

american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | December 3, 2008

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State of the Art Faceted Search

- ✓ Quick single search box
- ✓ Easy-to-configure site profiles
- ✓ Industry-first fuzzy search



U.S. & World News

[Antipiracy statute challenged](#)

Harvard Law School Professor Charles Nesson (right) has taken on the defense of a 24-year-old Boston University graduate student who is challenging the constitutionality of a lawsuit filed against him by the Recording Industry Association of America. The suit seeks thousands of dollars in damages for the student's alleged sharing of digitized music on a peer-to-peer network, and comes as colleges and universities are grappling with digital copyright enforcement regulations. The outcome could help clarify what restrictions libraries face in how they share and distribute digital media....



American Libraries Online, Dec. 3



Exploring the most important topics of our future. **H.W. Wilson** www.hwwilson.com

ALA News

[Oprah sends her regrets](#)

American Libraries Editor Leonard Kniffel writes: "The inside scoop on Oprah Winfrey is that she has already declined our invitation to speak at ALA Annual Conference next summer. Last April, a group of us at ALA Headquarters pounced on the idea that it just had to be Oprah for the 2009 conference in Chicago. But last week, I got the call I didn't want to get—from an Oprah assistant, letting me know that she would be unable to appear. Meanwhile, wait till you hear who we're after instead."...

AL Inside Scoop, Dec. 1

[Obama concerned over library closures](#)

ALA applauds President-elect Barack Obama for recognizing, during a December 2 [address](#) to the National Governors Association, the effect that library closings have on communities. Obama, discussing potential budget shortfalls for the 41 states represented during the

[ALA Midwinter Meeting.](#)

Denver, January 23–28. Want to add a [workshop or institute](#) to your Midwinter Registration? Several divisions are offering some unique programs ([PDF file](#)). It's easy! There are two ways:

1. **By phone:** Call ALA Registration at 1-800-974-3084 and ask to add a workshop to your existing registration.
2. **Online:** Add an event to your existing registration by clicking on the [online registration form](#). Use your login and password to access your existing Midwinter registration and add events in the "Your Events" section (screen 6). Then simply check out and pay for the events you've added.



meeting, cited library closures as one of the drastic measures already being taken to balance state budgets. Read *American Libraries* Editor Leonard Kniffel's [open letter](#) to Obama on the value of libraries to the country....

District Dispatch, Dec. 2; Associated Press, Dec. 2; AL Inside Scoop, Dec. 3

[ALA's perspective on federal policies](#)

ALA Washington Office Executive Director Emily Sheketoff talked to guest host Paul Sweeting November 6 about ALA's positions on federal copyright, privacy, and piracy policy. She also discussed how those issues could be affected by President-elect Barack Obama's administration. *The Communicators* is C-SPAN's weekly series that examines the people and events currently shaping telecommunications policy....

C-SPAN Video Library



[Submit questions to ALA presidential candidates via YouTube](#)

Do you have a question you're dying to ask the candidates for ALA president? If you can't attend the Presidential Candidates' Forum at the Midwinter Meeting in Denver, why not submit a question on YouTube? It's fun, it's easy, it's the new ALA way. Submissions will be accepted from December 8 through January 16, must be tagged as ALAelection09, and must be no longer than 90 seconds....

[YA author to headline FTRF fundraiser in Denver](#)

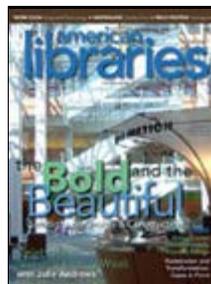
Lauren Myracle, whose book *ttyl* was one of the 10 most frequently challenged books of 2007, will be the featured speaker at the fourth annual Freedom to Read Foundation fundraising author event at the ALA Midwinter Meeting, January 25, in Denver. The event will take place at the Tattered Cover Book Store, 1628 16th Street, and will be cosponsored by the bookstore and the Friends of the Denver Public Library. Visit the [Friends site](#) to purchase a ticket in advance...



[AL Library Design Showcase: Call for submissions](#)

American Libraries Associate Editor Greg Landgraf writes: "*American Libraries* is now accepting submissions for its annual Library Design Showcase, to be published in the April 2009 issue. To be considered, send a completed submission form ([PDF file](#)), along with color photos, 35mm slides, or high-resolution digital images, by snail mail, by February 1. Projects must have been completed after October 1, 2007."...

AL Inside Scoop, Dec. 1



[Successful conclusion to Cultural Communities campaign](#)

The Public Programs Office has successfully completed an ambitious campaign to raise matching funds for the Cultural Communities Fund, in response to a



The Tale of Despereaux, Kate DiCamillo's Newbery Award-winning classic about a mouse in love with adventure, books, and a princess named Pea, has enchanted readers around the globe. Now you can highlight your collection with this charming [poster](#) and [bookmark](#) featuring a special color illustration by Timothy Basil Ering. The beloved tale has inspired a highly anticipated animated adventure from Universal Pictures, which arrives in theaters December 19. **NEW! From ALA Graphics.**

In this issue December 2008



Laura Bush,
Librarian in the
White House

Top Stories of 2008

challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. More than 450 individual and corporate supporters donated more than \$332,000, bringing the campaign total to \$1.4 million, the largest fundraising effort in ALA history....

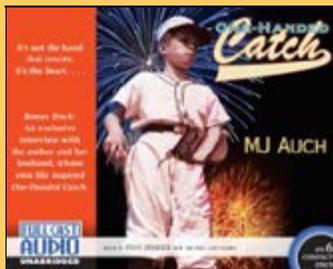
Booklist

ONLINE

Featured review: Media

Auch, Mary Jane. *One-Handed Catch*. Read by Ryan Sparkes. Sept. 2008. 6hr. Full Cast, CD. Grades 4–8 (978-1-934180-16-7).

On July 4, 1946, 11-year-old Norm loses his left hand in a meat-grinder accident in his father's butcher shop and must relearn how to do things one-handed, including tying his shoes and riding a bike. Wracked with guilt, Norm's father struggles to come to terms with the accident, while the adolescent's no-nonsense mother pushes her son and everyone to treat him as if nothing has changed. Before the accident, Norm dreamed of becoming a baseball player. When his doctor gives him a newspaper clipping of a one-handed major league pitcher, Norm is inspired to figure out how he, too, can play baseball with just one hand. What follows is an uplifting, motivating tale. The Full Cast team of readers energizes this historical fiction with superior narration....



New Booklist blog: Audiobooker

Booklist Online announces a new addition to its growing family of blogs: [Audiobooker](#), by teacher, school librarian, and certified audiobook addict Mary Burkey. Burkey's blog, launched independently a year ago, has already won loyal readers with listening notes, teaching resources, classroom examples, and what she describes as an "online scrapbook of audiobook minutia, digital literature ramblings, and random ridiculous addendums." Her passions include getting the right audiobook into the right hands and championing young people's right to read with their ears....



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

Denver Update

How to find your way around any new city

Shana Glickfield writes: "Adding an extra day to [ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver]? Whether you want to hit the local hotspots or knock those tourist must-sees off your list, these online and mobile tools are surefire secret weapons. To take in a city like a tourist without looking like a tourist, count on podcasts or downloadable audio walking tours to be your guide. For finding the best food in the

The World's Greatest Music Library

User Tagging



Going to the **PLA Spring Symposium** in Nashville, April 2–4? Here are some [special events](#) to make plans for.

Career Leads from



Library Director

White County Regional Library System, Searcy, Arkansas. Progressive, fast-growing White County, Arkansas, is seeking an energetic, experienced public library system director to oversee and assist with planning all phases of library services for seven branches with 15 FTEs. Will work with a 13-member regional board and 5-member county board; will be responsible for budget preparation and represent the library to the public and governmental agencies....

@ [More jobs...](#)

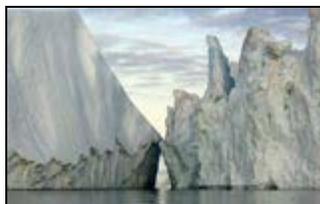
Digital Library

city, use mobile apps like [Zagat](#) or [Urbanspoon](#). [Twitter](#) is also a good way to find company if you are traveling solo.”...

Mashable, Nov. 28

[Extreme Ice at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science](#)

Photographer James Balog documents global warming in the icefields and glaciers of some of the most extreme and remote environments on Earth. “Extreme Ice:



Evidence of Global Warming Now”—spectacular videos and photographs from the most wide-ranging glacial study ever conducted using ground-based and time-lapse photography—will be on exhibit at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard, through March 8....

Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Division News

[SPARC-ACRL Forum to focus on OER](#)

The 18th SPARC-ACRL Forum, held January 24 during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver, will examine “The Transformative Potential of Open Educational Resources.” In the academic community, there is growing interest in the concept of Open Educational Resources and their potential to transform the way scholarship is conducted. At the heart of the movement toward OER is the idea that the world’s knowledge is a public good....

ACRL Insider, Dec. 1

[RUSA membership social in Denver](#)

Kick off the 2009 ALA Midwinter Meeting in style with RUSA’s membership social—an opportunity to eat, drink, network, and learn more about the division. Past, present, and future members are all invited to this event, which will be held 5–7 p.m., January 23, at Baur’s Ristorante, 1512 Curtis Street, Denver....

[Advance registration for Genealogy Institute ends Friday](#)

Don’t be left out in the Denver cold with your family history questions—register for RUSA’s “[Behind the Genealogy Reference Desk](#)” by Friday, December 5, for advance registration prices. This one-day institute, January 23, is presented by the RUSA History Section....

[RUSA online courses in the spring](#)

Need that professional competitive edge in the new year? Consider an [online course](#) from RUSA to sharpen your resume. Registration is now open for the spring offerings: Reference Interview, Genealogy 101, Business Reference 101, and Marketing Basics for Libraries....

[ALCTS announces editor appointments](#)

ALCTS has appointed editors for *Library Resources & Technical Services* and the *ALCTS Newsletter Online*. Peggy Johnson, University of Minnesota, has been reappointed editor of *LRTS*; Edward Swanson, University of Minnesota, has been reappointed Book Review Editor for *LRTS*; Mary Beth Weber, Rutgers University, accepted a second term as editor of *ANO*; and Martha Whittaker, George Washington University, took on a new position as marketing specialist for *LRTS*....

of the Week



The [University of Virginia Art Museum Numismatic Collection](#)

contains nearly 600 coins of Greek and Roman origin. The coins were generally acquired in small lots that were purchased or donated from 1987 to 2001, but larger groups of coins belonging to English hoards were also acquired, including 51 from the Normanby Hoard and 302 from the Oliver’s Orchard Hoards. About 450 of the coins are from the Roman Republic or Empire, providing a broad sample from the late 3rd century B.C. to the late 3rd century A.D., including more than 100 coins from the breakaway Gallic Empire of A.D. 260–274. Many of the coins are in poor condition, but digitization provides access to those that are too fragile to be handled by students and scholars of numismatics. In October 2007, funding was received from the University of Virginia Library to work in conjunction with the Art Museum and a Roman numismatics class taught by Professor John Dobbins in the Classical Art and Archaeology program, and scanning of the coins in the Art Museum commenced shortly

Round Table News

[Learning for learning professionals](#)

The Continuing Library Education and Networking Exchange Round Table and WebJunction are cosponsoring a webinar on Thursday, December 11 (1 p.m. Central Time, 2 p.m. Eastern), on "Learning for Learning Professionals: Competencies, Strategies and Resources." Mary Ross, CLENERT board member and former manager of staff development at the Seattle Public Library, will lead the discussion. Sign up [here](#)....

CE Buzz, Dec. 1

Awards

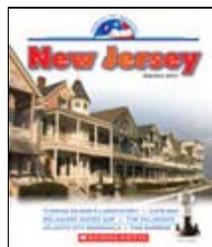
[UW-Madison supports Spectrum Scholar](#)

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Graduate School of Library and Information Studies will waive tuition for Omar Poler, a 2008 ALA Spectrum Scholarship winner. Poler is a Mole Lake Sokaogon Ojibwe tribal member, who grew up in a small Anishinaabe community in northeastern Wisconsin's Forest County....



[Ninety librarians win Scholastic scavenger hunt](#)

Scholastic has announced the winners of its "America the Beautiful Scavenger Hunt" contest—90 librarians who submitted 10-question collections of unusual and fun facts about their states, and whose "scavenger hunts" will be published in a 53rd title in the [America the Beautiful, Third Series](#) next year called *Fast Facts about the 50 States*. Each winner will receive a free 52-book America the Beautiful collection—one book for each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico—and, of course, a copy of the 53rd title when it's published....



Scholastic, Nov. 19

[LC awards Kluge Prize](#)

Peter Robert Lamont Brown and Romila Thapar will receive the 2008 Kluge Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Study of Humanity in a December 10 ceremony at the Library of Congress. They are the sixth and seventh recipients since the Prize's 2003 inception. Each awardee will receive half of the \$1-million prize. Both Brown and Thapar brought dramatically new perspectives to understanding vast sweeps of geographical territory and a millennium or more of time in Europe, the Middle East, and the Indian subcontinent....

Library of Congress, Dec. 3

[Simplicity is the key for Seattle branch's AIA award](#)

The Seattle Public Library's Montlake branch by Weinstein AU won a local American Institute of Architects [honor award](#) for 2008. Seattle architecture critic Lawrence Cheek called it a "simple brick box with a two-story glass entry lantern. The single open reading



thereafter. The collection was described in Encoded Archival Description (EAD), with several coin-specific adaptations to describe physical attributes such as legends and iconography. In addition to EAD's capability of describing the physical attributes of each object in the collection, administrative history, essays, and index terms can be encoded in XML to create completely comprehensive metadata for those students and scholars of numismatics to use as a tool in their research.

Do you know of a digital library collection that we can mention in this *AL Direct* feature? [Tell us about it.](#) Browse previous Digital Libraries of the Week at the [Love Libraries](#) site.

Public Perception

How the World Sees Us

"In these fragile, turbulent, uneasy times, it is more essential than ever to make sure that we and our children are digesting wisdom and strengths and possibilities and dreams of all kinds. Dreams that lead to the White House as well as the jailhouse. This is no time for one kind of reading, living, or thinking.

"It behooves all those folks who decry the hijacking of African-American culture and literature by urban

room is perched on top of a street-level parking garage, so that people ambling by on 24th Avenue East have the sense of passing by an elevated temple.”...

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Nov. 24; AIA Seattle

[Catalan novelist Juan Marsé wins the Cervantes](#)

The Cervantes Prize, the Spanish-language equivalent of the Nobel Prize for literature, has been awarded to Catalan novelist Juan Marsé for a body of work focusing on the hardships of life in post-Civil War Spain. Marsé, 75, was honored for works including *Rabos de lagartija* (*Lizard Tails*), which is narrated by the unborn brother of the hero David as he grows up in postwar Barcelona....

The Guardian (U.K.), Nov. 28



Seen Online

[More people visit the library to save money](#)

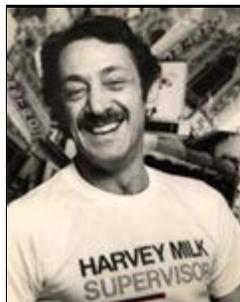
Stores may be quiet these days, but libraries are hopping as people look for ways to save money. The Los Angeles Public Library is “experiencing record use,” said spokesman Peter Persic, with 12% more visitors during fiscal 2008 than the previous year. At the San Francisco Public Library, about 12% more items were checked out in October than a year earlier. The Chicago Public Library system experienced a 35% increase in circulation. The New York Public Library saw 11% more print items checked out (a spokesman said that could be partly explained by extended hours)....

Los Angeles Times, Dec. 3

[A full picture of Milk](#)

Gus Van Sant, the director of a new film about the late gay activist Harvey Milk (right), did extensive research at the GLBT Historical Society in San Francisco to accurately portray Milk’s life, his possessions, his political career, and his slaying at age 48. In addition to the suit he wore when he was assassinated in 1978, they studied Milk’s campaign posters, his round dining-room table, and photos of the early days of gay liberation in the city’s Castro district. The filmmakers also dug into a large trove of Milk’s papers, love letters, and photos at the San Francisco Public Library, which is hosting an [exhibition](#)....

Los Angeles Times, Nov. 30; San Francisco Public Library



[Telcoms and advocacy groups unite over broadband](#)

As the sluice gates of stimulus open, proponents of expanded broadband access are hoping the Net will catch some of the cash Congress is preparing to pump into the economy. An impressive array ([PDF file](#)) of telecoms, trade associations, tech companies, think tanks, and advocacy groups (including ALA) have issued a Call to Action ([PDF file](#)), introduced at a December 2 event on Capitol Hill, urging the incoming Obama administration and Congress to make a national broadband strategy a high priority....

Ars Technica, Dec. 2

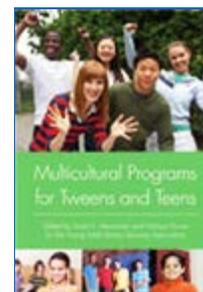
[FCC head pushes free wireless internet plan](#)

fiction to let their public libraries know that they wish a balance of high-brow, low-brow, and everything in between on their bookshelves.

“It does indeed matter what we read.”

—Writer and publisher Tina McElroy Ansa, on the popularity of urban fiction in public libraries, in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Nov. 30.

Ask the ALA Librarian



Q. My library recently completed a user survey that showed an increase in the ethnic and cultural diversity of the community we serve. As a young adult librarian, I want to make sure that we are providing the right collection and services. Do you have any resources that might help us?

A. Your survey results mirror the larger demographic patterns of the country. Earlier this year, the Pew Research Center issued a report ([PDF file](#)), *U.S. Population Projections: 2005–2050*. Among the

Outgoing FCC Chairman Kevin Martin is pushing for action in December on a plan to offer no-cost, pornography-free, wireless internet service to all Americans, despite objections from the wireless industry and some consumer groups. The proposal to allow a no-smut, free service is part of a plan to auction off a chunk of airwaves. The winning bidder would be required to set aside a quarter of the airwaves for the free service, although the company could establish a faster, paid service. The free service would be slower in order to filter out porn and other harmful-to-minors materials....

Wall Street Journal, Nov. 30

[Report ties excessive media use to bad health](#)

A new study by the National Institutes of Health took a detailed look at nearly 30 years of research on how TV, music, movies, and other media affect the lives of children and adolescents. The report found strong connections between quantity of media exposure and problems with childhood obesity and tobacco use. Nearly as strong was the link to early sexual behavior. Most of the 173 studies used in the analysis focused on movies, music, and television. Researchers said a big gap was the lack of research on the effects of the internet, cellphones, social-networking sites, and video games....

Washington Post, Dec. 2

[University of Calgary's new rare book begs to be examined](#)

It has survived wars, pestilence, religious reformation, and the scribbled notes of unknown priests. Yet the 528-year-old *Breviarium Ratisponense* remains remarkably intact on the 12th floor of the University of Calgary's MacKimmie Library. Published in 1480 in Strasbourg, Alsace, it contains both 131 pages of text printed by movable type and 52 handwritten pages of manuscript....



Calgary (Alberta) Herald, Nov. 30

[Scholarly group think](#)

For scholars, the internet has been a godsend. Perhaps the greatest boon is the sheer quantity of readily accessible knowledge. A recent study, however, suggests that online research may actually have a narrowing effect on scholarship. University of Chicago sociologist James Evans analyzed a database of 34 million articles in the sciences, social sciences, and humanities, and concluded that the internet's influence is to tighten consensus, posing the risk that good ideas may be ignored and lost—the opposite of its promise....

Boston Globe, Nov. 23

[Nixon archives shed light on enemies list](#)

As part of a December 1 release of archival tapes and documents, the Nixon Presidential Library and Museum revealed fresh records that reflect the 37th president's heated campaign to investigate, intimidate, and smear political rivals and opponents of the Vietnam War. The documents, along with hundreds of hours of tape recordings, mark the largest release of Nixon's presidential papers and recordings since the Yorba Linda library shifted from a privately run facility—controlled by Nixon loyalists—to a National



results is a projected increase in the population ages 17 and younger through 2050, but at a slower rate than for other population segments. But that increase will be due to the arrival of new immigrants and the children born to them in the United States. So, to start your planning, take a look at our pages on [Serving Multicultural Populations](#) and [Teens and Young Adults](#). You may also be interested in registering for the ALA Midwinter Meeting which offers an institute sponsored by the [Young Adult Library Services Association](#) called "Reaching Today's Diverse Teens." From the [ALA Professional Tips wiki](#).

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



Going to the **ACRL 14th National Conference** in Seattle, March 12–15? Here are some [tours and other fun things](#) you can make plans for.

Calendar

Jan. 23–28:
[ALA Midwinter Meeting](#), Denver.

Archives institution last year....

Los Angeles Times, Dec. 3

[A library room named after Stephen Colbert?](#)

Utah Valley University student Nate Bagley hopes "truthiness" will prevail. He is waging a one-man fundraising campaign to get a room in the new Digital Learning Center named for Stephen Colbert, host of Comedy Central's *The Colbert Report*. So far, Bagley's a tenth of the way toward the \$5,000 minimum donation for room-naming rights. The 180,000-square-foot Digital Learning Center opened July 1 and replaced the Orem, Utah, college's 35,000-square-foot Losee Resource Center (the library)....

Salt Lake Tribune, Nov. 29

[Barre men go bare to aid Woods Memorial Library](#)

When Suzanne G. Fullam approached her nephew with a fundraising idea several months ago and asked if she could tap his photographic skills for a calendar to benefit the Woods Memorial



Library in Barre, Massachusetts—in which men would pose nude while obscuring their private parts with tools of their trades—he balked. But in the end, more than 80 men from 20 to 90 years old posed proudly on rock-climbing walls, with the town's famous stagecoach, in an office, and at other locations. Watch the [video](#) (1:14) for public reactions to the \$20 calendar, which Fullam hopes will raise about \$15,000 for the library....

Worcester (Mass.) Telegram and Gazette, Nov. 28

[Libraries offer seniors more than books](#)

Recognizing that when it comes to seniors one size does not fit all, libraries are designing programs to better accommodate the established-in-life crowd. And while they still offer space to various organizations for meetings and countless other services for the community as a whole, libraries are planning to do more for older residents. Officials of the 54 libraries in the Nassau (N.Y.) Library System and the 56 in the Suffolk Cooperative Library System are using feedback from seniors about the services they'd like to see....

Long Island (N.Y.) Newsday, Nov. 29

[Pueblo moves *Queer* DVDs to larger library after complaint](#)

Acting on the recommendation of an ad hoc staff committee, Pueblo City-County Library District Executive Director Jon Walker is transferring DVDs of the Showtime cable series *Queer as Folk* from the smaller Lamb branch to the main Robert Hoag Rawlings library. Walker said his decision, prompted by a patron complaint, was in keeping with the library's philosophy to guide patrons rather than censor materials, and the DVDs could still be checked out by anyone....

Pueblo (Colo.) Chieftain, Nov. 27



[Anime Club a hit with Cheshire teens](#)

More than 20 teens sat in the Cheshire (Conn.) Public Library's Mary Baldwin Room November 28 eating Pocky, a Japanese snack consisting of a biscuit stick dipped in chocolate, and watching Japanese anime in the original language with English subtitles. They were part of Youth Librarian Kelley Gile's Anime Club, an informal

Mar. 12–14:

[Louisiana Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Baton Rouge.

Mar. 31–

Apr. 3:

[Texas Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Houston. "Creating Communities of Ideals and Innovation."

Apr. 1–3:

[Oregon Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Salem. "Oregon Reads: One State, Many Stories."

Apr. 7–10:

[Alabama Library Association](#), Annual Convention, Auburn. "Alabama Libraries: Invite, Involve, Inform, Inspire."

Apr. 8–10:

[Tennessee Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Nashville. "Customer Service Is Our Heart."

Apr. 22–24:

[New Mexico Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Albuquerque.

Apr. 22–24:

[Utah Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Sandy. "Utah Libraries: Turning Up The Volume."

Apr. 27–29:

[New Jersey Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Long Branch. "New Jersey Libraries Rock."

Apr. 29–

group that meets every three weeks to watch anime, snack on Japanese food, and share anime-inspired art. Gile said the club has been one of the most successful library programs the library has ever had, with an average of 35 teenage "otakus" per meeting....

Meriden (Conn.) Record-Journal, Nov. 30

[School librarian urges kids to become authors](#)

School librarian Lee Foerster not only wants to inspire kids to read books—she wants them to write books as well. Foerster, who works at Glen Acres Elementary School in Lafayette, Indiana, aims to demystify the author-illustrator process and make it relevant to the kids in her library. She has also achieved fame as a character in three books: *Library Mouse* and its sequel *Library Mouse: A Friend's Tale* by Daniel Kirk, and *Oggie Cooder* by Sarah Weeks....

Lafayette (Ind.) Journal and Courier, Nov. 30



[Brown director used to be a rocker](#)

Though the soft-spoken demeanor of the John Carter Brown Library Director, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, seems to fit the part, his enthusiastic nature makes it easy to believe that he once sported a powdered wig and platform shoes as "Lord Rockingham," guitarist and vocalist for 1990s rock band (and 18th-century aristocrat impersonators) The Upper Crust. Ted Widmer's short-lived on-stage escapades—he left the band in 1997—brought him unexpected success and fame, including an appearance on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* and an opening slot for Aerosmith....

Brown Daily Herald, Dec. 2



[Hugh Atkinson was no stereotype](#)

Sarah Long writes: "Hugh Atkinson didn't look like the stereotypical librarian. He was a big, tall man, with red hair and handsome features. He wore a black patch over his right eye as the result of a childhood accident. He often wore black leathers since his usual mode of transportation was a large black Honda motorcycle. In 1976, he came from Ohio State University to be director of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library." Listen to an MP3 [podcast](#) (17:00) with Bridget Lamont as she reminisces about Atkinson....

Arlington Heights (Ill.) Daily Herald, Nov. 21; Longshots, Nov. 21



[LaSalle Public Library acquires timepieces](#)

Jim Whitaker has been collecting Westclox products since the late 1960s and today has a collection of about 500 alarm clocks, pocket watches, wrist watches, and cast-iron clocks all made in Peru, Illinois, by the now-closed manufacturer of the famed "Big Ben" clocks, introduced in 1908. But this year he donated more than half of his collection to the LaSalle (Ill.) Public Library. Director Laura Frizol commented, "People have said it's a great asset to the community."...

Ottawa (Ill.) Times, Nov. 28

[Australian groups slam net censorship plan](#)

Support for the Australian government's plan to censor the internet has hit rock bottom, with even some children's welfare groups now

May 1:
[Connecticut Library Association](#), Annual Conference, New Haven.

May 6–8:
[Florida Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Orlando. "Libraries: Connecting People, Information, and Knowledge."

May 8:
[Delaware Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Dover.

May 13–15:
[Maryland Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Ocean City.

May 28–29:
[Rhode Island Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Bryant Center, Bryant University, Smithfield.

@ [More...](#)

Contact Us
American Libraries Direct



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

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

Greg Landgraf,
Associate Editor:
glandgraf@ala.org

Leonard Kniffel,
Editor-in-Chief,
American Libraries:

saying that the mandatory filters, aimed squarely at protecting kids, are ineffective and a waste of money. Live trials of the filters, which will block “illegal” content for all Australian internet users and “inappropriate” adult content on an opt-in basis, are slated to begin by Christmas, despite harsh opposition from the Greens, Opposition, the internet industry, consumers, and online rights groups....

The Age (Melbourne), Dec. 1

[Senegalese library offers hope for readers](#)

The bustling, even crowded, lending library in the city of Pikine, cobbled together with hope, donations, and volunteerism, is evidence of how strong demand is for more libraries in Senegal, which, as one of the world’s poorest countries, has a 40% literacy rate. The single room off a sandy courtyard in the Leopold Sedar Senghor Cultural Center is the only public library in this city of 2 million. Poverty aside, Senegal has a rich literary history....

Christian Science Monitor, Dec. 2

Tech Talk

[The best free photo software](#)

Michael Muchmore writes: “You may not be a digital darkroom junkie who spends hours tweaking adjustment layers in Adobe Photoshop, but you want your pictures to look good, and you want an easy and inviting way to share them with friends and family. Luckily, there’s no dearth of tools that let you do just this—many of them free. Here we gather our latest reviews of the major free consumer photo editors to help you decide which to use.”...

PC Magazine, Dec. 3

[Get a customized Twitter background](#)



People with a good-looking custom Twitter background have been the envy of ordinary Twitter users without the Photoshop skills to make their own. [TwitBacks](#) is looking to make those same rich profiles available to everyone. TwitBacks currently features six different themes that you can choose from, but promises more in the future....

Web Services Report, Nov. 29

[Wireless router vase from Saudi Telecom](#)

The Saudi Arabia–based telecommunications company STC has designed a wireless internet router that can also be used to hold flowers. The designers say, “The STC Router successfully bridges the gap between lifestyle and technology with its flower-vase functionality.” Wireless internet, VOIP, land-line telephone, and wired DSL are all incorporated into the device. Flowers, apparently, are not included....



Dezeen, Nov. 21

[The pitfalls of public library portals](#)

In London, Michael Stephens got to meet up with Edward Byrne, senior web services librarian at the Dublin (Ireland) City Library, and chatted with him about his creation of a public portal with [Pageflakes](#). However, Byrne told him that Pageflakes had to be replaced with [Netvibes](#) in November because of a strange ISP dispute

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between Sprint and Cogent. Byrne said: "An added benefit of the move has been an improvement in page-loading time, Netvibes being discernibly quicker to load than Pageflakes."...

ALA TechSource blog, Dec. 1

[Social networks and citation tools for scientists](#)



Lorcan Dempsey writes: "The emergence of social-network services is symptomatic of the move from website to workflow as our unit of attention on the Web. We want to get things done, by tying things together ourselves or by having them tied together in prefabricated services. It is interesting to see how many of them strongly feature literature resources." Here are a handful of useful tools for science researchers....

Lorcan Dempsey's Weblog, Dec. 1

[Notify me when it's up](#)

The website [Ding It's Up](#) performs a very simple but worthwhile task: It sends you an email when a downed site you want to visit returns online. Similar to [Down for Everyone or Just Me?](#), the site monitors a downed URL and lets you know when it returns. It might be useful next time your favorite weblog is unreachable or a link you really want to check out crashes under the weight of its popularity....

Lifehacker, Dec. 1

[Canned libraries open new vistas](#)

All of the reading material in the vast Library of Congress may be housed in a few small filing cabinets! To anyone who has seen the thousands of massive volumes in this great building, such a statement seems fantastic. But it remains a fact. Through recent developments in microphotography and the perfection of a new type of micro-grain film, the contents of two 10x15 inch pages can be reduced 400 times to occupy but three-fourths of a square inch of film....



Modern Mechanix, Aug. 1936

Publishing

[Death to film critics! Hail to the Celeb Cult!](#)

Roger Ebert writes: "A newspaper film critic is like a canary in a coal mine. When one croaks, get the hell out. The lengthening toll of former film critics acts as a poster child for the self-destruction of American newspapers, which once hoped to be more like the *New York Times* and now yearn to become more like the *National Enquirer*. We used to be the town crier. Now we are the neighborhood gossip. The crowning blow came this week when the once-magisterial Associated Press imposed a 500-word limit on all of its entertainment writers. The 500-word limit applies to reviews, interviews, news stories, trend pieces, and 'thinkers.'" ...



Chicago Sun-Times, Nov. 26

[Finding free eBooks](#)

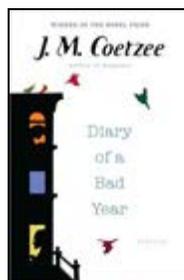
Are you looking for new eBooks to read and new authors to discover? Finding Free eBooks is a new blog that presents news about websites that offer free and legally distributed eBooks. Christine in Louisiana is the blog owner, and she is especially interested in supporting independent authors. Time-limited promotional giveaways are included....

Finding Free eBooks

[100 notable books of 2008](#)

The *New York Times Book Review* has selected this list from books reviewed since December 2, 2007. It's divided into sections on fiction and poetry, and nonfiction. Each summary is only one sentence long, but the title links to the full review on the newspaper's website. J. M. Coetzee's *Diary of a Bad Year* (Viking, 2008), for example, "follows the late career of one Señor C, who, like Coetzee himself, is a South African writer transplanted to Australia and the author of a novel titled *Waiting for the Barbarians*."...

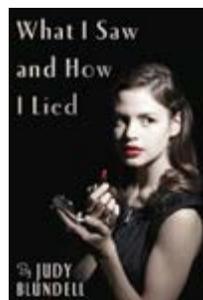
New York Times, Nov. 26



[School Library Journal's best books of 2008](#)

Of the more than 5,000 books reviewed in *SLJ*'s pages in 2008, 67 stood out as having distinctive voices, singular vision, and innovative approaches. They include books for toddlers and preschoolers, terrific picture books and easy readers, and some highly original novels. It was an amazingly strong year for YA novels, several with hard-hitting, powerful themes. There are also some spectacular science and history titles....

School Library Journal, Dec. 1



[Favorite book covers of 2008](#)

Joseph Sullivan writes: "In no particular order, here are my favorite book covers of 2008. Readers can choose their favorites among the 27 until December 31. Linked titles lead to the original post, if one exists. A very small number of titles were actually published in December 2007. Also, this year's list has more U.K. titles than in the past, so some designer credits are missing."...

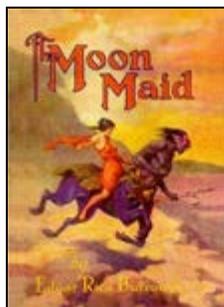
Book Design Review blog, Nov. 30



[The 10 best apocalypse novels of pre-Golden Age SF](#)

Joshua Glenn writes: "With *Wall-E* director Andrew Stanton starting work on a film based on Edgar Rice Burroughs's 1917 novel *A Princess of Mars*, and with Hollywood adaptations of *Brave New World* and *When Worlds Collide* also in development, it's time for us to give you a crash course in science fiction books from 1904 to 1933. Many of these novels are in the public domain, like Burroughs's [The Moon Maid](#)."...

io9, Nov. 29



Actions & Answers

[The end of online anonymity](#)

Sarah Perez writes: "On tomorrow's Web, we're no longer going to be anonymous. A precedent-setting case, the [Lori Drew MySpace trial](#), has just come to an end. The judge's ruling has now criminalized the act of creating a fake persona online. In the case of Drew, most would agree she deserves the punishment she received. However, the aftershocks of the ruling could very well impact the online-identity creation process for years to come if it's not overturned."...

ReadWriteWeb, Dec. 1; Surveillance State, Dec. 1

[New Spanish-language online bookstore](#)



Lectorum Publications launched an online bookstore, [Librería Lectorum](#), November 17 that is exclusively for Spanish-language books. Already featuring more than 2,000 titles, the site aims to add thousands more books that reflect a variety of cultural backgrounds and the national heritage of America's Latino families, who come from many countries. The site currently features seasonal books, new books, staff picks, original works by Latino authors, and special offers....

Lectorum Publications, Nov. 17

[Promote your federal depository collection](#)

Using the theme, "Easy as FDL: Free information, Dedicated service, and Limitless possibilities," this video (5:10) demonstrates what makes federal depository libraries essential to the American public. Librarians and others knowledgeable about the Federal Depository Library Program were interviewed and asked to explain its benefits. The video is downloadable for use on library websites....



FDLP Desktop, Nov. 3

[SLA centennial stamps](#)

In order to celebrate its [100th anniversary](#) next year, the Special Libraries Association is selling centennial stamps. They are sold per sheet and contain 20 U.S. first-class postage stamps with the SLA 2009 conference logo. Stamps will be shipped via Priority Mail through the U.S. Postal Service within 3-5 business days....

Special Libraries Association



[Replacing a dungeon library with a beacon](#)

Scott Carlson writes: "The new library at the University of Toronto at Mississauga, a suburban campus, is



dazzling. Mississauga's old library was so awful that the head librarian, Mary Ann Mavrinac, actually considered turning down the job she was offered there in 2001. But Mavrinac wanted a building that put an emphasis on 'people space over collections space.' After some planning and pushing—and \$34 million—the new, 108,000-square-foot building opened in June 2007."...
Buildings & Grounds, Dec. 2

[What do students want in a library newsletter?](#)

Brian Mathews conducted an informal assessment of student reactions to the Georgia Institute of Technology's library newsletter: "I tested different layout styles to see how much text was too much text, what types of images or themes students liked, and what they remembered based upon a quick glance. The editorial group is working through that data now." He sums up the things that male and female students liked to see in the publication....
The Ubiquitous Librarian, Dec. 2



[From cataloging to metadata: An invitation](#)

Karen Calhoun writes: "In recent talks for library catalogers on 'the new world of metadata,' I am often challenged for real evidence of a shift from traditional cataloging tasks to more broadly defined metadata activities—and what kinds of activities are we talking about anyway? This post provides some evidence that the transition from cataloging to metadata work is well underway and invites your collaboration in providing more."...
Metalogue, Nov. 30

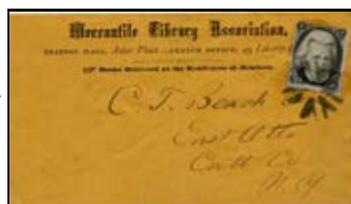
[Weather on Google Maps](#)

[Woozor](#) is an excellent Google Maps–based weather service with detailed coverage of the U.S., Mexico, U.K., France, Belgium, Italy, and Spain. Woozor plans to add detailed coverage for a number of other countries very soon. The [National Weather Service Enhanced Radar Image](#) mashup animates U.S. radar images from the National Weather Service. It is possible to watch an animation of 30 minutes of radar imagery directly above a satellite or map view....
Google Maps Mania, Dec. 1



[The Mercantile Library Association of New York City](#)

Larry Nix writes: "The phrase on this cover that reads 'Books Delivered at the Residences of Members' is at the heart of this story. This letter was mailed by the Mercantile Library Association of New York City, now the [Mercantile Library Center for Fiction](#), around 1868. In 1866, the Mercantile Library initiated a home-delivery service for its members. This may have been the first such service of any nonprofit library in America. An interesting aspect of the Mercantile Library's home delivery



service was the use of stamps similar to postage stamps to indicate prepayment for delivery.”...

Library History Buff

[Get cooking @ your library](#)

Food is a big part of everyone’s life. This fact has provided fuel for librarians across the country who have made cooking a programming resource. Recently, the Grand County (Colo.) Library District provided readers of its weekly column in the *Sky Hi Daily Newspaper* with a listing of the top five “cook books available @ your library.” The Grand Rapids (Minn.) Area Library celebrated Minnesota’s sesquicentennial anniversary of statehood by hosting “Cooking Minnesotan @ your library.” And Thomas Crane Public Library in Quincy, Massachusetts, hosted “What’s Cooking @ your library: Let’s Bake Sourdough Bread,” for the health-conscious bakers in the community....



[Treasures of NYPL: Menus and cookbooks](#)

Italian chef Lidia Bastianich (left) joins librarian Rebecca Federman to peruse the New York Public Library’s collection of more than 30,000 menus from restaurants worldwide for inspiration in her latest dish, stuffed artichokes. This is one video in a new series produced by NYPL to showcase its special collections....



YouTube, Oct. 1

[I want to be a librarian](#)

It’s end of term at the University of Alberta’s School of Library and Information Studies and several first-year students are hard at work on a paper. Of course, they break out in song (a rewrite of “I Want to be a Producer” from the movie *The Producers*). Yes, the date/time, sound scale, and text on the screen are distracting, but it was shot by and edited by people who hadn’t used a videocamera before. Nonetheless, it is wildly inspiring....



YouTube, Apr. 20

[Are you ready for digital TV?](#)

This spoof PSA (1:53) originally from the CollegeHumor video site, demonstrates, in a well-meaning way, the challenges that seniors could have in dealing with new technologies and unclear instructions involved in the digital TV transition that is coming up on February 17. “Will all of this make Jack Benny come back?”...



