 2 1/2 tax-limitation law to allow the library to stay open 32 hours a week—the state's minimum requirement. Although the library escaped closing, it has only been open 20 hours a week since June 2006....

[University of New Mexico fire damage totals \\$17 million](#)

One year after a suspicious fire destroyed thousands of books and journals in the basement of the University of New Mexico's Zimmerman Library, university officials have assessed the damage at nearly \$17 million—more than three times its initial estimate. The April 30, 2006, blaze burned more than 13 racks of bound journals and caused smoke damage throughout the entire building. The origin of the fire remains under investigation....



ALA News

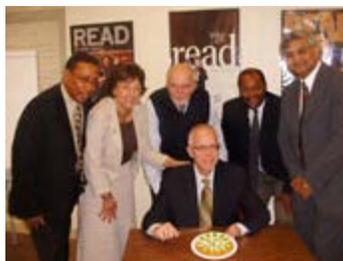
[33rd National Library Legislative Day](#)

This year, over 420 participants from 47 states came to Washington, D.C., to speak with members of Congress May 1–2 for National Library Legislative Day about the needs of libraries in the areas of funding, telecommunications, copyright, privacy, and government information. One of the participants was Danny Chapman (right) of Lake Forest, Illinois—winner of the student contest that decided the theme and logo for the annual event—who visited his legislators (including Rep. Mark Kirk) with the delegation from the Illinois Library Association....
District Dispatch blog, May 8



[Endowment fund passes \\$30-million mark](#)

At their regularly scheduled spring meeting at ALA headquarters in Chicago May 9, the ALA Endowment trustees announced that the Long-Term Investment Fund has passed the \$30-million mark. The Endowment has increased by \$14.3 million



[A different kind of hero](#)

Leonard Kniffel writes: **"Saad Eskander** is the director of the National Library and Archives in Iraq. We talked for nearly an hour by telephone April 14. It's hard to explain why, but after our conversation, during which I tried very hard to maintain a PBS-like composure, I sat at my desk at the American Library Association and cried. The gentle, brave voice of this man, coming to me from the other side of the world made me understand, as I never have in the nearly five years of this disgraceful war, how the conflict in Iraq, like every other murderous conflagration, is about the innocent people caught in its chaos."....



Career Leads from



[Electronic Resources Librarian.](#)

or 88.8% in value since its inception in the late 1980s....

[Game Lab to explore gaming and libraries](#)

Researchers from ALA, the Syracuse University School of Information Studies, and the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana are working together to research games in libraries through a project called [Game Lab](#). They will tackle the development of a classification structure for games and determine the public good served by the library that provides gaming programs....

[Tools to assist privacy practices](#)

As part of its effort to support libraries and librarians seeking to improve their protection of library users' privacy, ALA is making available [new tools](#) to help libraries conduct audits of its privacy policies and procedures. Developed by ALA during its own 2003 privacy audit, each tool is a document template that can be adopted and changed to serve the needs of the individual institution....

[Hollywood Librarian to debut at Annual Conference](#)

Ann Seidl's full-length feature documentary, [The Hollywood Librarian: A Look at Librarians on Film](#), will premiere at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., on June 22. The film shows the realities of 21st-century librarianship, including stereotyping, censorship and intellectual freedom, and the impact of librarians on society. Watch a trailer (1:40) [here](#)....

The Hollywood Librarian

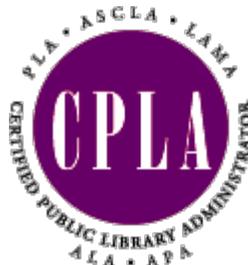


[Registration open for copyright teleconference](#)

A national teleconference and webcast on "Copyright in the Digital Age: An Update," will take place June 1 from 12 to 2 p.m. Eastern time. It will feature national library leaders discussing the complex copyright and intellectual property issues affecting libraries and schools. To register, call 800-354-6587 or visit the College of DuPage Press [website](#)....

[New CPLA candidates and courses approved](#)

The Certified Public Library Administrator Program Certification Review Committee approved five candidates and one program course during the Spring 2007 review. The new course in marketing will be offered online by the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign....



[Public awareness at Annual Conference](#)

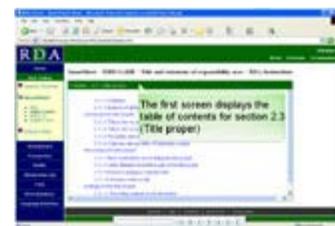
The ALA Public Awareness Committee is sponsoring three programs at Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., that will benefit communicators from all types of libraries. The Campaign for America's Libraries program will share stories and strategies about the campaign, while two other sessions will focus on new technologies for PR practitioners and the history of women in baseball....

Wichita State University.
Responsible for providing integrated access to electronic resources including population and maintenance of a new electronic resources management system and link resolver; processing of orders, renewals, cancellations and licenses; vendor liaison contact for business matters and technical issues; and collection and analysis of statistical data....

@ [More jobs...](#)



PLA is offering a new *Tech Note* on the [World Wide Web](#), authored by Richard W. Boss.



[Resource Description and Access](#)

(RDA) will supersede the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd edition (AACR2)* in the first quarter of 2009. Read a progress report from RDA Project Manager Marjorie Bloss in the April *ALCTS Newsletter*.

[Advocacy Institute to feature essentials of lobbying](#)

The Advocacy Institute at Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., will feature an intensive afternoon session covering lobbying techniques. The session, led by former lobbyist and congressional aide Stephanie Vance, will offer library advocates hands-on exercises, role-playing, and ways to effectively lobby congressional decision-makers....

[Better know your Association](#)

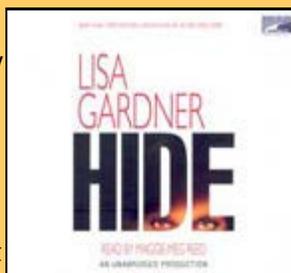
ALA Internet Development Specialist Jenny Levine created this 10-question multiple-choice quiz on the American Library Association as part of a gaming workshop she held at the Computers in Libraries conference. Her intent was to show how gaming can be used for assessment in addition to literacy and learning. [Take the ALA quiz!](#)... Shifted Librarian blog, May 4

Booklist ONLINE

[Featured review: Media](#)

Gardner, Lisa. *Hide*. May 2007. Read by Maggie-Meg Reed. 11.5 hrs. Books on Tape, CD. (978-1-4159-3550-7).

When a grave containing the bodies of six mummified little girls is discovered under an abandoned Boston mental hospital, detective Bobby Dodge doesn't like the similarities to a previous case, especially because that murderer is long dead . . . or so he thought. His only clue—a necklace found on one of the corpses—leads to Annabelle Granger....



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

D.C. Update

[Abe Lincoln sites in the District](#)

In addition to the assassination site at [Ford's Theatre](#), Washington teems with Lincoln landmarks. There is the [New York Avenue Presbyterian Church](#), which Lincoln attended; the [Armed Forces Retirement Home's](#) Anderson Cottage, where Lincoln wrote a draft of the Emancipation Proclamation; [Fort Lesley McNair](#), where the conspirators were tried and hung; [Mount Olivet Cemetery](#), where conspirator Mary Surratt is buried; and the [Wok N' Roll Chinese Restaurant](#) (right), the location of the former [boarding house](#) run by Mary Surratt where the conspirators met. (Thanks to history buff Charles Walton for these suggestions.)...



Public Perception

How the World Sees Us

"I think it's important to recognize our librarians, the guardians of the books that provide us with so much. I'd like to extend a sincere note of thanks to every librarian out there. Without their careful tending of the contents of the library, we would all suffer. Librarians are an invaluable resource in our pursuit of pleasure, knowledge, and understanding. Let them know you appreciate what they do. They deserve it."

—Columnist Kendal A. Rautzhan, *Barre-Montpelier (Vt.) Times Argus*, May 7.

Ask the ALA Librarian



Q. Are there wheelchair accessibility requirements for bookmobiles? If so, what are they?

A. There are two facets to the answer to this question. The

Division News

[Thousands of teens celebrate Teen Tech Week](#)

YALSA has successfully completed its first annual [Teen Tech Week](#), "Get Connected @ your library," March 4–10. The Bloomington (Ill.) Public Library hosted a podcasting workshop and an animation workshop for young adults. The Arnold O. Beckman High School library media center in Irvine, California, hosted two technology talks for its teen users and their parents—one from *Orange County Register* reporter Tamara Chuang on the latest tech gadgets and one from Sgt. Steve Wolf of the Irvine Police Department on safely using social networking software and the internet....

[Jed Horne to speak at RUSA breakfast](#)

Pulitzer Prize winner Jed Horne will be one of three featured authors at the annual "Literary Tastes Breakfast" during ALA Annual Conference June 24 in Washington, D.C. In 2006, Horne and the staff of the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* received a Pulitzer Prize for Public Service and Breaking News Reporting for their coverage of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath....



[Debraski elected YALSA president](#)

Sarah Cornish Debraski has been elected vice president/president-elect of YALSA. She is active in the New Jersey Library Association, has published extensively on romance novels and booktalking, and currently serves on the YALSA Board of Directors....

[Sheffer elected PLA president](#)

Carol Sheffer, deputy director of the Queens Borough (N.Y.) Public Library, has been elected vice-president/president-elect of PLA. Sheffer has been a member of PLA and ALA for more than 20 years, serving on numerous committees, the ALA Recruitment Assembly, and the PLA Board of Directors....

[YALSA offers four online courses](#)

YALSA is offering four online courses this summer: "Making the Match: Finding the Right Book for the Right Teen at the Right Time," "Pain in the Brain: Adolescent Development and Library Behavior," "Power Programming for Teens," and "Using Electronic Databases with Teens." Classes will take place July 1–30, except for "Making the Match," which runs July 1–August 10. Registration opened on May 7....

[ACRL on plagiarism](#)

ACRL has published *Library Plagiarism Policies: CLIP Note 37*, compiled by Vera Stepchyn and Robert S. Nelson of Long Island University in Brooklyn, New York. The publication is part of the ACRL College Libraries Section's College Library Information Packet Committee series and is a pragmatic resource for college libraries, faculty, staff, and administrators to use to develop policies on the prevention and detection of plagiarism....



first is: Is physical accessibility required? The second is: If physical accessibility is required, what are the parameters? In answer to the first question, the Department of Justice has published [ADA Guide for Small Towns](#). It maps out some key examples. The [ADA Guide shows an example of an older, smaller bookmobile](#), explaining, "A drawing of an older bookmobile parked in a parking lot with a person using a scooter approaching the side door. The entry door has steps and no ramp. A call button, located on the side of the bookmobile, is pushed to call the staff person to the door to provide service." There are newer, larger bookmobiles that are ADA compliant and include lifts for disabled patrons. See more at the [ALA Professional Tips wiki](#).

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

Calendar

June 3–6:
[Special Libraries Association](#), Annual Conference, Colorado Convention Center, Denver.

June 5–9:
[Council on Botanical and Horticultural](#)

Round Table News

[User rights at risk: Issues for media librarians](#) (PDF file)

The Video Round Table is sponsoring a preconference, in conjunction with American University's Washington College of Law and the Center for Social Media, on intellectual property rights, fair use, and orphan works issues. "User Rights at Risk in Video and Film" will be held June 22, 2–6 p.m., at the AU Washington College of Law....

Awards

[Wilmette's Central Elementary School wins Jaffarian Award](#)

The Central Elementary School Library in Wilmette, Illinois, is the inaugural winner of the Sara Jaffarian School Library Program Award for Exemplary Humanities Programming. Barbara Ungar, library media teacher at Central Elementary School, developed and submitted the winning program, entitled "Central School Third Grade Virtual Museum: A Day in the Neighborhood."...



[2007 NSLMPY awards](#)

The Norman (Okla.) Public School District; Harpeth Hall's Ann Scott Carell Library (right) in Nashville, Tennessee; and North Elementary School in Noblesville, Indiana, will all receive this year's National School Library Media Program of the Year (NSLMPY) Award from AASL. The honors will be presented at the AASL awards luncheon at ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., on Monday, June 25....



[AASL selects 2007 awards recipients](#)

AASL has announced the winners of the Collaborative School Library Media Award, the ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant, the Distinguished School Administrator Award, and other divisional awards and grants....

[River wins ACRL women's studies award](#)

Sandra A. River, architecture and humanities librarian at Texas Tech University Libraries, has been selected as the 2007 winner of the ACRL Women's Studies Section's Career Achievement Award. Sponsored by Greenwood Publishing Group, the award honors significant long-standing contributions to women's studies in the field of librarianship over the course of a career....

[WSS significant achievement awards](#)

The winners of the 2007 ACRL Women's Studies Section Award for Significant Achievement in Woman's Studies Librarianship presented a panel at the 2006 National Women's Studies Association meeting entitled "Locating Women's Studies Information: Contemporary Quandaries in Providing Effective Access to Feminist Materials." The panelists were Jennifer Gilley, Kayo Denda, Jenna Freedman, and Sharon Ladenson....

[Lawrence Wright wins Bernstein Book](#)

[Libraries](#), Annual Meeting, Cincinnati, Ohio. "Eclectic Cincinnati: Legacies, Legends, and the Lloyds."

June 7–8:

[Northeast Map Organization](#), Annual Meeting, Fashion Institute of Technology, State University of New York. Contact: [Angelique Jenks-Brown](#), 607-777-4596.

June 13–15:

[State University of New York Librarians Association](#), Annual Conference, SUNY-Maritime, The Bronx.

June 20–22:

[Council on Library/Media Technicians](#), Annual Conference, Washington, D.C. "Library Support Staff: An Essential Piece of the Library Landscape."

June 24–27:

[International Society for Technology in Education](#), National Educational Computing Conference, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta. "Learning and Leading with Technology." Contact: 800-280-6218.

Aug. 2–6:

[Black Caucus of the ALA](#), National Conference of African American Librarians, Fort Worth, Texas. "Culture Keepers VI: Preserving the Past, Sustaining the

[Award](#)

The New York Public Library Helen Bernstein Book Award for Excellence in Journalism was awarded May 1 to Lawrence Wright for his book *The Looming Tower: al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11* (Alfred A. Knopf). The award, which includes a \$15,000 cash prize, is given annually to a journalist whose work brings clarity and public attention to important issues, events, or policies....

New York Public Library, May 2



[Montana librarians win state awards](#)

When Deanna King began sorting mail at Parmly Billings Library, it never occurred to her that 28 years later she would win the Montana Library Association's Honorary Lifetime Membership Award. And when Norma Glock collected pennies to build schools in rural Pakistan and Afghanistan, she was focused on education and not the Sheila Cates Librarian of the Year Award....

Billings (Mont.) Gazette, May 5

Seen Online

[Closed libraries are bad for business](#)

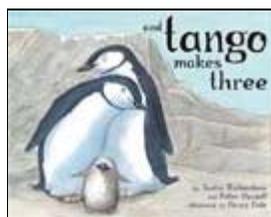
Paula Schranz of Renal Care Consultants of Medford, Oregon, said she's worried about her ability to attract and retain professionals in the future after all 15 branches in the county closed April 6 because of budget cuts. "If I was recruiting a physician right now, I would be concerned," she said. But the Save Our Library System citizen group is campaigning for Measure 15-75, a three-year levy on the May 15 ballot that would reopen the libraries....

Medford (Oreg.) Mail Tribune, May 5

[Gay penguins stir up a challenge again](#)

The story of two penguins has caused at least one Lodi (Calif.) Public Library patron to request the children's book be removed from the library's toddler section or labeled to indicate mature content. Lodi resident Stephanie Bramasco asked the library board at an April 16 public meeting to remove the book *And Tango Makes Three*, deriding what she called its "homosexual story line that has been sugarcoated with cute penguins."...

Stockton (Calif.) Record, May 5



[File under "other"](#)

Jenna Freedman is part of a generation that grew up with zines during their heyday in the 1990s. Now she is part of an emerging community of professionally trained librarians who are trying to make zines a part of the modern academic library system. It is a community, Freedman says, that faces a difficult question: How do libraries—institutions that by nature require a strict, stately style of micromanagement—assimilate these self-published and occasionally category-defying dispatches from the cultural hinterlands?...

Boston Globe, May 6

[Encyclopedia of Life launched](#)

If the \$50 million biodiversity effort

Future." Contact: [Carolyn F. Norman](#), 916-445-0837.

[Sept. 9–11: Association of Information and Dissemination Centers](#)

Fall Meeting, Westin Arlington Gateway Hotel, Arlington, Virginia. "Trends, Tactics, and Truths in the Information Industry."

[Sept. 26–28: Association for Rural and Small Libraries](#)

Annual Conference, Columbus, Ohio. Contact: [ARSL](#), 814-393-2014.

@ [More...](#)

Contact Us

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launched May 9 goes as hoped, the [Encyclopedia of Life](#) could emerge as an authoritative version of Wikipedia for biology fans. Potential applications range from planning natural conservation in suburban subdivisions, to mapping coral reefs in the Pacific, to identifying that odd butterfly perched by your window. Led in part by Chicago philanthropists and researchers, the project aims to create a free internet resource to catalog and describe every one of the planet's 1.8 million species....

Chicago Tribune, May 9



[Anchorage area libraries face the financial ax](#)

In Alaska, Matanuska-Susitna Borough is poised to chop away 40% of the funding for Wasilla and Palmer city libraries, with further plans to cut that money to zero by July 2011. In return, city leaders are talking about taking the battle to library patrons. Charging nonresidents as much as \$80 for a one-year library card is one proposal being considered....

Anchorage Daily News, May 2

[Germany hands over Waldseemüller map](#)

German Chancellor Angela Merkel on April 30 officially handed over to the United States the 500-year-old map that was the first to tell the world of a new land it called America. Library of Congress historians say the world map, completed by German cartographer Martin Waldseemüller in 1507, is the first known document to use the name America, the first to depict the Western Hemisphere, and the first to show separate Pacific and Atlantic oceans....

Associated Press, May 1



[Prodigal library snake found](#)

Skeeze, a one-year-old red albino corn snake, had been loose in the Cedar Falls (Iowa) Public Library for a little more than a month when he was found May 1 by janitorial employee Dick VanBesien. The two-foot-long Skeeze was an integral part of last summer's reading program on animals before he escaped from his cage. Plans are already underway for a writing competition about "Skeeze the Snake's Spring Break."...

Waterloo Cedar Falls (Iowa) Courier, May 2

[Yard-sale tips](#)

Every weekend around the nation, thousands of yard-salers rev their engines with this credo in mind: "Anything can be anywhere." Newspaper classified ads clutched in their palms, they hit the roads hoping to find that lost Picasso dragged from a grandma's attic. Linda Steadman, owner of Too Many Books in Roanoke, says one of the strangest finds she remembers stumbling across was a rare book of witchcraft spells. She bought it for \$1, sold it for \$150....

Roanoke (Va.) Times, May 5

[Kids protest to save school librarian's job](#)

After almost 21 years of service, school librarian Terri Knight is in

Brian Searles,
bsearles@ala.org

Send feedback:
aldirect@ala.org

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

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

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Chicago, IL 60611
www.ala.org/alonline/
800-545-2433,
ext. 4216

ISSN 1559-369X.

danger of losing her job—and hundreds of students are rallying around her. Students at Benchley Weinberger Elementary School in San Carlos, California, staged a demonstration May 4. The school district would not comment on the situation, saying it is a personnel matter....

KNSD-TV, San Diego, May 7

[Traveling coffeehouse jolts reservation nightlife](#)

It was hard to argue with Ganado (Ariz.) High School librarian Steve Centers's assessment that the April 26 open-mic coffeehouse at the library was "a complete success." More than 90 people from as far away as Window Rock and Tsalle, Arizona, crammed the library to sip coffee, munch on free snacks, and watch about 30 local performers do everything from karaoke to reciting poetry while jogging....

Navajo Times, May 3

Tech Talk

[NBC joins fight against YouTube](#)

NBC is taking sides with fellow media conglomerate Viacom over a piracy lawsuit filed against Google's online video-sharing site YouTube, according to papers filed in court. The case involves a separate party, Los Angeles News Service operator Robert Tur, who sued YouTube in July for allowing its users to appropriate his famous footage of trucker Reginald Denny being beaten during the 1992 Los Angeles riots....

Reuters, May 7

[Information technology users: A typology](#)

The Pew Internet and American Life Project conducted a survey ([PDF file](#)) on the assets, actions, and attitudes of Americans who use IT and came up with 10 major types of technology users. Which one of these types describes you?—omnivore, connector, lackluster veteran, productivity enhancer, mobile centric, connected but hassled, inexperienced experimenter, light but satisfied, indifferent, or off the network. If you're not sure, take the [quiz](#)....

Pew Internet and American Life Project, May 6



[ExLibris gets SASsy](#)

Ex Libris Group announced today that Robert Mercer has been appointed president of the Ex Libris Group North American subsidiary, effective immediately. Mercer was most recently a regional vice-president and general manager of [SAS Institute, Inc.](#) Mercer will replace Dan Trajman who joined Ex Libris in March 2004. Trajman will stay on in a consultative role through 2007....

Hectic Pace blog, May 8



[RSS feeds for Amazon.com tags](#)

Amazon's Customer Communities team has rolled out broader support for tag-based RSS feeds, according to Amazon's Ian McAllister. The option allows subscription to feeds specific to the user's interests and subsequently would also allow for the creation of widgets and mashups using the data created....

TechCrunch blog, May 8

[Jessamyn installs Ubuntu](#)

Jessamyn West made this 4:35 video of her installing the free, Open Source, linux-based [Ubuntu operating system](#) on two workstations at the Calef Memorial Library in Washington, Vermont. Along the way, she describes the features of the system, which comes bundled with popular Open Source software titles like OpenOffice, Gimp, and Firefox. The video has a great Cajun music soundtrack....



librarian.net, May 8

[How to download YouTube videos](#)

Stan Schroeder writes: "Google has a solid amount of cash in its pockets, but with all the recent lawsuits against YouTube one has to wonder if it's time to salvage whatever videos you like from the service and save them somewhere where evil attorneys won't look—your hard drive. Luckily, there are literally dozens of tools for downloading videos from YouTube and/or converting them to some format other than .flv."...

Mashable Social Networking News, May 5

Actions & Answers

[Is everything miscellaneous?](#)

Karen Schneider writes: "This book is dangerous. David Weinberger's *Everything is Miscellaneous* takes all the precious ideas we are taught as librarians and throws them out the window. Structure, order, precise metadata, bibliographic control: gone, gone, gone, gone. Even, for you edgier types, ye who tell of your Semantic Web and your RDF triples: old-school, good-bye, don't let the door hit you on the way out."...



ALA TechSource blog, May 3

[Open access for librarians](#)

Karin Dalziel, library assistant at the University of Nebraska's Center for Digital Research in the Humanities, offers an introduction to open access and why it's important: "I hear occasionally about how open access publications are not a viable option for scholars to publish in. This sentiment is popular with scholars, but librarians are uniquely positioned to fight it. Librarians need to be informed of open access publishing methods and ideology because it is becoming an increasing force in scholarly literature."...

Karin Dalziel's website

[Guidelines for conserving leather and parchment bookbindings](#)

This publication (translated here into English) is an updated edition of the *Richtlijnen voor de conservering van leren en perkamenten boekbanden* issued in 1995 by the Dutch Royal Library (Koninklijke Bibliotheek) and the Central Research Laboratory for Objects of Art and Science. The guidelines describe the types of damage to bookbindings and the



stages of treatment each requires....

Koninklijke Bibliotheek

[Ten ways for superpatrons to help improve libraries](#)

Ed "Superpatron" Vielmetti has created a list of 10 things library advocates can do to make libraries better. Two of the more unusual ones include: Remix the library catalog into your own applications, and add a librarian to your instant message or Twitter buddy list....

Superpatron blog, May 2

[The lolbrarians phenomenon](#)

(strong language warning)

A spinoff of [lolcat](#) images, lolbrarians are humorous or bizarre library-related photos and graphics accompanied by a caption or word balloon in poorly spelled or syntaxed IM or pidgin English. Famous librarians like Nancy Pearl (right), Stephen Abram, and Michael Gorman are lampooned. A LiveJournal community has been established for uploads....

Lolbrarians website



[Famous librarians' favorite books](#)

George Eberhart writes: "What do prominent librarians have to say about their favorite books? I asked 10 library leaders to identify the publications that have given them great enjoyment or significantly affected their professional or personal lives and philosophies. I defined the term 'book' as loosely as possible, to allow them to select anything from incunabula to websites."...

Britannica Blog, Apr. 18, May 3

[The Silent Library sketch](#)

Dutch kickboxer and four-time K-1 world champion Ernesto Hoost makes an appearance on the wildly popular Japanese variety show *Downtown no Gaki no Tsukai ya Arahende!!* (Downtown's Not an Errand Boy!). In this segment (9:54), the Japanese cast and Hoost are in a staged library in which one of them has to undergo a punishment upon choosing the card with the skull and crossbones on it. Although the game requires that they remain silent during the entire segment, the cast repeatedly lets out bursts of muffled laughter that is loud enough for the occupants of the library to hear....

YouTube



[Scholarly publishing groups issue white paper](#)

In an effort to temper the rhetoric regarding the role of copyright in scholarly communication, three prestigious organizations representing the international scholarly publishing community issued a white paper May 8 on the academic use of journal content. The position paper lays out general terms for the appropriate balancing of rights for academic journal publishing....

International Association of Scientific, Technical, and Medical Publishers, May 8

[Anatomy of a postal card used by a library](#)

Library philatelist Larry Nix writes: "Government-issued postal cards which have been mailed to or from

libraries are one of my favorite types of postal librarians because they provide a view of real library work during another time in our history. This postal card was mailed from the University of Illinois Library to Salzburg, Austria, in 1932 and reused for the return message." Find out why the mailing was sent....

Library History Buff, May 1



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

May 9, 2007

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[http://www.sirsidynixinstitute.com/seminar_page.php?sid=88]

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

U.S. & World News

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Kiowa County Library destroyed in Greensburg tornado

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/may2007/kiowacounty.cfm>]

The mile-and-a-half wide tornado that destroyed 95% of Greensburg, Kansas, the night of May 4 and left nine people dead also wiped out the main branch of the Kiowa County Library, located in the city's downtown. Librarian Debbie Allison, whose historic home was also demolished by the storm, visited the ruined facility May 7 and reported that only a section of the walls was left standing, up to a height of three feet. She found that a few books remained, but they were completely soaked and unsalvageable....

Fire devastates D.C.'s historic Georgetown branch

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/may2007/georgetownfire.cfm>]

The District of Columbia Public Library's Georgetown branch was struck April 30 by a three-alarm fire that destroyed the roof and much of the 1935 building's second floor, including the Peabody Room, which housed an invaluable collection of records and artifacts detailing the history of the neighborhood. Library officials said the Peabody Collection suffered less damage than initially feared, with about 95% of the items intact....

Interview with Iraq National Library Director Saad Eskander

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/selectedarticles/eskanderinterview.cfm>]

Following the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, Saad Eskander left the relative safety of England to accept the directorship of the National Library and Archives of Iraq. Librarians and cultural organizations around the world had voiced outrage over the looting and burning that occurred after the takeover, and Eskander was determined to play a role in the recovery and the establishment of a democratic government. He spoke with American Libraries Editor in Chief Leonard Kniffel by mobile phone April 14 from Baghdad, where he and his staff are struggling against unimaginable odds to return the National Library to some semblance of normalcy....

Urban librarians meet politicians in Cleveland

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/may2007/ulconference.cfm>]

"Help them make the right decisions," said Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson, welcoming the Urban Libraries Council to his city. It was the mayor's way of saying that library administrators must be at the table with government officials when economic development is being discussed. Whether the funding is city, state, or federal, the 114 participants in the ULC's May 4-5 "Partners for Success" conference agreed that it must be won by demonstrating the value of libraries and librarians to the vitality of their communities....

