

american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | January 7, 2009

Contents

[U.S. & World News](#)
[ALA News](#)
[Booklist Online](#)
[Denver Update](#)
[Division News](#)
[Awards](#)
[Seen Online](#)
[Tech Talk](#)
[Publishing](#)
[Actions & Answers](#)
[Calendar](#)

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U.S. & World News

[Judge overrules Philadelphia branch closings](#)

A Philadelphia judge has ordered Mayor Michael Nutter to halt his planned closing of 11 branches of the Free Library of Philadelphia. Court of Common Pleas Judge Idee C. Fox (right) issued the [ruling](#) December 30 in response to an emergency motion filed by three city council members who argued that the closures would violate a 1988 city ordinance requiring the mayor to obtain council approval before shutting any city-owned facility....

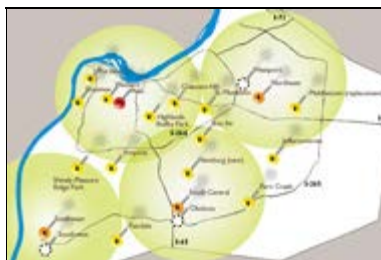
American Libraries Online, Jan. 5



[Louisville pins upgrade hopes on stimulus funds](#)

More than a year after the resounding defeat of a \$200-million library bond issue to expand the facilities and services of the Louisville (Ky.) Free Public Library, city and library officials have unveiled a scaled-down \$120-million plan ([PDF file](#)) to revitalize the library system over more than a decade. The hitch is financing, and Mayor Jerry Abramson has met with President-Elect Barack Obama regarding an initial \$8.4 million to jump-start system improvements....

American Libraries Online, Jan. 5



ALA News

Meet the ALA candidates

ALA presidential candidates [Roberta Stevens](#) and [Kent Oliver](#) invite Midwinter Meeting attendees to a joint reception, January 24, 5:30–7:30 p.m., in Ballroom 4 of the Hyatt Regency Denver. Members can meet both candidates and communicate their interests and concerns. The reception (with food and cash bar) is sponsored by



[ALA Midwinter Meeting.](#)

Denver, January 23–28.

[Cognotes](#) is the daily paper of the ALA Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference. At Midwinter, *Cognotes* is published Friday–Monday, with a Highlights issue mailed to all ALA members following the meeting.



[Registration](#) for the 2009 Annual Conference in Chicago, July 9–15, is **now open**. Find out [how to register](#).

Oliver and Stevens, along with a generous contribution from Innovative Interfaces. Don't forget the Candidates Forum, Saturday, 11 a.m.–12 noon, Four Seasons Ballroom, Colorado Convention Center. If you can't attend the Forum, submit a YouTube video ([PDF file](#)) asking the candidates questions by January 16. Questions from **nonmembers** are also welcome....

[It's been a tough start to the new year](#)

ALA Internet Development Specialist Jenny Levine writes: "The last two weeks have been a sort of Perfect Storm of online-related problems at ALA, and as the person here who probably does the most tracking of what's said about us online, I think I've pretty well heard everything you have to say about it. Now we've had a chance to talk about some of these things internally, and we want to update you on decisions we've made to try to fix some of the problems."...

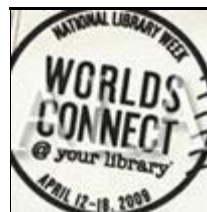
ALA Marginalia, Jan. 7

[Submit a program proposal for Annual Conference](#)

Do you have a great idea for an Annual Conference program but don't belong to a committee or other group that can plan and produce a program? As part of ALA President Jim Rettig's "Creating Connections" initiatives, you are invited to [submit a proposal](#) for a program to take place at the 2009 conference in Chicago. Grassroots Program proposals may be submitted through February 6....

[Online tools for National Library Week](#)

New online [materials](#) and [products](#) are available to help libraries reach out to their communities during National Library Week, April 12–18, from the Public Information Office and the Campaign for America's Libraries. Materials are available in both English and Spanish that focus on the 2009 theme, "Worlds connect @ your library."...



[Online submissions for AL's Library Design Showcase](#)

You can now submit materials online for the [Library Design Showcase](#) in *American Libraries'* April issue. We've bought a YouSendIt account to handle the very large files that this entails. As a result, sending the files will be slightly more complicated than simply sending an email—but not much. As this is something of an experiment, please share your comments, problems, or suggestions. The deadline is February 2....

AL Inside Scoop, Jan. 6

[Library Support Staff Certification Program discussion](#)

The ALA–Allied Professional Association invites live and virtual discussion of the development of the Library Support Staff Certification Program, a national, voluntary certification program for library support staff. ALA-APA will host an Open Forum at ALA Midwinter meeting in Denver on January 24 and welcomes comments on the official [LSSCP blog](#). A Briefing Document ([PDF file](#)) for discussion at Midwinter is available online....

ALA–Allied Professional Association, Jan. 7



With more and more scholarly content available online and accessible almost anywhere, where does the traditional "brick and mortar" academic library fit in? In

[Creating the Customer-Driven Academic Library](#)

Jeannette Woodward attacks these and other pressing issues facing today's academic librarians. Her trailblazing strategies center on keeping the customer's point of view in focus at all times. **NEW!**
From ALA Editions.

In this issue

January/February
2009



Gaming @ your library

The Minneapolis-Hennepin merger

Testing the Web 2.0 waters

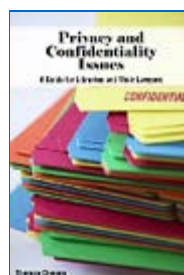
[Get boys interested in reading](#)

Connecting Boys with Books 2: Closing the Reading Gap by Michael Sullivan draws on the author's more than 20 years of experience in reinvigorating the sense of excitement that boys felt when they first heard a picture book being read aloud. In this companion book to the 2003 edition, Sullivan digs even deeper, melding his own experiences as an activist with perspectives gleaned from other industry experts....



[Protect patrons' privacy](#)

ALA Editions has released a new title, *Privacy and Confidentiality Issues: A Guide for Libraries and their Lawyers*, by Theresa Chmura. In this clear and concise guide, set up in an FAQ format, First Amendment attorney and litigation expert Chmura shares her decades of experience in easy-to-understand, jargon-free language. Interspersed within the questions and answers, actual court case studies lend a sense of urgency to the explanations....



[Date change for Los Angeles Lawyers for Libraries](#)

ALA will present a Lawyers for Libraries training institute February 27 in Los Angeles. The previously announced date was February 20. The Lawyers for Libraries Institute is primarily intended to equip attorneys with tools they need to effectively defend the First Amendment in libraries....

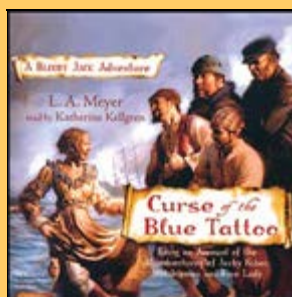


Booklist ONLINE

[Featured review: Media](#)

Meyer, L. A. *Curse of the Blue Tattoo: Being an Account of the Misadventures of Jacky Faber, Midshipman and Fine Lady*. Read by Katherine Kellgren. Aug. 2008. 14hr. Listen and Live, CD (978-1-59316-134-7).

Kellgren continues her tour de force portrayal of Mary "Jacky" Faber in this stand-alone sequel to *Bloody Jack*, a 2008 Odyssey Award Honor title. After it is discovered that Jacky has been disguising herself as a boy, she is forced to leave her shipmates and true love behind to enter the Lawson Peabody School for Young Girls in Boston, plunging her into melodramatic escapades. Mean girls and a malevolent headmistress block her path to becoming a proper lady, while stereotypical characters provide colorful Dickensian subplots involving murder and madness. Kellgren voices Jacky's Cockney patois with such historical accuracy that listeners are pulled into the early 19th century, breathlessly entranced by Jacky's heart-on-her-sleeve, knife-in-her-bosom exploits....



[Booklist's 2008 Top of the List winners](#)

I Love My Librarian awards

Career Leads from ALA JobLIST

[Digital Services Manager](#)

Wichita (Kans.) Public Library. Provides oversight and technical support for the maintenance, enhancement, and integration of services that make use of information technologies. Duties include working closely with the library's assigned IT system analyst to provide oversight and support for the Polaris integrated library system, the Envisionware workstation timing and print management system, the videoconferencing services, and other technologies used to deliver library service. Management of the library's participation in the Universal Service (e-rate) discount program, supervision of staff who develop and maintain the library's web presence, and coordination of electronic resource subscriptions and licensing are also responsibilities of this position....

@ [More jobs...](#)

Digital Library of the Week

Booklist has announced its 19th annual [Top of the List winners](#). The eight winning titles were chosen from the annual Editors' Choice selections as the best books and media of 2008. The Top of the List picks are featured in the special combined January 1 and 15 issue, as well as on [Booklist Online](#)....



[The Book Links Lasting Connections list for 2008](#)

Book Links magazine's January issue contains its annual annotated Lasting Connections list ([PDF file](#)), spotlighting the editors' selections of the 30 best 2008 picture books, novels and informational titles for libraries and classrooms. Lasting Connections is considered an essential collection development tool for children's librarians, school library media specialists, and K-8 educators....



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

Denver Update

[SuperShuttle from the airport](#)

ALA has partnered with SuperShuttle to serve the needs of its attendees traveling to Denver for the Midwinter Meeting. [SuperShuttle](#) is offering discounts on round trip travel to and from the Denver International Airport (DIA) and the hotels in the ALA block: \$22 one way and \$36 round trip using the special ALA online discount code LET6A. For more information go to the discount information page ([PDF file](#))....



[Denver dining guide](#)

Locals rate the restaurants, from Ted's Montana Grill (love that buffalo meatloaf!) to the Rock Bottom Brewery....

[Internet use grows at meetings](#)

Until recently, travelers attending conferences had simple internet needs. They would check email messages and look up information on the Web or connect to the home office. Now, meetings are likely to include streaming video and online interaction. Back in their rooms, travelers are downloading movies and logging onto peer-to-peer networks. Event organizers and hotels and conference centers are struggling to keep up and prevent internet gridlock....

New York Times, Dec. 29

Division News

[Knowledge Quest goes online](#)



The [South Carolina Digital Library](#) is a collaborative effort that includes South Carolina's schools, libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural heritage institutions. Its mission is to encourage collaborators to create, maintain, and promote digital collections that represent South Carolina's historical and cultural resources while following state-level guidelines that are based on national standards and best practices. Participating institutions include Beaufort County Library, Clemson University, the University of South Carolina, and the College of Charleston. SCDL includes several lesson plans, among them: African Americans Seen through the Eyes of the Newsreel Cameraman, Broad sides from the Colonial Era to the Present, and Phillis Wheatley's poetry.

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.

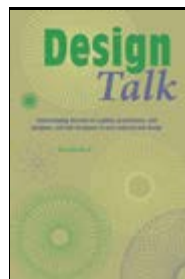
Public Perception
How the World Sees Us

AASL members can now access current and archived copies of *Knowledge Quest* online to print or save in a PDF format. The site also offers searchable full-text articles and can be accessed through member login on the [Knowledge Quest page](#). Published five times a year, the magazine offers information on the development of school library media programs and services....



[ACRL on web design](#)

ACRL has released a new publication, *Design Talk: Understanding the Roles of Usability Practitioners, Web Designers, and Web Developers in User-Centered Web Design*, by Brenda Reeb, coordinator of the web usability program at the University of Rochester Libraries. *Design Talk* focuses on the interactions between the various roles in website development and delineates the scope of responsibilities and activities of usability practitioners, designers, and developers....



[ACRL's spring e-learning schedule](#)

ACRL offers a wide variety of online learning opportunities in spring 2009 to meet the demands of your schedule and budget. ACRL online seminars are asynchronous, multiweek courses delivered through Moodle. Seven are scheduled for January through April. Full details and registration information are available on the ACRL [website](#)....

[Interface welcomes new format and editor](#)

ASCLA members looking for division news can now find it both in their email inboxes and online. Beginning with the December 2008 issue, the ASCLA newsletter [Interface](#) has shifted to a completely digital format. In addition to increasing access to content for members using assistive devices, this change introduces blog-like features that allow members to comment on and discuss the articles. Emily Inlow-Hood, the new editor, has shepherded the publication through its transition....



[YALSA Teens and Technology Institute](#)

YALSA will offer a full-day institute on using technology to reach teens in libraries on March 2 at the Wyoming Seminary College Preparatory School in Kingston, Pennsylvania. Participants will explore how teen literacies in such areas as reading, writing, and communicating are expanding and changing via technologies like chat, IM, blogs, text messaging, and wikis. Save \$10 by [signing up](#) before February 1....

[Recruit a new YALSA member and win a Flip Ultra](#)

All current YALSA members who recruit a new member to YALSA between January 23 and March 23 will be entered into a drawing to win a free Flip Ultra video camera for themselves and their new recruit. To enter, members should visit the 2009 Member Drive [website](#) and download the special membership form that will be posted on January 23....



"The decision to close these eleven branch libraries is more than a response to a financial crisis; it changes the very foundation of our City. Two of the libraries scheduled to close, Haddinton and Holmesburg, will result in a reversion of the property back to the original grantor because of deed restrictions. No one questions the economic crisis which has rocked both the City and the Nation. However, we are a Nation of hope. A 'crisis' evokes something temporary. Defendants argued there were more than enough libraries in Philadelphia. 'Philadelphia has more libraries than any other city in the country.' Our library system is more than a century old yet in three short months an economic crisis results in permanently closing eleven branches. This court does not envy the Mayor and the tough decisions he has had to make in this financial crisis. Yet, as this court is bound to follow the law, so is the Mayor. The permanent closing of neighborhood branch libraries is changing the very structure of the Free Library of Philadelphia and not just responding to a

Awards

[ALA youth media awards, January 26](#)

Join thousands as ALA unveils the best of the best in children's and young adult literature and media at the 2009 Youth Media Awards presentation during the ALA Midwinter Meeting, January 23–28, in Denver. The award announcements will take place at 7:45 a.m. Mountain Time (doors open at 7:30 a.m.) January 26 in the Four Seasons Ballroom at the Colorado Convention Center....

[Nominations sought for the Madison Awards](#)

ALA is seeking nominations for two awards to honor individuals or groups who have championed, protected, and promoted public access to government information and the public's right to know—the James Madison Award and the Eileen Cooke State and Local Madison Award. Nominations should be submitted to [Jessica McGilvray](#) at the ALA Washington Office no later than February 2....

District Dispatch, Jan. 5

[Great Stories CLUB grants awarded](#)



The Public Programs Office and YALSA announced that 237 libraries have been selected to receive Great Stories CLUB grants to support book discussion programs targeting troubled teens. See the full list [here](#). Among those sites selected, 53 will additionally receive small cash grants to support program-related expenses. Funding was provided for this program by Oprah's Angel Network....

[Nominate someone for a Bartlett Award](#)

The Richard C. Bartlett Environmental Education Award is presented annually to an outstanding educator who has successfully integrated environmental education into his or her daily education programs. The National Environmental Education Foundation established the award in 2007 and provides \$5,000 to the winners to continue their work in environmental education. Deadline for nominations is February 13....

National Environmental Education Foundation

[Couch Potato champ, second straight year](#)

Stan Friedman, senior librarian at Condé Nast Publications in New York City, captured his second straight title December 29 in ESPN's Ultimate Couch Potato Competition, spending nearly 19 hours reclining in front of the TV. He outlasted three challengers to defend his crown at the second annual showdown in the ESPN Zone restaurant in Times Square....

New York Daily News, Jan. 1



Seen Online

[The library—a recession sanctuary](#)

Senior Obama advisor David Axelrod said support for libraries is still part of the president-elect's stimulus package,

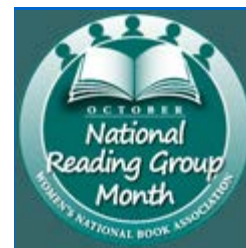
'financial crisis.'

—Extract from Judge Idee C. Fox's injunction against closing 11 branches of the Free Library of Philadelphia, Jan. 5.



The [We the People Bookshelf](#), a collection of classic books for young readers, is a project of the National Endowment for the Humanities' *We the People* program, conducted in cooperation with the ALA Public Programs Office. Each year, NEH identifies a theme important to the nation's heritage and selects books that embody that theme to build the *We the People* Bookshelf. The theme for the 2008–2009 Bookshelf is **"Picturing America."** Online [applications](#) will be accepted through **January 30.**

Ask the ALA Librarian



Q. I am looking to expand the types of books that I read, and a friend had

"refurbishing the nation's classrooms and labs and libraries so our kids can compete." That is, if the libraries first avoid being trampled. Library systems across the nation face cuts and closures at the very moment they have become recession sanctuaries. CBS news anchor Katie Couric (above) [agrees](#) that libraries are helping Americans save money. In fact, libraries are shining so brightly that the nation's politicians must keep their lights flickering. Obama says he wants to link all libraries to the internet, but you cannot connect them if the doors are locked....

Boston Globe, Jan. 3; *Couric Notebook*, Dec. 31



Markets down, libraries up

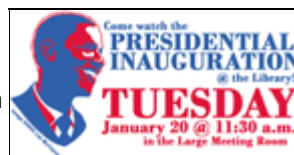
In the profession, it's called the "Librarian's Axiom," and it goes like this: "Public libraries prosper when the country is experiencing economic stringency." In an article published in the Fall/Winter 1986 *Public Library Quarterly*, Atlanta University SLIS Professor Stephen E. James noted that the relationship between library usage and economic conditions has been discussed within the industry for more than 100 years. The effect was observed as early as 1880 in the Annual Report of the Chicago Public Library and later during the Great Depression that followed the stock market crash of 1929. Fast forward 80 years, and the effect is manifesting itself again....

Jacksonville (Fla.) Financial News and Daily Record, Jan. 7

Massachusetts libraries host inauguration parties

Some Bay State libraries are hosting parties on January 20 where people can gather to watch a new chapter open in American history: the inauguration of Barack Obama as president of the United States. Officials at libraries in Boston, Watertown, Lexington, Barnstable, and Andover say they are happy to provide a place for people to gather around televisions to share the day's events. Some are planning additional activities, including parties and games for kids....

Boston Globe, Jan. 7



Kayaker paddles 1,000 miles for the library

78-year-old Dick Wheeler has finished his 1,000-mile coastal kayaking adventure to raise money for the Wareham (Mass.) Free Library. He began his "paddlethon" around Cape Cod's coastline on October 11, completing his mission on December 13. Wheeler has raised nearly \$50,000 for the library, which faces losing its state certification after it was forced to reduce hours to 25 per week September 15 when its budget was cut by \$200,000. Read about Wheeler's experiences on his [Paddlethon blog](#)....

Brockton (Mass.) Enterprise, Dec. 29; Paddlethon to Save the Wareham Free Library



New York libraries could lose state aid

Libraries in New York are bracing for a proposed 18% cut in state aid. If the budget passes, library aid levels will be at a 15-year low. "All of our libraries are seeing a big boom in business," said Fayetteville (N.Y.) Free Library Director Sue Considine, which means

mentioned joining a book discussion group as a possibility. What is a book group and where can I find one?

A. [Book discussion groups](#) are offered at many public libraries, and provide a forum where readers can come together and talk about books and the reading experience. Usually each group has a number of participants who read and talk about books from a list or specific topic. Most book groups have a rotating selection of books. However, a number of cities, schools, churches, organizations, and even conferences have used the "[One Book](#)" model as a start for discussing books. These groups may meet at the same location on a regular basis, or may rotate the location, such as coffee shops, libraries, or individual homes. *Booklist* magazine also hosts a blog on book groups called [Book Group Buzz](#). From the [ALA Professional Tips wiki](#).

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

Calendar

as usage goes up, so does the cost for doing business. Due to the increased need for library services, the New York Board of Regents approved 55 library charters this year. Four new public library districts were formed, and 318,588 formerly unserved New Yorkers now have a local public library....

Fayetteville (N.Y.) Eagle Bulletin, Dec. 31

[Troy library cuts echo statewide trend](#)

The Troy (N.Y.) Public Library's decision to close its Lansingburgh (right) and Sycaway branches is part of a statewide trend to reduce services as libraries see their funding shrink. The two Troy branches will shut February 2 and seven employees will be dismissed to deal with a 17% cut in the 2009 budget. Elsewhere, libraries in Westchester County and in the Rome and Rochester suburbs are trimming their Sunday hours....

Albany (N.Y.) Times Union, Jan. 7



[New Jersey libraries face budget crunch, cuts](#)

New Jersey's worsening economic picture is affecting many community libraries. The state has libraries in about 245 communities, according to New Jersey Library Association Executive Director Patricia Tumulty, who said municipalities are mandated to fund them according to a state formula that works out to about \$33 in taxpayer funds for every \$100,000 of a home's value. Shortfalls are now causing many libraries to cut back hours, days of operation, book budgets, or staff positions, but the Newark Public Library board decided January 2 to keep its Roseville branch (above) open, pending further review of the city's 2009 budget....

Associated Press, Jan. 2



[Bush data threatens to overload National Archives](#)

The National Archives has put into effect an emergency plan to handle electronic records from the Bush White House amid growing doubts about whether its new \$144-million computer system can cope with the vast quantities of digital data it will receive when President Bush leaves office on January 20. The electronic record of the Bush years is about 50 times as large as that left by the Clinton White House in 2001, archives officials estimate. Under federal law, the government has "complete ownership, possession, and control" of presidential and vice-presidential records....

New York Times, Dec. 27

[FCC drops filtering from free broadband plan](#)

FCC Chairman Kevin Martin has revised his proposal to roll out a free (and smut-free) wireless broadband service. In an effort to corral more votes, Martin has already circulated a new version of the plan, one that removes the controversial porn-filtering requirement. The agency has scheduled another Open Commission meeting for January 15 to discuss the revision....

Ars Technica, Dec. 29

[An all-nighter at the library](#)

Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University joined a growing number of campuses whose libraries

Feb. 7–8:

[Miami International Map Fair](#), Historical Museum of Southern Florida, Miami.

Feb. 13–15:

[California International Antiquarian Book Fair](#), Concourse Exhibition Center, San Francisco.

June 1–4:

[Computers, Freedom, and Privacy Conference](#), Washington, D.C.
"Creating the Future."

June 14–16:

[NextLibrary: An International Unconference](#), Aarhus University, Denmark.

July 1–4:

[16th International Conference on Learning](#), University of Barcelona, Spain.
This conference is for anyone with an interest in, and concern for, education at any level—from early childhood, to schools, to higher education— and lifelong learning from home to school to university to the workplace.

July 10–13:

[7th International Conference on Education and Information Systems, Technologies, and Applications](#), Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Florida.

@ [More...](#)

are keeping themselves relevant in the laptop age by running at least part of their operation round-the-clock and by making other changes to the services they offer. In a fall test, the average number of students in the library overnight at any given hour was twice the target, and it was enough to justify making the hours permanent for students who will begin the spring semester....

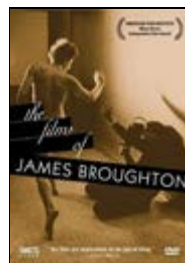
Pittsburgh (Pa.) Post-Gazette, Jan. 4



[DVD claimed inappropriate for library](#)

A retired sociology professor wants to have a film he regards as pornographic removed from the shelves of the Town 'N Country Regional Public Library in Tampa, Florida. Frank DeAngelis said he didn't know what to expect when he checked out *The Films of James Broughton* but was shocked to see naked men engaging in various sexual acts. Linda Gillon, manager of programming for the Hillsborough County Department of Library Services, suggested he file a complaint. Broughton (1913–1999) was a poet, playwright, and avant-garde filmmaker....

Tampa (Fla.) Tribune, Dec. 25



[LC to collect sermons for inauguration](#)

Inauguration-week sermons will be preserved to highlight Barack Obama's rise to power in an unprecedented quest by the Library of Congress to capture this transfer of power for future generations. The library's American Folklife Center is asking churches, synagogues, and mosques for copies of sermons or speeches that focus on the significance of the inauguration of Obama as the country's first black president....

Associated Press, Jan. 2

[Lincoln Presidential Library adds Union soldier's letters](#)

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois, has acquired the notes and letters of William Wylie, a corporal with the 58th Illinois Infantry during the Civil War. Library officials say Wylie's wartime accounts are some of the most detailed they have encountered. Although the library is nowhere near finished cataloging the collection, which they've been negotiating to purchase for years, they say his observations already are filling gaps in history....

Springfield (Ill.) Journal-Register, Dec. 27



[D.C. libraries to crack down on sleepers](#)

District of Columbia Public Library Director Ginnie Cooper has announced [new rules](#) that, starting February 1, will prohibit sleeping in the libraries or carrying more than two bags into any of the branches—rules designed to discourage the homeless from camping out at tables where readers and researchers might want to work. Cooper says the rules will make the libraries more welcoming for all. Sleeping, generally, "isn't an activity we encourage."...

Washington Post, Dec. 29–30

[Hathaway's winning streak at an end](#)

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:
kniffel@ala.org

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American Libraries
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ISSN 1559-369X.

Milt Hathaway, librarian at Eastern View High School in Culpeper, Virginia, lost on *Jeopardy* December 22 by only \$1, but he didn't leave empty-handed. His two previous appearances netted him \$70,002, as well as a comment from game-show host Alex Trebek: "It is quite obvious that our champion, Milt, has spent just as much time reading those books as sorting them in the library."...

Culpeper (Va.) Star-Exponent, Dec. 23

[Law librarian accused of burglary](#)

The longtime law librarian at the Santa Maria (Calif.) Law Library is facing felony charges for allegedly burglarizing the residence of an attorney in Solvang, California, and stealing firearms and jewelry. The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office filed charges of first-degree residential burglary and grand theft firearm December 23 against Stephen Zaharias, who is due in court January 13 to be formally charged....

Lompoc (Calif.) Record, Jan. 3

[Go back to the Top](#)

Tech Talk

[Top Twitter tools in 2009](#)

You have probably heard something about the new microblogging platform, Twitter, and how Twitter has taken the online world by storm.