YouTube, Oct. 1

[Trouble in the library](#)

A library user is talking loudly on his cellphone, and Ninja Librarian springs (literally) into action to stop the problem patron dead (again, literally) in his

tracks. Rated somewhat R for violence and language, but then this is a fantasy, after all. The video (0:54) was produced by Letterbox Media in London in 2006....
YouTube



AL Direct, December 3, 2008

Having trouble viewing this HTML e-mail (or seeing it in full)? Click here [[%= util.viewHtmlLink %>](#)].

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | December 3, 2008

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[<http://www.sirsidynix.com/Solutions/Products/portalsearch.php>]

[<http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com>]

U.S. & World News

Antipiracy statute challenged

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2008/december2008/antipiracy.cfm>]

Harvard Law School Professor Charles Nesson (right) has taken on the defense of a 24-year-old Boston University graduate student who is challenging the constitutionality of a lawsuit filed against him by the Recording Industry Association of America. The suit seeks thousands of dollars in damages for the student's alleged sharing of digitized music on a peer-to-peer network, and comes as colleges and universities are grappling with digital copyright enforcement regulations. The outcome could help clarify what restrictions libraries face in how they share and distribute digital media....

American Libraries Online, Dec. 3

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

ALA News

Oprah sends her regrets [<http://www.al.ala.org/insidescoop/?p=208>]
American Libraries Editor Leonard Kniffel writes: "The inside scoop on Oprah Winfrey is that she has already declined our invitation to speak at ALA Annual Conference next summer. Last April, a group of us at ALA Headquarters pounced on the idea that it just had to be Oprah for the 2009 conference in Chicago. But last week, I got the call I didn't want to get—from an Oprah assistant, letting me know that she would be unable to appear. Meanwhile, wait till you hear who we're after instead."...

AL Inside Scoop, Dec. 1

Obama concerned over library closures

[<http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=1103>]

ALA applauds President-elect Barack Obama for recognizing, during a December 2 address

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hwrkWgqY9zXz7N_QSPFkykR4LRkQD94QR7781] to the National Governors Association, the effect that library closings have on communities. Obama, discussing potential budget shortfalls for the 41 states represented during the meeting, cited library closures as one of the drastic measures already being taken to balance state budgets. Read American Libraries Editor Leonard Kniffel's open letter [<http://www.al.ala.org/insidescoop/?p=234>] to Obama on the value of libraries to the country....

District Dispatch, Dec. 2; Associated Press, Dec. 2; AL Inside Scoop, Dec. 3

ALA's perspective on federal policies

[http://www.c-spanarchives.org/library/index.php?main_page=product_video_info&products_id=282282-1]

ALA Washington Office Executive Director Emily Sheketoff talked to guest host Paul Sweeting November 6 about ALA's positions on federal copyright, privacy, and piracy policy. She also discussed how those issues could be affected by President-elect Barack Obama's administration. The Communicators is C-SPAN's weekly series that examines the people and events currently shaping telecommunications policy....

C-SPAN Video Library

Submit questions to ALA presidential candidates via YouTube

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/09electionyoutube.cfm>]

Do you have a question you're dying to ask the candidates for ALA president? If you can't attend the Presidential Candidates' Forum at the Midwinter Meeting in Denver, why not submit a question on YouTube? It's fun, it's easy, it's the new ALA way. Submissions will be accepted from December 8 through January 16, must be tagged as ALAelection09, and must be no longer than 90 seconds....

YA author to headline FTRF fundraiser in Denver

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/ftfyaauthorhw.cfm>]

Lauren Myracle, whose book *ttyl* was one of the 10 most frequently challenged books of 2007, will be the featured speaker at the fourth annual Freedom to Read Foundation fundraising author event at the ALA Midwinter Meeting, January 25, in Denver. The event will take place at the Tattered Cover Book Store, 1628 16th Street, and will be cosponsored by the bookstore and the Friends of the Denver Public Library. Visit the Friends site [<http://www.dplfriends.org/events/special.html>] to purchase a ticket in advance...

Library Design Showcase: Call for submissions

[<http://www.ala.org/insidescoop/?p=210>]

American Libraries Associate Editor Greg Landgraf writes: "American Libraries is now accepting submissions for its annual Library Design Showcase, to be published in the April 2009 issue. To be considered, send a completed submission form (PDF file

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/submittingal/2009submissionform.pdf>]), along with color photos, 35mm slides, or high-resolution digital images, by snail mail, by February 1. Projects must have been completed after October 1, 2007."...

AL Inside Scoop, Dec. 1

Successful conclusion to Cultural Communities campaign

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/ppoccfconclusion.cfm>]

The Public Programs Office has successfully completed an ambitious campaign to raise matching funds for the Cultural Communities Fund, in response to a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. More than 450 individual and corporate supporters donated more than \$332,000, bringing the campaign total to \$1.4 million, the largest fundraising effort in ALA history....

Featured review: Media

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3109154]

Auch, Mary Jane. *One-Handed Catch*. Read by Ryan Sparkes. Sept. 2008. 6hr. Full Cast, CD. Grades 4–8 (978-1-934180-16-7).

On July 4, 1946, 11-year-old Norm loses his left hand in a meat-grinder accident in his father's butcher shop and must relearn how to do things one-handed, including tying his shoes and riding a bike. Wracked with guilt, Norm's father struggles to come to terms with the accident, while the adolescent's no-nonsense mother pushes her son and everyone to treat him as if nothing has changed. Before the accident, Norm dreamed of becoming a baseball player. When his doctor gives him a newspaper clipping of a one-handed major league pitcher, Norm is inspired to figure out how he, too, can play baseball with just one hand. What follows is an uplifting, motivating tale. The Full Cast team of readers energizes this historical fiction with superior narration....

blog: Audiobooker

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/booklistaudiobooker.cfm>]

Booklist Online announces a new addition to its growing family of blogs: Audiobooker, [<http://audiobooker.booklistonline.com/>] by teacher, school librarian, and certified audiobook addict Mary Burkey. Burkey's blog, launched independently a year ago, has already won loyal readers with listening notes, teaching resources, classroom examples, and what she describes as an "online scrapbook of audiobook minutia, digital literature ramblings, and random ridiculous addendums." Her passions include getting the right audiobook into the right hands and championing young people's right to read with their ears....

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

Denver Update

How to find your way around any new city

[<http://mashable.com/2008/11/28/travel-tips/>]

Shana Glickfield writes: "Adding an extra day to [ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver]? Whether you want to hit the local hotspots or knock those tourist must-sees off your list, these online and mobile tools are surefire secret weapons. To take in a city like a tourist without looking like a tourist, count on podcasts or downloadable audio walking tours to be your guide. For finding the best food in the city, use mobile apps like Zagat [<http://www.zagat.com/>] or Urbanspoon. [<http://www.urbanspoon.com/>] Twitter is also a good way to find company if you are traveling solo."...

Mashable, Nov. 28

Extreme Ice at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science

[<http://www.dmns.org/main/en/General/Exhibitions/CurrentExhibitions/extremeIce.htm>]

Photographer James Balog documents global warming in the icefields and glaciers of some of the most extreme and remote environments on Earth.

"Extreme Ice: Evidence of Global Warming Now"—spectacular videos and photographs from the most wide-ranging glacial study ever conducted using ground-based and time-lapse photography—will be on exhibit at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard, through March 8....

Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Division News

SPARC-ACRL Forum to focus on OER

[<http://www.acrl.ala.org/acrlinsider/2008/12/01/sparc-acrl-forum-to-focus-on-open-educational-resources/>]

The 18th SPARC-ACRL Forum, held January 24 during the ALA Midwinter

Meeting in Denver, will examine "The Transformative Potential of Open Educational Resources." In the academic community, there is growing interest in the concept of Open Educational Resources and their potential to transform the way scholarship is conducted. At the heart of the movement toward OER is the idea that the world's knowledge is a public good....

ACRL Insider, Dec. 1

RUSA membership social in Denver

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/rusasocial.cfm>]

Kick off the 2009 ALA Midwinter Meeting in style with RUSA's membership social—an opportunity to eat, drink, network, and learn more about the division. Past, present, and future members are all invited to this event, which will be held 5–7 p.m., January 23, at Baur's Ristorante, 1512 Curtis Street, Denver....

Advance registration for Genealogy Institute ends Friday

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/november2008/RUSAhistory.cfm>]

Don't be left out in the Denver cold with your family history questions—register for RUSA's "Behind the Genealogy Reference Desk

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/rusa/events/genealogypreconf/>], by Friday, December 5, for advance registration prices. This one-day institute, January 23, is presented by the RUSA History Section....

RUSA online courses in the spring

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/rusaonlinesched.cfm>]

Need that professional competitive edge in the new year? Consider an online course

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/rusa/development/index.cfm>] from RUSA to sharpen your resume. Registration is now open for the spring offerings: Reference Interview, Genealogy 101, Business Reference 101, and Marketing Basics for Libraries....

ALCTS announces editor appointments

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/alctsappointments.cfm>]

ALCTS has appointed editors for Library Resources & Technical Services and the ALCTS Newsletter Online. Peggy Johnson, University of Minnesota, has been reappointed editor of LRTS; Edward Swanson, University of Minnesota, has been reappointed Book Review Editor for LRTS; Mary Beth Weber, Rutgers University, accepted a second term as editor of ANO; and Martha Whittaker, George Washington University, took on a new position as marketing specialist for LRTS....

Round Table News

=====
Learning for learning professionals

[<http://cebuzz.wordpress.com/2008/12/01/webinar/>]

The Continuing Library Education and Networking Exchange Round Table and WebJunction are cosponsoring a webinar on Thursday, December 11 (1 p.m. Central Time, 2 p.m. Eastern), on “Learning for Learning Professionals: Competencies, Strategies and Resources.” Mary Ross, CLENERT board member and former manager of staff development at the Seattle Public Library, will lead the discussion. Sign up here

[<http://evanced.info/webjunction/evanced/eventsignup.asp?ID=1546>]....

CE Buzz, Dec. 1

Awards

UW-Madison supports Spectrum Scholar

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/ofduwmadison.cfm>]

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Graduate School of Library and Information Studies will waive tuition for Omar Poler, a 2008 ALA Spectrum Scholarship winner. Poler is a Mole Lake Sokaogon Ojibwe tribal member, who grew up in a small Anishinaabe community in northeastern Wisconsin’s Forest County....

Ninety librarians win Scholastic scavenger hunt

[<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/pressRelease.jsp?id=2>]

Scholastic has announced the winners of its “America the Beautiful Scavenger Hunt” contest—90 librarians who submitted 10-question collections of unusual and fun facts about their states, and whose “scavenger hunts” will be published in a 53rd title in the America the Beautiful, Third Series [<http://www.scholastic.com/librarians/atb3/>] next year called Fast Facts about the 50 States. Each winner will receive a free 52-book America the Beautiful collection—one book for each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico—and, of course, a copy of the 53rd title when it’s published....

Scholastic, Nov. 19

LC awards Kluge Prize [<http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2008/08-225.html>]

Peter Robert Lamont Brown and Romila Thapar will receive the 2008 Kluge Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Study of Humanity in a December 10 ceremony at the Library of Congress. They are the sixth and seventh recipients since the Prize’s 2003 inception. Each awardee will receive half of the \$1-million prize. Both Brown and Thapar brought dramatically new perspectives to understanding vast sweeps of geographical territory and a millennium or more of time in Europe, the Middle East, and the Indian subcontinent....

Library of Congress, Dec. 3

Simplicity is the key for Seattle branch’s AIA award

[http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/ae/389235_architecture25.html]

The Seattle Public Library’s Montlake branch by Weinstein AU won a local American Institute of Architects honor award

[<http://2008honorawards.aiaseattle.org/>] for 2008. Seattle architecture critic Lawrence Cheek called it a “simple brick box with a two-story glass entry lantern. The single open reading room is perched on top of a

street-level parking garage, so that people ambling by on 24th Avenue East have the sense of passing by an elevated temple.”...
Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Nov. 24; AIA Seattle

Catalan novelist Juan Marsé; wins the Cervantes
[<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2008/nov/28/cervantesprize-fiction>]
The Cervantes Prize, the Spanish-language equivalent of the Nobel Prize for literature, has been awarded to Catalan novelist Juan Marsé for a body of work focusing on the hardships of life in post-Civil War Spain. Marsé, 75, was honored for works including Rabos de lagartija (Lizard Tails), which is narrated by the unborn brother of the hero David as he grows up in postwar Barcelona....
The Guardian (U.K.), Nov. 28

Seen Online

More people visit the library to save money
[<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-pennywise3-2008dec03,0,2653644.story>]
] Stores may be quiet these days, but libraries are hopping as people look for ways to save money. The Los Angeles Public Library is “experiencing record use,” said spokesman Peter Persic, with 12% more visitors during fiscal 2008 than the previous year. At the San Francisco Public Library, about 12% more items were checked out in October than a year earlier. The Chicago Public Library system experienced a 35% increase in circulation. The New York Public Library saw 11% more print items checked out (a spokesman said that could be partly explained by extended hours)....
Los Angeles Times, Dec. 3

Milk
[<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-milk30-2008nov30,0,2154495.story>]
Gus Van Sant, the director of a new film about the late gay activist Harvey Milk (right), did extensive research at the GLBT Historical Society in San Francisco to accurately portray Milk’s life, his possessions, his political career, and his slaying at age 48. In addition to the suit he wore when he was assassinated in 1978, they studied Milk’s campaign posters, his round dining-room table, and photos of the early days of gay liberation in the city’s Castro district. The filmmakers also dug into a large trove of Milk’s papers, love letters, and photos at the San Francisco Public Library, which is hosting an exhibition
[<http://sfpl.lib.ca.us/news/exhibitions.htm#harvey>]....
Los Angeles Times, Nov. 30; San Francisco Public Library

Telcoms and advocacy groups unite over broadband
[<http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20081202-telecoms-and-advocacy-groups-issue-joint-call-to-action-on-broadband-policy.html>]
As the sluice gates of stimulus open, proponents of expanded broadband access are hoping the Net will catch some of the cash Congress is preparing to pump into the economy. An impressive array (PDF file
[<http://www.newamerica.net/files/Call%20to%20Action%20Signatory%20List.pdf>]
) of telecoms, trade associations, tech companies, think tanks, and

advocacy groups (including ALA) have issued a Call to Action (PDF file [[http://www.newamerica.net/files/NBS Call to Action.pdf](http://www.newamerica.net/files/NBS%20Call%20to%20Action.pdf)]), introduced at a December 2 event on Capitol Hill, urging the incoming Obama administration and Congress to make a national broadband strategy a high priority....

Ars Technica, Dec. 2

FCC head pushes free wireless internet plan

[<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122809560499668087.html>]

Outgoing FCC Chairman Kevin Martin is pushing for action in December on a plan to offer no-cost, pornography-free, wireless internet service to all Americans, despite objections from the wireless industry and some consumer groups. The proposal to allow a no-smut, free service is part of a plan to auction off a chunk of airwaves. The winning bidder would be required to set aside a quarter of the airwaves for the free service, although the company could establish a faster, paid service. The free service would be slower in order to filter out porn and other harmful-to-minors materials....

Wall Street Journal, Nov. 30

Report ties excessive media use to bad health

[<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/12/01/AR2008120102920.html>]

A new study by the National Institutes of Health took a detailed look at nearly 30 years of research on how TV, music, movies, and other media affect the lives of children and adolescents. The report found strong connections between quantity of media exposure and problems with childhood obesity and tobacco use. Nearly as strong was the link to early sexual behavior. Most of the 173 studies used in the analysis focused on movies, music, and television. Researchers said a big gap was the lack of research on the effects of the internet, cellphones, social-networking sites, and video games....

Washington Post, Dec. 2

University of Calgary's new rare book begs to be examined

[<http://www.canada.com/calgaryherald/news/booksandthearts/story.html?id=de88bd67-088c-4947-881d-4cbe8c15db23>]

It has survived wars, pestilence, religious reformation, and the scribbled notes of unknown priests. Yet the 528-year-old Breviarium Ratisponense remains remarkably intact on the 12th floor of the University of Calgary's MacKimmie Library. Published in 1480 in Strasbourg, Alsace, it contains both 131 pages of text printed by movable type and 52 handwritten pages of manuscript....

Calgary (Alberta) Herald, Nov. 30

Scholarly group think

[http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2008/11/23/group_think/]

For scholars, the internet has been a godsend. Perhaps the greatest boon is the sheer quantity of readily accessible knowledge. A recent study, however, suggests that online research may actually have a narrowing effect on scholarship. University of Chicago sociologist James Evans analyzed a database of 34 million articles in the sciences, social sciences, and humanities, and concluded that the internet's influence is to tighten consensus, posing the risk that good ideas may be ignored and

lost—the opposite of its promise....
Boston Globe, Nov. 23

Nixon archives shed light on enemies list

[<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-nixon3-2008dec03,0,3011353.story>]

As part of a December 1 release of archival tapes and documents, the Nixon Presidential Library and Museum revealed fresh records that reflect the 37th president's heated campaign to investigate, intimidate, and smear political rivals and opponents of the Vietnam War. The documents, along with hundreds of hours of tape recordings, mark the largest release of Nixon's presidential papers and recordings since the Yorba Linda library shifted from a privately run facility—controlled by Nixon loyalists—to a National Archives institution last year....

Los Angeles Times, Dec. 3

A library room named after Stephen Colbert?

[http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_11096509]

Utah Valley University student Nate Bagley hopes "truthiness" will prevail. He is waging a one-man fundraising campaign to get a room in the new Digital Learning Center named for Stephen Colbert, host of Comedy Central's The Colbert Report. So far, Bagley's a tenth of the way toward the \$5,000 minimum donation for room-naming rights. The 180,000-square-foot Digital Learning Center opened July 1 and replaced the Orem, Utah, college's 35,000-square-foot Losee Resource Center (the library)....

Salt Lake Tribune, Nov. 29

[<http://www.telegram.com/assets/static/video/2008/barreMen/>]Barre men go bare to aid Woods Memorial Library

[<http://telegram.com/article/20081128/NEWS/811280616/0/FROTPAGE>]

When Suzanne G. Fullam approached her nephew with a fundraising idea several months ago and asked if she could tap his photographic skills for a calendar to benefit the Woods Memorial Library in Barre, Massachusetts—in which men would pose nude while obscuring their private parts with tools of their trades—he balked. But in the end, more than 80 men from 20 to 90 years old posed proudly on rock-climbing walls, with the town's famous stagecoach, in an office, and at other locations. Watch the video

[<http://www.telegram.com/assets/static/video/2008/barreMen/>] (1:14) for public reactions to the \$20 calendar, which Fullam hopes will raise about \$15,000 for the library....

Worcester (Mass.) Telegram and Gazette, Nov. 28

Libraries offer seniors more than books

[<http://www.newsday.com/services/newspaper/printedition/saturday/act2/ny-act2spd5945417nov29,0,7713560.story>]

Recognizing that when it comes to seniors one size does not fit all, libraries are designing programs to better accommodate the established-in-life crowd. And while they still offer space to various organizations for meetings and countless other services for the community as a whole, libraries are planning to do more for older residents. Officials of the 54 libraries in the Nassau (N.Y.) Library System and the 56 in the Suffolk Cooperative Library System are using feedback from

seniors about the services they'd like to see....
Long Island (N.Y.) Newsday, Nov. 29

DVDs to larger library after complaint
[<http://www.chieftain.com/articles/2008/11/27/news/local/doc492e6987cf854846239830.txt>]

Acting on the recommendation of an ad hoc staff committee, Pueblo City-County Library District Executive Director Jon Walker is transferring DVDs of the Showtime cable series *Queer as Folk* from the smaller Lamb branch to the main Robert Hoag Rawlings library. Walker said his decision, prompted by a patron complaint, was in keeping with the library's philosophy to guide patrons rather than censor materials, and the DVDs could still be checked out by anyone....
Pueblo (Colo.) Chieftain, Nov. 27

Anime Club a hit with Cheshire teens
[http://www.myrecordjournal.com/site/tab1.cfm?newsid=20210195&BRD=2755&PAG=461&dept_id=592709&rfi=6]

More than 20 teens sat in the Cheshire (Conn.) Public Library's Mary Baldwin Room November 28 eating Pocky, a Japanese snack consisting of a biscuit stick dipped in chocolate, and watching Japanese anime in the original language with English subtitles. They were part of Youth Librarian Kelley Gile's Anime Club, an informal group that meets every three weeks to watch anime, snack on Japanese food, and share anime-inspired art. Gile said the club has been one of the most successful library programs the library has ever had, with an average of 35 teenage "otakus" per meeting....
Meriden (Conn.) Record-Journal, Nov. 30

School librarian urges kids to become authors
[<http://www.jconline.com/article/20081130/LIFE/811300312>]
School librarian Lee Foerster not only wants to inspire kids to read books—she wants them to write books as well. Foerster, who works at Glen Acres Elementary School in Lafayette, Indiana, aims to demystify the author-illustrator process and make it relevant to the kids in her library. She has also achieved fame as a character in three books: *Library Mouse* and its sequel *Library Mouse: A Friend's Tale* by Daniel Kirk, and *Oggie Cooder* by Sarah Weeks....
Lafayette (Ind.) Journal and Courier, Nov. 30

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_L._Widmer]Brown director used to be a rocker
[<http://media.www.browndailyherald.com/media/storage/paper472/news/2008/12/01/Features/Rocking.Librarian.Once.Played.By.Ear.Not.By.Book-3563714.shtml>]
Though the soft-spoken demeanor of the John Carter Brown Library Director, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, seems to fit the part, his enthusiastic nature makes it easy to believe that he once sported a powdered wig and platform shoes as "Lord Rockingham," guitarist and vocalist for 1990s rock band (and 18th-century aristocrat impersonators) *The Upper Crust*. Ted Widmer's short-lived on-stage escapades—he left the band in 1997—brought him unexpected success and fame, including an appearance on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* and an opening slot for *Aerosmith*....
Brown Daily Herald, Dec. 2

Hugh Atkinson was no stereotype

[<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=252100>]

Sarah Long writes: "Hugh Atkinson didn't look like the stereotypical librarian. He was a big, tall man, with red hair and handsome features. He wore a black patch over his right eye as the result of a childhood accident. He often wore black leathers since his usual mode of transportation was a large black Honda motorcycle. In 1976, he came from Ohio State University to be director of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library." Listen to an MP3 podcast [<http://media.librarybeat.org/audio/20081121BridgetLamont.mp3>] (17:00) with Bridget Lamont as she reminisces about Atkinson....
Arlington Heights (Ill.) Daily Herald, Nov. 21; Longshots, Nov. 21

LaSalle Public Library acquires timepieces

[<http://mywebtimes.com/archives/ottawa/display.php?id=371152>]

Jim Whitaker has been collecting Westclox products since the late 1960s and today has a collection of about 500 alarm clocks, pocket watches, wrist watches, and cast-iron clocks all made in Peru, Illinois, by the now-closed manufacturer of the famed "Big Ben" clocks, introduced in 1908. But this year he donated more than half of his collection to the LaSalle (Ill.) Public Library. Director Laura Frizol commented, "People have said it's a great asset to the community."...
Ottawa (Ill.) Times, Nov. 28

Australian groups slam net censorship plan

[<http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2008/11/28/1227491813497.html>]

Support for the Australian government's plan to censor the internet has hit rock bottom, with even some children's welfare groups now saying that the mandatory filters, aimed squarely at protecting kids, are ineffective and a waste of money. Live trials of the filters, which will block "illegal" content for all Australian internet users and "inappropriate" adult content on an opt-in basis, are slated to begin by Christmas, despite harsh opposition from the Greens, Opposition, the internet industry, consumers, and online rights groups....
The Age (Melbourne), Dec. 1

Senegalese library offers hope for readers

[<http://features.csmonitor.com/backstory/2008/12/02/senegalese-thirsty-to-earn-find-an-oasis-in-a-simple-library/>]

The bustling, even crowded, lending library in the city of Pikine, cobbled together with hope, donations, and volunteerism, is evidence of how strong demand is for more libraries in Senegal, which, as one of the world's poorest countries, has a 40% literacy rate. The single room off a sandy courtyard in the Leopold Sedar Senghor Cultural Center is the only public library in this city of 2 million. Poverty aside, Senegal has a rich literary history....
Christian Science Monitor, Dec. 2

Tech Talk

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The best free photo software

[<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2335822,00.asp>]

Michael Muchmore writes: “ Adobe Photoshop, but you want your pictures to look good, and you want an easy and inviting way to share them with friends and family. Luckily, there’s no dearth of tools that let you do just this—many of them free. Here we gather our latest reviews of the major free consumer photo editors to help you decide which to use.”... PC Magazine, Dec. 3

Get a customized Twitter background

[http://news.cnet.com/8301-13515_3-10109799-26.html]

People with a good-looking custom Twitter background have been the envy of ordinary Twitter [<http://twitter.com>] users without the Photoshop skills to make their own. TwitBacks [<http://www.twitbacks.com>] is looking to make those same rich profiles available to everyone. TwitBacks currently features six different themes that you can choose from, but promises more in the future....

Web Services Report, Nov. 29

Wireless router vase from Saudi Telecom

[<http://www.dezeen.com/2008/11/21/wireless-router-vase-by-stc/>]

The Saudi Arabia—based telecommunications company STC has designed a wireless internet router that can also be used to hold flowers. The designers say, “The STC Router successfully bridges the gap between lifestyle and technology with its flower-vase functionality.” Wireless internet, VOIP, land-line telephone, and wired DSL are all incorporated into the device. Flowers, apparently, are not included....

Dezeen, Nov. 21

The pitfalls of public library portals

[<http://www.alatechsource.org/blog/2008/11/planning-pitfalls-using-pageflakes-for-a-public-library-portal.html>]

In London, Michael Stephens got to meet up with Edward Byrne, senior web services librarian at the Dublin (Ireland) City Library, and chatted with him about his creation of a public portal with Pageflakes

[<http://www.pageflakes.com/dublincitypubliclibraries>]. However, Byrne told him that Pageflakes had to be replaced with Netvibes

[<http://www.netvibes.com/dublincitypubliclibraries>] in November because of a strange ISP dispute between Sprint and Cogent. Byrne said: “An added benefit of the move has been an improvement in page-loading time, Netvibes being discernibly quicker to load than Pageflakes.”...

ALA TechSource blog, Dec. 1

[<http://network.nature.com/>]Social networks and citation tools for scientists [<http://orweblog.oclc.org/archives/001823.html>]

Lorcan Dempsey writes: “The emergence of social-network services is symptomatic of the move from website to workflow as our unit of attention on the Web. We want to get things done, by tying things together ourselves or by having them tied together in prefabricated services. It is interesting to see how many of them strongly feature literature resources.” Here are a handful of useful tools for science researchers....

Lorcan Dempsey’s Weblog, Dec. 1

Notify me when it’s up

[<http://lifes hacker.com/5100362/notify-me-when-its-up-emails-you-when-a-web->

site-returns]

The website Ding It's Up [<http://dingitsup.com/>] performs a very simple but worthwhile task: It sends you an email when a downed site you want to visit returns online. Similar to Down for Everyone or Just Me? [<http://downforeveryoneorjustme.com/>], the site monitors a downed URL and lets you know when it returns. It might be useful next time your favorite weblog is unreachable or a link you really want to check out crashes under the weight of its popularity....

Lifehacker, Dec. 1

Canned libraries open new vistas

[<http://blog.modernmechanix.com/2008/12/02/canned-libraries-open-new-vistas-to-readers/>]

All of the reading material in the vast Library of Congress may be housed in a few small filing cabinets! To anyone who has seen the thousands of massive volumes in this great building, such a statement seems fantastic. But it remains a fact. Through recent developments in microphotography and the perfection of a new type of micro-grain film, the contents of two 10×15 inch pages can be reduced 400 times to occupy but three-fourths of a square inch of film....

Modern Mechanix, Aug. 1936

Publishing

Death to film critics! Hail to the Celeb Cult!

[http://blogs.suntimes.com/ebert/2008/11/death_to_film_critics_long_liv.html]

Roger Ebert writes: "A newspaper film critic is like a canary in a coal mine. When one croaks, get the hell out. The lengthening toll of former film critics acts as a poster child for the self-destruction of American newspapers, which once hoped to be more like the New York Times and now yearn to become more like the National Enquirer. We used to be the town crier. Now we are the neighborhood gossip. The crowning blow came this week when the once-magisterial Associated Press imposed a 500-word limit on all of its entertainment writers. The 500-word limit applies to reviews, interviews, news stories, trend pieces, and 'thinkers.'"...

Chicago Sun-Times, Nov. 26

Finding free eBooks [<http://findingfreebooks.blogspot.com/>]

Are you looking for new eBooks to read and new authors to discover? Finding Free eBooks is a new blog that presents news about websites that offer free and legally distributed eBooks. Christine in Louisiana is the blog owner, and she is especially interested in supporting independent authors. Time-limited promotional giveaways are included....

Finding Free eBooks

100 notable books of 2008

[<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/07/books/review/100Notable-t.html>]

The New York Times Book Review has selected this list from books reviewed since December 2, 2007. It's divided into sections on fiction and poetry,

and nonfiction. Each summary is only one sentence long, but the title links to the full review on the newspaper's website. J. M. Coetzee's *Diary of a Bad Year* (Viking, 2008), for example, "follows the late career of one Señor C, who, like Coetzee himself, is a South African writer transplanted to Australia and the author of a novel titled *Waiting for the Barbarians*."...

New York Times, Nov. 26

's best books of 2008

[<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6617203.html>]

Of the more than 5,000 books reviewed in SLJ's pages in 2008, 67 stood out as having distinctive voices, singular vision, and innovative approaches. They include books for toddlers and preschoolers, terrific picture books and easy readers, and some highly original novels. It was an amazingly strong year for YA novels, several with hard-hitting, powerful themes. There are also some spectacular science and history titles....

School Library Journal, Dec. 1

Favorite book covers of 2008

[<http://nytimesbooks.blogspot.com/2008/11/my-favorites-of-2008.html>]

Joseph Sullivan writes: "In no particular order, here are my favorite book covers of 2008. Readers can choose their favorites among the 27 until December 31. Linked titles lead to the original post, if one exists. A very small number of titles were actually published in December 2007. Also, this year's list has more U.K. titles than in the past, so some designer credits are missing."...

Book Design Review blog, Nov. 30

The 10 best apocalypse novels of pre-Golden Age SF

[<http://io9.com/5098861/the-10-best-apocalypse-novels-of-pre-golden-age-sf-1904+33>]

Joshua Glenn writes: "With *Wall-E* director Andrew Stanton starting work on a film based on Edgar Rice Burroughs's 1917 novel *A Princess of Mars*, and with Hollywood adaptations of *Brave New World* and *When Worlds Collide* also in development, it's time for us to give you a crash course in science fiction books from 1904 to 1933. Many of these novels are in the public domain, like Burroughs's *The Moon Maid*.

[<http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks06/0601501h.html>]"...

io9, Nov. 29

[<http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com>]

Actions & Answers

The end of online anonymity

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

Sarah Perez writes: "On tomorrow's Web, we're no longer going to be

anonymous. A precedent-setting case, the Lori Drew MySpace trial, [http://news.cnet.com/8301-13739_3-10110069-46.html] has just come to an end. The judge's ruling has now criminalized the act of creating a fake persona online. In the case of Drew, most would agree she deserves the punishment she received. However, the aftershocks of the ruling could very well impact the online-identity creation process for years to come if it's not overturned."...

ReadWriteWeb, Dec. 1; Surveillance State, Dec. 1

New Spanish-language online bookstore

[<http://mediaroom.scholastic.com/librerialectorum>]

Lectorum Publications launched an online bookstore, Librería; Lectorum, [<http://www.librerialectorum.com/>] November 17 that is exclusively for Spanish-language books. Already featuring more than 2,000 titles, the site aims to add thousands more books that reflect a variety of cultural backgrounds and the national heritage of America's Latino families, who come from many countries. The site currently features seasonal books, new books, staff picks, original works by Latino authors, and special offers....

Lectorum Publications, Nov. 17

Promote your federal depository collection

[<http://www.fdlp.gov/promotion/easyasfdlvideo.html>]

Using the theme, "Easy as FDL: Free information, Dedicated service, and Limitless possibilities," this video (5:10) demonstrates what makes federal depository libraries essential to the American public. Librarians and others knowledgeable about the Federal Depository Library Program were interviewed and asked to explain its benefits. The video is downloadable for use on library websites....

FDLP Desktop, Nov. 3

SLA centennial stamps

[http://www.sla.org/marketplace/stores/1/SLA_2009_Centennial_Stamps_P103C1.cfm]

In order to celebrate its 100th anniversary

[<http://www.sla.org/content/Events/centennial/index.cfm>] next year, the Special Libraries Association is selling centennial stamps. They are sold per sheet and contain 20 U.S. first-class postage stamps with the SLA 2009 conference logo. Stamps will be shipped via Priority Mail through the U.S. Postal Service within 3–5 business days....

Special Libraries Association

Replacing a dungeon library with a beacon

[<http://chronicle.com/blogs/architecture/2630/at-u-of-toronto-at-mississauga-a-replacing-a-dungeon-library-with-a-beacon>]

Scott Carlson writes: "The new library at the University of Toronto at Mississauga, a suburban campus, is dazzling. Mississauga's old library was so awful that the head librarian, Mary Ann Mavrinc, actually considered turning down the job she was offered there in 2001. But Mavrinc wanted a building that put an emphasis on 'people space over collections space.' After some planning and pushing—and \$34 million—the new, 108,000-square-foot building opened in June 2007."...

Buildings & Grounds, Dec. 2

What do students want in a library newsletter?

[http://theubiquitouslibrarian.typepad.com/the_ubiquitous_librarian/2008/12/what-do-students-want-to-see-in-a-library-newsletter.html]

Brian Mathews conducted an informal assessment of student reactions to the Georgia Institute of Technology's library newsletter: "I tested different layout styles to see how much text was too much text, what types of images or themes students liked, and what they remembered based upon a quick glance. The editorial group is working through that data now." He sums up the things that male and female students liked to see in the publication....

The Ubiquitous Librarian, Dec. 2

From cataloging to metadata: An invitation

[<http://community.oclc.org/metalogue/archives/2008/11/from-cataloguing-to-metadata-a.html>]

Karen Calhoun writes: "In recent talks for library catalogers on 'the new world of metadata,' I am often challenged for real evidence of a shift from traditional cataloging tasks to more broadly defined metadata activities—and what kinds of activities are we talking about anyway? This post provides some evidence that the transition from cataloging to metadata work is well underway and invites your collaboration in providing more."...

Metalogue, Nov. 30

Weather on Google Maps

[<http://googlemapsmania.blogspot.com/2008/12/weather-on-google-maps.html>]

Woozor [<http://woozor.com/>] is an excellent Google Maps-based weather service with detailed coverage of the U.S., Mexico, U.K., France, Belgium, Italy, and Spain. Woozor plans to add detailed coverage for a number of other countries very soon. The National Weather Service Enhanced Radar Image [http://maps.forum.nu/gm_weather_radar.html] mashup animates U.S. radar images from the National Weather Service. It is possible to watch an animation of 30 minutes of radar imagery directly above a satellite or map view....

Google Maps Mania, Dec. 1

The Mercantile Library Association of New York City

[<http://www.libraryhistorybuff.org/nymml.htm>]

Larry Nix writes: "The phrase on this cover that reads 'Books Delivered at the Residences of Members' is at the heart of this story. This letter was mailed by the Mercantile Library Association of New York City, now the Mercantile Library Center for Fiction

[<http://www.mercantilelibrary.org/index.php>], around 1868. In 1866, the Mercantile Library initiated a home-delivery service for its members.

This may have been the first such service of any nonprofit library in America. An interesting aspect of the Mercantile Library's home delivery service was the use of stamps similar to postage stamps to indicate prepayment for delivery."...

Library History Buff

Get cooking @ your library

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/campaigncooking.cfm>]

Food is a big part of everyone's life. This fact has provided fuel for librarians across the country who have made cooking a programming resource. Recently, the Grand County (Colo.) Library District provided readers of its weekly column in the Sky Hi Daily Newspaper with a listing of the top five "cook books available @ your library." The Grand Rapids (Minn.) Area Library celebrated Minnesota's sesquicentennial anniversary of statehood by hosting "Cooking Minnesotan @ your library." And Thomas Crane Public Library in Quincy, Massachusetts, hosted "What's Cooking @ your library: Let's Bake Sourdough Bread," for the health-conscious bakers in the community....

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bafvdl083P4>] Treasures of NYPL: Menus and cookbooks [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bafvdl083P4>]
Italian chef Lidia Bastianich (left) joins librarian Rebecca Federman to peruse the New York Public Library's collection of more than 30,000 menus from restaurants worldwide for inspiration in her latest dish, stuffed artichokes. This is one video in a new series produced by NYPL to showcase its special collections....
YouTube, Oct. 1

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4TKDIgUiQI>] I want to be a librarian [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4TKDIgUiQI>]
It's end of term at the University of Alberta's School of Library and Information Studies and several first-year students are hard at work on a paper. Of course, they break out in song (a rewrite of "I Want to be a Producer" from the movie The Producers). Yes, the date/time, sound scale, and text on the screen are distracting, but it was shot by and edited by people who hadn't used a videocamera before. Nonetheless, it is wildly inspiring....
YouTube, Apr. 20

Are you ready for digital TV? [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuiGJ8hUWLc>]
This spoof PSA (1:53) originally from the CollegeHumor video site, demonstrates, in a well-meaning way, the challenges that seniors could have in dealing with new technologies and unclear instructions involved in the digital TV transition that is coming up on February 17. "Will all of this make Jack Benny come back?"...
YouTube, Oct. 1

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pyLTqBARFt8>] Trouble in the library [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pyLTqBARFt8>]
A library user is talking loudly on his cellphone, and Ninja Librarian springs (literally) into action to stop the problem patron dead (again, literally) in his tracks. Rated somewhat R for violence and language, but then this is a fantasy, after all. The video (0:54) was produced by Letterbox Media in London in 2006....
YouTube

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To unsubscribe from this newsletter: click here [[<%= edition.unsubscribeLink %>](#)]

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[<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/home.cfm>]

ALA Midwinter Meeting,

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/2009/faq.cfm>]

Denver, January 23–28.

Want to add a workshop or institute

[<http://wikis.ala.org/midwinter2009/index.php?title=Institutes>] to your

Midwinter Registration? Several divisions are offering some unique programs (PDF file

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/2009/Institutes.pdf>]). It's easy! There are two ways:

1. By phone: Call ALA Registration at 1-800-974-3084 and ask to add a workshop to your existing registration.

2. Online: Add an event to your existing registration by clicking on the online registration form

[<http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=Events&Template=/CFApps/Experient/Redirect.cfm&Meeting=MW09>]. Use your login and password to access your

existing Midwinter registration and add events in the "Your

Events" section (screen 6). Then simply check out and pay for the events you've added.

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog&_pn=product_detail&_op=2660]

The Tale of Despereaux, Kate DiCamillo's Newbery Award-winning classic about a mouse in love with adventure, books, and a princess named Pea, has enchanted readers around the globe. Now you can highlight your collection with this charming poster

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog&_pn=product_detail&_op=2660] and bookmark

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog&_pn=product_detail&_op=2661] featuring a special color illustration by Timothy Basil

Ering. The beloved tale has inspired a highly anticipated animated adventure from Universal Pictures, which arrives in theaters December 19.

NEW! From ALA Graphics.

In this issue

December 2008

Laura Bush, Librarian in the White House

Top Stories of 2008

The World's Greatest Music Library

User Tagging

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/pla/plaevents/plaspringsymposium/index.cfm#events>]

Going to the PLA Spring Symposium in Nashville, April 2–4? Here are some special events

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/pla/plaevents/plaspringsymposium/index.cfm#events>] to make plans for.

Career Leads from

[<http://joblist.ala.org/>]

Library Director,

[<http://joblist.ala.org/modules/jobseeker/controller.cfm?scr=jobdetail&jobid=11699>] White County Regional Library System, Searcy, Arkansas.