EPA libraries still disposing and dispersing materials

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/may2007/epadispose.cfm>]

According to an Environmental Protection Agency procedural document (PDF file [http://www.peer.org/docs/epa/07_2_5_library_dispersal_policy.pdf]) issued April 9, the agency is still requiring its libraries to "disperse or dispose of their library contents when appropriate," despite a February 6 commitment from EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson during Senate hearings to a moratorium on further library closings and discarding of holdings. Another April 9 document (PDF file [http://www.peer.org/docs/epa/07_2_5_oeca_issues.pdf]), from the EPA's own Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, expresses concerns about the agency's effectiveness in prosecuting polluters if data and documents are dispersed outside the EPA to other libraries. The EPA briefed

[http://blogs.ala.org/districtdispatch.php?title=epa_libraries_update_1&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1]
members of Congress on its libraries May 4....

Vatican Library to close for three years

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/may2007/vaticanclose.cfm>]

The 559-year-old Vatican Library will close for urgent repairs July 14 and not reopen until September 2010. Vatican officials made the announcement, which came as a surprise to scholars and historians, April 26, emphasizing that the work was needed to safeguard some 72,000 manuscripts housed in an underground bunker built only 25 years ago. Library Prefect Raffaele Farina said the bunker needed extra fireproofing, upgraded electrical wiring, and new emergency exits....

Arkansas Supreme Court saves library millage

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/may2007/arkansasmills.cfm>]

The Arkansas Supreme Court ruled April 26 that property taxes collected specifically for schools and libraries cannot be diverted to fund commercial development. The ruling goes against the city of Fayetteville's attempt to use the 25-mill tax to pay off bonds issued to clear land for a new downtown hotel....

What My Mother Doesn't Know

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/may2007/dells.cfm>]

The School District of Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, voted April 30 to limit middle-school-library access to Sonya Sones's "What My Mother Doesn't Know" to 7th- and 8th-graders. Before the vote, 6th-graders could read the novel if permitted by the school library media specialist, Spring Hill Middle School librarian Miranda Ladwig said in the May 3 Baraboo News Republic....

Medway may get a state funding boost

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/may2007/medway.cfm>]

The Massachusetts House of Representatives has approved legislation that would earmark an additional \$250,000 in FY2008 for the cash-strapped Medway Public Library. The State Board of Library Commissioners revoked the library's certification in February, seven months after voters failed to override the state's Proposition 2 1/2 tax-limitation law to allow the library to stay open 32 hours a week—the state's minimum requirement. Although the library escaped closing, it has only been open 20 hours a week since June 2006....

University of New Mexico fire damage totals \$17 million

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/may2007/zimmerman.cfm>]

One year after a suspicious fire destroyed thousands of books and journals in the basement of the University of New Mexico's Zimmerman Library, university officials have assessed the damage at nearly \$17 million—more than three times its initial estimate. The April 30, 2006, blaze burned more than 13 racks of bound journals and caused smoke damage throughout the entire building. The origin of the fire remains under investigation....

ALA News

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33rd National Library Legislative Day

[http://blogs.ala.org/districtdispatch.php?title=33rd_national_library_legislative_day_at&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1]

This year, over 420 participants from 47 states came to Washington, D.C., to speak with members of Congress May 1–2 for National Library Legislative Day about the needs of libraries in the areas of funding, telecommunications, copyright, privacy, and government information. One of the participants was Danny Chapman (right) of Lake Forest, Illinois—winner of the student contest that decided the theme and logo for the annual event—who visited his legislators (including Rep. Mark Kirk) with the delegation from the Illinois Library Association....

District Dispatch blog, May 8

Endowment fund passes \$30-million mark

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/LongTermInvestmentFund.htm>]

At their regularly scheduled spring meeting at ALA headquarters in Chicago May 9, the ALA Endowment trustees announced that the Long-Term Investment Fund has passed the \$30-million mark.

The Endowment has increased by \$14.3 million or 88.8% in value since its inception in the late 1980s....

Game Lab to explore gaming and libraries

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/glpr07.htm>]

Researchers from ALA, the Syracuse University School of Information Studies, and the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana are working together to research games in libraries through a project called Game Lab. [<http://gamelab.syr.edu/>] They will tackle the development of a classification structure for games and determine the public good served by the library that provides gaming programs....

Tools to assist privacy practices [<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/pt07.htm>]

As part of its effort to support libraries and librarians seeking to improve their protection of library users' privacy, ALA is making available new tools

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/iftoolkits/toolkitsprivacy/privacyprocedures/procedures.htm>] to help libraries conduct audits of its privacy policies and procedures. Developed by ALA during its own

2003 privacy audit, each tool is a document template that can be adopted and changed to serve the needs of the individual institution....

Hollywood Librarian

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/annual/2007a/specialevents.htm#hollywood>] to debut at Annual Conference

Ann Seidl's full-length feature documentary, *The Hollywood Librarian: A Look at Librarians on Film*, [<http://www.hollywoodlibrarian.com/>] will premiere at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., on June 22. The film shows the realities of 21st-century librarianship, including stereotyping, censorship and intellectual freedom, and the impact of librarians on society. Watch a trailer (1:40) here [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8kd4fC1bwo>]....

The Hollywood Librarian

Registration open for copyright teleconference

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/cwtc07.htm>]

A national teleconference and webcast on "Copyright in the Digital Age: An Update," will take place June 1 from 12 to 2 p.m. Eastern time. It will feature national library leaders discussing the complex copyright and intellectual property issues affecting libraries and schools. To register, call 800-354-6587 or visit the College of DuPage Press website

[<http://www.dupagepress.com/COD/index.php?id=1281>]....

New CPLA candidates and courses approved

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/CPLAcandidatescourses.htm>]

The Certified Public Library Administrator Program Certification Review Committee approved five candidates and one program course during the Spring 2007 review. The new course in marketing will be offered online by the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign....

Public awareness at Annual Conference

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/CampaigntrainingAnnual.htm>]

The ALA Public Awareness Committee is sponsoring three programs at Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., that will benefit communicators from all types of libraries. The Campaign for America's Libraries program will share stories and strategies about the campaign, while two other sessions will focus on new technologies for PR practitioners and the history of women in baseball....

Advocacy Institute to feature essentials of lobbying

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/AdvocacyInstitutelobbyin.htm>]

The Advocacy Institute at Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., will feature an intensive afternoon session covering lobbying techniques. The session, led by former lobbyist and congressional aide Stephanie Vance, will offer library advocates hands-on exercises, role-playing, and ways to effectively lobby congressional decision-makers....

Better know your Association

[http://www.theshiftedlibrarian.com/archives/2007/05/04/better_know_your_association.html]

ALA Internet Development Specialist Jenny Levine created this 10-question multiple-choice quiz on the American Library Association as part of a gaming workshop she held at the Computers in Libraries conference. Her intent was to show how gaming can be used for assessment in addition to literacy and learning. Take the ALA quiz!

[http://wikis.ala.org/newmembers/Better_Know_Your_Association.html]...

Shifted Librarian blog, May 4

Booklist Online

Featured review: Media [http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=1992525]
Gardner, Lisa. Hide. May 2007. Read by Maggie-Meg Reed. 11.5 hrs. Books on Tape, CD.
(978-1-4159-3550-7).

When a grave containing the bodies of six mummified little girls is discovered under an abandoned Boston mental hospital, detective Bobby Dodge doesn't like the similarities to a previous case, especially because that murderer is long dead . . . or so he thought. His only clue—a necklace found on one of the corpses—leads to Annabelle Granger....

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

D.C. Update

Abe Lincoln sites in the District [<http://showcase.netins.net/web/creative/lincoln/sites/sites.htm>]
In addition to the assassination site at Ford's Theatre, [<http://www.nps.gov/foth/>]
Washington teems with Lincoln landmarks. There is the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, [<http://www.nyapc.org/history/?name=Civil%20War>] which Lincoln attended; the Armed Forces Retirement Home's [<http://www.afrh.gov/afrh/wash/whistory.htm>] Anderson Cottage, where Lincoln wrote a draft of the Emancipation Proclamation; Fort Lesley McNair, [<http://www.fmmc.army.mil/sites/about/history-mcnair.asp>] where the conspirators were tried and hung; Mount Olivet Cemetery, [<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=6389114>] where conspirator Mary Surratt is buried; and the Wok N' Roll Chinese Restaurant [http://www.woknrolldc.com/about_us.htm] (right), the location of the former boarding house [<http://members.aol.com/RVSNorton/Lincoln26.html>] run by Mary Surratt where the conspirators met. (Thanks to history buff Charles Walton for these suggestions.)...

Division News

Thousands of teens celebrate Teen Tech Week
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/TeenTechWeek2007.htm>]
YALSA has successfully completed its first annual Teen Tech Week,
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teentechweek/ttw.htm>] "Get Connected @ your library," March 4–10. The Bloomington (Ill.) Public Library hosted a podcasting workshop and an animation workshop for young adults. The Arnold O. Beckman High School library media center in Irvine, California, hosted two technology talks for its teen users and their parents—one from Orange County Register reporter Tamara Chuang on the latest tech gadgets and one from Sgt. Steve Wolf of the Irvine Police Department on safely using social networking software and the internet....

Jed Horne to speak at RUSA breakfast

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/HorneRUSABreakfast.htm>]

Pulitzer Prize winner Jed Horne will be one of three featured authors at the annual "Literary Tastes Breakfast"; during ALA Annual Conference June 24 in Washington, D.C.

In 2006, Horne and the staff of the New Orleans Times-Picayune received a Pulitzer Prize for Public Service and Breaking News Reporting for their coverage of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath....

Debraski elected YALSA president

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/DebraskiYALSAvp.htm>]

Sarah Cornish Debraski has been elected vice president/president-elect of YALSA. She is active in the New Jersey Library Association, has published extensively on romance novels and booktalking, and currently serves on the YALSA Board of Directors....

Sheffer elected PLA president

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/ShefferPLAvicepresident.htm>]

Carol Sheffer, deputy director of the Queens Borough (N.Y.) Public Library, has been elected vice-president/president-elect of PLA. Sheffer has been a member of PLA and ALA for more than 20 years, serving on numerous committees, the ALA Recruitment Assembly, and the PLA Board of Directors....

YALSA offers four online courses

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/YALSAonlinecourses.htm>]

YALSA is offering four online courses this summer: "Making the Match: Finding the Right Book for the Right Teen at the Right Time," "Pain in the Brain: Adolescent Development and Library Behavior," "Power Programming for Teens," and "Using Electronic Databases with Teens." Classes will take place July 1–30, except for "Making the Match," which runs July 1–August 10. Registration opened on May 7....

ACRL on plagiarism [<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/CLIPNote37.htm>]

ACRL has published Library Plagiarism Policies: CLIP Note 37, compiled by Vera Stepchynshyn and Robert S. Nelson of Long Island University in Brooklyn, New York. The publication is part of the ACRL College Libraries Section's College Library Information Packet Committee series and is a pragmatic resource for college libraries, faculty, staff, and administrators to use to develop policies on the prevention and detection of plagiarism....

Round Table News

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User rights at risk: Issues for media librarians

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/vrt/vrtconferenceinfo/VRT2007Preconference.pdf>] (PDF file)

The Video Round Table is sponsoring a preconference, in conjunction with American University's Washington College of Law and the Center for Social Media, on intellectual property rights, fair use, and orphan works issues. "User Rights at Risk in Video and Film" will be held June 22, 2–6 p.m., at the AU Washington College of Law....

Awards

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Wilmette's Central Elementary School wins Jaffarian Award

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/JaffarianAward.htm>]

The Central Elementary School Library in Wilmette, Illinois, is the inaugural winner of the Sara Jaffarian School Library Program Award for Exemplary Humanities Programming. Barbara Ungar, library media teacher at Central Elementary School, developed and submitted the winning program, entitled "Central School Third Grade Virtual Museum: A Day in the Neighborhood."

2007 NSLMPY awards [<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/NSLMPYawardwinners.htm>]

The Norman (Okla.) Public School District; Harpeth Hall's Ann Scott Carell Library (right) in Nashville, Tennessee; and North Elementary School in Noblesville, Indiana, will all receive this year's National School Library Media Program of the Year (NSLMPY) Award from AASL. The honors will be presented at the AASL awards luncheon at ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., on Monday, June 25....

AASL selects 2007 awards recipients

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/AASLawardsrecipients.htm>]

AASL has announced the winners of the Collaborative School Library Media Award, the ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant, the Distinguished School Administrator Award, and other divisional awards and grants....

River wins ACRL women's studies award

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/WSSCareerAward.htm>]

Sandra A. River, architecture and humanities librarian at Texas Tech University Libraries, has been selected as the 2007 winner of the ACRL Women's Studies Section's Career Achievement Award. Sponsored by Greenwood Publishing Group, the award honors significant long-standing contributions to women's studies in the field of librarianship over the course of a career....

WSS significant achievement awards

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/WSSSignificantAwards.htm>]

The winners of the 2007 ACRL Women's Studies Section Award for Significant Achievement in Women's Studies Librarianship presented a panel at the 2006 National Women's Studies Association meeting entitled "Locating Women's Studies Information: Contemporary Quandaries in Providing Effective Access to Feminist Materials." The panelists were Jennifer Gilley, Kayo Denda, Jenna Freedman, and Sharon Ladenson....

Lawrence Wright wins Bernstein Book Award

[http://www.nypl.org/press/2007/Bernstein_Awards_Winner_2007.cfm]

The New York Public Library Helen Bernstein Book Award for Excellence in Journalism was awarded May 1 to Lawrence Wright for his book *The Looming Tower: al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11* (Alfred A. Knopf). The award, which includes a \$15,000 cash prize, is given annually to a journalist whose work brings clarity and public attention to important issues, events, or policies....
New York Public Library, May 2

Montana librarians win state awards

[<http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2007/05/05/news/local/60-librarians.txt>]

When Deanna King began sorting mail at Parmly Billings Library, it never occurred to her that 28 years later she would win the Montana Library Association's Honorary Lifetime Membership Award. And when Norma Glock collected pennies to build schools in rural Pakistan and Afghanistan, she was focused on education and not the Sheila Cates Librarian of the Year Award....
Billings (Mont.) Gazette, May 5

Seen Online

Closed libraries are bad for business

[<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070505/NEWS/705050311>]

Paula Schranz of Renal Care Consultants of Medford, Oregon, said she's worried about her ability to attract and retain professionals in the future after all 15 branches in the county closed April 6 because of budget cuts. "If I was recruiting a physician right now, I would be concerned," she said. But the Save Our Library System citizen group is campaigning for Measure 15-75, a three-year levy on the May 15 ballot that would reopen the libraries....
Medford (Oreg.) Mail Tribune, May 5

Gay penguins stir up a challenge again

[http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070505/A_NEWS/705050321]

The story of two penguins has caused at least one Lodi (Calif.) Public Library patron to request the children's book be removed from the library's toddler section or labeled to indicate mature content. Lodi resident Stephanie Bramasco asked the library board at an April 16 public meeting to remove the book *And Tango Makes Three*, deriding what she called its "homosexual story line that has been sugarcoated with cute penguins."...
Stockton (Calif.) Record, May 5

File under “other”

[http://www.boston.com/news/globe/ideas/articles/2007/05/06/file_under_other/]

Jenna Freedman is part of a generation that grew up with zines during their heyday in the 1990s. Now she is part of an emerging community of professionally trained librarians who are trying to make zines a part of the modern academic library system. It is a community, Freedman says, that faces a difficult question: How do libraries—institutions that by nature require a strict, stately style of micromanagement—assimilate these self-published and occasionally category-defying dispatches from the cultural hinterlands?...
Boston Globe, May 6

Encyclopedia of Life launched

[<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-0705081048may09,1,2244282.story>]

If the \$50 million biodiversity effort launched May 9 goes as hoped, the Encyclopedia of Life [<http://www.eol.org>] could emerge as an authoritative version of Wikipedia for biology fans. Potential applications range from planning natural conservation in suburban subdivisions, to mapping coral reefs in the Pacific, to identifying that odd butterfly perched by your window. Led in part by Chicago philanthropists and researchers, the project aims to create a free internet resource to catalog and describe every one of the planet's 1.8 million species....
Chicago Tribune, May 9

Anchorage area libraries face the financial ax

[<http://www.adn.com/news/alaska/matsu/story/8847175p-8747874c.html>]

In Alaska, Matanuska-Susitna Borough is poised to chop away 40% of the funding for Wasilla and Palmer city libraries, with further plans to cut that money to zero by July 2011. In return, city leaders are talking about taking the battle to library patrons. Charging nonresidents as much as \$80 for a one-year library card is one proposal being considered....
Anchorage Daily News, May 2

Germany hands over Waldseemüller map [<http://www.star-telegram.com/238/story/86957.html>]

German Chancellor Angela Merkel on April 30 officially handed over to the United States the 500-year-old map that was the first to tell the world of a new land it called America. Library of

Congress historians say the world map, completed by German cartographer Martin Waldseemüller in 1507, is the first known document to use the name America, the first to depict the Western Hemisphere, and the first to show separate Pacific and Atlantic oceans....
Associated Press, May 1

Prodigal library snake found

[<http://www.wfcourier.com/articles/2007/05/02/news/metro/b4c7fd0e2fb1c569862572cf004ee4cf.txt>]
Skeeze, a one-year-old red albino corn snake, had been loose in the Cedar Falls (Iowa) Public Library for a little more than a month when he was found May 1 by janitorial employee Dick VanBesien. The two-foot-long Skeeze was an integral part of last summer's reading program on animals before he escaped from his cage. Plans are already underway for a writing competition about "Skeeze the Snake's Spring Break."...
Waterloo Cedar Falls (Iowa) Courier, May 2

Yard-sale tips [<http://www.roanoke.com/extra/wb/wb/xp-115709>]

Every weekend around the nation, thousands of yard-salers rev their engines with this credo in mind: "Anything can be anywhere." Newspaper classified ads clutched in their palms, they hit the roads hoping to find that lost Picasso dragged from a grandma's attic. Linda Steadman, owner of Too Many Books in Roanoke, says one of the strangest finds she remembers stumbling across was a rare book of witchcraft spells. She bought it for \$1, sold it for \$150.....
Roanoke (Va.) Times, May 5

Kids protest to save school librarian's job

[<http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/13262852/detail.html>]
After almost 21 years of service, school librarian Terri Knight is in danger of losing her job—and hundreds of students are rallying around her. Students at Benchley Weinberger Elementary School in San Carlos, California, staged a demonstration May 4. The school district would not comment on the situation, saying it is a personnel matter....
KNSD-TV, San Diego, May 7

Traveling coffeehouse jolts reservation nightlife

[<http://www.navajotimes.com/entertainment/050307-coffee.php>]
It was hard to argue with Ganado (Ariz.) High School librarian Steve Centers's assessment that the April 26 open-mic coffeehouse at the library was "a complete success." More than 90 people from as far away as Window Rock and Tsaile, Arizona, crammed the library to sip coffee, munch on free snacks, and watch about 30 local performers do everything from karaoke to reciting poetry while jogging....
Navajo Times, May 3

Tech Talk

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NBC joins fight against YouTube [<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1895,2126645,00.asp>]

NBC is taking sides with fellow media conglomerate Viacom over a piracy lawsuit filed against Google's online video-sharing site YouTube, according to papers filed in court. The case involves a separate party, Los Angeles News Service operator Robert Tur, who sued YouTube in July for allowing its users to appropriate his famous footage of trucker Reginald Denny being beaten during the 1992 Los Angeles riots....
Reuters, May 7

Information technology users: A typology [http://www.pewinternet.org/PPF/r/140/press_release.asp]
The Pew Internet and American Life Project conducted a survey (PDF file [http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_ICT_Typology.pdf]) on the assets, actions, and attitudes of Americans who use IT and came up with 10 major types of technology users. Which one of these types describes you?—omnivore, connector, lackluster veteran, productivity enhancer, mobile centric, connected but hassled, inexperienced experimenter, light but satisfied, indifferent, or off the network. If you're not sure, take the quiz [<http://www.pewinternet.org/quiz/>]....
Pew Internet and American Life Project, May 6

ExLibris gets SASsy [http://blogs.ala.org/pace.php?title=ex_libris_gets_sassy&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1]
Ex Libris Group announced today that Robert Mercer has been appointed president of the Ex Libris Group North American subsidiary, effective immediately. Mercer was most recently a regional vice-president and general manager of SAS Institute, Inc. [<http://www.sas.com/>] Mercer will replace Dan Trajman who joined Ex Libris in March 2004. Trajman will stay on in a consultative role through 2007....
Hectic Pace blog, May 8

RSS feeds for Amazon.com tags [<http://www.techcrunch.com/2007/05/08/rss-feeds-for-tags-at-amazoncom/>]
Amazon's Customer Communities team has rolled out broader support for tag-based RSS feeds, according to Amazon's Ian McAllister. The option allows subscription to feeds specific to the user's interests and subsequently would also allow for the creation of widgets and mashups using the data created....
TechCrunch blog, May 8

Jessamyn installs Ubuntu [<http://www.librarian.net/stax/2042/do-you-ubuntu/>]
Jessamyn West made this 4:35 video of her installing the free, Open Source, linux-based Ubuntu operating system [<http://www.ubuntu.com/>] on two workstations at the Calef Memorial Library in Washington, Vermont. Along the way, she describes the features of the system, which comes bundled with popular Open Source software titles like OpenOffice, Gimp, and Firefox. The video has a great Cajun music soundtrack....
librarian.net, May 8

How to download YouTube videos [<http://mashable.com/2007/05/05/download-youtube-video/>]
Stan Schroeder writes: "Google has a solid amount of cash in its pockets, but with all the recent lawsuits against YouTube one has to wonder if it's time to salvage whatever videos you like from the service and save them somewhere where evil attorneys won't look—your hard drive. Luckily, there are literally dozens of tools for downloading videos from YouTube and/or converting them to some format other than .flv."...
Mashable Social Networking News, May 5

Actions & Answers

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Is everything miscellaneous?
[<http://www.techsource.ala.org/blog/2007/05/weinbergers-well-ordered-miscellany.html>]
Karen Schneider writes: "This book is dangerous. David Weinberger's Everything is Miscellaneous takes all the precious ideas we are taught as librarians and throws them out the window. Structure, order, precise metadata, bibliographic control: gone, gone, gone, gone. Even, for you edgier types, ye who tell of your Semantic Web and your RDF triples: old-school, good-bye, don't

let the door hit you on the way out.”...
ALA TechSource blog, May 3

Open access for librarians

[<http://dalziel.org/karin/publications-presentations/open-access-for-librarians-what-why-and-how/>]
Karin Dalziel, library assistant at the University of Nebraska’s Center for Digital Research in the Humanities, offers an introduction to open access and why it’s important: “I hear occasionally about how open access publications are not a viable option for scholars to publish in. This sentiment is popular with scholars, but librarians are uniquely positioned to fight it. Librarians need to be informed of open access publishing methods and ideology because it is becoming an increasing force in scholarly literature.”...
Karin Dalziel’s website

Guidelines for conserving leather and parchment bookbindings

[<http://www.kb.nl/cons/leather/index-en.html>]
This publication (translated here into English) is an updated edition of the Richtlijnen voor de conservering van leren en perkamenten boekbanden issued in 1995 by the Dutch Royal Library (Koninklijke Bibliotheek) and the Central Research Laboratory for Objects of Art and Science. The guidelines describe the types of damage to bookbindings and the stages of treatment each requires....
Koninklijke Bibliotheek

Ten ways for superpatrons to help improve libraries

[http://vielmetti.typepad.com/superpatron/2007/05/ten_ways_for_su.html]
Ed “Superpatron” Vielmetti has created a list of 10 things library advocates can do to make libraries better. Two of the more unusual ones include: Remix the library catalog into your own applications, and add a librarian to your instant message or Twitter buddy list....
Superpatron blog, May 2

The lolbrarians phenomenon [<http://community.livejournal.com/lolbrarians/>] (strong language warning)

A spinoff of lolcat [<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lolcats>] images, lolbrarians are humorous or bizarre library-related photos and graphics accompanied by a caption or word balloon in poorly spelled or syntaxed IM or pidgin English. Famous librarians like Nancy Pearl (right), Stephen Abram, and Michael Gorman are lampooned. A LiveJournal community has been established for uploads....
Lolbrarians website

Famous librarians’s favorite books

[<http://blogs.britannica.com/blog/main/2007/05/famous-librarians-favorite-books-part-2/>]
George Eberhart writes: “What do prominent librarians have to say about their favorite books? I asked 10 library leaders to identify the publications that have given them great enjoyment or significantly affected their professional or personal lives and philosophies. I defined the term ‘book’ as loosely as possible, to allow them to select anything from incunabula to websites.”...
Britannica Blog, Apr. 18, May 3

The Silent Library sketch [<http://youtube.com/watch?v=qcofZqccSQA>]

Dutch kickboxer and four-time K-1 world champion Ernesto Hoost makes an appearance on the wildly popular Japanese variety show Downtown no Gaki no Tsukai ya Arahende!! (Downtown’s Not an Errand Boy!). In this segment (9:54), the Japanese cast and Hoost are in a staged library in which one of them has to undergo a punishment upon choosing the card with the skull and crossbones on it. Although the game requires that they remain silent during the entire segment, the cast repeatedly lets out bursts of muffled laughter that is loud enough for the occupants of the library to hear....

YouTube

Scholarly publishing groups issue white paper

[<http://www.stm-assoc.org/home/stm-aappsp-alpsp-issue-white-paper-on-academic-use-of-journal-content.html>]

In an effort to temper the rhetoric regarding the role of copyright in scholarly communication, three prestigious organizations representing the international scholarly publishing community issued a white paper May 8 on the academic use of journal content. The position paper lays out general terms for the appropriate balancing of rights for academic journal publishing....

International Association of Scientific, Technical, and Medical Publishers, May 8

Anatomy of a postal card used by a library

[<http://www.libraryhistorybuff.org/postalcards-anatomy.htm>]

Library philatelist Larry Nix writes: "Government-issued postal cards which have been mailed to or from libraries are one of my favorite types of postal librarians because they provide a view of real library work during another time in our history. This postal card was mailed from the University of Illinois Library to Salzburg, Austria, in 1932 and reused for the return message."

Find out why the mailing was sent....

Library History Buff, May 1

Ask the ALA Librarian

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Q. Are there wheelchair accessibility requirements for bookmobiles? If so, what are they?

A. There are two facets to the answer to this question. The first is: Is physical accessibility required? The second is: If physical accessibility is required, what are the parameters? In answer

to the first question, the Department of Justice has published ADA Guide for Small Towns

[<http://www.ada.gov/smtown.htm>]. It maps out some key examples. The ADA Guide shows an example of an older, smaller bookmobile [<http://www.ada.gov/smtown.htm#anchor27501>], explaining, "A drawing of an older bookmobile parked in a parking lot with a person using a scooter approaching the side

door. The entry door has steps and no ramp. A call button, located on the side of the bookmobile, is pushed to call the staff person to the door to provide service." There are newer, larger

bookmobiles that are ADA compliant and include lifts for disabled patrons. See more at the ALA Professional Tips wiki. [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/ADA_and_Bookmobiles]

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

Calendar

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June 3–6:

Special Libraries Association, [<http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/ac2007/index.cfm>]

Annual Conference, Colorado Convention Center, Denver.

June 5–9:

Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries [<http://www.cbhl.net/meetings/meetings.htm>],
Annual Meeting, Cincinnati, Ohio. “Eclectic Cincinnati: Legacies, Legends, and the Lloyds.”

June 7–8:

Northeast Map Organization, [<http://www.northeastmap.org/>] Annual Meeting, Fashion Institute of Technology, State University of New York. Contact: Angelique Jenks-Brown, [<mailto:ajbrown@binghamton.edu>] 607-777-4596.

June 13–15:

State University of New York Librarians Association, [<http://www.buffalostate.edu/library/sunyla2007/>] Annual Conference, SUNY-Maritime, The Bronx.

June 20–22:

Council on Library/Media Technicians, [<http://colt.ucr.edu/events.html#CALENDAR>] Annual Conference, Washington, D.C. “Library Support Staff: An Essential Piece of the Library Landscape.”

June 24–27:

International Society for Technology in Education, [<http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2007/>] National Educational Computing Conference, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta. “Learning and Leading with Technology.” Contact: 800-280-6218.