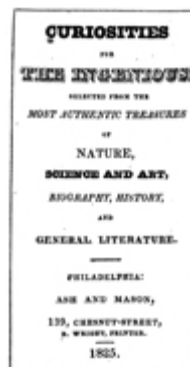
The phenomenon has even spawned a new lingo, with your new tweeps (followers) tweeting (making posts) you and discussing the state of the Twitterverse. While Twitter is pretty easy to use, there's an overwhelming amount of Twitter tools, plug-ins, and apps being developed to support it. Here are some promising ones....

Social Networking Blog, Dec. 29

[Google Book Search's treasure trove](#)

Ever since Google began scanning printed books four years ago, scholars have been able to tap a trove of information that had been locked away in libraries and antiquarian bookstores. According to Dan Clancy, engineering director for Google Book Search, every month users view at least 10 pages of more than half of the one million out-of-copyright books that Google has scanned into its servers. But some scholars worry that Google users are more likely to search for narrow information than to read at length....

New York Times, Jan. 4



[50 most beautiful icon sets created in 2008](#)

Icons are everywhere. In most designs, they are used to make websites and blogs more attractive, but they can decorate desktops and iPhones as well. Here are 50 superb free icon sets from the past year, in various formats....



Noupe, Dec. 9

[19 cool gadgets for your office](#)

The office can be a cold, hard, unfeeling, life-sucking place to spend your working days, but then again you don't have to live in Dilbertsville. For all

the stigma surrounding the office, you're getting a unique opportunity to interact with people and your environment. Here are 19 gadgets that will help turn your four walls into a techie heaven, like this USB coffee warmer (right)....

The Hottest Gadgets, Sept. 16



Publishing

[Lerner pulls *Angel Girl*](#)

Oprah Winfrey once dubbed it the "greatest love story" she had ever heard: a boy held at a Nazi concentration camp and a girl on the outside who tossed him apples to keep him alive. They eventually married and grew old together. But historians [suspected](#) some key facts, and in late December Herman Rosenblat acknowledged that the story of how he met his wife was made up. Berkley Books immediately canceled publication of Rosenblat's memoir, *Angel at the Fence*, which was set to be released in February. And Laurie Friedman's *Angel Girl*, a children's book inspired by Rosenblat, was [pulled](#) December 30 by Lerner Publishing....

CNN, Dec. 30; *Lansing (Mich.) State Journal*, Dec. 30; *School Library Journal*, Dec. 30



[2008 OverDrive eBook statistics](#)

Digital media company OverDrive reported that readers at more than 8,500 OverDrive network libraries worldwide made Stephenie Meyer's YA novel *Twilight* the most downloaded audiobook and eBook of the year. In 2008, library patrons viewed 237 million website pages looking to download media, a 76% rise over last year....

OverDrive, Jan. 6

[20 reasons why 2009 will be the year of the eBook](#)

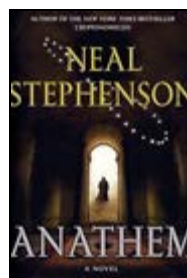
Chris Andrews writes: "This eBook industry that we are talking about here, which will grow significantly over the coming year, has been emerging for the last two years. It includes a whole new generation of technology specifically designed to enhance the experience of reading an eBook. 2009 will become the year of the eBook. Here, in no particular order, is why."...

Gutenberg.com, Jan. 1

[Best science fiction books of 2008](#)

2008 was an amazing year for science fiction novels, with Neal Stephenson's *Anathem* hitting bestseller lists and critics going crazy over slavery tale *Liberation* by Brian Francis Slattery and cyborg fantasy *Alchemy of Stone* by Ekaterina Sedya. Here are 11 of the year's best science fiction novels, with links to reviews—as well as several interviews with the authors....

io9, Dec. 31



Actions & Answers

[Trends in the humanities](#) (subscription required)

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences unveiled the prototype January 7 of its long-awaited [Humanities Indicators](#) project. Patterned after the Science and Engineering Indicators generated every two years by the National Science Board, the Humanities Indicators deliver a bonanza of statistics on almost every aspect of humanities education, employment, and research. Among the data: Americans are far less likely now than they were in 1972 to want books banned from libraries because of controversial subject matter....

Chronicle of Higher Education, Jan. 7

[25 more films added to LC film registry](#)

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington named 25 important motion pictures—classics and genres from every era of American filmmaking—to the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress, including *The Asphalt Jungle*, *Deliverance*, *A Face in the Crowd*, *The Invisible Man*, *Sergeant York*, and *The Terminator*. Spanning the period 1910–1989, this year's selections bring the number of motion pictures in the registry to 500....

Library of Congress, Dec. 30



[Top 10 most literate U.S. cities](#)

Residents of Minneapolis and Seattle are the most bookish and well-read, according to results from a [survey](#) released in December of the most literate American cities. The survey focused on 69 U.S. cities with populations of 250,000 or above. John W. Miller, president of Central Connecticut State University, chose six key indicators to rank literacy. These included newspaper circulation, number of bookstores, library resources, periodical publishing resources, educational attainment, and internet resources....

LiveScience, Dec. 27

[Hennepin County and Minneapolis merge websites](#)

Beginning January 5, Hennepin County (Minn.) Library has a single, consolidated [public website](#) to reflect the January 2008 merger of Minneapolis and suburban Hennepin libraries. However, the unified website will include separate Minneapolis and suburban Hennepin County library catalogs until there is a single catalog system, scheduled for late 2009....

Hennepin County (Minn.) Library, Dec. 18

[Drexel opens library school branch in Sacramento](#)

Drexel University welcomed its first students in Sacramento, California, January 5 as its Center for Graduate Studies began classes in four of nine master's programs slated to start this year—one of them [library and information science](#). The center's classrooms have been outfitted with \$1 million in state-of-the-art technology that makes classes available on the Web and via podcast....

Drexel University, Jan. 5



[Newark trustee selected for Obama](#)

[transition team](#)

Newark (N.J.) Public Library trustee and Urban Libraries Council board member Clement Alexander Price (right) has been named to President-Elect Barack Obama's Transition Team. Price is chairing the transition team for the National Endowment for the Humanities that will help select the next leader of the NEH....



Urban Libraries Council, Dec. 5

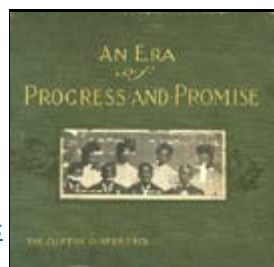
[The future\(?\) of cataloging](#)

Cliff Landis writes: "My biggest fear was confirmed recently while having lunch with a friend, who is wrapping up her MLIS degree and had never heard of RDA or FRBR. Library schools should be equipping their students to evaluate and make tough decisions regarding formats, standards, and techniques of description. All it takes is a single mistake in a cataloging record to ensure that an item is lost to its user forever. Catalogers: Take it from a reference librarian—what you do is *important*."...

clifflandis.net, Dec. 23

[North Carolina offers African-American history resource](#)

Now available in the State Library of North Carolina's digital repository are profiles of early African-American schools, churches, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and other institutions from the pages of [An Era of Progress and Promise](#). Written in 1910 by William Newton Hartshorn, the 444-page book is a seminal work that was referenced by influential figures including W. E. B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington....



North Carolina Dept. of Cultural Resources, Dec. 29

[Ask-a-Librarian services need a reboot](#)

David Lee King writes: "What would you say if I told you that some libraries discriminate against a certain type of customer? That some customers, because of the way they asked a question, were purposefully pushed to the back of the line, told to wait 2–3 days for an answer, and that they couldn't get an answer to some of their burning questions because they're 'that kind' of customer? You'd be furious. But take a peek at these email and chat reference policies. In essence, they are discriminating."...

David Lee King, Jan. 6

[An open letter to \[libraries\] on Twitter](#)

Jenny Levine writes: "On Museum 2.0, Nina Simon has a [blog post](#) encouraging museums to get human on their Twitter accounts and provide more than just 'spammy and dull' tweets. Pretty much everything she exhorts museums to do applies to libraries as well. Actually, it's great advice for all types of organizations, including, um, associations and the like."...

The Shifted Librarian, Jan. 5; Museum 2.0, Dec. 30

[Still waiting for those old librarians to retire](#)

Stanley Wilder writes: "Can academic librarians afford to retire in the Bush recession? Retirement is an unusually resilient cultural behavior, and largely impervious to routine economic fluctuations. But the Bush recession is clearly not a routine fluctuation. What

would delayed retirement mean to academic librarianship? The first to go would be the projections of the age profile of librarians at ARL institutions; and delayed retirements would not affect all librarians equally."...

ACRLog, Jan. 5

[Dominican officially opens children's literature center](#)

Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois, will dedicate its new Butler Children's Literature Center on January 10 with a private reception featuring renowned children's author Jon Scieszka. A "soft launch" had been held November 30. The center, established within the university's Graduate School of Library and Information Science, is in the process of building a historical collection of the best children's and young adult literature published nationally and internationally....

Dominican University, Dec. 17



[If you feed them, they will come](#)

Wendy Reynolds writes: "'Will there be food?' is the usual response to any invitation to attend a library event. Attendance always seems to be higher if it is promoted as having refreshments. In mid-December, I put a call out to my library colleagues, asking how they use food to promote library services. The responses were varied and imaginative."...

Slaw, Jan. 4

[Check out these new YA tools](#)

Linda Braun writes: "Over the past couple of days I've been trying some new web tools and thinking about how to use them with teens. Both Krunchd and Zigtag give librarians a chance to connect teens to web-based resources. With Krunchd, you can group URLs on a topic and describe and tag them all at once. Zigtag allows users to create groups and share bookmarks with members of a specific group."...

YALSA Blog, Dec. 29



[Show some empathy](#)

Brian Mathews writes: "During a customer service interaction, do we perceive people who are nice to be more competent? My hypothesis was that there would be a strong correlation in LibQUAL+ data between 'knowledgeable' and 'caring' or 'courteousness.' I was partially correct. I looked at the undergraduate data from 84 schools (mostly ARL) and ran the correlation formula on the perception ratings for all of the customer-service questions. Here is what I got back."...

The Ubiquitous Librarian, Jan. 6

[Is your blog hot?](#)

HotStuff 2.0 is an automated blog developed by Dave Pattern, library systems manager at the University of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, U.K. RSS feeds from 300 library-related blogs are collated on a daily basis and analyzed in order to discover popular topics. Every day, a blog post is generated that focuses on a single word that has seen a marked increase in usage over the last few days. A Word Wheel image shows the strength of the links between that word and others with a similar increase in usage. A [Hot or Not?](#) list rates each blog for picking up the popular words....

HotStuff 2.0

[“I was doomed to be a librarian”](#)

Betsy Bird (right), New York Public Library children’s librarian and *School Library Journal* blogger, says she “was the kind of kid who would go through the family videos and create a cataloging system” in this podcast interview (10:40) with Mark Bleviss at the 2008 KidLit Bloggers’ Conference in Portland last September. Bird talks about her experience on the ALSC Newbery Award Selection Committee and her blogging exploits....

Just One More Book, Jan. 5



[MommyCast visits the Library of Congress](#)

Gretchen (far right) from MommyCast, a weekly webcast that discusses all aspects of parenting, visits the Library of Congress interactive exhibit [Creating the United States](#) and recommends it as a wonderful learning experience for kids. She interviews LC Director of Educational Outreach Elizabeth Ridgway (left), Curator Gerry Gawalt, and children having fun with the exhibit....

MommyCast, July 1



[Go back to the Top](#)

AL Direct, January 7, 2009

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

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | January 7, 2009

Contents

U.S. & World News [[#usworld](#)]
ALA News [[#alanews](#)]
Booklist Online [[#booklist](#)]
Denver Update [[#denver](#)]
Division News [[#divisionnews](#)]
Awards [[#awards](#)]
Seen Online [[#seenonline](#)]
Tech Talk [[#techtalk](#)]
Publishing [[#publishing](#)]
Actions & Answers [[#actionsanswers](#)]
Calendar [[#datebook](#)]

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

[<http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com>]

U.S. & World News

Judge overrules Philadelphia branch closings

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2009/January2009/pillyclosingoverruled.cfm>]

A Philadelphia judge has ordered Mayor Michael Nutter to halt his planned closing of 11 branches of the Free Library of Philadelphia. Court of Common Pleas Judge Idee C. Fox (right) issued the ruling [<http://www.scribd.com/doc/9731113/090105-Preliminary-Injunction-Adjudication>] December 30 in response to an emergency motion filed by three city council members who argued that the closures would violate a 1988 city ordinance requiring the mayor to obtain council approval before shutting any city-owned facility....

American Libraries Online, Jan. 5

Louisville pins upgrade hopes on stimulus funds

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2009/January2009/louisvillerevisesplans.cfm>]

More than a year after the resounding defeat of a \$200-million library

bond issue to expand the facilities and services of the Louisville (Ky.) Free Public Library, city and library officials have unveiled a scaled-down \$120-million plan (PDF file [http://www.lfpl.org/Masterplan/final_draft_export_LoRes.pdf]) to revitalize the library system over more than a decade. The hitch is financing, and Mayor Jerry Abramson has met with President-Elect Barack Obama regarding an initial \$8.4 million to jump-start system improvements....
American Libraries Online, Jan. 5

ALA News

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Meet the ALA candidates
ALA presidential candidates Roberta Stevens [<http://www.robertastevens.com/>] and Kent Oliver [<http://www.kentonoliver.com/>] invite Midwinter Meeting attendees to a joint reception, January 24, 5:30–7:30 p.m., in Ballroom 4 of the Hyatt Regency Denver. Members can meet both candidates and communicate their interests and concerns. The reception (with food and cash bar) is sponsored by Oliver and Stevens, along with a generous contribution from Innovative Interfaces. Don't forget the Candidates Forum, Saturday, 11 a.m.–12 noon, Four Seasons Ballroom, Colorado Convention Center. If you can't attend the Forum, submit a YouTube video (PDF file [<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/alaelection/2009/youtubeforumplan1119.pdf>]) asking the candidates questions by January 16. Questions from nonmembers are also welcome....

It's been a tough start to the new year
[<http://discuss.ala.org/marginalia/2009/01/07/its-been-a-tough-start-to-the-new-year-at-ala/>]
ALA Internet Development Specialist Jenny Levine writes: "The last two weeks have been a sort of Perfect Storm of online-related problems at ALA, and as the person here who probably does the most tracking of what's said about us online, I think I've pretty well heard everything you have to say about it. Now we've had a chance to talk about some of these things internally, and we want to update you on decisions we've made to try to fix some of the problems."...
ALA Marginalia, Jan. 7

Submit a program proposal for Annual Conference
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/rettiggrassrootsprograms.cfm>]
Do you have a great idea for an Annual Conference program but don't belong to a committee or other group that can plan and produce a program? As part of ALA President Jim Rettig's "Creating Connections" initiatives, you are invited to submit a proposal [<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/officers/grassroots/grassrootproposal.cfm>] for a program to take place at the 2009 conference in Chicago. Grassroots Program proposals may be submitted through February 6....

Online tools for National Library Week

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/campaignnlwtools.cfm>]

New online materials

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/hqops/pio/natlibraryweek/nlw.cfm>] and products [<http://www.alastore.ala.org/>] are available to help libraries reach out to their communities during National Library Week, April 12–18, from the Public Information Office and the Campaign for America’s Libraries. Materials are available in both English and Spanish that focus on the 2009 theme, “Worlds connect @ your library.”...

Library Design Showcase

[<http://www.ala.org/insidescoop/2009/01/06/library-design-showcase-online-submission-now-available/>]

You can now submit materials online for the Library Design Showcase [<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/submittingal/facilitiesfeature.cfm>] in American Libraries’ April issue. We’ve bought a YouSendIt account to handle the very large files that this entails. As a result, sending the files will be slightly more complicated than simply sending an email—but not much. As this is something of an experiment, please share your comments, problems, or suggestions. The deadline is February 2....

AL Inside Scoop, Jan. 6

Library Support Staff Certification Program discussion

[<http://www.ala-apa.org/lsscp/index.html>]

The ALA–Allied Professional Association invites live and virtual discussion of the development of the Library Support Staff Certification Program, a national, voluntary certification program for library support staff. ALA-APA will host an Open Forum at ALA Midwinter meeting in Denver on January 24 and welcomes comments on the official LSSCP blog [<http://www.lsscp.blogspot.com/>]. A Briefing Document (PDF file [<http://www.ala-apa.org/lsscp/LSSCPBriefingDocumentMW09.pdf>]) for discussion at Midwinter is available online....

ALA–Allied Professional Association, Jan. 7

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=product_detail&_op=2652]

Get boys interested in reading
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/alaeditionsboys.cfm>]

Connecting Boys with Books 2: Closing the Reading Gap by Michael Sullivan draws on the author’s more than 20 years of experience in reinvigorating the sense of excitement that boys felt when they first heard a picture book being read aloud. In this companion book to the 2003 edition, Sullivan digs even deeper, melding his own experiences as an activist with perspectives gleaned from other industry experts....

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=product_detail&_op=2579]

Protect patrons’ privacy
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/alaeditionspatronprivacy.cfm>]

ALA Editions has released a new title, Privacy and Confidentiality Issues: A Guide for Libraries and their Lawyers, by Theresa Chmara. In this clear and concise guide, set up in an FAQ format, First Amendment attorney and litigation expert Chmara shares her decades of experience in

easy-to-understand, jargon-free language. Interspersed within the questions and answers, actual court case studies lend a sense of urgency to the explanations....

Date change for Los Angeles Lawyers for Libraries

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/oiflflchange.cfm>]

ALA will present a Lawyers for Libraries training institute February 27 in Los Angeles. The previously announced date was February 20. The Lawyers for Libraries Institute is primarily intended to equip attorneys with tools they need to effectively defend the First Amendment in libraries....

Featured review: Media

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3013449]

Meyer, L. A. *Curse of the Blue Tattoo: Being an Account of the Misadventures of Jacky Faber, Midshipman and Fine Lady*. Read by Katherine Kellgren. Aug. 2008. 14hr. Listen and Live, CD (978-1-59316-134-7).

Kellgren continues her tour de force portrayal of Mary "Jacky" Faber in this stand-alone sequel to *Bloody Jack*, a 2008 Odyssey Award Honor title. After it is discovered that Jacky has been disguising herself as a boy, she is forced to leave her shipmates and true love behind to enter the Lawson Peabody School for Young Girls in Boston, plunging her into melodramatic escapades. Mean girls and a malevolent headmistress block her path to becoming a proper lady, while stereotypical characters provide colorful Dickensian subplots involving murder and madness. Kellgren voices Jacky's Cockney patois with such historical accuracy that listeners are pulled into the early 19th century, breathlessly entranced by Jacky's heart-on-her-sleeve, knife-in-her-bosom exploits....

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3300551]
#8217;s 2008 Top of the List winners

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/booklisttoplist.cfm>]

Booklist has announced its 19th annual Top of the List winners.

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3300551]

The eight winning titles were chosen from the annual Editors' Choice selections as the best books and media of 2008. The Top of the List picks are featured in the special combined January 1 and 15 issue, as well as on Booklist Online....

Lasting Connections list for 2008

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/booklinkslastingconnections.cfm>]

Book Links magazine's January issue contains its annual annotated Lasting Connections list (PDF file

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/hqops/publishing/booklinks/resources/lc2008.pdf>]), spotlighting the editors' selections of the 30 best 2008 picture books, novels and informational titles for libraries and classrooms. Lasting Connections is considered an essential collection

development tool for children's librarians, school library media specialists, and K–8 educators....

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

Denver Update

SuperShuttle from the airport
[http://wikis.ala.org/midwinter2009/index.php/Tips_for_Getting_Around#Super_Shuttle]

ALA has partnered with SuperShuttle to serve the needs of its attendees traveling to Denver for the Midwinter Meeting. SuperShuttle [<http://www.supershuttle.com/default.aspx?GC=LET6A>] is offering discounts on round trip travel to and from the Denver International Airport (DIA) and the hotels in the ALA block: \$22 one way and \$36 round trip using the special ALA online discount code LET6A. For more information go to the discount information page (PDF file [<http://www.supershuttle.com/Coupons/DIA/ALA.pdf>])....

Denver dining guide
[http://wikis.ala.org/midwinter2009/index.php/Dining_Guide_by_Locals]
Locals rate the restaurants, from Ted's Montana Grill (love that buffalo meatloaf!) to the Rock Bottom Brewery....

Internet use grows at meetings
[<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/30/business/30internet.html>]
Until recently, travelers attending conferences had simple internet needs. They would check email messages and look up information on the Web or connect to the home office. Now, meetings are likely to include streaming video and online interaction. Back in their rooms, travelers are downloading movies and logging onto peer-to-peer networks. Event organizers and hotels and conference centers are struggling to keep up and prevent internet gridlock....
New York Times, Dec. 29

Division News

goes online
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/aaslknowledgequestonline.cfm>]
AASL members can now access current and archived copies of Knowledge Quest online to print or save in a PDF format. The site also offers searchable full-text articles and can be accessed through member login on the page.
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aaslpubsandjournals/kqweb/kqhome/kqhome.cfm>] Published five times a year, the magazine offers information on

the development of school library media programs and services....

ACRL on web design

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/acrldesigntalk.cfm>]

ACRL has released a new publication, Design Talk: Understanding the Roles of Usability Practitioners, Web Designers, and Web Developers in User-Centered Web Design, by Brenda Reeb, coordinator of the web usability program at the University of Rochester Libraries. Design Talk focuses on the interactions between the various roles in website development and delineates the scope of responsibilities and activities of usability practitioners, designers, and developers....

ACRL's spring e-learning schedule

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/acrllearning.cfm>]

ACRL offers a wide variety of online learning opportunities in spring 2009 to meet the demands of your schedule and budget. ACRL online seminars are asynchronous, multiweek courses delivered through Moodle. Seven are scheduled for January through April. Full details and registration information are available on the ACRL website [<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/proftools/elearning.cfm>]....

welcomes new format and editor

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/asclainterface.cfm>]

ASCLA members looking for division news can now find it both in their email inboxes and online. Beginning with the December 2008 issue, the ASCLA newsletter Interface [<http://ascla.ala.org/interface/>] has shifted to a completely digital format. In addition to increasing access to content for members using assistive devices, this change introduces blog-like features that allow members to comment on and discuss the articles. Emily Inlow-Hood, the new editor, has shepherded the publication through its transition....

YALSA Teens and Technology Institute

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/yalsateenstech.cfm>]

YALSA will offer a full-day institute on using technology to reach teens in libraries on March 2 at the Wyoming Seminary College Preparatory School in Kingston, Pennsylvania. Participants will explore how teen literacies in such areas as reading, writing, and communicating are expanding and changing via technologies like chat, IM, blogs, text messaging, and wikis. Save \$10 by signing up [http://www.wyomingseminary.org/newsletter/yalsa_institute.php] before February 1....

Recruit a new YALSA member and win a Flip Ultra

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/yalsarecruit.cfm>]

All current YALSA members who recruit a new member to YALSA between January 23 and March 23 will be entered into a drawing to win a free Flip Ultra video camera for themselves and their new recruit. To enter, members should visit the 2009 Member Drive website

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/member/recruitment.cfm>] and download the special membership form that will be posted on January 23....

Awards

ALA youth media awards, January 26

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/ymaonyourcalendar.cfm>]

Join thousands as ALA unveils the best of the best in children's and young adult literature and media at the 2009 Youth Media Awards presentation during the ALA Midwinter Meeting, January 23–28, in Denver. The award announcements will take place at 7:45 a.m. Mountain Time (doors open at 7:30 a.m.) January 26 in the Four Seasons Ballroom at the Colorado Convention Center....

Nominations sought for the Madison Awards

[<http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=1234>]

ALA is seeking nominations for two awards to honor individuals or groups who have championed, protected, and promoted public access to government information and the public's right to know—the James Madison Award and the Eileen Cooke State and Local Madison Award. Nominations should be submitted to Jessica McGilvray [<mailto:jmcgilvray@alawash.org>] at the ALA Washington Office no later than February 2....

District Dispatch, Jan. 5

Great Stories CLUB grants awarded

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/ppogscselected.cfm>]

The Public Programs Office and YALSA announced that 237 libraries have been selected to receive Great Stories CLUB grants to support book discussion programs targeting troubled teens. See the full list here.

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ppo/programming/greatstories/gscro und2recipients.cfm>] Among those sites selected, 53 will additionally receive small cash grants to support program-related expenses. Funding was provided for this program by Oprah's Angel Network....

Nominate someone for a Bartlett Award

[<http://www.neefusa.org/bartlettaward.htm>]

The Richard C. Bartlett Environmental Education Award is presented annually to an outstanding educator who has successfully integrated environmental education into his or her daily education programs. The National Environmental Education Foundation established the award in 2007 and provides \$5,000 to the winners to continue their work in environmental education. Deadline for nominations is February 13....

National Environmental Education Foundation

Couch Potato champ, second straight year

[http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2009/01/02/2009-01-02_hes_the_ultimate_couch_potato_stan_fried.html]

Stan Friedman, senior librarian at Condé Nast Publications in New York City, captured his second straight title December 29 in ESPN's Ultimate Couch Potato Competition, spending nearly 19 hours reclining in front of

the TV. He outlasted three challengers to defend his crown at the second annual showdown in the ESPN Zone restaurant in Times Square....
New York Daily News, Jan. 1

Seen Online

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[<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=4692037n%3f>]The library—a recession sanctuary

[http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2009/01/03/the_library___a_recession_sanctuary/]

Senior Obama advisor David Axelrod said support for libraries is still part of the president-elect's stimulus package, "refurbishing the nation's classrooms and labs and libraries so our kids can compete." That is, if the libraries first avoid being trampled. Library systems across the nation face cuts and closures at the very moment they have become recession sanctuaries. CBS news anchor Katie Couric (above) agrees [<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=4692037n%3f>] that libraries are helping Americans save money. In fact, libraries are shining so brightly that the nation's politicians must keep their lights flickering. Obama says he wants to link all libraries to the internet, but you cannot connect them if the doors are locked....