Progressive, fast-growing White County, Arkansas, is seeking an energetic, experienced public library system director to oversee and assist with planning all phases of library services for seven branches with 15 FTEs. Will work with a 13-member regional board and 5-member county board; will be responsible for budget preparation and represent the library to the public and governmental agencies....

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

Digital Library of the Week

[http://coins.lib.virginia.edu/display-uva?id=n1994_6]

The University of Virginia Art Museum Numismatic Collection

[<http://coins.lib.virginia.edu/>] contains nearly 600 coins of Greek and Roman origin. The coins were generally acquired in small lots that were purchased or donated from 1987 to 2001, but larger groups of coins belonging to English hoards were also acquired, including 51 from the Normanby Hoard and 302 from the Oliver's Orchard Hoards. About 450 of the coins are from the Roman Republic or Empire, providing a broad sample from the late 3rd century B.C. to the late 3rd century A.D., including more than 100 coins from the breakaway Gallic Empire of A.D. 260–274. Many of the coins are in poor condition, but digitization provides access to those that are too fragile to be handled by students and scholars of numismatics. In October 2007, funding was received from the University of Virginia Library to work in conjunction with the Art Museum and a Roman numismatics class taught by Professor John Dobbins in the Classical Art and Archaeology program, and scanning of the coins in the Art Museum commenced shortly thereafter. The collection was described in Encoded Archival Description (EAD), with several coin-specific adaptations to describe physical attributes such as legends and iconography. In addition to EAD's capability of describing the physical attributes of each object in the collection, administrative history, essays, and index terms can be encoded in XML to create completely comprehensive metadata for those students and scholars of numismatics to use as a tool in their research.

Do you know of a digital library collection that we can mention in this AL Direct feature? Tell us about it. [mailto:aldirect@ala.org] Browse previous Digital Libraries of the Week at the I Love Libraries [http://www.ilovelibraries.ala.org/diglibweekly/] site.

Public Perception How the World Sees Us

“In these fragile, turbulent, uneasy times, it is more essential than ever to make sure that we and our children are digesting wisdom and strengths and possibilities and dreams of all kinds. Dreams that lead to the White House as well as the jailhouse. This is no time for one kind of reading, living, or thinking.

“It behooves all those folks who decry the hijacking of African-American culture and literature by urban fiction to let their public libraries know that they wish a balance of high-brow, low-brow, and everything in between on their bookshelves.

“It does indeed matter what we read.”

?Writer and publisher Tina McElroy Ansa, on the popularity of urban fiction in public libraries, in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Nov. 30.

Ask the ALA Librarian

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=product_detail&_op=2650]

Q. My library recently completed a user survey that showed an increase in the ethnic and cultural diversity of the community we serve. As a young adult librarian, I want to make sure that we are providing the right collection and services. Do you have any resources that might help us?

A. Your survey results mirror the larger demographic patterns of the country. Earlier this year, the Pew Research Center issued a report (PDF file [http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/85.pdf]), U.S. Population Projections: 2005–2050. Among the results is a projected increase in the population ages 17 and younger through 2050, but at a slower rate than for other population segments. But that increase will be due to the arrival of new immigrants and the children born to them in the United States. So, to start your planning, take a look at our pages on Serving Multicultural Populations

[http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Serving_Multicultural_Populations] and Teens and Young Adults

[http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Teens_and_Young_Adults]. You may also be interested in registering for the ALA Midwinter Meeting which offers an institute sponsored by the Young Adult Library Services

Association [<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/yalsa.cfm>] called “Reaching Today’s Diverse Teens [<http://wikis.ala.org/midwinter2009/index.php/Institutes>].” From the ALA Professional Tips wiki [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Diversity_Among_Teens_and_Young_Adults].

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

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/events/seattle/explore/seattle.cfm>]

Going to the ACRL 14th National Conference in Seattle, March 12–15? Here are some tours and other fun things

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/events/seattle/explore/seattle.cfm>]
you can make plans for.

Calendar

Jan. 23–28:

ALA Midwinter Meeting,

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/home.cfm>]
Denver.

Mar. 12–14:

Louisiana Library Association,

[http://www.llaonline.org/ne/lla_conference.php] Annual Conference, Baton Rouge.

Mar. 31–

Apr. 3:

Texas Library Association, [<http://www.txla.org/conference/conf.html>]
Annual Conference, Houston. “Creating Communities of Ideals and Innovation.”

Apr. 1–3:

Oregon Library Association,

[<http://www.olaweb.org/mc/page.do?sitePageId=74389&orgId=ola>] Annual Conference, Salem. “Oregon Reads: One State, Many Stories.”

Apr. 7–10:

Alabama Library Association, [http://allanet.org/convention_general.cfm]

Annual Convention, Auburn. “Alabama Libraries: Invite, Involve, Inform, Inspire.”

Apr. 8–10:

Tennessee Library Association, [<http://www.tnla.org/cde.cfm?event=155303>]

Annual Conference, Nashville. “Customer Service Is Our Heart.”

Apr. 22–24:

New Mexico Library Association, [<http://www.nmla.org>] Annual Conference, Albuquerque.

Apr. 22–24:

Utah Library Association, [<http://www.ula.org/conference/index.htm>]
Annual Conference, Sandy. “Utah Libraries: Turning Up The
Volume.”

Apr. 27–29:

New Jersey Library Association, [<http://njla.pbwiki.com/Conference+2009>]
Annual Conference, Long Branch. “New Jersey Libraries Rock.”

Apr. 29–

May 1:

Connecticut Library Association,
[<http://www.ctlibraryassociation.org/conf.htm>] Annual Conference, New
Haven.

May 6–8:

Florida Library Association, [http://www.flalib.org/conference_2009.php]
Annual Conference, Orlando. “Libraries: Connecting People,
Information, and Knowledge.”

May 8:

Delaware Library Association,
[<http://www2.lib.udel.edu/dla/conf/index.htm>] Annual Conference, Dover.

May 13–15:

Maryland Library Association,
[<https://www.mdlib.org/conference/default.asp>] Annual Conference, Ocean
City.

May 28–29:

Rhode Island Library Association,
[<http://www.rilibraryassoc.org/annualconference.htm>] Annual Conference,
Bryant Center, Bryant University, Smithfield.

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

Contact Us

American Libraries Direct

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and subscribers.

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edition.unsubscribeLink %>](#)]

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

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ISSN 1559-369X.

american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | December 10, 2008

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SCHOOLROOMS
A new learning portal for K-12

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



U.S. & World News

[Philadelphia still on track for branch closings](#)

Despite an outpouring of public concern and a cautionary note from city council, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter seems unwavering in his decision to permanently close 11 out of the 54 branches of the Free Library of Philadelphia and eliminate Sunday hours at the three regional branches. In a December 8 town hall meeting, Nutter warned that the city's financial health had deteriorated further and that the budget's five-year deficit will be larger than the \$1-billion estimate he gave November 1....

American Libraries Online, Dec. 10



[Libraries nix dissed Christmas displays](#)

In separate incidents, the holiday-spirit sensibilities of library patrons have trumped tradition at the Oberlin (Ohio) Public Library and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: The first library heeded public comment by removing an edgy Santa art exhibit and the second by axing its years-long practice of displaying a Christmas tree in the lobby....

American Libraries Online, Dec. 10



Current Issues: Environment **NEW!**
Exploring the most important topics of our future.  **H.W. Wilson**
www.hwwilson.com

ALA News

[Scott Nicholson to discuss gaming](#)

The next installment in the series of ALA President Jim Rettig's ALA Connections Salons will be an online discussion with Scott Nicholson, an expert on gaming in libraries. Nicholson is an associate professor in the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University and the chief scientist of the Library Game Lab of Syracuse. The [discussion](#), entitled "Gaming Connections," will take place in OPAL, 2–3 p.m. Eastern time, December 19....



ALA DENVER
MIDWINTER
meeting & exhibits 09

[ALA Midwinter Meeting.](#)

Denver, January 23–28. Advance registration prices have ended and **onsite prices are in effect**, as of December 6. If you registered for the Bundled Registration package, you may now go back into your registration and add any [preconferences](#), [institutes](#), or [special events](#).



The final 2008 issue of *Library Technology Reports* is [Open Source Integrated Library Systems](#) by Marshall Breeding. In this issue, Breeding

[Is the economy affecting your technology needs?](#)

ALA TechSource wants to know how the economic crisis is affecting your technology needs. Have you been unable to purchase up-to-date equipment? Are you unable to afford the bandwidth that you need? Have you found a way to stretch your budget that you think others should know about? If you have anything you'd like to share, email [ALA TechSource](mailto:ALA_TechSource)....

ALA TechSource blog, Dec. 5

[Privacy Revolution on Twitter](#)

ALA's [Privacy Revolution](#) initiative kicked off at the 2008 Annual Conference with one of the most blogged-about programs in Anaheim: the privacy panel featuring Cory Doctorow, Dan Roth, and Beth Givens. Now, the Privacy Revolution is getting ready to launch some exciting new steps. The best way for you to follow all of the action is via the [Privacy Revolution Twitter feed](#). Answer the survey question: What is the biggest threat to privacy today? You do not need to join Twitter in order to vote....

OIF Blog, Dec. 8



[Eliminating print won't solve the problem](#)

American Libraries Editor Leonard Kniffel writes: "'I have this idea that I thought I would tell you,' said the email message. 'I am sure it's not original, but with the economy and the whole environmental crisis, carbon footprint things going on, maybe ALA can finally have an option on their membership to not receive the magazine?' Namely *American Libraries*. So began a December 3 posting to the ALA Council's electronic list from Councilor Trevor A. Dawes."...

AL Inside Scoop, Dec. 4

details the differences between using an open source approach to that of using conventional proprietary software for automated operations. His report defines open source and provides an overview of the various options currently available to libraries, including Koha and Evergreen. It also includes an overview of commercial support firms—including LibLime, Equinox Software, Media Flex, Versus Solutions, and Index Data—for open source ILS. **NEW!**
From ALA TechSource.

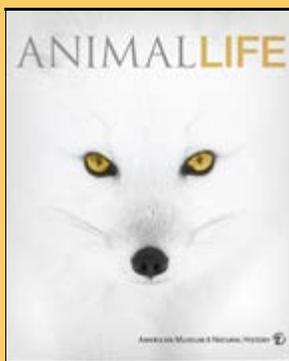
Booklist ONLINE

[Featured review: Reference](#)

Uhlenbroek, Charlotte, ed. *Animal Life*. Oct. 2008. 512p. DK, hardcover (978-0-7566-3986-0).

The wonders of the natural world intrigue a large audience. Authored by a team of expert nature writers in association with the American Museum of Natural History, *Animal Life* provides an excellent overview of the animal world written at a level accessible to students and the general public.

Introductory sections cover basics of animal life such as evolution, animal history, classification, and anatomy. Animal behavior receives the most extensive treatment, encompassing living space, hunting and feeding, defense mechanisms, sex and reproduction, birth and development, society, communication, and intelligence. Rather than focusing on detailed life histories of individual species, *Animal Life* utilizes representative species to portray behavior. Dramatic color photographs, some spanning two pages, are integral to the content....



In this issue

December 2008



Laura Bush, Librarian in the White House

Top Stories of 2008

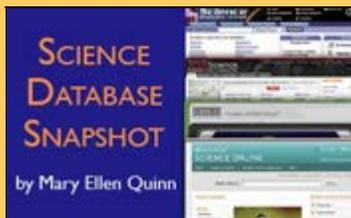
The World's Greatest Music Library

User Tagging

Career Leads from

[Science reference databases](#)

Mary Ellen Quinn writes: "Confused about which science database to invest in? Here's a rundown of science reference databases for school and public libraries. For comparison purposes, we asked the publishers for a starting price for high schools. For Facts On File's *Science Online*, that price is \$572 (2008 pricing); for McGraw-Hill's *AccessScience* and EBSCO's *Science Reference Center*, it's \$995; and for Gale's *Science Resource Center*, it's \$1,300. As always, contact the publishers directly for pricing options."...



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

Denver Update

[Denver's Downtown Aquarium Restaurant](#)

This entertainment and dining complex features a public aquarium with more than one million gallons of underwater exhibits that feature 500 species of animals in several different ecosystems; an interactive Sting Ray Reef touch tank; a restaurant with excellent views of rays, sawfish, sharks, and shovel-nosed guitarfish; and an upscale Dive Lounge....
Downtown Aquarium



Division News

[Become a YALSA runway model](#)

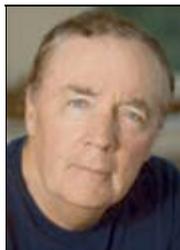
What's your look? Do you, or someone you know, have a professional fashion sense that you think others can learn from? Do you like to find just the right clothing that combines your individual style with a professional appearance? If so, then you could walk the runway at YALSA's first-ever fashion event hosted by Steven Rosengard (right) of Project Runway Season 4, in Chicago on July 10. Applications ([PDF file](#)) are due by January 30....

YALSA Blog, Dec. 5



[James Patterson to deliver special session at AASL Conference](#)

Best-selling author James Patterson will be the speaker at a special author session at the 2009 AASL National Conference, "Rev Up Learning @ your library." The conference will take place November 5-8, 2009, in Charlotte, North Carolina. Patterson chose to present at the AASL National Conference because he knows that school library media specialists are on the front lines in the effort to get kids reading....



YALSA JobLIST



[Librarian/Archivist](#)

New York Yacht Club. The New York Yacht Club Library is considered the largest and most prominent private collection of books on ships and the sea. Subject areas include yachting history, voyages, navigation, seamanship, shipbuilding, cruising guides, America's Cup matches, naval history, and sailing reference works. The librarian works with the NYYC Library Committee to contribute to the club's vision for the library's growth and development and formulates a plan to implement that vision, including administrative decisions requiring initiative and judgment....

@ [More jobs...](#)

Digital Library of the Week



The [Arizona Memory](#)

[Advocacy toolkits for school librarians](#)

AASL is launching two new toolkits exclusively for school library media programs. The School Library Media Health and Wellness and Crisis Toolkits are designed to address the needs of and resources available to school library media specialists to build stakeholder support in their programs. They will be introduced to attendees of the School Library Advocacy Institute on January 23 during the 2009 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver....

[Jump-start your career with an ALSC online course](#)

Start the New Year building your career skills by taking an exciting new [online course](#) from ALSC. Courses include: "Reading Instruction and Children's Books," "The Newbery Medal: Past, Present and Future," "The Tech-Savvy Booktalker," and "Sharing Poetry with Children." Registration opens December 29, and discounted rates are available for ALSC members....



[PLA offers budget and finance workshop](#)

PLA is offering public librarians an opportunity to learn practical skills and knowledge that will help them better manage their libraries' budgeting process. The Budget and Finance workshop, taught by Sandra Nelson, is scheduled for January 14-15 in Decatur, Georgia, and features an intensive, small-group environment. For the full course description, instructor biographies and registration information, visit the [PLA website](#)....

[The PLA CafePress library store](#)

PLA is offering a collection of distinctive graphics and products with a public library bent on [CafePress](#), an online retailer that produces and dispatches user-customized products on demand. Check out PLA's shirts, bags, mousepads, bags, license plate frames, cards, postcards, and posters....
PLA Blog, Dec. 5



Project is an online effort to provide access to the wealth of primary sources in Arizona libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural institutions. This initiative provides the opportunity to view some of the best examples of government documents, photographs, maps, and objects that chronicle Arizona's past and present. The project was launched in March 2006 and has been granted the Arizona Centennial 2012 legacy project designation by the Arizona Historical Advisory Commission in support of the [Arizona State Centennial Celebration](#). This is an OAI-compliant digital library and a registered data contributor on OAIster.org and the Open Archives Initiative.

Do you know of a digital library collection that we can mention in this *AL Direct* feature? [Tell us about it.](#) Browse previous Digital Libraries of the Week at the [I Love Libraries](#) site.

Awards

[I Love My Librarian Award winners announced](#)

Librarians in our nation's 123,000 libraries make a difference in the lives of millions of Americans every day. On December 9, [ten librarians](#) were recognized for service to their communities, schools, and campuses as winners of the Carnegie Corporation of New York/*New York Times* I Love My Librarian Award at a ceremony and reception in New York City hosted by the *New York Times*. *American Libraries* Editor Leonard Kniffel writes: "[AL Inside Scoop](#) went backstage before the show to watch the winners prep for their speeches. They chatted nervously, words like 'star treatment' being bandied about." More than 3,200 library users nationwide nominated a beloved librarian....
I Love Libraries; AL Inside Scoop, Dec. 9



[PLA awards nominations due December 15](#)

The deadline to nominate colleagues and public libraries for one of

Public Perception

How the World Sees Us

"I never knew libraries have so much to offer. From providing fun reading that can replace a missed episode of *Gossip Girl* to hardcore practice tests for a class in which I'm struggling, the library is like Disneyland for the mind. Sure, every year at least one of

the 2009 PLA awards is quickly approaching. PLA members can submit an awards application through the [PLA website](#). The deadline for submitting an application is December 15....

[Deadlines approaching for two PLA scholarships](#)

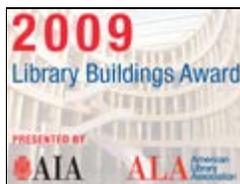
The [application](#) deadlines for two of the schools participating in PLA's Leadership Fellows program are quickly approaching. Applications to the Leadership Development Program at Columbia University's Business School are due to the PLA office January 9. Applications to the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, are due February 20....

[New ALA scholarship in new media](#)

The Peter Lyman Memorial/SAGE Scholarship in New Media will be offered with the support of SAGE Publications. The scholarship was created in memory of Peter Lyman, former university librarian and professor emeritus of the School of Information at the University of California, Berkeley. The scholarship will support a student in an ALA-accredited master's program in Library and Information Studies pursuing a specialty in new media. The recipient will receive a \$2,500 scholarship as well as a travel stipend to attend the ALA Midwinter Meeting....

[Honoring the best in library design](#)

The American Institute of Architects and LLAMA created the biennial AIA/ALA Library Buildings Award program to encourage excellence in the architectural design and planning of libraries and to recognize outstanding accomplishments in library architecture. Awards may be given for new buildings, additions, renovations, restorations, conversion to library use, and interior redesign and refurbishing. For more information, visit the award [website](#). Submission deadline is January 5....



Leads from LLAMA, Dec. 4

[YALSA names Morris Awards finalists](#)

YALSA announced the five finalists December 8 for the inaugural William C. Morris Award, which honors a book written by a first-time author for young adults. The award is named for William C. (Bill) Morris, a longtime publishing executive beloved in the library world for his enthusiasm for promoting literature for children and teens....

[Marshall Breeding awarded a Fulbright grant](#)

Marshall Breeding, director for innovative technologies and research at Vanderbilt University, is spending three weeks in Córdoba, Argentina, in December as a Fulbright senior specialist. He is working with the Acuerdo de Bibliotecas Universitarias de Córdoba, a consortium of academic libraries, to assess their current state of automation and help them with service improvement and resource sharing....



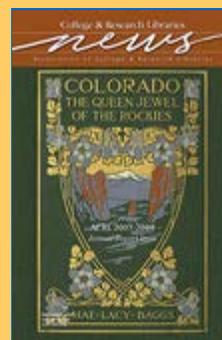
Boletín Acuerdo de Bibliotecas Universitarias de Córdoba, no. 17 (Oct.)

[Russian Booker prize goes to Bibliotekar'](#)

Writer Mikhail Elizarov won the 2008 Russian Booker prize of \$20,000 December 3 for his mystical novel *Bibliotekar'* (Librarian), published in 2007 by Ad

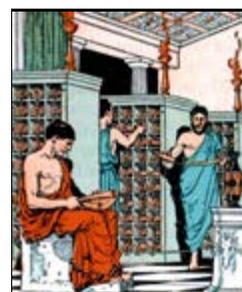
my classes goes on a tour of the school library, but discovering the magical wonders myself makes the library more appealing than having a librarian tell me the same thing four years in a row."

—Beverly Hills (Calif.) High School Senior Shannon Matloob, in "Libraries Rule," *L.A. Youth*, Nov./Dec. issue.



Megan Coder (SUNY-New Paltz) offers some suggestions on how academic libraries can take environmental action in ["It's Not Easy Being Green: Or Is It?"](#) in the December issue of *College & Research Libraries News*.

Ask the ALA Librarian



Q. The word

Marginem in Moscow. The [plot](#) revolves around a young man who arrives in a provincial town and unwittingly becomes a librarian involved in a quest for a lost tome titled *The Book of Meaning*...

Vesti, Dec. 4; Goumen & Smirnova agency



Seen Online

[Obama Africana](#)

Africa's response to Barack Obama's election victory is the theme of an exhibit and ongoing collection at Northwestern University's Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies. The exhibit includes a collection of newspapers, DVDs, a poster, a T-shirt, and a bumper sticker that reads "Obama is Unbwogable," designed by Lorna Abungu. The term was coined in 2002 by Gidi Gidi Maji Maji, a Kenyan hip-hop duo, in their song titled "Unbwogable." It means "unbeatable" or "unstoppable." "Obama's election is an event of enormous significance in Africa," Curator David Easterbrook explained....

Daily Northwestern, Nov. 20



[Resolution could spell disaster for New Jersey libraries](#)

Advocates for the Bayonne (N.J.) Public Library predict disaster if the legislature enacts a November 21 resolution by the New Jersey State League of Municipalities to slash funding for city libraries in half during fiscal year 2009. State law (enacted in 1944) requires municipalities with libraries set up by public referendum to dedicate one-third of a mill of each property-tax dollar to the library. The league wants that fixed amount cut in half, arguing that it "far exceeds the reasonable needs and requirements of the free public libraries."...

Jersey City Jersey Journal, Dec. 8

[U.S. Archivist Allen Weinstein resigns](#)

On December 7, historian Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States, submitted his resignation to President Bush, effective December 19. Weinstein, who has Parkinson's disease, cited health reasons for his decision. Deputy Archivist of the United States Adrienne Thomas will serve as acting Archivist until a new Archivist is appointed....

PRNewswire, Dec. 9



[Reservist librarian recruits books](#)

Naval reservist Virginia Sanchez is on leave from her position at the Long Beach (Calif.) Public Library's Dana branch while she serves near Kabul, Afghanistan. She is sharing her passion for literacy by expanding the library at her base, Camp Blackhorse, and with a little help from the Los Cerritos Elementary School, she can expand the children's section. Students and teachers at the school are collecting



"library" seems to be used in so many different ways now, from the brick-and-mortar public library to the digital library. Is there a good definition of what a library is?

A. We're glad you asked. ALA's [Whole Library Handbook 4](#) offers this definition: "A library is a collection of resources in a variety of formats that is (1) organized by information professionals or other experts who (2) provide convenient physical, digital, bibliographic, or intellectual access and (3) offer targeted services and programs (4) with the mission of educating, informing, or entertaining a variety of audiences (5) and the goal of stimulating individual learning and advancing society as a whole" (p. 2). The definition was developed in consultation with several different sources. From the [ALA Professional Tips wiki](#).

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

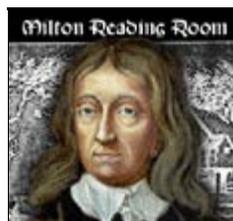
children's books to send to her so that enlisted men and women can make video recordings of themselves reading for their children at home....

Long Beach (Calif.) Uptown Gazette, Dec. 5

[Visit Dartmouth's Milton Reading Room](#)

If you missed your chance to celebrate John Milton's 400th birthday on December 9, you can still go online to enjoy a thoroughly annotated version of *Paradise Lost* in the [Milton Reading Room](#). The Dartmouth College site—created by English Professor Thomas H. Luxon—offers annotated versions of a number of other Milton poems as well, including *Paradise Regain'd* and *Samson Agonistes*....

Chronicle of Higher Education, Dec. 8



[Plainfield's Homer painting fails to land a bid](#)

The Plainfield (N.J.) Public Library's Winslow Homer original painting *Winding Line* failed to land a bid December 3 matching its reserve price of \$2 million at a Sotheby's auction in New York City, and the auction house will now seek a private buyer for the 1875 oil on canvas, library officials said. Sotheby's will have 90 days to find a private buyer willing to meet the reserve before the auction house stops actively offering it, Library Director Joe Da Rold said, after which it has agreed to store and insure both the oil painting and a library-owned Homer watercolor for three years....

Bridgewater (N.J.) Courier News, Dec. 3



[Five years for Brazilian book thief](#)

A Brazilian court has sentenced Laessio Rodrigues de Oliveira to a five-year prison sentence for the [theft](#) of several rare books from the Instituto de Pesquisas Jardim Botânico in Rio de Janeiro. Oliveira was arrested in 2004, and had stolen books from several other Brazilian institutions, including the National Museum in Rio de Janeiro, the Historical Archive in Blumenau (Santa Catarina state), and the Mário de Andrade Library in São Paulo, which were found in his home at that time....

PhiloBiblos, Dec. 8; *Jornal do Brasil* (Rio de Janeiro), Dec. 3

[Book-sale bedlam at Enoch Pratt Free Library](#)

The line of eager buyers at Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Free Library book sale stretched more than half a block December 5, but no Black Friday-style madness erupted at the opening of the three-day annual event. Proceeds from



The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Information and Library Science has opened registration for its [Summer 2009 international programs](#).

Anyone interested in taking part in the seminars in Prague or Oxford can sign up, either for academic credit or on a noncredit basis. Registrations must be received by February 1.

Calendar

Online exhibits:

[Bibliothèque Nationale de France:](#)

"Medieval Gastronomy: Food, Cooking, Meals."

[Duke University:](#)

"Seven Elections That Changed U.S. History."

[Harvard University, Arnold Arboretum:](#)

"Botanical and Cultural Images of Eastern Asia, 1907-1927."

[Library of Congress:](#)

"Exploring the Early Americas." Selections from the more than 3,000 rare maps, documents, paintings, prints, and artifacts that make up the Jay I. Kislak Collection.

[National Agricultural Library:](#)

"Popcorn: Ingrained in

the sale of hundreds of thousands of books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, records, and other materials at bargain-basement prices will go to the library's acquisitions budget, said Pratt CEO Carla D. Hayden. Last year, the sale brought in about \$10,000, according to library spokesman Roswell Encina. The video (1:32) shows why....

Baltimore Sun, Dec. 5

[Book group wars](#)

Jocelyn Bowie was thrilled by the invitation to join a book group. She had just returned to her hometown, Bloomington, Indiana, and thought she had won a ticket to a top echelon. Bowie cannot pinpoint the precise moment when disillusion replaced delight. Maybe it was the evening she tried to persuade everyone to look beyond Oprah Winfrey's picks, "and they all said, 'What's wrong with Oprah?'" The last straw came when the group picked *The Da Vinci Code* and someone suggested the discussion would be enriched by delving into the author's source material....

New York Times, Dec. 5

[Librarians helped tame the West](#)

Around the turn of the 20th century, graduates of the University of Illinois GSLIS (then called the Illinois Library School) headed to places like Texas, North Dakota, Idaho, and Oregon. In July 1908, Oregon State University hired its first professional librarian, Ida Kidder (right), an ILS graduate. Betsy Hearne, professor emeritus at the library school, shared stories about the early graduates of the library school for a short video broadcast on the Big Ten Network. She spoke about graduates establishing libraries in places where, in some cases, they were the only librarian within a 130-mile radius or the only single female in town....

Chicago Tribune, Dec. 8



[Go back to the Top](#)

Tech Talk

[How to buy a cheap digital camera](#)

Corinne Iozzio writes: "Point-and-shoot digital cameras are easy to tote, simple to use, and most important, they have the features to satisfy the majority of casual photographers. At first glance, these cameras often *appear* very similar, and you might get the impression that it would be safe to pick one at random, but a closer look tells a very different story. The one thing these 15 models *do* have in common is affordability; each one of them rings up at \$250 or less online. Here's what you need to look for when shopping for a new point-and-shoot camera."...

PC Magazine, Dec. 5



[Working in beta](#)

American Libraries Associate Editor Greg Landgraf writes: "One of my favorite programs at the recent LITA National Forum was a presentation on library web labs given by Jason Battles of the University of Alabama and Jody Combs of Vanderbilt University. At its heart, the concept is an adaptation of Google Labs. Library web labs list new and experimental services offered by the library—usually though not necessarily web-based—and offer ways for patrons to try

America's Agricultural History."

[National Library of Australia:](#)

"Who'll Come a Waltzing Matilda with Me?"

[National Library of Ireland:](#)

"The Life and Works of William Butler Yeats."

[New York Public Library:](#)

"Eminent Domain: Contemporary Photography and the City." Features the work of five contemporary New York-based photographers drawn primarily from new acquisitions in the Photography Collection.

[Ohio State University:](#)

"Loose Women in Tights: Images of Femininity in Early Burlesque Performance."

[Prince Edward Island Public Archives and Records Office:](#)

"Island to Island: British Immigration to Prince Edward Island, 1763–1870."

[St. Louis Public Library:](#)

"Celebrating the Louisiana Purchase: The 1904 World's Fair."

[San Francisco Public Library:](#)

"Picture This: Family Photographs of Everyday San Francisco."

[Temple University:](#)

"Curious Looks at

them and offer feedback. The library can then use that feedback to improve the service before its official release.”...

AL Inside Scoop, Dec. 4

[What's your favorite mouse?](#)

Matt Buchanan writes: “December 9 is the 40th anniversary of the first mouse (right). Since then, it's evolved into different shapes, sprouted buttons, lost its tail, and mutated [all kinds of other crazy ways](#). My favorite mouse ever is Logitech's MX500, which set their ergonomic standard for years, all the way through the [wireless G7 gaming mouse](#), and to some extent, their current Revolution series. It doesn't have a laundry list of features or 10 million buttons—it's just a simple, but perfectly evolved mouse. The worst mouse ever has to be Apple's hockey puck, no need to explain there.”...



Gizmodo, Dec. 9

[Top 10 consumer web apps of 2008](#)

Sometimes it's important to take a step back and realize that the apps to which we've grown incredibly accustomed are just barely beginning to register with the general public. This was a year in which two major events had worldwide impact on the Web. These events focused the world's attention, had more consumers creating more online content, and had more people searching online for information than ever before: the Beijing Olympics and the U.S. Presidential elections. Many of these apps have those events to thank for their exposure and adoption....



ReadWriteWeb, Dec. 9

[The strangest sights in Second Life](#)

Mark Sullivan writes: “Welcome to Second Life, by far the most popular and well-used virtual world. I went in search of the strange and unexpected in Second Life, and I wasn't disappointed. People do some strange things in the virtual world of Second Life: They build avant-garde structures and environments, they remake themselves with odd faces (or bodies, or clothing), they fly, they get stuck in walls and fall through floors, they role-play, they switch genders, they play pranks. Here are some snapshots.”....



PC World, Dec. 8

[The fastest ISPs in America](#)

Fiber-optic service is dramatically faster, and satellite service is substantially slower, according to *PC Magazine's* SurfSpeed, a utility that grabs pages from several popular websites to measure actual internet surfing speed. Taken as a whole, DSL and cable connections were more than five times as fast as satellite. Fiber-optic connections were 152% faster than that. The average cable service provider gets you online at 688 Kbps, while the average DSL lets you surf at just 469 Kbps—cable connections, on average, are 47% faster. Take a look at the [state-by-state roundup](#)....

PC Magazine, Dec. 2

Publishing

Artists' Books.”

[Texas State Library and Archives Commission:](#)

“Under the Rebel Flag: Life in Texas during the Civil War.”

[Yale University:](#)

“You Shall Tell Your Children: The Passover Haggadah.”

@ [More...](#)

Contact Us

American Libraries Direct



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

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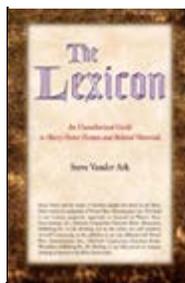
AL Direct FAQ:
www.ala.org/aldirect/

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.

[Revised Harry Potter lexicon in the works](#)

The cover of *The Lexicon* speaks volumes about the lengths to which a West Michigan author and publisher have gone to get the guide to the Harry Potter book series into the hands of readers. *An Unauthorized Guide to Harry Potter Fiction and Related Materials* appears boldly below the title and above librarian/author Steve Vander Ark's name. A paragraph further details the fact that neither author J. K. Rowling nor a host of others with trademarks and other interests in the Harry Potter series had any part in making the book, set to be released January 12. Using the judge's detailed, 68-page ruling in the copyright lawsuit that his publisher lost in September as a guide, Vander Ark rewrote his book to comply with the law....

Muskegon (Mich.) Chronicle, Dec. 5



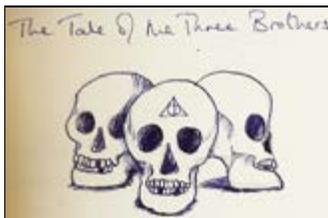
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ISSN 1559-369X.

[Beedle the Bard unveiled at New York Public Library](#)

A handwritten and hand-illustrated copy of J. K. Rowling's newest book, *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*, was unveiled December 3 at the New York Public Library to generate publicity for the commercial release of the book the following day. The copy on view at the library is one of seven the author created by hand and was lent for the exhibition by Arthur A. Levine, the original Scholastic editor who purchased the first Harry Potter book in 1994 for \$105,000. Scholastic has also donated three copies of *Beedle the Bard* to each of NYPL's 87 branches....

New York Times, Dec. 3; Scholastic, Dec. 4



[Reed Business Information sale postponed](#)

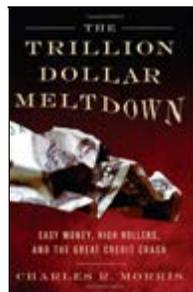
The verdict is in and the answer is: no sale. Reed Elsevier has announced that its torturous, nine-month campaign to sell Reed Business Information, its magazine division, is over. Reed [announced](#) to the stock market December 10 that it has "terminated discussions with potential bidders" and that due to the poor economic outlook, shareholders would get more value by the company hanging on to *Library Journal* and *Publishers Weekly*. But Reed wants to sell RBI in the "medium term when conditions are more favorable." Meantime, RBI will be "structured and managed" to make it more profitable; and that normally means redundancies, magazine sell-offs, or both....

paidContent, Dec. 10; InvestEgate, Dec. 10

[The best business books of 2008](#)

To look back at the books produced in the beginning of 2008 is to glimpse a more innocent world, an Eden seemingly free of financial crisis and the impending gloom of 2009. But by spring the first of the bad-news reads had appeared. Regardless of the season, numerous valuable works were published in 2008, including a few that understood the sad shape of things to come. One of the best is former banker Charles R. Morris's *The Trillion Dollar Meltdown* (PublicAffairs), which explains what happened and why in under 200 pages. It is being revised and retitled for paperback release as *The Two Trillion Dollar Meltdown* in February....

Business Week, Dec. 4



[American publishers should go for translations](#)

Bob Hoover writes: "Houghton Mifflin Harcourt was so threatened by the recession that it admitted late last month that it was temporarily freezing the acquisition of manuscripts. This is panic mode for a publisher. If the freeze mentality spreads to other publishers, where will the material come from for new titles? Easy: Translations of books already published abroad. Republishing them in English for American readers addresses three issues: Saving money, European literary snobbery, and competition for American hacks."...

Pittsburgh (Pa.) Post-Gazette, Dec. 7



Actions & Answers

[Welcome to the Age of New Frugality](#)

Steven Bell writes: "You can feel it. We're going through a cultural shift. Thank the economic meltdown. I've noticed a number of writers pointing to a trend that could impact academic librarians, but will more likely make its presence felt in the public library sector. Still, it's a trend to which we should pay attention, and perhaps there may be ways academic libraries can make their own contribution. Call it the Age of New Frugality."...

ACRLog, Dec. 8

[Top 10 things to do when you become unemployed](#)

Jamie Frater writes: "With the American economy (and many others in the world) potentially on the verge of collapse we are all subject to being out of a job any minute. One day we're working, paying the bills, and enjoying happy hour. The next day we are unemployed and panic is starting to set in. Don't worry! Here is my top 10 list of things you should do. If you have extra tips for people who have lost their jobs or are going to lose their job, please add them in the comments."...

List Universe, Dec. 2



[Matrix could help students evaluate internet info](#)

In a paper they presented during the online "Rock the Academy" teaching symposium November 5, English professor Susan Miller-Cochran (North Carolina State University) and Rochelle Rodrigo (Mesa Community College) suggest that students be given a guideline ([PDF file](#)) to explore as they consider online texts. The two main questions they encourage students to ask are: How does the information change over time—is it constantly updated and revised, or static? And how has the information been reviewed?...

eSchool News, Dec. 5

[Getting animated](#)

American Libraries Associate Editor Greg Landgraf writes: "Laramie County (Wyo.) Library System is now publicizing a year-and-a-half-old service that's just plain cool: An [animation station](#) where kids can make their



own stop-motion movies. County Librarian Lucie Osborn says the animation station helps to attract nontraditional library users, particularly boys, and encourages collaborations among children or between kids and their parents."...

AL Inside Scoop, Dec. 8

[Knowing what Speidi means will make you a better YA librarian](#)

Sarah Ludwig writes: "As teen librarians, we have to connect with our users—and this may be true for us more than other library professionals.

Teens are great at seeing straight through us, and being fake is no way to earn a teen's trust or get them interested in using the library. With that said, there are some easy ways to learn about things that interest teens. I really can't say enough about watching *Gossip Girl* if you want to connect with teen girls. Use Pandora or another music app to learn about new music."...

YALSA Blog, Dec. 9



[Adults are gamers too](#)

More than half—53%—of all American adults play video games of some kind, whether on a computer, on a gaming console, on a cellphone or other handheld device, on a portable gaming device, or online, according to a recent Pew Internet and American Life survey ([PDF file](#)). Among older adults 65+ who play video games, nearly a third play games everyday, a significantly larger percentage than all younger players, of whom about 20% play everyday....

Pew Internet and American Life, Dec. 7

[Springer to preserve content in CLOCKSS](#)

Publisher Springer Science+Business Media is partnering with the cooperative electronic archive CLOCKSS to preserve the content of its more than 1,700 periodical titles. The archive ensures perpetual access to journal content that has been orphaned, abandoned, or interrupted. Springer, a founding member of CLOCKSS, has also submitted a proposal to the archive's board outlining a pilot project to test the feasibility and legal issues surrounding the preservation of its eBook content....

CLOCKSS, Dec. 3



[African-American library directors in the U.S.](#)

This database of African-American library directors is housed and supported by the University of Kentucky Libraries, with major promotion and acknowledgment from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. BCALA members Reinette Jones and Alonzo W. Hill are collaborating in the effort, adding new entries and updates as they are received....

University of Kentucky Libraries

[How to use Google Reader like a rock star](#)

Matt Singley writes: "Google Reader recently got a facelift; with a fresh look and features, a lot of people are buzzing about the service. Knowing that new users are signing up and veterans are looking for some ideas to make their experience even better, we have put together a quick how-to that should offer something for everyone."...

Mashable, Dec. 7



[Google Book Search puts magazines online](#)

Google announced an initiative December 9 to enable full-text searches of millions of articles from more than 10 magazines (with hundreds more to come). Eventually, Google will begin blending magazine results into the main search results. For now, you can turn up magazine articles by trying an advanced Google Book Search. Unfortunately, no browsable guide to all the magazines indexed is planned....

Search Engine Land, Dec. 9



[Australian library profiled for 2.0 excellence](#)

If you visit the Picton branch of the Wollondilly Library in New South Wales, Australia, you will be greeted with the words "Find it @ your library." The library was recently featured in a series of videocasts that feature best-cases practices of how libraries around the globe are using Web 2.0 materials. Gail Dunn, leader of library and information services at Picton, highlights her passion for words during library tours. She posts keywords around the circulation desk—discover, explore, indulge. Watch the [video](#) (17:55)....