Aug. 2–6:

Black Caucus of the ALA, [http://www.bcala.org/NCAAL_participation/index.html] National Conference of African American Librarians, Fort Worth, Texas. “Culture Keepers VI: Preserving the Past, Sustaining the Future.” Contact: Carolyn F. Norman, [<mailto:cnorman@cccoco.edu>] 916-445-0837.

Sept. 9–11:

Association of Information and Dissemination Centers, [<http://www.asidic.org/meetings/fall07.htm>] Fall Meeting, Westin Arlington Gateway Hotel, Arlington, Virginia. “Trends, Tactics, and Truths in the Information Industry.”

Sept. 26–28:

Association for Rural and Small Libraries, [<http://jupiter.clarion.edu/~csrl/great.htm>] Annual Conference, Columbus, Ohio. Contact: ARSL, [<mailto:arsl@clarion.edu>] 814-393-2014.

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

Contact Us

American Libraries Direct

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american libraries DIRECT

May 16, 2007

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Connecting Libraries
with K-12 Communities



U.S. & World News

[Liability for Georgetown branch fire contested](#)

The engineering firm managing the renovation of the District of Columbia Public Library's Georgetown branch claimed May 10 that its workers were not responsible for a fire that destroyed the building's roof and second floor. Ebenezer Adewunmi, president of the Hyattsville, Maryland-based Dynamic Corporation, claims his crew was working on the opposite side of the building when the blaze broke out around noon April 30....

[California school libraries continue staffing fights](#)

As fiscal-year budget deadlines loom for California school systems, library staff in at least three school districts continue to battle to keep their jobs for FY2008, while school library media specialists in two other municipalities seem to have found staying power for another academic year....

[Vienna city library hosts literary erotica hotline](#)

The City Library of Vienna, Austria, is offering callers a spicy earful of erotic readings from 19th- and 20th-century books in its "Secret Collection" through May 31. A spinoff from a May 6 program of music, art, and dance called "The Long Night of Love" held at the Hotel Orient in the city center, the library's erotica hotline features Austrian film and stage actress Anne Bennet (above) reading sexy excerpts from Austrian poet Hans Carl Artmann, American modernist writer Djuna Barnes, French novelist Rétif de la Bretonne, Swiss writer Gottfried Keller, and even love letters by German socialist Ferdinand Lassalle....



"Empowerment 2007: Mama Said There'd Be Days Like This (But I Didn't Believe Her)" is the theme of the ALA [Conference Within a Conference for Library Support Staff](#), June 23-24.

THE WHOLE DIGITAL LIBRARY HANDBOOK



EDITED BY DIANE KRESH

Essential facts, advice, lists, documents, guidelines, lore, wit, and wisdom: Along with fun and irreverence, it's what readers have come to

ALA News

[FISA court judge to speak at Washington Office Update](#)

At the Washington Office Update Session on June 23, during the ALA 2007 Annual Conference, Royce Lamberth—former chief judge on the Foreign

Intelligence Surveillance Act Court—will be speaking about how the highly secretive court works, and how it has changed since the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001....

District Dispatch blog, May 14



[LIVE! @ your library reading stage](#)

The Public Programs Office, in cooperation with YALSA, will present the 13th annual LIVE! @ your library Reading Stage during ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., June 21–27. Sherman Alexie, Donna Leon (right), Lois Lowry, StoryCorps's Dave Isay, Nick Hornby, Dinaw Mengestu, and 19 other award-winning authors and poets will read from their works....



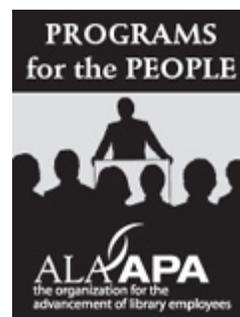
[Freedom to Read Foundation trustees elected](#)

The Freedom to Read Foundation has announced the winners of its 2007 Board of Trustees election. Bernadine Abbott Hoduski, Therese Bigelow, Robert P. Doyle, John K. Horany, James G. Neal, and Judith Platt will serve two-year terms beginning with the 2007 Annual Conference....

[MLA cosponsors Advocacy Institute](#)

The Maryland Library Association has joined the list of regional cosponsors of the June 22 Advocacy Institute at ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. The Institute will feature topics on message development, coalition-building, and resources....

expect from the "Whole Library" series. Diane Kresh edits [The Whole Digital Library Handbook](#)—an encyclopedic overview of digital libraries. **NEW! From ALA Editions.**



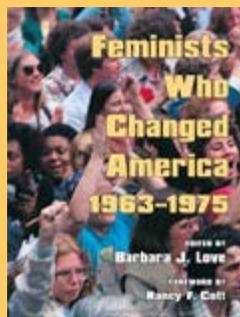
ALA-APA offers nine [Programs for the People](#) at ALA Annual Conference.

Booklist ONLINE

[Featured review: Reference](#)

Love, Barbara J., editor. *Feminists Who Changed America, 1963–1975*. Dec. 2006. 526p. Univ. of Illinois, hardcover. (978-0-252-03189-2).

This is the first comprehensive directory to document many of the founders and leaders of what is now often referred to as the second wave of feminism, between 1963 and 1975. It includes biographical sketches of about 2,200 individuals, mostly women, who reignited the women's movement of the early twentieth century and managed to make permanent changes in customs and laws. The biographical sketches represent many factions, all parts of the country, all races and ethnicities, and many political ideologies....



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

In this issue May 2007



Roger Mudd on the Love of Books

Bookstore Tourism

Gamers in the Library

Mattering in the School Blogosphere

D.C. Update

[YALSA city guide](#) (PDF file)

The YALSA Local Arrangements Committee has put together a Washington, D.C., city guide with the inside scoop on how to get around, what to see, what to do, and where to eat. Here's one tip: "You may be surprised to find that there aren't a whole lot of casual lunch restaurants located near the National Mall. That's why it's worth it to head over to the National Museum of the American Indian and have lunch in the Mitsitam Café (above, \$-\$\$). Traditional foods of the various native peoples are featured, and while the price may seem a little high, the quantity and quality of the food more than make up for it."...

YALSA City Guide



[Plan your subway and bus routes](#)

Transit planner HopStop plots directions and estimates travel times by foot and public transit (subway and bus) between two addresses in Washington, D.C. If you don't know the addresses, you can pinpoint them on a handily provided Yahoo map or search for them in HopStop's city guide. The site also works for New York, Boston, Chicago, and San Francisco transit....

HopStop



Division News

[YALSA appoints YAttitudes editor](#)

YALSA has appointed Erin Downey Howerton as editor of its quarterly newsletter, *YAttitudes*. Howerton, school liaison for the Johnson County (Kans.) Library, will serve for a three-year term beginning with the Fall 2007 issue....



[Kids! @ your library continues to grow](#)

ALSC has added new resources to its [Kids! @ your library](#) online tool kit. The latest materials added to the kit include Spanish-language resources, top ten ways to use Bill Harley's "At Your Library" song in your library and community, and a story theater script for *The Chicken and the Librarian*....



[Desch elected ASCLA president](#)

Carol Ann Desch, coordinator of statewide library services and director of the New York State Library's Division of Library Development in Albany, has been elected vice president/president-elect of ASCLA. She has served as a director-at-large for the ASCLA Board, chair of the State Library Agencies Section, and member of the Standards Review Committee and Website Task Force....

From the CentennialAL Blog



Greg Landgraf writes: "Apropos of nothing except historical interest, I'd like to share this photo of current ALA Executive Director [Keith Michael Fiels](#) from the November 1985 issue of *American Libraries*. It was taken at the sixth annual meeting of the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services Taskforce, September 12-14, 1985, in Princeton, N.J.; Fiels at the time was with the New Jersey State Library."...



Career Leads from



[Chief Librarian,](#)

Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The ideal candidate will be working closely with the military in supporting specialized library operations. Candidates must be

[Wyatt elected RUSA president](#)

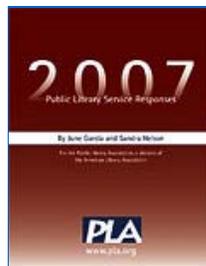
Neal Wyatt, collection development manager for Chesterfield County (Va.) Public Library, has been elected vice president/president-elect of RUSA. She has served as chair of the RUSA Awards Committee, as the division councilor to ALA Council, and as chair of the RUSA Access to Information Committee....

[Martin elected AASL president](#)

Ann M. Martin, educational specialist in library information service for the Henrico County (Va.) Public Schools, has been elected vice president/president-elect of AASL. As an ALA member, Martin has held posts as director of Region IV and chair of the Awards Committee....

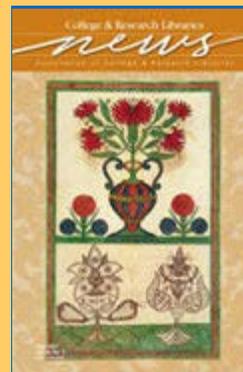
[PLA updates Service Responses](#)

Revised Service Responses are now available for downloading. The [PDF document](#) includes comprehensive descriptions of 18 new and revised Service Responses, defined as "what a library does for, or offers to, the public in an effort to meet a set of well-defined community needs." In 2006, PLA Results series editors Sandra Nelson and June Garcia initiated a process to revise the 1997 Service Responses by soliciting input on the PLA Blog....



personable and effective in communication, and familiar with Microsoft Office....

@ [More jobs...](#)



University of Michigan librarians **Shevon Desai, Marija Freeland, and Eric Frierson** discuss their experience using [Lesson Study](#), a Japanese method of instructional improvement, for library instruction classes, in the May issue of *College & Research Libraries News*.

Round Table News

[Barbara Gittings remembered](#) (PDF file)

The Spring newsletter of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Round Table has reminiscences about the late Barbara Gittings, longtime leader of the GLBT community, who died February 18 after a long battle with breast cancer. Not a librarian herself, she nonetheless championed the cause of getting GLBT literature into libraries around the country....



GLBTRT Newsletter 19, no. 1 (Spring): 4-5

Awards

[Marshall Cavendish Award winner](#)

The Calgary (Alberta) Public Library has been chosen from among 29 entries to receive the 2007 ALA Marshall Cavendish Excellence in Library Programming Award. The winning project, "It's Not a Crime to Read," pairs libraries, schools, and police officers in an effort to encourage at-risk children to read. It also develops positive collaboration between librarians and teachers....



[Bell and Yamashita receive Equality Award](#)

Gladys Smiley Bell, Peabody librarian at Hampton (Va.) University, and Kenneth A. Yamashita, library division manager



This year's Annual Conference features an outstanding lineup of **adult literature programs and author events** ([PDF file](#)).

at Stockton–San Joaquin County (Calif.) Library, are the 2007 recipients of the ALA Equality Award, which recognizes contributions toward promoting equality in the library profession. They are recognized for their work as cochairs of the first Joint Conference of Librarians of Color, held October 12–15, 2006, in Dallas....



[Paul Howard Award for Courage winners](#)

George Christian, Jan Nocek, Barbara Bailey, and Peter Chase are the 2007 recipients of the ALA Paul Howard Award for Courage. The four are being recognized for their challenge to the National Security Letter and gag order provision of the USA Patriot Act. The \$1,000 bi-annual award and citation honors a librarian, library board, library group or an individual who has exhibited unusual courage for the benefit of library programs or services....



[YALSA receives World Book–ALA Goal Award](#)

YALSA has been named the recipient of the 2007 World Book–ALA Goal Award, consisting of a \$10,000 grant to improve teen library services in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Using Teen Read Week as its focal point, the grant will fund increased professional development in the targeted states to significantly boost teen library use, teen reading, and literacy....

[Cornell’s Saylor wins engineering award](#)

John M. Saylor, director of the Cornell University Engineering Library, has won the 2007 Homer I. Bernhardt Distinguished Service Award, presented at the American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference to recognize work that contributes to the advancement and development of excellence in engineering libraries. The awards committee cited as determining factors Saylor’s more than 35 years of leadership in engineering librarianship....



Cornell University Libraries, Apr. 28

[Donna Hanus wins New York State service award](#)

Donna Hanus, director of the Franklin–Essex–Hamilton School Library System in Malone, New York, received the 2007 Distinguished Service Award from the School Library Systems Association of New York State. The award is given to a director who has made an outstanding contribution to school librarianship and the association....



School Library Systems Association of New York State, May 4

[Mount Prospect recognized for its construction](#)

Public Perception

How the World Sees Us

“If Penélope Cruz or Jennifer Lopez sees this movie, she may just give up and become a librarian.”

—Anthony Lane reviewing *Away from Her*, in which the gray-haired Julie Christie has numerous closeups, *New Yorker*, May 7.



Join ALA, NILRC: Network of Illinois Learning Resources in Community Colleges, and the College of DuPage for [a national teleconference](#) at 12 to 2 p.m. Eastern Time on June 1 with an in-depth look at copyright issues facing librarians and educators in the digital age. Call 800-354-6587 to register.

Ask the ALA Librarian



The Mount Prospect (Ill.) Public Library was honored April 28 by the Illinois Masonry Institute Promotion Trust for the outstanding composition of its brick and glass work. Selected from 99 entries, the library was one of only four silver award winners. The 2002 referendum for \$20.5 million allowed the library to undergo the expansion and physical transformation that resulted in this award....

Mount Prospect Public Library, May 14

Seen Online

[Jackson County rejects library levy](#)

Dejected library supporters were stunned May 15 by the overwhelming defeat of a levy that would have reopened all 15 branches of the Jackson County (Oreg.) Library. The property tax levy, which would have raised \$8.3 million annually, received 31,876 no votes and 21,906 yes votes as of 11 p.m. Joe Davis, chairman of the Save Our Library System campaign, said he believes residents voted against the levy not because they don't support the libraries, but because they don't support this method of funding them....

Medford (Oreg.) Mail Tribune, May 16



[Illinois libraries stage day of protest over filter law](#)

The computers were not dead May 14 at the Zion-Benton (Ill.) Public Library, but they were decorated as if they were ready to host a funeral. The black fabric arranged like mourning bunting on the internet terminals was intended to protest a proposed state law (H.B. 1727) calling for libraries to purchase and install filters to screen against child pornography and other obscene material. Other libraries across the state showed a unified opposition to the bill and described their strategies on the [Day of Unity blog](#)....

Lake County (Ill.) News Sun, May 15

[New postal rates favor larger mailers](#)

A first-class stamp costs two cents more starting May 14, but that's nothing compared to what small magazine publishers are facing. Starting in July, postal rates for some publications will rise by as much as 30%, and a growing number of critics say the new rates will saddle small, independent publishers with inflated costs and betray protections granted by the founding fathers to the press....

Madison (Wis.) Capital Times, May 14



[Maine Historical Society to renovate library](#)

Nicholas Noyes, the head of the Maine Historical Society's research library, is helping to orchestrate the move of one of the state's largest historical repositories to a temporary site while the building



Q. I've been told that I need to take the Praxis test in order to become a certified school librarian in my state. Does ALA provide any study guides for the Praxis test?

A. ALA is in no way connected to the Praxis test and so does not publish any study materials. Many state departments of education require passing the Praxis test for teacher licensure/certification, including for its school librarians and school library media specialists. Other states require different tests. See the [ALA Professional Tips wiki](#) for further assistance.

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

Calendar

**May 31–
June 3:**
[BookExpo America](#),
New York City.

June 8–11:
[BookExpo Canada](#),
Toronto.

June 13–16:
[American
Theological Library](#)



tucked behind Portland's Longfellow House undergoes a year-and-a-half-long renovation and expansion. Construction crews will build a glass-and-brick addition that will provide 7,000 more square feet of storage space than the 13,000 square feet the library now has....

Portland (Me.) Press Herald, May 9

[Battle of the book reviews](#)

More than at any time in the last 40 years, there is a bounty of news, features, criticism, and gossip about books in newspapers, magazines, and journals, blogs, radio and TV, podcasts, and an ever-growing number of book clubs and festivals. It's by all appearances a flourishing literary moment in a culture that traditionally values other forms of entertainment, and it raises the question: Why should two key elements of that mosaic, litbloggers and book reviewers, be trading shots at all?...

Los Angeles Times, May 13

[First Baltimore branch in 35 years opens](#)

The opening on May 14 of the state-of-the-art 27,000-square-foot, \$16.2-million Southeast Anchor branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library was a boon to the struggling neighborhood of Highlandtown. As the first brand-new public library building to open in Baltimore in 35 years, it was symbolic of a turnaround for the city's library system....

Baltimore Sun, May 14



[NYPL Mulberry Street branch to open](#)

The [Mulberry Street branch](#) of the New York Public Library, which will open to the public May 21, has been long in coming. Design work started nearly six years ago, right around 9/11, but the renovation did not begin until the fall of 2004. It will be the first new library branch in Manhattan since 1989, and the first ever in SoHo....

New York Times, May 15; New York Public Library

[New Brooklyn Public Library director](#)

Dionne Mack-Harvin, who became the first African-American woman to head a major public library system in New York State when she was named Brooklyn's executive director effective March 21 after a one-year interim stint, is not your grandmother's librarian. Not unless that librarian was sanguine about the notion that "information comes in different packages and if we sit back and say we're all about books and nothing else, we're going to lose our market."...

New York Times, May 11

[Vet prosecuted for opposing military recruitment in Ohio library](#)

Gulf War veteran Tim Coil and his wife Yvette were arrested March 12 for causing a disturbance in the Stow-Munroe Falls (Ohio) Public Library after they protested the presence of two military recruiters in a meeting room. On May 10, Yvette said her lawyer was advised that

[Association](#), Annual Conference, Philadelphia. Contact: [ATLA](#).

June 14–15:
[North American Symposium on Knowledge Organization](#), University of Toronto.

June 17–20:
[Association of Jewish Libraries](#), 42nd Annual Convention, Hilton Scottsdale Resort and Villas, Scottsdale, Arizona. "Jewish Libraries, Southwest Flavors." Contact: [AJL](#).

June 19–21:
[Joint Use Libraries: An International Conference](#), Manchester, UK.

June 21–27:
[American Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.

June 28–29:
[American Association for State and Local History](#), Collections Management and Practices workshop, Salt Lake City, Utah.

July 11–13:
[American Association for State and Local History](#), Digitizing Historic Collections workshop, St. Paul, Minnesota.

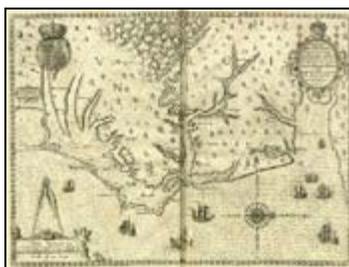
the state would drop charges if they would pay \$100 in court fees. "Tim said he should not have to pay for being harassed," said Yvette. "No one has the right to take your freedoms away."...

The Progressive, May 14

[Historic volume added to East Carolina University Library](#)

A 16th-century edition of Thomas Harriot's report on his voyage to Virginia was recently acquired by East Carolina University's Joyner Library. ECU's College of Arts and Sciences is named for the explorer and scientist. The library spent \$50,000 to purchase a copy of Theodor de Bry's 1590 Latin edition of Harriot's *A Briefe and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia*....

Greenville (N.C.) Daily Reflector, May 14



[Bridgewater cuts school library jobs](#)

Eight library assistants are losing their jobs as part of the Bridgewater-Raritan (N.J.) Regional School District's \$1.6 million in cuts from its \$109.5-million budget. The assistants were told in person about the cuts and received a letter from Superintendent Michael Schilder on May 9 that their contracts would not be renewed "due to a reduction in force for reasons of economy."...

Bridgewater (N.J.) Courier News, May 15

[Historic diary damaged in British Library](#)

A historic diary written by a prominent Jacobite as he plotted the 1715 rebellion has been severely damaged while in the care of the British Library. Its private owner, a descendant of Thomas Tyldesley, the diary's author, has described how he "wanted to weep" when he collected the 96-page manuscript last week and discovered that someone had spilled oil across its pages—staining them and making some of them completely illegible....

The Times (U.K.), May 14



[Swift Current librarian expands services](#)

A library should be more than just about books, according to Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Librarian Manisha Khetarpal. Khetarpal, who is a few months into her second year as librarian, has helped turn the library into a hub of learning, with classes, sessions, and presentations for people of all ages....

Swift Current (Sask.) Southwest Booster, May 11

[National library "Octopus" design stirs up Czechs](#)

A controversy has erupted in the Czech Republic over the design of a new national library building in Prague. The design, by the Czech-born architect Jan Kaplicky, seems to be loved and loathed in equal measure. Czechs have nicknamed it "the Octopus." Kaplicky has come up with what can best be described as a nine-story green and purple blob. Even President [Vaclav Klaus](#) is against it...

BBC News, May 14; Radio Prague, May 9



July 11–14:

[Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing](#).

Minneapolis. "Open the Book, Open the Mind."

July 14–17:

[American Association of Law Libraries](#), 100th

Annual Conference, New Orleans.

July 14–17:

[Church and Synagogue Library Association](#), Annual

Conference, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. "Gems of the Past, Present, and Future."

July 18–24:

[Joint Conference on Information Sciences](#), Marriott

Salt Lake City Center, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Sept. 29:

[National Book Festival](#), Washington, D.C. Contact: 888-714-4696.

Nov. 24–

Dec. 2:

[Guadalajara \(Mexico\) International Book Fair](#). Contact: [David Unger](#), 212-650-7925.

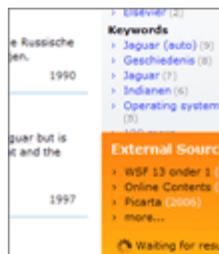
Personal members of ALA can participate in the ALA Free Pass Program, offering \$100 for airfare, 3 hotel nights, and complimentary registration; apply by August 17 to [Delin Guerra](#), 800-545-2433 ext. 3201.

Tech Talk

[AquaBrowser makes library resources findable](#)

AquaBrowser, a library search tool and interface developed by Medialab Solutions in Holland, is opening up the library by making its resources visible on the web. AquaBrowser now allows all the item records in a library's collection to be indexed and found by any internet search engine, as if to create a separate web page for every title. This means any item in the entire collection can be found as a search result when performing a regular web search, driving traffic to the library website....

Medialab Solutions, May 2



[Thomson sells off library assets to buy Reuters](#)

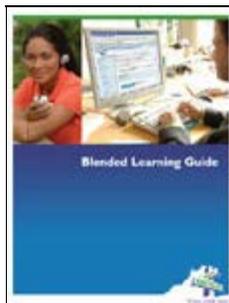
Thomson Corporation announced May 11 that it has agreed to sell the higher education, careers, and library reference assets of Thomson Learning for \$7.75 billion. These assets include the Thomson Gale library reference company. The announcement came right before the company announced its [purchase](#) for \$17.2 billion of British financial news publisher Reuters Group PLC. The new Thomson-Reuters will control 34% of the financial information market. Andrew Pace adds his [thoughts](#)....

Boston Globe, May 11, 15; *Hectic Pace*, May 16

[WebJunction releases Blended Learning Guide](#)

WebJunction, OCLC's online community, has released a Blended Learning Guide ([PDF file](#)) that mixes online and in-person training methods to offer libraries new approaches to library staff instruction. The guide offers information on several different modes of blended learning—discussion boards, online instant messaging and chat sessions, podcasting, rapid e-learning software tools, and web conferencing....

OCLC, May 4



[Web 2.0 can neglect good design](#)

Hype about Web 2.0 is making web firms neglect the basics of good design and usability established over the last decade, web usability guru Jakob Nielsen claims. He said sites peppered with personalization tools were in danger of resembling the "glossy but useless" sites at the height of the dot-com boom....

BBC News, May 14

[Google: 10% of websites contain malware](#)

Google is warning web users of the increasing threat posed by malicious software that can be dropped onto a computer as a web surfer visits a particular site. The search giant carried out in-depth research ([PDF file](#)) on 4.5 million websites and found that about one in 10 could successfully "drive-by download" a Trojan horse virus onto a visitor's computer. Such malicious software potentially enables hackers to access sensitive data stored on the computer or its network, or to install rogue applications....

C|Net news, May 15

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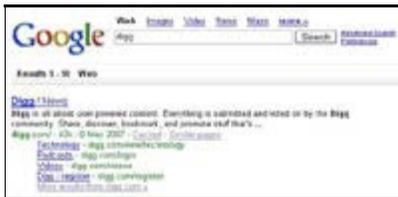
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50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611
www.ala.org/alonline/
800-545-2433,
ext. 4216

ISSN 1559-369X.

[Google layouts timeline](#)

Colin Colehour writes: "Google has been testing new layouts for the past couple of years. Each layout seems to build upon what Google has tried in the past. This timeline reflects just some of the layouts seen from 2005 through today. There are several things that Google seems to be focusing on with these latest tests: Placement of the different search option links like Images, News, Video, etc.; placement of related search links; and finding new ways to get users to try their queries in other search verticals (Books, Products, Scholar, etc)."...

Google Blogscoped, May 11



[New WorldCat xISBN service](#)

The WorldCat xISBN service, the OCLC service that supplies International Standard Book Numbers associated with individual intellectual works represented in the WorldCat database, is now available for commercial and high-use applications. The xISBN service helps a user find a resource when an ISBN assigned to any printing or edition of the work is known. Users submit an ISBN to the service to return a list of related ISBNs and selected metadata....

OCLC, May 11

[Kodak: Winds of change](#)

This Kodak commercial (3:41) was produced for internal use only, but it became so popular with employees that the company released it for general viewing. It demonstrates that Kodak not only understands it made some missteps early on with digital cameras, but also that the company has a sense of humor....

YouTube

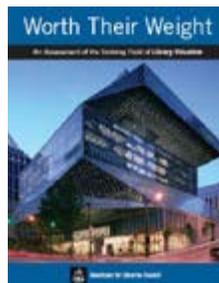


Actions & Answers

[Library valuation report](#)

The Americans for Libraries Council has released a report ([PDF file](#)) on the new field of library valuation, or models for expressing a library's multiple contributions to its community in dollars and cents. *Worth Their Weight: An Assessment of the Evolving Field of Library Valuation* was prompted by the recognition that new approaches to library advocacy must involve "making the case" for the public library in quantitative terms....

Americans for Libraries Council, May 5



[Gonzales proposes a new crime: Attempted copyright infringement](#)

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales is pressing the U.S. Congress to enact a sweeping intellectual-property bill that would increase criminal penalties for copyright infringement, including "attempts" to commit piracy. The Intellectual Property Protection Act of 2007 would also allow computers to be seized more readily, and increase penalties for DMCA anticircumvention violations. What's still unclear is the kind of reception this legislation might encounter on Capitol

Hill...

C|Net news, May 15

[Top 25 web hoaxes and pranks](#)

Steve Bass writes: "Whether they take the form of a comic image of a giant cat or a desperate plea from a sick child, chain email messages and internet frauds are elements of the online landscape that we've all encountered. No topic is off-limits: a medical warning, a promise of free money, or a believably (or shoddily) Photoshopped image. But at the end of the day, they're just elaborate hoaxes or clever pranks—and we've collected 25 of the most infamous ones ever to have graced the internet or our inboxes."...



PC World, May 3

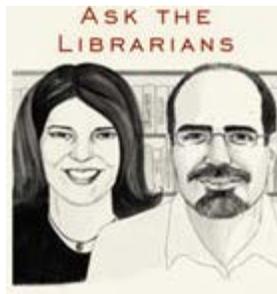
[Age verification won't help](#)

Jacqui Cheng writes: "Age verification has been a hot topic of late as a means for keeping children safe on the internet. But it's when adults and kids play in the same space that things get sticky and the effectiveness of age verification seems to go out the window. Anyone can easily verify that they are over 18, as ex-investigator and CEO of Sentinel Tech Holding Corporation John Carillo has pointed out, even criminals and sexual predators."...

Ars Technica, May 15

[Ask the New Yorker librarians](#)

New Yorker head librarians Erin Overbey and Jon Michaud reveal how the magazine collects all the newspaper clippings with funny typos, what Garrison Keillor wrote for the magazine, where founding editor Harold Ross is buried, the funniest and most mysterious pseudonyms in the archives, and when the first cartoon featuring a board of directors appeared....



Emdashes blog, May 14

[LC and the future of bibliographic control](#)

The second meeting of the Library of Congress [Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control](#) was held May 9 at ALA Headquarters in Chicago. The topic was "Structures and Standards for Bibliographic Control." Blogger Mark R. Lindner offers extensive notes on the session, which featured a controversial [presentation](#) by University of Chicago cataloger David Bade....