Boston Globe, Jan. 3; Couric Notebook, Dec. 31

Markets down, libraries up

[http://www.jaxdailyrecord.com/showstory.php?Story_id=51575]

In the profession, it's called the "Librarian's Axiom," and it goes like this: "Public libraries prosper when the country is experiencing economic stringency." In an article published in the Fall/Winter 1986 Public Library Quarterly, Atlanta University SLIS Professor Stephen E. James noted that the relationship between library usage and economic conditions has been discussed within the industry for more than 100 years. The effect was observed as early as 1880 in the Annual Report of the Chicago Public Library and later during the Great Depression that followed the stock market crash of 1929. Fast forward 80 years, and the effect is manifesting itself again....

Jacksonville (Fla.) Financial News and Daily Record, Jan. 7

Massachusetts libraries host inauguration parties

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/breaking_news/2009/01/local_libraries.htm 1]

Some Bay State libraries are hosting parties on January 20 where people can gather to watch a new chapter open in American history: the inauguration of Barack Obama as president of the United States. Officials at libraries in Boston, Watertown, Lexington, Barnstable, and Andover say they are happy to provide a place for people to gather around televisions to share the day's events. Some are planning additional activities, including parties and games for kids....

Boston Globe, Jan. 7

Kayaker paddles 1,000 miles for the library

[<http://www.enterpriseneews.com/news/x1113937438/78-year-old-completes-1-000>]

-mile-paddlethon-for-Wareham-library]

78-year-old Dick Wheeler has finished his 1,000-mile coastal kayaking adventure to raise money for the Wareham (Mass.) Free Library. He began his "paddlethon" around Cape Cod's coastline on October 11, completing his mission on December 13. Wheeler has raised nearly \$50,000 for the library, which faces losing its state certification after it was forced to reduce hours to 25 per week September 15 when its budget was cut by \$200,000. Read about Wheeler's experiences on his Paddlethon blog [<http://warehampaddle.wordpress.com/>]....

Brockton (Mass.) Enterprise, Dec. 29; Paddlethon to Save the Wareham Free Library

New York libraries could lose state aid

[http://www.cnylink.com/cnynews/view_news.php?news_id=1230737477]

Libraries in New York are bracing for a proposed 18% cut in state aid. If the budget passes, library aid levels will be at a 15-year low.

"All of our libraries are seeing a big boom in business," said Fayetteville (N.Y.) Free Library Director Sue Considine, which means as usage goes up, so does the cost for doing business. Due to the increased need for library services, the New York Board of Regents approved 55 library charters this year. Four new public library districts were formed, and 318,588 formerly unserved New Yorkers now have a local public library....

Fayetteville (N.Y.) Eagle Bulletin, Dec. 31

Troy library cuts echo statewide trend

[<http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=757072&category=REGION>]

The Troy (N.Y.) Public Library's decision to close its Lansingburgh (right) and Sycaway branches is part of a statewide trend to reduce services as libraries see their funding shrink. The two Troy branches will shut February 2 and seven employees will be dismissed to deal with a 17% cut in the 2009 budget. Elsewhere, libraries in Westchester County and in the Rome and Rochester suburbs are trimming their Sunday hours....

Albany (N.Y.) Times Union, Jan. 7

New Jersey libraries face budget crunch, cuts

[http://www.nj.com/newark/index.ssf/2009/01/nj_libraries_face_budget_crunch.html]

New Jersey's worsening economic picture is affecting many community libraries. The state has libraries in about 245 communities, according to New Jersey Library Association Executive Director Patricia Tumulty, who said municipalities are mandated to fund them according to a state formula that works out to about \$33 in taxpayer funds for every \$100,000 of a home's value. Shortfalls are now causing many libraries to cut back hours, days of operation, book budgets, or staff positions, but the Newark Public Library board decided January 2 to keep its Roseville branch (above) open, pending further review of the city's 2009 budget....

Associated Press, Jan. 2

Bush data threatens to overload National Archives

[<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/27/washington/27archives.html>]

The National Archives has put into effect an emergency plan to handle electronic records from the Bush White House amid growing doubts about

whether its new \$144-million computer system can cope with the vast quantities of digital data it will receive when President Bush leaves office on January 20. The electronic record of the Bush years is about 50 times as large as that left by the Clinton White House in 2001, archives officials estimate. Under federal law, the government has “complete ownership, possession, and control” of presidential and vice-presidential records....
New York Times, Dec. 27

FCC drops filtering from free broadband plan
[<http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20081229-no-more-porn-filtering-on-fcc-free-wireless-broadband-plan.html>]
FCC Chairman Kevin Martin has revised his proposal to roll out a free (and smut-free) wireless broadband service. In an effort to corral more votes, Martin has already circulated a new version of the plan, one that removes the controversial porn-filtering requirement. The agency has scheduled another Open Commission meeting for January 15 to discuss the revision....
Ars Technica, Dec. 29

An all-nighter at the library
[<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09004/939526-298.stm>]
Pittsburgh’s Carnegie Mellon University joined a growing number of campuses whose libraries are keeping themselves relevant in the laptop age by running at least part of their operation round-the-clock and by making other changes to the services they offer. In a fall test, the average number of students in the library overnight at any given hour was twice the target, and it was enough to justify making the hours permanent for students who will begin the spring semester....
Pittsburgh (Pa.) Post-Gazette, Jan. 4

DVD claimed inappropriate for library
[<http://www2.tbo.com/content/2008/dec/25/na-town-n-country-librarys-film-is-porn-man-decide/>]
A retired sociology professor wants to have a film he regards as pornographic removed from the shelves of the Town ’N Country Regional Public Library in Tampa, Florida. Frank DeAngelis said he didn’t know what to expect when he checked out The Films of James Broughton but was shocked to see naked men engaging in various sexual acts. Linda Gillon, manager of programming for the Hillsborough County Department of Library Services, suggested he file a complaint. Broughton (1913–1999) was a poet, playwright, and avant-garde filmmaker....
Tampa (Fla.) Tribune, Dec. 25

LC to collect sermons for inauguration
[<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/02/AR2009010201487.html>]
Inauguration-week sermons will be preserved to highlight Barack Obama’s rise to power in an unprecedented quest by the Library of Congress to capture this transfer of power for future generations. The library’s American Folklife Center is asking churches, synagogues, and mosques for copies of sermons or speeches that focus on the significance of the inauguration of Obama as the country’s first black president....
Associated Press, Jan. 2

[<http://www.sj-r.com/homepage/x16588984/Abraham-Lincoln-Presidential-Library-adds-detailed-letters-of-Union-soldier?view=pop&photo=2>] Lincoln Presidential Library adds Union soldier's letters
[<http://www.sj-r.com/homepage/x16588984/Abraham-Lincoln-Presidential-Library-adds-detailed-letters-of-Union-soldier>]

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois, has acquired the notes and letters of William Wylie, a corporal with the 58th Illinois Infantry during the Civil War. Library officials say Wylie's wartime accounts are some of the most detailed they have encountered. Although the library is nowhere near finished cataloging the collection, which they've been negotiating to purchase for years, they say his observations already are filling gaps in history....
Springfield (Ill.) Journal-Register, Dec. 27

D.C. libraries to crack down on sleepers

[http://voices.washingtonpost.com/rawfisher/2008/12/dc_libraries_decide_not_to_be.html]

District of Columbia Public Library Director Ginnie Cooper has announced new rules

[<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/12/28/AR2008122802176.html>] that, starting February 1, will prohibit sleeping in the libraries or carrying more than two bags into any of the branches—rules designed to discourage the homeless from camping out at tables where readers and researchers might want to work. Cooper says the rules will make the libraries more welcoming for all. Sleeping, generally, “isn’t an activity we encourage.”...

Washington Post, Dec. 29–30

Hathaway's winning streak at an end

[http://www.starexponent.com/cse/news/local/article/hathaways_winning_streak_on_jeopardy_comes_to_end/26723/]

Milt Hathaway, librarian at Eastern View High School in Culpeper, Virginia, lost on Jeopardy December 22 by only \$1, but he didn't leave empty-handed. His two previous appearances netted him \$70,002, as well as a comment from game-show host Alex Trebek: “It is quite obvious that our champion, Milt, has spent just as much time reading those books as sorting them in the library.”...

Culpeper (Va.) Star-Exponent, Dec. 23

Law librarian accused of burglary

[<http://www.lompocrecord.com/articles/2009/01/01/news/centralcoast/news05.txt>]

The longtime law librarian at the Santa Maria (Calif.) Law Library is facing felony charges for allegedly burglarizing the residence of an attorney in Solvang, California, and stealing firearms and jewelry. The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office filed charges of first-degree residential burglary and grand theft firearm December 23 against Stephen Zaharias, who is due in court January 13 to be formally charged....

Lompoc (Calif.) Record, Jan. 3

[Go back to the Top \[#top\]](#)

[<http://twitter.grader.com/>]Top Twitter tools in 2009

[<http://www.sociableblog.com/2008/12/29/top-twitter-tools-2009/>]

You have probably heard something about the new microblogging platform, Twitter, and how Twitter has taken the online world by storm. The phenomenon has even spawned a new lingo, with your new tweeps (followers) tweeting (making posts) you and discussing the state of the Twitterverse. While Twitter is pretty easy to use, there's an overwhelming amount of Twitter tools, plug-ins, and apps being developed to support it. Here are some promising ones....

Social Networking Blog, Dec. 29

[<http://books.google.com/books?id=RVmOSM2RIOcC>]Google Book Search's treasure trove

[<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/05/technology/internet/05google.html>]

Ever since Google began scanning printed books four years ago, scholars have been able to tap a trove of information that had been locked away in libraries and antiquarian bookstores. According to Dan Clancy, engineering director for Google Book Search, every month users view at least 10 pages of more than half of the one million out-of-copyright books that Google has scanned into its servers. But some scholars worry that Google users are more likely to search for narrow information than to read at length....

New York Times, Jan. 4

[<http://thvg.deviantart.com/art/Made-Of-Wood-95495113>]50 most beautiful icon sets created in 2008

[[http://www.noupe.com/icons/50-most-beautiful-icon-sets-created-in-2008.htm](http://www.noupe.com/icons/50-most-beautiful-icon-sets-created-in-2008.html)l]

Icons are everywhere. In most designs, they are used to make websites and blogs more attractive, but they can decorate desktops and iPhones as well. Here are 50 superb free icon sets from the past year, in various formats....

Noupe, Dec. 9

[<http://www.chowschina.com/Productshow.asp?ID=20>]19 cool gadgets for your office

[<http://thehottestgadgets.com/2008/09/19-really-cool-gadgets-for-your-office-or-cubicle-001534>]

The office can be a cold, hard, unfeeling, life-sucking place to spend your working days, but then again you don't have to live in Dilbertsville. For all the stigma surrounding the office, you're getting a unique opportunity to interact with people and your environment. Here are 19 gadgets that will help turn your four walls into a techie heaven, like this USB coffee warmer (right)....

The Hottest Gadgets, Sept. 16

Angel Girl [<http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/12/30/holocaust.hoax.love.story/>]
Oprah Winfrey once dubbed it the “greatest love story” she had ever heard: a boy held at a Nazi concentration camp and a girl on the outside who tossed him apples to keep him alive. They eventually married and grew old together. But historians suspected [<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20081230/NEWS01/812300337>] some key facts, and in late December Herman Rosenblat acknowledged that the story of how he met his wife was made up. Berkley Books immediately canceled publication of Rosenblat’s memoir, *Angel at the Fence*, which was set to be released in February. And Laurie Friedman’s *Angel Girl*, a children’s book inspired by Rosenblat, was pulled [<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6625631.html>] December 30 by Lerner Publishing....
CNN, Dec. 30; Lansing (Mich.) State Journal, Dec. 30; School Library Journal, Dec. 30

2008 OverDrive eBook statistics
[<http://overdrive.com/aboutus/getArticle.aspx?newsArticleID=20090106>]
Digital media company OverDrive reported that readers at more than 8,500 OverDrive network libraries worldwide made Stephenie Meyer’s YA novel *Twilight* the most downloaded audiobook and eBook of the year. In 2008, library patrons viewed 237 million website pages looking to download media, a 76% rise over last year....
OverDrive, Jan. 6

20 reasons why 2009 will be the year of the eBook
[<http://www.gutenberg.com/2009/01/01/20-reasons-why-2009-will-be-the-year-of-the-ebook/>]
Chris Andrews writes: “This eBook industry that we are talking about here, which will grow significantly over the coming year, has been emerging for the last two years. It includes a whole new generation of technology specifically designed to enhance the experience of reading an eBook. 2009 will become the year of the eBook. Here, in no particular order, is why.”...
Gutenberg.com, Jan. 1

Best science fiction books of 2008
[<http://io9.com/5111939/best-science-fiction-books-of-2008>]
2008 was an amazing year for science fiction novels, with Neal Stephenson’s *Anathem* hitting bestseller lists and critics going crazy over slavery tale *Liberation* by Brian Francis Slattery and cyborg fantasy *Alchemy of Stone* by Ekaterina Sedya. Here are 11 of the year’s best science fiction novels, with links to reviews—as well as several interviews with the authors....
io9, Dec. 31

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[<http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com>]

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Actions & Answers

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Trends in the humanities [<http://chronicle.com/daily/2009/01/9191n.htm>]
(subscription required)
The American Academy of Arts and Sciences unveiled the prototype January 7 of its long-awaited Humanities Indicators [<http://www.humanitiesindicators.org>] project. Patterned after the Science and Engineering Indicators generated every two years by the National Science Board, the Humanities Indicators deliver a bonanza of statistics on almost every aspect of humanities education, employment, and research. Among the data: Americans are far less likely now than they were in 1972 to want books banned from libraries because of controversial subject matter....
Chronicle of Higher Education, Jan. 7

25 more films added to LC film registry
[<http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2008/08-237.html>]
Librarian of Congress James H. Billington named 25 important motion pictures—classics and genres from every era of American filmmaking—to the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress, including The Asphalt Jungle, Deliverance, A Face in the Crowd, The Invisible Man, Sergeant York, and The Terminator. Spanning the period 1910–1989, this year’s selections bring the number of motion pictures in the registry to 500....
Library of Congress, Dec. 30

Top 10 most literate U.S. cities
[<http://www.livescience.com/health/071227-literate-cities.html>]
Residents of Minneapolis and Seattle are the most bookish and well-read, according to results from a survey [<http://www.ccsu.edu/amlc08/>] released in December of the most literate American cities. The survey focused on 69 U.S. cities with populations of 250,000 or above. John W. Miller, president of Central Connecticut State University, chose six key indicators to rank literacy. These included newspaper circulation, number of bookstores, library resources, periodical publishing resources, educational attainment, and internet resources....
LiveScience, Dec. 27

Hennepin County and Minneapolis merge websites
[<http://www.hclib.org/pub/info/newsroom/?ID=152&Type=News>]
Beginning January 5, Hennepin County (Minn.) Library has a single, consolidated public website [<http://www.hclib.org>] to reflect the January 2008 merger of Minneapolis and suburban Hennepin libraries. However, the unified website will include separate Minneapolis and suburban Hennepin County library catalogs until there is a single catalog system, scheduled for late 2009....
Hennepin County (Minn.) Library, Dec. 18

Drexel opens library school branch in Sacramento
[<http://drexel.edu/news/headlines/drexel-opens-center-for-graduate-studies-in-sacramento.aspx>]
Drexel University welcomed its first students in Sacramento, California, January 5 as its Center for Graduate Studies began classes in four of

nine master's programs slated to start this year—one of them library and information science.

[<http://sacramento.drexel.edu/programs/masters-library-and-information-science/index.aspx>] The center's classrooms have been outfitted with \$1 million in state-of-the-art technology that makes classes available on the Web and via podcast....

Drexel University , Jan. 5

Newark trustee selected for Obama transition team

[<http://www.urbanlibraries.org/1208obama.html>]

Newark (N.J.) Public Library trustee and Urban Libraries Council board member Clement Alexander Price (right) has been named to President-Elect Barack Obama's Transition Team. Price is chairing the transition team for the National Endowment for the Humanities that will help select the next leader of the NEH....

Urban Libraries Council, Dec. 5

The future(?) of cataloging

[<http://clifflandis.net/2008/12/23/the-future-of-cataloging/>]

Cliff Landis writes: "My biggest fear was confirmed recently while having lunch with a friend, who is wrapping up her MLIS degree and had never heard of RDA or FRBR. Library schools should be equipping their students to evaluate and make tough decisions regarding formats, standards, and techniques of description. All it takes is a single mistake in a cataloging record to ensure that an item is lost to its user forever.

Catalogers: Take it from a reference librarian—what you do is important."...

clifflandis.net, Dec. 23

North Carolina offers African-American history resource

[<http://news.ncdcr.gov/2008/12/30/an-era-of-progress-and-promise-african-american-history-online/>]

Now available in the State Library of North Carolina's digital repository are profiles of early African-American schools, churches, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and other institutions from the pages of An Era of Progress and Promise.

[<http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/dimp/digital/era/index.html>] Written in 1910 by William Newton Hartshorn, the 444-page book is a seminal work that was referenced by influential figures including W. E. B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington....

North Carolina Dept. of Cultural Resources, Dec. 29

Ask-a-Librarian services need a reboot

[<http://www.davidleeking.com/2009/01/06/ask-a-librarian-services-need-a-reboot/>]

David Lee King writes: "What would you say if I told you that some libraries discriminate against a certain type of customer? That some customers, because of the way they asked a question, were purposefully pushed to the back of the line, told to wait 2–3 days for an answer, and that they couldn't get an answer to some of their burning questions because they're 'that kind' of customer? You'd be furious. But take a peek at these email and chat reference policies. In essence, they are discriminating."...

David Lee King, Jan. 6

An open letter to [libraries] on Twitter

[<http://theshiftedlibrarian.com/archives/2009/01/05/an-open-letter-to-libraries-on-twitter.html>]

Jenny Levine writes: “On Museum 2.0, Nina Simon has a blog post [<http://museumtwo.blogspot.com/2008/12/open-letter-to-museums-on-twitter.html>] encouraging museums to get human on their Twitter accounts and provide more than just ‘spammy and dull’ tweets. Pretty much everything she exhorts museums to do applies to libraries as well. Actually, it’s great advice for all types of organizations, including, um, associations and the like.”...

The Shifted Librarian, Jan. 5; Museum 2.0, Dec. 30

Still waiting for those old librarians to retire

[<http://acrlog.org/2009/01/05/still-waiting-for-those-old-librarians-to-retire/>]

Stanley Wilder writes: “Can academic librarians afford to retire in the Bush recession? Retirement is an unusually resilient cultural behavior, and largely impervious to routine economic fluctuations. But the Bush recession is clearly not a routine fluctuation. What would delayed retirement mean to academic librarianship? The first to go would be the projections of the age profile of librarians at ARL institutions; and delayed retirements would not affect all librarians equally.”...

ACRLog, Jan. 5

Dominican officially opens children’s literature center

[http://www.dom.edu/events-news/media-releases/2008-12/article_0003.html]

Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois, will dedicate its new Butler Children’s Literature Center on January 10 with a private reception featuring renowned children’s author Jon Scieszka. A “soft launch” had been held November 30. The center, established within the university’s Graduate School of Library and Information Science, is in the process of building a historical collection of the best children’s and young adult literature published nationally and internationally....

Dominican University, Dec. 17

If you feed them, they will come

[<http://www.slaw.ca/2009/01/04/if-you-feed-them-they-will-come/>]

Wendy Reynolds writes: “‘Will there be food?’ is the usual response to any invitation to attend a library event. Attendance always seems to be higher if it is promoted as having refreshments. In mid-December, I put a call out to my library colleagues, asking how they use food to promote library services. The responses were varied and imaginative.”...

Slaw, Jan. 4

[<http://zigtag.com/>]Check out these new YA tools

[<http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2008/12/29/check-out-these-new-tools/>]

Linda Braun writes: “Over the past couple of days I’ve been trying some new web tools and thinking about how to use them with teens. Both Krunchd and Zigtag give librarians a chance to connect teens to web-based resources. With Krunchd, you can group URLs on a topic and describe and tag them all at once. Zigtag allows users to create groups and share bookmarks with members of a specific group.”...

Show some empathy

[http://theubiquitouslibrarian.typepad.com/the_ubiquitous_librarian/2009/01/do-you-want-to-appear-smarter-show-some-empathy.html]

Brian Mathews writes: "During a customer service interaction, do we perceive people who are nice to be more competent? My hypothesis was that there would be a strong correlation in LibQUAL+ data between 'knowledgeable' and 'caring' or 'courteousness.' I was partially correct. I looked at the undergraduate data from 84 schools (mostly ARL) and ran the correlation formula on the perception ratings for all of the customer-service questions. Here is what I got back."...

The Ubiquitous Librarian, Jan. 6

Is your blog hot? [<http://www.daveyp.com/hotstuff/>]

HotStuff 2.0 is an automated blog developed by Dave Pattern, library systems manager at the University of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, U.K. RSS feeds from 300 library-related blogs are collated on a daily basis and analyzed in order to discover popular topics. Every day, a blog post is generated that focuses on a single word that has seen a marked increase in usage over the last few days. A Word Wheel image shows the strength of the links between that word and others with a similar increase in usage. A Hot or Not?

[<http://www.daveyp.com/hotstuff/blogs/hotornot>] list rates each blog for picking up the popular words....

HotStuff 2.0

“I was doomed to be a librarian”

[<http://www.justonemorebook.com/2009/01/05/interview-with-betsy-bird/>]

Betsy Bird (right), New York Public Library children's librarian and School Library Journal blogger, says she "was the kind of kid who would go through the family videos and create a cataloging system" in this podcast interview (10:40) with Mark Blevis at the 2008 KidLit Bloggers' Conference in Portland last September. Bird talks about her experience on the ALSC Newbery Award Selection Committee and her blogging exploits....

Just One More Book, Jan. 5

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCrGqKjkbZ4>] MommyCast visits the Library of Congress [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCrGqKjkbZ4>]

Gretchen (far right) from MommyCast, a weekly webcast that discusses all aspects of parenting, visits the Library of Congress interactive exhibit Creating the United States

[<http://myloc.gov/Exhibitions/creatingtheus/Pages/default.aspx>] and recommends it as a wonderful learning experience for kids. She interviews LC Director of Educational Outreach Elizabeth Ridgway, Curator Gerry Gawalt, and children having fun with the exhibit....

MommyCast, July 1

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. Cognotes

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/2009/cognotes.cfm>] is the daily paper of the ALA Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference. At Midwinter, Cognotes is published Friday–Monday, with a Highlights issue mailed to all ALA members following the meeting.

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/annual/2009/generalinformation.cfm>]

Registration

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/annual/2009/registration.cfm>] for the 2009 Annual Conference in Chicago, July 9–15, is now open.

Find out how to register.

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/annual/2009/registration.cfm>]

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=product_detail&_op=2654]

With more and more scholarly content available online and accessible almost anywhere, where does the traditional “brick and mortar” academic library fit in? In *Creating the Customer-Driven Academic Library*,

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=product_detail&_op=2654] Jeannette Woodward attacks these and other pressing issues facing today’s academic librarians. Her trailblazing strategies center on keeping the customer’s point of view in focus at all times. NEW! From ALA Editions.

In this issue

January/February 2009

Gaming @ your library

The Minneapolis-Hennepin merger

Testing the Web 2.0 waters

I Love My Librarian awards

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

Digital Services Manager,
[<http://joblist.ala.org/modules/jobseeker/controller.cfm?scr=jobdetail&jobid=12484>] Wichita (Kans.) Public Library. Provides oversight and technical support for the maintenance, enhancement, and integration of services that make use of information technologies. Duties include working closely with the library's assigned IT system analyst to provide oversight and support for the Polaris integrated library system, the Envisionware workstation timing and print management system, the videoconferencing services, and other technologies used to deliver library service. Management of the library's participation in the Universal Service (e-rate) discount program, supervision of staff who develop and maintain the library's web presence, and coordination of electronic resource subscriptions and licensing are also responsibilities of this position....

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

Digital Library of the Week

[http://digital.tcl.sc.edu/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/bro&CISOPTR=6&REC=1]

The South Carolina Digital Library [<http://www.scmemory.org/index.php>] is a collaborative effort that includes South Carolina's schools, libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural heritage institutions. Its mission is to encourage collaborators to create, maintain, and promote digital collections that represent South Carolina's historical and cultural resources while following state-level guidelines that are based on national standards and best practices. Participating institutions include Beaufort County Library, Clemson University, the University of South Carolina, and the College of Charleston. SCDL includes several lesson plans, among them: African Americans Seen through the Eyes of the Newsreel Cameraman, Broadsides from the Colonial Era to the Present, and Phillis Wheatley's poetry.

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

“The decision to close these eleven branch libraries is more than a

response to a financial crisis; it changes the very foundation of our City. Two of the libraries scheduled to close, Haddinton and Holmesburg, will result in a reversion of the property back to the original grantor because of deed restrictions. No one questions the economic crisis which has rocked both the City and the Nation. However, we are a Nation of hope. A 'crisis' evokes something temporary. Defendants argued there were more than enough libraries in Philadelphia. 'Philadelphia has more libraries than any other city in the country.' Our library system is more than a century old yet in three short months an economic crisis results in permanently closing eleven branches. This court does not envy the Mayor and the tough decisions he has had to make in this financial crisis. Yet, as this court is bound to follow the law, so is the Mayor. The permanent closing of neighborhood branch libraries is changing the very structure of the Free Library of Philadelphia and not just responding to a 'financial crisis.'"

?Extract from Judge Idee C. Fox's injunction against closing 11 branches of the Free Library of Philadelphia, Jan. 5.

[<http://publicprograms.ala.org/bookshelf/>]

The We the People [<http://publicprograms.ala.org/bookshelf/>] Bookshelf, [<http://publicprograms.ala.org/bookshelf/>] a collection of classic books for young readers, is a project of the National Endowment for the Humanities's We the People program, conducted in cooperation with the ALA Public Programs Office. Each year, NEH identifies a theme important to the nation's heritage and selects books that embody that theme to build the We the People Bookshelf. The theme for the 2008-2009 Bookshelf is "Picturing America." Online applications [<http://publicprograms.ala.org/bookshelf/application/2008/>] will be accepted through January 30.