[Librarian workplace wellness](#)

Emily Ford writes: "Workplace wellness is an issue that seems to be largely ignored by libraries, librarians, and library organizations. Literature searches in LIS databases return very few relevant articles on the subject. Why? I'd like to offer some suggestions on how we can begin to tackle the organizational culture and values regarding wellness issue in our libraries."...

In the Library with the Lead Pipe, Dec. 3

[It's Employee Learning Week!](#)

Employee Learning Week (December 8–12) is an important opportunity for companies to demonstrate their commitment to workforce development. The American Society for Training and Development declared the week to increase awareness of the value of learning and its link to organizational results. The ALA–Allied Professional Association is offering an ELW library toolkit ([PDF file](#)) and a poster ([PDF file](#))....

American Society for Training and Development; ALA–Allied Professional Association



[Fashion your Firefox](#)

Mozilla has released [Fashion Your Firefox](#), giving Firefox users an easy way to discover and install add-ons and customize the browser based on their interests and online activities. On this website, add-ons that fit people's online lifestyles are organized and available for installation. Add-ons are tiny pieces of software that add new features or functionality to Firefox, letting people customize their browser to meet their tastes. There are currently more than 1 billion downloads of Firefox add-ons....

iTWire, Dec. 8

[First 10 fellows chosen for Indiana's librarian diversity initiative](#)

The Indiana State Library and the Indiana University SLIS in Indianapolis welcomed the first class of MLS fellows as part of the Librarians Leading in Diversity project. The program will eventually provide scholarships for 30 students from diverse backgrounds. Scholarship recipients will receive an annual stipend and must commit to work in an Indiana library for at least two years....

Indiana University Bloomington SLIS, Nov. 21

[People United for Libraries in Africa](#)

This year is the fifth anniversary of People United for Libraries in Africa, an organization devoted to providing libraries and books to needful African communities. Since 2003, PULA has donated funds for the construction of a library for Malawi Children's Village; helped build a community library in Butiru, Uganda; worked in cooperation with the Children's Centre at the University of Nigeria in Nsukka to set up primary school libraries throughout the area; and helped establish libraries inside two Nigerian prisons....

PULA Newsletter, no. 6 (Oct.)



[Hard-rock library reopening](#)

Aaron Andzik made this exciting PSA (0:46) about the mythical Fairfield County (Mass.) Library reopening and all the wonderful things you can find inside, from hot librarians to five-cent photocopies. With a hard-rock soundtrack and a hard-sell attitude, how can you resist making a visit?...

Aaron Andzik



[Bornstein talks about Baruch](#)

Jerry Bornstein, deputy chief librarian at Baruch College's Newman Library, shares his stories (4:28) about helping students learn how to find, evaluate, and use information: "The whole concept of a democratic society is based on an idea of an informed citizenry."...

YouTube



[The Open University archives](#)

Archivist Lorna Maguire gives a guided tour of the Open University Library archive room (in Milton Keynes, U.K.) in this video (6:12) and talks about old editions of *Sesame*, some of the earliest course materials, and the diaries and papers of Betty Boothroyd, the first female Speaker of the House of Commons. OU is England's government-supported, distance-learning university founded in 1969 and notable for having an open entry policy....

YouTube



[Photograph of Jesus in the Getty Images' Hulton Collection](#)

Getty Images approached producer Basil

Stephens and Short and Sweet founder Julia Stephenson with the idea of setting up a film competition that would make use of images in Getty's Hulton Collection in London.

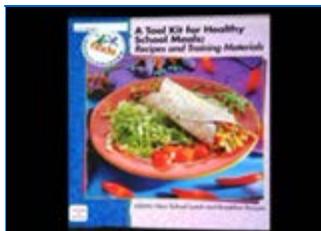


Filmmaker Laurie Hill won the [grand prize](#) of £5,000 with this submission (6:50) titled *Photograph of Jesus*, an animated documentary-fantasy based on stories of strange requests for impossible images. Narrated by Matthew Butson of Getty Images....

YouTube, Nov. 26; *Inside Film*, Dec. 1

[Let's cook with government documents!](#)

Sarah Gewirtz, reference/government documents librarian at Alcuin Library, College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University, put together this video (2:06) praising the culinary delights found within government documents. The music is "Lime Jello Marshmallow Cottage Surprise," by Joan Morris and William Bolcom from their 1986 album *Lime Jello: An American Cabaret*....



YouTube

[The Huntingdon College Library ghost](#)

A ghost named Frank is said to knock books off the shelf, move chairs around, and make noises in the Houghton Memorial Library, Huntingdon College, Montgomery, Alabama. Director Eric A. Kidwell (right) discusses the phenomena in this *Montgomery Advertiser* video (2:03). "We just wish we could get Frank to shelve books while we're closed."...



Truveo, Dec. 8

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AL Direct, December 10, 2008

Having trouble viewing this HTML e-mail (or seeing it in full)? Click here [[%= util.viewHtmlLink %>](#)].

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | December 10, 2008

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

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U.S. & World News

Philadelphia still on track for branch closings

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2008/december2008/phillyclosureson.cfm>]

Despite an outpouring of public concern and a cautionary note from city council, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter seems unwavering in his decision to permanently close 11 out of the 54 branches of the Free Library of Philadelphia and eliminate Sunday hours at the three regional branches. In a December 8 town hall meeting, Nutter warned that the city's financial health had deteriorated further and that the budget's five-year deficit will be larger than the \$1-billion estimate he gave November 1....

American Libraries Online, Dec. 10

Libraries nix dissed Christmas displays

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2008/december2008/nixeddisplays.cfm>]

In separate incidents, the holiday-spirit sensibilities of library

patrons have trumped tradition at the Oberlin (Ohio) Public Library and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: The first library heeded public comment by removing an edgy Santa art exhibit and the second by axing its years-long practice of displaying a Christmas tree in the lobby....

American Libraries Online, Dec. 10

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

ALA News

Scott Nicholson to discuss gaming

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/salongaming.cfm>]

The next installment in the series of ALA President Jim Rettig's ALA Connections Salons will be an online discussion with Scott Nicholson, an expert on gaming in libraries. Nicholson is an associate professor in the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University and the chief scientist of the Library Game Lab of Syracuse. The discussion, [<http://www.conference321.com/masteradmin/room.asp?id=rs423c62c43df0>] entitled "Gaming Connections," will take place in OPAL, 2-3 p.m. Eastern time, December 19....

Is the economy affecting your technology needs?

[<http://www.alatechsource.org/blog/2008/12/the-economic-crisis-your-library.html>]

ALA TechSource wants to know how the economic crisis is affecting your technology needs. Have you been unable to purchase up-to-date equipment? Are you unable to afford the bandwidth that you need? Have you found a way to stretch your budget that you think others should know about? If you have anything you'd like to share, email ALA TechSource [<mailto:economy.techsource@gmail.com>]....

ALA TechSource blog, Dec. 5

Privacy Revolution on Twitter

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

ALA's Privacy Revolution [<http://www.privacyrevolution.org>] initiative kicked off at the 2008 Annual Conference with one of the most blogged-about programs in Anaheim: the privacy panel featuring Cory Doctorow, Dan Roth, and Beth Givens. Now, the Privacy Revolution is getting ready to launch some exciting new steps. The best way for you to follow all of the action is via the Privacy Revolution Twitter feed.

[<http://twitter.com/privacyala>] Answer the survey question: What is the biggest threat to privacy today? You do not need to join Twitter in order to vote....

OIF Blog, Dec. 8

Eliminating print won't solve the problem

[<http://www.al.ala.org/insidescoop/?p=239>]

American Libraries Editor Leonard Kniffel writes: "I have this idea that I thought I would tell you," said the email message. "I am sure it's not original, but with the economy and the whole environmental crisis, carbon footprint things going on, maybe ALA can finally have an option on their membership to not receive the magazine?" Namely American Libraries. So began a December 3 posting to the ALA Council's electronic list from Councilor Trevor A. Dawes."...

AL Inside Scoop, Dec. 4

Featured review: Reference

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=2964392]

Uhlenbroek, Charlotte, ed. *Animal Life*. Oct. 2008. 512p. DK, hardcover (978-0-7566-3986-0).

The wonders of the natural world intrigue a large audience. Authored by a team of expert nature writers in association with the American Museum of Natural History, *Animal Life* provides an excellent overview of the animal world written at a level accessible to students and the general public. Introductory sections cover basics of animal life such as evolution, animal history, classification, and anatomy. Animal behavior receives the most extensive treatment, encompassing living space, hunting and feeding, defense mechanisms, sex and reproduction, birth and development, society, communication, and intelligence. Rather than focusing on detailed life histories of individual species, *Animal Life* utilizes representative species to portray behavior. Dramatic color photographs, some spanning two pages, are integral to the content....

Science reference databases

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3135656]

Mary Ellen Quinn writes: "Confused about which science database to invest in? Here's a rundown of science reference databases for school and public libraries. For comparison purposes, we asked the publishers for a starting price for high schools. For Facts On File's *Science Online*, that price is \$572 (2008 pricing); for McGraw-Hill's *AccessScience* and EBSCO's *Science Reference Center*, it's \$995; and for Gale's *Science Resource Center*, it's \$1,300. As always, contact the publishers directly for pricing options."...

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

Denver Update

Denver's Downtown Aquarium Restaurant

[http://www.aquariumrestaurants.com/downtownaquariumdenver/flash_content/index.html]

This entertainment and dining complex features a public aquarium with more than one million gallons of underwater exhibits that feature 500 species of animals in several different ecosystems; an interactive Sting Ray Reef touch tank; a restaurant with excellent views of rays, sawfish, sharks, and shovel-nosed guitarfish; and an upscale Dive Lounge....
Downtown Aquarium

Division News

Become a YALSA runway model

[<http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2008/12/05/what-to-wear/>]

What’s your look? Do you, or someone you know, have a professional fashion sense that you think others can learn from? Do you like to find just the right clothing that combines your individual style with a professional appearance? If so, then you could walk the runway at YALSA’s first-ever fashion event hosted by Steven Rosengard (right) of Project Runway Season 4, in Chicago on July 10. Applications (PDF file [http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/wtw_app_distributed.pdf]) are due by January 30....

YALSA Blog, Dec. 5

James Patterson to deliver special session at AASL Conference

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/aaslpatrickson.cfm>]

Best-selling author James Patterson will be the speaker at a special author session at the 2009 AASL National Conference, “Rev Up Learning @ your library.” The conference will take place November 5–8, 2009, in Charlotte, North Carolina. Patterson chose to present at the AASL National Conference because he knows that school library media specialists are on the front lines in the effort to get kids reading....

Advocacy toolkits for school librarians

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/aaslecontoolkits.cfm>]

AASL is launching two new toolkits exclusively for school library media programs. The School Library Media Health and Wellness and Crisis Toolkits are designed to address the needs of and resources available to school library media specialists to build stakeholder support in their programs. They will be introduced to attendees of the School Library Advocacy Institute on January 23 during the 2009 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver....

Jump-start your career with an ALSC online course

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/alsconlinefeb.cfm>]

Start the New Year building your career skills by taking an exciting new online course

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/edcareers/profdevelopment/alscweb/index.cfm>] from ALSC. Courses include: “Reading Instruction and Children’s Books,” “The Newbery Medal: Past, Present and Future,” and “The Tech-Savvy Booktalker,” and

“Sharing Poetry with Children”; Registration opens December 29, and discounted rates are available for ALSC members....

PLA offers budget and finance workshop

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/plabudgetworkshop.cfm>]

PLA is offering public librarians an opportunity to learn practical skills and knowledge that will help them better manage their libraries’ budgeting process. The Budget and Finance workshop, taught by Sandra Nelson, is scheduled for January 14–15 in Decatur, Georgia, and features an intensive, small-group environment. For the full course description, instructor biographies and registration information, visit the PLA website

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/pla/plaevents/cplacourses/>]....

The PLA CafePress library store

[<http://plablog.org/2008/12/pla-store-at-cafepress.html>]

PLA is offering a collection of distinctive graphics and products with a public library bent on CafePress, [<http://www.cafepress.com/librarystore>] an online retailer that produces and dispatches user-customized products on demand. Check out PLA’s shirts, bags, mousepads, bags, license plate frames, cards, postcards, and posters....

PLA Blog, Dec. 5

Awards

I Love My Librarian Award winners announced

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/ilovemylibrarian.cfm>]

Librarians in our nation’s 123,000 libraries make a difference in the lives of millions of Americans every day. On December 9, ten librarians [<http://www.ilovelibraries.org/lovemylibrarian/winners.cfm>] were recognized for service to their communities, schools, and campuses as winners of the Carnegie Corporation of New York/New York Times I Love My Librarian Award at a ceremony and reception in New York City hosted by the New York Times. American Libraries Editor Leonard Kniffel writes: “AL Inside Scoop [<http://www.al.ala.org/insidescoop/?p=265>] went backstage before the show to watch the winners prep for their speeches. They chatted nervously, words like ‘star treatment’ being bandied about.” More than 3,200 library users nationwide nominated a beloved librarian....

I Love Libraries; AL Inside Scoop, Dec. 9

PLA awards nominations due December 15

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/planominationdeadline.cfm>]

The deadline to nominate colleagues and public libraries for one of the 2009 PLA awards is quickly approaching. PLA members can submit an awards application through the PLA website.

[<http://www.pla.org/ala/mgrps/divs/pla/plaawards/index.cfm>] The deadline for submitting an application is December 15....

Deadlines approaching for two PLA scholarships

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/plafellowsdeadline.cfm>]

The application

[<http://pla.org/ala/mgrps/divs/pla/plaawards/Leadership/index.cfm>]

deadlines for two of the schools participating in PLA's Leadership Fellows program are quickly approaching. Applications to the Leadership Development Program at Columbia University's Business School are due to the PLA office January 9. Applications to the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, are due February 20....

New ALA scholarship in new media

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/hrdrsage.cfm>]

The Peter Lyman Memorial/SAGE Scholarship in New Media will be offered with the support of SAGE Publications. The scholarship was created in memory of Peter Lyman, former university librarian and professor emeritus of the School of Information at the University of California, Berkeley. The scholarship will support a student in an ALA-accredited master's program in Library and Information Studies pursuing a specialty in new media. The recipient will receive a \$2,500 scholarship as well as a travel stipend to attend the ALA Midwinter Meeting....

Honoring the best in library design

[<http://www.lama.ala.org/llamaleads/?p=251>]

The American Institute of Architects and LLAMA created the biennial AIA/ALA Library Buildings Award program to encourage excellence in the architectural design and planning of libraries and to recognize outstanding accomplishments in library architecture. Awards may be given for new buildings, additions, renovations, restorations, conversion to library use, and interior redesign and refurbishing. For more information, visit the award website. [http://www.aia.org/awp_library]
Submission deadline is January 5....

Leads from LLAMA, Dec. 4

YALSA names Morris Awards finalists

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/yalsamorris.cfm>]

YALSA announced the five finalists December 8 for the inaugural William C. Morris Award, which honors a book written by a first-time author for young adults. The award is named for William C. (Bill) Morris, a longtime publishing executive beloved in the library world for his enthusiasm for promoting literature for children and teens....

Marshall Breeding awarded a Fulbright grant

[<http://www.abuc.org.ar/portal/?not=14>]

Marshall Breeding, director for innovative technologies and research at Vanderbilt University, is spending three weeks in Córdoba, Argentina, in December as a Fulbright senior specialist. He is working with the Acuerdo de Bibliotecas Universitarias de Córdoba, a consortium of academic libraries, to assess their current state of automation and help them with service improvement and resource sharing....

Boletín Acuerdo de Bibliotecas Universitarias de Córdoba, no. 17 (Oct.)

Bibliotekar [http://www.russia-ic.com/news/show/7500/]
Writer Mikhail Elizarov won the 2008 Russian Booker prize of \$20,000
December 3 for his mystical novel 'Bibliotekar' (Librarian), published in
2007 by Ad Marginem in Moscow. The plot
[http://www.gs-agency.com/book_show_en.php?id=45] revolves around a young
man who arrives in a provincial town and unwittingly becomes a librarian
involved in a quest for a lost tome titled The Book of Meaning....
Vesti, Dec. 4; Goumen & Smirnova agency

Seen Online

Obama Africana

[http://media.www.dailynorthwestern.com/media/storage/paper853/news/2008/11/20/Campus/Library.Exhibits.Kenyas.Response.To.Obama-3554314.shtml]
Africa's response to Barack Obama's election victory is the theme of an
exhibit and ongoing collection at Northwestern University's Melville J.
Herskovits Library of African Studies. The exhibit includes a collection
of newspapers, DVDs, a poster, a T-shirt, and a bumper sticker that reads
"Obama is Unbwogable," designed by Lorna Abungu. The term was coined in
2002 by Gidi Gidi Maji Maji, a Kenyan hip-hop duo, in their song titled
"Unbwogable." It means "unbeatable" or "unstoppable."
“Obama's election is an event of enormous significance in
Africa,” Curator David Easterbrook explained....
Daily Northwestern, Nov. 20

Resolution could spell disaster for New Jersey libraries

[http://www.nj.com/news/jjournal/bayonne/index.ssf?/base/news-4/1228721157165940.xml&coll=3]
Advocates for the Bayonne (N.J.) Public Library predict disaster if the
legislature enacts a November 21 resolution by the New Jersey State
League of Municipalities to slash funding for city libraries in half
during fiscal year 2009. State law (enacted in 1944) requires
municipalities with libraries set up by public referendum to dedicate
one-third of a mill of each property-tax dollar to the library. The
league wants that fixed amount cut in half, arguing that it "far exceeds
the reasonable needs and requirements of the free public libraries."...
Jersey City Jersey Journal, Dec. 8

U.S. Archivist Allen Weinstein resigns

[http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/National-Archivist-Allen-Weinstein-R
esigns/story.aspx?guid={8FC3715F-42D4-4402-9B5A-37B0FAEC4B6E}]
On December 7, historian Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States,
submitted his resignation to President Bush, effective December 19.
Weinstein, who has Parkinson's disease, cited health reasons for his
decision. Deputy Archivist of the United States Adrienne Thomas will
serve as acting Archivist until a new Archivist is appointed....
PRNewswire, Dec. 9

Reservist librarian recruits books

[http://www.gazettes.com/articles/2008/12/05/community_news/doc49398785a6db2728246305.txt]

Naval reservist Virginia Sanchez is on leave from her position at the Long Beach (Calif.) Public Library's Dana branch while she serves near Kabul, Afghanistan. She is sharing her passion for literacy by expanding the library at her base, Camp Blackhorse, and with a little help from the Los Cerritos Elementary School, she can expand the children's section. Students and teachers at the school are collecting children's books to send to her so that enlisted men and women can make video recordings of themselves reading for their children at home....

Long Beach (Calif.) Uptown Gazette, Dec. 5

Visit Dartmouth's Milton Reading Room

[<http://chronicle.com/wiredcampus/article/3504/celebrate-miltons-400th-with-a-visit-to-the-milton-reading-room>]

If you missed your chance to celebrate John Milton's 400th birthday on December 9, you can still go online to enjoy a thoroughly annotated version of Paradise Lost in the Milton Reading Room.

[<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/>] The Dartmouth College site—created by English Professor Thomas H. Luxon—offers annotated versions of a number of other Milton poems as well, including Paradise Regain'd and Samson Agonistes....

Chronicle of Higher Education, Dec. 8

Plainfield's Homer painting fails to land a bid

[<http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/20081203/NEWS/812030372/1017/newsfront>]

The Plainfield (N.J.) Public Library's Winslow Homer original painting Winding Line failed to land a bid December 3 matching its reserve price of \$2 million at a Sotheby's auction in New York City, and the auction house will now seek a private buyer for the 1875 oil on canvas, library officials said. Sotheby's will have 90 days to find a private buyer willing to meet the reserve before the auction house stops actively offering it, Library Director Joe Da Rold said, after which it has agreed to store and insure both the oil painting and a library-owned Homer watercolor for three years....

Bridgewater (N.J.) Courier News, Dec. 3

Five years for Brazilian book thief

[<http://philobiblos.blogspot.com/2008/12/five-years-for-brazilian-book-thief.html>]

A Brazilian court has sentenced Laessio Rodrigues de Oliveira to a five-year prison sentence for the theft [<http://jbonline.terra.com.br/extra/2008/12/03/e03127968.html>] of several rare books from the Instituto de Pesquisas Jardim Botânico in Rio de Janeiro. Oliveira was arrested in 2004, and had stolen books from several other Brazilian institutions, including the National Museum in Rio de Janeiro, the Historical Archive in Blumenau (Santa Catarina state), and the Mário de Andrade Library in São Paulo, which were found in his home at that time....

PhiloBiblos, Dec. 8; Jornal do Brasil (Rio de Janeiro), Dec. 3

Book-sale bedlam at Enoch Pratt Free Library

[http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/baltimore_city/bal-library1205,0,71]

74832.story]

The line of eager buyers at Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Free Library book sale stretched more than half a block December 5, but no Black Friday-style madness erupted at the opening of the three-day annual event. Proceeds from the sale of hundreds of thousands of books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, records, and other materials at bargain-basement prices will go to the library's acquisitions budget, said Pratt CEO Carla D. Hayden. Last year, the sale brought in about \$10,000, according to library spokesman Roswell Encina. The video (1:32) shows why....
Baltimore Sun, Dec. 5

Book group wars [<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/07/fashion/07clubs.html>]
Jocelyn Bowie was thrilled by the invitation to join a book group. She had just returned to her hometown, Bloomington, Indiana, and thought she had won a ticket to a top echelon. Bowie cannot pinpoint the precise moment when disillusion replaced delight. Maybe it was the evening she tried to persuade everyone to look beyond Oprah Winfrey's picks, "and they all said, 'What's wrong with Oprah?'" The last straw came when the group picked The Da Vinci Code and someone suggested the discussion would be enriched by delving into the author's source material....
New York Times, Dec. 5

Librarians helped tame the West

[<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-il-wildwestlibrarian,0,4428005.story>]

Around the turn of the 20th century, graduates of the University of Illinois GSLIS (then called the Illinois Library School) headed to places like Texas, North Dakota, Idaho, and Oregon. In July 1908, Oregon State University hired its first professional librarian, Ida Kidder (right), an ILS graduate. Betsy Hearne, professor emeritus at the library school, shared stories about the early graduates of the library school for a short video broadcast on the Big Ten Network. She spoke about graduates establishing libraries in places where, in some cases, they were the only librarian within a 130-mile radius or the only single female in town....
Chicago Tribune, Dec. 8

Go back to the Top [#top]

Tech Talk

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[<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2332355,00.asp>]How to buy a cheap digital camera [<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2335981,00.asp>]
Corinne Iozzio writes: "Point-and-shoot digital cameras are easy to tote, simple to use, and most important, they have the features to satisfy the majority of casual photographers. At first glance, these cameras often appear very similar, and you might get the impression that it would be safe to pick one at random, but a closer look tells a very different story. The one thing these 15 models do have in common is affordability; each one of them rings up at \$250 or less online. Here's what you need to look for when shopping for a new point-and-shoot camera."...
PC Magazine, Dec. 5

Working in beta [<http://www.al.ala.org/insidescoop/?p=241>]

American Libraries Associate Editor Greg Landgraf writes: “One of my favorite programs at the recent LITA National Forum was a presentation on library web labs given by Jason Battles of the University of Alabama and Jody Combs of Vanderbilt University. At its heart, the concept is an adaptation of Google Labs. Library web labs list new and experimental services offered by the library—usually though not necessarily web-based—and offer ways for patrons to try them and offer feedback. The library can then use that feedback to improve the service before its official release.”...

AL Inside Scoop, Dec. 4

What’s your favorite mouse?

[<http://gizmodo.com/5105510/question-of-the-day-whats-your-favorite-mouse-of-all-time>]

Matt Buchanan writes: “December 9 is the 40th anniversary of the first mouse (right). Since then, it’s evolved into different shapes, sprouted buttons, lost its tail, and mutated all kinds of other crazy ways [<http://gizmodo.com/5101603/crazy-never-before-seen-logitech-mutant-mouse-p-rototypes>]. My favorite mouse ever is Logitech’s MX500, which set their ergonomic standard for years, all the way through the wireless G7 gaming mouse,

[<http://gizmodo.com/gadgets/wireless/logitech-g7-cordless-mouse-reviewed-ve-rdict-gives-goood-hand-133533.php>] and to some extent, their current Revolution series. It doesn’t have a laundry list of features or 10 million buttons—it’s just a simple, but perfectly evolved mouse. The worst mouse ever has to be Apple’s hockey puck, no need to explain there.”...

Gizmodo, Dec. 9

[<http://www.mogulus.com/>]Top 10 consumer web apps of 2008

[http://www.readwriteweb.com/archives/top_10_consumer_apps_2008.php]

Sometimes it’s important to take a step back and realize that the apps to which we’ve grown incredibly accustomed are just barely beginning to register with the general public. This was a year in which two major events had worldwide impact on the Web. These events focused the world’s attention, had more consumers creating more online content, and had more people searching online for information than ever before: the Beijing Olympics and the U.S. Presidential elections. Many of these apps have those events to thank for their exposure and adoption....

ReadWriteWeb, Dec. 9

The strangest sights in Second Life

[http://www.pcworld.com/article/155073/the_strangest_sights_in_second_life.html]

Mark Sullivan writes: “Welcome to Second Life, by far the most popular and well-used virtual world. I went in search of the strange and unexpected in Second Life, and I wasn’t disappointed. People do some strange things in the virtual world of Second Life: They build avant-garde structures and environments, they remake themselves with odd faces (or bodies, or clothing), they fly, they get stuck in walls and fall through floors, they role-play, they switch genders, they play pranks. Here are some snapshots.”....

PC World, Dec. 8

The fastest ISPs in America

[<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2335749,00.asp>]

Fiber-optic service is dramatically faster, and satellite service is substantially slower, according to PC Magazine's SurfSpeed, a utility that grabs pages from several popular websites to measure actual internet surfing speed. Taken as a whole, DSL and cable connections were more than five times as fast as satellite. Fiber-optic connections were 152% faster than that. The average cable service provider gets you online at 688 Kbps, while the average DSL lets you surf at just 469 Kbps—cable connections, on average, are 47% faster. Take a look at the state-by-state roundup

[<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2335740,00.asp>]....

PC Magazine, Dec. 2

Publishing

Revised Harry Potter lexicon in the works

[http://www.mlive.com/chronicle/news/index.ssf/2008/12/local_publisher_reva_mps_harry.html]

The cover of The Lexicon speaks volumes about the lengths to which a West Michigan author and publisher have gone to get the guide to the Harry Potter book series into the hands of readers. An Unauthorized Guide to Harry Potter Fiction and Related Materials appears boldly below the title and above librarian/author Steve Vander Ark's name. A paragraph further details the fact that neither author J. K. Rowling nor a host of others with trademarks and other interests in the Harry Potter series had any part in making the book, set to be released January 12. Using the judge's detailed, 68-page ruling in the copyright lawsuit that his publisher lost in September as a guide, Vander Ark rewrote his book to comply with the law....

Muskegon (Mich.) Chronicle, Dec. 5

unveiled at New York Public Library

[<http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/12/03/beedle-the-bard-on-view-at-the-library/>]

A handwritten and hand-illustrated copy of J. K. Rowling's newest book, The Tales of Beedle the Bard

[<http://mediaroom.scholastic.com/beedlethebard>],

[<http://mediaroom.scholastic.com/beedlethebard>] was unveiled December 3 at the New York Public Library to generate publicity for the commercial release of the book the following day. The copy on view at the library is one of seven the author created by hand and was lent for the exhibition by Arthur A. Levine, the original Scholastic editor who purchased the first Harry Potter book in 1994 for \$105,000. Scholastic has also donated three copies of Beedle the Bard to each of NYPL's 87 branches....

New York Times, Dec. 3; Scholastic, Dec. 4

Reed Business Information sale postponed

[<http://www.paidcontent.org/entry/419-breaking-rbi-sale-cancelled-reed-elsevier-still-wants-rid-in-medium-ter/>]

The verdict is in and the answer is: no sale. Reed Elsevier has announced that its torturous, nine-month campaign to sell Reed Business Information, its magazine division, is over. Reed announced [http://www.investegate.co.uk/article.aspx?id=200812101440278957J&fe=1] to the stock market December 10 that it has “terminated discussions with potential bidders” and that due to the poor economic outlook, shareholders would get more value by the company hanging on to Library Journal and Publishers Weekly. But Reed wants to sell RBI in the “medium term when conditions are more favorable.” Meantime, RBI will be “structured and managed” to make it more profitable; and that normally means redundancies, magazine sell-offs, or both....
paidContent, Dec. 10; InvestEgate, Dec. 10

The best business books of 2008 [http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/08_50/b4112081259662.htm]
To look back at the books produced in the beginning of 2008 is to glimpse a more innocent world, an Eden seemingly free of financial crisis and the impending gloom of 2009. But by spring the first of the bad-news reads had appeared. Regardless of the season, numerous valuable works were published in 2008, including a few that understood the sad shape of things to come. One of the best is former banker Charles R. Morris's The Trillion Dollar Meltdown (PublicAffairs), which explains what happened and why in under 200 pages. It is being revised and retitled for paperback release as The Two Trillion Dollar Meltdown in February....
Business Week, Dec. 4

American publishers should go for translations [http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08342/932821-74.stm]
Bob Hoover writes: "Houghton Mifflin Harcourt was so threatened by the recession that it admitted late last month that it was temporarily freezing the acquisition of manuscripts. This is panic mode for a publisher. If the freeze mentality spreads to other publishers, where will the material come from for new titles? Easy: Translations of books already published abroad. Republishing them in English for American readers addresses three issues: Saving money, European literary snobbery, and competition for American hacks."...
Pittsburgh (Pa.) Post-Gazette, Dec. 7

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[http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com]

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Actions & Answers

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Welcome to the Age of New Frugality [http://acrlog.org/2008/12/08/welcome-to-the-age-of-new-frugality/]
Steven Bell writes: "You can feel it. We’re going through a cultural shift. Thank the economic meltdown. I’ve noticed a number of writers pointing to a trend that could impact academic librarians, but

will more likely make its presence felt in the public library sector. Still, it's a trend to which we should pay attention, and perhaps there may be ways academic libraries can make their own contribution. Call it the Age of New Frugality."...
ACRLog, Dec. 8

Top 10 things to do when you become unemployed
[<http://listverse.com/entertainment/top-10-things-to-do-when-you-become-unemployed/>]

Jamie Frater writes: "With the American economy (and many others in the world) potentially on the verge of collapse we are all subject to being out of a job any minute. One day we're working, paying the bills, and enjoying happy hour. The next day we are unemployed and panic is starting to set in. Don't worry! Here is my top 10 list of things you should do. If you have extra tips for people who have lost their jobs or are going to lose their job, please add them in the comments."...
List Universe, Dec. 2

Matrix could help students evaluate internet info
[<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=56296>]
In a paper they presented during the online "Rock the Academy" teaching symposium November 5, English professor Susan Miller-Cochran (North Carolina State University) and Rochelle Rodrigo (Mesa Community College) suggest that students be given a guideline (PDF file [<http://www.nmc.org/files/nmc-resources-tables.pdf>]) to explore as they consider online texts. The two main questions they encourage students to ask are: How does the information change over time—is it constantly updated and revised, or static? And how has the information been reviewed?...
eSchool News, Dec. 5

Getting animated [<http://www.al.ala.org/insidescoop/?p=258>]
American Libraries Associate Editor Greg Landgraf writes: "Laramie County (Wyo.) Library System is now publicizing a year-and-a-half-old service that's just plain cool: An animation station [http://www.lclsonline.org/animation_station/] where kids can make their own stop-motion movies. County Librarian Lucie Osborn says the animation station helps to attract nontraditional library users, particularly boys, and encourages collaborations among children or between kids and their parents."...
AL Inside Scoop, Dec. 8

Knowing what Speidi means will make you a better YA librarian
[<http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2008/12/09/why-knowing-what-speidi-means-makes-you-a-better-teen-librarian/>]
Sarah Ludwig writes: "As teen librarians, we have to connect with our users—and this may be true for us more than other library professionals. Teens are great at seeing straight through us, and being fake is no way to earn a teen's trust or get them interested in using the library. With that said, there are some easy ways to learn about things that interest teens. I really can't say enough about watching Gossip Girl if you want to connect with teen girls. Use Pandora or another music app to learn about new music."...
YALSA Blog, Dec. 9

Adults are gamers too

[http://www.pewinternet.org/report_display.asp?r=269]

More than half—53%—of all American adults play video games of some kind, whether on a computer, on a gaming console, on a cellphone or other handheld device, on a portable gaming device, or online, according to a recent Pew Internet and American Life survey (PDF file [http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Adult_gaming_memo.pdf]). Among older adults 65+ who play video games, nearly a third play games everyday, a significantly larger percentage than all younger players, of whom about 20% play everyday....

Pew Internet and American Life, Dec. 7

Springer to preserve content in CLOCKSS

[http://www.clockss.org/clockss/Springer_helps_launch_CLOCKSS]

Publisher Springer Science+Business Media is partnering with the cooperative electronic archive CLOCKSS to preserve the content of its more than 1,700 periodical titles. The archive ensures perpetual access to journal content that has been orphaned, abandoned, or interrupted. Springer, a founding member of CLOCKSS, has also submitted a proposal to the archive's board outlining a pilot project to test the feasibility and legal issues surrounding the preservation of its eBook content....

CLOCKSS, Dec. 3

African-American library directors in the U.S.

[<http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/NKAA/directors.php>]

This database of African-American library directors is housed and supported by the University of Kentucky Libraries, with major promotion and acknowledgment from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. BCALA members Reinette Jones and Alonzo W. Hill are collaborating in the effort, adding new entries and updates as they are received....

University of Kentucky Libraries

How to use Google Reader like a rock star

[<http://mashable.com/2008/12/07/how-to-use-google-reader/>]

Matt Singley writes: "Google Reader recently got a facelift; with a fresh look and features, a lot of people are buzzing about the service. Knowing that new users are signing up and veterans are looking for some ideas to make their experience even better, we have put together a quick how-to that should offer something for everyone."...

Mashable, Dec. 7

Google Book Search puts magazines online

[<http://searchengineland.com/google-book-search-puts-magazines-online-15762.php>]

Google announced an initiative December 9 to enable full-text searches of millions of articles from more than 10 magazines (with hundreds more to come). Eventually, Google will begin blending magazine results into the main search results. For now, you can turn up magazine articles by trying an advanced Google Book Search. Unfortunately, no browsable guide to all the magazines indexed is planned....

Search Engine Land, Dec. 9

[<http://vimeo.com/2394037>] Australian library profiled for 2.0 excellence
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/campaignoutback.cfm>]

If you visit the Picton branch of the Wollondilly Library in New South Wales, Australia, you will be greeted with the words “Find it @ your library.” The library was recently featured in a series of videocasts that feature best-cases practices of how libraries around the globe are using Web 2.0 materials. Gail Dunn, leader of library and information services at Picton, highlights her passion for words during library tours. She posts keywords around the circulation desk—discover, explore, indulge. Watch the video [<http://vimeo.com/2394037>] (17:55)....

Librarian workplace wellness

[<http://inthelibrarywiththeleadpipe.org/2008/our-librarian-bodies-our-librarian-selves/>]

Emily Ford writes: “Workplace wellness is an issue that seems to be largely ignored by libraries, librarians, and library organizations. Literature searches in LIS databases return very few relevant articles on the subject. Why? I’d like to offer some suggestions on how we can begin to tackle the organizational culture and values regarding wellness issue in our libraries.”...

In the Library with the Lead Pipe, Dec. 3

It’s Employee Learning Week!

[<http://www.employeelearningweek.org/index.html>]

Employee Learning Week (December 8–12) is an important opportunity for companies to demonstrate their commitment to workforce development. The American Society for Training and Development declared the week to increase awareness of the value of learning and its link to organizational results. The ALA–Allied Professional Association is offering an ELW library toolkit (PDF file

[http://www.employeelearningweek.org/materials/Librarian_Toolkit.pdf]) and a poster (PDF file

[http://www.employeelearningweek.org/materials/ELW_ALA_Poster.pdf])....

American Society for Training and Development; ALA–Allied Professional Association

Fashion your Firefox [<http://www.itwire.com/content/view/22145/1127/>]

Mozilla has released Fashion Your Firefox,

[<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/fashionyourfirefox/>] giving Firefox users an easy way to discover and install add-ons and customize the browser based on their interests and online activities. On this website, add-ons that fit people’s online lifestyles are organized and available for installation. Add-ons are tiny pieces of software that add new features or functionality to Firefox, letting people customize their browser to meet their tastes. There are currently more than 1 billion downloads of Firefox add-ons....

iTWire, Dec. 8

First 10 fellows chosen for Indiana’s librarian diversity

initiative [http://www.slis.indiana.edu/news/story.php?story_id=1862]

The Indiana State Library and the Indiana University SLIS in Indianapolis welcomed the first class of MLS fellows as part of the Librarians Leading in Diversity project. The program will eventually provide scholarships

for 30 students from diverse backgrounds. Scholarship recipients will receive an annual stipend and must commit to work in an Indiana library for at least two years....

Indiana University Bloomington SLIS, Nov. 21

People United for Libraries in Africa [<http://africanlibraries.org/6.htm>]
This year is the fifth anniversary of People United for Libraries in Africa, an organization devoted to providing libraries and books to needful African communities. Since 2003, PULA has donated funds for the construction of a library for Malawi Children's Village; helped build a community library in Butiru, Uganda; worked in cooperation with the Children's Centre at the University of Nigeria in Nsukka to set up primary school libraries throughout the area; and helped establish libraries inside two Nigerian prisons....
PULA Newsletter, no. 6 (Oct.)

[http://www.aaronandzik.com/aaron_andzik_010.htm]Hard-rock library reopening [http://www.aaronandzik.com/aaron_andzik_010.htm]
Aaron Andzik made this exciting PSA (0:46) about the mythical Fairfield County (Mass.) Library reopening and all the wonderful things you can find inside, from hot librarians to five-cent photocopies. With a hard-rock soundtrack and a hard-sell attitude, how can you resist making a visit?...
Aaron Andzik

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_MLIhAHXrR0]Bornstein talks about Baruch [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_MLIhAHXrR0]
Jerry Bornstein, deputy chief librarian at Baruch College's Newman Library, shares his stories (4:28) about helping students learn how to find, evaluate, and use information: "The whole concept of a democratic society is based on an idea of an informed citizenry."...
YouTube

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9ijKrTwB_M]The Open University archives [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9ijKrTwB_M]
Archivist Lorna Maguire gives a guided tour of the Open University Library archive room (in Milton Keynes, U.K.) in this video (6:12) and talks about old editions of Sesame, some of the earliest course materials, and the diaries and papers of Betty Boothroyd, the first female Speaker of the House of Commons. OU is England's government-supported, distance-learning university founded in 1969 and notable for having an open entry policy....
YouTube

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zve2chDhB_4] in the Getty Images's Hulton Collection [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zve2chDhB_4]
Getty Images approached producer Basil Stephens and Short and Sweet founder Julia Stephenson with the idea of setting up a film competition that would make use of images in Getty's Hulton Collection in London. Filmmaker Laurie Hill won the grand prize [<http://if.com.au/news/article/Photograph-of-Jesus-wins-Getty-prize/GHUIIUFVOM.html>] of £5,000 with this submission (6:50) titled Photograph of Jesus, an animated documentary-fantasy based on stories of strange requests for impossible images. Narrated by Matthew Butson of Getty

Images....

YouTube, Nov. 26; Inside Film, Dec. 1

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47p4lzeC1a4>]Let's cook with government documents! [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47p4lzeC1a4>] Sarah Gewirtz, reference/government documents librarian at Alcuin Library, College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University, put together this video (2:06) praising the culinary delights found within government documents. The music is "Lime Jello Marshmallow Cottage Surprise," by Joan Morris and William Bolcom from their 1986 album Lime Jello: An American Cabaret....