Off the Mark, May 11

[Prototypes for the library of the future](#)

The public library in Aarhus, Denmark, established an experimental Transformation Lab that explored new visions for the public library of the future. With funding from the Danish National Library Authority and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the library examined new ways for users to participate in learning labs for literature, news, music, performance, and art. This English-language video (7:07) explains the project and what the library learned....



Aarhus Public Library

[Minneapolis Public Library gets \\$193,000 in grants](#)

The Friends of the Minneapolis Public Library were recently awarded \$193,000 in grant funds to be used to expand a variety of programs and services at the library, including Business Plan Builder, Live Homework Help, youth-focused activities, and world language collection materials....

Minneapolis Public Library, May 15

[Fifth European library joins Google Book Search](#)

The [Cantonal and University Library of Lausanne](#) in Switzerland is the latest university library, and the first French-language library, to partner with the Google Book Search program, the



company announced yesterday. Swiss and French books will be digitized and made available online, including works from Victor Hugo, Honoré de Balzac, Benjamin Constant, and the personal library of economist and sociologist Vilfredo Pareto....

The Book Standard, May 16

[Formula for academic library success](#)

Steven Bell writes: "We struggle to get our user communities to actually use all the databases in which we invest significant funds, and to do so in ways that enable them to succeed academically. Well, I heard some new research findings last week that suggested a simple formula for achieving academic library success that puts our challenge into better perspective. This formula comes courtesy of John Law, Director, Strategic Alliances & Platform Management ProQuest CSA."...

ACRLog, May 14

[LC Veterans History Project launches web resource](#)

A new section on the Veterans History Project [website](#) features background on Ken Burns's upcoming film *The War* and details on how to support the campaign to collect oral histories of World War II. The section will be updated continually with event listings and related information. In addition, a newly revised and updated Veterans History Project field kit provides step-by-step instructions on collecting and preserving veterans' stories....



Library of Congress, May 15

[AAUP report on Katrina](#)

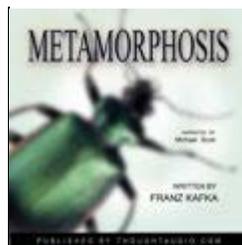
In a [report](#) released May 15, the American Association of University Professors finds that there was "nearly universal departure from (or in some cases complete abandonment of) personnel and other policies" by five New Orleans institutions—the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, the University of New Orleans, Southern University at New Orleans, Loyola University New Orleans, and Tulane University—as they contended with the disaster that befell the city and its universities. The report faults the number, timing, and handling of post-Katrina faculty terminations....

American Association of University Professors, May 15

[Get free audiobooks](#)

Simply Audiobooks offers a selection of free

public-domain books downloadable onto MP3 players or computers and suitable for burning onto a CD. Included are Jack London's *Call of the Wild*, F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Camel's Back*, Franz Kafka's *Metamorphosis*, and others....
Simply AudioBooks



[Digital collections best practices](#) (PDF file)

The University of Maryland Libraries have issued a new edition of *Best Practice Guidelines for Digital Collections at University of Maryland Libraries*. The guide covers technical specifications for still images and text as well as audio and moving image formats. The library staff welcomes feedback and discussion on the content from the wider cultural heritage community....

University of Maryland Libraries Digital Collections and Resources, May 4

May 16, 2007

[<http://www.sirsidynixtechtalk.com/upcoming.php>]

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

U.S. & World News

Liability for Georgetown branch fire contested

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/may2007/firecause.cfm>]

The engineering firm managing the renovation of the District of Columbia Public Library's Georgetown branch claimed May 10 that its workers were not responsible for a fire that destroyed the building's roof and second floor. Ebenezer Adewunmi, president of the Hyattsville, Maryland-based Dynamic Corporation, claims his crew was working on the opposite side of the building when the blaze broke out around noon April 30....

California school libraries continue staffing fights

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/may2007/califschools.cfm>]

As fiscal-year budget deadlines loom for California school systems, library staff in at least three school districts continue to battle to keep their jobs for FY2008, while school library media specialists in two other municipalities seem to have found staying power for another academic year....

Vienna city library hosts literary erotica hotline

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/may2007/wienerotik.cfm>]

The City Library of Vienna, Austria, is offering callers a spicy earful of erotic readings from 19th- and 20th-century books in its "Secret Collection" through May 31. A spinoff from a May 6 program of music, art, and dance called "The Long Night of Love" held at the Hotel Orient in the city center, the library's erotica hotline features Austrian film and stage actress Anne Bennent (above) reading sexy excerpts from Austrian poet Hans Carl Artmann, American modernist writer Djuna Barnes, French novelist Rétif de la Bretonne, Swiss writer Gottfried Keller, and even love letters by German socialist Ferdinand Lassalle....

ALA News

FISA court judge to speak at Washington Office Update

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

At the Washington Office Update Session on June 23, during the ALA 2007 Annual Conference, Royce Lamberth—former chief judge on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act Court—will be speaking about how the highly secretive court works, and how it has changed since the USA PATRIOT Act of

2001....

District Dispatch blog, May 14

LIVE! @ your library reading stage

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/LiveyourlibraryStage.htm>]

The Public Programs Office, in cooperation with YALSA, will present the 13th annual LIVE! @ your library Reading Stage during ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., June 21–27. Sherman Alexie, Donna Leon (right), Lois Lowry, StoryCorps’s Dave Isay, Nick Hornby, Dinaw Mengestu, and 19 other award-winning authors and poets will read from their works....

Freedom to Read Foundation trustees elected

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/frf07.htm>]

The Freedom to Read Foundation has announced the winners of its 2007 Board of Trustees election. Bernadine Abbott Hoduski, Therese Bigelow, Robert P. Doyle, John K. Horany, James G. Neal, and Judith Platt will serve two-year terms beginning with the 2007 Annual Conference....

MLA cosponsors Advocacy Institute [<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/aio7.htm>]

The Maryland Library Association has joined the list of regional cosponsors of the June 22 Advocacy Institute at ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. The Institute will feature topics on message development, coalition-building, and resources....

Featured review: Reference

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=1997430]

Love, Barbara J., editor. *Feminists Who Changed America, 1963–1975*. Dec. 2006. 526p. Univ. of Illinois, hardcover. (978-0-252-03189-2).

This is the first comprehensive directory to document many of the founders and leaders of what is now often referred to as the second wave of feminism, between 1963 and 1975. It includes biographical sketches of about 2,200 individuals, mostly women, who reignited the women’s movement of the early twentieth century and managed to make permanent changes in customs and laws. The biographical sketches represent many factions, all parts of the country, all races and ethnicities, and many political ideologies....

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

D.C. Update

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YALSA city guide [<http://ala.org/Source/cityguide.pdf>] (PDF file)

The YALSA Local Arrangements Committee has put together a Washington, D.C., city guide with the inside scoop on how to get around, what to see, what to do, and where to eat. Here’s one tip: “You may be surprised to find that there aren’t a whole lot of casual lunch restaurants located near the National Mall. That’s why its worth it to head over to the National Museum of the American Indian, and have lunch in the Mitsitam Café (right, \$-\$\$). Traditional foods of the various native peoples are featured, and while the price may seem a little high, the quantity and quality of the food more than makes up for it.”...

YALSA City Guide

Plan your subway and bus routes [<http://www.hopstop.com/?city=washington>]

Transit planner HopStop plots directions and estimates travel times by foot and public transit (subway and bus) between two addresses in Washington, D.C. If you don't know the addresses, you can pinpoint them on a handily provided Yahoo map or search for them in HopStop's city guide. The site also works for New York, Boston, Chicago, and San Francisco transit....

HopStop

Division News

editor [<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/YALSAquarterlynewsletter.htm>]

YALSA has appointed Erin Downey Howerton as editor of its quarterly newsletter, YAttitudes. Howerton, school liaison for the Johnson County (Kans.) Library, will serve for a three-year term beginning with the Fall 2007 issue....

Kids! @ your library continues to grow

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/kaltoolkit07.htm>]

ALSC has added new resources to its Kids! @ your library

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/projectspartners/Kidsyourlibrary.htm>] online tool kit. The latest materials added to the kit include Spanish-language resources, top ten ways to use Bill Harley's "At Your Library" song in your library and community, and a story theater script for The Chicken and the Librarian....

Desch elected ASCLA president

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/DeschASCLApresident.htm>]

Carol Ann Desch, coordinator of statewide library services and director of the New York State Library's Division of Library Development in Albany, has been elected vice president/president-elect of ASCLA. She has served as a director-at-large for the ASCLA Board, chair of the State Library Agencies Section, and member of the Standards Review Committee and Website Task Force....

Wyatt elected RUSA president

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/WyattRUSApresident.htm>]

Neal Wyatt, collection development manager for Chesterfield County (Va.) Public Library, has been elected vice president/president-elect of RUSA. She has served as chair of the RUSA Awards Committee, as the division councilor to ALA Council, and as chair of the RUSA Access to Information Committee....

Martin elected AASL president

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/MartinAASLPresident.htm>]

Ann M. Martin, educational specialist in library information service for the Henrico County (Va.) Public Schools, has been elected vice president/president-elect of AASL. As an ALA member, Martin has held posts as director of Region IV and chair of the Awards Committee....

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=product_detail&_op=2388]PLA updates

Service Responses [<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/Updatedservicesresponses.htm>]

Revised Service Responses are now available for downloading. The PDF document

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=product_detail&_op=2388] includes comprehensive descriptions of 18 new and revised Service Responses, defined as "what a

library does for, or offers to, the public in an effort to meet a set of well-defined community needs.” In 2006, PLA Results series editors Sandra Nelson and June Garcia initiated a process to revise the 1997 Service Responses by soliciting input on the PLA Blog....

Round Table News

Barbara Gittings remembered [<http://isd.usc.edu/~trimmer/glbtrt/Spring07.pdf>] (PDF file)
The Spring newsletter of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Round Table has reminiscences about the late Barbara Gittings, longtime leader of the GLBT community, who died February 18 after a long battle with breast cancer. Not a librarian herself, she nonetheless championed the cause of getting GLBT literature into libraries around the country....
GLBTRT Newsletter 19, no. 1 (Spring): 4–5

Awards

Marshall Cavendish Award winner [<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/cavexc07.htm>]
The Calgary (Alberta) Public Library has been chosen from among 29 entries to receive the 2007 ALA Marshall Cavendish Excellence in Library Programming Award. The winning project, “It’s Not a Crime to Read,” pairs libraries, schools, and police officers in an effort to encourage at-risk children to read. It also develops positive collaboration between librarians and teachers....

Bell and Yamashita receive Equality Award

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/alaea07.htm>]
Gladys Smiley Bell, Peabody librarian at Hampton (Va.) University, and Kenneth A. Yamashita, library division manager at Stockton–San Joaquin County (Calif.) Library, are the 2007 recipients of the ALA Equality Award, which recognizes contributions toward promoting equality in the library profession. They are recognized for their work as cochairs of the first Joint Conference of Librarians of Color, held October 12–15, 2006, in Dallas....

Paul Howard Award for Courage winners

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/howard07.htm>]
George Christian, Jan Nocek, Barbara Bailey, and Peter Chase are the 2007 recipients of the ALA Paul Howard Award for Courage. The four are being recognized for their challenge to the National Security Letter and gag order provision of the USA Patriot Act. The \$1,000 bi-annual award and citation honors a librarian, library board, library group or an individual who has exhibited unusual courage for the benefit of library programs or services....

YALSA receives World Book–ALA Goal Award

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/WorldBookGoalGrant.htm>]
YALSA has been named the recipient of the 2007 World Book–ALA Goal Award, consisting of a \$10,000 grant to improve teen library services in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Using Teen Read Week as its focal point, the grant will fund increased professional development in the targeted states to significantly boost teen library use, teen reading, and literacy....

Cornell's Saylor wins engineering award

[<http://www.library.cornell.edu/about/announce.html#saylor>]

John M. Saylor, director of the Cornell University Engineering Library, has won the 2007 Homer I. Bernhardt Distinguished Service Award, presented at the American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference to recognize work that contributes to the advancement and development of excellence in engineering libraries. The awards committee cited as determining factors Saylor's more than 35 years of leadership in engineering librarianship....

Cornell University Libraries, Apr. 28

Donna Hanus wins New York State service award [<http://www.slsa-nys.org/SLSAAward2007.html>]

Donna Hanus, director of the Franklin-Essex-Hamilton School Library System in Malone, New York, received the 2007 Distinguished Service Award from the School Library Systems Association of New York State. The award is given to a director who has made an outstanding contribution to school librarianship and the association....

School Library Systems Association of New York State, May 4

Mount Prospect recognized for its construction

[http://mopl.typepad.com/news_mopl/2007/05/mount_prospect_.html]

The Mount Prospect (Ill.) Public Library was honored April 28 by the Illinois Masonry Institute Promotion Trust for the outstanding composition of its brick and glass work. Selected from 99 entries, the library was one of only four silver award winners. The 2002 referendum for \$20.5 million allowed the library to undergo the expansion and physical transformation that resulted in this award....

Mount Prospect Public Library, May 14

Seen Online

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Jackson County rejects library levy

[<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070516/NEWS/705160324>]

Dejected library supporters were stunned May 15 by the overwhelming defeat of a levy that would have reopened all 15 branches of the Jackson County (Oreg.) Library. The property tax levy, which would have raised \$8.3 million annually, received 31,876 no votes and 21,906 yes votes as of 11 p.m. Joe Davis, chairman of the Save Our Library System campaign, said he believes residents voted against the levy not because they don't support the libraries, but because they don't support this method of funding them....

Medford (Oreg.) Mail Tribune, May 16

Illinois libraries stage day of protest over filter law

[http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/newssun/news/385322,5_1_WA15_LIBRARY_S1.article]

The computers were not dead May 14 at the Zion-Benton (Ill.) Public Library, but they were decorated as if they were ready to host a funeral. The black fabric arranged like mourning bunting on the internet terminals was intended to protest a proposed state law (HB1727) calling for libraries to purchase and install filters to screen against child pornography and other obscene material. Other libraries across the state showed a unified opposition to the bill and described their strategies on the Day of Unity blog

[<http://www.illinoislibraryday.info/cgi-bin/unity/unity.cgi>]....

Lake County (Ill.) News Sun, May 15

New postal rates favor larger mailers

[<http://www.madison.com/tct/mad/topstories/index.php?ntid=134155&ntpid=0>]

A first-class stamp costs two cents more starting May 14, but that's nothing compared to what small magazine publishers are facing. Starting in July, postal rates for some publications will rise by as much as 30%, and a growing number of critics say the new rates will saddle small, independent publishers with inflated costs and betray protections granted by the founding fathers to the press....

Madison (Wis.) Capital Times, May 14

Maine Historical Society to renovate library

[<http://pressherald.maintoday.com/news/local/070509historical.html>]

Nicholas Noyes, the head of the Maine Historical Society's research library, is helping to orchestrate the move of one of the state's largest historical repositories to a temporary site while the building tucked behind Portland's Longfellow House undergoes a year-and-a-half-long renovation and expansion. Construction crews will build a glass-and-brick addition that will provide 7,000 more square feet of storage space than the 13,000 square feet the library now has....

Portland (Me.) Press Herald, May 9

Battle of the book reviews

[<http://www.calendarlive.com/books/cl-ca-bloggers13may13,0,4948424.story>]

More than at any time in the last 40 years, there is a bounty of news, features, criticism, and gossip about books in newspapers, magazines, and journals, blogs, radio and TV, podcasts, and an ever-growing number of book clubs and festivals. It's by all appearances a flourishing literary moment in a culture that traditionally values other forms of entertainment, and it raises the question: Why should two key elements of that mosaic, litbloggers and book reviewers, be trading shots at all?...

Los Angeles Times, May 13

First Baltimore branch in 35 years opens

[<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-library0514,0,2742093.story>]

The opening on May 14 of the state-of-the-art 27,000-square-foot, \$16.2-million Southeast Anchor branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library was a boon to the struggling neighborhood of Highlandtown. As the first brand-new public library building to open in Baltimore in 35 years, it was symbolic of a turnaround for the city's library system....

Baltimore Sun, May 14

NYPL Mulberry Street branch to open [<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/15/nyregion/15library.html>]

The Mulberry Street branch [http://www.nypl.org/press/2007/MulberrySt_opening.cfm] of the New York Public Library, which will open to the public May 21, has been long in coming. Design work started nearly six years ago, right around 9/11, but the renovation did not begin until the fall of 2004.

It will be the first new library branch in Manhattan since 1989, and the first ever in SoHo....

New York Times, May 15; New York Public Library

New Brooklyn Public Library director [<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/11/nyregion/11lives.html>]

Dionne Mack-Harvin, who became the first African-American woman to head a major public library system in New York State when she was named Brooklyn's executive director effective March 21 after a one-year interim stint, is not your grandmother's librarian. Not unless that librarian was sanguine about the notion that "information comes in different packages and if we sit back and say we're all about books and nothing else, we're going to lose our market...."

New York Times, May 11

Vet prosecuted for opposing military recruitment in Ohio library

[http://www.progressive.org/mag_mc051407]

Gulf War veteran Tim Coil and his wife Yvette were arrested March 12 for causing a disturbance in the Stow–Munroe Falls (Ohio) Public Library after they protested the presence of two military recruiters in a meeting room. On May 10, Yvette said her lawyer was advised that the state would drop charges if they would pay \$100 in court fees. “Tim said he should not have to pay for being harassed,” said Yvette. “No one has the right to take your freedoms away.”...

The Progressive, May 14

Historic volume added to East Carolina University Library

[<http://www.reflector.com/local/content/news/stories/2007/05/14/0514ecunotes.html>]

A 16th-century edition of Thomas Harriot’s report on his voyage to Virginia was recently acquired by East Carolina University’s Joyner Library. ECU’s College of Arts and Sciences is named for the explorer and scientist. The library spent \$50,000 to purchase a copy of Theodor de Bry’s 1590 Latin edition of Harriot’s A Briefe and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia....

Greenville (N.C.) Daily Reflector, May 14

Bridgewater cuts school library jobs

[<http://www.c-n.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070515/NEWS/705150305>]

Eight library assistants are losing their jobs as part of the Bridgewater-Raritan (N.J.) Regional School District’s \$1.6 million in cuts from its \$109.5-million budget. The assistants were told in person about the cuts and received a letter from Superintendent Michael Schilder on May 9 that their contracts would not be renewed “due to a reduction in force for reasons of economy.”...

Bridgewater (N.J.) Courier News, May 15

Historic diary damaged in British Library

[http://entertainment.timesonline.co.uk/tol/arts_and_entertainment/books/article1785099.ece]

A historic diary written by a prominent Jacobite as he plotted the 1715 rebellion has been severely damaged while in the care of the British Library. Its private owner, a descendant of Thomas Tyldesley, the diary’s author, has described how he “wanted to weep” when he collected the 96-page manuscript last week and discovered that someone had spilled oil across its pages—staining them and making some of them completely illegible....

The Times (U.K.), May 14

Swift Current librarian expands services [<http://www.swbooster.com/index.cfm?sid=28983&sc=44>]

A library should be more than just about books, according to Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Librarian Manisha Khetarpal. Khetarpal, who is a few months into her second year as librarian, has helped turn the library into a hub of learning, with classes, sessions, and presentations for people of all ages....

Swift Current (Sask.) Southwest Booster, May 11

National library ‘Octopus’ design stirs up Czechs

[<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6654083.stm>]

A controversy has erupted in the Czech Republic over the design of a new national library building in Prague. The design, by the Czech-born architect Jan Kaplicky, seems to be loved and loathed in equal measure. Czechs have nicknamed it “the Octopus.” Kaplicky has come up with what can best be described as a nine-story green and purple blob. Even President Vaclav Klaus

[<http://www.radio.cz/en/article/91141>] is against it...

BBC News, May 14; Radio Prague, May 9

Tech Talk

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AquaBrowser makes library resources findable

[<http://www.aquabrowser.com/index.asp?page=news/overview>]

AquaBrowser, a library search tool and interface developed by Medialab Solutions in Holland, is opening up the library by making its resources visible on the web. AquaBrowser now allows all the item records in a library's collection to be indexed and found by any internet search engine, as if to create a separate web page for every title. This means any item in the entire collection can be found as a search result when performing a regular web search, driving traffic to the library website....

Medialab Solutions, May 2

Thomson sells off library assets to buy Reuters

[http://www.boston.com/business/ticker/2007/05/thomson_will_se.html]

Thomson Corporation announced May 11 that it has agreed to sell the higher education, careers, and library reference assets of Thomson Learning for \$7.75 billion. These assets include the Thomson Gale library reference company. The announcement came right before the company announced its purchase

[http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2007/05/15/thomson_set_to_buy_reuters_for_87_bln_pounds_wsj/] for \$17.2 billion of British financial news publisher Reuters Group PLC. The new

Thomson-Reuters will control 34% of the financial information market. Andrew Pace adds his thoughts [http://blogs.ala.org/pace.php?title=thomson_sells_and_buys&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1]....

Boston Globe, May 11, 15; Hectic Pace, May 16

WebJunction releases Blended Learning Guide [<http://www.oclc.org/news/releases/200661.htm>]

WebJunction, OCLC's online community, has released a Blended Learning Guide (PDF file [<http://data.webjunction.org/wj/documents/13893.pdf>]) that mixes online and in-person training methods to offer libraries new approaches to library staff instruction. The guide offers information on several different modes of blended learning—discussion boards, online instant messaging and chat sessions, podcasting, rapid e-learning software tools, and web conferencing....

OCLC, May 4

Web 2.0 can neglect good design [<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/6653119.stm>]

Hype about Web 2.0 is making web firms neglect the basics of good design and usability established over the last decade, web usability guru Jakob Nielsen claims. He said sites peppered with personalization tools were in danger of resembling the “glossy but useless” sites at the height of the dot-com boom....

BBC News, May 14

Google: 10% of websites contain malware

[http://news.com.com/Google+10+percent+of+sites+are+dangerous/2100-7349_3-6183818.html]

Google is warning web users of the increasing threat posed by malicious software that can be dropped onto a computer as a web surfer visits a particular site. The search giant carried out in-depth research (PDF file

[http://www.usenix.org/events/hotbots07/tech/full_papers/provos/provos.pdf]) on 4.5 million websites and found that about one in 10 could successfully “drive-by download” a Trojan horse virus onto a visitor's computer. Such malicious software potentially enables hackers to access sensitive data stored on the computer or its network, or to install rogue applications....

C|Net news, May 15

Google layouts timeline [<http://blog.outer-court.com/archive/2007-05-11-n80.html>]

Colin Colehour writes: “Google has been testing new layouts for the past couple of years. Each layout seems to build upon what Google has tried in the past. This timeline reflects just some of the layouts seen from 2005 through today. There are several things that Google seems to be

focusing on with these latest tests: Placement of the different search option links like Images, News, Video, etc.; placement of related search links; and finding new ways to get users to try their queries in other search verticals (Books, Products, Scholar, etc).”...

Google Blogscoped, May 11

New WorldCat xISBN service [<http://www.oclc.org/news/releases/200662.htm>]

The WorldCat xISBN service, the OCLC service that supplies International Standard Book Numbers associated with individual intellectual works represented in the WorldCat database, is now available for commercial and high-use applications. The xISBN service helps a user find a resource when an ISBN assigned to any printing or edition of the work is known. Users submit an ISBN to the service to return a list of related ISBNs and selected metadata....

OCLC, May 11

Kodak: Winds of change [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sz6XjXu-oT8>]

This Kodak commercial (3:41) was produced for internal use only, but it became so popular with employees that the company released it for general viewing. It demonstrates that Kodak not only understands it made some missteps early on with digital cameras, but also that the company has a sense of humor....

YouTube

Actions & Answers

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Library valuation report [<http://www.actforlibraries.org/alcreports.php>]

The Americans for Libraries Council has released a report (PDF file [<http://www.actforlibraries.org/pdf/WorthTheirWeight.pdf>]) on the new field of library valuation, or models for expressing a library’s multiple contributions to its community in dollars and cents. Worth Their Weight: An Assessment of the Evolving Field of Library Valuation was prompted by the recognition that new approaches to library advocacy must involve “making the case” for the public library in quantitative terms....

Americans for Libraries Council, May 5

Gonzales proposes a new crime: Attempted copyright infringement

[http://news.com.com/8301-10784_3-9719339-7.html?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1_3-0-5]

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales is pressing the U.S. Congress to enact a sweeping intellectual-property bill that would increase criminal penalties for copyright infringement, including “attempts” to commit piracy. The Intellectual Property Protection Act of 2007 would also allow computers to be seized more readily, and increase penalties for DMCA anticircumvention violations. What's still unclear is the kind of reception this legislation might encounter on Capitol Hill....

C|Net news, May 15

Top 25 web hoaxes and pranks [<http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,131340/article.html>]

Steve Bass writes: “Whether they take the form of a comic image of a giant cat or a desperate plea from a sick child, chain email messages and internet frauds are elements of the online landscape that we’ve all encountered. No topic is off-limits: a medical warning, a promise of free money, or a believably (or shoddily) Photoshopped image. But at the end of the day, they’re just elaborate hoaxes or clever pranks—and we’ve collected 25 of the most infamous ones ever to have graced the internet or our inboxes.”...

PC World, May 3

Age verification won't help

[<http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20070515-why-age-verification-wont-cure-what-ails-social-networking-sites.html>]

Jacqui Cheng writes: "Age verification has been a hot topic of late as a means for keeping children safe on the internet. But it's when adults and kids play in the same space that things get sticky and the effectiveness of age verification seems to go out the window. Anyone can easily verify that they are over 18, as ex-investigator and CEO of Sentinel Tech Holding Corporation John Carillo has pointed out, even criminals and sexual predators."...

Ars Technica, May 15

librarians [<http://emdashes.com/2007/05/ask-the-librarians-v.php>]

New Yorker head librarians Erin Overbey and Jon Michaud reveal how the magazine collects all the newspaper clippings with funny typos, what Garrison Keillor wrote for the magazine, where founding editor Harold Ross is buried, the funniest and most mysterious pseudonyms in the archives, and when the first cartoon featuring a board of directors appeared....

Emdashes blog, May 14

LC and the future of bibliographic control

[<http://marklindner.info/blog/2007/05/11/lc-working-group-structures-and-standards-part-1-welcome/>]

The second meeting of the Library of Congress Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control [<http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/>] was held May 9 at ALA Headquarters in Chicago. The topic was "Structures and Standards for Bibliographic Control." Blogger Mark R. Lindner offers extensive notes on the session, which featured a controversial presentation

[<http://marklindner.info/blog/2007/05/11/lc-working-group-structures-and-standards-part-2-david-bade/>] by University of Chicago cataloger David Bade....

Off the Mark, May 11

Prototypes for the library of the future [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpFO_L_jA1c]

The public library in Aarhus, Denmark, established an experimental Transformation Lab that explored new visions for the public library of the future. With funding from the Danish National Library Authority and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the library examined new ways for users to participate in learning labs for literature, news, music, performance, and art. This English-language video (7:07) explains the project and what the library learned....

Aarhus Public Library

Minneapolis Public Library gets \$193,000 in grants

[<http://www.mpls.lib.mn.us/releases.asp?item=grants>]

The Friends of the Minneapolis Public Library were recently awarded \$193,000 in grant funds to be used to expand a variety of programs and services at the library, including Business Plan Builder, Live Homework Help, youth-focused activities, and world language collection materials....

Minneapolis Public Library, May 15

Fifth European library joins Google Book Search

[http://www.thebookstandard.com/bookstandard/news/author/article_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1003585642]

The Cantonal and University Library of Lausanne

[<http://www.unil.ch/Jahia/site/bcu/cache/off/pid/16159?showActu=117924202222.xml&actunilParam=news>] in Switzerland is the latest university library, and the first French-language library, to partner with the Google Book Search program, the company announced yesterday. Swiss and French books will be digitized and made available online, including works from Victor Hugo, Honoré de Balzac, Benjamin Constant, and the personal library of economist and sociologist Vilfredo Pareto....