Ask the ALA Librarian

[<http://www.nationalreadinggroupmonth.com/index.html>]

Q. I am looking to expand the types of books that I read, and a friend had mentioned joining a book discussion group as a possibility. What is a book group and where can I find one?

A. Book discussion groups

[http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Book_Discussion_Groups] are offered at many public libraries, and provide a forum where readers can come together and talk about books and the reading experience. Usually each group has a number of participants who read and talk about books from a list or specific topic. Most book groups have a rotating selection of books. However, a number of cities, schools, churches, organizations, and even conferences have used the "One Book [<http://www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/onebook/>]" model as a start for discussing books. These groups may meet at the same location on a regular

basis, or may rotate the location, such as coffee shops, libraries, or individual homes. Booklist magazine also hosts a blog on book groups called Book Group Buzz. [<http://bookgroupbuzz.booklistonline.com/>] From the ALA Professional Tips wiki [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Book_Groups].

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

Calendar

Feb. 7–8:

Miami International Map Fair, [<http://www.hmsf.org/programs-mapfair.htm>] Historical Museum of Southern Florida, Miami.

Feb. 13–15:

California International Antiquarian Book Fair, [<http://www.sfbookfair.com/>] Concourse Exhibition Center, San Francisco.

June 1–4:

Computers, Freedom, and Privacy Conference, [http://www.cfp2009.org/wiki/index.php/Main_Page] Washington, D.C.
“Creating the Future.”

June 14–16:

NextLibrary: An International Un-conference, [<http://nextlibrary.net/>] Aarhus University, Denmark.

July 1–4:

16th International Conference on Learning, [<http://l09.cg-conference.com/>] University of Barcelona, Spain. This conference is for anyone with an interest in, and concern for, education at any level—from early childhood, to schools, to higher education— and lifelong learning from home to school to university to the workplace.

July 10–13:

7th International Conference on Education and Information Systems, Technologies, and Applications, [<http://www.iiis2009.org/imsci/website/default.asp?vc=5>] Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Florida.

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

Contact Us

American Libraries Direct

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

George M. Eberhart,
Editor:
geberhart@ala.org [<mailto:geberhart@ala.org>]

Greg Landgraf,
Associate Editor:
glandgraf@ala.org [<mailto:glandgraf@ala.org>]

Leonard Kniffel,
Editor-in-Chief,
American Libraries: lkniffel@ala.org [<mailto:lkniffel@ala.org>]

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The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | January 14, 2009

Contents

[U.S. & World News](#)
[ALA News](#)
[Booklist Online](#)
[Denver Update](#)
[Division News](#)
[Awards](#)
[Seen Online](#)
[Tech Talk](#)
[Publishing](#)
[Actions & Answers](#)
[Calendar](#)



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

[House passes presidential disclosure acts amid lawsuits](#)

The first week of the 111th Congress saw the passage in the House of two bills that, if enacted, would ensure accessibility to the contents of presidential libraries and the identities of donors whose gifts funded their construction. The Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2009 (H.R. 35), approved by a vote of 359–58, and the Presidential Library Donation Reform Act of 2009 (H.R. 36), which passed by 388–31, moved to the Senate in the waning days of the Bush administration, even as presidential papers and electronic files were being readied for transfer to a reportedly overwhelmed National Archives....

American Libraries Online, Jan. 14

[South Carolina faces loss of PASCAL databases](#)

Following a 90% reduction of its funding from the state, an innovative consortium of academic libraries in South Carolina has made drastic cuts in the resources and services it provides, with the prospect of the loss of all of its database subscriptions later this year. The Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries (PASCAL) provides licensed databases and a rapid book-delivery service to more than 50 campuses statewide. After state funding for the consortium was slashed, PASCAL dropped its subscriptions to more than 800 online titles....

American Libraries Online, Jan. 14



[Group seeks to take over Providence branches](#)

In response to Providence (R.I.) Public Library's recent proposal to close five of its branches, a newly formed nonprofit organization is seeking to take over all nine of the system's branches. The [Providence Community Library](#), a group comprised of area civic and business leaders, says it can run the branches with an operating budget of \$4.8 million for fiscal 2010 without reducing services. Library trustees had voted December 18 to close five branches next summer in light of a \$1.4-million operating deficit....

American Libraries Online, Jan. 9

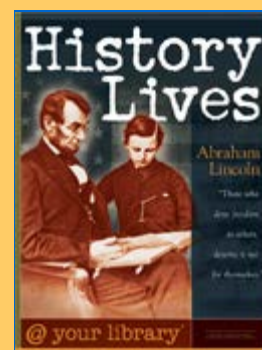


ALA DENVER
MIDWINTER
meeting & exhibits 09

[ALA Midwinter Meeting.](#)

Denver, January 23–28.

Job seekers can search online for jobs and **employers** can search online for job seekers before and during the Midwinter Meeting. Visit the Office for Human Resource Development and Recruitment [website](#) and click on "Placement Center" for more information. The Placement Center will be located on the Denver exhibit floor.



Celebrate the
[Abraham Lincoln](#)

[Wi-Fi user viewed explicit sites near closed library](#)

A man was arrested December 30 for allegedly using a Salem, New York, library's wireless internet connection to view a sexually explicit video on his notebook computer. A police officer said that Ralph E. Holmes, 65, was observed outside the Bancroft Public Library accessing the online materials after the building had closed....

American Libraries Online, Jan. 9

ALA News

[Special edition of AL Direct next week](#)

In a new [podcast](#), *American Libraries Direct* Editor George Eberhart discusses a special edition that will mail Tuesday, January 20. The "Special Tough Economy Issue" will describe the many ways that ALA is involved in dealing with libraries in the current recession....

Visibility @ your library, Jan. 13

[Midwinter Event Planner blues](#)

AL Associate Editor Greg Landgraf writes: "In what has become something of a tradition, the [Midwinter Event Planner](#) has been opened . . .

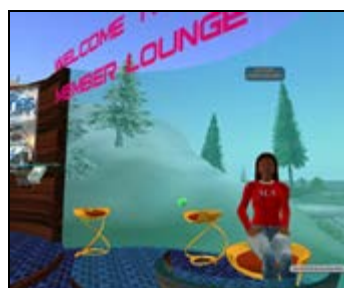
and widely panned on the ALA Council [email list](#) and several library blogs. I spoke to ALA Senior Associate Executive Director of Member Programs and Services Mary Ghikas about the future of the planner and prospects for immediate change. In the long term, ALA intends to migrate the event planner to the Drupal-based [ALA Connect](#) online community software (currently testing). So where does that leave attendees this year?"...

AL Inside Scoop, Jan. 12



[Midwinter Meeting in Second Life](#)

The 2009 Midwinter Meeting kicks off January 24 in Denver. You can get in on the virtual fun by visiting Second Life and attending the festivities there. All activities will take place on ALA Island, ALA's virtual space. The Main Stage is located at 128, 107, 29. In Second Life, you can [teleport](#) there directly. Here is a list of events....



[Children's books and consumer product safety](#)

In August 2008, following widespread reports about the dangers of children's toys coming into the United States from China and other places, the 110th Congress passed the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act to protect children from exposure to lead. In January, ALA and other groups became concerned after seeing that the act intended to include books in the definition of "products to children" that must be certified as safe. However, ALA's analysis is that neither the law nor the legislative history indicates any Congressional intention to include books or textbooks in the law....

District Dispatch, Jan. 9

[Speaker chosen for King holiday celebration](#)

Dwight D. Jones, Colorado commissioner of education, will be the featured speaker at the 2009 Dr. Martin

Bicentennial in 2009 with this wonderful addition to the History Lives series. This poster also serves as a great way to educate patrons of all ages about the U.S. electoral process during a presidential election. **NEW! From ALA Graphics.**



The Senate will soon consider two bills passed by the House: **HR 35**, which revokes President Bush's Executive Order allowing limits on the release of Presidential records, and **HR 36**, which requires disclosure of donors to presidential libraries. Use the [Legislative Action Center](#) to contact your Senator on these measures.

In this issue January/February 2009



Gaming @ your library

The Minneapolis-Hennepin merger

Testing the Web 2.0 waters

I Love My Librarian

Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver, January 26, beginning at 6:30 a.m. and ending promptly at 7:30 a.m. Jones has earned statewide recognition for narrowing and eliminating the achievement gaps related to minority children and students of low socioeconomic means....



Effective multicultural communication

The Metropolitan Group, a leading strategic communication and resource development agency specializing in work with libraries, has published *Increasing Relevance, Relationships, and Results: Principles and Practices for Effective Multicultural Communication—Library Edition* ([PDF file](#)), in cooperation with ALA. The article defines eight principles and practices for effective multicultural communication, and highlights the important, integrated role multicultural communication plays in creating social change....



Thinkfinty @ your library

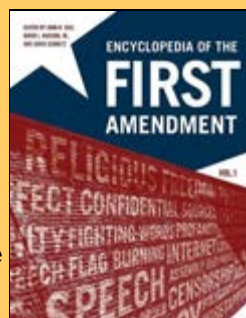
ALA has debuted a new collection of resources specifically for school library media specialists on Verizon's Thinkfinty.org. This collection is a starting place for school library media specialists to explore Thinkfinty content. Using the Campaign for America's Libraries @ your library brand, the collection features rotating librarian-specific content from ALA and library initiatives. At the Midwinter Meeting in Denver, Thinkfinty trainers will be on hand to demonstrate how librarians can use the collection....

Booklist ONLINE

Featured review: Reference

Vile, John R., and David L. Hudson, editors. *Encyclopedia of the First Amendment*. 1,464p. CQ, hardcover (978-0-87289-311-5).

Provocative, divisive, and sometimes even threatening, First Amendment issues have been at the forefront of civic discourse since the founding of the nation. Today is no different, with the U.S. Supreme Court hearing a challenge to the Federal Communication Commission's decision to penalize television networks for airing "fleeting expletives," churches testing IRS regulations prohibiting political campaigning, and states considering legislation to regulate cyberbullying by classmates. *Encyclopedia of the First Amendment* is an excellent resource for anyone who wants to learn more about broadcast regulation, the establishment of religion clause, students' rights, or a myriad of other topics involving the First Amendment and its political, cultural, and legal significance.



awards

Career Leads from



Creativity Library

Manager, University of Nebraska at Omaha.

The university, in a joint venture with internationally renowned artist Jun Kaneko, invites applications for the position of Library Associate, Library for Creativity. This newly created position is responsible for developing and operating a unique, experimental library to support creativity in all fields of endeavor. The successful candidate will identify and select library materials that inspire new ways of thinking; assist users with materials and extensive, leading-edge technological resources; and provide outreach and promotional programming including exhibits, speaker programs, seminars, and workshops....

@ [More jobs...](#)



ALA presidential

The 1,400 topical entries that form the core of the work appear in traditional A–Z format and range from 250 to 1,500 words depending on the significance or complexity of the subject. All entries are signed, include cross-references, and cite at least one primary or secondary source....

[New: Booklist Online Exclusives](#)



Booklist Online announces a new addition—*Booklist Online Exclusives*—to its growing family of free, content-driven e-newsletters, providing *Booklist* readers with even more reviews (600 in 2008 alone) and features at no additional cost. Every month, *Booklist Online Exclusives* will deliver the magazine's web-only content as a bonus to anyone who signs up, expanding and complementing its extensive print coverage....

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

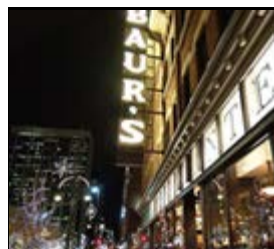
Denver Update

[American Libraries' Denver restaurant guide](#)

Sherry Spitsnaugle writes: "Denver's restaurant scene is much like the city itself—friendly, forward-thinking, and fun-loving. And, in a city where the likable two-term mayor founded downtown's first brewpub, eating and drinking well rank up there with spending time outdoors.

Choices abound, from the über-hip, martini-mixing Corner Office (where clocks are always set at 5 p.m.) to the tried-and-true Dozens Café and the sophisticated casual ambience of Baur's Ristorante (right)."...

"Denver Dishes," *American Libraries* 40 (Jan./Feb. 2009): 66–70



[Denver conference hotels](#) (PDF file)

Download this handy map of Midwinter Meeting hotels for printing out (so you won't have to tear a page out of your *American Libraries*)....

American Libraries 39 (Oct. 2008): 15

Division News

[FOLUSA/ALTA Gala Author Tea](#)

FOLUSA and ALTA welcome bestselling authors Jane Hamilton, Sandra Dallas (right), John Shors, Shana Abé, and Simon Van Booy for this popular event sponsored by ReferenceUSA. Tea will be served and a book signing will follow the event, January 26, 2–4 p.m., Colorado Convention Center, Denver. Tickets are \$35 (\$30 for FOLUSA and ALTA members) through January 21, and \$45 onsite....



[ACRL Research Writer's Workshops](#)

The ACRL Research Program Committee is sponsoring Research Writer's Workshops at the 14th National Conference in Seattle, March

candidates Roberta Stevens and Kent Oliver invite Midwinter Meeting attendees to a **joint reception**, January 24, 5:30–7:30 p.m., in Ballroom 4 of the Hyatt Regency Denver. Members can meet both candidates and communicate their interests and concerns.

Digital Library of the Week



The [Loyola Marymount University Digital Library Program](#)

was launched December 15 as the result of a 2007 LSTA grant from the California State Library. The grant funded the digitization of 200 postcards from the Werner Von Boltensern collection in the university's Von der Ahe Library in Los Angeles. This and other postcards in the special collections department make up "The Changing Face of Southern California: A History in Postcards." A second online collection consists of photographs and other materials from the J. D. Black Papers, recording the American West in the Owens Valley of California from 1875 to 1930, including rare photos of the famous Owens Valley Water Controversy in the 1920s between the valley and Los Angeles over a key resource in the West, water. A third

12–15. Aimed at the new or inexperienced writer, these workshops will bring together small groups of two or three writers matched with an experienced writer or editor who will offer guidance and critique. New writers should apply by February 16 (experienced writers by February 9) to [Ruth Vondracek](#)....

ACRL Insider, Jan. 12

[Travel grants for first-time AASL conference attendees](#)

AASL is offering 30 grants for travel to its 14th National Conference and Exhibition in Charlotte, North Carolina, November 5–8. The grants for first-time attendees are sponsored by Bound To Stay Bound Books. Those interested in applying can download the application on the National Conference [web pages](#). The deadline is March 2....



[ALCTS forum topics at Midwinter](#)

The upcoming Midwinter Forums presented by ALCTS in Denver offer a wide variety of hot topics. Join your colleagues for these important presentations and discussions on such topics as FRBR and RDA, e-serials holdings, OCLC record use policy, and free web resources. ALCTS [interest groups](#) also will hold a variety of entertaining Midwinter discussions....

[Big savings on RUSA online course registration](#)

Libraries and library systems interested in improving reference service delivery and bringing marketing skills to their library staff team can take advantage of discounted registration rates for groups of two or more participants for online courses offered by RUSA. Groups registering for a course will save 15% off the regular registration rates for their membership types....

[Interactive presentations for Teen Tech Week](#)

Librarians seeking inspiration for Teen Tech Week can find it in three new multimedia presentations created by YALSA. Teen Tech Week 2009 takes place March 8–14, with a theme of Press Play @ your library, encouraging teens to take advantage of the many technologies available to them, free of charge, at their libraries. Viewers can leave comments in text, video or audio form on each presentation. Registration is available [online](#) through February 8....



[Teen Tech Week mini-grants](#)

YALSA members can win \$450 in cash and \$50 in promotional products by applying for a 2009 Teen Tech Week mini-grant by January 19. Through funding from the Verizon Foundation, YALSA will grant up to 20 awards to members offering inventive activities, resources, and programming for Teen Tech Week, March 8–14....

[You've got style, you've got class](#)

Calling all library fashionistas! Join us for "What to Wear: The YALSA Happy Hour and Fashion Show," hosted by Project Runway Season 4's Steven Rosengard. We're looking for librarians who can demonstrate how to dress professionally without spending a lot of money and while keeping a sense of personal style. Interested? Submit the What to Wear application ([PDF file](#)) or nominate someone

collection, "The Atrium: Iconic Images from Loyola Marymount University" is in the works.

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

"A staple of comic romance movies (as well as even lower brow cinematic fare) is the dowdy librarian type who, with a new dress, contact lenses, and—literally—letting her hair down, becomes the ravishing belle of the ball. From Pygmalion to Cinderella, it's an easy sell to a willing market. For many years Mercedes-Benz had a similarly frumpy reputation. Good, solid, well-built and dependable, but with the sex appeal of a German banker in a dark-blue double-breasted pin-striped suit. With a watch fob."

—Automotive Reviewer John Matras, comparing the old Mercedes-Benz image with the new 2009 Mercedes-Benz CL550, ["Mercedes' Naughty Librarian," Chicago Examiner](#), Dec. 31.

you know by January 30. Questions? Contact [Nichole Gilbert](#)....
YALSA Blog, Dec. 5

[ACRL updates its Scholarly Communication Toolkit](#)

ACRL has released an updated version of its popular [Scholarly Communication Toolkit](#) in a new format and with updated content. The toolkit continues to provide context and background by summarizing key issues to offer quick, basic information on scholarly communication topics. It also links to examples of specific tools, including handouts, presentations, and videos for libraries to adapt and use on their own campuses....

Awards

[Judith Krug wins Brennan Award](#)

The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression announced January 13 that Judith F. Krug, director of the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom, will receive the William J. Brennan Jr. Award, which honors a person or group for demonstrating a commitment to the principles of free expression. Krug is only the fifth recipient of the award since it was first given in 1993. She will receive formal recognition in Chicago on July 12 at the Freedom to Read Foundation's 40th Anniversary Gala, which will be held in the new Modern Wing of the Art Institute of Chicago....



[Don't discount the Newbery](#)

Author and librarian Susan Patron writes: "Early on January 26, a writer's phone will ring. On the other end will be the 15 members of the ALSC Newbery Award Selection Committee, calling after a year of careful reading and deliberation to congratulate the winning author. The writer may be astonished at the announcement, as I was when I got the call in January 2007. And librarians and the general public may be more than surprised; some will even be dismayed."...

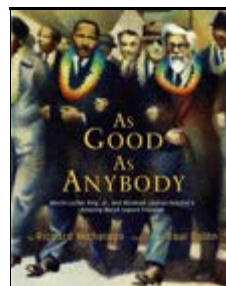
Los Angeles Times, Jan. 11

[Wayne State supports a Spectrum scholar](#)

The Wayne State Library and Information Science program will provide \$5,000 in matching scholarship funds to Serena Vaquilar, a 2008 ALA Spectrum Scholarship winner. Vaquilar is pursuing a master's degree in library and information science at Wayne State, which first offered matching scholarships to Spectrum recipients in its graduate program in library and information studies in 1998....

[2009 Sydney Taylor Book Awards](#) (PDF file)

The Sydney Taylor Book Awards, presented by the Association of Jewish Libraries, recognizes the publication of outstanding books for children that authentically portray the Jewish experience. This year's winners include *As Good As Anybody: Martin Luther King, Jr. and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March Toward Freedom*, by Richard Michelson with illustrations by Raúl Colón (Alfred A. Knopf, 2008)....



Harry Glazer, communications director of the Rutgers University Libraries, evaluates the Rutgers experience with Facebook in "[Clever Outreach or Costly Diversion?](#)" in the January issue of *College & Research Libraries News*. Catch a podcast interview (11:46) with the author [here](#).

Ask the ALA Librarian



Q. I am looking for this year's winners of the children's book awards and cannot find any information about them. I thought they were posted in early January last year. Where can I find this information?

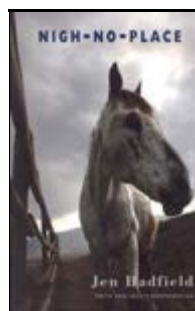
A. The 2009 ALA [Youth Media Awards](#) announcement will take place on January 26 at 7:45 a.m. Mountain Time. A live

Association of Jewish Libraries

[Hadfield wins T. S. Eliot Poetry Prize](#)

A relative newcomer to poetry who has been widely praised for her passion and awareness of the natural world won one of the genre's grandest awards January 12—the T. S. Eliot prize for poetry. Shetland-based Jen Hadfield was given a check for £15,000 for *Nigh-No-Place*, her second book of poetry written in Shetland and also while travelling across Canada. It includes poems such as "Paternoster," which is the Lord's Prayer as spoken by a draft horse, and "Ten-Minute Break Haiku," her response to working in a fish factory....

The Guardian (U.K.), Jan. 12



Seen Online

[Adults are reading more fiction](#)

After years of bemoaning the decline of a literary culture in the United States, the National Endowment for the Arts reports that it now believes a quarter-century of precipitous decline in fiction reading has reversed. Released January 12, the report, *Reading on the Rise: A New Chapter in American Literacy* ([PDF file](#)), found that for the first time since 1982 the percentage of adults 18 and older who said they had read at least one novel, short story, poem, or play in the previous 12 months has risen. It increased most dramatically among 18-to-24-year-olds, who had previously shown the most significant declines....

New York Times, Jan. 12



[More Philadelphia protests](#)

In a lively bit of guerrilla theater that featured a pink-and-purple jester prosecuting a crowned and clueless "Emperor Nutter," demonstrators protested branch library closings at City Hall January 13. Mayor Michael Nutter and Free Library Director Siobhan Reardon were declared "in contempt of the people's court" by costumed members of the ad hoc Coalition to Save the Libraries. While the tone of the protest was light, the message was not. Demonstrators accused Nutter and Reardon of working counter to Common Pleas Court Judge Idee C. Fox's order to keep the branches open....

Philadelphia Inquirer, Jan. 14

[King papers accessible in Atlanta](#)

A major portion of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s papers went public January 13, allowing researchers to access an important segment of civil rights history. Computer access to the documents is available in the Robert W. Woodruff Library at the Atlanta University Center. The papers represent more than 75% of a 10,000-item [Morehouse College King Collection](#) bought by a group of civic and business leaders in 2006 from King's family....

Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Jan. 13



[Former Lincoln Library director pleads guilty](#)

The former executive director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois, pleaded guilty January 12

[webcast](#) will be available through Unikron, as well as on [Twitter](#). Access to information on the winners will also be available through a Facebook fan page, [ALA Youth Media Awards](#). There will also be an encore presentation of the webcast in Second Life on ALA Island. Over the coming months, [more information](#) about ALA's Media Awards, including historical data, application information, and how to find the acceptance speeches, will become available. The acceptance speeches are part of the [ALA Annual Conference](#) festivities. From the [ALA Professional Tips wiki](#).

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

Calendar

Mar. 2–3: [Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts](#), seminar at the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin. "A Race Against Time: Preserving Our Audiovisual Media."

Mar. 8–14: [Teen Tech Week](#). "Press Play @ your library."

Mar. 12–15: [ACRL National Conference](#), Seattle, Washington. "Pushing

to stealing a \$40 boxed set of DVDs from a Target store. Richard E. Beard's plea came a day before his trial on the misdemeanor retail theft charge was scheduled to begin....

Springfield (Ill.) *State Journal-Register*, Jan. 13

[Accused First Folio thief admits shoplifting](#)

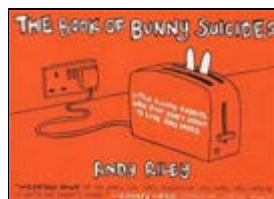
Raymond Scott, the man at the center of the international probe into the theft of a £15-million copy of Shakespeare's First Folio from Durham University Library, on January 12 admitted stealing two books from Waterstones bookstore in Gateshead, England. Scott had pleaded not guilty to the September 21 theft of the books, but changed his plea to guilty on the day a trial was due to take place. On January 9, Scott [lost](#) a civil court claim to have the disputed First Folio returned to him so he could prove his innocence....

Newcastle (U.K.) *Evening Chronicle*, Jan. 12; *Newcastle Sunday Sun*, Jan. 11

[Bunny Suicides remains in school](#)

A controversial book of cartoons will remain, unrestricted, in the Central Linn High School Library in Halsey, Oregon, the school board has decided. Board members voted 5-1 January 12 to keep *The Book of Bunny Suicides* by Andy Riley on the shelf. The district organized a review committee after parent Taffey Anderson, whose 13-year-old son checked out the book this fall, said she was horrified by its content and threatened to burn it rather than bring it back....

Albany (Oreg.) *Democrat Herald*, Jan. 13



[Report finds online threats overblown](#)

A task force created by 49 state attorneys general to look into the problem of sexual solicitation of children online has concluded that there really is not a significant problem. The findings of the Internet Safety Technical Task Force ran counter to popular perceptions of online dangers as reinforced by depictions in the news media. The report ([PDF file](#)) concluded that the problem of bullying among children, both online and offline, poses a far more serious challenge than the sexual solicitation of minors by adults....

New York Times, Jan. 13



[No successor for Dewey at Spencer Public Library](#)

Even though Spencer (Iowa) Public Library officials have received numerous "offers, requests, and inquiries" about hosting another resident library cat to replace the now-famous Dewey Readmore Books who died in 2006, board members voted unanimously January 8 to establish a "permanent prohibition against having pets in residence at the library." The primary reason was the danger of turning away patrons with cat allergies....

Spencer (Iowa) *Daily Reporter*, Jan. 9

[Paddlethon funding allows for extra hours](#)

The Friends of the Wareham (Mass.) Free Library voted to transfer \$20,000 to a town account that will be used for workers' salaries and allow the library to be open six more hours on Wednesday evenings. The group voted at a special January 2 meeting to transfer some of the money from an account established for donations from resident Dick Wheeler's kayak [Paddlethon](#) effort. More than \$55,000 was raised, thanks to Wheeler's 1,000-mile paddle, which he completed last month....

the Edge: Explore, Engage, Extend."

Mar. 28-29:

[Reading the World XI](#), University of San Francisco.

Mar. 30-

Apr. 1:

[Computers in Libraries](#), Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, Virginia. "Creating Tomorrow: Spreading Ideas and Learning."

Apr. 2-4:

[PLA Spring Symposium](#), Nashville, Tennessee.

Apr. 12-18:

[National Library Week](#).