YouTube

[http://usat.gannett.a.mms.mavenapps.net/mms/rt/1/site/gannett-usatoday-206-pub01-live/current/launch.html?maven_playerId=immersiveproduction&maven_referralObject=911950878]The Huntingdon College Library ghost [http://usat.gannett.a.mms.mavenapps.net/mms/rt/1/site/gannett-usatoday-206-pub01-live/current/launch.html?maven_playerId=immersiveproduction&maven_referralObject=911950878]

A ghost named Frank is said to knock books off the shelf, move chairs around, and make noises in the Houghton Memorial Library, Huntingdon College, Montgomery, Alabama. Director Eric A. Kidwell (right) discusses the phenomena in this Montgomery Advertiser video (2:03). "We just wish we could get Frank to shelve books while we're closed."...

Truveo, Dec. 8

Go back to the Top [#top]

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[<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/home.cfm>]

ALA Midwinter Meeting,

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/2009/faq.cfm>]

Denver, January 23–28. Advance registration prices have ended and onsite prices are in effect, as of December 6. If you registered for the Bundled Registration package, you may now go back into your registration and add any preconferences, institutes, or special events

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/2009/Institutes.pdf>].

[<http://www.techsource.ala.org/ltr/open-source-integrated-library-systems.html>]

The final 2008 issue of Library Technology Reports is Open Source Integrated Library Systems

[<http://www.techsource.ala.org/ltr/open-source-integrated-library-systems.h>

tml] by Marshall Breeding. In this issue, Breeding details the differences between using an open source approach to that of using conventional proprietary software for automated operations. His report defines open source and provides an overview of the various options currently available to libraries, including Koha and Evergreen. It also includes an overview of commercial support firms—including LibLime, Equinox Software, Media Flex, Versus Solutions, and Index Data—for open source ILS. NEW! From ALA TechSource.

In this issue
December 2008

[<http://site.ebrary.com/lib/ala>]

Laura Bush, Librarian in the White House

Top Stories of 2008

The World's Greatest Music Library

User Tagging

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

Librarian/Archivist,
[<http://joblist.ala.org/modules/jobseeker/controller.cfm?scr=jobdetail&jobid=12375>] New York Yacht Club. The New York Yacht Club Library is considered the largest and most prominent private collection of books on ships and the sea. Subject areas include yachting history, voyages, navigation, seamanship, shipbuilding, cruising guides, America's Cup matches, naval history, and sailing reference works. The librarian works with the NYYC Library Committee to contribute to the club's vision for the library's growth and development and formulates a plan to implement that vision, including administrative decisions requiring initiative and judgment....

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

Digital Library of the Week

[http://azmemory.lib.az.us/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/otmind&CISOPTR=4&CISOBX=1&REC=12]

The Arizona Memory Project [<http://azmemory.lib.az.us/cdm4/index.php>] is an online effort to provide access to the wealth of primary sources in Arizona libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural institutions. This initiative provides the opportunity to view some of the best examples of government documents, photographs, maps, and objects that chronicle Arizona's past and present. The project was launched in March 2006 and has been granted the Arizona Centennial 2012 legacy project designation by the Arizona Historical Advisory Commission in support of the Arizona State Centennial Celebration [<http://www.azcentennial.gov/>]. This is an OAI-compliant digital library and a registered data contributor on OAIster.org and the Open Archives Initiative.

Do you know of a digital library collection that we can mention in this AL Direct feature? Tell us about it. [<mailto:aldirect@ala.org>] Browse previous Digital Libraries of the Week at the I Love Libraries [<http://www.ilovelibraries.ala.org/diglibweekly/>] site.

Public Perception How the World Sees Us

"I never knew libraries have so much to offer. From providing fun reading that can replace a missed episode of Gossip Girl to hardcore practice tests for a class in which I'm struggling, the library is like Disneyland for the mind. Sure, every year at least one of my classes goes on a tour of the school library, but discovering the magical wonders myself makes the library more appealing than having a librarian tell me the same thing four years in a row."

?Beverly Hills (Calif.) High School Senior Shannon Matloob, in "Libraries Rule," L.A. Youth, Nov./Dec. issue.

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/publications/crlnews/2008/dec/December.cfm>]

Megan Coder (SUNY-New Paltz) offers some suggestions on how academic libraries can take environmental action in "Not Easy Being Green: Or Is It?"; [<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/publications/crlnews/2008/dec/notesybeinggreen.cfm>] in the December issue of College & Research Libraries News.

Ask the ALA Librarian

Q. The word “library” seems to be used in so many different ways now, from the brick-and-mortar public library to the digital library. Is there a good definition of what a library is?

A. We’re glad you asked. ALA’s Whole Library Handbook 4 [http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=product_detail&_op=1926] offers this definition: “A library is a collection of resources in a variety of formats that is (1) organized by information professionals or other experts who (2) provide convenient physical, digital, bibliographic, or intellectual access and (3) offer targeted services and programs (4) with the mission of educating, informing, or entertaining a variety of audiences (5) and the goal of stimulating individual learning and advancing society as a whole” (p. 2). The definition was developed in consultation with several different sources. From the ALA Professional Tips wiki [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/What_is_a_Library%3F].

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

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s School of Information and Library Science has opened registration for its Summer 2009 international programs. [http://sils.unc.edu/news/releases/2008/12_international.htm] Anyone interested in taking part in the seminars in Prague or Oxford can sign up, either for academic credit or on a noncredit basis. Registrations must be received by February 1.

Calendar

Online exhibits:

Bibliothèque Nationale de France:
[<http://expositions.bnf.fr/gastro/enimages/anglais/index.htm>]
“Medieval Gastronomy: Food, Cooking, Meals.”

Duke University:
[<http://library.duke.edu/exhibits/sevenelections/index.html>]
“Seven Elections That Changed U.S. History.”

Harvard University, Arnold Arboretum:
[http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/programs/eastern_asia/overview.html]
“Botanical and Cultural Images of Eastern Asia, 1907–1927.”

Library of Congress:
[<http://myloc.gov/exhibitions/earlyamericas/Pages/default.aspx>]
“Exploring the Early Americas.” Selections from the more than 3,000 rare maps, documents, paintings, prints, and artifacts that make up the Jay I. Kislak Collection.

National Agricultural Library:

[<http://www.nal.usda.gov/speccoll/images1/popcorn.html>]

“Popcorn: Ingrained in America’s Agricultural History.”

National Library of Australia:

[<http://www.nla.gov.au/epubs/waltzingmatilda/>]

“Who’ll Come a Waltzing Matilda with Me?”

National Library of Ireland: [<http://www.nli.ie/yeats/>]

“The Life and Works of William Butler Yeats.”

New York Public Library: [<http://exhibitions.nypl.org/exhibits/eminent>]

“Eminent Domain: Contemporary Photography and the City.” Features the work of five contemporary New York–based photographers drawn primarily from new acquisitions in the Photography Collection.

Ohio State University: [<http://library.osu.edu/sites/exhibits/burlesque/>]

“Loose Women in Tights: Images of Femininity in Early Burlesque Performance.”

Prince Edward Island Public Archives and Records Office:

[<http://www.gov.pe.ca/cca/index.php3?number=1020743&lang=E>]

“Island to Island: British Immigration to Prince Edward Island, 1763–1870.”

St. Louis Public Library: [<http://exhibits.slpl.org/lpe/amusements.asp>]

“Celebrating the Louisiana Purchase: The 1904 World’s Fair.”

San Francisco Public Library:

[<http://sfpl.lib.ca.us/news/onlineexhibits/shades/>]

“Picture This: Family Photographs of Everyday San Francisco.”

Temple University:

[<http://exhibitions.library.temple.edu/artbooks/index.jsp?bhcp=1>]

“Curious Looks at Artists’ Books.”

Texas State Library and Archives Commission:

[<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/exhibits/civilwar/index.html>]

“Under the Rebel Flag: Life in Texas during the Civil War.”

Yale University: [<http://www.library.yale.edu/judaica/exhibits/haggadah/>]

“You Shall Tell Your Children: The Passover Haggadah.”

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

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American Libraries Direct

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

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ISSN 1559-369X.

american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | December 17, 2008

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State of the Art Faceted Search

- ✓ Quick single search box
- ✓ Easy-to-configure site profiles
- ✓ Industry-first fuzzy search



U.S. & World News

[Overturn of Patriot Act gag order upheld, in part](#)

A federal appeals court ruled unanimously December 15 that it is unconstitutional to gag recipients of a National Security Letter from discussing its receipt unless disclosure might interfere with "an authorized investigation to protect against international terrorism or clandestine intelligence activities." The decision ([PDF file](#)) in *Does v. Mukasey* upheld a September 2007 district court ruling, although the appeals court narrowed the circumstances under which the FBI can enjoin a provider of internet access—interpreted as including libraries—from revealing the receipt of an NSL demanding the email addresses and websites accessed by one or more users. ALA President Jim Rettig released a [statement](#) on the decision....

American Libraries Online, Dec. 17

[WorldCat policy revision draws librarians' ire](#)

OCLC's proposed "Policy for Use and Transfer of WorldCat Records," released November 2 and revised November 5 and 19 ([PDF file](#)), has been greeted with a host of critical blog postings (for example, [this one](#) from Karen Schneider) and two online petitions opposing it. Among the provisions that disturbed commentators were: the "reasonable use" clause, viewed as restricting their rights to use records, even ones that they themselves added; and the perceived lack of openness in the policy's development process....

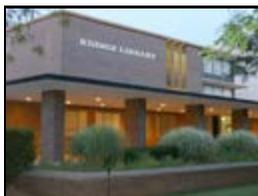
American Libraries Online, Dec. 12; Free Range Librarian, Dec. 13



[Wayne State transforms LIS program into school](#)

The board of governors at Wayne State University in Detroit voted December 3 to authorize the creation of the School of Library and Information Science, effective May 6. The school will house the existing library and information science program, which has grown from 125 students in 1987 to more than 600 in 2008....

American Libraries Online, Dec. 12



ALA DENVER
MIDWINTER
meeting & exhibits 09

[ALA Midwinter Meeting.](#)

Denver, January 23–28. As of December 12, **registration had reached 5,422**, compared to 4,261 at the 7-week point one year ago for the Philadelphia meeting.



Get ready! [Registration](#) for the 2009 Annual Conference in Chicago opens **January 5**.



ALA News

[The ALA online election](#)

For the first time, ALA is holding virtually its entire election online. This means it is important for voters to check with their library information technology personnel or internet service providers to make sure that spam filters will not prevent ALA from emailing the ballot forms. When polls open at 9 a.m. Central time on March 17, ALA will notify voters by email, providing them with their unique passcodes and information about how to vote online....

[Presidential candidates offer views on their websites](#)

The 2010–2011 candidates for ALA President—[Kenton L. Oliver](#) and [Roberta Stevens](#)—have launched websites that describe their platforms and qualifications. Oliver is the executive director of the Stark County (Ohio) District Library, and Stevens is outreach projects and partnerships officer at the Library of Congress and project manager for the National Book Festival....

[Stop Bullying Now DVD toolkit](#)

All U.S. public libraries will be sent a copy of the *Stop Bullying Now!* DVD toolkit in December. Bullying is a significant issue for many young people. The [Stop Bullying Now! campaign](#) was launched by the U.S.



Health Resources and Services Administration in 2004 to raise awareness about bullying and to encourage bullying prevention for youths from 9 to 13 and the adults who influence them. ALA and 80 other organizations are campaign partners....

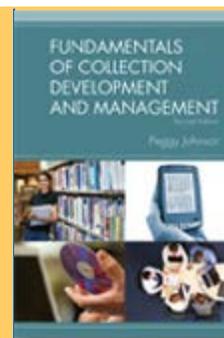
[Library Education Forum](#)

The ALA Committee on Education is presenting a forum on Library Education, 1:30–3:30 p.m., January 23, at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver. It will be dedicated to the core competences of librarianship, as set forth in a document being presented to the ALA Council for approval at the meeting....

[Empowerment Institute at Midwinter](#)

"The Empowerment Institute: Success in the Workplace," presented by consultant Debra Wilcox-Johnson, will be held 1–5 p.m., January 23, in the Colorado Convention Center. The institute will offer attendees the opportunity to identify barriers to their success and consider ways to feel more motivated and satisfied at work....

[Spice up your teens' library time](#)



In this fully updated revision of [Fundamentals of Collection Development and Management](#), expert instructor and librarian Peggy Johnson addresses the art of controlling and updating your library's collection. Each chapter offers complete coverage of one aspect of collection development, including suggestions for further reading and a narrative case study exploring the issue. Johnson also integrates electronic resources throughout. **NEW! From ALA Editions.**

In this issue December 2008



**Laura Bush,
Librarian in the
White House**

Top Stories of 2008

ALA Editions has released two new titles that showcase YA activities: [The Hipster Librarian's Guide to Teen Craft Projects](#), by Tina Coleman and Peggie Llanes; and [Teen Spaces, 2d Edition: The Step-by-Step Library Makeover](#), by Kimberly Bolan. The books offer excellent advice on craft sessions and teen library spaces...



[ALA in Waukesha in 1901](#)

Larry Nix writes: "The ALA Annual Conference was in Waukesha, Wisconsin, in July 1901 at Fountain Spring House, the city's premier resort. At early ALA conferences, momentos were routinely given to participants. At the Waukesha conference, the attendees were given an elaborate medal with a pin-back badger, followed by a ribbon similar to those on military medals, and finally a copper-colored medallion (right). The full *Public Libraries* report on the Waukesha conference can be found in Google Books on pages 459–497 of the [1901 annual compilation](#)."...



Wisconsin Library Heritage Center, Dec. 16

The World's
Greatest Music
Library

User Tagging

Career Leads
from

ALA JobLIST

[Coordinator of Information Literacy](#),

University of Scranton, Pennsylvania. The Weinberg Memorial Library of the University of Scranton seeks an innovative and collaborative librarian to coordinate the library's information literacy program. Key components of this tenure-track position include developing effective relationships with classroom faculty and administrators, scheduling, teaching in-person and online classes, assigning instructors, and collecting and analyzing data to evaluate program effectiveness....

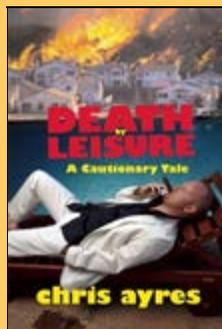
@ [More jobs...](#)

Booklist ONLINE

[Featured review: Adult books](#)

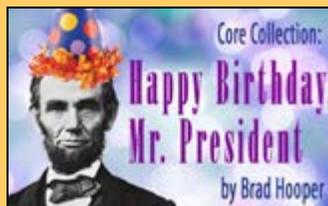
Ayres, Chris. *Death by Leisure: A Cautionary Tale*. Feb. 2009. 288p. Grove/Atlantic, hardcover (978-0-87113-964-1).

Europeans have long chronicled their American tours, their reactions ranging all the way from disgust to disenchantment. The account of Ayres, an English journalist, is more illuminating than the usual open-mouthed astonishment at our overfed incuriosity because, during his tenure as the Los Angeles correspondent for the *Times*, he goes native. He falls for it all: giant TVs, seductive real estate, unobtainable former models. Romantically desperate, he woos women by making impossible promises and then scrambling to make them come true. Alas, his dream of a "clifftop bachelor palace" seems out of reach: broke and plagued by bad credit, he finds himself unable to capitalize on what was, until recently, the cheapest of currency: a jumbo, adjustable-rate mortgage....



[Abe's bicentennial](#)

Brad Hooper writes: "The bicentennial anniversary of Lincoln's birth will continue to be celebrated in various fashions throughout 2009, but in the publishing world, the celebration began months ago with what has become a steady stream of estimable books about Lincoln and his presidency and family. Public librarians need to collect many of these new titles to keep their U.S. history section up



Digital Library of the Week



The [Chronicling America](#) website is a project of the National

to date in Lincolnalia, and by the same token, the public librarian should look back at classic Lincoln books, with an eye to purchase, that were published well before the recent flood commemorating the anniversary of his birth. Together, old and new, classic and current, would constitute a good, basic Lincoln collection. The following core collection encompasses both.”...

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

Denver Update

[12 things to do while you're in town for Midwinter](#)

The *Denver Post* says: "Anything New York can do, Denver can do better. We've got your art (how about a big blue bear?). We've got your celebrities (like comedian Josh Blue). We've got your sense of history. And we've got it all without a \$20 cover to leave your hotel."...

Denver Post



[Imagine a Great City: Denver at 150](#)

In 1858, Denver was unorganized, unruly, and unabashedly optimistic. Although isolated and faced with adversity, civic leaders managed to build a foundation for future prosperity. Through boom and bust, they dared to imagine a great city. Discover the events, people, communities, and politics that have shaped Denver over the past 150 years in *Imagine a Great City: Denver at 150*, a new History Colorado exhibit at the [Colorado History Museum](#), located at 1300 Broadway....

Colorado History Museum



Division News

[Smartest Card @ your library](#)

PLA is offering new Smartest Card merchandise at its Library Store...Library Stuff found at [Café Press](#). Smartest Card items include messenger and tote bags, mouse pads, note cards, and even license plate frames. Librarians looking to use the Smartest Card to promote their library can download logos from the Campaign for America's Libraries [website](#) under "popular resources." Here are a few stories of how libraries across the country have used the logo and made the campaign their own....



[Trends in academic library research](#)

ACRL has issued a new publication, [Academic Library Research: Perspectives and Current Trends](#), edited by Marie L. Radford and Pamela Snelson. The title is number 59 in the ACRL Publications in Librarianship monographic series, edited by Craig Gibson. The book

Digital Newspaper Program, a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress to provide enhanced access to American newspapers. Over a period of approximately 20 years, NDNP will create a national digital resource of historically significant newspapers from all the states and territories published between 1836 and 1922. This searchable database will be permanently maintained at the Library of Congress and be freely accessible via the internet. On December 11, the NDNP added 183,698 historic newspaper pages (including 14 new titles) to the site, which accesses 864,509 pages from 108 titles that were published in nine states (California, Florida, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, Texas, Utah, and Virginia) and the District of Columbia between 1880 and 1910. Six additional states (Arizona, Hawaii, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Washington) will be contributing content in 2009.

Do you know of a digital library collection that we can mention in this *AL Direct* feature? [Tell us about it.](#) Browse previous Digital Libraries of the Week at the [Love Libraries](#) site.

Public Perception
How the World Sees Us

combines theoretical scholarship with real-world research, including case studies and user surveys, designed to inform practice....



[PLA offers technology workshop](#)

PLA is offering public librarians an opportunity to learn practical skills and gather knowledge that will help them better utilize technology to deliver library services. The [Management of Technology workshop](#), taught by Michael Porter, is scheduled for February 9–10 in Phoenix, Arizona, and features an intensive, small-group environment....

[YALSA winter online courses](#)

YALSA opened registration December 10 for three [online courses](#) in Winter 2009: "Booktalks Quick and Simple" (Nancy Keane); "Boys and Books: Encouraging Early Teen and Tween Boys to Read" (Jenine Lillian) and "Power Programming for Teens" (Amy Alessio). All of YALSA's winter courses meet for four weeks and begin February 9....

[Attend the AASL Institute for graduate credit](#)

Attendees of the AASL Premidwinter Institute at the ALA Midwinter Meeting now have the opportunity to receive continuing education credits from the University of Colorado Denver. The full-day School Library Advocacy Institute will take place 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., January 23, at the Sheraton Denver....

Round Table News

[Experiencing conferences as a student and as a professional](#)

Amber Wilson Castor writes: "As it turns out, the recent Arkansas Library Association conference was very different from my past conference visits. Since I was now a professional, my time was more focused on activities related to my position, whereas my conference visits as a library student weren't focused on any particular area or issue. I feel that this sense of direction made this conference a much more rewarding one than previous ones I have attended."...

NMRT Footnotes, Nov.

Awards

[ALA awards deadline extended](#)

The deadline has been extended to February 1 for a number of ALA awards and grants, including the Beta Phi Mu Award, the Melvil Dewey Award, the Gale Cengage Learning Financial Development Award, the Ken Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship, the Scholastic Library Publishing Award, and the Sullivan Award for Public Library Administrators Supporting Services to Children....

[Youth Media Awards announcement on January 24](#)

ALA will provide a free live webcast of its national announcement of

"In making the decision to close 11 public libraries as of December 31, the Nutter administration ignored a crucial piece of information: In many cases, public libraries are the de facto school libraries for children and teachers in Philadelphia. Years of budget cuts have left many public city schools without libraries—a separate disgrace. That has meant sending students and classes to the local public library—including some of the 11 branches targeted for closure—during the school day."

—Editorial on "Schools and Libraries," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Dec. 14.



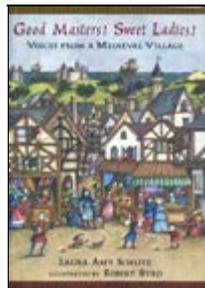
The **Urban Libraries Council** is offering a [new toolkit](#) as a supplement to its recent publication on library service to communities with a rapidly growing

the top books and media for children and young adults on January 26 at 7:45 a.m. Mountain time. The awards are part of the Midwinter Meeting in Denver. Unikron, a streaming content provider, will host the webcast. The number of available connections will be limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis....

[Does the Newbery dampen kids' reading?](#)

The Newbery Medal has been the gold standard in children's literature for more than eight decades. Now the literary world is debating its value, asking whether the books that have won recently are so complicated and inaccessible to most children that they are effectively turning off kids to reading. Of the 25 winners and runners-up chosen from 2000 to 2005, four of the books deal with death, six with the absence of one or both parents, and four with such mental challenges as autism. Most of the rest deal with tough social issues....

Washington Post, Dec. 16



[RUSA awards recognition reception](#)

All ALA Midwinter Meeting attendees are invited to celebrate the winners of numerous RUSA awards—including the Notable Books selections and the Reading List—at the RUSA awards recognition reception, 4–5:30 p.m., January 25, in the Capitol Peak Ballroom at the Grand Hyatt Denver....

[Mini grants for Teen Tech Week](#)

Through funding from Verizon Communications, YALSA will award up to 20 mini grants, consisting of \$450 in cash and a prize pack of products for libraries offering inventive activities, resources, and programming for Teen Tech Week, March 8–14, to YALSA members. Application forms must be submitted by January 19....

[Silent auction to benefit ASCLA Century Scholarship](#)

A silent auction will be held at the 2009 Midwinter Meeting's ASCLA/COSLA reception January 25 to benefit the ASCLA Century Scholarship. Proceeds from the auction directly benefit the scholarship fund and promote its long-term financial viability. Library and information science students with access needs—including veterans—are encouraged to apply for the scholarship....

[Scholarship information](#)

Need additional financial assistance? The *2009 Financial Assistance for Library and Information Studies Directory* is an annual directory of awards from state library agencies, national and state library associations, local libraries, academic institutions, and foundations that give some form of financial assistance for undergraduate and/or graduate LIS programs. The directory is available online ([PDF file](#))....



[Downs Award goes to Brewster Kahle](#)

For his successful challenge to a National Security Letter in May, Brewster Kahle, digital librarian and cofounder of the Internet Archive, has been awarded the 2008 Robert B. Downs Intellectual Freedom Award by the GSLIS faculty at the University of Illinois at

immigrant population, [Welcome, Stranger: Public Libraries Build the Global Village](#). The toolkit includes a print component that offers exercises to help your team develop locally tailored strategies to serve new Americans, and an accompanying CD provides worksheets that will help you create a welcoming center for our nation's newest citizens.

[Ask the ALA Librarian](#)



Q. I saw a story in the news recently that mentioned the important role that libraries have, particularly as the economy slows down. It was also mentioned that libraries are themselves falling victim to the tough financial times we are in. Can you give me some additional information about this topic?

A. Yes, there are several sources for additional information that you may find helpful. Recently, [NBC Nightly News](#) did a report on this topic.



Urbana-Champaign. The award is given annually to acknowledge individuals or groups who have furthered the cause of intellectual freedom, particularly as it affects libraries and information centers. An evening reception to honor Kahle will be held January 24 at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver....

UIUC Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Dec. 16

[Coming Up Taller award nominations](#)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services invites nominations ([PDF file](#)) for the 2009 Coming Up Taller awards, which honor excellence in afterschool, out-of-school, and summer arts and humanities programs for underserved children and youth. Award recipients receive \$10,000 each, an individualized plaque, and an invitation to attend the annual Coming Up Taller Leadership Enhancement Conference. The deadline is January 30....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Dec. 10



[Vote for best library/librarian edublog for 2008](#)

The Edublogs Campus is sponsoring awards (the Eddies) for the best educational blogs in 16 different categories. One category is for the best library or librarian edublog, and there are eight nominees. Anyone can vote. The deadline is December 20....

Edublogs Campus



Seen Online

[NBC Nightly News spotlights libraries](#)

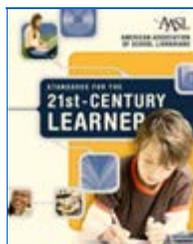
The important role libraries are playing during tough economic times was the focus of a recent [NBC Nightly News report](#) (2:26). The report discussed how the economic climate is forcing people to find new ways to save money. "The library business, it seems, is booming," said NBC's Brian Williams. However, reporter Chris Jansing noted, libraries themselves are struggling in the current economy. Usage is up, but budgets are way down in some communities, forcing libraries to cut hours and staff....

NBC Nightly News, Dec. 10; Visibility @ your library, Dec. 13



[21st-century skills for all](#)

Andrew J. Rotherham writes: "In public education today, 21st-century skills are all the rage. Schools, the argument goes, focus too much on teaching content at the expense of communication and collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving, and concepts like media literacy and global awareness. But overall, none of these skills are unique to the 21st



The [value of libraries](#) in general has generated much discussion throughout the media, and ALA's Public Information Office has compiled a [press kit](#) that focuses on how the slow economy has fueled a surge in library visits. As you have mentioned, libraries are also affected financially by the downturn in the economy, and it is more important than ever to support your library. [Advocacy](#) is one of the best ways to make sure that your library continues to get the funding needed to provide the services you expect. For tips on promoting your library, ALA's [Office for Library Advocacy](#) has some excellent resources. From the [ALA Professional Tips wiki](#).

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



[ALA chapters](#). ALA has affiliate relationships with state library associations in all 50 states (such as Kansas), the District of Columbia, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and regional library associations in the Mountain Plains, New

century. What's new today is the degree to which economic competitiveness and educational equity mean these skills can no longer be the province of the few."...

U.S. News and World Report, Dec. 15

[Google pushes for a more searchable federal web](#)

For years, the U.S. government has been unwilling or unable to make millions of its web pages accessible to search engines. Now Google CEO Eric Schmidt has a unique opportunity to change that as an informal adviser to President-Elect Barack Obama. Much of the information that the search engines are asking for is already available on the Web, but users have become accustomed to finding information by typing queries into one of the engines—and give up if they don't find it....

Washington Post, Dec. 11

[South West Philadelphia boos branch closures](#)

Residents of South West Philadelphia blasted Mayor Michael Nutter's plan to close the Kingsessing branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia December 16 at the seventh public meeting held to discuss proposed budget cuts. About 275 people braved the sleet and cold rain. It was by far the rowdiest crowd, with people heckling the mayor all night. The loudest boos were reserved for Library Director Siobhan Reardon, who had to defend the city's rationale for cutting 11 branches....

WHYY *It's Our City*, Dec. 17

[Librarian breaks leg pursuing thief](#)

Ann Arbor (Mich.) District Library Director Josie Parker may have a pleasant Southern accent and good manners, but don't question her toughness. On December 7, at a Borders bookstore where she was volunteering as a gift-wraper, Parker pursued a thief after he grabbed a collection box of money donated for a local charity. In the process, she broke her leg and the thief got away—but not with any money. A security camera [captured](#) the incident....

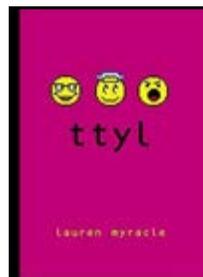
Ann Arbor (Mich.) News, Dec. 10; KTUL-TV, Tulsa, Okla., Dec. 12



[Myracle defends *ttyl*](#)

Lauren Myracle, author of *ttyl*, said that if she had known so many of the book's readers would be middle schoolers, she would have toned down some of the questionable language. But she said she firmly believes *ttyl* should not have been taken out of middle school libraries in Round Rock, Texas, in November. She defends it as a cautionary tale for young people, alerting them to problems involving alcohol and dangerous liaisons....

Austin (Tex.) American-Statesman, Dec. 12



[Tango stays in Ankeny schools](#)

On December 15, the Ankeny, Iowa, school board denied, by a vote of 6–1, a request by parents who said *And Tango Makes Three*, a children's book about two male penguins that raise a chick together, should be off-limits to elementary school students. The vote means the book will remain in circulation at two elementary school libraries despite the concerns of Cindy and James Dacus, who said the book normalized homosexuality to students too young to understand the

England, Pacific Northwest, and Southeastern regions. Each state chapter is represented by an elected chapter councilor with full voting rights in ALA's governing assembly. The interests of chapters are represented within the Association by the Chapter Relations Office and the Chapter Relations Committee.

Calendar

Feb. 3:

[Society for Scholarly Publishing, Librarian Focus Group](#)

American Geophysical Union, Washington, D.C. "Librarians and Publishers: Partners in Troubled Times."

Feb. 18–21:

[National Storytelling Network, South Central Region](#)

Columbia, Missouri. "Telling Stories, Changing Lives."

Feb. 26–27:

[Webwise Conference on Libraries and Museums in the Digital World](#)

Hyatt Regency, Washington, D.C. "Digital Debates."

Mar. 2–3:

[Learning, Libraries + Technology Conference](#)

University System of Ohio, Hilton Columbus at Easton.

Mar. 18–21:

[Visual Resources Association](#), Annual Conference, Toronto, Ontario.

Mar. 19–22:

"risky lifestyle."...

Des Moines (Iowa) Register, Dec. 16

[Answers about the New York Public Library](#)

New York Public Library President and Chief Executive Officer Paul LeClerc answered a series of questions about the library and its services from *New York Times* readers. Many of the questions involved how libraries were changing in response to new information technologies. One answer:

"Libraries will need to be there for those who simply do not have the means to satisfy their information and educational needs elsewhere. In addition, we have to remember that libraries are the only indoor communal spaces left in New York."...

New York Times, Dec. 10-12



[School librarian appears on Jeopardy this week](#)

Milt Hathaway, librarian at Eastern View High School in Culpeper, Virginia, could receive an early Christmas bonus this year, depending on how he performed on a popular TV game show. He is scheduled to appear on *Jeopardy* sometime this week (possibly December 18). Hathaway said the tricky part was maneuvering the handheld buzzer:

"You cannot ring in until Alex finishes the question."...

Culpeper (Va.) Star-Exponent, Dec. 15

[The Big Read is a national page-turner](#)

Developed by the National Endowment for the Arts, [the Big Read](#) funds projects nationwide in an effort, NEA Literature Director David Kipen explains, "to restore reading to the heart of American life." While the projects are diverse, there is a clear structure. Each year, communities nationwide choose from the Big Read's list of books, map out projects, and submit a formal grant application. Generally libraries or municipalities apply, but the program is flexible....

Los Angeles Times, Dec. 15



[Obama's education pick supports school libraries](#)

Arne Duncan, the man President-Elect Barack Obama has tapped for secretary of education, spent the last seven years as CEO of the Chicago Public Schools—and during that time he's shown solid support for school libraries. Despite widespread layoffs of school librarians nationwide, there have been no district-level cuts in library staff over the last few years and staffing at the school level has held steady, according to Paul Whitsitt, CPS director of libraries and information services....

School Library Journal, Dec. 16



[17,000 Bronx kids have no school library](#)

More than 17,000 students in at least 42 schools in the poorest sections of the Bronx, New York, lack library access due to budget cuts and overcrowding. Educators say that the books, computers, and research expertise found in a school library are crucial for literacy and college preparation. Some schools don't have functioning libraries because the space is being used as a classroom or because there's no librarian....

New York Daily News, Dec. 11

[National Science Teachers Association](#)

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans. "Celebrating the Year of Science."

Mar. 20:

[North American Serials Interest Group](#)

Un-Conference, Hale Library, Kansas State University, Manhattan.

Apr. 1-5:

[Society of Architectural Historians](#)

Annual Meeting, Pasadena, California.

Apr. 2-5:

[National Council on Public History](#)

Annual Meeting, Biltmore Hotel, Providence, Rhode Island.

Apr. 8-11:

[Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association](#)

National Conference, New Orleans Marriott.

Apr. 12-18:

[National Library Week](#)

May 5:

[National Teacher Day](#)

May 5-8:

[Substance Abuse Librarians and Information Specialists](#)

Annual Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia. "Setting Sail: Best Practices for the Next Decade."

May 14-15:

[SOLINET](#)

Annual Membership Meeting,

[Tennessee Supreme Court closes three law libraries](#)

Some high-level belt-tightening will result in the Tennessee Supreme Court's shuttering of its three state law libraries in Nashville, Knoxville, and Jackson by the end of December. The three law libraries combined house about 125,000 volumes. The Nashville School of Law has offered to make its library available to lawyers who were in the habit of using the Supreme Court library....

Nashville (Tenn.) Business Journal, Dec. 16



[Melrose Park to restore its New Deal fresco](#)

A New Deal-era mural rediscovered in Melrose Park (Ill.) Public Library's ceiling last year reveals a piece of local history few knew still existed. Now librarians are trying to raise money to [restore](#) the historic artwork, the middle section of which is completely destroyed. The library used to be the village post office, and the mural, titled *Airmail*, has a postal theme. The fresco was painted in 1937 by artist Edwin Boyd Johnson and captures Melrose Park's early role in aviation history....

Proviso (Ill.) Herald, Dec. 10; Melrose Park (Ill.) Public Library



[Bush Library proceeds quietly](#)

Plans for the George W. Bush Presidential Library are ramping up as architects finish designs for an edifice in Dallas on the campus of Southern Methodist University intended to burnish the president's image for the ages. The estimated \$300-million project, situated on prime real estate at the university's entrance, is expected to open its doors in 2013. It will contain the archives of the Bush presidency, a museum celebrating his accomplishments, and a policy institute that its backers hope will become a leading Republican think tank....

Chicago Tribune, Dec. 14

[End in sight for Las Vegas Friends lawsuit](#)

The Las Vegas-Clark County Library District has reached a preliminary settlement with its former nonprofit partner, Friends of the Southern Nevada Libraries, in a suit over the nonprofit's funds. The Friends group will donate \$75,000 to buy children's books and will drop its claim that the district owes them \$23,151 from March bookstore sales. In exchange, the district will forgo its claim that the Friends owes it \$26,281 for approved projects and will drop its lawsuit....

Las Vegas (Nev.) Sun, Dec. 11

[Springsteen memorabilia returned to Asbury Park](#)

Nineteen boxes of Bruce Springsteen memorabilia worth about \$30,000 were returned to the Asbury Park (N.J.) Public Library December 11, relieving a feud that had led the library to file a police complaint to get some 1,120 items returned. The complaint against Bob Crane and Dan Toskaner, members of the Friends of the [Bruce Springsteen Special Collection](#), said in September 2007 they had removed about a fourth of the collection to be microfilmed with the library's permission. A portion of the collection then became part of an ongoing dispute between Crane and Library Director Robert Stewart over ownership....



Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center, Atlanta. "The Changing World, Changing Libraries."

July 3-8: [Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials](#)

Annual Conference, Hotel Maritim, Berlin. "Migrations and Connections: Latin America and Europe in the Modern World."

@ [More...](#)

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All links outside the ALA website are provided for

Asbury Park (N.J.) Press, Dec. 12

[Brits lie about reading to impress their dates](#)

Nearly half of all men and one-third of women have lied about what they have read to try to impress friends or potential partners, a U.K. National Literacy Trust [survey](#) suggests. Men were most likely to do this to appear intellectual or romantic. The men polled said they would be most impressed by women who read news websites, Shakespeare, or song lyrics. Women said men should have read Nelson Mandela's biography or Shakespeare....

BBC News, Dec. 11

[Prague scraps Kaplický's library design](#)

While many Prague officials fiercely oppose Czech-born architect Jan Kaplický's blob-like plans for a new National Library, it has received some acclaim abroad. However, in mid-December the Prague Assembly voted to shelve the design. Kaplický himself has no intentions to build his library in another city. Opposition Social Democrat leader Jiří Paroubek plans to use the stalled project as a campaign topic before the next general elections....

CzechNews, Dec. 17



[Go back to the Top](#)

Tech Talk

[12 most popular free Windows downloads](#)

Adam Pash writes: "In the past year we've highlighted hundreds of Windows apps aimed at making your life easier, boosting your computer productivity, and powering up your PC. For those of you who weren't able to keep up, here's a look back at the most popular Windows downloads of 2008. Many were brand new this year, while others were solid updates to popular software."...

Lifehacker, Dec. 15



[Tech trends every school leader should know](#)

A new generation of students with vastly different learning needs is redefining expectations for classroom instruction, and a growing emphasis on school accountability is changing the role of the school district IT leader: These were two of the main ideas outlined in a December 10 webcast from the Consortium of School Networking titled "Major Technology Trends that School District CTOs Must Know."...

eSchool News, Dec. 12

[Yahoo surpasses Google in privacy protection](#)

Yahoo announced December 17 an "industry-leading approach" to online privacy under which it will anonymize its log data after 90 days. The move comes only months after Google cut its own retention period for personal data by 50%, and it gives Yahoo by far the strongest anonymization policy of the big three search engines. The announcement also scored points with Rep. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), a powerful voice on tech issues....



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800-545-2433,
ext. 4216

ISSN 1559-369X.

Ars Technica, Dec. 17

[Travel directions map gadget](#)

The Google Maps team has released a handy Travelling Directions gadget in time for the holiday period. With the new directions gadget, you can bring driving and walking directions to your home page or even to your own website. By copying and pasting a single line of code, any website can offer customized door-to-door directions to their users. Users can then print the directions....



Google Maps Mania, Dec. 16

[The ergonomics of laptops](#)

Sales of laptop computers passed desktops in the U.S. for the first time ever this fall. That's bad news for backs, necks, and shoulders. Most users simply set their laptops on a desk or table—which is hard on many body parts. The keyboard is too high, which makes your arms reach up, your shoulders hunch, and your wrists bend down. The monitor is too low, which pulls your head and neck forward and down, and puts a strain on your back....

Wall Street Journal, Dec. 16

[Mobile phone to be primary internet link in 2020](#)

A survey of internet leaders, activists, and analysts shows they expect major tech advances as the phone becomes a primary device for online access, voice-recognition improves, artificial and virtual reality become more embedded in everyday life, and the architecture of the internet itself improves. That is one of the key findings in a new report, *The Future of the Internet III* ([PDF file](#)), based on a survey of experts by the Pew Internet and American Life Project that asked respondents to assess predictions about technology and its roles in the year 2020....



Pew Internet and American Life Project, Dec. 14

[Library RFID technology update](#)

Connie K. Haley, Kathleen Degnan, and Kathleen Haefliger of Chicago State University offer an overview of RFID tags, applications, and vendor services, along with a summary of new trends and concerns, in this self-published tech update. A helpful roundup of RFID-related links concludes the piece....

Connie K. Haley, Dec. 9

[We love open source; no, you can't have our code](#)

Dale Askey writes: "Librarians are among the strongest proponents of open source software. Paradoxically, libraries are also among the least likely to actively contribute their code to open source projects." He identifies six main reasons this dichotomy exists—perfectionism, dependency, quirkiness, redundancy, competitiveness, and misunderstanding—and suggests some ways to get around them....

Code4Lib Journal, no. 5 (Dec. 15)

Publishing

[The three best cities for bookworms](#)

Berlin has been attracting both fledgling and

established writers from around the globe, including Pulitzer Prize winner Jeffrey Eugenides. Many of America's most enduring writers lived and worked in Boston's Beacon Hill during the 19th century, and Boston Public Library is the nation's first municipal library. Dublin abounds with literary landmarks, from George Bernard Shaw's birthplace to bronze statues of James Joyce, Oscar Wilde, and Brendan Behan (right)....