The Book Standard, May 16

Formula for academic library success

[<http://acrlblog.org/2007/05/14/formula-for-academic-library-success/>]

Steven Bell writes: “We struggle to get our user communities to actually use all the databases in which we invest significant funds, and to do so in ways that enable them to succeed academically. Well, I heard some new research findings last week that suggested a simple formula for achieving academic library success that puts our challenge into better perspective. This formula comes courtesy of John Law, Director, Strategic Alliances & Platform Management ProQuest CSA.”...
ACRLog, May 14

LC Veterans History Project launches web resource [<http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2007/07-108.html>]

A new section on the Veterans History Project website [<http://www.loc.gov/vets/>] features background on Ken Burns’s upcoming film The War and details on how to support the campaign to collect oral histories of World War II. The section will be updated continually with event listings and related information. In addition, a newly revised and updated Veterans History Project field kit provides step-by-step instructions on collecting and preserving veterans’ stories....

Library of Congress, May 15

AAUP report on Katrina [<http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/newsroom/pressreleases/katrina.htm>]

In a report [<http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/protectrights/academicfreedom/investrep/2007/katrina.htm>] released May 15, the American Association of University Professors finds that there was “nearly universal departure from (or in some cases complete abandonment of) personnel and other policies” by five New Orleans institutions—the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, the University of New Orleans, Southern University at New Orleans, Loyola University New Orleans, and Tulane University—as they contended with the disaster that befell the city and its universities. The report faults the number, timing, and handling of post-Katrina faculty terminations....

American Association of University Professors, May 15

Get free audiobooks [http://www.simplyaudiobooks.com/Free_Audiobooks/dp/202/]

Simply AudioBooks offers a selection of free public-domain books downloadable onto MP3 players or computers and suitable for burning onto a CD. Included are Jack London’s Call of the Wild, F. Scott Fitzgerald’s The Camel’s Back, Franz Kafka’s Metamorphosis, and others....

Simply AudioBooks

Digital collections best practices [http://www.lib.umd.edu/dcr/publications/best_practice.pdf]

(PDF file)

The University of Maryland Libraries have issued a new edition of Best Practice Guidelines for Digital Collections at University of Maryland Libraries. The guide covers technical specifications for still images and text as well as audio and moving image formats. The library staff welcomes feedback and discussion on the content from the wider cultural heritage community....

University of Maryland Libraries Digital Collections and Resources, May 4

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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May 23, 2007



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U.S. & World News

[Jackson County voters reject levy](#)

Voters in Jackson County, Oregon, decisively rejected a property tax levy May 15 that would have reopened the county's library system, which shut down April 6. The proposal, which would have raised \$8.3 million annually, lost by a vote of 58–42%....

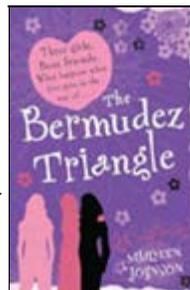
[Illinois libraries protest mandatory filters](#)

On May 14, public libraries across Illinois drew attention to legislation that would effectively require filters on all public library computers in the state. The Internet Screening in Public Libraries Act (H.B. 1727) passed 63–51 in the Illinois House of Representatives May 2 and was sent to the state senate, prompting the Illinois Library Association to request that public libraries participate in a "day of unity" by shutting off or limiting their internet access, distributing informational bookmarks or fliers, or otherwise communicating to patrons their opposition to the bill....



[Where is Bartlesville High School's Bermudez Triangle?](#)

A series of blog posts by author Maureen Johnson claiming that her novel *The Bermudez Triangle* has been banned by the Bartlesville (Okla.) Mid-High has resulted in a May 10 *Bartlesville Community Examiner-Enterprise* story clarifying that the book is being reconsidered and not withdrawn. Johnson told the newspaper that a committee member had returned one of her phone inquiries May 4 to explain. "To be honest, I couldn't get a lot of information about what was going on," Johnson said....



[Urban Libraries Council conference: The video](#)

"Partners for Success: the Changing Face of Cities" was the theme of the 2007 Urban Libraries Council conference held May 4–5 in Cleveland. This short video (4:16) by *American Libraries* magazine



Preview [abstracts of the poster sessions](#) scheduled for ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.



ALA has added a [Meebo chat room](#) to the [Annual Conference wiki](#). You can start a conversation there and even add the room to your buddy list. Internet Development Specialist Jenny Levine plans to be in there during conference sessions to answer questions or talk with virtual attendees about what's going on. Another Meebo room is available for general ALA discussions on the [ALA Ning Members Network](#).



spotlights the Cleveland Public Library and features several conference speakers and a city tour. Footage shot by Leonard Kniffel, with editing by Daniel Kraus... YouTube, May 22

ALA News

Register for the Parade of Bookmobiles

A Parade of Bookmobiles is scheduled for Tuesday, June 26, at ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Libraries have until May 30 to [register](#) their bookmobiles. The Office for Literacy and Outreach Services is organizing the event through its Subcommittee on Library Services to Bookmobiles, with support from the [Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services](#)....

Keep up to date on library funding

The Public Information Office maintains a database that tracks news about public, school, and academic library funding for each state. Launched in April 2004, the database contains short summaries of library funding cuts, fundraising, and bond issues around the country....

Public Information Office



Volunteers needed for Library Day on the Hill

The ALA Washington Office is seeking 50 volunteers for [Library Day on the Hill](#), Tuesday, June 26. Volunteers will have the unique opportunity to join thousands of librarians who will walk the corridors of Capitol Hill and show the value of libraries to members of Congress....

District Dispatch blog, May 22



Highlight your comic collection with the new [X-Men poster](#). This popular comic series has inspired a series of films starring Hugh Jackman, Ian McKellen, and Halle Berry among many others. **NEW!** From **ALA Graphics**.



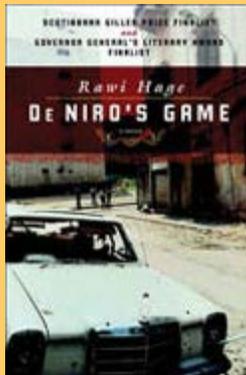
Join LITA in the "mile-high" city of Denver to celebrate 10 years of the [LITA National Forum](#), October 4-7, Marriott City Center.

Booklist ONLINE

Featured review: Adult books

Hage, Rawi. *De Niro's Game*. Aug. 2007. 277p. Steerforth, hardcover (978-1-58195-223-0).

East meets West in this stunning first novel yielding a totally fresh perspective on war-torn Beirut. Bassam and George have been best friends since childhood, when they roamed the ruined streets of their hometown, making a game out of collecting empty bullets and cannon shells to trade for cigarettes. Now, years into the civil war, "ten thousand bombs had landed," and the two

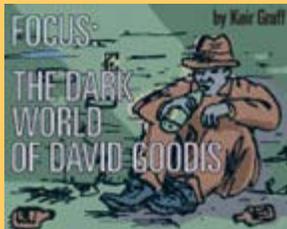


In this issue
May 2007

have lost their parents and many neighbors to them, growing hard and cynical in the process....

[The dark world of David Goodis](#)

Keir Graff writes: "Crime fiction fans use authors' names as passwords. This serves multiple functions. Leading with the right name establishes the speaker's own street cred, challenges the respondent's street cred, and weeds out the dilettantes. (Upon hearing the name of an obscure writer, the proper response is to praise an obscure work from said author's bibliography, in hopes of out-obscuring the speaker.) More usefully, the authors of the genre's canonical texts serve as a kind of shorthand for all the writers who have worked in similar styles."...



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



Roger Mudd on the Love of Books

Bookstore Tourism

Gamers in the Library

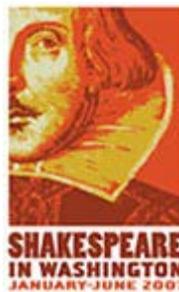
Mattering in the School Blogosphere

D.C. Update

[Shakespeare in Washington](#)

Revel in the genius of the Bard through many magnificent presentations during this unprecedented festival in Washington through June 2007. The Shakespeare Theatre Company is putting on [Hamlet](#) June 5–July 29, and the Library of Congress is offering [Shakespeare Tours](#) through July 17. The Folger Shakespeare Library is hosting an exhibit on "[Shakespeare in American Life.](#)" and five innovative architects and set designers have been commissioned to create hypothetical Shakespearean theaters for the 21st century at the [National Building Museum](#)....

Shakespeare in Washington



[Modernism at the Corcoran](#)

The Corcoran Gallery of Art is featuring an exhibition on "Modernism: Designing a New World 1914–1939" through July 29. Now on international tour from the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Corcoran Gallery of Art is the final—and only American—venue....

Corcoran Gallery of Art



Career Leads from ALA JobLIST

[Branch Manager.](#)

San Antonio Public Library, Texas. Manage services in a branch library in one of San Antonio's diverse neighborhoods; grow your leadership skills as the San Antonio Public Library grows. To schedule a preliminary interview at ALA Annual Conference, call 210-207-2635....

@ [More jobs...](#)



Visit the [Grassroots](#)

Division News

[Macikas appointed ASCLA/RUSA executive director](#)

Barbara A. Macikas has been appointed executive director of ASCLA and RUSA, effective May 21. She has served as PLA deputy executive director since 2000 and worked in ALA Conference Services, serving as director from 1988 to 1992....



[YALSA celebrates 50th anniversary in style](#)

YALSA will mark its 50th anniversary with two special events at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., June 21–27. The celebration begins Friday night at YALSA’s anniversary bash—free to all registered attendees. Conference-goers are also invited to an anniversary party at YALSA’s Member Booth in the ALA Pavilion of the Exhibits Hall on Sunday....



[Excellence in library service to young adults](#)

June 1 is the deadline for submitting exemplary teen programs or services for inclusion in the 5th edition of YALSA’s *Excellence in Library Service to Young Adults*. Up to 25 programs will be selected; the top five programs will receive cash awards of \$1,000 and “the best of the rest” will receive cash awards of \$250 each....

[Teens’ Top 10 encourages summer reading](#)

It’s summer reading time, and YALSA offers a great resource for young adult librarians planning summer programs: the 2007 [Teens’ Top Ten](#) nominees. This year’s TTT nominees include 25 books released between January 2006 and March 2007 in several genres, including mysteries, science fiction, fantasies, and realistic fiction. Teens across the country are encouraged to read the nominated titles and participate in the national vote during Teen Read Week, October 14–20....



[Scales elected ALSC president](#)

Pat R. Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant in Greenville, South Carolina, has been elected vice-president/president-elect of ALSC. She plans to focus her presidential efforts on member recruitment, professional development, expansion of partnerships with government and educational organizations, and development of a robust voice within ALA governance....



[ALSC selects three libraries for Bookapalooza](#)

The three libraries selected to receive a collection of children’s materials in ALSC’s first annual [Bookapalooza program](#) are College Gate Elementary School Library in Anchorage, Alaska; Custer County School District Library (Westcliffe, Colo.); and Creswell (Oreg.) Library. The collections, which consist of books, videos, audiobooks, and recordings produced in 2006, are intended to help transform each library’s collection....

[PLA to offer Certified Public Library](#)

[Advocacy webpage](#), which clearly lays out what online resources are available from the ALA Washington Office, along with some strategies for optimizing those resources.



Michele Hayslett writes about the Census Bureau’s State Data Network in [“Got Data?”](#) in the May issue of *Reference and User Services Quarterly*.

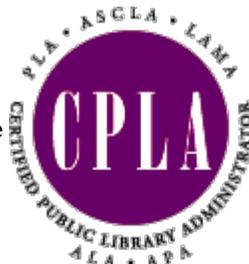


ALA offers a [mailing list server](#) that currently hosts hundreds of mailing lists. Some lists are for ALA members only; others are open to nonmembers as well. As of **April 25** we have completed the process of migrating our lists from an older mailing list software called Listproc to a newer, easier to use package called Sympa.

To see **currently available lists**, go to [lists.ala.org](#) and choose “Send me a password.” You will be prompted for an email

[Administrator courses](#)

PLA will offer nine approved [courses](#) for the Certified Public Library Administrator program. The courses will be presented through partnerships with state libraries and library systems across the country. Registration is open to CPLA candidates as well as librarians looking for quality, specialized continuing education....



Awards

[Sen. Grassley gets Lifetime Achievement Award](#)

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) was awarded with a Lifetime Achievement Award by 25 whistleblower advocacy groups, including the American Library Association. The award honors Grassley's leadership in obtaining congressional approval of the landmark whistleblower protections in the False Claims Act, Civil Rights Tax Fairness Act, Whistleblower Protection Act, and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act....



[2007 Trustee Citation winners](#)

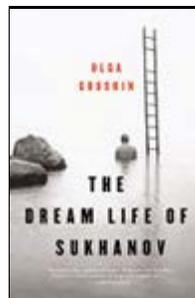
ALTA has named Jane Rowland and Patricia O'H. Norman as the 2007 Trustee Citation award winners. Rowland has served on the Calumet City (Ill.) Public Library Board since 1994 and is the current president, and Norman is the present chair of the Library Board of Trustees at the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, North Carolina....

[LITA announces scholarship winners](#)

The 2007 winner of the LITA/Christian Larew Memorial scholarship (\$3,000) is Karin Dalziel, an active LIS student at the University of Missouri at Columbia. The LITA/LSSI Minority Scholarship (\$2,500) winner is Lydia C. Welhan, who will pursue her studies at Indiana University. Heather Devine is the winner of the LITA/OCLC Minority Scholarship (\$3,000); she will pursue studies at San Jose State University....

[Olga Grushin wins Young Lions Fiction Award](#)

At a ceremony May 21, Olga Grushin was presented with the New York Public Library's 2007 Young Lions Fiction Award by Library President Paul LeClerc. Grushin's first novel *The Dream Life of Sukhanov* is the haunting story of Anatoly Sukhanov, Russia's leading art critic who is plagued by the ghosts of his past and must confront a lifetime of compromises....
New York Public Library, May 22



[McCook awarded FLA Lifetime Achievement Award](#) (PDF file)

Kathleen de la Peña McCook, distinguished professor in the Department of Library and Information Science at the University of South Florida, was presented with the Florida Library Association's Lifetime Achievement

address, which will only be used if you join a list, and your password will be sent to that address, as will all messages from the lists to which you subscribe. See the [ALA mailing list page](#) for more information.

Public Perception

How the World Sees Us

"Here's a small idea. Let's post four lines by poet Richard Armour at our libraries. There's hardly a more pithy expression of the purpose of libraries and the respect they're due:

"Here is where people / One frequently finds, / Lower their voices / And raise their minds.

"Who knows if it will work. But it's worth a try."

—Associate Editor Paul Hyde in a column on "What's Wrong with Our Noisy Libraries?" *Greenville (S.C.) News*, May 15.

give ALA

[A donation](#) to the American Library Association is a gift to help strengthen **public, school, academic, and special libraries** across the country. We

Award at the closing session of the FLA Conference April 13....
Florida Library Association



[Moore wins CLA Service to Librarianship Award](#)

Larry Moore, executive director of the Ontario Library Association, has won the Canadian Library Association's Outstanding Service to Librarianship Award for 2007. Moore has been instrumental in the success of OLA and its programs and in initiating national cooperative projects that are ongoing and positive contributions to librarianship in Canada....
Canadian Library Association, May 15



[Kmec named UCLA Librarian of the Year](#)

Marsha Kmec, director of library services at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center, has been named 2007 Librarian of the Year by the Librarians Association of the University of California, Los Angeles. The award, presented May 14, recognized Kmec's innovation and leadership in developing and implementing a video network in the medical center's emergency room waiting area that continuously broadcasts health education videos in English and Spanish....
Library Association of the University of California, Los Angeles



encourage you to become a part of the important role libraries play in our daily lives. Please consider making the most powerful gift you can make, an unrestricted gift.



Ask the ALA Librarian



Q. The closing of the [Jackson County \(Oreg.\) Library](#) system is terrible! Where can I get information on library funding, particularly relating to local levies and the like? And where can I find information for local advocacy efforts?

A. Several offices at the American Library Association track library funding issues, both from a news perspective and from a trends perspective. [American Libraries](#) conducts a "referenda roundup" each fall, and posts it to the AL Online website as PDF documents. The most recent is the 2006 Roundup ([PDF file](#)). As part of general

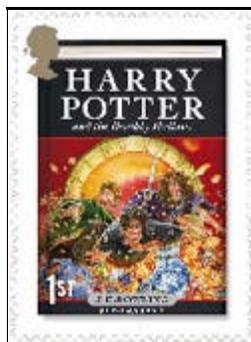
Seen Online

[Map thief ordered to pay \\$2.3 million](#)

A renowned dealer who admitted stealing about 100 rare antique maps was ordered May 22 to pay \$2.3 million in restitution to his victims around the country and abroad. E. Forbes Smiley III was sentenced in September to 3-1/2 years in prison after one librarian described him as a "thief who assaulted history." He was tentatively ordered to pay restitution of \$1.9 million, but that figure was increased after the parties worked to recover the maps and assess their value....
Associated Press, May 23

[UK to issue Harry Potter stamps](#)

The avalanche of letters that helped free Harry Potter from his cruel relatives is to find a strange parallel in the real world. On July 17 Royal Mail will issue a series of seven postage stamps depicting the colorful covers of each of the books in J. K. Rowling's series. The commemorative designs will be released to coincide with the launch of the last of the Harry Potter books, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*....
The Guardian (U.K.), May 21



[Rochester to keep website ban](#)

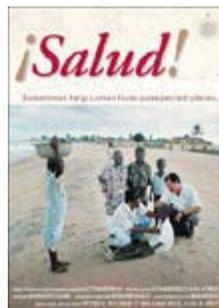
Access to websites deemed pornographic will continue to be blocked at the Central Library of Rochester unless an administrator deems a site appropriate for a patron to view, according to a task force's recommendation. The recommendation, released May 23, seeks to appease Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks and quell her threat to pull \$6.6 million in funding from the library over a longstanding policy that had let adult patrons—upon request and with no questions asked—unblock potentially inappropriate or pornographic websites....

Rochester (N.Y.) Democrat and Chronicle, May 23

[Castro critics protest Princeton's film festival choices](#)

The Princeton (N.J.) Public Library has inadvertently set off a firestorm of criticism involving Cuba, health care, and human rights. According to some critics, two of the 15 films—*The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil*, and *¡Salud! What Puts Cuba on the Map in the Quest for Global Health Care*—shown during the library's annual Human Rights Film Festival last weekend are "propaganda" and do not accurately reflect life in Cuba....

Princeton (N.J.) Packet, May 18



[Advocacy](#) efforts, the ALA Public Information Office [compiles news reports](#) of library funding impacts nationwide. And Denise Davis, Director of the ALA Office for Research and Statistics, has prepared "Funding Issues in U.S. Public Libraries, Fiscal Years 2003–2006" ([PDF file](#)). See the [ALA Professional Tips wiki](#) for further assistance.

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

[Digital information under threat](#)

Jim Barksdale of the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program and Francine Berman of the San Diego Supercomputer Center write: "The digital information that drives our world and powers our economy is in many ways more susceptible to loss than the papyrus and parchment at Alexandria. In February, Congress passed and the president signed legislation rescinding \$47 million of NDIIPP's approved funding. Some of the projects that were to be funded include preservation of important government records at the state level, such as legislative data and court records."...

Contra Costa (Calif.) Times, May 22

[A childhood issue? Ask a librarian](#)

Geri Russell's daughter Kate was suddenly afraid of wolves. So the mother went to the library in Parsippany, New Jersey, and asked children's librarian Paula Lefkowitz for a good book on wolves for a preschooler. When parents need help, they talk to school psychologists, to therapists, social workers, their own parents, friends—themselves—and more than you might think, the local librarian....

New York Times, May 20

[Library's owl decoy scares the pigeons](#)

Change is in the air at the Mary Duncan Public Library in Benson, North Carolina. An [outdoor programmable decoy](#) has been installed to deter pigeons from roosting on the library's roof. "It's the mess they make that's so awful," Library Director Linda Hayes said. "You could not walk in front of the library for the pigeon poop. Until recently I used to have to sweep every morning."...

Dunn (N.C.) Daily Record, May 21



Don't miss the culminating event of the Spectrum 10th Anniversary Celebration, the [Spectrum Scholar 10th Anniversary luncheon](#), Sunday, June 24, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., at ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Registration is available under [Special Events / Meal Functions](#).

[Calendar](#)

[Touring Exhibits](#)

[Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America](#). Sponsored by ALA's Public Programs Office. [Itinerary](#).

[Teen delivers 5,000 books to homeless schools](#)

Libraries at the Thomas J. Pappas schools for the homeless in

Phoenix are a little fuller, thanks to Brad Schell, a 17-year-old from Scottsdale who gave them more than 5,000 books May 11. Schell launched a two-month book drive that involved eight schools, several bookstores, and individuals, and he also donated about 2,500 books to the Scottsdale Unified School District....

Phoenix *Arizona Republic*, May 11

[St. Tammany's Madisonville branch status unclear](#)

The townspeople of Madisonville will have to continue their wait for a library. With the former library building turned over to the parish and declared surplus property due to its post-Katrina state, Assistant Director Donald Westmoreland said May 15 the search will continue to find rental space for a temporary facility. The cost to repair the Madisonville branch would exceed \$1 million....

St. Tammany (La.) News, May 18



[New library arrives in St. Bernard Parish](#)

St. Bernard Parish officials and residents welcomed the parish's first post-hurricane public library May 15, a modular building in Chalmette that will provide some books and internet access. The library is being underwritten by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Arlene and Joseph Meraux Charitable Foundation....

New Orleans Times-Picayune, May 15; St. Bernard Parish, May 16



[Library moving tip #54](#)

Carol Bird, director of the Matson Public Library in Princeton, Illinois, suggests purchasing 1,500–2,000 printed bags and loading them with 10 books each. Library patrons can check out a bag of books—ones they might not even want to read—and keep the books until the new library is ready for them. Patrons would then return the books after the move, and keep the bag for their efforts....

LaSalle (Ill.) News Tribune, May 17

[Libraries languish in Yemen...](#)

Libraries in Yemen have become places for the drudgery of study, where people fight their way through books rather than truly engage with them. Around 250–300 visitors come to the library every day, but this number is going up because of the increase in students undertaking studies and research. Circulation Librarian Mohammed al-Sharabi said that after July, when the academic season finishes, the number of readers dramatically decreases....

Yemen Observer, May 19

[...and in India too](#)

However distinguished the provenance of public libraries in India, they are all rather sad places today. Only doctoral students come here now to trawl the dusty shelves of uncared-for books, rummage through the crumbling cards, and brave the apathetic sloth of the staff for the early and rare editions of novels and journals....

Business Standard, May 20

[Mexico City library to reopen in July](#)

When the Biblioteca José Vasconcelos opened in May 2006, the Alberto Kalach–designed campus

[Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians.](#)

Sponsored by ALA's Public Programs Office. [Itinerary.](#)

[Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation.](#)

Sponsored by ALA's Public Programs Office. [Itinerary.](#)

[Out at the Library: Celebrating the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center.](#)

Sponsored by the San Francisco Public Library. At the Minneapolis Public Library through June 30.

Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* Scroll. June 15–Sept. 14, at the [Boott Cotton Mills Museum](#), Lowell, Massachusetts. Nov. 9–March 9, 2008, at the [New York Public Library](#).

@ [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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Daniel Kraus,
Associate Editor:

was hailed as a cultural gem for Mexico City—and, at 500,000 square feet, it became the largest public library in Latin America. But the \$100-million complex shut its doors in March amid water leaks, flooding, and political scandal. Although the library is scheduled to reopen in July, the project's woes may not ease anytime soon. In response to allegations about improperly spent construction funds, the Mexican House of Representatives has announced that it is launching an investigation....

Architectural Record, May 22



[A morning at Cuba's National Library](#)

Will Weissert writes about his recent visit to the Biblioteca Nacional José Martí in Havana: "Will some Cuban big brother be watching if I try to read Orwell's *1984*? I don't see any security cameras, but there are small green and black posters proclaiming 'No to censorship in Miami!' It's clear little criticism of Castro is tolerated at the National Library. The periodicals section has not a single back issue of the *Miami Herald*. In fact, there seems to be a serious lack of new reading material all over the library. If the card catalog is to be believed, book purchases dropped off sharply about 1996."...

Associated Press, May 16

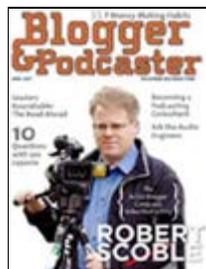


Tech Talk

[Basic podcast setups and formats](#)

John E. Remondini and Rayna T. Johnson answer questions about podcast software and audio formats in the April "Ask the Audio Engineer" column in the *Blogger & Podcaster* online magazine. (Check out the entire issue, published in Olive ActiveMagazine format with page-turning capability and multimedia ads.)...

Blogger & Podcaster, April, p. 21



[The end of news indexing as we know it?](#)

Duncan Riley writes: "Scotland's *Sunday Herald* [reported](#) May 20 that Google has secretly reached deals with several large UK news groups to formally license content for Google News. The deals are being kept secret to prevent other media sites asking for a similar deal from Google. If Google is forced to sign deals to provide links and traffic to media outlets, is Google News sustainable in its current format?"

"...

TechCrunch blog, May 20

[What next? Part 1](#)

Andrew Pace writes: "Last week I asked why consolidation in the library vendor market is such a bad thing. Librarians typically don't like consolidation. Then I began to wonder, who cares if I can't choose between Ford and Chevy at the Avis lot? So here's the question: If the rallying cry against further consolidation of a commodity market is 'choice!' then what are the choices we are trying to make?"...

Hectic Pace, May 23



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[Innovative Users Group draws 1,700 in San Jose](#)

More than 1,700 library professionals from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and the Americas participated in over 150 programs at the 15th annual Innovative Users Group Conference held in San Jose, California, May 14–17. The keynote speaker of the conference was Robert X. Cringely, a former *InfoWorld* columnist who was host and writer of the 2001 PBS-TV miniseries *Electric Money*...

Innovative Interfaces, May 16

[The psychology of banner ads](#)

According to a [study](#) in the June *Journal of Consumer Research* by Xiang Fang, Surendra Singh, and Rohini Ahluwalia, repeated exposure to a product via banner ads generates a positive feeling towards that product, even though the ad's presence does not register with most seasoned web browsers. The good news for consumers is that a critical reevaluation of the product can make these positive feelings vanish....

Ars Technica, May 19

[DDR 101](#)

Dance Dance Revolution (DDR) is popular with kids. However, there are some librarians who might still have questions on what the DDR options look like, even after attending presentations at conferences and reading posts on blogs. Here's a basic overview, courtesy of Andrea Mercado....

PLA Blog, May 15



[Google's universal search](#)

Lorcan Dempsey writes: "There has been some discussion—less than I expected—about Google's steps to develop a unified search across its services so that blogs, videos, books, maps, and so on are returned in results on the main Google page. This is a major step, given the different ranking models that Google employs across these individual services. At the same time, the company has released some new experimental features that include displays of results around a [timeline](#) and [on a map](#)."...

Lorcan Dempsey's Weblog, May 18

[Campus IT departments grapple with Vista](#)

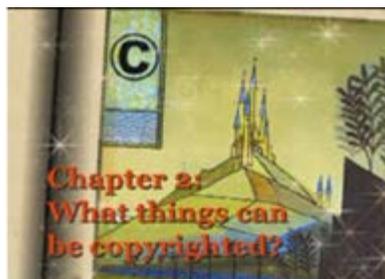
At colleges, universities, and K-12 institutions, IT decision makers are increasingly showing concern over performance, patching, and hardware requirements of Microsoft Windows Vista. IT leaders in higher education showed a decreasing concern over potential bugs in Vista's initial release but seemed to be increasingly concerned over Vista's hardware requirements and lack of apparent benefits....

Campus Technology, May 9

Actions & Answers

[Disney copyright parody](#)

English and Film Studies Assistant Professor Eric Faden of Bucknell University provides this humorous yet informative review of copyright principles ("A Fair(y) Use Tale," 10:13) delivered through the words of Disney characters, who cover the topics of copyright definition, what things can be



copyrighted, copyright duration and the public domain, fair use, and why Disney cartoons were used to demonstrate the concepts. Don't forget to read the FBI warning....