Apr. 24-25:

[2d Annual Virtual Worlds: Libraries, Education, and Museums Conference](#). Second Life. Although the conference will be held in the virtual world Second Life, presentation and paper proposals about LEM developments in other virtual worlds are encouraged.

Apr. 30:

[El Día de los Niños/El Día de los Libros](#).

May 7-8:

[LITA Camp](#), Dublin, Ohio.

May 9:

[Using Court Records to Find Local and Family History](#), National Archives and Records Administration-Great

New Bedford (Mass.) Standard-Times, Jan. 12

[Oregon libraries plug into the do-Wii decimal system](#)

Teen librarians in Tigard, Tualatin, and Beaverton say it's a new stage for library activities. It's a progression to keep up with a generation of "digital natives"—kids who have grown up in a world that has always been plugged into the internet. Nintendo's interactive Wii gaming systems and Sony's PlayStation 2 gaming consoles are now being played in libraries. Will teens finally take over the rest of the world with their preference for digital literacy?...

Portland (Oreg.) Tribune, Jan. 9



[Clermont County library settles lawsuit](#)

The Clermont County Public Library in Batavia, Ohio, has settled a lawsuit with a couple who were barred from holding a free financial planning seminar because they intended to quote the Bible. George and Cathy Vandergriff were paid \$2, and the Institute for Principled Policy, which joined them in the suit, received \$1. The library will pay \$10,000 to attorneys for the Vandergriffs, who filed the suit in U.S. District Court in Cincinnati in June. Prompted by the suit, the board voted to limit the use of meeting rooms to library-initiated programs....

Cincinnati Enquirer, Jan. 8

[Salinas turns to library to curb gang violence](#)

With [five shooting deaths](#) already in the books for the New Year, the city of Salinas, California, is now turning to libraries in the hopes of curbing gang violence. Mayor Dennis Donohue is pushing a literacy campaign that would make the city the first in the country to require every student to have a library card. For more than a year, Salinas Public Library Director Elizabeth Martinez has led the literacy campaign, which has already handed out 30,000 library cards....

KSBW-TV, Salinas, Jan. 7; Monterey County (Calif.) Herald, Jan. 13

[Survival in the library](#)

Charity Vogel writes: "The cold has brought them in again. It happens every year. People, mostly men, who have no homes to sleep in at night, or marginal ones—in shelters or shared rental spaces with little in the way of heat or food. To them, the Central Library isn't a temple of knowledge. It's got a much more practical function: survival."...

Buffalo (N.Y.) News, Jan. 12

[Bush Presidential Library update](#)

A freedom institute that critics say could promote an overtly partisan agenda will be housed in the same building as the George W. Bush Presidential Library at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, and not in a separate building as originally planned, according to First Lady Laura Bush. The President said January 8 that he had no plans to [scale back](#) the \$300-million project and repeated his opposition to identifying all donors to the library. The complex, expected to be built by 2013, will be designed to attract students "to come hang around," Laura Bush said....

Dallas Morning News, Jan. 9–10

[Librarians renamed "audience development officers"](#)

Lakes Region, Chicago.

May 11–12:
[National Library Legislative Day.](#)

@ [More...](#)

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ALA American Library Association

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:
lkniffel@ala.org

To advertise in American Libraries Direct, contact:

Brian Searles,
bsearles@ala.org

Send feedback:
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American Libraries
50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611
www.ala.org/online/
800-545-2433,
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ISSN 1559-369X.

People who work in libraries have been known as librarians since the first library was created in the Middle East around 2,700 years ago. But council chiefs in Edinburgh, Scotland, have decided that the job description needs to be updated. They want to rebrand librarians in the city network of 25 community libraries with the not very catchy title of “audience development officers” as part of an effort to bring the libraries into the 21st century....

The Telegraph (U.K.), Jan. 13

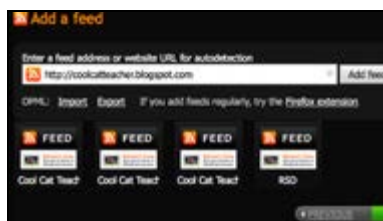
[Go back to the Top](#)

Tech Talk

[How to build a social media cheat sheet on any topic](#)

Marshall Kirkpatrick writes: “You want to get up to speed on the social media activity on a specified topic, as fast as you can. Is there any way to ramp up your knowledge of this field, quickly, other than the ‘Google and wander’ method? We think there is. Here you’ll find step-by-step instructions, with screen shots, for the process we use when we want to get smart about a new field in a hurry.”...

ReadWriteWeb, Jan. 10



[The history of the internet](#)

This short film (8:09) by Melih Bilgil explains the history of online interactions from time-sharing to file-sharing and from Arpanet to Internet. The history is told using PICOL (Pictorial Communication Language) icons. It all began back in 1957, the same year as Sputnik.

(Coincidence? Not really). Narrated by Steve Taylor and produced at the Mainz University of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschule Mainz)....

Vimeo, Jan. 2



[How to embed almost anything on your website](#)

Amit Agarwal writes: “Learn how to embed almost anything in your HTML web pages, from Flash videos to spreadsheets to high-resolution photographs to static images from Google Maps to MP3 music to Picasa web albums to RSS feeds to YouTube videos to other fonts, or even another web page.”...

Digital Inspiration, Jan. 6



[YouTube mutes videos with copyrighted music](#)

Stan Schroeder writes: “YouTube has started muting videos that use unauthorized copyrighted music (and that pretty much means all user-created videos). You can see some examples [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#). The official notice from YouTube under the video says the following: ‘This video contains an audio track that has not been authorized by all copyright holders. The audio has been disabled.’ We’re talking about tens of thousands of fan-made videos, funny spoofs, remixes, and the like being pretty much destroyed.”

Jessamyn West has some [advice](#) about this....

Mashable, Jan. 14; Librarian.net, Jan. 11

[Text-synchronized audiobooks](#)

Mary Burkey writes: "Coming soon to a media player near you! What's a Text Synchronized Audiobook? An audiobook that is synced to a page view or scrolling text on a display screen. Read [this description](#) of Phil Shapiro's Text Synchronized Audiobook literacy mashup project using Maria Uther's LibriVox recording of Helen Keller's *The Story of My Life*, and see (and hear!) a [demo here](#). Interesting first steps."...

Audiobooker, Jan. 12; Helen Keller Bio Project

Publishing

[Where are all the good female characters hiding?](#)

Katie Davidson writes: "I often find it annoying that, while I'm searching for manga at the library, I overhear other patrons talking about just how awesome and thing-I-am-not-allowed-to-say-in-polite-company-kicking their favorite male characters are. As a girl [otaku](#) (manga and anime fan) I find this rather disappointing. I'm not saying that male characters are *bad*, but where's the gender equality?"

In the early days of manga, Osamu Tezuka revolutionized the hero archetype with his comic *Princess Knight* (above), featuring a heroine who could handle a sword just as well as any man. Where's that spirit in today's comics, I ask?"...

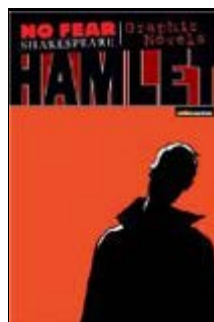
YALSA Blog, Jan. 9, 12



[Required reading redone](#)

Maggie Barbour writes: "Many teens do not appreciate, and may automatically reject, William Shakespeare's plays as boring. So what do you do with teen patrons who are less than enthused about being assigned to read (and understand) a Shakespearean play for school? You present them with a colorful, exciting, and modern twist on the original: the graphic novel version. Here are three examples of series to which you can turn."...

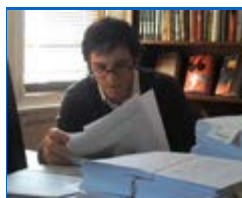
Alternative Teen Services, Jan. 11



[From typewriter to bookstore: A publishing story](#)

Ever wonder how a book travels from the author to the reader? Or how much work is involved in the publishing process? And is this whole internet thing just a fad, like pagers and Tamagotchis? The Digital Marketing Team at Macmillan USA explains the process in this enlightening video spoof (3:37) of the book publishing and marketing business....

YouTube, Jan. 12



[What library websites can learn from publishers](#)

John Dupuis writes: "One thing about library websites is that they tend to focus on concrete problem-solving behaviors: Find a book, find some data, find some articles. Some library websites are good at facilitating those activities, some not so much. As a result, library web presences can be a bit dry and static. How to spice things up a bit, content-wise? An interesting place to look is commercial web

sites that are somewhat seriously intentioned but that are also engaging and entertaining."...

Confessions of a Science Librarian, Jan. 13



Actions & Answers

[The National Archives is 75](#)

The National Archives announced January 8 a year-long celebration of its 75th anniversary. Signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on June 19, 1934, the legislation created a mechanism to preserve the permanently valuable papers of the federal government. Special activities and free public programs will be held throughout the year. Visit NARA's 75th anniversary [website](#)....

National Archives and Records Administration, Jan. 8



[Congress comes to YouTube](#)

Steve Grove writes: "As the 111th Congress kicks into gear, many of your elected leaders are starting their own YouTube channels. They're posting videos direct from their Washington offices, as well as clips of floor speeches and committee hearings alongside additional behind-the-scenes footage from Capitol Hill. YouTube is launching two new platforms that will help you access those channels: The [Senate Hub](#) and the [House Hub](#)."...

YouTube Blog, Jan. 12



[Risky business](#)

mk Eagle writes: "A few recently released studies on teens, sex, and technology have some folks all a-flutter. A nationwide [survey](#), commissioned by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy and *CosmoGirl*, of teens and young adults found that one in five are using technology to send sexually explicit pictures of themselves to others. [Two studies](#) that appeared in the January issue of *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine*, meanwhile, show that half of teens who are MySpace users have posted information about sexual behavior, substance abuse, or violence. So let's break this down, shall we?"...

YALSA Blog, Jan. 7



[In praise of the internet: Shifting focus](#)

Ellie Collier writes: "This is a call to arms to shift our attitude away from magnifying the perils of online research and towards examining the many types of useful information, along with how and when to use them; to shift our primary focus away from teaching how to find information and towards engaging critical thinking skills. Using more realistic examples in our instruction and explaining the positive aspects as well as the negative will help both the students and our image as information professionals."...

In the Library with the Lead Pipe, Jan. 7

[OCLC opens discussion on new sharing policy](#)



The OCLC Members Council and trustees will convene a review board to discuss the principles and best practices for sharing library data. The group will discuss its proposed Policy for Use and Transfer of WorldCat Records with members and the library community. In November 2008, OCLC announced that it was implementing a new policy on the use of OCLC-derived records. In order to allow sufficient time for feedback and discussion, the policy will not go into effect until the third quarter of 2009....

OCLC, Jan. 13

[Digital wishes](#)

If you're a school librarian short on cash but in need of new technology, sign up on [Digital Wish](#), a nonprofit online charity that helps educators modernize their classrooms with up-to-date resources that they ordinarily can't afford. All K-12 media specialists in public schools are eligible to create a free wish list on the site and then describe how their students will benefit from it....

School Library Journal, Jan. 6



[In case anyone asks: 49 incredible stats](#)

Adam Singer writes: "As our digital and physical lives blur further, the internet has become the information hub where people spend a majority of their time learning, playing, and communicating with others globally. I thought it might be fun to take a step back and look at some interesting/amazing social media, Web 2.0, crowdsourcing, and internet statistics. I tried to find stats that are the most up-to-date as possible. For example: 900,000 = the average number of blog posts in a 24-hour period."...

The Future Buzz, Jan. 12

[The raven speaks](#)

Carrie Hagen writes: "We rarely see homeless men, businessmen, and school girls gathering for a drink. But this past Saturday, over 100 people mingled on the main floor of the Free Library of Philadelphia, raised Dixie cups of 7-Up, and sang 'Happy Birthday' to Edgar Allan Poe. The library was marking the beginning of Philadelphia's bicentennial commemoration of the author's life."...

The Phillyist, Jan. 13



[Hard times for higher education](#)

Steven Bell writes: "According to the biennial report titled [Measuring Up 2008](#), from the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, the rising cost of college threatens to put higher education out of reach for most Americans. The public and legislators are calling for colleges and universities to hold down costs. Despite all the criticism heaped on the higher education industry in America, no one denies that our current population is earning fewer degrees, tomorrow's citizens face reduced access to higher education, and the bottom line is that our global competitiveness itself is at stake."...

ACRLog, Jan. 13

[When times are tough, children's librarians get](#)

[tougher](#)

Eva Mitnick writes: "We all know it's going to be a Hard Year. Even as more folks rediscover the library—'what, you mean I can read books and watch DVDs for free?'—our budgets are being cut. Libraries will have less money to buy books and other materials, to provide programming, and even to hire and maintain staff. But it's not so bad, really. In fact, we have a golden opportunity to take a deep breath, look around, and then get back to basics."...

ALSC Blog, Jan. 12

[Developing early literacy](#)

The National Institute for Literacy's *Developing Early Literacy* ([PDF file](#)), a report by its National Early Literacy Panel, was released January 8. Some of the key findings reveal the best early predictors of literacy: alphabet knowledge, phonemic awareness, rapid naming skills, writing (such as writing one's name), and short-term memory for words said aloud. Instruction on these skills may be especially helpful for children at risk for developing reading difficulties. More complex oral language skills also appear to be important....

National Institute for Literacy, January 8



[Library blogs in the United States](#)

Sarah Houghton-Jan writes: "Which came first, the librarian blog or the library blog? I would have to say that it was the librarian blog—we began sharing information with each other, and as more of us saw the power of the blogging medium, we began adopting the same techniques at work. Dates are uncertain, but in general, U.S. librarian blogs began to spring up in 2001 and library blogs began to appear in 2003. 2004 truly was the year of the blog with hundreds of libraries and librarians starting new sites." For biblioblogs in other countries, see the [LibWorld website](#)....

LibWorld

[Great art at the Prado on Google Earth](#)

Armchair tourists who are used to travelling the globe with Google Earth can now use the same technology to crawl all over the masterpieces in one of the world's most famous galleries: Madrid's Prado. The museum and Google unveiled January 13 the first use of the mapping program to allow art lovers to get so close to their favorite paintings that even the brush strokes are visible....

The Guardian (U.K.), Jan. 13



[Global guide to Islamic art](#)

Jonathan M. Bloom and Sheila S. Blair write: "Here is our list of major museums of Islamic art in the United States, Europe, and the Islamic lands. It is by no means exhaustive: One survey conducted in the 1990s found more than 300 collections worldwide, and the number has increased dramatically since then.

Instead, we point to some of the world's best, most accessible collections, and guide you to what you might expect to find in each." ...

Saudi Aramco World 60, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 2009): 32–43



[A new technique for photo identification](#)

Scientists at the Getty Conservation Institute in Los Angeles have developed a new method for authenticating historic photographs that will have broad implications for museum collections, art historians, collectors, and conservators. Each chemical printing process leaves behind a series of markers that collectively are as distinctive as a fingerprint. The GCI researchers have now identified the signatures associated with different photographic processes to provide a scientifically-based method for provenancing and authenticating a majority of 20th-century photographs....

Getty Conservation Institute, Jan. 8

[The Minneapolis Public Library, ca. 1900](#)

This 1884 Romanesque Revival building, designed by Long and Kees, was razed in the 1950s and is now a parking lot. From a Detroit Publishing Company glass negative. Commenters debate the old look versus the new one, which was designed by Argentine architect César Pelli....

Shorpy, Jan. 10



[DNA could unlock some manuscript mysteries](#)

Thousands of manuscripts produced in medieval Europe still exist today, but scholars have long struggled with questions about when and where many of them originated. Now a researcher at North Carolina State University is using modern advances in genetics to shed light on their origins. Assistant Professor of English Timothy Stinson is perfecting techniques for extracting and analyzing the DNA contained in the parchment pages in order to create a genetic database that can be used to establish the date and locale for particular manuscripts....

North Carolina State University, Jan. 12

[Woodstock celebrates 100 years](#)

The Carnegie Library in Woodstock, Ontario, celebrated (1:52) its centennial January 12 with bagpipes, historic displays, a ribbon-cutting, and visits from long-time patrons. Deputy Chief Librarian Susan Start describes the inspirational qualities of its 1909 architecture, and retiring Chief Librarian Stephen Nelson talks about the library's future....

YouTube, Jan. 14



[Bacon as a bookmark](#)

Jennifer Schuessler writes: "Out in the blogosphere, there seems to be a lot of skepticism about the bacon bookmark meme—or urban legend, if you prefer. The most detailed discussion I could find, a 2006 [essay](#) on the aptly named BiblioBuffet site, mentions numerous sightings of errant breakfast meat in libraries from Florida to Nebraska (the earliest known bacon-in-books sighting was in an Omaha library) to Washington State and beyond, but no first-hand accounts from librarians, let alone testable lab samples of 'book jerky.'"...

New York Times, Jan. 8; BiblioBuffet



[Go back to the Top](#)

AL Direct, January 14, 2009

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

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | January 14, 2009

Contents

U.S. & World News [[#usworld](#)]
ALA News [[#alanews](#)]
Booklist Online [[#booklist](#)]
Denver Update [[#denver](#)]
Division News [[#divisionnews](#)]
Awards [[#awards](#)]
Seen Online [[#seenonline](#)]
Tech Talk [[#techtalk](#)]
Publishing [[#publishing](#)]
Actions & Answers [[#actionsanswers](#)]
Calendar [[#datebook](#)]

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

[<http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com>]

U.S. & World News

House passes presidential disclosure acts amid lawsuits

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2009/January2009/2009presdisclosurebills.cfm>]

The first week of the 111th Congress saw the passage in the House of two bills that, if enacted, would ensure accessibility to the contents of presidential libraries and the identities of donors whose gifts funded their construction. The Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2009 (H.R. 35), approved by a vote of 359–58, and the Presidential Library Donation Reform Act of 2009 (H.R. 36), which passed by 388–31, moved to the Senate in the waning days of the Bush administration, even as presidential papers and electronic files were being readied for transfer to a reportedly overwhelmed National Archives....

American Libraries Online, Jan. 14

South Carolina faces loss of PASCAL databases

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2009/January2009/PASCALmoneycrisis.cfm>]

Following a 90% reduction of its funding from the state, an innovative consortium of academic libraries in South Carolina has made drastic cuts in the resources and services it provides, with the prospect of the loss of all of its database subscriptions later this year. The Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries (PASCAL) provides licensed databases and a rapid book-delivery service to more than 50 campuses statewide. After state funding for the consortium was slashed, PASCAL dropped its subscriptions to more than 800 online titles....

American Libraries Online, Jan. 14

Group seeks to take over Providence branches

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2009/January2009/provbranchtakeover.cfm>]

In response to Providence (R.I.) Public Library's recent proposal to close five of its branches, a newly formed nonprofit organization is seeking to take over all nine of the system's branches. The Providence Community Library [<http://www.providencecommunitylibrary.org>], a group comprised of area civic and business leaders, says it can run the branches with an operating budget of \$4.8 million for fiscal 2010 without reducing services. Library trustees had voted December 18 to close five branches next summer in light of a \$1.4-million operating deficit....

American Libraries Online, Jan. 9

Wi-Fi user viewed explicit sites near closed library

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2009/January2009/wifiarrest.cfm>]

A man was arrested December 30 for allegedly using a Salem, New York, library's wireless internet connection to view a sexually explicit video on his notebook computer. A police officer said that Ralph E. Holmes, 65, was observed outside the Bancroft Public Library accessing the online materials after the building had closed....

American Libraries Online, Jan. 9

ALA News

=====

next week [<http://www.pio.ala.org/visibility/?p=200>]

In a new podcast

[<http://www.pio.ala.org/visibility/wp-content/uploads/2009/01/mace72.mp3>],

American Libraries Direct Editor George Eberhart discusses a special edition that will mail Tuesday, January 20. The "Special Tough Economy Issue" will describe the many ways that ALA is involved in dealing with libraries in the current recession....

Visibility @ your library, Jan. 13

Midwinter Event Planner blues

[<http://www.al.ala.org/insidescoop/2009/01/12/midwinter-event-planner-blues/>]

AL Associate Editor Greg Landgraf writes: "In what has become something of a tradition, the Midwinter Event Planner

[http://ala.cistems.net/Show_Login.php] has been opened . . . and widely panned on the ALA Council email list

[<http://lists.ala.org/sympa/arc/alacoun/2009-01/>] and several library

blogs. I spoke to ALA Senior Associate Executive Director of Member Programs and Services Mary Ghikas about the future of the planner and prospects for immediate change. In the long term, ALA intends to migrate the event planner to the Drupal-based ALA Connect [<http://itts.ala.org/update/category/alaconnect/>] online community software (currently testing). So where does that leave attendees this year?"...

AL Inside Scoop, Jan. 12

Midwinter Meeting in Second Life

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/alasecondlifemw.cfm>]

The 2009 Midwinter Meeting kicks off January 24 in Denver. You can get in on the virtual fun by visiting Second Life and attending the festivities there. All activities will take place on ALA Island, ALA's virtual space. The Main Stage is located at 128, 107, 29. In Second Life, you can teleport [<http://slurl.com/secondlife/ALA%20Island/128/107/29/>] there directly. Here is a list of events....

Children's books and consumer product safety

[<http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=1349>]

In August 2008, following widespread reports about the dangers of children's toys coming into the United States from China and other places, the 110th Congress passed the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act to protect children from exposure to lead. In January, ALA and other groups became concerned after seeing that the act intended to include books in the definition of "products to children" that must be certified as safe. However, ALA's analysis is that neither the law nor the legislative history indicates any Congressional intention to include books or textbooks in the law....

District Dispatch, Jan. 9

Speaker chosen for King holiday celebration

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/olosjonesmlk.cfm>]

Dwight D. Jones, Colorado commissioner of education, will be the featured speaker at the 2009 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver, January 26, beginning at 6:30 a.m. and ending promptly at 7:30 a.m. Jones has earned statewide recognition for narrowing and eliminating the achievement gaps related to minority children and students of low socioeconomic means....

Effective multicultural communication

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/piomulticulturalcomm.cfm>]

The Metropolitan Group, a leading strategic communication and resource development agency specializing in work with libraries, has published *Increasing Relevance, Relationships, and Results: Principles and Practices for Effective Multicultural Communication*—Library Edition (PDF file

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/publicawareness/campaign%40yourlibrary/prtools/Metropolitan%20Group%20M.pdf>]), in cooperation with ALA. The article defines eight principles and practices for effective multicultural communication, and highlights the important, integrated

role multicultural communication plays in creating social change....

Thinkfinity @ your library

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/campaignthinkfinityresources.cfm>]

ALA has debuted a new collection of resources specifically for school library media specialists on Verizon's Thinkfinity.org. This collection is a starting place for school library media specialists to explore Thinkfinity content. Using the Campaign for America's Libraries @ your library brand, the collection features rotating librarian-specific content from ALA and library initiatives. At the Midwinter Meeting in Denver, Thinkfinity trainers will be on hand to demonstrate how librarians can use the collection....

Featured review: Reference

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3142935]

Vile, John R., and David L. Hudson, editors. *Encyclopedia of the First Amendment*. 1,464p. CQ, hardcover (978-0-87289-311-5). Provocative, divisive, and sometimes even threatening, First Amendment issues have been at the forefront of civic discourse since the founding of the nation. Today is no different, with the U.S. Supreme Court hearing a challenge to the Federal Communication Commission's decision to penalize television networks for airing "fleeting expletives," churches testing IRS regulations prohibiting political campaigning, and states considering legislation to regulate cyberbullying by classmates. *Encyclopedia of the First Amendment* is an excellent resource for anyone who wants to learn more about broadcast regulation, the establishment of religion clause, students' rights, or a myriad of other topics involving the First Amendment and its political, cultural, and legal significance. The 1,400 topical entries that form the core of the work appear in traditional A-Z format and range from 250 to 1,500 words depending on the significance or complexity of the subject. All entries are signed, include cross-references, and cite at least one primary or secondary source....

Booklist Online Exclusives

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/booklistonlineexclusives.cfm>]

Booklist Online announces a new addition—Booklist Online Exclusives—to its growing family of free, content-driven e-newsletters, providing Booklist readers with even more reviews (600 in 2008 alone) and features at no additional cost. Every month, Booklist Online Exclusives will deliver the magazine's web-only content as a bonus to anyone who signs up, expanding and complementing its extensive print coverage....

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

Denver Update

’ Denver restaurant guide

[http://wikis.ala.org/midwinter2009/index.php/Dining_Guide_from_American_Libraries]

Sherry Spitsnaugle writes: “Denver’s restaurant scene is much like the city itself—friendly, forward-thinking, and fun-loving. And, in a city where the likable two-term mayor founded downtown’s first brewpub, eating and drinking well rank up there with spending time outdoors. Choices abound, from the über-hip, martini-mixing Corner Office (where clocks are always set at 5 p.m.) to the tried-and-true Dozens Café and the sophisticated casual ambience of Baur’s Ristorante (right).”...

“Denver Dishes,” *American Libraries* 40 (Jan./Feb. 2009): 66–70

Denver conference hotels

[<http://ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/2009/hotelmap.pdf>] (PDF file)

Download this handy map of Midwinter Meeting hotels for printing out (so you won’t have to tear a page out of your *American Libraries*)....

American Libraries 39 (Oct. 2008): 15

Division News

[<http://www.folusa.org/about/conferences/ala-2009-tea.php>] FOLUSA and ALTA welcome bestselling authors Jane Hamilton, Sandra Dallas (right), John Shors, Shana Abé, and Simon Van Booy for this popular event sponsored by ReferenceUSA. Tea will be served and a book signing will follow the event, January 26, 2–4 p.m., Colorado Convention Center, Denver. Tickets are \$35 (\$30 for FOLUSA and ALTA members) through January 21, and \$45 onsite....

ACRL Research Writer’s Workshops

[<http://www.acrl.ala.org/acrlinsider/2009/01/12/acrl-2009-research-writer%E2%80%99s-workshops-call-for-writers-and-reviewers/>]

The ACRL Research Program Committee is sponsoring Research Writer’s Workshops at the 14th National Conference in Seattle, March 12–15. Aimed at the new or inexperienced writer, these workshops will bring together small groups of two or three writers matched with an experienced writer or editor who will offer guidance and critique. New writers should apply by February 16 (experienced writers by February 9) to Ruth Vondracek [<mailto:ruth.vondracek@oregonstate.edu>]....