Condé Nast Traveler, Dec. 15

[Calculating a fair price for eBooks](#)

Ficbot writes: "People keep saying that eBooks—with their lack of a physical medium, need for shipping, and need for warehouse storage—should be priced appropriately cheaper than their print counterparts. Also, since they have no second-hand market (if they did, it could only be enabled using cumbersome DRM) the price should reflect this loss of privilege. Too bad publishers are not yet on board with this and persist in charging hard-cover prices."...

TeleRead, Dec. 15

[Collecting modern photobooks](#)

Scott Brown writes: "To build an organized photobook collection, begin with Andrew Roth's *Book of 101 Books* (Roth Horowitz, 2001). Roth, a rare book dealer, assembled the most influential photobooks of the 20th century and presented them in this single volume. For many, it changed the way people look at photographic books and essentially created the idea of a photobook canon—a notion that was further solidified by *The Photobook: A History* (right), a two-volume set (Phaidon, 2004–2006) by Martin Parr and Gerry Badger."...



Abebooks



Actions & Answers

[Librarian: Still one of the 30 best careers](#)

U.S. News and World Report rates [librarian](#) as one of the 30 best careers to choose in 2009. This is at least the fourth straight year the magazine has chosen it for its top tier, based on job outlook, satisfaction, training, prestige, and pay. The job description? "It's out to the reference desk, where visitors regularly ask how to find something. Sometimes it's esoteric; often, it's the bathroom. Later, you teach a class: an advanced lesson in Googling." The magazine seems to think the median salary has slipped: [Last year](#), it claimed it was \$51,400; this year, it shows as \$47,400. The ALA-Allied Professional Association [reports](#) the 2008 median is \$53,521....

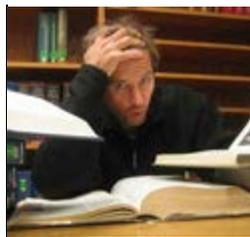
U.S. News and World Report, Dec. 11

[The top 10 most annoying people at](#)

[the library](#)

After being cramped up in the library for hours at a time, little things that never used to annoy you suddenly reach the top of your list. Finals week is all about the race to the good table at the library or who could last the longest until the library decides to shut down. With only a few more days until the semester is over, the fight to finish is still going on and the library annoyances seem to be getting more annoying....

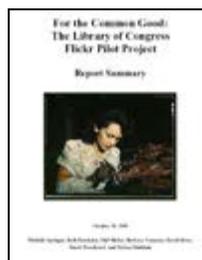
College on the Record, Dec. 15



[LC releases report on Flickr pilot project](#)

In January 2008, the Library of Congress uploaded thousands of images from its collections to Flickr Commons and asked the user community to get involved by submitting tags and comments. On October 30, LC released full ([PDF file](#)) and summary ([PDF file](#)) reports on the project. The report details how the [Flickr project](#) has increased awareness of collections in the LC Prints and Photographs Division and given library staff experience in social tagging and Web 2.0 community input....

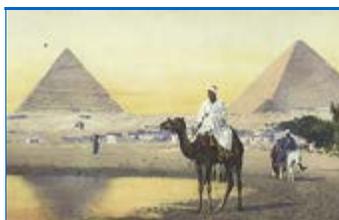
Library of Congress Blog, Dec. 11



[New York Public Library joins the Flickr Commons](#)

Ben Vershbow writes: "We are delighted to be the latest institution to join in the Flickr Commons endeavor, with an [initial contribution](#) of 1,300 images culled from various areas of our diverse photographic collections. We think of this as a sort of appetizer course, a sampler of collections accessible in greater breadth and depth on the [NYPL Digital Gallery](#), and on-site in our network of libraries. We expect to learn a lot from Flickr users and are thrilled at the exposure that this project will give to our photographic collections."...

Bloggign@NYPL, Dec. 16



[Books for Babies matching grants](#)

In partnership with Nordstrom, Friends of Libraries USA will be granting 20 grants for \$500 each to match \$1,000 raised by selected Friends groups, women's groups, libraries, and other nonprofit organizations for purchasing Books for Babies kits (right) from FOLUSA. Applicants agree to order a minimum of \$1,500 worth of Books for Babies kits, of which FOLUSA will pay \$500. Applications for the first cycle of grants are due April 1....

Friends of Libraries USA



[Libraries of early America](#)

Jeremy Dibbell writes: "A new project will make it possible to search, compare, and study the personal libraries of Americans who collected books prior to 1825. Using the book-cataloging website LibraryThing, scholars from institutions around the country have begun the process of creating digital catalogs of these early American book collections.

Is your institution home to any personal library collections, inventories, or book lists? We have begun compiling a list of [collections to be added](#) and are happy to receive further

submissions.”...

Thingology, Dec. 15

[Top newspapers for higher ed reporting](#)

Steven Bell writes: “All newspapers are not created equal. When it comes to reporting higher education news, some are better than others. In the past it was not uncommon for metropolitan papers to have dedicated reporters for education or possibly just higher education. In today’s environment that would be a luxury. However, some daily newspapers are real standouts when it comes to reporting higher education news. In this post I share some of my top picks.”...

ACRLog, Dec. 17

[BCR partners to help libraries digitize](#)

The Bibliographical Center for Research in Aurora, Colorado, is partnering with BiblioLife and Ingram Digital in a new program to help libraries expand access to their collections. BCR’s Shelf2Life program will digitize pre-1923, U.S.-published monographs and make them available through Ingram’s MyiLibrary platform....

BCR, Dec. 15



[Things found in books](#)

Howard Yeend runs a website that showcases the unusual things that people have found in books: receipts, letters, flowers, train tickets, a 1963 postcard with a Bunny Yeager photo of the Rare Bird Farm in Miami (right). You can upload your own images of found objects, along with the book’s ISBN, relevant tags, and your thoughts on its significance. You can also comment on other people’s found items....

thingsinbooks.com



[Jocasta Nu: Worst librarian in the galaxy](#)

[Jocasta Nu](#) (played by Alethea McGrath) was the chief librarian of the Jedi Archives at the time of the Clone Wars with a penchant for being a bit overconfident in the completeness of her Archives. Her patterned robes bore the symbols of the Ansata, representing her devotion to knowledge and learning. During these years, her confidence in the Archives was absolute, claiming that if something was not in the Archives, then it did not exist....



Wookieepedia; *Star Wars: Episode II, Attack of the Clones* (2002); YouTube, Dec. 16

[Go back to the Top](#)

AL Direct, December 17, 2008

Having trouble viewing this HTML e-mail (or seeing it in full)? Click here [[%= util.viewHtmlLink %>](#)].

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | December 17, 2008

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[<http://www.sirsidynix.com/Solutions/Products/portalsearch.php>]

[<http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com>]

U.S. & World News

=====

Overturn of Patriot Act gag order upheld, in part

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2008/december2008/gagchallengeupheld.cfm>]

A federal appeals court ruled unanimously December 15 that it is unconstitutional to gag recipients of a National Security Letter from discussing its receipt unless disclosure might interfere with “an authorized investigation to protect against international terrorism or clandestine intelligence activities.” The decision (PDF file [http://www.aclu.org/pdfs/safefree/doevmukasey_decision.pdf]) in *Does v. Mukasey* upheld a September 2007 district court ruling, although the appeals court narrowed the circumstances under which the FBI can enjoin a provider of internet access—interpreted as including libraries—from revealing the receipt of an NSL demanding the email addresses and websites accessed by one or more users. ALA President Jim Rettig released a statement

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008>]

/oifnslrettig.cfm] on the decision....
American Libraries Online, Dec. 17

WorldCat policy revision draws librarians' ire
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2008/december2008/worldcatobjections.cfm>]

OCLC's proposed "Policy for Use and Transfer of WorldCat Records," released November 2 and revised November 5 and 19 (PDF file [<http://www.oclc.org/worldcat/catalog/policy/recordusepolicy.pdf>]), has been greeted with a host of critical blog postings (for example, this one

[<http://freerangelibrarian.com/2008/12/13/oclc-policy-train-stop-cried-the-constable-on-the-rails/>] from Karen Schneider) and two online petitions opposing it. Among the provisions that disturbed commentators were: the "reasonable use" clause, viewed as restricting their rights to use records, even ones that they themselves added; and the perceived lack of openness in the policy's development process....

American Libraries Online, Dec. 12; Free Range Librarian, Dec. 13

Wayne State transforms LIS program into school

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2008/december2008/wsuetsslis.cfm>]

The board of governors at Wayne State University in Detroit voted December 3 to authorize the creation of the School of Library and Information Science, effective May 6. The school will house the existing library and information science program, which has grown from 125 students in 1987 to more than 600 in 2008....

American Libraries Online, Dec. 12

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

ALA News
=====

The ALA online election

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/09electionmaterials.cfm>]

For the first time, ALA is holding virtually its entire election online. This means it is important for voters to check with their library information technology personnel or internet service providers to make sure that spam filters will not prevent ALA from emailing the ballot forms. When polls open at 9 a.m. Central time on March 17, ALA will notify voters by email, providing them with their unique passcodes and information about how to vote online....

Presidential candidates offer views on their websites

[<http://ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/alaelection/index.cfm>]

The 2010–2011 candidates for ALA President—Kenton L. Oliver

[<http://www.kentonoliver.com/>] and Roberta Stevens

[<http://www.robertastevens.com/>—have launched websites that describe their platforms and qualifications. Oliver is the executive director of the Stark County (Ohio) District Library, and Stevens is outreach projects and partnerships officer at the Library of Congress and project manager for the National Book Festival....

DVD toolkit

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/developmentstopbullying.cfm>]

All U.S. public libraries will be sent a copy of the Stop Bullying Now! DVD toolkit in December. Bullying is a significant issue for many young people. The Stop Bullying Now!

[<http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/index.asp>] campaign

[<http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/index.asp>] was launched by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration in 2004 to raise awareness about bullying and to encourage bullying prevention for youths from 9 to 13 and the adults who influence them. ALA and 80 other organizations are campaign partners....

Library Education Forum

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/hrdrmwedforum.cfm>]

The ALA Committee on Education is presenting a forum on Library Education, 1:30–3:30 p.m., January 23, at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver. It will be dedicated to the core competences of librarianship, as set forth in a document being presented to the ALA Council for approval at the meeting....

Empowerment Institute at Midwinter

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/hrdrempowerment.cfm>]

“The Empowerment Institute: Success in the Workplace,” presented by consultant Debra Wilcox-Johnson, will be held 1–5 p.m., January 23, in the Colorado Convention Center. The institute will offer attendees the opportunity to identify barriers to their success and consider ways to feel more motivated and satisfied at work....

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=product_detail&_op=2575]Spice up your teens’ library time

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/editionsspice.cfm>]

ALA Editions has released two new titles that showcase YA activities: The Hipster Librarian’s Guide to Teen Craft Projects,

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=product_detail&_op=2574] by Tina Coleman and Peggie Llanes; and Teen Spaces, 2d

Edition: The Step-by-Step Library Makeover,

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=product_detail&_op=2575] by Kimberly Bolan. The books offer excellent advice on craft sessions and teen library spaces....

ALA in Waukesha in 1901

[<http://heritage.wisconsinlibraries.org/2008/12/ala-in-waukesha.html>]

Larry Nix writes: “The ALA Annual Conference was in Waukesha, Wisconsin, in July 1901 at Fountain Spring House, the city’s premier resort. At

early ALA conferences, momentos were routinely given to participants. At the Waukesha conference, the attendees were given an elaborate medal with a pin-back badger, followed by a ribbon similar to those on military medals, and finally a copper-colored medallion (right). The full Public Libraries report on the Waukesha conference can be found in Google Books on pages 459–497 of the 1901 annual compilation [<http://books.google.com/books?id=GJ0aAAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=label:%22periodical+public+libraries%22>].”...
Wisconsin Library Heritage Center, Dec. 16

Featured review: Adult books

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3054056]

Ayres, Chris. *Death by Leisure: A Cautionary Tale*. Feb. 2009. 288p.

Grove/Atlantic, hardcover (978-0-87113-964-1).

Europeans have long chronicled their American tours, their reactions ranging all the way from disgust to disenchantment. The account of Ayres, an English journalist, is more illuminating than the usual open-mouthed astonishment at our overfed incuriosity because, during his tenure as the Los Angeles correspondent for the Times, he goes native. He falls for it all: giant TVs, seductive real estate, unobtainable former models. Romantically desperate, he woos women by making impossible promises and then scrambling to make them come true. Alas, his dream of a “cliff-top bachelor palace” seems out of reach: broke and plagued by bad credit, he finds himself unable to capitalize on what was, until recently, the cheapest of currency: a jumbo, adjustable-rate mortgage....

Abe’s bicentennial

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3182414]

Brad Hooper writes: “The bicentennial anniversary of Lincoln’s birth will continue to be celebrated in various fashions throughout 2009, but in the publishing world, the celebration began months ago with what has become a steady stream of estimable books about Lincoln and his presidency and family. Public librarians need to collect many of these new titles to keep their U.S. history section up to date in Lincolnia, and by the same token, the public librarian should look back at classic Lincoln books, with an eye to purchase, that were published well before the recent flood commemorating the anniversary of his birth. Together, old and new, classic and current, would constitute a good, basic Lincoln collection. The following core collection encompasses both.”...

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

Denver Update

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12 things to do while you’re in town for Midwinter

[<http://guide.denverpost.com/lists/12-things-do-while-youre-town-convention/>]

The Denver Post says: "Anything New York can do, Denver can do better. We've got your art (how about a big blue bear?). We've got your celebrities (like comedian Josh Blue). We've got your sense of history. And we've got it all without a \$20 cover to leave your hotel."...
Denver Post

Imagine a Great City: Denver at 150

[<http://www.denver.org/metro/features/denver-at-150>]

In 1858, Denver was unorganized, unruly, and unabashedly optimistic. Although isolated and faced with adversity, civic leaders managed to build a foundation for future prosperity. Through boom and bust, they dared to imagine a great city. Discover the events, people, communities, and politics that have shaped Denver over the past 150 years in Imagine a Great City: Denver at 150, a new History Colorado exhibit at the Colorado History Museum,

[<http://www.coloradohistory.org/exhibits/coloradomuseum.htm>] located at 1300 Broadway....

Colorado History Museum

Division News

Smartest Card @ your library

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/campaigngetit.cfm>]

PLA is offering new Smartest Card merchandise at its Library Store…Library Stuff found at Café Press.

[<http://www.cafepress.com/librarystore>] Smartest Card items include messenger and tote bags, mouse pads, note cards, and even license plate frames. Librarians looking to use the Smartest Card to promote their library can download logos from the Campaign for America’s Libraries website

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/publicawareness/campaign@yourlibrary/index.cfm>] under "popular resources." Here are a few stories of how libraries across the country have used the logo and made the campaign their own....

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=product_detail&_op=2708] Trends in academic library research

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/acrlperspectivestrends.cfm>]

ACRL has issued a new publication, Academic Library Research: Perspectives and Current Trends,

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=product_detail&_op=2708] edited by Marie L. Radford and Pamela Snelson. The title is number 59 in the ACRL Publications in Librarianship monographic series, edited by Craig Gibson. The book combines theoretical scholarship with real-world research, including case studies and user surveys, designed to inform practice....

PLA offers technology workshop

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/platechworkshop.cfm>]

PLA is offering public librarians an opportunity to learn practical skills and gather knowledge that will help them better utilize technology to deliver library services. The Management of Technology workshop, [<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/pla/plaevents/cplacourses/>] taught by Michael Porter, is scheduled for February 9–10 in Phoenix, Arizona, and features an intensive, small-group environment....

YALSA winter online courses

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/yalsafall09online.cfm>]

YALSA opened registration December 10 for three online courses [<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/onlinecourses/info.cfm>] in Winter 2009: “Booktalks Quick and Simple” (Nancy Keane); “Boys and Books: Encouraging Early Teen and Tween Boys to Read” (Jenine Lillian) and “Power Programming for Teens” (Amy Alessio). All of YALSA’s winter courses meet for four weeks and begin February 9....

Attend the AASL Institute for graduate credit

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/aaslpremidwinter.cfm>]

Attendees of the AASL Premidwinter Institute at the ALA Midwinter Meeting now have the opportunity to receive continuing education credits from the University of Colorado Denver. The full-day School Library Advocacy Institute will take place 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., January 23, at the Sheraton Denver....

Round Table News

Experiencing conferences as a student and as a professional

[http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/nmrt/news/footnotes/november2008/conferences_castor.cfm]

Amber Wilson Castor writes: “As it turns out, the recent Arkansas Library Association conference was very different from my past conference visits. Since I was now a professional, my time was more focused on activities related to my position, whereas my conference visits as a library student weren’t focused on any particular area or issue. I feel that this sense of direction made this conference a much more rewarding one than previous ones I have attended.”...
NMRT Footnotes, Nov.

Awards

ALA awards deadline extended

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008>]

[/alaawardsdeadlineextended.cfm\]](#)

The deadline has been extended to February 1 for a number of ALA awards and grants, including the Beta Phi Mu Award, the Melvil Dewey Award, the Gale Cengage Learning Financial Development Award, the Ken Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship, the Scholastic Library Publishing Award, and the Sullivan Award for Public Library Administrators Supporting Services to Children....

Youth Media Awards announcement on January 24

[\[http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/youthmediaawardsannouncement.cfm\]](http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/youthmediaawardsannouncement.cfm)

ALA will provide a free live webcast of its national announcement of the top books and media for children and young adults on January 26 at 7:45 a.m. Mountain time. The awards are part of the Midwinter Meeting in Denver. Unikron, a streaming content provider, will host the webcast. The number of available connections will be limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis....

Does the Newbery dampen kids' reading?

[\[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/12/15/AR2008121503293.html\]](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/12/15/AR2008121503293.html)

The Newbery Medal has been the gold standard in children's literature for more than eight decades. Now the literary world is debating its value, asking whether the books that have won recently are so complicated and inaccessible to most children that they are effectively turning off kids to reading. Of the 25 winners and runners-up chosen from 2000 to 2005, four of the books deal with death, six with the absence of one or both parents, and four with such mental challenges as autism. Most of the rest deal with tough social issues....

Washington Post, Dec. 16

RUSA awards recognition reception

[\[http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/rusabookmediareception.cfm\]](http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/rusabookmediareception.cfm)

All ALA Midwinter Meeting attendees are invited to celebrate the winners of numerous RUSA awards—including the Notable Books selections and the Reading List—at the RUSA awards recognition reception, 4–5:30 p.m., January 25, in the Capitol Peak Ballroom at the Grand Hyatt Denver....

Mini grants for Teen Tech Week

[\[http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/yalsaminigrants.cfm\]](http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/yalsaminigrants.cfm)

Through funding from Verizon Communications, YALSA will award up to 20 mini grants, consisting of \$450 in cash and a prize pack of products for libraries offering inventive activities, resources, and programming for Teen Tech Week, March 8–14, to YALSA members. Application forms must be submitted by January 19....

Silent auction to benefit ASCLA Century Scholarship

[\[http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/asclafundraisingcentury.cfm\]](http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/asclafundraisingcentury.cfm)

A silent auction will be held at the 2009 Midwinter Meeting's ASCLA/COSLA reception January 25 to benefit the ASCLA Century

Scholarship. Proceeds from the auction directly benefit the scholarship fund and promote its long-term financial viability. Library and information science students with access needs—including veterans—are encouraged to apply for the scholarship....

Scholarship information

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/hrdrdirectory.cfm>]

Need additional financial assistance? The 2009 Financial Assistance for Library and Information Studies Directory is an annual directory of awards from state library agencies, national and state library associations, local libraries, academic institutions, and foundations that give some form of financial assistance for undergraduate and/or graduate LIS programs. The directory is available online (PDF file [<http://www.ala.org/ala/educationcareers/education/financialassistance/2009%20FALIS%20Booklet.pdf>])....

Downs Award goes to Brewster Kahle

[<http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/oc/news/displaynews.html?source=zXn7cP9WvnEmwwVFHQwPw0fAAQuDAf6DV-pay8UMH2k=&year=tOG8lFIItJFv5z3pYQu94mw==>]

For his successful challenge to a National Security Letter in May, Brewster Kahle, digital librarian and cofounder of the Internet Archive, has been awarded the 2008 Robert B. Downs Intellectual Freedom Award by the GSLIS faculty at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The award is given annually to acknowledge individuals or groups who have furthered the cause of intellectual freedom, particularly as it affects libraries and information centers. An evening reception to honor Kahle will be held January 24 at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver....
UIUC Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Dec. 16

Coming Up Taller award nominations

[<http://www.imls.gov/news/2008/121008.shtm>]

The Institute of Museum and Library Services invites nominations (PDF file [<http://www.pcah.gov/pdf/2009CUTNominationForm.pdf>]) for the 2009 Coming Up Taller awards, which honor excellence in afterschool, out-of-school, and summer arts and humanities programs for underserved children and youth. Award recipients receive \$10,000 each, an individualized plaque, and an invitation to attend the annual Coming Up Taller Leadership Enhancement Conference. The deadline is January 30....
Institute of Museum and Library Services, Dec. 10

Vote for best library/librarian edublog for 2008

[<http://edublogawards.com/2008/best-librarian-library-edublog-2008/>]

The Edublogs Campus is sponsoring awards (the Eddies) for the best educational blogs in 16 different categories. One category is for the best library or librarian edublog, and there are eight nominees. Anyone can vote. The deadline is December 20....

Edublogs Campus

Seen Online

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[<http://www.pio.ala.org/visibility/?p=186>]NBC Nightly News spotlights libraries

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/visibilitynbc.cfm>]

The important role libraries are playing during tough economic times was the focus of a recent NBC Nightly News report

[<http://www.pio.ala.org/visibility/?p=186>] (2:26). The report discussed how the economic climate is forcing people to find new ways to save money. “The library business, it seems, is booming,” said NBC’s Brian Williams. However, reporter Chris Jansing noted, libraries themselves are struggling in the current economy. Usage is up, but budgets are way down in some communities, forcing libraries to cut hours and staff...

NBC Nightly News, Dec. 10; Visibility @ your library, Dec. 13

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aaslproftools/learningstandards/standards.cfm>]21st-century skills for all

[<http://www.usnews.com/articles/opinion/2008/12/15/21st-century-skills-are-not-a-new-education-trend-but-could-be-a-fad.html>]

Andrew J. Rotherham writes: “In public education today, 21st-century skills are all the rage. Schools, the argument goes, focus too much on teaching content at the expense of communication and collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving, and concepts like media literacy and global awareness. But overall, none of these skills are unique to the 21st century. What’s new today is the degree to which economic competitiveness and educational equity mean these skills can no longer be the province of the few.”...

U.S. News and World Report, Dec. 15

Google pushes for a more searchable federal web

[<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/12/10/AR2008121003241.html>]

For years, the U.S. government has been unwilling or unable to make millions of its web pages accessible to search engines. Now Google CEO Eric Schmidt has a unique opportunity to change that as an informal adviser to President-Elect Barack Obama. Much of the information that the search engines are asking for is already available on the Web, but users have become accustomed to finding information by typing queries into one of the engines—and give up if they don’t find it....

Washington Post, Dec. 11

South West Philadelphia boos branch closures

[<http://whyy.org/blogs/itsourcity/2008/12/17/sw-phila-residents-loudly-prot-est-library-closing-at-town-hall-meeting/>]

Residents of South West Philadelphia blasted Mayor Michael Nutter’s plan to close the Kingsessing branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia December 16 at the seventh public meeting held to discuss proposed budget cuts. About 275 people braved the sleet and cold rain. It was by far the rowdiest crowd, with people heckling the mayor all night. The loudest boos were reserved for Library Director Siobhan Reardon, who had to defend the city’s rationale for cutting 11 branches....

WHYY It’s Our City, Dec. 17

[http://www.ktul.com/news/stories/1208/577463_video.html] Librarian breaks leg pursuing thief
[http://www.mlive.com/annarbornews/news/index.ssf/2008/12/ann_arbor_library_director_sho.html]
Ann Arbor (Mich.) District Library Director Josie Parker may have a pleasant Southern accent and good manners, but don't question her toughness. On December 7, at a Borders bookstore where she was volunteering as a gift-wraper, Parker pursued a thief after he grabbed a collection box of money donated for a local charity. In the process, she broke her leg and the thief got away—but not with any money. A security camera captured [http://www.ktul.com/news/stories/1208/577463_video.html] the incident....
Ann Arbor (Mich.) News, Dec. 10; KTUL-TV, Tulsa, Okla., Dec. 12

ttyl
[<http://www.statesman.com/news/content/news/stories/local/12/12/1212ttyl.html>]
Lauren Myracle, author of *ttyl*, said that if she had known so many of the book's readers would be middle schoolers, she would have toned down some of the questionable language. But she said she firmly believes *ttyl* should not have been taken out of middle school libraries in Round Rock, Texas, in November. She defends it as a cautionary tale for young people, alerting them to problems involving alcohol and dangerous liaisons....
Austin (Tex.) American-Statesman, Dec. 12

stays in Ankeny schools
[<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20081216/NEWS/812160375/-1/SPORTS09>]
On December 15, the Ankeny, Iowa, school board denied, by a vote of 6–1, a request by parents who said *And Tango Makes Three*, a children's book about two male penguins that raise a chick together, should be off-limits to elementary school students. The vote means the book will remain in circulation at two elementary school libraries despite the concerns of Cindy and James Dacus, who said the book normalized homosexuality to students too young to understand the “risky lifestyle.”...
Des Moines (Iowa) Register, Dec. 16

Answers about the New York Public Library
[<http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/12/10/answers-about-the-new-york-public-library/>]
New York Public Library President and Chief Executive Officer Paul LeClerc answered a series of questions about the library and its services from New York Times readers. Many of the questions involved how libraries were changing in response to new information technologies. One answer: “Libraries will need to be there for those who simply do not have the means to satisfy their information and educational needs elsewhere. In addition, we have to remember that libraries are the only indoor communal spaces left in New York.”...
New York Times, Dec. 10–12

this week
[http://www.starexponent.com/cse/news/local/article/evhs_librarian_scheduled_to_appear_on_jeopardy_this_week/26273/]
Milt Hathaway, librarian at Eastern View High School in Culpeper,

Virginia, could receive an early Christmas bonus this year, depending on how he performed on a popular TV game show. He is scheduled to appear on Jeopardy sometime this week (possibly December 18). Hathaway said the tricky part was maneuvering the handheld buzzer: "You cannot ring in until Alex finishes the question."...
Culpeper (Va.) Star-Exponent, Dec. 15

[<http://www.neabigread.org/>]The Big Read is a national page-turner
[<http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/la-et-big-read15-2008dec15,0,3096469,full.story>]

Developed by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Big Read [<http://www.neabigread.org/>] funds projects nationwide in an effort, NEA Literature Director David Kipen explains, "to restore reading to the heart of American life." While the projects are diverse, there is a clear structure. Each year, communities nationwide choose from the Big Read's list of books, map out projects, and submit a formal grant application. Generally libraries or municipalities apply, but the program is flexible....
Los Angeles Times, Dec. 15

Obama's education pick supports school libraries
[<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6623258.html>]
Arne Duncan, the man President-Elect Barack Obama has tapped for secretary of education, spent the last seven years as CEO of the Chicago Public Schools—and during that time he's shown solid support for school libraries. Despite widespread layoffs of school librarians nationwide, there have been no district-level cuts in library staff over the last few years and staffing at the school level has held steady, according to Paul Whitsitt, CPS director of libraries and information services....
School Library Journal, Dec. 16

17,000 Bronx kids have no school library
[http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/bronx/2008/12/10/2008-12-10_17000_kids_have_no_school_library-3.html]
More than 17,000 students in at least 42 schools in the poorest sections of the Bronx, New York, lack library access due to budget cuts and overcrowding. Educators say that the books, computers, and research expertise found in a school library are crucial for literacy and college preparation. Some schools don't have functioning libraries because the space is being used as a classroom or because there's no librarian....
New York Daily News, Dec. 11

Tennessee Supreme Court closes three law libraries
[<http://www.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/2008/12/15/daily12.html>]
Some high-level belt-tightening will result in the Tennessee Supreme Court's shuttering of its three state law libraries in Nashville, Knoxville, and Jackson by the end of December. The three law libraries combined house about 125,000 volumes. The Nashville School of Law has offered to make its library available to lawyers who were in the habit of using the Supreme Court library....
Nashville (Tenn.) Business Journal, Dec. 16

Melrose Park to restore its New Deal fresco

[<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/maywood/news/1326707,ma-fresco-121008-w1.article>]

A New Deal–era mural rediscovered in Melrose Park (Ill.) Public Library’s ceiling last year reveals a piece of local history few knew still existed. Now librarians are trying to raise money to restore [<http://www.melroseparklibrary.org/fresco/>] the historic artwork, the middle section of which is completely destroyed. The library used to be the village post office, and the mural, titled Airmail, has a postal theme. The fresco was painted in 1937 by artist Edwin Boyd Johnson and captures Melrose Park’s early role in aviation history....
Proviso (Ill.) Herald, Dec. 10; Melrose Park (Ill.) Public Library

Bush Library proceeds quietly

[http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-bushlibrary_wittdec14,0,1544678.story]

Plans for the George W. Bush Presidential Library are ramping up as architects finish designs for an edifice in Dallas on the campus of Southern Methodist University intended to burnish the president’s image for the ages. The estimated \$300-million project, situated on prime real estate at the university’s entrance, is expected to open its doors in 2013. It will contain the archives of the Bush presidency, a museum celebrating his accomplishments, and a policy institute that its backers hope will become a leading Republican think tank....
Chicago Tribune, Dec. 14

End in sight for Las Vegas Friends lawsuit

[<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2008/dec/11/end-sight-lawsuit-between-library-district-friends/>]

The Las Vegas–Clark County Library District has reached a preliminary settlement with its former nonprofit partner, Friends of the Southern Nevada Libraries, in a suit over the nonprofit’s funds. The Friends group will donate \$75,000 to buy children’s books and will drop its claim that the district owes them \$23,151 from March bookstore sales. In exchange, the district will forgo its claim that the Friends owes it \$26,281 for approved projects and will drop its lawsuit....
Las Vegas (Nev.) Sun, Dec. 11

Springsteen memorabilia returned to Asbury Park

[<http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008812120351>]

Nineteen boxes of Bruce Springsteen memorabilia worth about \$30,000 were returned to the Asbury Park (N.J.) Public Library December 11, relieving a feud that had led the library to file a police complaint to get some 1,120 items returned. The complaint against Bob Crane and Dan Toskaner, members of the Friends of the Bruce Springsteen Special Collection, [http://www.asburyparklibrary.org/BSSC/BSSC_Home.htm] said in September 2007 they had removed about a fourth of the collection to be microfilmed with the library’s permission. A portion of the collection then became part of an ongoing dispute between Crane and Library Director Robert Stewart over ownership....
Asbury Park (N.J.) Press, Dec. 12

Brits lie about reading to impress their dates

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/education/7776046.stm]

Nearly half of all men and one-third of women have lied about what they

have read to try to impress friends or potential partners, a U.K.

National Literacy Trust survey

[<http://www.yearofreading.org.uk/index.php?id=429>] suggests. Men were most likely to do this to appear intellectual or romantic. The men polled said they would be most impressed by women who read news websites, Shakespeare, or song lyrics. Women said men should have read Nelson Mandela's biography or Shakespeare....

BBC News, Dec. 11

Prague scraps Kaplický's library design

[<http://aktualne.centrum.cz/czechnews/clanek.phtml?id=625166>]

While many Prague officials fiercely oppose Czech-born architect Jan Kaplický's blob-like plans for a new National Library, it has received some acclaim abroad. However, in mid-December the Prague Assembly voted to shelve the design. Kaplický himself has no intentions to build his library in another city. Opposition Social Democrat leader Jirí Paroubek plans to use the stalled project as a campaign topic before the next general elections....

CzechNews, Dec. 17

Go back to the Top [#top]

Tech Talk

[<http://www.ccleaner.com/>]12 most popular free Windows downloads

[<http://lifehacker.com/5110552/most-popular-free-windows-downloads-of-2008/>

]

Adam Pash writes: "In the past year we've highlighted hundreds of Windows apps aimed at making your life easier, boosting your computer productivity, and powering up your PC. For those of you who weren't able to keep up, here's a look back at the most popular Windows downloads of 2008. Many were brand new this year, while others were solid updates to popular software."...

Lifehacker, Dec. 15

Tech trends every school leader should know

[<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=56397>]

A new generation of students with vastly different learning needs is redefining expectations for classroom instruction, and a growing emphasis on school accountability is changing the role of the school district IT leader: These were two of the main ideas outlined in a December 10 webcast from the Consortium of School Networking titled "Major Technology Trends that School District CTOs Must Know."...

eSchool News, Dec. 12

Yahoo surpasses Google in privacy protection

[<http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20081217-yahoo-outdoes-google-will-scrub-search-logs-after-90-days.html>]

Yahoo announced December 17 an "industry-leading approach" to online privacy under which it will anonymize its log data after 90 days. The move comes only months after Google cut its own retention period for personal data by 50%, and it gives Yahoo by far the strongest

anonymization policy of the big three search engines. The announcement also scored points with Rep. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), a powerful voice on tech issues....

Ars Technica, Dec. 17

Travel directions map gadget

[<http://googlemapsmania.blogspot.com/2008/12/travel-directions-map-gadget.html>]

The Google Maps team has released a handy Travelling Directions gadget in time for the holiday period. With the new directions gadget, you can bring driving and walking directions to your home page or even to your own website. By copying and pasting a single line of code, any website can offer customized door-to-door directions to their users. Users can then print the directions....

Google Maps Mania, Dec. 16

The ergonomics of laptops

[<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122938297526708695.html>]

Sales of laptop computers passed desktops in the U.S. for the first time ever this fall. That's bad news for backs, necks, and shoulders. Most users simply set their laptops on a desk or table—which is hard on many body parts. The keyboard is too high, which makes your arms reach up, your shoulders hunch, and your wrists bend down. The monitor is too low, which pulls your head and neck forward and down, and puts a strain on your back....

Wall Street Journal, Dec. 16

Mobile phone to be primary internet link in 2020

[http://www.pewinternet.org/press_release.asp?r=311]

A survey of internet leaders, activists, and analysts shows they expect major tech advances as the phone becomes a primary device for online access, voice-recognition improves, artificial and virtual reality become more embedded in everyday life, and the architecture of the internet itself improves. That is one of the key findings in a new report, The Future of the Internet III (PDF file [http://www.elon.edu/docs/e-web/predictions/2008_survey.pdf]), based on a survey of experts by the Pew Internet and American Life Project that asked respondents to assess predictions about technology and its roles in the year 2020....

Pew Internet and American Life Project, Dec. 14

Library RFID technology update

[<http://sites.google.com/site/chaley102/Home/library-rfid-technology-update>]

Connie K. Haley, Kathleen Degnan, and Kathleen Haefliger of Chicago State University offer an overview of RFID tags, applications, and vendor services, along with a summary of new trends and concerns, in this self-published tech update. A helpful roundup of RFID-related links concludes the piece....

Connie K. Haley, Dec. 9

We love open source; no, you can't have our code

[<http://journal.code4lib.org/articles/527>]

Dale Askey writes: "Librarians are among the strongest proponents of open

source software. Paradoxically, libraries are also among the least likely to actively contribute their code to open source projects.” He identifies six main reasons this dichotomy exists—perfectionism, dependency, quirkiness, redundancy, competitiveness, and misunderstanding—and suggests some ways to get around them....
Code4Lib Journal, no. 5 (Dec. 15)

Publishing

The three best cities for bookworms

[<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28147899/>]

Berlin has been attracting both fledgling and established writers from around the globe, including Pulitzer Prize winner Jeffrey Eugenides. Many of America’s most enduring writers lived and worked in Boston’s Beacon Hill during the 19th century, and Boston Public Library is the nation’s first municipal library. Dublin abounds with literary landmarks, from George Bernard Shaw’s birthplace to bronze statues of James Joyce, Oscar Wilde, and Brendan Behan (right)....

Condé Nast Traveler, Dec. 15

Calculating a fair price for eBooks

[<http://www.teleread.org/blog/2008/12/15/calculating-a-fair-price-for-e-books/>]

Ficbot writes: “People keep saying that eBooks—with their lack of a physical medium, need for shipping, and need for warehouse storage—should be priced appropriately cheaper than their print counterparts. Also, since they have no second-hand market (if they did, it could only be enabled using cumbersome DRM) the price should reflect this loss of privilege. Too bad publishers are not yet on board with this and persist in charging hard-cover prices.”...

TeleRead, Dec. 15

Collecting modern photobooks

[<http://www.abebooks.com/books/RareBooks/modern-photobooks.shtml>]

Scott Brown writes: “To build an organized photobook collection, begin with Andrew Roth’s Book of 101 Books (Roth Horowitz, 2001). Roth, a rare book dealer, assembled the most influential photobooks of the 20th century and presented them in this single volume. For many, it changed the way people look at photographic books and essentially created the idea of a photobook canon—a notion that was further solidified by The Photobook: A History (right), a two-volume set (Phaidon, 2004–2006) by Martin Parr and Gerry Badger.”...

Abebooks

[<http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com>]

Actions & Answers

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Librarian: Still one of the 30 best careers

[<http://www.usnews.com/articles/business/best-careers/2008/12/11/the-30-best-careers-for-2009.html>]

U.S. News and World Report rates librarian

[<http://www.usnews.com/articles/business/best-careers/2008/12/11/best-careers-2009-librarian.html>] as one of the 30 best careers to choose in 2009.

This is at least the fourth straight year the magazine has chosen it for its top tier, based on job outlook, satisfaction, training, prestige, and pay. The job description? "It's out to the reference desk, where visitors regularly ask how to find something. Sometimes it's esoteric; often, it's the bathroom. Later, you teach a class: an advanced lesson in Googling."

The magazine seems to think the median salary has slipped: Last year, [<http://www.usnews.com/articles/business/best-careers/2007/12/19/the-components-of-31-top-careers.html>] it claimed it was \$51,400; this year, it shows as \$47,400. The ALA-Allied Professional Association reports [<http://www.ala-apa.org/>] the 2008 median is \$53,521....

U.S. News and World Report, Dec. 11

The top 10 most annoying people at the library

[http://www.collegeotr.com/university_of_wisconsin_madison/the_top_10_most_annoying_people_at_the_library__16869]

After being cramped up in the library for hours at a time, little things that never used to annoy you suddenly reach the top of your list. Finals week is all about the race to the good table at the library or who could last the longest until the library decides to shut down. With only a few more days until the semester is over, the fight to finish is still going on and the library annoyances seem to be getting more annoying....

College on the Record, Dec. 15

LC releases report on Flickr pilot project

[<http://www.loc.gov/blog/?p=394>]

In January 2008, the Library of Congress uploaded thousands of images from its collections to Flickr Commons and asked the user community to get involved by submitting tags and comments. On October 30, LC released full (PDF file [http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/flickr_report_final.pdf]) and summary (PDF file

[http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/flickr_report_final_summary.pdf]) reports on the project. The report details how the Flickr project

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/library_of_congress] has increased awareness of collections in the LC Prints and Photographs Division and given library staff experience in social tagging and Web 2.0 community input....