YouTube, May 18

[Small magazines, big ideas](#)

Bill Moyers writes: "It's time to send an SOS for the least among us—I mean small independent magazines. They are always struggling to survive while making a unique contribution to the conversation of democracy. But an impending rate hike, worked out by postal regulators, with almost no public input but plenty of corporate lobbying, would reward big publishers like Time Warner, while forcing these smaller periodicals into higher subscription fees, big cutbacks, and even bankruptcy."...

Common Dreams, May 19

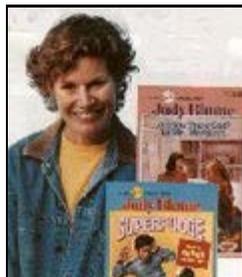
[Internet censorship on the rise globally](#)

Twenty-five out of 41 governments studied block or filter internet content, according to a survey carried out by OpenNet Initiative, which is made up of groups at Cambridge University, Harvard Law School, Oxford University, and the University of Toronto. The governments are blocking services and applications such as Google Maps or Skype as well as websites. The top reasons for filtering are politics (blocking of opposition parties' sites), social norms (blocking pornography or gambling), and national security concerns (blocking radical groups' sites)....

Sillcon.com, May 18

[Literary lightning rod](#)

With classic children's and young adult books such as *Freckle Juice*, *Are You There God? It's Me*, *Margaret*, and *Superfudge*, Judy Blume has tapped into the hearts of young readers for decades. The author, now 69, wanted to write books she wished she could have read while growing up, and young readers continue to be attracted to her stories that dwell on the problems of physical image and self-confidence that teens face....



Newsweek, May 18

[Tracy Nectoux on libraries and bookstores](#)

Tracy Nectoux, a library student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, was given an assignment to visit a bookstore and compare its atmosphere to a library's atmosphere. She came up with several arguments "why libraries should not encourage statements that they should be more like bookstores. Our purpose is unique and honorable, and this directly affects the unique and honorable service we provide." Michael Zimmer offers a [comparison chart](#), adding in Google Book Search....

Library Juice, May 17; michaelzimmer.org, May 17

[Using Wikipedia to extend digital collections](#)

Ann M. Lally and Carolyn E. Dunford write about how they added content to entries in Wikipedia that supported or used the University of Washington's digital collections as source material. The result was that Wikipedia began driving more traffic to the UW site: "Not only can we see that we are receiving referrals from en.wikipedia.org; in addition, we can see specifically which articles are responsible for the traffic, and how much traffic is generated by the links in each article."...

D-Lib Magazine 13, no. 5/6 (May/June)

[Arthur Caplan at MLA](#)

Marie Ascher writes about the May 20 keynote address at the Medical Library Association conference given by Arthur Caplan, bioethicist from the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Bioethics. Caplan talked about "Peer Review in Science and Medicine: Does It or Can It Work?" and offered a description of conflicts of interest and how they affect scientific publishing. His message to librarians was to get involved in this issue, especially with regard to a more transparent review process....
MLA 2007 blog, May 20



[Effective school library websites](#)

Joyce Valenza summarizes the findings of her recently completed dissertation: "What are the universal features in the school library websites I studied? The features, present in all 10 sites of the sample, are—OPACs, databases, search tools, reference, documentation, and contact information. Nine of the sample sites include links to other OPACs, links to news sources, online book discussions, library hours, and staff information."...
NeverEndingSearch blog, May 19

[Gulf Coast recovery grants](#)

Applications for the next round of grants for the Gulf Coast School Library Recovery Initiative should be submitted by August 15. The announcement of this round of grants will be made in October 2007; additional grants will be awarded in early 2008....
Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries

[Four habits of highly effective academic librarians](#)

Todd Gilman writes: "In *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, Stephen R. Covey argues that the most effective are those who have moved beyond both independence and dependence to master the art of interdependence—of working as members of a team, of knowing when two or more heads are better than one. In the spirit of Covey, then, I would like to offer my list of four traits that would not only make librarians more effective, but happier and more productive, too."...
Chronicle of Higher Education, May 23

[Bookmark of the week](#)

British journalist Simon Quicke nominates an unusual or interesting bookmark each week in his Inside Books blog. He found his May 20 selection five years ago in a Chinese bookshop in Soho where there were "a large number of bookmarks using the sort of illustrations you expect to see on paper cuts from Japan and China."...
Inside Books blog, May 20



[World Book in Mandarin Chinese](#)

World Book announced May 17 the global launch of a Mandarin-language *World Book Encyclopedia*. The 20-volume edition, published by Hainan Publishing House, Haikou, China, is available to schools, libraries, and families in China as well as Mandarin speakers worldwide....
World Book, May 17

[Teens talk about Second Life](#)

In this YALSA [podcast](#) (25:20), Linda Braun and Kelly Czarnecki talk

with two teens involved in Teen Second Life and the Teen Second Life Library Project. The podcast covers what teens are doing in Teen Second Life, how teens are involved in the Teen Second Life Library Project, and security and safety online for teens....

YALSA Podcast, no. 20

[Google Trends and Hot Trends](#)

Google launched a new feature May 21 called [Google Trends](#), which compares the world's interest in your favorite topics (libraries, perhaps?). Enter up to five topics and see how often they've been searched for on Google over time. Google Trends also displays how frequently your topics have appeared in Google News stories, and which geographic regions have searched for them most often. With [Hot Trends](#), you can see a snapshot of what's on the public's collective mind by viewing the fastest-rising searches for different points of time (be prepared to be stunned or incredulous)....



Google Trends

[Energy-saving custom Google search](#)

In January 2007, a blog post titled [Black Google Would Save 750 Megawatt-hours a Year](#) proposed the theory that a black version of the Google search engine would save a fair bit of energy due to its popularity. [Blackle](#) saves energy because the screen is predominantly black. You can set Blackle as your home page; this way every time you load your browser, you will save a little bit of energy....

Blackle

[Which wiki is right for you?](#)

Shonda Brisco writes: "If you've never created a library web page (and don't intend to start learning HTML code anytime soon), but want your library to have a web presence, maybe it's time to consider a library wiki. As more educators and librarians collaborate in an online environment, wikis (which in Hawaiian means 'quick' or 'very fast') provide users with a tool that can be easily accessed, edited, and updated."...

School Library Journal, May 1

[Fort Wayne library saves users from zombies](#)

The Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, demonstrates how its alert readers' services staff can thwart a zombie attack in this submission to the Thomson Gale [Library Video contest](#). The film credits are listed [here](#), and you can see some [zombie stills](#) on Flickr....

Allen County (Ind.) Public Library, May 18



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

May 23, 2007

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[<http://www.sirsidynixtechtalk.com/upcoming.php>]

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

U.S. & World News

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Jackson County voters reject levy

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/may2007/levyfail.cfm>]

Voters in Jackson County, Oregon, decisively rejected a property tax levy May 15 that would have reopened the county's library system, which shut down April 6. The proposal, which would have raised \$8.3 million annually, lost by a vote of 58–42%....

Illinois libraries protest mandatory filters

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/may2007/illprotest.cfm>]

On May 14, public libraries across Illinois drew attention to legislation that would effectively require filters on all public library computers in the state. The Internet Screening in Public Libraries Act (H.B. 1727) passed 63–51 in the Illinois House of Representatives May 2 and was sent to the state senate, prompting the Illinois Library Association to request that public libraries participate in a “day of unity” by shutting off or limiting their internet access, distributing informational bookmarks or fliers, or otherwise communicating to patrons their opposition to the bill....

? [<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/may2007/bartles.cfm>]

A series of blog posts by author Maureen Johnson claiming that her novel The Bermudez Triangle has been banned by the Bartlesville (Okla.) Mid-High has resulted in a May 10 Bartlesville Community

Examiner-Enterprise story clarifying that the book is being reconsidered and not withdrawn. Johnson told the newspaper that a committee member had returned one of her phone inquiries May 4 to explain. "To be honest, I couldn't get a lot of information about what was going on," Johnson said....

Urban Libraries Council conference: The video [<http://youtube.com/watch?v=DCH6y2ld2lg>] "Partners for Success: the Changing Face of Cities" was the theme of the 2007 Urban Libraries Council conference held May 4-5 in Cleveland. This short video (4:16) by American Libraries magazine spotlights the Cleveland Public Library and features several conference speakers and a city tour. Footage shot by Leonard Kniffel, with editing by Daniel Kraus....
YouTube, May 22

ALA News

Register for the Parade of Bookmobiles

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/ParadeofBookmobiles.htm>]

A Parade of Bookmobiles is scheduled for Tuesday, June 26, at ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Libraries have until May 30 to register [<mailto:olos@ala.org>] their bookmobiles. The Office for Literacy and Outreach Services is organizing the event through its Subcommittee on Library Services to Bookmobiles, with support from the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services [<http://www.abos-outreach.org/>]....

Keep up to date on library funding [<http://www.ala.org/ala/news/libraryfunding/libraryfunding.htm>]

The Public Information Office maintains a database that tracks news about public, school, and academic library funding for each state. Launched in April 2004, the database contains short summaries of library funding cuts, fundraising, and bond issues around the country....
Public Information Office

Volunteers needed for Library Day on the Hill

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

The ALA Washington Office is seeking 50 volunteers for Library Day on the Hill [<http://www.ala.org/dayonthehill>], Tuesday, June 26. Volunteers will have the unique opportunity to join thousands of librarians who will walk the corridors of Capitol Hill and show the value of libraries to members of Congress....

District Dispatch blog, May 22

Booklist Online

Featured review: Adult books

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=1906455]

Hage, Rawi. De Niro's Game. Aug. 2007. 277p. Steerforth, hardcover (978-1-58195-223-0).

East meets West in this stunning first novel yielding a totally fresh perspective on war-torn Beirut. Bassam and George have been best friends since childhood, when they roamed the ruined

streets of their hometown, making a game out of collecting empty bullets and cannon shells to trade for cigarettes. Now, years into the civil war, “ten thousand bombs had landed,” and the two have lost their parents and many neighbors to them, growing hard and cynical in the process....

The dark world of David Goodis

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=1993530]

Keir Graff writes: “Crime fiction fans use authors’ names as passwords. This serves multiple functions. Leading with the right name establishes the speaker’s own street cred, challenges the respondent’s street cred, and weeds out the dilettantes. (Upon hearing the name of an obscure writer, the proper response is to praise an obscure work from said author’s bibliography, in hopes of out-obscuring the speaker.) More usefully, the authors of the genre’s canonical texts serve as a kind of shorthand for all the writers who have worked in similar styles.”...

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

D.C. Update

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Shakespeare in Washington [<http://www.washington.org/shakespeare/about.cfm>]

Revel in the genius of the Bard through many magnificent presentations during this unprecedented festival in Washington through June 2007. The Shakespeare Theatre Company is putting on Hamlet

[<http://www.shakespearetheatre.org/plays/details.aspx?id=103&source=1>] June 5–July 29, and the Library of Congress is offering Shakespeare Tours

[<http://www.washington.org/shakespeare/details.cfm?eventid=181>] through July 17. The Folger Shakespeare Library is hosting an exhibit on “Shakespeare in American Life,

[<http://www.washington.org/shakespeare/details.cfm?eventid=48>]” and five innovative architects and set designers have been commissioned to create hypothetical Shakespearean theaters for the 21st

century at the National Building Museum [<http://www.washington.org/shakespeare/details.cfm?eventid=11>]....

Shakespeare in Washington

Modernism at the Corcoran [<http://www.corcoran.org/modernism/index.htm>]

The Corcoran Gallery of Art is featuring an exhibition on “Modernism: Designing a New World 1914–1939” through July 29. Now on international tour from the Victoria and Albert Museum in

London, the Corcoran Gallery of Art is the final—and only American—venue....

Corcoran Gallery of Art

Division News

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Macikas appointed ASCLA/RUSA executive director

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/ExecutiveDirectorASCLARU.htm>]

Barbara A. Macikas has been appointed executive director of ASCLA and RUSA, effective May 21. She has served as PLA deputy executive director since 2000 and worked in ALA Conference Services, serving as director from 1988 to 1992....

YALSA celebrates 50th anniversary in style

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/ya07.htm>]

YALSA will mark its 50th anniversary with two special events at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., June 21–27. The celebration begins Friday night at YALSA’s anniversary bash—free to all registered attendees. Conference-goers are also invited to an anniversary party at YALSA’s Member Booth in the ALA Pavilion of the Exhibits Hall on Sunday....

Excellence in library service to young adults

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/newsandeventsb/excellencegrant.htm>]

June 1 is the deadline for submitting exemplary teen programs or services for inclusion in the 5th edition of YALSA’s Excellence in Library Service to Young Adults. Up to 25 programs will be selected; the top five programs will receive cash awards of \$1,000 and “the best of the rest” will receive cash awards of \$250 each....

Teens’ Top 10 encourages summer reading

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/ttt07.htm>]

It’s summer reading time, and YALSA offers a great resource for young adult librarians planning summer programs: the 2007 Teens’ Top Ten

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teenreading/teenstopten/teenstopten.htm>] nominees. This year’s TTT nominees include 25 books released between January 2006 and March 2007 in several genres, including mysteries, science fiction, fantasies, and realistic fiction. Teens across the country are encouraged to read the nominated titles and participate in the national vote during Teen Read Week, October 14–20....

Scales elected ALSC president

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/ScalesALSCvicepresident.htm>]

Pat R. Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant in Greenville, South Carolina, has been elected vice-president/president-elect of ALSC. She plans to focus her presidential efforts on member recruitment, professional development, expansion of partnerships with government and educational organizations, and development of a robust voice within ALA governance....

ALSC selects three libraries for Bookapalooza

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/ALSCBookapaloozaprogram.htm>]

The three libraries selected to receive a collection of children’s materials in ALSC’s first annual Bookapalooza program

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/bookapaloozaprogram.htm>] are College Gate Elementary School Library in Anchorage, Alaska; Custer County School District Library (Westcliffe, Colo.); and Creswell (Oreg.) Library. The collections, which consist of books, videos, audiobooks, and recordings produced in 2006, are intended to help transform each library’s collection....

PLA to offer Certified Public Library Administrator courses

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/PLACertifiedcourses.htm>]

PLA will offer nine approved courses [<http://www.pla.org/ala/pla/plaevents/cplacourses/CPLAcourses.cfm>] for the Certified Public

Library Administrator program. The courses will be presented through partnerships with state libraries and library systems across the country. Registration is open to CPLA candidates as well as librarians looking for quality, specialized continuing education....

Awards

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Sen. Grassley gets Lifetime Achievement Award

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/awb07.htm>]

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) was awarded with a Lifetime Achievement Award by 25 whistleblower advocacy groups, including the American Library Association. The award honors Grassley's leadership in obtaining congressional approval of the landmark whistleblower protections in the False Claims Act, Civil Rights Tax Fairness Act, Whistleblower Protection Act, and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act....

2007 Trustee Citation winners

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/ALTARowlandNormanTrustee.htm>]

ALTA has named Jane Rowland and Patricia O'H. Norman as the 2007 Trustee Citation award winners. Rowland has served on the Calumet City (Ill.) Public Library Board since 1994 and is the current president, and Norman is the present chair of the Library Board of Trustees at the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, North Carolina....

LITA announces scholarship winners

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/LITAscholarshipwinners.htm>]

The 2007 winner of the LITA/Christian Larew Memorial scholarship (\$3,000) is Karin Dalziel, an active LIS student at the University of Missouri at Columbia. The LITA/LSSI Minority Scholarship (\$2,500) winner is Lydia C. Welhan, who will pursue her studies at Indiana University. Heather Devine is the winner of the LITA/OCLC Minority Scholarship (\$3,000); she will pursue studies at San Jose State University....

Olga Grushin wins Young Lions Fiction Award [<http://www.nypl.org/press/2007/ylfa2007.cfm>]

At a ceremony May 21, Olga Grushin was presented with the New York Public Library's 2007 Young Lions Fiction Award by Library President Paul LeClerc. Grushin's first novel *The Dream Life of Sukhanov* is the haunting story of Anatoly Sukhanov, Russia's leading art critic who is plagued by the ghosts of his past and must confront a lifetime of compromises....
New York Public Library, May 22

McCook awarded FLA Lifetime Achievement Award

[http://www.flalib.org/PDFdocuments/FLA_Awards_2007.pdf] (PDF file)

Kathleen de la Peña McCook, distinguished professor in the Department of Library and Information Science at the University of South Florida, was presented with the Florida Library Association's Lifetime Achievement Award at the closing session of the FLA Conference April 13....
Florida Library Association

Moore wins CLA Service to Librarianship Award

[<http://www.cla.ca/top/whatsnew/wnmay15awards-07.html>]

Larry Moore, executive director of the Ontario Library Association, has won the Canadian Library Association's Outstanding Service to Librarianship Award for 2007. Moore has been instrumental in the success of OLA and its programs and in initiating national cooperative projects that are ongoing and positive contributions to librarianship in Canada....
Canadian Library Association, May 15

Kmec named UCLA Librarian of the Year

[<http://www.library.ucla.edu/committees/la UCLA/members/librarian/kmec.htm>]

Marsha Kmec, director of library services at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center, has been named 2007 Librarian of the Year by the Librarians Association of the University of California, Los Angeles. The award, presented May 14, recognized Kmec's innovation and leadership in developing and implementing a video network in the medical center's emergency room waiting area that continuously broadcasts health education videos in English and Spanish....
Library Association of the University of California, Los Angeles

Seen Online

Map thief ordered to pay \$2.3 million

[<http://www.courant.com/news/local/statewire/hc-23012810.apds.m0176.bc-ct--stolmay23,0,5712985.story>]

A renowned dealer who admitted stealing about 100 rare antique maps was ordered May 22 to pay \$2.3 million in restitution to his victims around the country and abroad. E. Forbes Smiley III was sentenced in September to 3-1/2 years in prison after one librarian described him as a “thief who assaulted history.” He was tentatively ordered to pay restitution of \$1.9 million, but that figure was increased after the parties worked to recover the maps and assess their value....

Associated Press, May 23

UK to issue Harry Potter stamps [<http://books.guardian.co.uk/harrypotter/story/0,,2084534,00.html>]

The avalanche of letters that helped free Harry Potter from his cruel relatives is to find a strange parallel in the real world. On July 17 Royal Mail will issue a series of seven postage stamps depicting the colorful covers of each of the books in J. K. Rowling’s series. The commemorative designs will be released to coincide with the launch of the last of the Harry Potter books, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows....

The Guardian (U.K.), May 21

Rochester to keep website ban

[<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070523/NEWS01/705230319/1002/NEWS>]

Access to websites deemed pornographic will continue to be blocked at the Central Library of Rochester unless an administrator deems a site appropriate for a patron to view, according to a task force’s recommendation. The recommendation, released May 23, seeks to appease Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks and quell her threat to pull \$6.6 million in funding from the library over a longstanding policy that had let adult patrons—upon request and with no questions asked—unblock potentially inappropriate or pornographic websites....

Rochester (N.Y.) Democrat and Chronicle, May 23

Castro critics protest Princeton’s film festival choices

[http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18356815&BRD=1091&PAG=461&dept_id=425695&rft=6]

The Princeton (N.J.) Public Library has inadvertently set off a firestorm of criticism involving Cuba, health care, and human rights. According to some critics, two of the 15 films—The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil, and ¡Salud! What Puts Cuba on the Map in the Quest for Global Health Care—shown during the library’s annual Human Rights Film Festival last weekend are “propaganda” and do not accurately reflect life in Cuba....

Princeton (N.J.) Packet, May 18

Digital information under threat [http://www.contracostatimes.com/columns/ci_5957583]

Jim Barksdale of the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program and Francine Berman of the San Diego Supercomputer Center write: “The digital information that drives our world and powers our economy is in many ways more susceptible to loss than the papyrus and parchment at Alexandria. In February, Congress passed and the president signed legislation rescinding \$47 million of NDIIPP’s approved funding. Some of the projects that were to be funded include preservation of important government records at the state level, such as legislative data and court records.”...

Contra Costa (Calif.) Times, May 22

A childhood issue? Ask a librarian

[<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/20/nyregion/nyregionspecial2/20Rparent.html>]

Geri Russell's daughter Kate was suddenly afraid of wolves. So the mother went to the library in Parsippany, New Jersey, and asked children's librarian Paula Lefkowitz for a good book on wolves for a preschooler. When parents need help, they talk to school psychologists, to therapists, social workers, their own parents, friends—and themselves—and more than you might think, the local librarian....

New York Times, May 20

Library's owl decoy scares the pigeons

[<http://www.dunndailyrecord.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=87541>]

Change is in the air at the Mary Duncan Public Library in Benson, North Carolina. An outdoor programmable decoy [<http://www.bird-x.com/products/prowler.html>] has been installed to deter pigeons from roosting on the library's roof. "It's the mess they make that's so awful," Library Director Linda Hayes said. "You could not walk in front of the library for the pigeon poop. Until recently I used to have to sweep every morning."...

Dunn (N.C.) Daily Record, May 21

Teen delivers 5,000 books to homeless schools

[<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0511sr-books0512-ON.html>]

Libraries at the Thomas J. Pappas schools for the homeless in Phoenix are a little fuller, thanks to Brad Schell, a 17-year-old from Scottsdale who gave them more than 5,000 books May 11. Schell launched a two-month book drive that involved eight schools, several bookstores, and individuals, and he also donated about 2,500 books to the Scottsdale Unified School District....

Phoenix Arizona Republic, May 11

St. Tammany's Madisonville branch status unclear

[<http://www.thesttammanynews.com/articles/2007/05/18/news/news02.txt>]

The townspeople of Madisonville will have to continue their wait for a library. With the former library building turned over to the parish and declared surplus property due to its post-Katrina state, Assistant Director Donald Westmoreland said May 15 the search will continue to find rental space for a temporary facility. The cost to repair the Madisonville branch would exceed \$1 million....

St. Tammany (La.) News, May 18

New library arrives in St. Bernard Parish

[http://blog.nola.com/times-picayune/2007/05/new_library_arrives_in_st_bern.html]

St. Bernard Parish officials and residents welcomed the parish's first post-hurricane public library May 15, a modular building in Chalmette that will provide some books and internet access.

The library is being underwritten by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Arlene and Joseph Meraux Charitable Foundation....

New Orleans Times-Picayune, May 15; St. Bernard Parish, May 16

Library moving tip #54

[<http://www.newstrib.com/display.asp?Article=730424BBC498B4EA93A48930377BF3916276EDAFD3CD4465>]

Carol Bird, director of the Matson Public Library in Princeton, Illinois, suggests purchasing 1,500–2,000 printed bags and loading them with 10 books each. Library patrons can check out a bag of books—ones they might not even want to read—and keep the books until the new library is ready for them. Patrons would then return the books after the move, and keep the bag for their efforts....

LaSalle (Ill.) News Tribune, May 17

Libraries languish in Yemen... [<http://www.yobserver.com/reports/10012226.html>]

Libraries in Yemen have become places for the drudgery of study, where people fight their way through books rather than truly engage with them. Around 250–300 visitors come to the library every day, but this number is going up because of the increase in students undertaking studies and research. Circulation Librarian Mohammed al-Sharabi said that after July, when the academic season finishes, the number of readers dramatically decreases....
Yemen Observer, May 19

...and in India too

[<http://www.business-standard.com/lifeleisure/storypage.php?leftnm=lmnu4&subLeft=6&autono=284978&tab=r>]

However distinguished the provenance of public libraries in India, they are all rather sad places today. Only doctoral students come here now to trawl the dusty shelves of uncared-for books, rummage through the crumbling cards, and brave the apathetic sloth of the staff for the early and rare editions of novels and journals....

Business Standard, May 20

Mexico City library to reopen in July

[<http://archrecord.construction.com/news/daily/archives/070522kalach.asp>]

When the Biblioteca José Vasconcelos opened in May 2006, the Alberto Kalach–designed campus was hailed as a cultural gem for Mexico City—and, at 500,000 square feet, it became the largest public library in Latin America. But the \$100-million complex shut its doors in March amid water leaks, flooding, and political scandal. Although the library is scheduled to reopen in July, the project’s woes may not ease anytime soon. In response to allegations about improperly spent construction funds, the Mexican House of Representatives has announced that it is launching an investigation....

Architectural Record, May 22

A morning at Cuba’s National Library [<http://www.theolympian.com/131/story/107678.html>]

Will Weissert writes about his recent visit to the Biblioteca Nacional José Martí in Havana: “Will some Cuban big brother be watching if I try to read Orwell’s 1984? I don’t see any security cameras, but there are small green and black posters proclaiming ‘No to censorship in Miami!’ It’s clear little criticism of Castro is tolerated at the National Library. The periodicals section has not a single back issue of the Miami Herald. In fact, there seems to be a serious lack of new reading material all over the library. If the card catalog is to be believed, book purchases dropped off sharply about 1996.”...

Associated Press, May 16

Tech Talk

Basic podcast setups and formats

[<http://mag1.olivesoftware.com/ActiveMagazine/welcome/BLG/Bloggers-04-2007.asp>]

John E. Remondini and Rayna T. Johnson answer questions about podcast software and audio formats in the April “Ask the Audio Engineer” column in the Blogger & Podcaster online magazine. (Check out the entire issue, published in Olive ActiveMagazine format with page-turning capability and multimedia ads.)...
Blogger & Podcaster, April, p. 21

The end of news indexing as we know it?