ACRL Insider, Jan. 12

Travel grants for first-time AASL conference attendees

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/aasltravelgrants.cfm>]

AASL is offering 30 grants for travel to its 14th National Conference and

Exhibition in Charlotte, North Carolina, November 5–8. The grants for first-time attendees are sponsored by Bound To Stay Bound Books. Those interested in applying can download the application on the National Conference web pages.

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/conferencesandevents/national/charlotte2009.cfm>] The deadline is March 2....

ALCTS forum topics at Midwinter

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/alctsforumvariety.cfm>]

The upcoming Midwinter Forums presented by ALCTS in Denver offer a wide variety of hot topics. Join your colleagues for these important presentations and discussions on such topics as FRBR and RDA, e-serials holdings, OCLC record use policy, and free web resources. ALCTS interest groups

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/alctsinterestgroups.cfm>] also will hold a variety of entertaining Midwinter discussions....

Big savings on RUSA online course registration

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/rusagroupce.cfm>]

Libraries and library systems interested in improving reference service delivery and bringing marketing skills to their library staff team can take advantage of discounted registration rates for groups of two or more participants for online courses offered by RUSA. Groups registering for a course will save 15% off the regular registration rates for their membership types....

Interactive presentations for Teen Tech Week

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/yalsattwinteractive.cfm>]

Librarians seeking inspiration for Teen Tech Week can find it in three new multimedia presentations created by YALSA. Teen Tech Week 2009 takes place March 8–14, with a theme of Press Play @ your library, encouraging teens to take advantage of the many technologies available to them, free of charge, at their libraries. Viewers can leave comments in text, video or audio form on each presentation. Registration is available online

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/teentechweek/ttw09/home.cfm>] through February 8....

Teen Tech Week mini-grants

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/yalsattwminigrantsdue.cfm>]

YALSA members can win \$450 in cash and \$50 in promotional products by applying for a 2009 Teen Tech Week mini-grant by January 19. Through funding from the Verizon Foundation, YALSA will grant up to 20 awards to members offering inventive activities, resources, and programming for Teen Tech Week, March 8–14....

You’ve got style, you’ve got class

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

Calling all library fashionistas! Join us for “What to Wear: The YALSA

Happy Hour and Fashion Show,” hosted by Project Runway Season 4’s Steven Rosengard. We’re looking for librarians who can demonstrate how to dress professionally without spending a lot of money and while keeping a sense of personal style. Interested? Submit the What to Wear application (PDF file [http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/wtw_app_distributed.pdf]) or nominate someone you know by January 30. Questions? Contact Nichole Gilbert [<mailto:ngilbert@ala.org>]....
YALSA Blog, Dec. 5

ACRL updates its Scholarly Communication Toolkit [<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/acrlscnewlook.cfm>]
ACRL has released an updated version of its popular Scholarly Communication Toolkit [<http://www.acrl.ala.org/scholcomm/>] in a new format and with updated content. The toolkit continues to provide context and background by summarizing key issues to offer quick, basic information on scholarly communication topics. It also links to examples of specific tools, including handouts, presentations, and videos for libraries to adapt and use on their own campuses....

Awards

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Judith Krug wins Brennan Award [<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/oifkrugbrennan.cfm>]
The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression announced January 13 that Judith F. Krug, director of the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom, will receive the William J. Brennan Jr. Award, which honors a person or group for demonstrating a commitment to the principles of free expression. Krug is only the fifth recipient of the award since it was first given in 1993. She will receive formal recognition in Chicago on July 12 at the Freedom to Read Foundation’s 40th Anniversary Gala, which will be held in the new Modern Wing of the Art Institute of Chicago....

Don’t discount the Newbery [<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/sunday/commentary/la-oe-patron11-2009jan11,0,5330448.story>]
Author and librarian Susan Patron writes: “Early on January 26, a writer’s phone will ring. On the other end will be the 15 members of the ALSC Newbery Award Selection Committee, calling after a year of careful reading and deliberation to congratulate the winning author. The writer may be astonished at the announcement, as I was when I got the call in January 2007. And librarians and the general public may be more than surprised; some will even be dismayed.”...
Los Angeles Times, Jan. 11

Wayne State supports a Spectrum scholar [<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/ofdwaynestate.cfm>]
The Wayne State Library and Information Science program will provide

\$5,000 in matching scholarship funds to Serena Vaquilar, a 2008 ALA Spectrum Scholarship winner. Vaquilar is pursuing a master's degree in library and information science at Wayne State, which first offered matching scholarships to Spectrum recipients in its graduate program in library and information studies in 1998....

2009 Sydney Taylor Book Awards

[<http://www.jewishlibraries.org/ajlweb/awards/stba/STBAAwardList2009.pdf>] (PDF file)

The Sydney Taylor Book Awards, presented by the Association of Jewish Libraries, recognizes the publication of outstanding books for children that authentically portray the Jewish experience. This year's winners include *As Good As Anybody: Martin Luther King, Jr. and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March Toward Freedom*, by Richard Michelson with illustrations by Raul Colon (Alfred A. Knopf, 2008)....

Association of Jewish Libraries

Hadfield wins T. S. Eliot Poetry Prize

[<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2009/jan/12/jen-hadfield-ts-eliot-prize1>]

A relative newcomer to poetry who has been widely praised for her passion and awareness of the natural world won one of the genre's grandest awards January 12 —the T. S. Eliot prize for poetry. Shetland-based Jen Hadfield was given a check for £15,000 for *Nigh-No-Place*, her second book of poetry written in Shetland and also while travelling across Canada. It includes poems such as "Paternoster," which is the Lord's Prayer as spoken by a draft horse, and "Ten-Minute Break Haiku," her response to working in a fish factory....

The Guardian (U.K.), Jan. 12

Seen Online

Adults are reading more fiction

[<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/12/books/12reading.html>]

After years of bemoaning the decline of a literary culture in the United States, the National Endowment for the Arts reports that it now believes a quarter-century of precipitous decline in fiction reading has reversed. Released January 12, the report, *Reading on the Rise: A New Chapter in American Literacy* (PDF file [<http://www.arts.gov/research/ReadingonRise.pdf>]), found that for the first time since 1982 the percentage of adults 18 and older who said they had read at least one novel, short story, poem, or play in the previous 12 months has risen. It increased most dramatically among 18-to-24-year-olds, who had previously shown the most significant declines....

New York Times, Jan. 12

More Philadelphia protests

[<http://www.philly.com/philly/news/local/37558094.html>]

In a lively bit of guerrilla theater that featured a pink-and-purple jester prosecuting a crowned and clueless "Emperor Nutter," demonstrators protested branch library closings at City Hall January 13. Mayor Michael

Nutter and Free Library Director Siobhan Reardon were declared “in contempt of the people’s court” by costumed members of the ad hoc Coalition to Save the Libraries. While the tone of the protest was light, the message was not. Demonstrators accused Nutter and Reardon of working counter to Common Pleas Court Judge Idee C. Fox’s order to keep the branches open....

Philadelphia Inquirer, Jan. 14

King papers accessible in Atlanta

[http://www.ajc.com/services/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2009/01/13/king_papers_online.html]

A major portion of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s papers went public January 13, allowing researchers to access an important segment of civil rights history. Computer access to the documents is available in the Robert W. Woodruff Library at the Atlanta University Center. The papers represent more than 75% of a 10,000-item Morehouse College King Collection [<http://www.auctr.edu/mlk-public/public.asp>] bought by a group of civic and business leaders in 2006 from King’s family....

Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Jan. 13

Former Lincoln Library director pleads guilty

[<http://www.sj-r.com/homepage/x1017435396/Shoplifting-trial-for-former-ALPL-M-director-to-begin-this-week>]

The former executive director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois, pleaded guilty January 12 to stealing a \$40 boxed set of DVDs from a Target store. Richard E. Beard’s plea came a day before his trial on the misdemeanor retail theft charge was scheduled to begin....

Springfield (Ill.) State Journal-Register, Jan. 13

Accused First Folio thief admits shoplifting

[<http://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/north-east-news/todays-evening-chronicle/2009/01/12/shakespeare-book-accused-admits-shoplifting-72703-22674345/>]

Raymond Scott, the man at the center of the international probe into the theft of a £15-million copy of Shakespeare’s First Folio from Durham University Library, on January 12 admitted stealing two books from Waterstones bookstore in Gateshead, England. Scott had pleaded not guilty to the September 21 theft of the books, but changed his plea to guilty on the day a trial was due to take place. On January 9, Scott lost

[<http://www.sundaysun.co.uk/news/north-east-news/2009/01/11/antiques-dealer-loses-civil-claim-for-shakespeare-book-79310-22666101/>] a civil court claim to have the disputed First Folio returned to him so he could prove his innocence....

Newcastle (U.K.) Evening Chronicle, Jan. 12; Newcastle Sunday Sun, Jan. 11

remains in school

[http://www.democratherald.com/articles/2009/01/13/news/local/6aaa02_bunnys_uicide.txt]

A controversial book of cartoons will remain, unrestricted, in the Central Linn High School Library in Halsey, Oregon, the school board has decided. Board members voted 5–1 January 12 to keep *The Book of Bunny Suicides* by Andy Riley on the shelf. The district organized a review committee after parent Taffey Anderson, whose 13-year-old son checked out the book this fall, said she was horrified by its content and threatened

to burn it rather than bring it back....
Albany (Oreg.) Democrat Herald, Jan. 13

Report finds online threats overblown

[<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/14/us/14cyber.html>]

A task force created by 49 state attorneys general to look into the problem of sexual solicitation of children online has concluded that there really is not a significant problem. The findings of the Internet Safety Technical Task Force ran counter to popular perceptions of online dangers as reinforced by depictions in the news media. The report (PDF file

[http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/sites/cyber.law.harvard.edu/files/ISTTF_Final_Report.pdf]) concluded that the problem of bullying among children, both online and offline, poses a far more serious challenge than the sexual solicitation of minors by adults....

New York Times, Jan. 13

No successor for Dewey at Spencer Public Library

[<http://www.spencerdailyreporter.com/story/1492019.html>]

Even though Spencer (Iowa) Public Library officials have received numerous “offers, requests, and inquiries” about hosting another resident library cat to replace the now-famous Dewey Readmore Books who died in 2006, board members voted unanimously January 8 to establish a “permanent prohibition against having pets in residence at the library.” The primary reason was the danger of turning away patrons with cat allergies....

Spencer (Iowa) Daily Reporter, Jan. 9

Paddlethon funding allows for extra hours

[<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090112/NEWS/901120334>]

The Friends of the Wareham (Mass.) Free Library voted to transfer \$20,000 to a town account that will be used for workers’ salaries and allow the library to be open six more hours on Wednesday evenings. The group voted at a special January 2 meeting to transfer some of the money from an account established for donations from resident Dick Wheeler’s kayak Paddlethon [<http://warehampaddle.wordpress.com/>] effort. More than \$55,000 was raised, thanks to Wheeler’s 1,000-mile paddle, which he completed last month....

New Bedford (Mass.) Standard-Times, Jan. 12

Oregon libraries plug into the do-Wii decimal system

[http://www.portlandtribune.com/news/story.php?story_id=123143423916075400]

Teen librarians in Tigard, Tualatin, and Beaverton say it’s a new stage for library activities. It’s a progression to keep up with a generation of “digital natives”—kids who have grown up in a world that has always been plugged into the internet. Nintendo’s interactive Wii gaming systems and Sony’s PlayStation 2 gaming consoles are now being played in libraries. Will teens finally take over the rest of the world with their preference for digital literacy?...

Portland (Oreg.) Tribune, Jan. 9

Clermont County library settles lawsuit

[<http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20090108/NEWS01/901080313/0/NEWS0107>]

The Clermont County Public Library in Batavia, Ohio, has settled a

lawsuit with a couple who were barred from holding a free financial planning seminar because they intended to quote the Bible. George and Cathy Vandergriff were paid \$2, and the Institute for Principled Policy, which joined them in the suit, received \$1. The library will pay \$10,000 to attorneys for the Vandergriffs, who filed the suit in U.S. District Court in Cincinnati in June. Prompted by the suit, the board voted to limit the use of meeting rooms to library-initiated programs.... Cincinnati Enquirer, Jan. 8

Salinas turns to library to curb gang violence
[<http://www.ksbw.com/news/18429415/detail.html>]
With five shooting deaths [http://www.montereyherald.com/ci_11442767] already in the books for the New Year, the city of Salinas, California, is now turning to libraries in the hopes of curbing gang violence. Mayor Dennis Donohue is pushing a literacy campaign that would make the city the first in the country to require every student to have a library card. For more than a year, Salinas Public Library Director Elizabeth Martinez has led the literacy campaign, which has already handed out 30,000 library cards.... KSBW-TV, Salinas, Jan. 7; Monterey County (Calif.) Herald, Jan. 13

Survival in the library [<http://www.buffalonews.com/494/story/546718.html>]
Charity Vogel writes: "The cold has brought them in again. It happens every year. People, mostly men, who have no homes to sleep in at night, or marginal ones—in shelters or shared rental spaces with little in the way of heat or food. To them, the Central Library isn't a temple of knowledge. It's got a much more practical function: survival."... Buffalo (N.Y.) News, Jan. 12

Bush Presidential Library update
[<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/city/dallas/stories/011009dnmetlibrary.3af247b.html>]
A freedom institute that critics say could promote an overtly partisan agenda will be housed in the same building as the George W. Bush Presidential Library at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, and not in a separate building as originally planned, according to First Lady Laura Bush. The President said January 8 that he had no plans to scale back [<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/politics/national/stories/010908dnmetbushlibrary.15b1bcf.html>] the \$300-million project and repeated his opposition to identifying all donors to the library. The complex, expected to be built by 2013, will be designed to attract students "to come hang around," Laura Bush said.... Dallas Morning News, Jan. 9–10

Librarians renamed “audience development officers”
[<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/politics/scotland/4222623/Librarians-to-be-renamed-audience-development-officers.html>]
People who work in libraries have been known as librarians since the first library was created in the Middle East around 2,700 years ago. But council chiefs in Edinburgh, Scotland, have decided that the job description needs to be updated. They want to rebrand librarians in the city network of 25 community libraries with the not very catchy title of

“audience development officers” as part of an effort to bring the libraries into the 21st century....

The Telegraph (U.K.), Jan. 13

Go back to the Top [#top]

Tech Talk

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How to build a social media cheat sheet on any topic

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

Marshall Kirkpatrick writes: “You want to get up to speed on the social media activity on a specified topic, as fast as you can. Is there any way to ramp up your knowledge of this field, quickly, other than the ‘Google and wander’ method? We think there is. Here you’ll find step-by-step instructions, with screen shots, for the process we use when we want to get smart about a new field in a hurry.”...

ReadWriteWeb, Jan. 10

[<http://vimeo.com/2696386>]The history of the internet

[<http://vimeo.com/2696386>]

This short film (8:09) by Melih Bilgil explains the history of online interactions from time-sharing to file-sharing and from Arpanet to Internet. The history is told using PICOL (Pictorial Communication Language) icons. It all began back in 1957, the same year as Sputnik. (Coincidence? Not really). Narrated by Steve Taylor and produced at the Mainz University of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschule Mainz)....

Vimeo, Jan. 2

[<http://www.meebome.com/>]How to embed almost anything on your website

[<http://www.labnol.org/internet/how-to-embed-in-html-webpages/6365/>]

Amit Agarwal writes: “Learn how to embed almost anything in your HTML web pages, from Flash videos to spreadsheets to high-resolution photographs to static images from Google Maps to MP3 music to Picasa web albums to RSS feeds to YouTube videos to other fonts, or even another web page.”...

Digital Inspiration, Jan. 6

YouTube mutes videos with copyrighted music

[<http://mashable.com/2009/01/14/youtube-mutes-videos/>]

Stan Schroeder writes: “YouTube has started muting videos that use unauthorized copyrighted music (and that pretty much means all user-created videos). You can see some examples here

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGix5nV6DQw>], here

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Q_z9cnv09o&NR=1], and here

[<http://pl.youtube.com/watch?v=OfKTmZK6uto>]. The official notice from

YouTube under the video says the following: ‘This video contains an audio track that has not been authorized by all copyright holders. The audio has been disabled.’ We’re talking about tens of thousands of fan-made videos, funny spoofs, remixes, and the like being pretty much destroyed.” Jessamyn West has some advice

[<http://www.librarian.net/stax/2653/what-happens-in-a-copyright-dispute-on-youtube/>] about this....

Mashable, Jan. 14; Librarian.net, Jan. 11

Text-synchronized audiobooks

[<http://audiobooker.booklistonline.com/2009/01/12/text-synchronized-audiobooks-iclassix-apple-app-librivox/>]

Mary Burkey writes: “Coming soon to a media player near you! What’s a Text Synchronized Audiobook? An audiobook that is synced to a page view or scrolling text on a display screen. Read this description

[<http://www.nifl.gov/pipermail/technology/2008/001509.html>] of Phil Shapiro’s Text Synchronized Audiobook literacy mashup project using Maria Uther’s LibriVox recording of Helen Keller’s The Story of My Life, and see (and hear!) a demo here

[<http://helenkellerbio.blogspot.com/>]. Interesting first steps.”...

Audiobooker, Jan. 12; Helen Keller Bio Project

Publishing

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Where are all the good female characters hiding?

[<http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2009/01/09/where-are-all-the-good-female-characters-hiding-are-they-under-my-bed-or-something/>]

Katie Davidson writes: “I often find it annoying that, while I’m searching for manga at the library, I overhear other patrons talking about just how awesome and

thing-I-am-not-allowed-to-say-in-polite-company-kicking their favorite male characters are. As a girl otaku

[<http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2009/01/12/when-i-get-bored-i-write-essays/>]

(manga and anime fan) I find this rather disappointing. I’m not saying that male characters are bad, but where’s the gender equality? In the early days of manga, Osamu Tezuka revolutionized the hero archetype with his comic Princess Knight (above), featuring a heroine who could handle a sword just as well as any man. Where’s that spirit in today’s comics, I ask?”...

YALSA Blog, Jan. 9, 12

Required reading redone

[<http://www.yalibrarian.com/wordpress/2009/01/required-reading-redone/>]

Maggie Barbour writes: “Many teens do not appreciate, and may automatically reject, William Shakespeare’s plays as boring. So what do you do with teen patrons who are less than enthused about being assigned to read (and understand) a Shakespearean play for school? You present them with a colorful, exciting, and modern twist on the original: the graphic novel version. Here are three examples of series to which you can turn.”...

Alternative Teen Services, Jan. 11

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQ78WHpGZ1o>]From typewriter to bookstore:

A publishing story [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQ78WHpGZ1o>]

Ever wonder how a book travels from the author to the reader? Or how much work is involved in the publishing process? And is this whole internet thing just a fad, like pagers and Tamagotchis? The Digital Marketing Team at Macmillan USA explains the process in this enlightening video spoof (3:37) of the book publishing and marketing business....

YouTube, Jan. 12

What library websites can learn from publishers

[<http://jdupuis.blogspot.com/2009/01/torcom-globe-and-mail-books-what-can.html>]

John Dupuis writes: "One thing about library websites is that they tend to focus on concrete problem-solving behaviors: Find a book, find some data, find some articles. Some library websites are good at facilitating those activities, some not so much. As a result, library web presences can be a bit dry and static. How to spice things up a bit, content-wise? An interesting place to look is commercial web sites that are somewhat seriously intentioned but that are also engaging and entertaining."...
Confessions of a Science Librarian, Jan. 13

[<http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com>]

Actions & Answers

The National Archives is 75

[<http://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2009/nr09-42.html>]

The National Archives announced January 8 a year-long celebration of its 75th anniversary. Signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on June 19, 1934, the legislation created a mechanism to preserve the permanently valuable papers of the federal government. Special activities and free public programs will be held throughout the year. Visit NARA's 75th anniversary website [<http://www.archives.gov/75th/>]....
National Archives and Records Administration, Jan. 8

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avch-fRFmbw>]Congress comes to YouTube

[<http://www.youtube.com/blog?entry=XzRSzC2JAQA>]

Steve Grove writes: "As the 111th Congress kicks into gear, many of your elected leaders are starting their own YouTube channels. They're posting videos direct from their Washington offices, as well as clips of floor speeches and committee hearings alongside additional behind-the-scenes footage from Capitol Hill. YouTube is launching two new platforms that will help you access those channels: The Senate Hub [<http://www.youtube.com/senatehub>] and the House Hub [<http://www.youtube.com/househub>]."...

YouTube Blog, Jan. 12

Risky business [<http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2009/01/07/risky-business/>]

mk Eagle writes: "A few recently released studies on teens, sex, and technology have some folks all a-flutter. A nationwide survey, [<http://psychcentral.com/blog/archives/2009/01/06/teens-sex-and-technology/>] commissioned by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy and CosmoGirl, of teens and young adults found that one in five are using technology to send sexually explicit pictures of themselves to others. Two studies

[<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/05/AR2009010502588.html>] that appeared in the January issue of Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, meanwhile, show that half of teens who are MySpace users have posted information about sexual behavior, substance abuse, or violence. So let’s break this down, shall we?”...
YALSA Blog, Jan. 7

In praise of the internet: Shifting focus

[<http://inthelibrarywiththeleadpipe.org/2009/in-praise-of-the-internet-shifting-focus-and-engaging-critical-thinking-skills/>]

Ellie Collier writes: “This is a call to arms to shift our attitude away from magnifying the perils of online research and towards examining the many types of useful information, along with how and when to use them; to shift our primary focus away from teaching how to find information and towards engaging critical thinking skills. Using more realistic examples in our instruction and explaining the positive aspects as well as the negative will help both the students and our image as information professionals.”...

In the Library with the Lead Pipe, Jan. 7

OCLC opens discussion on new sharing policy

[<http://www.oclc.org/us/en/news/releases/20092.htm>]

The OCLC Members Council and trustees will convene a review board to discuss the principles and best practices for sharing library data. The group will discuss its proposed Policy for Use and Transfer of WorldCat Records with members and the library community. In November 2008, OCLC announced that it was implementing a new policy on the use of OCLC-derived records. In order to allow sufficient time for feedback and discussion, the policy will not go into effect until the third quarter of 2009....

OCLC, Jan. 13

Digital wishes

[<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6626473.html?industryid=47057>]

If you’re a school librarian short on cash but in need of new technology, sign up on Digital Wish [<http://www.digitalwish.org/>], a nonprofit online charity that helps educators modernize their classrooms with up-to-date resources that they ordinarily can’t afford. All K–12 media specialists in public schools are eligible to create a free wish list on the site and then describe how their students will benefit from it....

School Library Journal, Jan. 6

In case anyone asks: 49 incredible stats

[<http://www.thefuturebuzz.com/2009/01/12/social-media-web-20-internet-numbers-stats/>]

Adam Singer writes: “As our digital and physical lives blur further, the internet has become the information hub where people spend a majority of their time learning, playing, and communicating with others globally. I thought it might be fun to take a step back and look at some interesting/amazing social media, Web 2.0, crowdsourcing, and internet statistics. I tried to find stats that are the most up-to-date as possible. For example: 900,000 = the average number of blog posts in a

24-hour period.”...

The Future Buzz, Jan. 12

The raven speaks

[http://phillyist.com/2009/01/13/the_raven_speaks_poes_bicentennial.php]

Carrie Hagen writes: “We rarely see homeless men, businessmen, and school girls gathering for a drink. But this past Saturday, over 100 people mingled on the main floor of the Free Library of Philadelphia, raised Dixie cups of 7-Up, and sang ‘Happy Birthday’ to Edgar Allan Poe. The library was marking the beginning of Philadelphia’s bicentennial commemoration of the author’s life.”...

The Phillyist, Jan. 13

Hard times for higher education

[<http://acrlog.org/2009/01/13/hard-times-for-higher-education/>]

Steven Bell writes: “According to the biennial report titled Measuring Up 2008 [<http://measuringup2008.highereducation.org/>], from the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, the rising cost of college threatens to put higher education out of reach for most Americans. The public and legislators are calling for colleges and universities to hold down costs. Despite all the criticism heaped on the higher education industry in America, no one denies that our current population is earning fewer degrees, tomorrow’s citizens face reduced access to higher education, and the bottom line is that our global competitiveness itself is at stake.”...

ACRLog, Jan. 13

When times are tough, children’s librarians get tougher

[<http://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/?p=684>]

Eva Mitnick writes: “We all know it’s going to be a Hard Year. Even as more folks rediscover the library—‘what, you mean I can read books and watch DVDs for free?’—our budgets are being cut. Libraries will have less money to buy books and other materials, to provide programming, and even to hire and maintain staff. But it’s not so bad, really. In fact, we have a golden opportunity to take a deep breath, look around, and then get back to basics.”...

ALSC Blog, Jan. 12

Developing early literacy

[http://www.nifl.gov/nifl/news_events/NELP01-08-09.html]

The National Institute for Literacy’s Developing Early Literacy (PDF file [<http://www.nifl.gov/nifl/publications/pdf/NELPReport09.pdf>]), a report by its National Early Literacy Panel, was released January 8. Some of the key findings reveal the best early predictors of literacy: alphabet knowledge, phonemic awareness, rapid naming skills, writing (such as writing one’s name), and short-term memory for words said aloud. Instruction on these skills may be especially helpful for children at risk for developing reading difficulties. More complex oral language skills also appear to be important....