Library of Congress Blog, Dec. 11

[<http://www.flickr.com/photos/nypl/3109977049/in/set-72157610903880315/>]New York Public Library joins the Flickr Commons

[<http://drupal02.nypl.org/blogs/2008/12/16/nypl-joins-flickr-commons>]

Ben Vershbow writes: "We are delighted to be the latest institution to join in the Flickr Commons endeavor, with an initial contribution [<http://www.flickr.com/photos/nypl/>] of 1,300 images culled from various areas of our diverse photographic collections. We think of this as a sort of appetizer course, a sampler of collections accessible in greater

breadth and depth on the NYPL Digital Gallery [<http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/>], and on-site in our network of libraries. We expect to learn a lot from Flickr users and are thrilled at the exposure that this project will give to our photographic collections.”...
Blogg@NYPL, Dec. 16

Books for Babies matching grants [<http://www.folusa.org/outreach/bfbgrants.php>]
In partnership with Nordstrom, Friends of Libraries USA will be granting 20 grants for \$500 each to match \$1,000 raised by selected Friends groups, women’s groups, libraries, and other nonprofit organizations for purchasing Books for Babies kits (right) from FOLUSA. Applicants agree to order a minimum of \$1,500 worth of Books for Babies kits, of which FOLUSA will pay \$500. Applications for the first cycle of grants are due April 1....
Friends of Libraries USA

Libraries of early America [<http://www.librarything.com/thingology/2008/12/libraries-of-early-america-project.php>]
Jeremy Dibbell writes: “A new project will make it possible to search, compare, and study the personal libraries of Americans who collected books prior to 1825. Using the book-cataloging website LibraryThing, scholars from institutions around the country have begun the process of creating digital catalogs of these early American book collections. Is your institution home to any personal library collections, inventories, or book lists? We have begun compiling a list of collections to be added [http://www.librarything.com/wiki/index.php/Collections_To_Be_Added] and are happy to receive further submissions.”...
Thingology, Dec. 15

Top newspapers for higher ed reporting [<http://acrlog.org/2008/12/17/top-newspapers-for-higher-ed-reporting/>]
Steven Bell writes: “All newspapers are not created equal. When it comes to reporting higher education news, some are better than others. In the past it was not uncommon for metropolitan papers to have dedicated reporters for education or possibly just higher education. In today’s environment that would be a luxury. However, some daily newspapers are real standouts when it comes to reporting higher education news. In this post I share some of my top picks.”...
ACRLog, Dec. 17

BCR partners to help libraries digitize [http://www.bcr.org/about/newsreleases/2008/shelf2life_12-15-08.html]
The Bibliographical Center for Research in Aurora, Colorado, is partnering with BiblioLife and Ingram Digital in a new program to help libraries expand access to their collections. BCR’s Shelf2Life program will digitize pre-1923, U.S.-published monographs and make them available through Ingram’s MyiLibrary platform....
BCR, Dec. 15

Things found in books [<http://www.thingsinbooks.com/>]
Howard Yeend runs a website that showcases the unusual things that people

have found in books: receipts, letters, flowers, train tickets, a 1963 postcard with a Bunny Yeager photo of the Rare Bird Farm in Miami (right). You can upload your own images of found objects, along with the book's ISBN, relevant tags, and your thoughts on its significance. You can also comment on other people's found items....
thingsinbooks.com

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MT5FHPvbx_U]Jocasta Nu: Worst librarian in the galaxy [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MT5FHPvbx_U]
Jocasta Nu [http://starwars.wikia.com/wiki/Jocasta_Nu] (played by Alethea McGrath) was the chief librarian of the Jedi Archives at the time of the Clone Wars with a penchant for being a bit overconfident in the completeness of her Archives. Her patterned robes bore the symbols of the Ansata, representing her devotion to knowledge and learning. During these years, her confidence in the Archives was absolute, claiming that if something was not in the Archives, then it did not exist....
Wookieepedia; Star Wars: Episode II, Attack of the Clones (2002); YouTube, Dec. 16

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[<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/home.cfm>]

ALA Midwinter Meeting,
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/2009/faq.cfm>]
Denver, January 23–28. As of December 12, registration had reached 5,422, compared to 4,261 at the 7-week point one year ago for the Philadelphia meeting.

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/annual/2009/registration.cfm>]

Get ready! Registration
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/annual/2009/registration.cfm>] for the 2009 Annual Conference in Chicago opens January 5.

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=product_detail&_op=2657]

In this fully updated revision of Fundamentals of Collection Development and Management
[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=product_detail&_op=2657],
[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=product_detail&_op=2657] expert instructor and librarian Peggy Johnson addresses the

art of controlling and updating your library's collection. Each chapter offers complete coverage of one aspect of collection development, including suggestions for further reading and a narrative case study exploring the issue. Johnson also integrates electronic resources throughout. NEW! From ALA Editions.

In this issue
December 2008

[<http://site.ebrary.com/lib/ala>]

Laura Bush, Librarian in the White House

Top Stories of 2008

The World's Greatest Music Library

User Tagging

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

Coordinator of Information Literacy,
[<http://joblist.ala.org/modules/jobseeker/controller.cfm?scr=jobdetail&jobid=12395>] University of Scranton, Pennsylvania. The Weinberg Memorial Library of the University of Scranton seeks an innovative and collaborative librarian to coordinate the library's information literacy program. Key components of this tenure-track position include developing effective relationships with classroom faculty and administrators, scheduling, teaching in-person and online classes, assigning instructors, and collecting and analyzing data to evaluate program effectiveness....

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

Digital Library of the Week

[<http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/ndnp:1621556/display.html?n=4&scope=fulltext&pageNum=2¤tSort=&mode=list>]

The Chronicling America

[<http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/index.html>] website is a project of the National Digital Newspaper Program, a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress to provide enhanced access to American newspapers. Over a period of approximately 20 years, NDNP will create a national digital resource of

historically significant newspapers from all the states and territories published between 1836 and 1922. This searchable database will be permanently maintained at the Library of Congress and be freely accessible via the internet. On December 11, the NDNF added 183,698 historic newspaper pages (including 14 new titles) to the site, which accesses 864,509 pages from 108 titles that were published in nine states (California, Florida, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, Texas, Utah, and Virginia) and the District of Columbia between 1880 and 1910. Six additional states (Arizona, Hawaii, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Washington) will be contributing content in 2009.

Do you know of a digital library collection that we can mention in this AL Direct feature? Tell us about it. [mailto:aldirect@ala.org] Browse previous Digital Libraries of the Week at the I Love Libraries [http://www.ilovelibraries.ala.org/diglibweekly/] site.

Public Perception How the World Sees Us

“In making the decision to close 11 public libraries as of December 31, the Nutter administration ignored a crucial piece of information: In many cases, public libraries are the de facto school libraries for children and teachers in Philadelphia. Years of budget cuts have left many public city schools without libraries—a separate disgrace. That has meant sending students and classes to the local public library— including some of the 11 branches targeted for closure —during the school day.”

?Editorial on “Schools and Libraries,” Philadelphia Inquirer, Dec. 14.

[http://www.urbanlibraries.org/toolkit1208.html]

The Urban Libraries Council is offering a new toolkit

[http://www.urbanlibraries.org/toolkit1208.html] as a supplement to its recent publication on library service to communities with a rapidly growing immigrant population, *Welcome, Stranger: Public Libraries Build the Global Village*.

[http://www.urbanlibraries.org/publications/print.html] The toolkit includes a print component that offers exercises to help your team develop locally tailored strategies to serve new Americans, and an accompanying CD provides worksheets that will help you create a welcoming center for our nation’s newest citizens.

Ask the ALA Librarian

[http://www.oclc.org/reports/funding/default.htm]

Q. I saw a story in the news recently that mentioned the important role that libraries have, particularly as the economy slows down. It was also mentioned that libraries are themselves falling victim to the tough financial times we are in. Can you give me some additional information about this topic?

A. Yes, there are several sources for additional information that you may find helpful. Recently, NBC Nightly News [<http://www.pio.ala.org/visibility/?p=186>] did a report on this topic. The value of libraries [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Value_of_Libraries] in general has generated much discussion throughout the media, and ALA's Public Information Office has compiled a press kit [<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/mediapresscenter/presskits/sloweconomyfuelslibraryusage/index.cfm>] that focuses on how the slow economy has fueled a surge in library visits. As you have mentioned, libraries are also affected financially by the downturn in the economy, and it is more important than ever to support your library. Advocacy [<http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Advocacy>] is one of the best ways to make sure that your library continues to get the funding needed to provide the services you expect. For tips on promoting your library, ALA's Office for Library Advocacy [<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ola/index.cfm>] has some excellent resources. From the ALA Professional Tips wiki [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Slow_Economy_and_Libraries].

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

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

ALA chapters.

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/cro/chapters/stateandregional/stateandregional.cfm>] ALA has affiliate relationships with state library associations in all 50 states (such as Kansas), the District of Columbia, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and regional library associations in the Mountain Plains, New England, Pacific Northwest, and Southeastern regions. Each state chapter is represented by an elected chapter councilor with full voting rights in ALA's governing assembly. The interests of chapters are represented within the Association by the Chapter Relations Office and the Chapter Relations Committee.

Calendar

Feb. 3:

Society for Scholarly Publishing, Librarian Focus Group, [https://www.sspnet.org/Events/Meetings_and_Seminars/2009_SSP_Librarian_Focus_Group/spage.aspx] American Geophysical Union, Washington, D.C. "Librarians and Publishers: Partners in Troubled Times."

Feb. 18–21:

National Storytelling Network, South Central Region,
[<http://storynet.org/events/yearofregions.html>] Columbia, Missouri.
“Telling Stories, Changing Lives.”

Feb. 26–27:
Webwise Conference on Libraries and Museums in the Digital World,
[<http://webwise2009.fcla.edu/>] Hyatt Regency, Washington, D.C. “Digital Debates.”

Mar. 2–3:
Learning, Libraries + Technology Conference,
[<http://www.ohn.org/conferences/LLT2009/aboutLLT2009.php>] University System of Ohio, Hilton Columbus at Easton.

Mar. 18–21:
Visual Resources Association,
[<http://www.vraweb.org/conferences/toronto2009/index.html>] Annual Conference, Toronto, Ontario.

Mar. 19–22:
National Science Teachers Association,
[<http://www.nsta.org/conferences/2009new/>] Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans. “Celebrating the Year of Science.”

Mar. 20:
North American Serials Interest Group,
[http://www.nasig.org/activities_calendar.cfm?action=detail&rec=44]
Un-Conference, Hale Library, Kansas State University, Manhattan.

Apr. 1–5:
Society of Architectural Historians,
[http://www.sah.org/index.php?submenu=Meetings&src=gendocs&ref=ANNUAL_MEETING_PASADENA_WELCOME&category=ANNUAL_MEETING_PASADENA] Annual Meeting, Pasadena, California.

Apr. 2–5:
National Council on Public History,
[<http://ncph.org/Conferences/2009/tabid/304/Default.aspx>] Annual Meeting, Biltmore Hotel, Providence, Rhode Island.

Apr. 8–11:
Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association,
[<http://pcaaca.org/conference/national.php>] National Conference, New Orleans Marriott.

Apr. 12–18:
National Library Week.
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/hqops/pio/natlibraryweek/nlw.cfm>]

May 5:
National Teacher Day. [<http://www.nea.org/teacherday/index.html>]

May 5–8:
Substance Abuse Librarians and Information Specialists,

[<http://salis.org/conference/conference.html>] Annual Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia. "Setting Sail: Best Practices for the Next Decade."

May 14–15:

SOLINET,

[<http://www.solinet.net/Classes%20and%20Events/SOLINET%20Annual%20Membershi>
p%20Meeting.aspx] Annual Membership Meeting, Georgia Tech Hotel and
Conference Center, Atlanta. "The Changing World, Changing Libraries."

July 3–8:

Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials

[<http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/salalm/conference/salalmliv.html>],

[<http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/salalm/conference/salalmliv.html>]

Annual Conference, Hotel Maritim, Berlin. "Migrations and Connections:
Latin America and Europe in the Modern World."

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

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ISSN 1559-369X.

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The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | December 24, 2008

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SCHOOLROOMS
A new learning portal for K-12

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

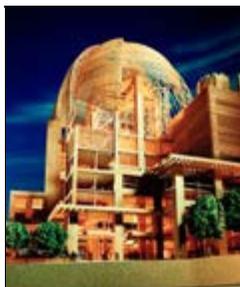


american libraries BUYERS GUIDE

U.S. & World News

[San Diego hopes joint-use proposal will save its state grant](#)

Almost 10 years and two mayors since San Diego officials first envisioned building a \$130-million new downtown Main Library (right), city officials are scrambling to extend the December 31 state deadline for securing enough funds to keep a \$20-million state library grant awarded in 2003 toward construction of the now \$185-million facility. San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders and San Diego Unified School District Board President Sheila Jackson have proposed that the district inject \$20 million into the fund so it can build a 300-student “niche” high school with a separate entrance on the first two floors of the building....



American Libraries Online, Dec. 23



ALA DENVER MIDWINTER meeting & exhibits 09

[ALA Midwinter Meeting.](#)

Denver, January 23–28. Tune into the [Youth Media Awards](#) free live webcast on **January 26** at 7:45 a.m. Mountain time. Unikron, a streaming content provider, is the host.



Current Issues: Environment NEW!
Exploring the most important topics of our future. H.W. Wilson www.hwwilson.com

ALA News

[ALA submits report to Obama-Biden Transition Team](#)

The ALA Washington Office prepared a report on the library community's key issues and concerns, *Opening the "Window to a Larger World": Libraries' Role in Changing America* ([PDF file](#)), and submitted it to the Obama-Biden Transition Team on December 17. The Washington Office hopes to continue this open dialogue with the administration over the next four years....

District Dispatch, Dec. 18

[National Library Legislative Day 2009](#)

The 2009 National Library Legislative Day is quickly approaching and will be held on May 11–12 at the



Liaison Hotel in Washington, D.C. Make sure to sign up early—while ALA has reserved a block of rooms at the hotel, they always go quickly and you'll want to be at the center of the action....

District Dispatch, Dec. 22



[Libraries stand ready to help](#)

ALA President Jim Rettig writes: "When economic times get tough, the average American family's solution is to get creative. In rethinking their budgets, many families across the country are turning to a familiar place—the public library. As one South Florida man discovered, canceling his home internet access and taking advantage of the free internet service offered at his local public library could save his family over \$700 a year."...

Huffington Post, Dec. 11

[Midwinter Meeting event planner is up](#)

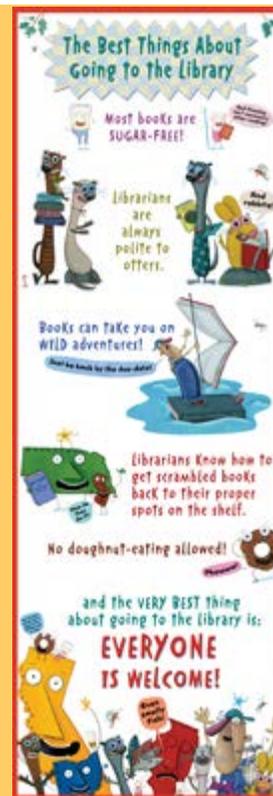
The Midwinter [event planner](#) is now available and includes dates, times, and locations for all events. The planner is only available to fully registered attendees. To log in, use the email address you provided when you registered, and the generic password "ala." You will be able to reset your password using the "My Profile" feature once you are logged in. If you are having trouble accessing the event planner, please contact [Karee Williams](#)....

[Annual Conference registration opening moved](#)

The first day of registration for the 2009 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago has been moved from Friday, January 2, to Monday, January 5. The change was made to accommodate the closing of the ALA office on January 2. Participants can register [online](#) through the ALA website, by fax, or by mail....

[Gates grant supports ALA broadband initiative](#)

A pilot initiative by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will help public libraries in seven states secure faster internet connections so more people can access a full range of online applications and opportunities. The foundation has awarded \$6.9 million in combined



This [lively poster](#) features a short list of "best things" about visiting the library. Characters from Laurie Keller's popular books, including the Scrambled States, Arnie the Doughnut, and the Otters, will brighten any library wall. A [bookmark](#) is available too. **NEW!** From ALA Graphics.

[In this issue](#)

December 2008



Laura Bush,
Librarian in the
White House

grant funding to Connected Nation, a nonprofit broadband internet advocacy group, and ALA's Office for Information Technology Policy. OITP will advise state library agencies and develop model case studies....

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Dec. 18

[Vernon Jordan lauds libraries](#)

In this video interview (1:24), taken during ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, California, Vernon E. Jordan Jr.—lawyer, civil rights leader, and close adviser to former President Bill Clinton—talks about the role of libraries, including segregated libraries, and librarians in shaping his life....

Visibility @ your library, Dec. 22



AL Focus

[I Love My Librarian Award ceremony](#)

Ten winners of the inaugural Carnegie Corporation of New York/New York Times I Love My Librarian Award were recognized at a ceremony hosted by the *New York Times* December 9 that is captured in this video (2:57). The award, administered by ALA's Public Information Office and the Campaign for America's Libraries, recognizes public, school, and college librarians for service to their communities, schools, and campuses....

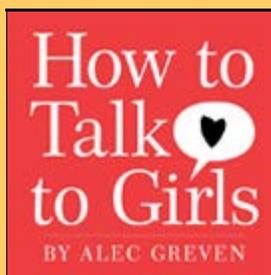


Booklist ONLINE

[Featured review: Books for youth](#)

Greven, Alec. *How to Talk to Girls*. Dec. 2008. 48p. HarperCollins, hardcover (978-0-06-170999-9).

Some books just make your teeth ache. Books written by 9-year-olds about how to get it on with girls fall into that category. According to the PR story, this book began as a pamphlet author Greven sold at his school book fair. No word on how long the pamphlet was, but here it has grown to 48 pages. This couldn't have been easy. There are only seven short chapters. Still, between the remembrances ("I had a crush on a girl in preschool. Then my family had to move, so I had to let her wash out of my mind"), the observations ("pretty girls . . . have the big earrings"), and the ruminations ("if you are the smartest kid in the class, you are like a magnet and the girls are the metal"), the pages do fill....



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

Top Stories of 2008

**The World's
Greatest Music
Library**

User Tagging

**Career Leads
from**

ALA JobLIST

[Head, Spencer
Research Library.](#)

University of Kansas, Lawrence. Provide strategic and visionary leadership for the future of the Spencer Research Library; develop programmatic outreach to faculty and students to promote the integration of unique and primary resources in scholarship and teaching; manage human, financial, and other resources and daily operations; participate in donor relations and fundraising activities....

@ [More jobs...](#)

Digital Library of the Week



In 2006 the [American School of Classical Studies at Athens](#)

received European Union funds to showcase its unique treasures via the

Denver Update

[Denver's African-American heritage](#)

February may be the official Black History Month, but in Denver, the rich heritage of the city's African-American residents past and present is celebrated year-round. The Mile High City and its outlying areas are home to three impressive museums centered on African American history and culture, as well as several other fascinating landmarks....

Visit Denver



Division News

[ALSC adds to Great Web Sites](#)

ALSC has added more recommended sites to [Great Web Sites for Kids](#), its online resource containing hundreds of links to commendable websites for children. Links are organized by subject headings such as animals, literature and languages, the sciences, the arts, and the reference desk. There is a special section with sites of interest to parents, caregivers, and teachers, plus an area devoted to sites in Spanish....



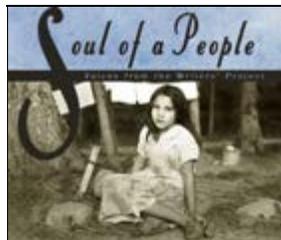
Awards

[Youth Media Awards on Twitter](#)

For the first time ever, there will be a live Twitterstream for the 2009 Youth Media Awards as ALA, ALSC, and YALSA unveil the best in children's and young adult literature and media during the Midwinter Meeting in Denver. Starting at 7:45 a.m. Mountain Time on Monday, January 26, followers of [ALayma](#) on Twitter will get real-time updates on award winners as they are announced....

[30 libraries receive *Soul of a People* grants](#)

Thirty libraries will receive a \$2,500 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to present five different outreach programs in connection with an upcoming documentary, *Soul of a People: Voices from the Writers' Project*. Film and library outreach programs will acquaint public, academic, and special library audiences with the story of the largest cultural experiment in U.S. history—the Federal Writers' Project—told against the backdrop of the Depression and 1930s America....



[In defense of the Newbery Medal](#)

Erica S. Perl writes: "Literary awards should do more than simply affirm books that are easy to love and would likely find fans regardless of a medal. They also serve as inspiration for authors to

internet in order to promote classical and post-classical Hellenic studies to a broader international public. Within the framework of the Information Society Operational Program, the American School digitized a significant part of its collections. More than 400,000 items, scanned and cataloged, are now available online for consultation and study. The digitized material includes the scrapbooks of Joannes Gennadius (1844–1932), which contain photographs and documents on the long diplomatic career and scholarly preoccupations of the founder of the Gennadius Library; the correspondence of politician Ion Dragoumis (1878–1920); the photographic albums of Dorothy Burr Thompson (1900–2001), one of the most distinguished American archaeologists of the 20th century; a significant number of photographs from the historical archives of the Gennadius Library; and excavation records, photographs and drawings covering the entire duration of the School's excavations at Corinth (1896 to the present).

Do you know of a digital library collection that we can mention in this *AL Direct* feature? [Tell us about it.](#) Browse previous Digital Libraries of the Week at the [Love Libraries](#) site.

**Public
Perception**
How the World
Sees Us

take creative risks, push boundaries, and even reinvent the form. In a time of publishing industry layoffs and cutbacks, when commercial promise is king, the Newbery Medal continues to offer hope for those of us who want to write and publish the odd, offbeat, and not always pretty stories that we believe in our hearts children will want to read.”...

Slate, Dec. 19

[Dominican University supports a Spectrum scholar](#)

The Dominican University Graduate School of Library and Information Science will provide \$5,000 in matching scholarship funds to Elizabeth Hernandez, a 2008 ALA Spectrum Scholarship winner. Hernandez is pursuing an MLS at Dominican, which first offered matching scholarships to Spectrum recipients in its graduate program in library and information studies in 1999....

[Larry Carver named LC Digital Preservation Pioneer](#)

Larry Carver, retired director of library technologies and digital initiatives at the University of California, Santa Barbara, has been recognized for his work by the Library of Congress as a [pioneer of digital preservation](#). Carver’s collection of maps, aerial photography, and satellite imagery eventually led to the establishment of the UCSB Map and Imagery Laboratory in 1979, and he spent years helping to develop a set of requirements that would produce the first geospatial digital collection (the [Alexandria Digital Library](#))....

Santa Barbara (Calif.) Independent, Dec. 9; Library of Congress



[Children’s librarian wins national essay contest](#)

Lisbeth Boutang, children’s librarian at Cloquet (Minn.) Public Library, has been named grand prize winner of the “What I Wish Everyone Knew About Librarians” essay contest, sponsored by Smart Poodle Publishing. Librarians from across the country were invited to write essays to tell the world what they want others to know about librarians. The three prize-winning [essays](#) and honorable mentions are posted on the publisher’s blog....

Cloquet (Minn.) Pine Journal, Dec. 15; Smart Poodle Blog, Dec. 15



[Native American library grants](#)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is accepting applications for the 2009 Native American Library Services Basic Grants and Enhancement Grants. They are designed to help Native American libraries support their communities by improving their collections, establishing or enhancing technological capabilities, making holdings accessible to all users, and strengthening traditional library services....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Dec. 18

Seen Online

[Obama to take oath on Lincoln’s Bible](#)

Barack Obama will be sworn into office with the same Bible that Abraham Lincoln used for his first inauguration in 1861. This will be the first time

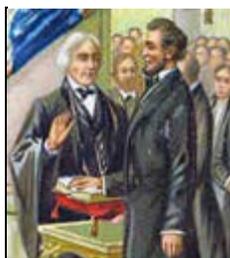
“A list of two hundred books which it is proposed to purchase for the library of the Lincoln School has been referred to a committee of the Board of Education, with power to reject any objectionable volumes. As it is not probable that the members of the committee are familiar with a half-dozen volumes comprised in this list or any other, it may reasonably be affirmed that a conscientious performance of their duty will require the first intellectual labor they have ever done in all their lives. It is to be hoped the works are printed in large, clear type, with the syllables properly estranged.”

—Ambrose Bierce, in his “Town Crier” column, *San Francisco News Letter and Commercial Advertiser*, Nov. 18, 1871.



ALA and the National Library of Medicine want to help you show your patrons how to find the information that will help them achieve good health. The [Good Health Information](#) website

since then that an incoming president has used the 1853 Bible, purchased by the Clerk of the Supreme Court specially for Lincoln's inauguration and now part of the collection at the Library of Congress.



The Bible will be on display at LC from February 12 to May 9 as part of an exhibition titled "With Malice Toward None: The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Exhibition."...

New York Times, Dec. 23

[Music industry to abandon mass lawsuits](#)

After years of suing thousands of people for allegedly stealing music via the internet, the Recording Industry Association of America is set to drop its legal assault as it searches for more effective ways to combat online music piracy. Instead, RIAA plans to send an email to an ISP when it finds that a provider's customer is making music available online for others to take. The decision represents an abrupt shift of strategy for the industry, which has opened legal proceedings against about 35,000 people since 2003. But ISPs are [starting to ask](#) who will pay for the policing....

Wall Street Journal, Dec. 19; *Ars Technica*, Dec. 22

[Lawsuit threatened over Philadelphia branch closings](#)

A group of Philadelphians is threatening to sue Mayor Michael Nutter and the city to save 11 branch libraries from closing because of the city's severe money crunch. Irv Ackelsberg, the attorney representing the plaintiffs, announced the planned class-action lawsuit December 18 on behalf of seven named plaintiffs at the Logan branch. Meanwhile, Nutter has [submitted](#) to the incoming Obama administration a \$30-million stimulus-package request to build regional libraries in North and South Philadelphia—but nothing for the shuttered branches, four of which were nominated ([PDF file](#)) December 22 to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places....

Philadelphia Inquirer, Dec. 19, 20; *Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia*, Dec. 22

[New Providence plan would close five branches](#)

Five library branches would close by July but the downtown flagship and four other branches would remain open under a plan approved December 18 by the Providence Public Library board of trustees. The city must make one of four decisions by June 30: accept the library plan; take over the branch libraries itself; assign their stewardship to another entity; or maintain the current library system intact for one year and cover any deficits incurred....



Providence (R.I.) Journal, Dec. 19

[Behind-the-scenes shakeups in New Orleans](#)

When the New Orleans Public Library released its 25-year master plan in the spring, nationwide praise rolled in for Board Chairman Irvin Mayfield Jr. But his moves as board leader have added to the tumult in the system. Four top-ranking librarians and the director of a library support



introduces the resources of the National Library of Medicine and provides information that helps communities of color in rural settings make good health decisions. Specifically, the site addresses the diseases and illnesses that disproportionately affect people of color.



ACRL offers a number of [online learning opportunities](#) to meet the demands of your schedule and budget. If you have a question about an e-learning opportunity, contact [Jon Stahler](#). Registration for all ACRL e-learning opens approximately one month prior to seminar or webcast start dates.

Calendar

Feb. 23–26:

[Code4Lib Conference](#),

Renaissance Providence Hotel, Rhode Island.

Feb. 25–28:

[Southwest Texas Popular Cultural and American Culture Association](#),

Conference, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Albuquerque, New Mexico. "Reeling in the Years: 30 Years of Film, TV, and Popular Culture."

foundation have all left as Mayfield, a Grammy nominee whose main gig is directing the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, conducted a major realignment that left him as the system's chief administrator. While Mayfield downplays his control, it's clear who's in charge....

New Orleans Times-Picayune, Dec. 17

[Christmas presents to library staff are unethical](#)

After asking the state Board of Ethics in November whether library staff can accept inexpensive and homemade Christmas gifts from grateful patrons, St. Tammany Parish (La.) Library officials last week received the board's response: Bah, humbug. Even small gifts, such as "cakes, pies, houseplants, etc., from patrons of the library for their performance of the library employees' duties" are off-limits, according to the ethics board. Library officials and patrons are incensed....

New Orleans Times-Picayune, Dec. 22

[Obama books okay for Catholic school library?](#)

The pastor of a Blue Springs (Mo.) Catholic church recently pulled Barack Obama biographies from the school's library, but on December 18 he said he'd put them back [during the winter break](#). Two books about Obama had been added to the St. John LaLande Catholic Church school library collection. Fr. Ron Elliott (above) said he'd gotten complaints from parishioners because of Obama's stance on abortion, even though the books mention nothing about it....

Kansas City (Mo.) Star, Dec. 19; ABC News, Dec. 18; *Independence (Mo.) Examiner*, Dec. 19



[Storms in a stew over Dewey](#)

Florida state Sen. Ronda Storms (R-Valrico) railed against the Dewey Decimal Classification system during a December 17 budget hearing on state library aid, calling it "anachronistic," costly, and just plain frustrating. "If Barnes and Noble organizes its books more simply, why can't libraries?" Storms thundered. "A lot of little old librarians are going to have a heart attack that I even said that out loud," she said. Storms also objected to libraries loaning copies of TV show episodes, such as *Seinfeld*....

Tampa (Fla.) Tribune, Dec. 19



[Hathaway wins on Jeopardy](#)

Milt Hathaway, librarian at Eastern View High School in Culpeper, Virginia, defends his title this week on the popular syndicated television show *Jeopardy*. Hathaway, originally from Newport, Rhode Island, became the champion December 18 with \$38,401. He cinched victory in the Final Jeopardy round when he gave the correct question to the answer, "On April 29, 1861, he said, 'We seek no conquest; all we ask is to be let alone.'" ...

Fredericksburg (Va.) Free Lance-Star, Dec. 19



[Europeana reopens](#)

The European Union's new [Europeana](#) digital library reopened December 23 after crashing within hours of its launch in November due to surging interest.

[Mar. 11–13: International Association for Sports Information](#)

13th World Congress, Canberra, Australia. "Building and Sustaining Sport Information Communities."

[Mar. 16–20: Association of Research Libraries](#)

Service Quality Evaluation Academy, Hotel Monteleone, New Orleans. Application deadline is January 5.

[Mar. 30–Apr. 1: Computers in Libraries 2009](#), Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, Virginia. "Creating Tomorrow: Spreading Ideas and Learning."

[Apr. 3–5: Expanding Literacy Studies](#), an international, interdisciplinary conference for graduate students, Ohio State University, Columbus.

[Apr. 24: Second Annual Modern Role of the Library in Adult Education Conference](#), National-Lewis University, Chicago. "Diverse Learners."

[Apr. 29–May 1: International Society of Educational Biography](#), Annual Conference, Menger Hotel, San Antonio, Texas.



European Commission spokesman Martin Selmayr said the website was working after its server capacity had been quadrupled and it had been stress-tested to deal with user interest. However, a message on the site said that "the user experience may not be optimal."...

PC Pro, Dec. 23; Agence France-Presse, Dec. 23

[Runner attempts visit to every Seattle branch](#)

For a guy who once ran 51 marathons in 50 days in 50 states, his venture on December 18 should have been a Sunday stroll for ultramarathoner Sam Thompson. If only the snow hadn't gotten in the way. Thompson, who has been running for 15 years, had plans to run to all 27 Seattle library branches in one day—but bad weather foiled his plans and he only made it to 17, six of which had already closed....

Seattle Times, Dec. 19

[UMKC expansion gets a boost](#)

The Sunderland Foundation has awarded \$1 million to the Miller Nichols Library expansion project at the University of Missouri–Kansas City. The money is designated for the expansion's second phase, including creating classrooms, seminar rooms, a 300-seat lecture hall, and an open space to accommodate community members, faculty, and a growing student body of more than 14,000....



Kansas City (Mo.) Business Journal, Dec. 19

[Mariners' Museum ex-archivist gets four years](#)

The former archivist at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia, who stole thousands of museum documents and sold them on the internet, was sentenced December 17 to four years in prison. Lester F. Weber sold at least 3,500 documents—from collections he was supposed to oversee—on eBay under his wife's name. The items included everything from brochures and boarding passes for old ships to a lawsuit against the company that owned the *Titanic*....

Newport News (Va.) Daily Press, Dec. 18

[Unique prison library program](#)

Prisoners at Saughton Prison in Edinburgh, Scotland, will soon be able to video themselves reading bedtime stories to send home to their children. The pilot scheme, called Storybook Dads, will allow fathers to be recorded on DVD reading stories to send home to help them bond with their children. If successful, the scheme could be extended to other jails. The new library at Saughton has also been supplied with laptops, a wider range of books, and for the first time has a trained librarian to help inmates get the most out of the facility....

The Telegraph (U.K.), Dec. 18

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American Libraries Direct



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ISSN 1559-369X.

[Jason Griffey's top five most influential technologies](#)



Jason Griffey writes: "In the spirit of the bazillion other year-end lists you will see over the coming weeks, I decided to list my Top 5 Most Influential Technologies of the year. These are the technologies that I think librarians need to be aware of, examine, and find uses for in their library. Not all of these started this year, but 2008 was the year they broke out and became necessities in many people's lives."...

ALA TechSource blog, Dec. 22

[Things to look forward to in HTML 5](#)

Jacob Gube writes: "HTML 5 is the upcoming major revision of the HyperText Markup Language, the main method of marking up content for sharing on the Web. HTML's development stopped at HTML 4.01 in 1999, and since then web content has evolved so much that current specifications are inadequate for today's requirements. HTML 5 will address the growing demand for more diverse and complex web content. In this post, we look at five exciting new features."...

ReadWriteWeb, Dec. 18

[Which RSS reader is right for you?](#)



Becky Krystal writes: "We're talking about the wide world of really simple syndication, more pithily known as RSS. With the technology, web surfers can subscribe to their favorite sites to keep up with recently posted items. On some sites you may choose to be notified of every update, while on others you can limit updates to areas of particular interest to you. But choosing the right aggregator can be just as daunting as selecting what you want it to aggregate."...

Washington Post, Dec. 21

[Eleven things to do when YouTube is blocked](#)

Joyce Valenza writes: "The fact is, YouTube is blocked in many of our schools. Every single day, many of us spend a good deal of time trying to figure out how to get the videos we need to use in our classrooms and libraries. I myself am a long-time sufferer of YouTube-block (despite my understanding of my district's motivations) and I have developed a variety of strategies for treating the condition."...

NeverEndingSearch, Dec. 19

[Nokia audiobooks](#)

Mary Burkey writes: "I predict that the mobile phone will soon become the One Device to Rule Them All—just one gadget to carry for phone calls, music, eBooks, photos, games, GPS, video, and more. But most importantly, our cell phone will be our audiobook playback device, with Bluetooth connectivity to radio and stereo and instant downloads from online vendors or public library.



Nokia cell phone customers have a new upgrade that will make the transition easier. On the [Nokia Blog](#), software developer (and audiobook fan) Janne Vainio describes the new audiobook software manager."...

Audiobooker, Dec. 19; Nokia Blog, Dec. 19

[If programming languages were religions](#)

AMZ writes: "Lisp would be Zen Buddhism: There is no syntax, there is no centralization of dogma, there are no deities to worship. The entire universe is there at your reach—if only you are enlightened enough to grasp it. Some say that it's not a language at all; others say that it's the only language that makes sense."...

Aegisub, Dec. 15

Publishing

[New mobile eBook release](#)

ScrollMotion, a New York mobile application developer, has concluded deals with a number of major publishing houses, and is in talks with several others, to produce newly released and best-selling eBooks as apps for the iPhone and iPod Touch. Publishers now on board include Houghton Mifflin, Simon and Schuster, Random House, Hachette, and Penguin Group USA. The first official books began to roll out December 22 and include such titles such as Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* and Philip Pullman's *The Golden Compass*....

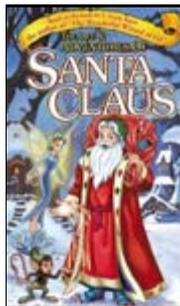
Epicenter, Dec. 22



[10 great Christmas stories](#)

Jamie Frater writes: "In just a few days, Christmas will be with us once again. In celebration of this greatest of holidays, we have put together a follow-up list to our first [Top 10 Christmas Books](#). With this selection, we have tried to pick books that are less familiar to people, in the hopes that we can expand on future Christmas reading for you all. Enjoy the list, and most of all, have a Merry Christmas!"...

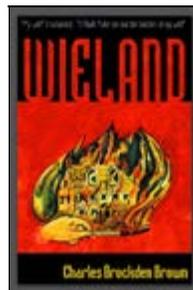
List Universe, Dec. 21



[Chilling books to read in the darkness of winter](#)

Annalee Newitz writes: "Want a low-cost gift whose beauty is that it reminds you winter is a time of shadowy, gothic dread? We've got 17 seasonal depression books you'll want to read next to the fire. These books are mostly very easy to find, and they all contain elements that are as mournful as the season itself. I've put together a selection of new and classic novels that will help you escape the darkness of winter—by taking you to even darker places."...

io9, Dec. 20



[Top U.S. out-of-print books for 2008](#)

The BookFinder.com team spends a lot of time looking at used and rare market-demand trends. Per their research, here are the top 10 most sought-after out-of-print books in America in 2008. Three of these bestsellers will be going back into print in 2009. At the top, John L. Parker's *Once a Runner*, which will be reprinted in April 2009....

BookFinder.com Journal, Dec. 17

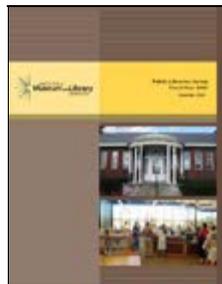


Actions & Answers

[2006 Public Libraries Survey](#)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has issued the Public Libraries Survey report for fiscal year 2006 ([PDF file](#)). This is the first PLS report released since IMLS was given responsibility for the annual survey, which includes information on population of service areas, service outlets, library collections and services, library staff, operating revenue, and expenditures. More than 9,000 libraries were surveyed in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Dec. 19



[When Blagojevich was a school library's best friend](#)

American Libraries Editor Leonard Kniffel writes: "For one moment, 10 years ago, Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, then a U.S. Representative, was the darling of school libraries in Chicago. I can remember interviewing Ann Weeks, then director of the Chicago Public Schools Department of Libraries and Information Services, after he'd made the grand gesture of donating his share of the year's congressional pay raise (\$2,140.09, to be exact) to a CPS book fundraiser with a \$20-million goal."...

AL Inside Scoop, Dec. 17



[15 dazzling modern library designs](#)

Some libraries are much more than book storage depots. From public archives of knowledge to academic centers of learning, libraries can be amazing places—so why shouldn't they look the part? From alien blob buildings to futuristic steel-and-glass megastructures, here are 15 libraries that prove books are very cool. The University of Alaska Anchorage/Alaska Pacific University Consortium Library's (right) washtub shape reflects direct sunlight downward while still admitting ambient light....

WebUrbanist, Dec. 10



[The Green Library Movement: An overview](#)

Monika Antonelli writes: "The creation of green libraries is approaching a tipping point and generating a Green Library Movement comprised of librarians, libraries, cities, towns, and college and university campuses committed to greening libraries and reducing their environmental impact. Constructing a green library building by using a performance standard like LEED is a way some libraries are choosing to become green and sustainable. Environmental challenges like energy depletion and climate change will influence the type of information resources and programs libraries will provide to their communities."...

Electronic Green Journal 1, no. 27 (2008)

[JISC launches ticTOCS](#)

The Joint Information Systems Committee has launched its [ticTOCS](#) service after a significant trial period. The service aggregates the tables of contents (TOCs) from 11,470 scholarly journals from 422 publishers, for a total of 296,186 full-text articles. (Of course, you or your institution must have access to the full text of these journals to view them; the table of contents, though, is free.) The idea behind ticTOCS is to make finding and subscribing to table of contents RSS feeds a simple process. This free service is long overdue....

RSS4Lib, Dec. 19



[Debate on the Google Book Search agreement](#)

The Open Content Alliance blog has a post on the Google/AAP agreement with a lengthy reply from Dan Clancy of Google Books, and a counterreply from Karen Coyle, who writes: "I consider the Google partnership with the libraries to be dangerous because it commercializes library materials. I know that libraries are impoverished and slow-moving, while Google is rich and quick. I would love for libraries to be rich and quick. But in no way do I want them to take on the assumptions or point-of-view of a for-profit approach to information. Our society would lose so much if that were to happen."...