[<http://www.techcrunch.com/2007/05/20/google-news-the-end-of-news-indexing-as-we-know-it/>]

Duncan Riley writes: “Scotland’s Sunday Herald reported

[http://www.sundayherald.com/business/businessnews/display.var.1411787.0.google_reach_deals_with_news_websites.php] May 20 that Google has secretly reached deals with several large UK news groups to

formally license content for Google News. The deals are being kept secret to prevent other media sites asking for a similar deal from Google. If Google is forced to sign deals to provide links and traffic to media outlets, is Google News sustainable in its current format?"...
TechCrunch blog, May 20

What next? Part 1 [http://blogs.ala.org/pace.php?title=what_next_part_1&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1]
Andrew Pace writes: "Last week I asked why consolidation in the library vendor market is such a bad thing. Librarians typically don't like consolidation. Then I began to wonder, who cares if I can't choose between Ford and Chevy at the Avis lot? So here's the question: If the rallying cry against further consolidation of a commodity market is 'choice!' then what are the choices we are trying to make?"...
Hectic Pace, May 23

Innovative Users Group draws 1,700 in San Jose [<http://www.iii.com/news/pr.php>]
More than 1,700 library professionals from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and the Americas participated in over 150 programs at the 15th annual Innovative Users Group Conference held in San Jose, California, May 14–17. The keynote speaker of the conference was Robert X. Cringely, a former InfoWorld columnist who was host and writer of the 2001 PBS-TV miniseries Electric Money....
Innovative Interfaces, May 16

The psychology of banner ads
[<http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20070519-the-psychology-of-banner-ads.html>]
According to a study [<http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/JCR/journal/issues/v34n1/340110/brief/340110.abstract.html>]
in the June Journal of Consumer Research by Xiang Fang, Surendra Singh, and Rohini Ahluwalia, repeated exposure to a product via banner ads generates a positive feeling towards that product, even though the ad's presence does not register with most seasoned web browsers. The good news for consumers is that a critical reevaluation of the product can make these positive feelings vanish....
Ars Technica, May 19

DDR 101 [<http://plablog.org/2007/05/howto-ddr-101.html>]
Dance Dance Revolution (DDR) is popular with kids. However, there are some librarians who might still have questions on what the DDR options look like, even after attending presentations at conferences and reading posts on blogs. Here's a basic overview, courtesy of Andrea Mercado....
PLA Blog, May 15

Google's universal search [<http://orweblog.oclc.org/archives/001354.html>]
Lorcan Dempsey writes: "There has been some discussion—less than I expected—about Google's steps to develop a unified search across its services so that blogs, videos, books, maps, and so on are returned in results on the main Google page. This is a major step, given the different ranking models that Google employs across these individual services. At the same time, the company has released some new experimental features that include displays of results around a timeline [<http://www.google.com/views?q=civil+rights+movement%20view%3Atimeline>] and on a map [<http://www.google.com/views?q=civil+rights+movement+view:map&sa=N&ct=map>]."...
Lorcan Dempsey's Weblog, May 18

Campus IT departments grapple with Vista [<http://www.campustechnology.com/articles/47915>]
At colleges, universities, and K-12 institutions, IT decision makers are increasingly showing concern over performance, patching, and hardware requirements of Microsoft Windows Vista. IT leaders in higher education showed a decreasing concern over potential bugs in Vista's initial release but seemed to be increasingly concerned over Vista's hardware requirements and lack of apparent benefits....
Campus Technology, May 9

Actions & Answers

Disney copyright parody [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJn_jC4FNDo]
English and Film Studies Assistant Professor Eric Faden of Bucknell University provides this humorous yet informative review of copyright principles (“A Fair(y) Use Tale,” 10:13) delivered through the words of Disney characters, who cover the topics of copyright definition, what things can be copyrighted, copyright duration and the public domain, fair use, and why Disney cartoons were used to demonstrate the concepts. Don’t forget to read the FBI warning....
YouTube, May 18

Small magazines, big ideas [<http://www.commondreams.org/archive/2007/05/19/1320/>]
Bill Moyers writes: “It’s time to send an SOS for the least among us—I mean small independent magazines. They are always struggling to survive while making a unique contribution to the conversation of democracy. But an impending rate hike, worked out by postal regulators, with almost no public input but plenty of corporate lobbying, would reward big publishers like Time Warner, while forcing these smaller periodicals into higher subscription fees, big cutbacks, and even bankruptcy.”...
Common Dreams, May 19

Internet censorship on the rise globally
[<http://networks.silicon.com/webwatch/0,39024667,39167193,00.htm>]
Twenty-five out of 41 governments studied block or filter internet content, according to a survey carried out by OpenNet Initiative, which is made up of groups at Cambridge University, Harvard Law School, Oxford University, and the University of Toronto. The governments are blocking services and applications such as Google Maps or Skype as well as websites. The top reasons for filtering are politics (blocking of opposition parties’ sites), social norms (blocking pornography or gambling), and national security concerns (blocking radical groups’ sites)....
Silicon.com, May 18

[<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/20/nyregion/nyregionspecial2/20Rparent.html>] Literary lightning rod
[<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/18725395/site/newsweek/>]
With classic children’s and young adult books such as Freckle Juice, Are You There God? It’s Me, Margaret, and Superfudge, Judy Blume has tapped into the hearts of young readers for decades. The author, now 69, wanted to write books she wished she could have read while growing up, and young readers continue to be attracted to her stories that dwell on the problems of physical image and self-confidence that teens face....
Newsweek, May 18

Tracy Nectoux on libraries and bookstores [<http://libraryjuicepress.com/blog/?p=262>]
Tracy Nectoux, a library student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, was given an assignment to visit a bookstore and compare its atmosphere to a library’s atmosphere. She came up with several arguments “why libraries should not encourage statements that they should be more like bookstores. Our purpose is unique and honorable, and this directly affects the unique and honorable service we provide.” Michael Zimmer offers a comparison chart, [<http://michaelzimmer.org/2007/05/17/libraries-vs-bookstores-vs-google/>] adding in Google Book Search....
Library Juice, May 17; michaelzimmer.org, May 17

Using Wikipedia to extend digital collections [<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/may07/lally/05lally.html>]
Ann M. Lally and Carolyn E. Dunford write about how they added content to entries in Wikipedia that supported or

used the University of Washington's digital collections as source material. The result was that Wikipedia began driving more traffic to the UW site: "Not only can we see that we are receiving referrals from en.wikipedia.org; in addition, we can see specifically which articles are responsible for the traffic, and how much traffic is generated by the links in each article."...
D-Lib Magazine 13, no. 5/6 (May/June)

Arthur Caplan at MLA [<http://mla2007.blogspot.com/2007/05/great-mcgovern-lecture.html>]
Marie Ascher writes about the May 20 keynote address at the Medical Library Association conference given by Arthur Caplan, bioethicist from the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Bioethics. Caplan talked about "Peer Review in Science and Medicine: Does It or Can It Work?" and offered a description of conflicts of interest and how they affect scientific publishing. His message to librarians was to get involved in this issue, especially with regard to a more transparent review process....
MLA 2007 blog, May 20

Effective school library websites
[<http://joycevalenza.edublogs.org/2007/05/19/effective-school-library-websites-about-the-study/>]
Joyce Valenza summarizes the findings of her recently completed dissertation: "What are the universal features in the school library websites I studied? The features, present in all 10 sites of the sample, are—OPACs, databases, search tools, reference, documentation, and contact information. Nine of the sample sites include links to other OPACs, links to news sources, online book discussions, library hours, and staff information."...
NeverEndingSearch blog, May 19

Gulf Coast recovery grants [<http://www.laurabushfoundation.org/>]
Applications for the next round of grants for the Gulf Coast School Library Recovery Initiative should be submitted by August 15. The announcement of this round of grants will be made in October 2007; additional grants will be awarded in early 2008....
Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries

Four habits of highly effective academic librarians
[<http://chronicle.com/jobs/news/2007/05/2007052301c/careers.html>]
Todd Gilman writes: "In The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, Stephen R. Covey argues that the most effective are those who have moved beyond both independence and dependence to master the art of interdependence—of working as members of a team, of knowing when two or more heads are better than one. In the spirit of Covey, then, I would like to offer my list of four traits that would not only make librarians more effective, but happier and more productive, too."...
Chronicle of Higher Education, May 23

Bookmark of the week [<http://insidebooks.blogspot.com/search/label/Bookmarks>]
British journalist Simon Quicke nominates an unusual or interesting bookmark each week in his Inside Books blog. He found his May 20 selection five years ago in a Chinese bookshop in Soho where there were "a large number of bookmarks using the sort of illustrations you expect to see on paper cuts from Japan and China."...
Inside Books blog, May 20

World Book in Mandarin Chinese
[http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/home/index.jsp?epi-content=NEWS_VIEW_POPUP_TYPE&newsId=20070517005599&ndmHsc=v2*A117723960000*B1179898347000*DgroupByDate*G2*J2*L1*N1000837*ZWorld%20Book&newsLang=en&beanID=202776713&viewID=news_view_popup]
World Book announced May 17 the global launch of a Mandarin-language World Book Encyclopedia. The 20-volume edition, published by Hainan Publishing House, Haikou, China, is available to schools, libraries, and families in China as well as Mandarin speakers worldwide....
World Book, May 17

Teens talk about Second Life [<http://www.pod-serve.com/podcasts/show/yalsa-podcasts>]

In this YALSA podcast [http://pod-serve.com/audiofile/filename/6262/teens_on_tsl.mp3] (25:20), Linda Braun and Kelly Czarnecki talk with two teens involved in Teen Second Life and the Teen Second Life Library Project. The podcast covers what teens are doing in Teen Second Life, how teens are involved in the Teen Second Life Library Project, and security and safety online for teens....

YALSA Podcast, no. 20

Google Trends and Hot Trends [<http://www.google.com/intl/en/trends/about.html>]

Google launched a new feature May 21 called Google Trends, [<http://www.google.com/trends?hl=en>] which compares the world's interest in your favorite topics (libraries, perhaps?). Enter up to five topics and see how often they've been searched for on Google over time. Google Trends also displays how frequently your topics have appeared in Google News stories, and which geographic regions have searched for them most often. With Hot Trends, [<http://www.google.com/trends/hottrends>] you can see a snapshot of what's on the public's collective mind by viewing the fastest-rising searches for different points of time (be prepared to be stunned or incredulous)....

Google Trends

Energy-saving custom Google search [<http://www.blackle.com/about/>]

In January 2007, a blog post titled Black Google Would Save 750 Megawatt-hours a Year [<http://ecoiron.blogspot.com/2007/01/black-google-would-save-3000-megawatts.html>] proposed the theory that a black version of the Google search engine would save a fair bit of energy due to its popularity. Blackle [<http://www.blackle.com/>] saves energy because the screen is predominantly black. You can set Blackle as your home page; this way every time you load your browser, you will save a little bit of energy....

Blackle

Which wiki is right for you? [<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6438167.html>]

Shonda Brisco writes: "If you've never created a library web page (and don't intend to start learning HTML code anytime soon), but want your library to have a web presence, maybe it's time to consider a library wiki. As more educators and librarians collaborate in an online environment, wikis (which in Hawaiian means 'quick' or 'very fast') provide users with a tool that can be easily accessed, edited, and updated."...

School Library Journal, May 1

Fort Wayne library saves users from zombies [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUxp3E3YUdQ>]

The Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, demonstrates how its alert readers' services staff can thwart a zombie attack in this submission to the Thomson Gale Library Video contest. [<http://www.gale.com/librario/>] The film credits are listed here, [<http://blog.acpl.lib.in.us/blog/?p=141>] and you can see some zombie stills

[<http://www.flickr.com/photos/34166357@N00/sets/72157600171010511/>] on Flickr....

Allen County (Ind.) Public Library, May 18

Ask the ALA Librarian

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Q. The closing of the Jackson County (Oreg.) Library [<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?>

AID=/20070516/NEWS/705160324] system is terrible! Where can I get information on library funding, particularly relating to local levies and the like? And where can I find information for local advocacy efforts?

A. Several offices at the American Library Association track library funding issues, both from a news perspective and from a trends perspective. American Libraries [<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/index.cfm>] conducts a "referenda roundup" each fall, and posts it to the AL Online website as PDF documents. The most recent is the 2006 Roundup (PDF file [http://www.ala.org/ala/online/selectedarticles/1206_ReferendaRoundup.pdf]). As part of general Advocacy [<http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Advocacy>] efforts, the ALA Public Information Office compiles news reports [<http://www.ala.org/ala/news/libraryfunding/libraryfunding.htm>] of library funding impacts nationwide. And Denise Davis, Director of the ALA Office for Research and Statistics, has prepared "Funding Issues in U.S. Public Libraries, Fiscal Years 2003–2006" (PDF file [<http://www.ala.org/ala/ors/reports/FundingIssuesinUSPLs.pdf>]). See the ALA Professional Tips wiki [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Library_Funding_..._and_Closures] for further assistance.

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

Calendar

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Touring Exhibits

Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America.
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/ppo/currentprograms/alexanderhamilton/alexanderhamilton.htm>] Sponsored by ALA's Public Programs Office. Itinerary.
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/ppo/currentprograms/alexanderhamilton/hamiltonitinerary.htm>]

Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians.
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/ppo/currentprograms/changingthefaceofmedicine/changingmedicine.htm>] Sponsored by ALA's Public Programs Office. Itinerary.
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/ppo/currentprograms/changingthefaceofmedicine/ExhibitionIntinerary.htm>]

Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation.
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/ppo/currentprograms/foreverfree/foreverfreeabraham.htm>] Sponsored by ALA's Public Programs Office. Itinerary.
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/ppo/currentprograms/foreverfree/foreverfreetourtwo.htm>]

Out at the Library: Celebrating the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center.
[<http://sfpl.lib.ca.us/news/onlineexhibits/out/travelingexhibit.htm>] Sponsored by the San Francisco Public Library. At the Minneapolis Public Library through June 30.

Jack Kerouac's On the Road Scroll.
June 15–Sept. 14, at the Boott Cotton Mills Museum,
[http://www.nps.gov/lowe/planyourvisit/boat_tour.htm] Lowell, Massachusetts. Nov. 9–March 9, 2008, at the New York Public Library. [http://www.nypl.org/press/2007/Beatific_exhibition.cfm]

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

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May 30, 2007

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U.S. & World News

[Saugus library closes indefinitely](#)

In the face of the proposed elimination of its entire budget, the Saugus (Mass.) Public Library closed indefinitely May 24.

After voters rejected a \$5.2-million tax override by a more than 2-1 margin April 24, Town Manager Andrew Bisignani said he would cut the library's full \$566,000 budget, as well as lay off four police officers, two firefighters, and two public works employees, and reduce the School Department budget by \$1.7 million....



[Library film festival riles anti-Castro community](#)

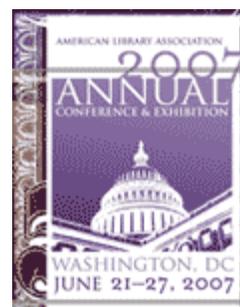
The Princeton (N.J.) Public Library came under fire in mid-May over the inclusion of two documentaries about Cuba among 14 films in its 2007 Princeton Human Rights Film Festival. The controversy resulted in a shouting match at the May 12 screening of *¡Salud! What Puts Cuba on the Map in the Quest for Global Health*, as well as accusations in the conservative blogosphere that the library was disseminating pro-Castro propaganda....

[Rochester library will change filtering policy](#)

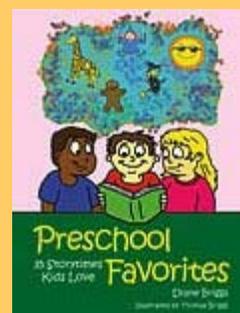
Despite objections from the Rochester (N.Y.) Public Library board, the Monroe County Library System adopted May 23 a policy to use filtering software to block all websites deemed pornographic, unless the site is judged to be in accordance with the library's collection policy by a library director or "delegate" following a written request from an adult patron....

[Sacramento staffers bewail dumbing-down of collections](#)

Staff members took their concerns over management practices to the Sacramento (Calif.) Public Library Authority Board May 24, speaking out against centralized purchasing of materials that they claim has led to a dumbing-down of collections. The board was presented with a petition containing 600 signatures from library workers, former librarians, and patrons protesting selection practices exemplified by the purchase of



Don't miss the numerous [parties and receptions](#) springing up at Annual Conference.



Comprehensive, easy to use, and brimming with fresh ideas, [Preschool Favorites](#) has everything you need to create storytimes. Each of the 35 fun themes includes a wealth of book suggestions, fingerplays, short poems, flannelboard stories, music

30 DVDs of the film *Jackass Number Two*....

[Map thief's restitution upped to \\$2.3 million](#)

E. Forbes Smiley III, who was sentenced to 42 months in prison for stealing 98 rare maps from seven repositories in the United States and England, was ordered May 22 to pay \$2.3 million in restitution to his victims. At the time of his sentencing last September, he was tentatively ordered to pay \$1.9 million, but the figure was revised upward following efforts to recover the maps and assess their value....

[Former librarian again sentenced to death](#)

For the second time, former Broward County (Fla.) Library Supervisor William Coday received a death sentence May 23 for murdering his ex-girlfriend in 1997. Coday had been [convicted](#) and condemned to death in 2002, but the Florida Supreme Court overturned the sentence in October, faulting Circuit Court Judge Alfred Horowitz for rejecting testimony from six psychiatric experts who said Coday's psychosis was triggered by rejection....

ALA News

[Preliminary results from public library study](#)

Starting in June, ALA will begin sharing results from the 2007 [Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study](#). Preliminary data will appear in a postcard inserted in the June/July centennial issue of *American Libraries*, and initial findings will be presented to the study advisory committee at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 23, at Annual Conference. Among the findings: 68% of public libraries offer online homework resources....



[Diversity and Outreach Fair participants](#)

The Office for Literacy and Outreach Services Advisory Committee congratulates the librarians and library supporters selected to participate in the 2007 Diversity and Outreach Fair. This annual event celebrates extraordinary examples of diversity and equity of access in America's academic, public, and special libraries, library schools and associations, and other organizations....



[Advocacy at Annual Conference](#)

Advance online [registration](#) for the Advocacy Institute during ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., is still available. The full-day institute, which will be held Friday, June 22, at the Renaissance Washington Hotel, begins with advocacy basics, such as goal setting, message development, and coalition-building techniques....



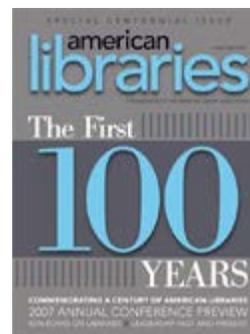
Booklist
ONLINE

suggestions (and discography), and very simple crafts. By Diane Briggs, with illustrations by Thomas Briggs. **NEW! From ALA Editions.**



August 1 is the deadline to preregister for the IFLA [World Library and Information Congress](#) in Durban, South Africa, August 19-23.

In this issue June/July 2007



An AL Timeline

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Century

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America

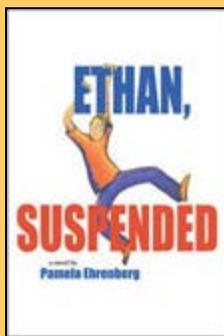
Librarians of
Congress

Conference Preview

Career Leads

Featured review:
Books for youth

Ehrenberg, Pamela. *Ethan, Suspended*. March 2007. 265p. Eerdmans, hardcover (978-0-8028-5324-0). Grades 7–10. After Ethan is suspended from his suburban Philadelphia junior high, his soon-to-be-divorced mother sends him to the grandparents he barely knows in an inner-city neighborhood in Washington, D.C. Suddenly the white, privileged kid finds that he is the “cracker” freak in an almost entirely black and Latino school. He feels as if he is in a time warp—no IM, cable, or malls. And he feels alone, often eating lunch by himself at school....



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

D.C. Update

Art Museum of the Americas

Enjoy this unique collection of 20th-century Latin American and Caribbean art in the intimate atmosphere of this Spanish colonial-style structure at 201 18th Street, N.W. The permanent collection includes art by Carlos Cruz-Diez, Amelia Pelaez, Hector Poleo, and Joaquín Torres-García....

Art Museum of the Americas



NDI IPP offers programs

On June 25, the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program will hold several informative and thought-provoking events at the Library of Congress in Washington. The events are timed to coincide with ALA Annual Conference. All events are in the Library’s Mumford Room, which is on the sixth floor of the James Madison Building, 101 Independence Ave. S.E....

Library of Congress

International Monetary Fund

Could you pass up an exhibit called “Money Matters”? This is the permanent exhibit at the International Monetary Fund. You can also see a video on the work of the IMF and enjoy a self-guided tour of the facility in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood at 720 19th Street, N.W. The IMF also sponsors special exhibits on the history of money and trade....

International Monetary Fund



Division News

YALSA gets connected

Get Connected: Tech Programs for Teens, written by

from



Collection Management Coordinator.

Anchorage (Alaska) Municipal Libraries is looking for an energetic and creative librarian to manage and coordinate collection development for the main library and five branches in a variety of formats, administer acquisitions budget, and supervise ILL and circulation staff....

@ [More jobs...](#)



Hit a home run with this [reading list](#) of children’s and young adult baseball fiction and nonfiction, compiled by Nick Buron for the **Step Up to the Plate @ your library** initiative of the Campaign for America’s Libraries.



[The ACRL Task Force on Updating Academic Librarian Position Descriptions Published in CUPA-HR](#) (College and University Professional Association)

RoseMary Honnold for YALSA and published by Neal-Schuman, will be released June 13. Borrowing its title from the Teen Tech Week theme, *Get Connected* offers tried-and-true, practical tips for young adult library workers seeking to incorporate technology into their programs and services. Honnold, who has been young adult services coordinator at the Coshocton (Ohio) Public Library since 1998, speaks extensively on YA services....



[Sign up for PLA Results Boot Camp 3](#)

Applications are being accepted for PLA's intensive library management training, Results Boot Camp 3, to be held October 29–November 2 in Salt Lake City. This week-long, interactive workshop will include both individual and group activities, and will focus on current library issues using case studies describing real library situations....



[PLA to present PLDS demo](#)

PLA will present two live demonstrations of its new Public Library Data Service Statistical Report Online Database at ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Demonstrations will take place Saturday, June 23, at the PLA Booth—part of the ALA Membership Pavilion in the Exhibits Hall—from 2 to 3 p.m., and at the Grand Hyatt Washington in the Roosevelt/Wilson Room from 4 to 5:30 p.m....

Round Table News

[Careers in federal libraries](#) (PDF file)

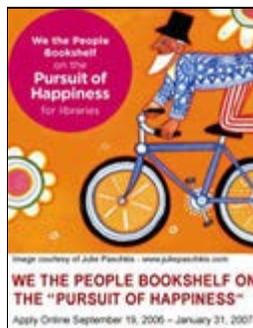
Have you ever thought about working as a federal librarian? Join the Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table on Friday, June 22, for "Careers in Federal Libraries," an informative session and webcast at the Library of Congress during ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. A panel of librarians representing 11 agencies will describe the diverse opportunities available....



Awards

[We the People Bookshelf awards](#)

Two thousand school and public libraries throughout the United States will receive a collection of 15 classic books from the [We the People Bookshelf project](#), a joint initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities and ALA. The theme of this year's Bookshelf is the "Pursuit of Happiness." The We the People initiative supports projects that strengthen the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture....



for Human Resources) seeks feedback on a **spreadsheet listing 19 academic librarian positions**. Ultimately this project will bring the current listings up to date with today's libraries and technologies, and establish a collaborative process between ACRL and CUPA-HR to maintain the currency of the lists. Send feedback to [Tom Abbott](#), dean of libraries and distance learning at the University of Maine at Augusta.



[ALSC President Kathleen T. Horning](#)

talks about the media flap over *The Higher Power of Lucky* in the June issue of *ALSCConnect*. Beginning with the September 2007 issue, *ALSCConnect* will be available as an online newsletter only and will be housed in the Members Only section of ALSC's website.

Public Perception

How the World Sees Us

"[Libraries are] a kind of communism which the least revolutionary among us may be proud to advocate."

—Liberal British statesman Joseph Chamberlain, quoted

[2008 National Library Week grant](#)

Libraries across the United States are invited to apply for the \$5,000 Scholastic Library Publishing National Library Week Grant, which will be awarded to a single library for the best public-awareness campaign incorporating the 2008 National Library Week theme, "Join the circle of knowledge @ your library." This year's deadline is October 1....

[ASCLA Century Scholarship](#)

Cynthia Nugent, a student at the University of Southern Mississippi School of Library and Information Science, has been awarded the 2007 ASCLA Century Scholarship. The scholarship is a diversity initiative aimed at the development of a representative workforce that reflects the communities served by all libraries....

[Librarian wins "Read to Us" contest](#)

E. Raymond Wells, a librarian at Jane Long Elementary School in Freeport, Texas, was one of three national winners of the Scholastic Book Club's "Read to Us" contest. Wells's winning entry was reading *The Whipping Boy* by Sid Fleischman and Peter Sis. He used varied voices to keep kids interested, and that caught the attention of judges....

Scholastic, May 17; *Brazosport (Tex.) Facts*, May 24

Seen Online

[Harry Potter books upheld again](#)

A Gwinnett County, Georgia, mother who fought to have books in the Harry Potter series removed from school libraries lost her latest fight before a state court judge May 29. Superior Court Judge Ronnie Batchelor ruled in favor of the Gwinnett County School Board, which, in May 2006, rejected Laura Mallory's efforts to have the books banned. In December, the state Board of Education upheld the county's decision....

WXIA-TV, Atlanta, May 29

[Illinois filters hit snag](#)

Opponents of a bill that would require filters on public library computers to block objectionable images on the internet may have won a reprieve, as the proposal appears stalled in the Illinois Senate. But library officials worry that the legislation, proposed several times before in different forms, could still be revived or return next session in a new bill....

Chicago Tribune, May 30

[Tiny border town worries feds](#)

Step through the front door of the Haskell Library and you're in Derby Line, Vermont. Walk across the carpeted floor to the circulation desk and you're in Stanstead, Quebec. The 106-year-old Romanesque building, which straddles the international border, has enjoyed a kind of informal immunity from border restrictions through the years. But a U.S. Border Patrol crackdown focusing on three unguarded streets could soon change that....

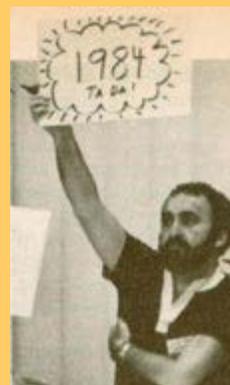
CNN, May 26



[Google deal to bring U.S. scrutiny](#)

in John J. Ogle, *The Free Library: Its History and Present Condition* (London: G. Allen, 1897), p. 52.

From the CentenniAL Blog



[Great moments in prognostication.](#)

Greg Landgraf writes: "The fact that predicting the future is a tricky proposition doesn't stop people from trying. It makes for good punditry, and by the time the future's arrived, most observers will have forgotten the prediction anyway. Unless, of course, someone like *American Libraries* publishes them. At a LITA program at the 1979 Annual Conference (July/August, p. 413), panelists were asked for a prediction of publication of the 3rd edition of the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*. As depicted above, Maurice Freedman predicted, Match Game-style, 1984, while others on the panel suggested 'never.'" See the [CentenniAL Blog](#) for more....

The Federal Trade Commission has opened a preliminary antitrust investigation into Google's planned \$3.1-billion purchase of the online advertising company DoubleClick. Privacy groups have noted that Google collects the search histories of its users, while DoubleClick tracks what websites people visit. The merger, a complaint reads, would "give one company access to more information about the Internet activities of consumers than any other company in the world."...

New York Times, May 29

[Web registration tool digitizes books](#)

A few simple keystrokes may soon turn blather into books. Researchers at Carnegie Mellon University have discovered a way to enlist people across the globe to help digitize books every time they solve the simple distorted word puzzles commonly used to register at websites or buy things online. Instead of wasting time typing in random letters and numbers, Carnegie Mellon researchers have come up with a way for people to type in snippets of books to put their time to good use, confirm they're not machines, and help speed up the process of getting searchable texts online....

Associated Press, May 29

[A modern-day book burning](#)

In the 10 years Tom Wayne has operated [Prospero's Books](#), a used bookstore in midtown Kansas City, Missouri, he has amassed thousands of books in a warehouse. But they aren't selling, and libraries won't even take them for free. So on May 27, Wayne began putting them to the torch, tossing scores of books into a burning cauldron to protest what he sees as society's diminishing support for the printed word....



Associated Press, May 27

[Library to bear name of slain librarian](#)

Memories of Mary Cooper's laughter have not faded in the many months since the 54-year-old school librarian was killed with her daughter near Mount Pilchuck, Washington, last July 11. At a ceremony May 24 at Alternative Elementary School II in Seattle, the library where Cooper taught was named in her memory....

Everett (Wash.) Herald, May 24

[Yucaipa-Calimesa district bucks library trend](#)

At a time when some already-weakened school libraries face renewed difficulties, the Yucaipa-Calimesa (Calif.) Joint Unified School District is taking steps to bolster its libraries. A comprehensive school library-improvement plan, which could be approved by the school board as early as June 5, seeks to augment the district's library offerings and staffing, and enhance its ability to teach students how to find and use information....

Riverside (Calif.) Press-Enterprise, May 23

[Massachusetts libraries at risk](#)

On May 26, budget cuts and voter indifference in Northbridge, Massachusetts, finally caught up with the institution officially known as the Whitinsville Social Library (right). The town cannot afford the \$200,000 needed to keep the library fully running for another year, so it will cut back from 40 to



Ask the ALA Librarian



Q. I'm a high school librarian, helping the kids with their research papers. Do you have any resources to help me teach about using all resources, and not just the first few hits from a search engine?

A. Like many issues, the response can be broken up into several pieces—preparing to research, finding the information, and evaluating the information found—whether in print or online—and these are components of "information literacy." [Information Literacy](#) is a key component in 21st century literacy. Two of our divisions, ACRL and AASL, have approved standards for information literacy for the educational levels they serve. Information Literacy is also a public library issue, as public libraries serve an information literate populace. We've assembled a few of the resources available either in

12 open hours per week. From Randolph to Newbury, Ashland to Wrentham, library directors have been struggling in recent years, facing cutback after cutback....

Boston Globe, May 27

[Outsource Jackson County Library?](#)

Outsourcing library operations has the potential to knock 40% off the budget for all 15 branches in Jackson County, Oregon, says the executive director of the Jackson County Library Foundation. Jim Olney said preliminary discussions with Library Systems and Services LLC (LSSI), a Maryland-based library management company, indicate to him the cost of operating the libraries could be reduced from \$8 million to \$5 million....