National Institute for Literacy, January 8

Library blogs in the United States

[<http://infobib.de/blog/2008/03/31/libworld-usa/>]

Sarah Houghton-Jan writes: “Which came first, the librarian blog or the

library blog? I would have to say that it was the librarian blog—we began sharing information with each other, and as more of us saw the power of the blogging medium, we began adopting the same techniques at work. Dates are uncertain, but in general, U.S. librarian blogs began to spring up in 2001 and library blogs began to appear in 2003. 2004 truly was the year of the blog with hundreds of libraries and librarians starting new sites.” For biblioblogs in other countries, see the LibWorld website [<http://infobib.de/blog/features/libworld/>]....
LibWorld

Great art at the Prado on Google Earth
[<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jan/13/spain-art>]
Armchair tourists who are used to travelling the globe with Google Earth can now use the same technology to crawl all over the masterpieces in one of the world’s most famous galleries: Madrid’s Prado. The museum and Google unveiled January 13 the first use of the mapping program to allow art lovers to get so close to their favorite paintings that even the brush strokes are visible....
The Guardian (U.K.), Jan. 13

[http://saudiaramcoworld.com/issue/200901/popup.htm?img=images/guide/art_06_lg.jpg]Global guide to Islamic art
[<http://saudiaramcoworld.com/issue/200901/a.global.guide.to.islamic.art.htm>]
Jonathan M. Bloom and Sheila S. Blair write: “Here is our list of major museums of Islamic art in the United States, Europe, and the Islamic lands. It is by no means exhaustive: One survey conducted in the 1990s found more than 300 collections worldwide, and the number has increased dramatically since then. Instead, we point to some of the world’s best, most accessible collections, and guide you to what you might expect to find in each.”...
Saudi Aramco World 60, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 2009): 32–43

A new technique for photo identification
[http://www.getty.edu/news/press/authenticating_photographs.html]
Scientists at the Getty Conservation Institute in Los Angeles have developed a new method for authenticating historic photographs that will have broad implications for museum collections, art historians, collectors, and conservators. Each chemical printing process leaves behind a series of markers that collectively are as distinctive as a fingerprint. The GCI researchers have now identified the signatures associated with different photographic processes to provide a scientifically-based method for provenancing and authenticating a majority of 20th-century photographs....
Getty Conservation Institute, Jan. 8

The Minneapolis Public Library, ca. 1900
[http://www.shorpy.com/node/5315?size=_original]
This 1884 Romanesque Revival building, designed by Long and Kees, was razed in the 1950s and is now a parking lot. From a Detroit Publishing Company glass negative. Commenters debate the old look versus the new one, which was designed by Argentine architect César Pelli....
Shorpy, Jan. 10

DNA could unlock some manuscript mysteries

[<http://news.ncsu.edu/news/2009/01/wmsstinsondna.php>]

Thousands of manuscripts produced in medieval Europe still exist today, but scholars have long struggled with questions about when and where many of them originated. Now a researcher at North Carolina State University is using modern advances in genetics to shed light on their origins.

Assistant Professor of English Timothy Stinson is perfecting techniques for extracting and analyzing the DNA contained in the parchment pages in order to create a genetic database that can be used to establish the date and locale for particular manuscripts....

North Carolina State University, Jan. 12

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h32eKICcWNE>] Woodstock celebrates 100 years [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h32eKICcWNE>]

The Carnegie Library in Woodstock, Ontario, celebrated (1:52) its centennial January 12 with bagpipes, historic displays, a ribbon-cutting, and visits from long-time patrons. Deputy Chief Librarian Susan Start describes the inspirational qualities of its 1909 architecture, and retiring Chief Librarian Stephen Nelson talks about the library's future....

YouTube, Jan. 14

Bacon as a bookmark

[<http://papercuts.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/01/08/librarian-theres-some-bacon-in-my-book/>]

Jennifer Schuessler writes: "Out in the blogosphere, there seems to be a lot of skepticism about the bacon bookmark meme—or urban legend, if you prefer. The most detailed discussion I could find, a 2006 essay [<http://www.bibliobuffet.com/content/view/186/195/>] on the aptly named BiblioBuffet site, mentions numerous sightings of errant breakfast meat in libraries from Florida to Nebraska (the earliest known bacon-in-books sighting was in an Omaha library) to Washington State and beyond, but no first-hand accounts from librarians, let alone testable lab samples of 'book jerky.'"...

New York Times, Jan. 8; BiblioBuffet

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. Job seekers can search online for jobs and employers can search online for job seekers before and during the Midwinter Meeting. Visit the Office for Human Resource Development and Recruitment website

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/hrdr/index.cfm>] and click on

“Placement Center” for more information. The Placement Center will be located on the Denver exhibit floor.

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog&_pn=product_detail&_op=2671]

Celebrate the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog&_pn=product_detail&_op=2671] in 2009 with this wonderful addition to the History Lives series. This poster also serves as a great way to educate patrons of all ages about the U.S. electoral process during a presidential election. NEW! From ALA Graphics.

[<http://capwiz.com/ala/home/>]

The Senate will soon consider two bills passed by the House: HR 35, which revokes President Bush’s Executive Order allowing limits on the release of Presidential records, and HR 36, which requires disclosure of donors to presidential libraries. Use the Legislative Action Center [<http://capwiz.com/ala/issues/alert/?alertid=12401031&PROCESS=Take+Action>] to contact your Senator on these measures.

In this issue
January/February 2009

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

Gaming @ your library

The Minneapolis-Hennepin merger

Testing the Web 2.0 waters

I Love My Librarian awards

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

Creativity Library Manager,
[<http://joblist.ala.org/modules/jobseeker/controller.cfm?scr=jobdetail&jobid=12516>] University of Nebraska at Omaha. The university, in a joint venture with internationally renowned artist Jun Kaneko, invites applications for the position of Library Associate, Library for Creativity. This newly created position is responsible for developing and operating a unique, experimental library to support creativity in all fields of endeavor. The successful candidate will identify and select library materials that inspire new ways of thinking; assist users with materials and extensive, leading-edge technological resources; and provide outreach and promotional programming including exhibits, speaker

programs, seminars, and workshops....

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

ALA presidential candidates Roberta Stevens and Kent Oliver invite Midwinter Meeting attendees to a joint reception, January 24, 5:30–7:30 p.m., in Ballroom 4 of the Hyatt Regency Denver. Members can meet both candidates and communicate their interests and concerns.

Digital Library of the Week

[http://digitalcollections.lmu.edu/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/chgface&CISOPTR=243&CISOBX=1&REC=3]

The Loyola Marymount University Digital Library Program [<http://www.lmu.edu/Page32422.aspx>] was launched December 15 as the result of a 2007 LSTA grant from the California State Library. The grant funded the digitization of 200 postcards from the Werner Von Boltensstern collection in the university's Von der Ahe Library in Los Angeles. This and other postcards in the special collections department make up "The Changing Face of Southern California: A History in Postcards." A second online collection consists of photographs and other materials from the J. D. Black Papers, recording the American West in the Owens Valley of California from 1875 to 1930, including rare photos of the famous Owens Valley Water Controversy in the 1920s between the valley and Los Angeles over a key resource in the West, water. A third collection, "The Atrium: Iconic Images from Loyola Marymount University" is in the works.

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 staple of comic romance movies (as well as even lower brow cinematic fare) is the dowdy librarian type who, with a new dress, contact lenses, and—literally—letting her hair down, becomes the ravishing belle of the ball. From Pygmalion to Cinderella, it's an easy sell to a willing market. For many years Mercedes-Benz had a similarly frumpy reputation. Good, solid, well-built and dependable, but with the sex appeal of a German banker in a dark-blue double-breasted pin-striped suit. With a watch fob."

?Automotive Reviewer John Matras, comparing the old Mercedes-Benz image

with the new 2009 Mercedes-Benz CL550, “Mercedes’ Naughty Librarian,”
[<http://www.examiner.com/x-572-Auto-Review-Examiner~y2008m12d31-Road-Test-2009-MercedesBenz-CL550-car-review-Mercedes-naughty-librarian>] Chicago Examiner, Dec. 31.

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/publications/crlnews/2009/jan/January.cfm>]

Harry Glazer, communications director of the Rutgers University Libraries, evaluates the Rutgers experience with Facebook in “Clever Outreach or Costly Diversion?”

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/publications/crlnews/2009/jan/clever-outreach.cfm>] in the January issue of College & Research Libraries News.

Catch a podcast interview (11:46) with the author here

[<http://www.acrl.ala.org/acrlinsider/2009/01/09/acrl-podcast-facebook-clever-outreach-or-costly-diversion/>].

Ask the ALA Librarian

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/mediapresscenter/presskits/youthmediaawards/alayouthmediaawards.cfm>]

Q. I am looking for this year's winners of the children's book awards and cannot find any information about them. I thought they were posted in early January last year. Where can I find this information?

A. The 2009 ALA Youth Media Awards

[http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Media_Awards] announcement will take place on January 26 at 7:45 a.m. Mountain Time. A live webcast [<http://ala.unikron.com/>] will be available through Unikron, as well as on Twitter. [<http://twitter.com/alayma>] Access to information on the winners will also be available through a Facebook fan page, ALA Youth Media Awards.

[<http://www.facebook.com/pages/ALA-Youth-Media-Awards/43002248757?sid=398425f2d2d97f426523a2eb9ac05d3b&ref=s>] There will also be an encore presentation of the webcast in Second Life on ALA Island. Over the coming months, more information

[http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Media_Awards] about ALA's Media Awards, including historical data, application information, and how to find the acceptance speeches, will become available. The acceptance speeches are part of the ALA Annual Conference [<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/annual/index.cfm>] festivities. From the ALA Professional Tips wiki [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Youth_Media_Awards_Information].

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

Calendar

Mar. 2–3:

Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts,

[<http://www.ccaha.org/>] seminar at the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin. “A Race Against Time: Preserving Our Audiovisual Media.”

Mar. 8–14:

Teen Tech Week

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/teentechweek/ttw09/home.cfm>].

“Press Play @ your library.”

Mar. 12–15:

ACRL National Conference

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

Seattle, Washington. “Pushing the Edge: Explore, Engage,

Extend.”

Mar. 28–29:

Reading the World XI

[http://www.soe.usfca.edu/institutes/reading_world/index.html],

University of San Francisco.

Mar. 30–

Apr. 1:

Computers in Libraries [<http://www.infotoday.com/cil2009/default.shtml>],

Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, Virginia. “Creating

Tomorrow: Spreading Ideas and Learning.”

Apr. 2–4:

PLA Spring Symposium

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

Nashville, Tennessee.

Apr. 12–18:

National Library Week

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/hqops/pio/natlibraryweek/nlw.cfm>].

Apr. 24–25:

2d Annual Virtual Worlds: Libraries, Education, and Museums Conference,

[[http://infoisland.org/2009/01/09/call-for-papers-and-proposals-for-2nd-ann](http://infoisland.org/2009/01/09/call-for-papers-and-proposals-for-2nd-annual-virtual-worlds-libraries-museums-and-education-conference/)

ual-virtual-worlds-libraries-museums-and-education-conference/] Second

Life. Although the conference will be held in the virtual world Second

Life, presentation and paper proposals about LEM developments in other

virtual worlds are encouraged.

Apr. 30:

El Día de los Niños/El Día de los Libros

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/initiatives/diadelosninos/index.cfm>

].

May 7–8:

LITA Camp

[<http://www.lita.org/ala/mgrps/divs/lita/litaevents/litacamp/index.cfm>],

Dublin, Ohio.

May 9:

Using Court Records to Find Local and Family History

[<http://www.archives.gov/great-lakes/public/programs/calendar.html>],

National Archives and Records Administration-Great Lakes Region, Chicago.

May 11–12:

National Library Legislative Day

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/wo/washevents/nlld/nlld2009.cfm>].

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

Contact Us

American Libraries Direct

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

George M. Eberhart,

Editor:

geberhart@ala.org [<mailto:geberhart@ala.org>]

Greg Landgraf,

Associate Editor:

glandgraf@ala.org [<mailto:glandgraf@ala.org>]

Leonard Kniffel,

Editor-in-Chief,

American Libraries: lkniffel@ala.org [<mailto:lkniffel@ala.org>]

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www.ala.org/aldirect/

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

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American Libraries
50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611
www.ala.org/online/ [<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/index.cfm>]
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Special Tough Economy Issue

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | January 20, 2009

Contents

- From the ALA President [[#alapres](#)]
- From the ALA Exec. Director [[#alaed](#)]
- ALA and the U.S. Government [[#alagov](#)]
- State and Local Efforts [[#statelocal](#)]
- ALA and You [[#alayou](#)]
- ALA and the Public [[#alapublic](#)]
- I Love Libraries [[#ill](#)]
- In the News [[#inthenews](#)]
- Stories [[#stories](#)]
- Publications [[#pubs](#)]
- Midwinter Events [[#midcal](#)]

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

[<http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com>]

From the ALA President

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Libraries stand ready to help
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/mediapresscenter/presskits/librariesintougheconomictimes/rettighuffingtonpost.cfm>]
ALA President Jim Rettig sent a contribution to the Huffington Post in December. His letter was coauthored by Greg Worrell, president of Scholastic Classroom and Library Group. It starts: “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

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From the ALA Executive Director

[<http://alfocus.ala.org/videos/alas-tools-help-libraries-tough-economy>]ALA tools that can help libraries in a tough economy

[<http://alfocus.ala.org/videos/alas-tools-help-libraries-tough-economy>] ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels discusses the economy, its effect on libraries, and what ALA is doing to help libraries survive in tough times in this exclusive AL Focus video: “One of our concerns is that libraries provide essential services, but they don’t always receive the recognition for those services. Unfortunately, when it comes time to cut budgets, libraries are often the first to be cut.”...

AL Focus, Jan. 13

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

ALA and the U.S. Government

At Midwinter: What would you tell President Obama?

[http://wikis.ala.org/midwinter2009/index.php/Membership_Town_Hall_Meeting]

What library issues are the most important for ALA members to share with the incoming administration? The ALA Executive Board and Membership Meeting Committee are sponsoring a Special Membership Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, January 24, 3:00–4:30 p.m. in the Four Seasons Ballroom at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver. Your suggestions and comments will help us as we develop a library message that ALA President Jim Rettig will convey to President Obama. Share your views on the Town Hall discussion wiki

[http://wikis.ala.org/midwinter2009/index.php/Town_Hall_Discussion]....

Report to the Obama-Biden transition team

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

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.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/wo/ALA%20Report%20To%20Transi.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

ALA requests stimulus funding for libraries

[<http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=996>]

In late October, ALA asked Congress for stimulus funding for basic public library services across the country so that they can continue to offer specialized assistance to help Americans deal with the current economic

crisis. The recommendation comes at a time when Congress is considering a variety of stimulus packages that will support job creation and economic growth....

District Dispatch, Oct. 29

Why federal funding matters to libraries

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/libfunding/fed/index.cfm>]

For the past several years the federal budget has been hard on domestic programs. While libraries have seen increases to the Library Services and Technology Act,

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/wo/woissues/lsta/lsta.cfm>] many other programs that benefit libraries have been severely cut or terminated. ALA follows these other programs as well, because libraries are part of a much bigger picture that includes education, the humanities, the arts, and many other important societal functions. The ALA Washington Office specifically communicates to Congress about the importance of funding libraries in many ways....

Contact Congress now [<http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=1253>]

ALA Office of Government Relations Director Lynne Bradley writes: "In order to maximize our influence on key library issues, we must be proactive in educating our new and returning elected officials on ALA's legislative agenda. There will be an onslaught of new bills in the coming months. We need to start building relationships with our senators and representatives early to make them aware of important legislative issues. Start by inviting them to your libraries."...

District Dispatch, Jan. 6

State and Local Efforts

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ALA offers online advocacy program to chapters

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/cro/chapters/valueoflibraries/capwiztochapters.cfm>]

In the fall, ALA expanded its support of Capwiz to make it easy for each chapter to advocate for libraries in tough times. Maryland

[http://capwiz.com/ala/md/issues/alert/?alertid=12394871&type=ML&show_alert=1] and Florida [<http://capwiz.com/ala/fl/issues/alert/?alertid=12161671>]

and 41 other state associations

[<http://cro.ala.org/chapters/index.php?title=Advocacy>] are mobilizing librarians and library users to contact governors and state legislators through their own Capwiz websites, powered by Capwiz advocacy software.

[<http://capitoladvantage.com/index.html>] By bundling into a shared system, ALA saves its chapters much-needed dollars....

NYLA goes grassroots [http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=148]

The New York Library Association, an ALA chapter, is holding a Library Lobby Day on March 10 at the Empire State Plaza in Albany. Advocates will rally in Meeting Room 6 to voice their support for library funding and provide a visual demonstration of the strength of the library community to legislators and their staffs. State legislators will have the opportunity to meet with librarians and have their photos taken for the annual READ posters and bookmarks....

New York Library Association

Texans support their libraries [<http://www.txla.org/html/pr/survey.html>]
The Texas Library Association, an ALA chapter, released the findings January 15 of a statewide survey of Texas voters and their opinions about school and public libraries. Conducted by KRC Research on behalf of TLA, the telephone survey of 1,201 registered voters found that an overwhelming majority believes their public library is very important (79%) to the community. 90% agreed that, during economic hard times, public libraries provide important resources to families and job seekers....

Texas Library Association, Jan. 15

Libraries: A great local government resource

[<http://www.icma.org/main/ns.asp?nsid=4309&LGM=1&t=0>]

ALA Chapter Relations Office Director Michael Dowling writes: "Libraries are proving to be important partners in helping local governments address community priorities. No longer institutions devoted solely to book circulation, today's libraries provide citizens and businesses with internet connectivity, career development, childhood literacy, immigration assistance, and other important services. Here [<http://www.icma.org/main/ld.asp?from=search&ldid=20339&hsid=1>] is the International City/County Management Association's perspective."... Local Government Matters, Jan. 20

Taking the library message to local governments

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/cro/chapters/valueoflibraries/talkinglibraryvalue.cfm>]

ALA has been taking the library-value message directly to local government officials and school administrators. Last fall ALA exhibited at conferences of the International City Management Association in Richmond, Virginia, and the National League of Cities in Orlando, Florida (above). ALA will also be exhibiting at American Association of School Administrators in February and the National Association of Counties in the summer. The theme of the exhibit is the value libraries bring to communities in services and economic development....
ALA Chapter Relations Office

ALA and You

ALA releases tough economy toolkit

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/olaeconomytoolkit.cfm>]

The ALA Office for Library Advocacy has released a new, web-based resource that will help library advocates make the case for libraries during times of economic downturn. The Advocating in a Tough Economy toolkit is now available online.

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/advocacyuniversity/toolkit/index.cfm>] It provides information on how to work with decision-makers and the media; recent media coverage of libraries is included. It also contains talking points to help libraries articulate the role of

libraries in times of economic downturn....

Advocacy toolkit for public libraries

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/pla/plaadvocacy/librariesprosper toolkit/index.cfm>]

Libraries Prosper with Passion, Purpose and Persuasion! A PLA Toolkit for Success, provides guidance on planning your library's advocacy efforts, including goal setting, audience analysis and identification, message and strategy development, and tactic evaluation and selection. Nearly 100 pages of instructions are included, as well as an accompanying CD-ROM....
Public Library Association

Crisis toolkit for school libraries

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aaslproftools/toolkits/crisis.cfm>]

This AASL Crisis Toolkit is designed to help you build meaningful and effective support for saving your program. That means educating and rallying stakeholders to speak out on behalf of school libraries.

Ideally, you want students, parents, teachers, and other stakeholders to carry the message that school libraries make a difference to students.

But this won't happen without careful planning and action. AASL also offers a School Library Program Health and Wellness Toolkit

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aaslproftools/toolkits/slmhealthandwellness.cfm>] that offers tips on avoiding crises completely....

American Association of School Librarians

Advocacy toolkits for academic libraries

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/advocacyuniversity/toolkit/acrl.cfm>]

Academic library advocacy includes the concept of library staff-initiated, systematic action to improve the quality of resources and services in the campus environment. It is most successful when all library staff members are aware of how they each play a role. Check out these tools from ACRL that will help you articulate the value of the library to your constituents....

Association of College and Research Libraries

Advocacy toolkit for youth services

[http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/advocacy_final.pdf]

(PDF file)

Youth services librarians may choose to advocate for any number of things—a dedicated teen space, bigger and better young adult collections, a young adult specialist, more staff, more and better computers, faster connections. The possibilities are virtually endless. But it almost always comes down to money. The focus of Speaking Up for Library Services to Teens: A Guide to Advocacy, a free, downloadable handbook, is on helping you get the support you need....

Young Adult Services Library Association

Add It Up: Libraries make the difference

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/advocacyuniversity/additup/index.cfm>]

The ALA Office for Advocacy has gathered together some talking points, research, and statistics to help advocates make the case for libraries at every stage of youth development and education. When the act of reading

extends beyond the schoolroom and becomes part of daily life, ongoing literacy is on its way to becoming a reality....

Share your advocacy tips

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/advocacyuniversity/toolkit/index1.cfm>]

How are you advocating for your library in these tough economic times? No matter how big or how small your success, the Office for Library Advocacy would like to hear from you. OLA is collecting best practices and tips from libraries around the country. A list of best practices will be made available online....

ALA program grants

[<http://ala.org/ala/awardsgrants/grants/programs/index.cfm>]

When times are tough, there's no better time to apply for a grant. The American Library Association and its divisions offer financial and material support for library programming. Support is also available for publications, research, and travel

[<http://ala.org/ala/awardsgrants/grants/pubresearchtravel/index.cfm>]....

ALA and the Public

Friends and trustees unite voices for America's libraries

[<http://www.folusa.org/altaff.php>]

Citizen support for libraries will be receiving a big boost on February 1 when Friends of Libraries U.S.A. and the Association for Library Trustees and Advocates will join forces to become an expanded division of ALA—the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends, and Foundations. This new division will help trustees and Friends work together at the local, state, and national levels to effectively promote libraries. The ultimate goal will be to harness the power of hundreds of thousands of library advocates....

Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends, and Foundations

ALA student chapter book drive

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/cro/studentchapters/studentchapterpages/studentchapterprojects.cfm>]

Members of the East Carolina University ALA Student Chapter set a record in 2008 with their third annual Christmas Book Drive, collecting some 3,500 donated books and delivering them to children's agencies and shelters throughout the state. Recipients included the Building Hope Community Life Center (above), the Greenville Family Violence Center, Catholic Parish Outreach, the Raleigh Rescue Mission, and the Duke Children's Hospital....

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

I Love Libraries [<http://www.ilovelibraries.org/>]

ILoveLibraries.org, an ALA initiative, is a website designed for the people who use and love libraries. It keeps the public informed about everything libraries have to offer, and helps develop new ways to involve library supporters in the continued health and vitality of libraries

everywhere....

Seven ways the public library can help in a tough economy

[<http://www.ilovelibraries.org/news/topstories/7ways.cfm>]

M. G. Farrelly writes: “Libraries listen to consumers! We like to call them patrons, but we really do listen. Do you want a story time for kids after 5 p.m.? Ask for it! Want more books about home finance or budgeting? Just ask! Libraries often go to great pains to suss out what the community wants; letting us know directly is great. The complaint or suggestion of a patron carries a lot of weight with library directors and boards, so you are being heard.”...

In the News

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House releases stimulus bill . . .

[<http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=1440>]

On January 15, the House of Representatives released its version of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (PDF file [<http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/RecoveryBill01-15-09.pdf>]), the highly anticipated stimulus package. The House version includes funding for a host of programs that libraries benefit from, including Education for the 21st Century,

[<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=56769>] K–12 Repair and Modernization, Higher Education Repair and Modernization, Rural Community Facilities Program, State Broadband Development, Community Service Employment for Older Americans, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Head Start/Early Head Start. Here (PDF file [<http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/wp-content/uploads/2009/01/ala-stimulus-funding-summary1.pdf>]) is an ALA summary of programs included that will benefit libraries. The House Appropriations Committee report (PDF file [<http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/RecoveryReport01-15-09.pdf>]) says education is a key investment area that will “enable more children to learn in 21st-century classrooms, labs, and libraries to help our kids compete with any worker in the world.”...

District Dispatch, Jan. 16; eSchool News, Jan. 15; American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, p. 180, 192; committee report, p. 4, 15

. . . but lacks aid to public libraries

[<http://www.al.ala.org/insidescoop/2009/01/16/an-intellectual-resource-essential-to-economic-recovery/>]

Minneapolis-based architect and ALA member Jeffrey Scherer wrote in a letter to the New York Times: “The proposed language of the \$825-billion recovery plan before the House of Representatives today does not include money for our [public] libraries. While it includes roads and bridges to drive across our communities, it must include our intellectual bridges, the public library. It is crucial that they have the financial resources to be upgraded, expanded, and renovated to fit the new era in the 21st century. I urge everyone to encourage Congress to include this crucial American intellectual resource in this recovery package.”...

AL Inside Scoop, Jan. 16

State funding for public libraries on decline

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/COSLAstatelibfunding09.cfm>]

Forty-one percent of states report declining state funding for U.S. public libraries in fiscal year 2009, according to a survey of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies conducted as part of ALA's Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study. Of these, 20% anticipate an additional reduction in the current fiscal year. While reductions have been seen from coast to coast, the southeastern section of the country has been the hardest hit, with declines as large as 30% in South Carolina and 23.4% in Florida in FY09 compared with FY08....

[http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=4692037n%3fsource=search_video] Surge in library usage covered by national media

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/visibilitysurge.cfm>]

Media outlets across the country are reporting that Americans are visiting their libraries more than ever, taking advantage of free programs and services. ALA's Public Information Office started educating media

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/mediapresscenter/presskits/librariesintougheconomictimes/economy.cfm>] about this upsurge in library visits last summer. Media—large and small—started to cover this developing story and placements continue to roll in. On December 31, CBS News anchor Katie Couric

[http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=4692037n%3fsource=search_video] (above) said Americans were saving money and keeping the looming recession at bay by going to their local libraries....

Folks are flocking to the library

[<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123197709459483585.html>]

The financial crisis has caused a lot of withdrawals at the public library. A few years ago, public libraries were being written off as goners. The internet had made them irrelevant, the argument went. But libraries across the country are reporting jumps in attendance of as much as 65% over the past year, as newly unemployed people flock to branches to fill out résumés and scan ads for job listings....

Wall Street Journal, Jan. 15

The role of libraries in hard times

[<http://wamu.org/programs/dr/09/01/07.php>]

Libraries today have become multimedia centers, offering not only books but DVDs, eBooks, and internet access. They can also be an especially important community resource during times of economic hardship. Carla Hayden (Enoch Pratt Free Library) and Ginnie Cooper (District of Columbia Public Library) joined ALA President Jim Rettig on National Public Radio's Diane Rehm Show January 7 to discuss the future of libraries. Available in Real Player or Windows Media formats....