Open Content Alliance blog, Dec. 6, 17, 20

[Find a new thing to do with Google](#)

You can do a lot more than search the Web with Google nowadays, from reading newspapers in languages you don't speak to seeing the natural habitat of Komodo dragons. Discover something new to do with Google by clicking on one of these 52 titles to watch a how-to video and try it for yourself....

Google Things To Do

[Nursing home ratings](#)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have recently created an [online tool](#) to help people compare nursing homes. This tool uses a five-star rating system and ranks only nursing homes that are certified to participate in Medicare or Medicaid and provide a level of care considered "skilled." The ratings are based on health inspections, staffing, and quality measures....

PCLS Senior Services Blog, Dec. 19

[Hardin-Simmons acquires rare Bible collection](#)

Charles and Roena Tandy have entrusted Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, with the gift of a rare and valuable collection of early and antique Bibles and Christian writings, some dating to the early 1500s. The Tandy collection includes 26 Bibles, including a first edition (1611) of the King James Bible, a 1541 edition of the Great Bible, and a first edition of the Geneva Bible translated by Protestant Reformers at Geneva in 1560....

Hardin-Simmons University, Dec. 10



[What bloggers can learn from journalists](#)

Gannett News Service syndicated columnist Anita Bruzzese writes: "I have a lot of fun reading blogs and often learn a lot. But as a trained journalist, sometimes I see things in a blogger's copy that bug me a

bit, and sometimes I read stuff that makes me cringe. Some of it just confuses me, and some of it appalls me. So, when Chris asked me to write a guest post on what bloggers can learn from journalists, I decided to make a list.”...

Chris Brogan's blog, Dec. 15

[Help index *Unshelved*](#)

Bill Barnes writes: “I am doing what I should have done years ago and implemented [OhNoRobot](#)'s simple and easy webcomic search engine to index *Unshelved*. Now it's your turn, librarians. We have nearly seven years worth of archives, almost 2,500 strips in all, that need transcription. It's easy. Just go to the [archive](#), choose a strip (clicking the 'random' button is a good way to start) and, if there's a 'transcribe this comic' button, click it. Then follow the directions.”...

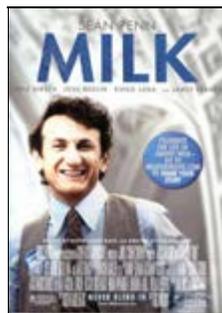
Unshelved Blog, Dec. 16



[Take it from someone who was there](#)

Karen Schneider writes: “*Milk* is a strong biopic, respectfully (but not too respectfully) crafted. Because I grew up in San Francisco and lived in the Castro district in the late 1970s, a place and time where most of the movie takes place, and because I was at least a bystander for some of the public events, and knew what the principals looked like and in some cases how they spoke and moved, I have a standard for 'being there' few movies could hope to match. Yet *Milk* not only met and often exceeded my expectations but moved beyond the usual biopic you-are-there territory, doing justice to the idea of a portrait as a reflection of us all.”...

Free Range Librarian, Dec. 20



[Laid-back holiday greetings from Seneca College](#)

Mikey Mike (AV Technician Michael London) and the Library Bunch at Seneca College's Markham Campus in Toronto prepared this jazzy holiday song (4:50) in 2006. “Shhh, you gotta keep your voices down, people need a place to read.”...

YouTube, Jan. 3, 2007



[Zombies in the stacks](#)

Staff at the National Library of Australia in Canberra know how to put on a holiday party. This year, they recreated Michael Jackson's *Thriller* in a library setting and shot a video (5:25) that manages to one-up their [Surfing NLA](#) extravaganza from 2007....

YouTube, Dec. 17



No AL Direct next week

AL Direct is taking a week off for the holidays. Look for a new edition on Wednesday, January 7. Have a Happy New Year!

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AL Direct, December 24, 2008

Having trouble viewing this HTML e-mail (or seeing it in full)? Click here [[%= util.viewHtmlLink %>](#)].

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | December 24, 2008

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No AL Direct next week

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U.S. & World News

San Diego hopes joint-use proposal will save its state grant

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2008/december2008/grantextensionsought.cfm>]

Almost 10 years and two mayors since San Diego officials first envisioned building a \$130-million new downtown Main Library (right), city officials are scrambling to extend the December 31 state deadline for securing enough funds to keep a \$20-million state library grant awarded in 2003 toward construction of the now \$185-million facility. San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders and San Diego Unified School District Board President Sheila Jackson have proposed that the district inject \$20 million into

the fund so it can build a 300-student “niche” high school with a separate entrance on the first two floors of the building...

American Libraries Online, Dec. 23

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

ALA News

ALA submits report to Obama-Biden Transition Team

[<http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=1191>]

The ALA Washington Office prepared a report on the library community’s key issues and concerns, *Opening the “Window to a Larger World”*; Libraries’ Role in Changing America (PDF file [<http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/ala-report-to-transition-team1.pdf>]), and submitted it to the Obama-Biden Transition Team on December 17. The Washington Office hopes to continue this open dialogue with the administration over the next four years...

District Dispatch, Dec. 18

National Library Legislative Day 2009

[<http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=1210>]

The 2009 National Library Legislative Day is quickly approaching and will be held on May 11–12 at the Liaison Hotel in Washington, D.C. Make sure to sign up early—while ALA has reserved a block of rooms at the hotel, they always go quickly and you’ll want to be at the center of the action...

District Dispatch, Dec. 22

Libraries stand ready to help

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jim-rettig/libraries-stand-ready-to_b_150268.html]

ALA President Jim Rettig writes: “When economic times get tough, the average American family’s solution is to get creative. In rethinking their budgets, many families across the country are turning to a familiar place—the public library. As one South Florida man discovered, canceling his home internet access and taking advantage of the free internet service offered at his local public library could save his family over \$700 a year.”...

Huffington Post, Dec. 11

Midwinter Meeting event planner is up

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/2009/eventplanner.cfm>]

The Midwinter event planner [http://ala.cistems.net/Show_Login.php] is now available and includes dates, times, and locations for all events. The planner is only available to fully registered attendees. To log in, use the email address you provided when you registered, and the generic password “ala.” You will be able to reset your password using the “My

Profile” feature once you are logged in. If you are having trouble accessing the event planner, please contact Karee Williams [mailto:kwilliams@ala.org]....

Annual Conference registration opening moved

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/acregistration.cfm>]

The first day of registration for the 2009 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago has been moved from Friday, January 2, to Monday, January 5. The change was made to accommodate the closing of the ALA office on January 2. Participants can register online

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/annual/2009/registration.cfm>] through the ALA website, by fax, or by mail....

Gates grant supports ALA broadband initiative

[<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/press-releases/Pages/faster-internet-connections-in-libraries-081218.aspx>]

A pilot initiative by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will help public libraries in seven states secure faster internet connections so more people can access a full range of online applications and opportunities. The foundation has awarded \$6.9 million in combined grant funding to Connected Nation, a nonprofit broadband internet advocacy group, and ALA’s Office for Information Technology Policy. OITP will advise state library agencies and develop model case studies....

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Dec. 18

Vernon Jordan lauds libraries [<http://www.pio.ala.org/visibility/?p=187>]

In this video interview (1:24), taken during ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, California, Vernon E. Jordan Jr.—lawyer, civil rights leader, and close adviser to former President Bill Clinton—talks about the role of libraries, including segregated libraries, and librarians in shaping his life....

Visibility @ your library, Dec. 22

AL Focus

I Love My Librarian Award ceremony

[<http://alfocus.ala.org/videos/i-love-my-librarian-award-ceremony>]

Ten winners of the inaugural Carnegie Corporation of New York/New York Times I Love My Librarian Award were recognized at a ceremony hosted by the New York Times December 9 that is captured in this video (2:57). The award, administered by ALA’s Public Information Office and the Campaign for America’s Libraries, recognizes public, school, and college librarians for service to their communities, schools, and campuses....

Featured review: Books for youth

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3248068]

Greven, Alec. How to Talk to Girls. Dec. 2008. 48p. HarperCollins, hardcover (978-0-06-170999-9).

Some books just make your teeth ache. Books written by 9-year-olds about how to get it on with girls fall into that category. According to the PR story, this book began as a pamphlet author Greven sold at his school book fair. No word on how long the pamphlet was, but here it has grown to 48 pages. This couldn't have been easy. There are only seven short chapters. Still, between the remembrances ("I had a crush on a girl in preschool. Then my family had to move, so I had to let her wash out of my mind"), the observations ("pretty girls . . . have the big earrings"), and the ruminations ("if you are the smartest kid in the class, you are like a magnet and the girls are the metal"), the pages do fill....

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

Denver Update

[<http://www.blackamericanwestmuseum.com/AboutUs.html>] Denver's African-American heritage

[<http://www.denver.org/what-to-do/itinerary/detail?itid=12>]

February may be the official Black History Month, but in Denver, the rich heritage of the city's African-American residents past and present is celebrated year-round. The Mile High City and its outlying areas are home to three impressive museums centered on African American history and culture, as well as several other fascinating landmarks....

Visit Denver

Division News

[<http://www.animalfactguide.com/>] ALSC adds to Great Web Sites

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/webforchildren.cfm>]

ALSC has added more recommended sites to Great Web Sites for Kids, [<http://www.ala.org/greatsites>] its online resource containing hundreds of links to commendable websites for children. Links are organized by subject headings such as animals, literature and languages, the sciences, the arts, and the reference desk. There is a special section with sites of interest to parents, caregivers, and teachers, plus an area devoted to sites in Spanish....

Awards

Youth Media Awards on Twitter

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008>]

[/ymatwitter.cfm\]](#)

For the first time ever, there will be a live Twitterstream for the 2009 Youth Media Awards as ALA, ALSC, and YALSA unveil the best in children's and young adult literature and media during the Midwinter Meeting in Denver. Starting at 7:45 a.m. Mountain Time on Monday, January 26, followers of ALAyma [<http://twitter.com/alayma>] on Twitter will get real-time updates on award winners as they are announced....

grants

[\[http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/soulofpeoplegrant.cfm\]](http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/soulofpeoplegrant.cfm)

Thirty libraries will receive a \$2,500 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to present five different outreach programs in connection with an upcoming documentary, *Soul of a People: Voices from the Writers' Project*. Film and library outreach programs will acquaint public, academic, and special library audiences with the story of the largest cultural experiment in U.S. history—the Federal Writers' Project—told against the backdrop of the Depression and 1930s America....

In defense of the Newbery Medal

[\[http://www.slate.com/id/2207160/pagenum/all/\]](http://www.slate.com/id/2207160/pagenum/all/)

Erica S. Perl writes: "Literary awards should do more than simply affirm books that are easy to love and would likely find fans regardless of a medal. They also serve as inspiration for authors to take creative risks, push boundaries, and even reinvent the form. In a time of publishing industry layoffs and cutbacks, when commercial promise is king, the Newbery Medal continues to offer hope for those of us who want to write and publish the odd, offbeat, and not always pretty stories that we believe in our hearts children will want to read."...

Slate, Dec. 19

Dominican University supports a Spectrum scholar

[\[http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/dominicandiversity.cfm\]](http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/dominicandiversity.cfm)

The Dominican University Graduate School of Library and Information Science will provide \$5,000 in matching scholarship funds to Elizabeth Hernandez, a 2008 ALA Spectrum Scholarship winner. Hernandez is pursuing an MLS at Dominican, which first offered matching scholarships to Spectrum recipients in its graduate program in library and information studies in 1999....

Larry Carver named LC Digital Preservation Pioneer

[\[http://www.independent.com/news/2008/dec/09/ucsbs-librarian-named-pioneer-digital-preservation/\]](http://www.independent.com/news/2008/dec/09/ucsbs-librarian-named-pioneer-digital-preservation/)

Larry Carver, retired director of library technologies and digital initiatives at the University of California, Santa Barbara, has been recognized for his work by the Library of Congress as a pioneer of digital preservation.

[\[http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/partners/pioneers/detail_carver.html\]](http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/partners/pioneers/detail_carver.html)

Carver's collection of maps, aerial photography, and satellite imagery eventually led to the establishment of the UCSB Map and Imagery Laboratory in 1979, and he spent years helping to develop a set of

requirements that would produce the first geospatial digital collection (the Alexandria Digital Library [<http://webclient.alexandria.ucsb.edu/>])....
Santa Barbara (Calif.) Independent, Dec. 9; Library of Congress

Children's librarian wins national essay contest [<http://www.pinejournal.com/articles/index.cfm?id=15351§ion=Community>]
Lisbeth Boutang, children's librarian at Cloquet (Minn.) Public Library, has been named grand prize winner of the "What I Wish Everyone Knew About Librarians" essay contest, sponsored by Smart Poodle Publishing. Librarians from across the country were invited to write essays to tell the world what they want others to know about librarians. The three prize-winning essays [<http://smartpoodlepublishing.com/blog/?p=699>] and honorable mentions are posted on the publisher's blog....
Cloquet (Minn.) Pine Journal, Dec. 15; Smart Poodle Blog, Dec. 15

Native American library grants [<http://www.ims.gov/news/2008/121808a.shtm>]
The Institute of Museum and Library Services is accepting applications for the 2009 Native American Library Services Basic Grants and Enhancement Grants. They are designed to help Native American libraries support their communities by improving their collections, establishing or enhancing technological capabilities, making holdings accessible to all users, and strengthening traditional library services....
Institute of Museum and Library Services, Dec. 18

Seen Online

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Obama to take oath on Lincoln's Bible [<http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/12/23/obama-to-take-oath-on-same-bible-as-lincoln/>]
Barack Obama will be sworn into office with the same Bible that Abraham Lincoln used for his first inauguration in 1861. This will be the first time since then that an incoming president has used the 1853 Bible, purchased by the Clerk of the Supreme Court specially for Lincoln's inauguration and now part of the collection at the Library of Congress. The Bible will be on display at LC from February 12 to May 9 as part of an exhibition titled "With Malice Toward None: The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Exhibition"...
New York Times, Dec. 23

Music industry to abandon mass lawsuits [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122966038836021137.html?mod=rss_whats_news_technology]
After years of suing thousands of people for allegedly stealing music via the internet, the Recording Industry Association of America is set to drop its legal assault as it searches for more effective ways to combat online music piracy. Instead, RIAA plans to send an email to an ISP when it finds that a provider's customer is making music available online for others to take. The decision represents an abrupt shift of strategy for the industry, which has opened legal proceedings against about 35,000

people since 2003. But ISPs are starting to ask
[<http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20081222-isp-to-riaa-outsourced-piracy-protection-isnt-free.html>] who will pay for the policing....
Wall Street Journal, Dec. 19; Ars Technica, Dec. 22

Lawsuit threatened over Philadelphia branch closings
[http://www.philly.com/philly/hp/news_update/36428979.html]
A group of Philadelphians is threatening to sue Mayor Michael Nutter and the city to save 11 branch libraries from closing because of the city's severe money crunch. Irv Ackelsberg, the attorney representing the plaintiffs, announced the planned class-action lawsuit December 18 on behalf of seven named plaintiffs at the Logan branch. Meanwhile, Nutter has submitted [http://www.philly.com/philly/hp/news_update/36487039.html] to the incoming Obama administration a \$30-million stimulus-package request to build regional libraries in North and South Philadelphia—but nothing for the shuttered branches, four of which were nominated (PDF file [http://www.preservationalliance.com/files/press-releases/_R1_%20Library%20Nominations.pdf]) December 22 to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places....
Philadelphia Inquirer, Dec. 19, 20; Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, Dec. 22

[<http://flickr.com/photos/woneffe/78597892>]New Providence plan would close five branches
[http://www.projo.com/news/content/LIBRARY_BRANCHES_12-19-08_HFCMK66_v23.3d57cca.html]
Five library branches would close by July but the downtown flagship and four other branches would remain open under a plan approved December 18 by the Providence Public Library board of trustees. The city must make one of four decisions by June 30: accept the library plan; take over the branch libraries itself; assign their stewardship to another entity; or maintain the current library system intact for one year and cover any deficits incurred....
Providence (R.I.) Journal, Dec. 19

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Irvin_Mayfield_2.jpg]Behind-the-scenes shakeups in New Orleans
[http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2008/12/photo_for_library_story.html]
When the New Orleans Public Library released its 25-year master plan in the spring, nationwide praise rolled in for Board Chairman Irvin Mayfield Jr. But his moves as board leader have added to the tumult in the system. Four top-ranking librarians and the director of a library support foundation have all left as Mayfield, a Grammy nominee whose main gig is directing the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, conducted a major realignment that left him as the system's chief administrator. While Mayfield downplays his control, it's clear who's in charge....
New Orleans Times-Picayune, Dec. 17

Christmas presents to library staff are unethical
[<http://www.nola.com/timespic/stories/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1229926845221940.xml&coll=1>]
After asking the state Board of Ethics in November whether library staff can accept inexpensive and homemade Christmas gifts from grateful patrons, St. Tammany Parish (La.) Library officials last week received

the board's response: Bah, humbug. Even small gifts, such as "cakes, pies, houseplants, etc., from patrons of the library for their performance of the library employees' duties" are off-limits, according to the ethics board. Library officials and patrons are incensed....
New Orleans Times-Picayune, Dec. 22

[<http://abcnews.go.com/Video/playerIndex?id=6488477>]Obama books okay for Catholic school library?

[<http://www.kansascity.com/news/local/story/943847.html>]

The pastor of a Blue Springs (Mo.) Catholic church recently pulled Barack Obama biographies from the school's library, but on December 18 he said he'd put them back during the winter break [<http://www.examiner.net/news/x415887077/St-Johns-Landebuts-Obama-books-back-on-shelves>]. Two books about Obama had been added to the St. John LaLande Catholic Church school library collection. Fr. Ron Elliott (above) said he'd gotten complaints from parishioners because of Obama's stance on abortion, even though the books mention nothing about it....

Kansas City (Mo.) Star, Dec. 19; ABC News, Dec. 18

Storms in a stew over Dewey

[<http://www2.tbo.com/content/2008/dec/19/na-libraries-offer-plenty-for-storms-to-stew-over/>]

Florida state Sen. Ronda Storms (R-Valrico) railed against the Dewey Decimal Classification system during a December 17 budget hearing on state library aid, calling it "anachronistic," costly, and just plain frustrating. "If Barnes and Noble organizes its books more simply, why can't libraries?" Storms thundered. "A lot of little old librarians are going to have a heart attack that I even said that out loud," she said. Storms also objected to libraries loaning copies of TV show episodes, such as Seinfeld....

Tampa (Fla.) Tribune, Dec. 19

Jeopardy [<http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2008/122008/12192008/433400>]
Milt Hathaway, librarian at Eastern View High School in Culpeper, Virginia, defends his title this week on the popular syndicated television show Jeopardy. Hathaway, originally from Newport, Rhode Island, became the champion December 18 with \$38,401. He cinched victory in the Final Jeopardy round when he gave the correct question to the answer, "On April 29, 1861, he said, 'We seek no conquest; all we ask is to be let alone.'"...

Fredericksburg (Va.) Free Lance-Star, Dec. 19

Europeana reopens

[<http://www.pcpro.co.uk/news/244411/european-online-library-back-in-action.html>]

The European Union's new Europeana [<http://www.europeana.eu/portal/>] digital library reopened December 23 after crashing within hours of its launch in November due to surging interest. European Commission spokesman Martin Selmayr said the website was working after its server capacity had been quadrupled and it had been stress-tested to deal with user interest. However, a message on the site said that "the user experience may not be optimal."...

PC Pro, Dec. 23; Agence France-Presse, Dec. 23

Runner attempts visit to every Seattle branch

[http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2008538071_marathon19.html]

For a guy who once ran 51 marathons in 50 days in 50 states, his venture on December 18 should have been a Sunday stroll for ultramarathoner Sam Thompson. If only the snow hadn't gotten in the way. Thompson, who has been running for 15 years, had plans to run to all 27 Seattle library branches in one day—but bad weather foiled his plans and he only made it to 17, six of which had already closed....

Seattle Times, Dec. 19

UMKC expansion gets a boost

[<http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/stories/2008/12/15/daily45.html>]

The Sunderland Foundation has awarded \$1 million to the Miller Nichols Library expansion project at the University of Missouri—Kansas City. The money is designated for the expansion's second phase, including creating classrooms, seminar rooms, a 300-seat lecture hall, and an open space to accommodate community members, faculty, and a growing student body of more than 14,000....

Kansas City (Mo.) Business Journal, Dec. 19

Mariners' Museum ex-archivist gets four years

[http://www.dailypress.com/news/dp-local_museum_1218dec18,0,6554694.story]

The former archivist at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia, who stole thousands of museum documents and sold them on the internet, was sentenced December 17 to four years in prison. Lester F. Weber sold at least 3,500 documents—from collections he was supposed to oversee—on eBay under his wife's name. The items included everything from brochures and boarding passes for old ships to a lawsuit against the company that owned the Titanic....

Newport News (Va.) Daily Press, Dec. 18

Unique prison library program

[<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/politics/scotland/3833723/Prisoners-to-record-bedtime-stories-for-children.html>]

Prisoners at Saughton Prison in Edinburgh, Scotland, will soon be able to video themselves reading bedtime stories to send home to their children. The pilot scheme, called Storybook Dads, will allow fathers to be recorded on DVD reading stories to send home to help them bond with their children. If successful, the scheme could be extended to other jails. The new library at Saughton has also been supplied with laptops, a wider range of books, and for the first time has a trained librarian to help inmates get the most out of the facility....

The Telegraph (U.K.), Dec. 18

Go back to the Top [[#top](#)]

Tech Talk

[<http://www.getdropbox.com/>]Jason Griffey's top five most influential technologies

[<http://www.alatechsource.org/blog/2008/12/the-technology-year-in-review.ht>]

ml]

Jason Griffey writes: “In the spirit of the bazillion other year-end lists you will see over the coming weeks, I decided to list my Top 5 Most Influential Technologies of the year. These are the technologies that I think librarians need to be aware of, examine, and find uses for in their library. Not all of these started this year, but 2008 was the year they broke out and became necessities in many people’s lives.”...

ALA TechSource blog, Dec. 22

Things to look forward to in HTML 5

[http://www.readwriteweb.com/archives/5_exciting_things_in_html_5.php]

Jacob Gube writes: “HTML 5 is the upcoming major revision of the HyperText Markup Language, the main method of marking up content for sharing on the Web. HTML’s development stopped at HTML 4.01 in 1999, and since then web content has evolved so much that current specifications are inadequate for today’s requirements. HTML 5 will address the growing demand for more diverse and complex web content. In this post, we look at five exciting new features.”...

ReadWriteWeb, Dec. 18

[<https://beta.bloglines.com/>]Which RSS reader is right for you?

[<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/12/18/AR2008121803995.html>]

Becky Krystal writes: “We’re talking about the wide world of really simple syndication, more pithily known as RSS. With the technology, web surfers can subscribe to their favorite sites to keep up with recently posted items. On some sites you may choose to be notified of every update, while on others you can limit updates to areas of particular interest to you. But choosing the right aggregator can be just as daunting as selecting what you want it to aggregate.”...

Washington Post, Dec. 21

Eleven things to do when YouTube is blocked

[<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/blog/1340000334/post/1410038141.html>]

Joyce Valenza writes: “The fact is, YouTube is blocked in many of our schools. Every single day, many of us spend a good deal of time trying to figure out how to get the videos we need to use in our classrooms and libraries. I myself am a long-time sufferer of YouTube-block (despite my understanding of my district’s motivations) and I have developed a variety of strategies for treating the condition.”...

NeverEndingSearch, Dec. 19

Nokia audiobooks

[<http://audiobooker.booklistonline.com/2008/12/19/nokia-audiobooks/>]

Mary Burkey writes: “I predict that the mobile phone will soon become the One Device to Rule Them All—just one gadget to carry for phone calls, music, eBooks, photos, games, GPS, video, and more. But most importantly, our cell phone will be our audiobook playback device, with Bluetooth connectivity to radio and stereo and instant downloads from online vendors or public library. Nokia cell phone customers have a new upgrade that will make the transition easier. On the Nokia Blog

[<http://betalabs-web2.srv.hosting.fi/blog/2008/12/19/major-update-for-nokia-audiobooks-the-rumors-of-our-death-have-been-greatly-exaggerated/>], software developer (and audiobook fan) Janne Vainio describes the new

audiobook software manager.”...

Audiobooker, Dec. 19; Nokia Blog, Dec. 19

If programming languages were religions

[<http://www.aegisub.net/2008/12/if-programming-languages-were-religions.htm>
1]

AMZ writes: “Lisp would be Zen Buddhism: There is no syntax, there is no centralization of dogma, there are no deities to worship. The entire universe is there at your reach—if only you are enlightened enough to grasp it. Some say that it’s not a language at all; others say that it’s the only language that makes sense.”...

Aegisub, Dec. 15

Publishing

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New mobile eBook release

[<http://blog.wired.com/business/2008/12/app-developer-s.html>]

ScrollMotion, a New York mobile application developer, has concluded deals with a number of major publishing houses, and is in talks with several others, to produce newly released and best-selling eBooks as apps for the iPhone and iPod Touch. Publishers now on board include Houghton Mifflin, Simon and Schuster, Random House, Hachette, and Penguin Group USA. The first official books began to roll out December 22 and include such titles such as Stephenie Meyer’s Twilight and Philip Pullman’s The Golden Compass....

Epicenter, Dec. 22

10 great Christmas stories

[<http://listverse.com/literature/another-10-great-christmas-stories/>]

Jamie Frater writes: “In just a few days, Christmas will be with us once again. In celebration of this greatest of holidays, we have put together a follow-up list to our first Top 10 Christmas Books

[<http://listverse.com/literature/top-10-christmas-books/>]. With this

selection, we have tried to pick books that are less familiar to people, in the hopes that we can expand on future Christmas reading for you all.

Enjoy the list, and most of all, have a Merry Christmas!”...

List Universe, Dec. 21

Chilling books to read in the darkness of winter

[<http://io9.com/5111935/chilling-books-to-read-and-share-in-the-darkness-of-winter>]

Annalee Newitz writes: “Want a low-cost gift whose beauty is that it reminds you winter is a time of shadowy, gothic dread? We’ve got 17 seasonal depression books you’ll want to read next to the fire. These books are mostly very easy to find, and they all contain elements that are as mournful as the season itself. I’ve put together a selection of new and classic novels that will help you escape the darkness of winter—by taking you to even darker places.”...

io9, Dec. 20

Top U.S. out-of-print books for 2008

[<http://journal.bookfinder.com/archives/entry/000419.html>]

The BookFinder.com team spends a lot of time looking at used and rare market-demand trends. Per their research, here are the top 10 most sought-after out-of-print books in America in 2008. Three of these bestsellers will be going back into print in 2009. At the top, John L. Parker's *Once a Runner*, which will be reprinted in April 2009....
BookFinder.com Journal, Dec. 17

[<http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com>]

Actions & Answers

2006 Public Libraries Survey [<http://www.ims.gov/news/2008/121908b.shtml>]
The Institute of Museum and Library Services has issued the Public Libraries Survey report for fiscal year 2006 (PDF file [<http://harvester.census.gov/ims/pubs/Publications/PLS2006.pdf>]). This is the first PLS report released since IMLS was given responsibility for the annual survey, which includes information on population of service areas, service outlets, library collections and services, library staff, operating revenue, and expenditures. More than 9,000 libraries were surveyed in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories....
Institute of Museum and Library Services, Dec. 19

When Blagojevich was a school library's best friend
[<http://www.al.a.org/insidescoop/2008/12/17/when-governor-bлагоjevich-was-a-school-libraris-best-friend/>]
American Libraries Editor Leonard Kniffel writes: "For one moment, 10 years ago, Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, then a U.S. Representative, was the darling of school libraries in Chicago. I can remember interviewing Ann Weeks, then director of the Chicago Public Schools Department of Libraries and Information Services, after he'd made the grand gesture of donating his share of the year's congressional pay raise (\$2,140.09, to be exact) to a CPS book fundraiser with a \$20-million goal."...
AL Inside Scoop, Dec. 17

15 dazzling modern library designs
[<http://weburbanist.com/2008/12/10/clever-creative-modern-library-architecture-designs/>]
Some libraries are much more than book storage depots. From public archives of knowledge to academic centers of learning, libraries can be amazing places—so why shouldn't they look the part? From alien blob buildings to futuristic steel-and-glass megastructures, here are 15 libraries that prove books are very cool. The University of Alaska Anchorage/Alaska Pacific University Consortium Library's (right) washtub shape reflects direct sunlight downward while still admitting ambient light....
WebUrbanist, Dec. 10

The Green Library Movement: An overview

[<http://repositories.cdlib.org/uclalib/egj/vol1/iss27/art1/>]

Monika Antonelli writes: “The creation of green libraries is approaching a tipping point and generating a Green Library Movement comprised of librarians, libraries, cities, towns, and college and university campuses committed to greening libraries and reducing their environmental impact. Constructing a green library building by using a performance standard like LEED is a way some libraries are choosing to become green and sustainable. Environmental challenges like energy depletion and climate change will influence the type of information resources and programs libraries will provide to their communities.”...

Electronic Green Journal 1, no. 27 (2008)

JISC launches ticTOCS

[http://www.rss4lib.com/2008/12/tictocs_its_about_time.html]

The Joint Information Systems Committee has launched its ticTOCS

[<http://www.tictocs.ac.uk/>] service after a significant trial period. The service aggregates the tables of contents (TOCs) from 11,470 scholarly journals from 422 publishers, for a total of 296,186 full-text articles.

(Of course, you or your institution must have access to the full text of these journals to view them; the table of contents, though, is free.) The idea behind ticTOCs is to make finding and subscribing to table of contents RSS feeds a simple process. This free service is long overdue....

RSS4Lib, Dec. 19

Debate on the Google Book Search agreement

[<http://www.opencontentalliance.org/2008/12/06/a-raw-deal-for-libraries/>]

The Open Content Alliance blog has a post on the Google/AAP agreement with a lengthy reply from Dan Clancy of Google Books, and a counterreply from Karen Coyle, who writes: “I consider the Google partnership with the libraries to be dangerous because it commercializes library materials. I know that libraries are impoverished and slow-moving, while Google is rich and quick. I would love for libraries to be rich and quick. But in no way do I want them to take on the assumptions or point-of-view of a for-profit approach to information. Our society would lose so much if that were to happen.”...

Open Content Alliance blog, Dec. 6, 17, 20

Find a new thing to do with Google

[<http://www.google.co.uk/landing/thingstodo/>]

You can do a lot more than search the Web with Google nowadays, from reading newspapers in languages you don't speak to seeing the natural habitat of Komodo dragons. Discover something new to do with Google by clicking on one of these 52 titles to watch a how-to video and try it for yourself....

Google Things To Do

Nursing home ratings

[<http://pclseniors.blogspot.com/2008/12/nursing-home-ratings.html>]

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have recently created an online tool

[<http://www.medicare.gov/NHCompare/Include/DataSection/Questions/ProximitySearch.asp>] to help people compare nursing homes. This tool uses a

five-star rating system and ranks only nursing homes that are certified to participate in Medicare or Medicaid and provide a level of care considered “skilled.” The ratings are based on health inspections, staffing, and quality measures....

PCLS Senior Services Blog, Dec. 19

Hardin-Simmons acquires rare Bible collection

[<http://www.hsutx.edu/newsDetails.aspx?Channel=%2fChannels%2fContent+Channel&WorkflowItemID=26266416-3475-4e97-8fb1-41f6496962c8>]

Charles and Roena Tandy have entrusted Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, with the gift of a rare and valuable collection of early and antique Bibles and Christian writings, some dating to the early 1500s. The Tandy collection includes 26 Bibles, including a first edition (1611) of the King James Bible, a 1541 edition of the Great Bible, and a first edition of the Geneva Bible translated by Protestant Reformers at Geneva in 1560....

Hardin-Simmons University, Dec. 10

What bloggers can learn from journalists

[<http://www.chrisbrogan.com/guest-post-what-bloggers-can-learn-from-journalists/>]

Gannett News Service syndicated columnist Anita Bruzzese writes: “I have a lot of fun reading blogs and often learn a lot. But as a trained journalist, sometimes I see things in a blogger’s copy that bug me a bit, and sometimes I read stuff that makes me cringe. Some of it just confuses me, and some of it appalls me. So, when Chris asked me to write a guest post on what bloggers can learn from journalists, I decided to make a list.”...

Chris Brogan’s blog, Dec. 15

Unshelved [<http://www.unshelved.com/blog.aspx?post=1255>]

Bill Barnes writes: “I am doing what I should have done years ago and implemented OhNoRobot [<http://www.ohnorobot.com>]’s simple and easy webcomic search engine to index Unshelved. Now it’s your turn, librarians. We have nearly seven years worth of archives, almost 2,500 strips in all, that need transcription. It’s easy. Just go to the archive [<http://www.unshelved.com/archive.aspx>], choose a strip (clicking the ‘random’ button is a good way to start) and, if there’s a ‘transcribe this comic’ button, click it. Then follow the directions.”...

Unshelved Blog, Dec. 16

Take it from someone who was there

[<http://freerangelibrarian.com/2008/12/20/seeing-milk/>]

Karen Schneider writes: “Milk is a strong biopic, respectfully (but not too respectfully) crafted. Because I grew up in San Francisco and lived in the Castro district in the late 1970s, a place and time where most of the movie takes place, and because I was at least a bystander for some of the public events, and knew what the principals looked like and in some cases how they spoke and moved, I have a standard for ‘being there’ few movies could hope to match. Yet Milk not only met and often exceeded my expectations but moved beyond the usual biopic you-are-there territory, doing justice to the idea of a portrait as a reflection of us all.”...

Free Range Librarian, Dec. 20

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMVMgDWnoaA>]Laid-back holiday greetings from Seneca College [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMVMgDWnoaA>] Mikey Mike (AV Technician Michael London) and the Library Bunch at Seneca College's Markham Campus in Toronto prepared this jazzy holiday song (4:50) in 2006. "Shhh, you gotta keep your voices down, people need a place to read."...
YouTube, Jan. 3, 2007

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPhM7JbsgxU>]Zombies in the stacks [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPhM7JbsgxU>] Staff at the National Library of Australia in Canberra know how to put on a holiday party. This year, they recreated Michael Jackson's Thriller in a library setting and shot a video (5:25) that manages to one-up their Surfing NLA [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvKntJKctoU>] extravaganza from 2007....
YouTube, Dec. 17

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[<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/home.cfm>]

ALA Midwinter Meeting,
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/2009/faq.cfm>]
Denver, January 23–28. Tune into the Youth Media Awards
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/december2008/youthmediaawardsannouncement.cfm>] free live webcast on January 26 at 7:45 a.m. Mountain time. Unikron, a streaming content provider, is the host.

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog&_pn=product_detail&_op=2669]

This lively poster
[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog&_pn=product_detail&_op=2669] features a short list of "best things" about visiting the library. Characters from Laurie Keller's popular books, including the Scrambled States, Arnie the Doughnut, and the Otters, will brighten any library wall. A bookmark
[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog&_pn=product_detail&_op=2670] is available too. NEW! From ALA Graphics.

In this issue
December 2008

[<http://site.ebrary.com/lib/ala>]

Laura Bush, Librarian in the White House

Top Stories of 2008

The World's Greatest Music Library

User Tagging

Career Leads from

[<http://joblist.ala.org/>]

Head, Spencer Research Library,

[<http://joblist.ala.org/modules/jobseeker/controller.cfm?scr=jobdetail&jobid=12455>] University of Kansas, Lawrence. Provide strategic and visionary leadership for the future of the Spencer Research Library; develop programmatic outreach to faculty and students to promote the integration of unique and primary resources in scholarship and teaching; manage human, financial, and other resources and daily operations; participate in donor relations and fundraising activities....

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

Digital Library of the Week

[<http://www3.ascsa.edu.gr/media/thompson/thompson.html>]

In 2006 the American School of Classical Studies at Athens [<http://www3.ascsa.edu.gr/Home/tabid/36/language/en-US/Default.aspx>] received European Union funds to showcase its unique treasures via the internet in order to promote classical and post-classical Hellenic studies to a broader international public. Within the framework of the Information Society Operational Program, the American School digitized a significant part of its collections. More than 400,000 items, scanned and cataloged, are now available online for consultation and study. The digitized material includes the scrapbooks of Joannes Gennadius (1844–1932), which contain photographs and documents on the long diplomatic career and scholarly preoccupations of the founder of the Gennadius Library; the correspondence of politician Ion Dragoumis (1878–1920); the photographic albums of Dorothy Burr Thompson (1900–2001), one of the most distinguished American archaeologists of the 20th century; a significant number of photographs from the historical archives of the Gennadius Library; and excavation records, photographs and drawings covering the entire duration of the School's excavations at Corinth (1896 to the present).

Do you know of a digital library collection that we can mention in this AL Direct feature? Tell us about it. [mailto:aldirect@ala.org] Browse previous Digital Libraries of the Week at the I Love Libraries [http://www.ilovelibraries.ala.org/diglibweekly/] site.

Public Perception How the World Sees Us

“A list of two hundred books which it is proposed to purchase for the library of the Lincoln School has been referred to a committee of the Board of Education, with power to reject any objectionable volumes. As it is not probable that the members of the committee are familiar with a half-dozen volumes comprised in this list or any other, it may reasonably be affirmed that a conscientious performance of their duty will require the first intellectual labor they have ever done in all their lives. It is to be hoped the works are printed in large, clear type, with the syllables properly estranged.”

?Ambrose Bierce, in his “Town Crier” column, San Francisco News Letter and Commercial Advertiser, Nov. 18, 1871.

[http://olos.ala.org/goodhealth/]

ALA and the National Library of Medicine want to help you show your patrons how to find the information that will help them achieve good health. The Good Health Information [http://olos.ala.org/goodhealth/] website introduces the resources of the National Library of Medicine and provides information that helps communities of color in rural settings make good health decisions. Specifically, the site addresses the diseases and illnesses that disproportionately affect people of color.

[http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/proftools/elearning.cfm]

ACRL offers a number of online learning opportunities [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/proftools/elearning.cfm] to meet the demands of your schedule and budget. If you have a question about an e-learning opportunity, contact Jon Stahler [mailto:jstahler@ala.org]. Registration for all ACRL e-learning opens approximately one month prior to seminar or webcast start dates.

Calendar

Feb. 23–26:

Code4Lib Conference, [http://code4lib.org/conference/2009/] Renaissance Providence Hotel, Rhode Island.

Feb. 25–28:

Southwest Texas Popular Cultural and American Culture Association,
[<http://swtxpca.org/documents/elements.html>] Conference, Hyatt Regency
Hotel, Albuquerque, New Mexico. “Reeling in the Years: 30 Years of Film,
TV, and Popular Culture.”

Mar. 11–13:

International Association for Sports Information,
[<https://secure.ausport.gov.au/conferences/iasi/home>] 13th World
Congress, Canberra, Australia. “Building and Sustaining Sport Information
Communities.”

Mar. 16–20:

Association of Research Libraries,
[<http://www.arl.org/stats/statevents/sqacademy/index.shtml>] Service
Quality Evaluation Academy, Hotel Monteleone, New Orleans. Application
deadline is January 5.

Mar. 30–

Apr. 1:

Computers in Libraries 2009,
[<http://www.infotoday.com/cil2009/default.shtml>] Hyatt Regency Crystal
City, Arlington, Virginia. “Creating Tomorrow: Spreading Ideas and
Learning.”

Apr. 3–5:

Expanding Literacy Studies,
[<http://literacystudies.osu.edu/initiatives/conference/yr2008/intconference/default.cfm>] an international, interdisciplinary conference for graduate
students, Ohio State University, Columbus.

Apr. 24:

Second Annual Modern Role of the Library in Adult Education Conference,
[<http://ce.nl.edu/libraryconference2009.html>] National-Lewis University,
Chicago. “Diverse Learners.”

Apr. 29–

May 1:

International Society of Educational Biography,
[<http://iseb.blogs.edu.yorku.ca/call-for-papers/>] Annual Conference,
Menger Hotel, San Antonio, Texas.

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

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ISSN 1559-369X.