Medford (Oreg.) Mail Tribune, May 26

[Florida public libraries brace for cuts](#)

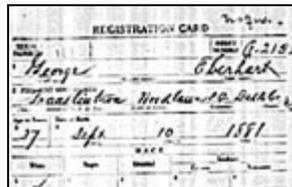
Library officials have identified \$2.5 million in potential cuts to deal with the budget fallout from lawmakers' plans to reduce Florida's property taxes. Library leaders say most of the cuts represent cosmetic service changes, but belt-tightening still won't cover the \$4 million that would need to be trimmed under the least restrictive property-tax reform plan being pushed by state Senate leaders....

Tampa (Fla.) Tribune, May 23

[Ancestry.com puts 90 million war records online](#)

On May 23, [Ancestry.com](#) unveiled more than 90 million U.S. war records from the first English settlement at Jamestown in 1607 through the Vietnam War's end in 1975. The records, which can be accessed free until June 6, came from the National Archives and Records Administration and include 37 million images, draft registration cards from both world wars, military yearbooks, prisoner-of-war records from four wars, unit rosters from the Marine Corps from 1893 through 1958, and Civil War pension records....

Associated Press, May 24



[Brits walk across U.S. to dispel stereotypes](#)

Two British men are walking across the United States in hopes of dispelling European stereotypes of Americans. Stuart Hamilton (right), a librarian who has worked for the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions in Copenhagen as a researcher into censorship for the past four years, and Dave Toolan, a former account manager from Brighton, England, quit their jobs and then began [the walk](#) about a year ago in Delaware....

Lawrence (Kans.) Journal-World, May 25



[March of the penguin protesters](#)

And Tango Makes Three, the story of two male penguins who bring up a chick, which Justin Richardson cowrote with the playwright Peter Parnell, generated more heat than its authors perhaps anticipated. In 2006, it shot to the top of the ALA list of most frequently challenged books. But this was not a tale: It was, in fact, inspired by a newspaper article that told how a zookeeper noticed two of his penguins, Roy and Silo, were trying to hatch a stone....

The Guardian (U.K.), May 23

print or online to provide guidance in structuring a program to help students use the best resources available.

See the [ALA Professional Tips wiki](#) for further assistance.

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

Calendar

Future dates of ALA conferences

[2007 Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.:](#)
June 21–27, 2007.

2008 Midwinter Meeting, Philadelphia:
Jan. 11–16, 2008.

2008 Annual Conference, Anaheim, Calif.:
June 26–July 2, 2008.

2009 Midwinter Meeting, Denver:
Jan. 23–28, 2009.

2009 Annual Conference, Chicago:
July 9–15, 2009.

2010 Midwinter Meeting, Boston:
Jan. 15–20, 2010.

2010 Annual Conference, New York City:
June 24–30, 2010.

2011 Midwinter Meeting, San Diego, Calif.:
Jan. 7–12, 2011.

Tech Talk

[The Dell XPS M1210 rocks](#)

Jenny Levine writes: "A couple of months ago I bought a new laptop, and I love it so much that I want to post a review for anyone searching for information about it. The Dell XPS M1210 has been amazing, and so far I haven't experienced any problems with it. This puppy is so powerful that I could run Second Life on it *and* listen to music in Rhapsody, surf the web, watch Joost, and read email, all at the same time if I wanted to. As someone recently said to me, 'It moves as fast as you do!'"...

The Shifted Librarian blog, May 26



[Earphone and headphone glossary](#)

You may think that there's not a lot to say about headphones other than what kind of sound quality they deliver. Not true. There are as many variables in picking a set of earphones as there are for selecting a new portable player. For starters, the terms "headphones" and "earphones" aren't *really* interchangeable. Check out the sonic terminology....

PC Magazine, Apr. 18

[A cell phone for Boomers](#)

Arlene Harris is the mastermind behind Jitterbug, a company launched last October that combines a unique mobile phone with a suite of services designed to meet the needs of older users. When you open a Jitterbug phone it emits—get this—a dial tone. It also has an earpiece that actually covers your ear and a microphone next to your mouth, not somewhere around your cheekbone....

Business Week, May 29



[What next? The open source ILS](#)

Andrew Pace writes: "It's true that I am one of the skeptics. I'll state that up front. But, in truth, my skepticism toward building an open source integrated library system was born in optimism that the vendors of proprietary software would be paying close attention to the landscape. Alas, I don't think they were."...

Hectic Pace blog, May 30

[The best point-and-shoot cameras](#)

Point-and-shoot digital cameras have undergone big changes in the last few years. The newest models are smaller, faster, and higher resolution than ever. They are also shipping with a wider array of features than ever before, which can be overwhelming for first-time buyers. Before you hit the store, picture the ways you will use your camera....

PC Magazine, May 29



[50th anniversary of the first digital image](#)

It was a grainy image of a baby—just 5 centimeters by 5 centimeters—but it turned out to be the well from which satellite imaging, CAT scans, bar codes on packaging, desktop publishing, digital photography,

2011 Annual Conference, New Orleans:
June 23–29, 2011.

2012 Midwinter Meeting, Dallas:
Jan. 20–25, 2012.

2012 Annual Conference, Anaheim, Calif.:
June 21–27, 2012.

2013 Midwinter Meeting, Seattle:
Jan. 25–30, 2013.

2013 Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.:
June 20–26, 2013.

2014 Midwinter Meeting, Philadelphia:
Jan. 24–29, 2014.

2014 Annual Conference, Las Vegas, Nev.:
June 26–July 2, 2014.

@ [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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geberhart@ala.org

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Associate Editor:
dkraus@ala.org

Greg Landgraf,
Editorial Assistant:
glandgraf@ala.org

Karen Sheets,
Graphics and Design:



and a host of other imaging technologies sprang. In the spring of 1957, National Bureau of Standards computer pioneer Russell Kirsch asked "What would happen if computers could look at pictures?" and helped start a revolution in information technology....

National Institute of Standards and Technology, May 24

Actions & Answers

[Patterson confirmed for IMLS board](#)

The U.S. Senate confirmed University of Oklahoma SLIS Professor Lotsee Patterson as one of three presidential nominees to serve as members of the National Museum and Library Services Board May 25. The board advises the Institute of Museum and Library Services, an independent federal agency that is the primary source of federal support for the nation's museums and libraries....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, May 29



[Tomes entombed](#)

In 1985, Mississippi Educational Television produced *Tomes and Talismans*, a series of thirteen 20-minute episodes that dramatized elements of library research. The plot revolves around a group of intrepid information scientists compiling a library of all human knowledge in a post-apocalyptic America. Ms. Bookhart (Niki Wood) awakens in a world controlled by entities called the "Wipers." This is the first segment (8:32) of the first episode; YouTube also has the others....

YouTube, May 12



[Google Maps takes it to the streets](#)

Google launched a new feature on its mapping service May 29 that allows people to see panoramic views of streets and buildings.

[Google Maps](#) now offers a 360-degree view of many streets in the San Francisco Bay Area, New York, Las Vegas, Denver, and Miami, with other cities to roll out later. Users can now zoom in on street signs, bus stops, and other details in the Bay Area....

C|Net news.com, May 29



[GeoNames: Wikipedia for geographical data](#)

Duncan Riley writes: "The [GeoNames](#) project is a free global geographical database. Its goal is to aggregate free data from various sources and make it available as a database or via a range of web services. GeoNames answers questions such as: where is a place? what are its coordinates? which region or province does the place belong to? what city or address is near a given GPS latitude or

ksheets@ala.org

Leonard Kniffel,
Editor-in-Chief,
American Libraries:
kniffel@ala.org

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ext. 4216

ISSN 1559-369X.

longitude?"...

TechCrunch blog, May 26

[Group donates surprise quilt](#)

The quilting group that began quilting last fall at the Abington Community Library in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, recently surprised Library Director Leah Rudolph with a sample of their work—a full-size quilt made from scraps from their original projects. Rudolph said, “It is heartwarming to see these women in action and realize how they have grown through this opportunity.”...



Abington Community Library

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

May 30, 2007

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[http://www.sirsidynixinstitute.com/seminar_page.php?sid=80]

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

U.S. & World News

=====

Saugus library closes indefinitely

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/may2007/saugus.cfm>]

In the face of the proposed elimination of its entire budget, the Saugus (Mass.) Public Library closed indefinitely May 24. After voters rejected a \$5.2-million tax override by a more than 2–1 margin April 24, Town Manager Andrew Bisignani said he would cut the library’s full \$566,000 budget, as well as lay off four police officers, two firefighters, and two public works employees, and reduce the School Department budget by \$1.7 million....

Library film festival riles anti-Castro community

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/may2007/princetoncuba.cfm>]

The Princeton (N.J.) Public Library came under fire in mid-May over the inclusion of two documentaries about Cuba among 14 films in its 2007 Princeton Human Rights Film Festival. The controversy resulted in a shouting match at the May 12 screening of ¡Salud! What Puts Cuba on the Map in the Quest for Global Health, as well as accusations in the conservative blogosphere that the library was disseminating pro-Castro propaganda....

Rochester library will change filtering policy

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/may2007/rochesterfilters.cfm>]

Despite objections from the Rochester (N.Y.) Public Library board, the Monroe County Library System adopted May 23 a policy to use filtering software to block all websites deemed pornographic, unless the site is judged to be in accordance with the library's collection policy by a library director or "delegate" following a written request from an adult patron....

Sacramento staffers bewail dumbing-down of collections

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/may2007/sacramento.cfm>]

Staff members took their concerns over management practices to the Sacramento (Calif.) Public Library Authority Board May 24, speaking out against centralized purchasing of materials that they claim has led to a dumbing-down of collections. The board was presented with a petition containing 600 signatures from library workers, former librarians, and patrons protesting selection practices exemplified by the purchase of 30 DVDs of the film Jackass Number Two....

Map thief's restitution upped to \$2.3 million

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/may2007/smileyrestitution.cfm>]

E. Forbes Smiley III, who was sentenced to 42 months in prison for stealing 98 rare maps from seven repositories in the United States and England, was ordered May 22 to pay \$2.3 million in restitution to his victims. At the time of his sentencing last September, he was tentatively ordered to pay \$1.9 million, but the figure was revised upward following efforts to recover the maps and assess their value....

Former librarian again sentenced to death

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2007/may2007/codayssentenced.cfm>]

For the second time, former Broward County (Fla.) Library Supervisor William Coday received a death sentence May 23 for murdering his ex-girlfriend in 1997. Coday had been convicted

[<http://www.courttv.com/trials/taped/coday/background.html>] and condemned to death in 2002, but the Florida Supreme Court overturned the sentence in October, faulting Circuit Court Judge Alfred

Horowitz for rejecting testimony from six psychiatric experts who said Coday's psychosis was triggered by rejection....

ALA News

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Preliminary results from public library study

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/PublicLibraryFundingstud.htm>]

Starting in June, ALA will begin sharing results from the 2007 Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study.

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

Preliminary data will appear in a postcard inserted in the June/July centennial issue of American Libraries, and initial findings will be presented to the study advisory committee at 9 a.m.

Saturday, June 23, at Annual Conference. Among the findings: 68% of public libraries offer online homework resources....

Diversity and Outreach Fair participants

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/2007DiversityOutreachFai.htm>]

The Office for Literacy and Outreach Services Advisory Committee congratulates the librarians and library supporters selected to participate in the 2007 Diversity and Outreach Fair. This annual event celebrates extraordinary examples of diversity and equity of access in America's academic, public, and special libraries, library schools and associations, and other

organizations....

Advocacy at Annual Conference [<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/airegonline.htm>]

Advance online registration

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/annual/2007a/registration.htm#how>] for the Advocacy Institute during ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., is still available. The full-day institute, which will be held Friday, June 22, at the Renaissance Washington Hotel, begins with advocacy basics, such as goal setting, message development, and coalition-building techniques....

Booklist Online

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Featured review: Books for youth

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=1938189]

Ehrenberg, Pamela. Ethan, Suspended. March 2007. 265p. Eerdmans, hardcover (978-0-8028-5324-0). Grades 7–10.

After Ethan is suspended from his suburban Philadelphia junior high, his soon-to-be-divorced mother sends him to the grandparents he barely knows in an inner-city neighborhood in Washington, D.C. Suddenly the white, privileged kid finds that he is the “cracker” freak in an almost entirely black and Latino school. He feels as if he is in a time warp—no IM, cable, or malls. And he feels alone, often eating lunch by himself at school....

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D.C. Update

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Art Museum of the Americas

NDIIPP offers programs [<http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/news/index.html>]

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S.E....

Library of Congress

International Monetary Fund [<http://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/center/index.htm>]

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International Monetary Fund

Division News

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YALSA gets connected [<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/YALSAGetConnected.htm>]
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Round Table News

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Careers in federal libraries [<http://www.ala.org/Source/ACF7C3D.pdf>] (PDF file)
Have you ever thought about working as a federal librarian? Join the Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table on Friday, June 22, for “Careers in Federal Libraries,” an informative session and webcast at the Library of Congress during ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. A panel of librarians representing 11 agencies will describe the diverse opportunities available....

Awards

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We the People Bookshelf awards
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/WethePeopleBookshelfawar.htm>]
Two thousand school and public libraries throughout the United States will receive a collection of 15 classic books from the We the People Bookshelf project,

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/ppo/currentprograms/wethepeople/wepeople.htm>] a joint initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities and ALA. The theme of this year's Bookshelf is the "Pursuit of Happiness." The We the People initiative supports projects that strengthen the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture....

2008 National Library Week grant

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/2008nlwgrant.htm>]

Libraries across the United States are invited to apply for the \$5,000 Scholastic Library Publishing National Library Week Grant, which will be awarded to a single library for the best public-awareness campaign incorporating the 2008 National Library Week theme, "Join the circle of knowledge @ your library." This year's deadline is October 1....

ASCLA Century Scholarship

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2007/may2007/ASCLACenturyScholarship.htm>]

Cynthia Nugent, a student at the University of Southern Mississippi School of Library and Information Science, has been awarded the 2007 ASCLA Century Scholarship. The scholarship is a diversity initiative aimed at the development of a representative workforce that reflects the communities served by all libraries....

Librarian wins "Read to Us" contest

[<http://thefacts.com/story.lasso?ewcd=4591307ddc070960>]

E. Raymond Wells, a librarian at Jane Long Elementary School in Freeport, Texas, was one of three national winners of the Scholastic Book Club's "Read to Us

" contest. Wells's winning entry was reading *The Whipping Boy* by Sid Fleischman and Peter Sis. He used varied voices to keep kids interested, and that caught the attention of judges....

Scholastic, May 17; Brazosport (Tex.) Facts, May 24

Seen Online

Harry Potter books upheld again [http://www.11alive.com/news/article_news.aspx?storyid=97735]

A Gwinnett County, Georgia, mother who fought to have books in the Harry Potter series removed from school libraries lost her latest fight before a state court judge May 29. Superior Court Judge Ronnie Batchelor ruled in favor of the Gwinnett County School Board, which, in May 2006, rejected Laura Mallory's efforts to have the books banned. In December, the state Board of Education upheld the county's decision....

WXIA-TV, Atlanta, May 29

Illinois filters hit snag

[http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-filter_30may30,1,4239185.story?coll=chi-newslocal-hed]

Opponents of a bill that would require filters on public library computers to block objectionable images on the internet may have won a reprieve, as the proposal appears stalled in the Illinois Senate. But library officials worry that the legislation, proposed several times before in different forms, could still be revived or return next session in a new bill....

Chicago Tribune, May 30

Tiny border town worries feds [<http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/05/26/border.quirk.ap/index.html>]

Step through the front door of the Haskell Library and you're in Derby Line, Vermont. Walk across the carpeted floor to the circulation desk and you're in Stanstead, Quebec. The 106-year-old

Romanesque building, which straddles the international border, has enjoyed a kind of informal immunity from border restrictions through the years. But a U.S. Border Patrol crackdown focusing on three unguarded streets could soon change that....

CNN, May 26

Google deal to bring U.S. scrutiny [<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/29/technology/29antitrust.html>]

The Federal Trade Commission has opened a preliminary antitrust investigation into Google's planned \$3.1-billion purchase of the online advertising company DoubleClick. Privacy groups have noted that Google collects the search histories of its users, while DoubleClick tracks what websites people visit. The merger, a complaint reads, would "give one company access to more information about the Internet activities of consumers than any other company in the world...."

New York Times, May 29

Web registration tool digitizes books

[<http://www.cnn.com/2007/TECH/05/29/blather.to.books.ap/index.html>]

A few simple keystrokes may soon turn blather into books. Researchers at Carnegie Mellon University have discovered a way to enlist people across the globe to help digitize books every time they solve the simple distorted word puzzles commonly used to register at websites or buy things online. Instead of wasting time typing in random letters and numbers, Carnegie Mellon researchers have come up with a way for people to type in snippets of books to put their time to good use, confirm they're not machines, and help speed up the process of getting searchable texts online....

Associated Press, May 29

A modern-day book burning [<http://www.kansascity.com/115/story/125497.html>]

In the 10 years Tom Wayne has operated Prospero's Books, [<http://prosperosbookstore.com/>] a used bookstore in midtown Kansas City, Missouri, he has amassed thousands of books in a warehouse. But they aren't selling, and libraries won't even take them for free. So on May 27, Wayne began putting them to the torch, tossing scores of books into a burning cauldron to protest what he sees as society's diminishing support for the printed word....

Associated Press, May 27

Library to bear name of slain librarian

[http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/07/05/24/100loc_b1library001.cfm]

Memories of Mary Cooper's laughter have not faded in the many months since the 54-year-old school librarian was killed with her daughter near Mount Pilchuck, Washington, last July 11. At a ceremony May 24 at Alternative Elementary School II in Seattle, the library where Cooper taught was named in her memory....

Everett (Wash.) Herald, May 24

Yucaipa-Calimesa district bucks library trend

[http://www.pe.com/localnews/sbcounty/stories/PE_News_Local_H_blibrary23.3f1f6c3.html]

At a time when some already-weakened school libraries face renewed difficulties, the Yucaipa-Calimesa (Calif.) Joint Unified School District is taking steps to bolster its libraries.

A comprehensive school library-improvement plan, which could be approved by the school board as early as June 5, seeks to augment the district's library offerings and staffing, and enhance its ability to teach students how to find and use information....

Riverside (Calif.) Press-Enterprise, May 23

Massachusetts libraries at risk

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2007/05/27/cuts_put_towns_libraries_at_risk/]

On May 26, budget cuts and voter indifference in Northbridge, Massachusetts, finally caught up with the institution officially known as the Whitinsville Social Library (right). The town cannot

afford the \$200,000 needed to keep the library fully running for another year, so it will cut back from 40 to 12 open hours per week. From Randolph to Newbury, Ashland to Wrentham, library directors have been struggling in recent years, facing cutback after cutback....
Boston Globe, May 27

Outsource Jackson County Library?

[<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070526/NEWS/705260308>]

Outsourcing library operations has the potential to knock 40% off the budget for all 15 branches in Jackson County, Oregon, says the executive director of the Jackson County Library Foundation.

Jim Olney said preliminary discussions with Library Systems and Services LLC (LSSI), a Maryland-based library management company, indicate to him the cost of operating the libraries could be reduced from \$8 million to \$5 million....

Medford (Oreg.) Mail Tribune, May 26

Florida public libraries brace for cuts [<http://www.tbo.com/news/metro/MGBAJDE812F.html>]

Library officials have identified \$2.5 million in potential cuts to deal with the budget fallout from lawmakers' plans to reduce Florida's property taxes. Library leaders say most of the cuts represent cosmetic service changes, but belt-tightening still won't cover the \$4 million that would need to be trimmed under the least restrictive property-tax reform plan being pushed by state Senate leaders....

Tampa (Fla.) Tribune, May 23

Ancestry.com puts 90 million war records online

[http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/business/1700AP_Genealogy_War_Records.html]

On May 23, Ancestry.com [<http://www.ancestry.com/>] unveiled more than 90 million U.S. war records from the first English settlement at Jamestown in 1607 through the Vietnam War's end in 1975. The records, which can be accessed free until June 6, came from the National Archives and Records Administration and include 37 million images, draft registration cards from both world wars, military yearbooks, prisoner-of-war records from four wars, unit rosters from the Marine Corps from 1893 through 1958, and Civil War pension records....

Associated Press, May 24

Brits walk across U.S. to dispel stereotypes

[http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2007/may/25/british_men_walk_across_us_dispel_stereotypes/?city_local]

Two British men are walking across the United States in hopes of dispelling European stereotypes of Americans. Stuart Hamilton (right), a librarian who has worked for the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions in Copenhagen as a researcher into censorship for the past four years, and Dave Toolan, a former account manager from Brighton, England, quit their jobs and then began the walk [<http://www.walkingthestates.com/>] about a year ago in Delaware....

Lawrence (Kans.) Journal-World, May 25

March of the penguin protesters

[<http://books.guardian.co.uk/departments/childrenandteens/story/0,,2086371,00.html>]

And Tango Makes Three, the story of two male penguins who bring up a chick, which Justin Richardson cowrote with the playwright Peter Parnell, generated more heat than its authors perhaps anticipated. In 2006, it shot to the top of the ALA list of most frequently challenged books. But this was not a tale: It was, in fact, inspired by a newspaper article that told how a zookeeper noticed two of his penguins, Roy and Silo, were trying to hatch a stone....

The Guardian (U.K.), May 23

Tech Talk

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The Dell XPS M1210 rocks

[http://www.theshiftedlibrarian.com/archives/2007/05/26/dell_xps_m1210_rocks.html]

Jenny Levine writes: “A couple of months ago I bought a new laptop, and I love it so much that I want to post a review for anyone searching for information about it. The Dell XPS M1210 has been amazing, and so far I haven’t experienced any problems with it. This puppy is so powerful that I could run Second Life on it and listen to music in Rhapsody, surf the web, watch Joost, and read email, all at the same time if I wanted to. As someone recently said to me, ‘It moves as fast as you do!’”...

The Shifted Librarian blog, May 26

Earphone and headphone glossary [<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1895,2114485,00.asp>]

You may think that there’s not a lot to say about headphones other than what kind of sound quality they deliver. Not true. There are as many variables in picking a set of earphones as there are for selecting a new portable player. For starters, the terms “headphones” and “earphones” aren’t really interchangeable. Check out the sonic terminology....

PC Magazine, Apr. 18

A cell phone for Boomers [http://businessweek.com/innovate/content/may2007/id20070529_644980.htm]

Arlene Harris is the mastermind behind Jitterbug, a company launched last October that combines a unique mobile phone with a suite of services designed to meet the needs of older users. When you open a Jitterbug phone it emits—get this—a dial tone. It also has an earpiece that actually covers your ear and a microphone next to your mouth, not somewhere around your cheekbone....

Business Week, May 29

What next? The open source ILS

[http://blogs.ala.org/pace.php?title=what_next_part_2_the_open_source_ils&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1]

Andrew Pace writes: “It’s true that I am one of the skeptics. I’ll state that up front. But, in truth, my skepticism toward building an open source integrated library system was born in optimism that the vendors of proprietary software would be paying close attention to the landscape. Alas, I don’t think they were.”...

Hectic Pace blog, May 30

The best point-and-shoot cameras [<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1895,2136473,00.asp>]

Point-and-shoot digital cameras have undergone big changes in the last few years. The newest models are smaller, faster, and higher resolution than ever. They are also shipping with a wider array of features than ever before, which can be overwhelming for first-time buyers. Before you hit the store, picture the ways you will use your camera....

PC Magazine, May 29

50th anniversary of the first digital image

[http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/techbeat/tb2007_0524.htm#image]

It was a grainy image of a baby—just 5 centimeters by 5 centimeters—but it turned out to be the well from which satellite imaging, CAT scans, bar codes on packaging, desktop publishing, digital photography, and a host of other imaging technologies sprang. In the spring of 1957, National Bureau of Standards computer pioneer Russell Kirsch asked “What would happen if computers could look at pictures?” and helped start a revolution in information technology....

National Institute of Standards and Technology, May 24

Actions & Answers

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Patterson confirmed for IMLS board [<http://www.imls.gov/news/2007/052907.shtm>]
The U.S. Senate confirmed University of Oklahoma SLIS Professor Lotsee Patterson as one of three presidential nominees to serve as members of the National Museum and Library Services Board May 25. The board advises the Institute of Museum and Library Services, an independent federal agency that is the primary source of federal support for the nation's museums and libraries....
Institute of Museum and Library Services, May 29

Tomes entombed [<http://youtube.com/watch?v=Z5Pb0BdT8Qo>]
In 1985, Mississippi Educational Television produced Tomes and Talismans, a series of thirteen 20-minute episodes that dramatized elements of library research. The plot revolves around a group of intrepid information scientists compiling a library of all human knowledge in a post-apocalyptic America. Ms. Bookhart (Niki Wood) awakens in a world controlled by entities called the "Wipers." This is the first segment (8:32) of the first episode; YouTube also has the others....
YouTube, May 12

Google Maps takes it to the streets
[http://news.com.com/Google+Earth+takes+it+to+the+streets/2100-1038_3-6187254.html]
Google launched a new feature on its mapping service May 29 that allows people to see panoramic views of streets and buildings. Google Maps [<http://maps.google.com/>] now offers a 360-degree view of many streets in the San Francisco Bay Area, New York, Las Vegas, Denver, and Miami, with other cities to roll out later. Users can now zoom in on street signs, bus stops, and other details in the Bay Area....
C|Net news.com, May 29

GeoNames: Wikipedia for geographical data
[<http://www.techcrunch.com/2007/05/26/geonames-wikipedia-for-geographical-data/>]
Duncan Riley writes: "The GeoNames [<http://www.geonames.org>] project is a free global geographical database. Its goal is to aggregate free data from various sources and make it available as a database or via a range of web services. GeoNames answers questions such as: where is a place? what are its coordinates? which region or province does the place belong to? what city or address is near a given GPS latitude or longitude?"...
TechCrunch blog, May 26

Group donates surprise quilt [<http://www.lclshome.org/abington/news.php>]
The quilting group that began quilting last fall at the Abington Community Library in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, recently surprised Library Director Leah Rudolph with a sample of their work—a full-size quilt made from scraps from their original projects. Rudolph said, "It is heartwarming to see these women in action and realize how they have grown through this opportunity."...
Abington Community Library

Ask the ALA Librarian

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Q. I'm a high school librarian, helping the kids with their research papers. Do you have any resources to help me teach about using all resources, and not just the first few hits from a

search engine?

A. Like many issues, the response can be broken up into several pieces—preparing to research, finding the information, and evaluating the information found—whether in print or online—and these are components of “information literacy.” Information Literacy [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Information_Literacy] is a key component in 21st century literacy. Two of our divisions, ACRL and AASL, have approved standards for information literacy for the educational levels they serve. Information Literacy is also a public library issue, as public libraries serve an information literate populace. We’ve assembled a few of the resources available either in print or online to provide guidance in structuring a program to help students use the best resources available. See the ALA Professional Tips wiki [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Helping_Students_Evaluate_Information] for further assistance.

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

Calendar

Future dates
of ALA
conferences

Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.:
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/annual/2007a/home.htm>]
June 21–27, 2007.

2008 Midwinter Meeting, Philadelphia: Jan. 11–16, 2008.

2008 Annual Conference, Anaheim, Calif.:
June 26–July 2, 2008.

2009 Midwinter Meeting, Denver:
Jan. 23–28, 2009.

2009 Annual Conference, Chicago: July 9–15, 2009.

2010 Midwinter Meeting, Boston:
Jan. 15–20, 2010.

2010 Annual Conference, New York City:
June 24–30, 2010.

2011 Midwinter Meeting, San Diego, Calif.:
Jan. 7–12, 2011.

2011 Annual Conference, New Orleans:
June 23–29, 2011.

2012 Midwinter Meeting, Dallas:

Jan. 20–25, 2012.

2012 Annual Conference, Anaheim, Calif.:
June 21–27, 2012.

2013 Midwinter Meeting, Seattle:
Jan. 25–30, 2013.

2013 Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.: June 20–26, 2013.

2014 Midwinter Meeting, Philadelphia: Jan. 24–29, 2014.

2014 Annual Conference, Las Vegas, Nev.:
June 26–July 2, 2014.

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

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