WAMU-FM, Jan. 7

Library funding news

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/libfunding/index.cfm>]

The ALA Public Information Office keeps track of news and information for librarians and library supporters regarding public

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/libfunding/public/index.cfm>] and school
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/libfunding/school/index.cfm>] library funding....

Stories

=====

Share your news tips

[http://pio.ala.org/economystories/index.php?title=Main_Page]

On this wiki from the ALA Public Information Office, you can view what's happening in the news at libraries across the country, as well as submit news stories on what's going on in your community....

Inspired leadership in Minneapolis: 1933

[http://www.startribune.com/opinion/commentary/37304469.html?elr=KArksc8P:Pc:U0ckkD:aEyKUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aULPQL7PQLanchO7DiU]

In 1933, the Minneapolis Library Board was in dire financial straits. Local libraries had to subsist on a 33% cut from their annual funding level three years earlier. Hours were cut just as the reading rooms were filled to capacity with people who were out of work. Luckily, the city agency had inspired leadership. Minneapolis' determined and politically savvy chief librarian (and 1933–1934 ALA president), Gratia Countryman (right), was not about to let her libraries collapse under the weight of overwhelming budgetary pressures....

Minneapolis Star Tribune, Jan. 8

Another challenge for Minneapolis: 2008

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

Anita S. Duckor writes: "Minneapolis Public Library and the suburban Hennepin County Library made history last January when they merged, creating a single system serving 1.1 million people. The unprecedented measure, which required the approval of three elected bodies plus the state legislature and governor, was precipitated by a financial crisis that crippled MPL." Here are some things about advocacy and public awareness that they learned along the way....

American Libraries 40 (Jan./Feb. 2009): 45–47

Tough times in Tuscaloosa

[http://www.tuscaloosanews.com/article/20090105/NEWS/901040269/1007?Title=Public_libraries_get_a_lot_more_traffic_in_hard_times]

Andrew Heller sat at a computer in the Tuscaloosa (Ala.) Public Library, scrolling through his email and searching for employer responses to his online job applications. "I don't have the internet at home, and I don't feel like paying for it since I don't have a job," said Heller, 18, of Tuscaloosa County. Heller said he started using the library to help him in his job hunt about two weeks ago. He's been to the library 10 times since. "It's cheaper to come here," he said. "It's here, why not use it?"

Tuscaloosa (Ala.) News, Jan. 5

[<http://flickr.com/photos/raybanbro66/3094306716/>]/Recessions and their

impact on libraries

[<http://inthelibrarywiththeleadpipe.org/2009/a-look-at-recessions-and-their-impact-on-librarianship/>]

Hilary Davis writes: “In 1933, ALA Secretary Carl Milam, along with Ora Wildermuth, an attorney in Indiana, and H.L. Woolhiser, a city manager in Illinois, held a radio broadcast called ‘How to Reduce the Library Budget.’ The transcript (available from the National Municipal Review 22, no. 8, 1933) unpacks a revealing conversation about the pressures on libraries during the Great Depression and the corresponding aims of the ALA. It’s 2009, and our nation is in a major financial crisis with a new leadership positioning itself to get our economy back on track. What role are libraries playing during the current economic crisis?”... In the Library with the Lead Pipe, Jan. 14

The Spokane moms story

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2008/march2008/momswin.cfm>]

The advocacy of three determined Spokane women in 2008 resulted in the first-ever state-level support for school libraries in Washington. A compromise budget passed March 12 included \$4 million for 2008–09 to maintain and improve library materials, collections, and services. Lisa Layera Brunkan, Denette Hill, and Susan McBurney, troubled at the cuts to school library media programs in Washington and determined to strengthen them statewide, began a grassroots movement [<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2008/february2008/spokanemoms.cfm>] to combat the Spokane school board’s decision to cut in half the hours of the 10 full-time, K-8 teacher librarians still employed by Washington’s second-largest district.... American Libraries Online, Feb. 4, Mar. 21, 2008

Publications

Funding in a tough economy

[<http://www.alatechsource.org/blog/2009/01/libraries-a-source-of-free-technology-in-tough-times.html>]

Daniel A. Freeman writes: “Public libraries are crucial to their communities, especially when it comes to technology. According to Larra Clark and Denise Davis of ALA’s Office for Research and Statistics, writing in the January issue of Library Technology Reports [<http://www.techsource.ala.org/pr/library-technology-funding-in-a-tough-economy.html>], [<http://www.techsource.ala.org/pr/library-technology-funding-in-a-tough-economy.html>] nearly three-quarters of all public library branches are the only source of free computer and internet access in their communities. This is more common (82.5%) in rural communities. We are dealing with one of the worst economic crises in history, and the first to occur during the internet age. At a time like this, how could anyone argue that the only free source of internet access is expendable?”... ALA TechSource blog, Jan. 19

[<http://www.alastore.ala.org>]Measuring your library’s value

[<http://www.alastore.ala.org>]

Authored by members of the team that developed, tested, and perfected this methodology for over a decade, *Measuring Your Library's Value: How to Do a Cost-Benefit Analysis for Your Public Library* gives librarians the tools to conduct a defensible and credible cost-benefit analysis (CBA) that prepares library leaders to collaborate with economists and consultants. Learn how to measure the dollars-and-cents value your library provides to your community....

[<http://www.alastore.ala.org>]The small public library survival guide

[<http://www.alastore.ala.org>]

In 2002, Herbert B. Landau took on a job as director of the Milanof-Schock Library in Mount Joy, Pennsylvania. He writes: "In order to keep the public library financially viable, functionally relevant, and operationally efficient, I was forced to draw upon virtually all of my corporate experience in finance, marketing, public relations, and human relations, as well as my limited handyman's skills." His book, *The Small Public Library Survival Guide*, offers especially relevant tips on grantsmanship and buying on the cheap....

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ola/libraryadvocateshandbook.cfm>]Library advocate's handbook

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ola/libraryadvocateshandbook.cfm>]

The *Library Advocate's Handbook* covers basic techniques that work, whether you are seeking an increase in funding, campaigning for a new building, or dealing with controversy on social networking or the USA Patriot Act. Used in conjunction with training at state, regional, and national library conferences, the handbook has reached thousands of library advocates, enabling them to increase public awareness and support for library services. It's available online (PDF file

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ola/2008lah.pdf>]) as a free download....

[<http://www.alastore.ala.org>]The quality library

[<http://www.alastore.ala.org>]

In an environment of budget cuts and freezes, librarians must keep a tight rein on costs and inefficiencies. Based on more than 50 years of author expertise in organizational improvement, *The Quality Library: A Guide to Staff-Driven Improvement, Better Efficiency, and Happier Customers*, by Sara Laughlin and Ray W. Wilson, offers a methodology to pinpoint and eradicate inefficiencies, mistakes, and poor customer service....

[<http://www.alastore.ala.org>]Marketing today's academic library

[<http://www.alastore.ala.org>]

Written in a concise and engaging manner that speaks to popular anxiety points about new marketing techniques, *Marketing Today's Academic Library: A Bold New Approach to Communicating with Students* by Brian Mathews is filled with tips and strategies that academic librarians can use to communicate with students, surpassing their expectations of their library experience. Coming in March....

[<http://www.alastore.ala.org>]Creating the customer-driven library

[<http://www.alastore.ala.org>]

How can libraries make a difference in their communities when customers choose to hang out in the spacious, well-stocked new bookstore instead? With the goal of helping libraries market their services using low-cost or no-cost techniques, Jeannette Woodward in Creating the Customer-Driven Library shares practical lessons for any library’s revitalization, inspired by the success of the megabookstores....

[<http://www.folusa.org/resources/publications.php>]Great ideas for libraries and Friends [<http://www.folusa.org/resources/publications.php>] Friends of Libraries U.S.A. has collected 101+ terrific ideas and best practices to help you and your Friends team connect with your community. Even More Great Ideas for Libraries and Friends offers ideas for innovative programs, successful fundraising, strategic advocacy, powerful public relations, memorable membership campaigns, and more. Non-members of FOLUSA or ALTA must order it directly through Neal-Schuman [<http://www.neal-schuman.com/bdetail.php?isbn=9781555706388>] Publishers.... Friends of Libraries U.S.A.

edition 3
[http://www2.scholastic.com/content/collateral_resources/pdf/s/slw3_2008.pdf] (PDF file)
For the last four years Scholastic has been updating and publishing School Libraries Work!, the research that proves the school library positively affects student achievement. Since 2004 more than 200,000 copies have been distributed. The downloadable 24-page document contains the results of research from 19 states and one Canadian province and provides the backbone for your arguments in support of additional resources that will make a difference for your students.... Scholastic

Thrifty reference sources
[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3314040]
Mary Ellen Quinn writes: “Expensive new reference sources, whether print or online, can be out of reach for many libraries in these belt-tightening times, but you don’t necessarily need to spend a lot to freshen up the print reference shelves. Here are some titles that Reference Books Bulletin has reviewed over the past year or so that offer exceptional value.”...

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

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[<http://www.alastore.ala.org/>]

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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.

Midwinter Events

Jan. 23:

AASL School Library Advocacy Institute,

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/conferencesandevents/aaslmw/aaslalamidwinter.cfm>] Sheraton Denver, Vail Room, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Information, resources, and strategies to define advocacy action plans for school library media programs. On-site AASL member cost is \$189, ALA member cost \$229, others \$279.

Urban Libraries Council, Urban Assets Strategy Group,

[http://www.urbanlibraries.org/midwinter09_schedule.html] Denver Public Library, Level 5 Gates Meeting Room, 10 a.m.–noon. Discuss issues related to economic development, civic engagement, services to diverse populations, and other changing community conditions.

ALA Placement Center,

[<http://www.joblist.ala.org/modules/jobseeker/Recruiters.cfm>] Colorado Convention Center, Hall A, 4:00 p.m. Orientation for job seekers.

Jan. 24:

History in the Making, [<http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=1344>]

Colorado Convention Center, Room 201, 8:00–10:00 a.m. This ALA Washington Office Update will include a panel discussion considering thoughts on the recent election and what to expect from the new Administration and Congress. The panel will include former Colorado State Senate Majority Leader Ken Gordon and ALA Executive Director Emily Sheketoff.

ALA Placement Center,

[<http://www.joblist.ala.org/modules/jobseeker/Recruiters.cfm>] Colorado Convention Center, Hall A, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Employers are eager to talk to job seekers and will often grant an interview on the spot.

Building Campus Advocacy in Tough Economic Times, Colorado Convention Center, Room 402, 10:30 a.m.–noon. The ACRL University Library Section Campus Administration and Leadership Discussion Group will assist you in making the case for a smaller budget cut for your library when compared to other campus agencies.

Smart Investing @ your library, Colorado Convention Center, Room 111, 2:00 p.m. Announcement of more than \$800,000 in grant funding by the

FINRA Investor Education Foundation to support selected libraries with unbiased financial educational resources.

Special Membership Town Hall meeting,
[http://wikis.ala.org/midwinter2009/index.php/Membership_Town_Hall_Meeting]
Colorado Convention Center, Four Seasons Ballroom, 3:00–4:30 p.m. A healthy and vigorous discussion of the role of libraries in the United States.

Building Statewide Coalitions for All Libraries in a Tough Economy,
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/index.cfm>] Colorado Convention Center, Room 403–404, 4:00–5:30 p.m. A panel discussion moderated by former ALA President Carol Brey-Casiano and featuring ALA President Jim Rettig, Martin Garner, Rod Wagner, and Ann Dutton Ewbank.

Jan. 25:
ALA Placement Center,
[<http://www.joblist.ala.org/modules/jobseeker/Recruiters.cfm>] Colorado Convention Center, Hall A, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Employers are eager to talk to job seekers and will often grant an interview on the spot.

[<http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/>]

Sign up [http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?page_id=277] for the ALA Washington Office’s District Dispatch blog
[<http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/>] by email or RSS feed and learn about library-related legislative and other government news as it happens.

Public Perception
How the World
Sees Us

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/resources/selectedarticles/obama05.cfm>]

“I probably would not be in Chicago were it not for the Manhattan public library, because I was looking for an organizing job and was having great trouble finding a job as a community organizer in New York.”

“Straight Answers from Barack Obama,” *American Libraries* 36, no. 7 (Aug. 2005): 51. Read Sen. Barack Obama’s keynote address
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/resources/selectedarticles/obama05.cfm>]
at the opening general session of ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, June 23–29, 2005.

[<http://capwiz.com/ala/home/>]

The Legislative Action Center [<http://capwiz.com/ala/home/>] features updates on all the important library-related legislation making its way through Congress and allows you to directly contact your Members of Congress.

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

Find advice that will help you prepare for a productive and effective job search on the Tips and Tricks
[<http://joblist.ala.org/modules/jobseeker/controller.cfm>] page of ALA JobLIST.

If you need help getting your résumé polished, stop by the ALA Placement Center
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/hrdr/placementservice/currentconference.cfm>] while you are at the Midwinter Meeting or Annual Conference. The New Members Round Table [<http://www.ala.org/nmrt/>] provides a free résumé-critiquing service to attendees....

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

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/cro/chapters/valueoflibraries/talkinglibraryvalue.cfm>]
[<http://www.skokienet.org/node/580>]

Create READ posters showing your elected officials. Skokie (Ill.) Public Library did in 2006, and one featured then-Sen. Barack Obama. Nationwide, libraries and schools are using the READ CD [<http://www.alastore.ala.org>] to bring their communities closer together. From classroom projects to legislative partnerships, the READ CDs have helped build relationships in communities while highlighting the importance of reading.

[<http://www.alastore.ala.org>]

Ask the ALA Librarian

Q. I have heard several news reports mention that public library usage is up due to the slowing economy. As a librarian in a public library, I know that there certainly seem to be more people coming in, but how can I prove it to our Board? This would greatly help us when we ask for an increase in funding.

A. In our newly-released Advocating in a Tough Economy Toolkit [<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/advocacyuniversity/toolkit/index.cfm>], we have a worksheet for “Making the Case.” We suggest stories and examples, but also facts. Gathering statistics [<http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Statistics>] for the various services you offer is key not only for your ongoing need to make operational decisions, but also so that you can advocate for additional funding if your use is skyrocketing—or so that you have the facts in order to work to prevent deleterious cuts. You will also want to know your costs

[http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Cost_Analysis] for the services. In particular, you might want to look at the services in highest demand by your community. Some places to start include: 1) How heavily are your public access computers used? 2) Are more people visiting your library than in the past? 3) What return on investment does your library provide? Advocacy [<http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Advocacy>] for your library is one of the best ways to make sure that it continues to get the funding needed to provide the services your community expects—in any economic climate! See 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.

Public Perception
How the World
Sees Us

“Each of us will have our own recipe for simple pleasures. Here is mine—and it’s absolutely free. All I need is my library card. Give me a book and a Sunday afternoon and I’m gone.”

?Community volunteer and philanthropist Carole Weinstein, in “How Libraries Can Help You Weather the Economic Storm,” Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch, Dec. 21.

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

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George M. Eberhart,
Editor:
geberhart@ala.org [<mailto:geberhart@ala.org>]

Greg Landgraf,
Associate Editor:
glandgraf@ala.org [<mailto:glandgraf@ala.org>]

Leonard Kniffel,
Editor-in-Chief,

American Libraries: lkniffel@ala.org [<mailto:lkniffel@ala.org>]

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Special Tough Economy Issue

american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | January 20, 2009

Contents

[From the ALA President](#)
[From the ALA Exec. Director](#)
[ALA and the U.S. Government](#)
[State and Local Efforts](#)
[ALA and You](#)
[ALA and the Public](#)
[I Love Libraries](#)
[In the News](#)
[Stories](#)
[Publications](#)
[Midwinter Events](#)



From the ALA President

[Libraries stand ready to help](#)

ALA President Jim Rettig sent a contribution to the Huffington Post in December. His letter was coauthored by Greg Worrell, president of Scholastic Classroom and Library Group. It starts: "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



From the ALA Executive Director

[ALA tools that can help libraries in a tough economy](#)

ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels discusses the economy, its effect on libraries, and what ALA is doing to help libraries survive in tough times in this exclusive AL Focus video: "One of our concerns is that libraries provide essential services, but they don't always receive the recognition for those services. Unfortunately, when it comes time to cut budgets, libraries are often the first to be cut."...

AL Focus, Jan. 13



[ALA Midwinter Meeting.](#)

Denver, January 23–28.

Midwinter Events

Jan. 23:

[AASL School Library Advocacy Institute.](#)

Sheraton Denver, Vail Room, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Information, resources, and strategies to define



ALA and the U.S. Government

[At Midwinter: What would you tell President Obama?](#)

What library issues are the most important for ALA members to share with the incoming administration? The ALA Executive Board and Membership Meeting Committee are sponsoring a Special Membership Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, January 24, 3:00–4:30 p.m. in the Four Seasons Ballroom at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver. Your suggestions and comments will help us as we develop a library message that ALA President Jim Rettig will convey to President Obama. Share your views on the Town Hall [discussion wiki](#)....



[Report to the 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

[ALA requests stimulus funding for libraries](#)

In late October, ALA asked Congress for stimulus funding for basic public library services across the country so that they can continue to offer specialized assistance to help Americans deal with the current economic crisis. The recommendation comes at a time when Congress is considering a variety of stimulus packages that will support job creation and economic growth....

District Dispatch, Oct. 29

[Why federal funding matters to libraries](#)

For the past several years the federal budget has been hard on domestic programs. While libraries have seen increases to the [Library Services and Technology Act](#), many other programs that benefit libraries have been severely cut or terminated. ALA follows these other programs as well, because libraries are part of a much bigger picture that includes education, the humanities, the arts, and many other important societal functions. The ALA Washington Office specifically communicates to Congress about the importance of funding libraries in many ways....

[Contact Congress now](#)

ALA Office of Government Relations Director Lynne Bradley writes: "In order to maximize our influence on key library issues, we must be proactive in educating our new and returning elected officials on ALA's legislative agenda. There will be an onslaught of new bills in the coming months. We need to start building relationships with our senators and representatives early to make them aware of important legislative issues. Start by inviting them to your libraries."...

District Dispatch, Jan. 6



State and Local Efforts

[ALA offers online advocacy program to](#)

advocacy action plans for school library media programs. On-site AASL member cost is \$189, ALA member cost \$229, others \$279.

[Urban Libraries Council, Urban Assets Strategy Group.](#)

Denver Public Library, Level 5 Gates Meeting Room, 10 a.m.–noon. Discuss issues related to economic development, civic engagement, services to diverse populations, and other changing community conditions.

[ALA Placement Center.](#)

Colorado Convention Center, Hall A, 4:00 p.m.

Orientation for job seekers.

Jan. 24:

[History in the Making.](#)

Colorado Convention Center, Room 201, 8:00–10:00 a.m. This ALA Washington Office Update will include a panel discussion considering thoughts on the recent election and what to expect from the new Administration and Congress. The panel will include former Colorado State Senate Majority Leader Ken Gordon and ALA Executive Director Emily Sheketoff.

[ALA Placement Center.](#)

Colorado Convention Center, Hall A, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Employers are eager to talk to job seekers and will often grant an interview on the spot.

Building Campus Advocacy in Tough Economic Times,

[chapters](#)

In the fall, ALA expanded its support of Capwiz to make it easy for each chapter to advocate for libraries in tough times. [Maryland](#) and [Florida](#) and [41 other state associations](#) are mobilizing librarians and library users to contact governors and state legislators through their own Capwiz websites, powered by [Capwiz advocacy software](#). By bundling into a shared system, ALA saves its chapters much-needed dollars....



[NYLA goes grassroots](#)

The New York Library Association, an ALA chapter, is holding a Library Lobby Day on March 10 at the Empire State Plaza in Albany. Advocates will rally in Meeting Room 6 to voice their support for library funding and provide a visual demonstration of the strength of the library community to legislators and their staffs. State legislators will have the opportunity to meet with librarians and have their photos taken for the annual READ posters and bookmarks....

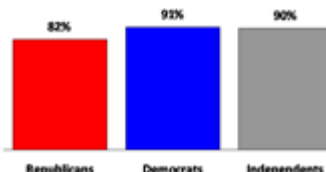
New York Library Association



[Texans support their libraries](#)

The Texas Library Association, an ALA chapter, released the findings January 15 of a statewide survey of Texas voters and their opinions about school and public libraries. Conducted by KRC Research on behalf of TLA, the telephone survey of 1,201 registered voters found that an overwhelming majority believes their public library is very important (79%) to the community. 90% agreed that, during economic hard times, public libraries provide important resources to families and job seekers....

Texas Library Association, Jan. 15



[Libraries: A great local government resource](#)

ALA Chapter Relations Office Director Michael Dowling writes: "Libraries are proving to be important partners in helping local governments address community priorities. No longer institutions devoted solely to book circulation, today's libraries provide citizens and businesses with internet connectivity, career development, childhood literacy, immigration assistance, and other important services. [Here](#) is the International City/County Management Association's perspective."...

Local Government Matters, Jan. 20

[Taking the library message to local governments](#)

ALA has been taking the library-value message directly to local government officials and school administrators. Last fall ALA exhibited at conferences of the International City Management Association in Richmond, Virginia, and the National League of Cities in Orlando, Florida (above). ALA will also be exhibiting at American Association of School Administrators in February and the National Association of Counties in the summer. The theme of the exhibit is the value libraries bring to communities in services and economic development....



Colorado Convention Center, Room 402, 10:30 a.m.–noon. The ACRL University Library Section Campus Administration and Leadership Discussion Group will assist you in making the case for a smaller budget cut for your library when compared to other campus agencies.

Smart Investing @ your library, Colorado Convention Center, Room 111, 2:00 p.m. Announcement of more than \$800,000 in grant funding by the FINRA Investor Education Foundation to support selected libraries with unbiased financial educational resources.

[Special Membership Town Hall meeting.](#)

Colorado Convention Center, Four Seasons Ballroom, 3:00–4:30 p.m. A healthy and vigorous discussion of the role of libraries in the United States.

[Building Statewide Coalitions for All Libraries in a Tough Economy.](#)

Colorado Convention Center, Room 403–404, 4:00–5:30 p.m. A panel discussion moderated by former ALA President Carol Brey-Casiano and featuring ALA President Jim Rettig, Martin Garnar, Rod Wagner, and Ann Dutton Ewbank.

Jan. 25:
[ALA Placement Center.](#) Colorado Convention Center, Hall A, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Employers are eager to

ALA Chapter Relations Office

ALA and You

ALA releases tough economy toolkit

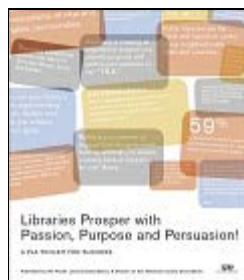
The ALA Office for Library Advocacy has released a new, web-based resource that will help library advocates make the case for libraries during times of economic downturn. The *Advocating in a Tough Economy* toolkit is now available [online](#). It provides information on how to work with decision-makers and the media; recent media coverage of libraries is included. It also contains talking points to help libraries articulate the role of libraries in times of economic downturn....



Advocacy toolkit for public libraries

Libraries Prosper with Passion, Purpose and Persuasion! A PLA Toolkit for Success, provides guidance on planning your library's advocacy efforts, including goal setting, audience analysis and identification, message and strategy development, and tactic evaluation and selection. Nearly 100 pages of instructions are included, as well as an accompanying CD-ROM....

Public Library Association



Crisis toolkit for school libraries

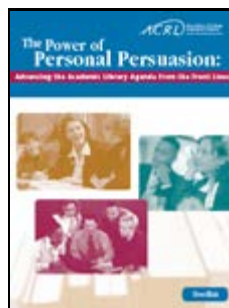
This AASL Crisis Toolkit is designed to help you build meaningful and effective support for saving your program. That means educating and rallying stakeholders to speak out on behalf of school libraries. Ideally, you want students, parents, teachers, and other stakeholders to carry the message that school libraries make a difference to students. But this won't happen without careful planning and action. AASL also offers a [School Library Program Health and Wellness Toolkit](#) that offers tips on avoiding crises completely....

American Association of School Librarians

Advocacy toolkits for academic libraries

Academic library advocacy includes the concept of library staff-initiated, systematic action to improve the quality of resources and services in the campus environment. It is most successful when all library staff members are aware of how they each play a role. Check out these tools from ACRL that will help you articulate the value of the library to your constituents....

Association of College and Research Libraries



Advocacy toolkit for youth services

(PDF file)

Youth services librarians may choose to advocate for any number of things—a dedicated teen space, bigger and better young adult collections, a young adult specialist, more staff, more and better computers, faster connections. The possibilities are virtually endless. But it almost always comes down to money. The focus of *Speaking Up for Library*



talk to job seekers and will often grant an interview on the spot.



[Sign up](#) for the ALA Washington Office's [District Dispatch blog](#) by email or RSS feed and learn about library-related legislative and other government news as it happens.

Public Perception

How the World Sees Us



"I probably would not be in Chicago were it not for the Manhattan public library, because I was looking for an organizing job and was having great trouble finding a job as a community organizer in New York."

—"Straight Answers from Barack Obama," *American Libraries* 36, no. 7 (Aug. 2005): 51. Read Sen. [Barack Obama's keynote address](#) at the opening general session of ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, June 23–29, 2005.



Services to Teens: A Guide to Advocacy, a free, downloadable handbook, is on helping you get the support you need....

Young Adult Services Library Association

Add It Up: Libraries make the difference

The ALA Office for Advocacy has gathered together some talking points, research, and statistics to help advocates make the case for libraries at every stage of youth development and education. When the act of reading extends beyond the schoolroom and becomes part of daily life, ongoing literacy is on its way to becoming a reality....



Share your advocacy tips

How are you advocating for your library in these tough economic times? No matter how big or how small your success, the Office for Library Advocacy would like to hear from you. OLA is collecting best practices and tips from libraries around the country. A list of best practices will be made available online....



ALA program grants

When times are tough, there's no better time to apply for a grant. The American Library Association and its divisions offer financial and material support for library programming. Support is also available for [publications, research, and travel](#)....



ALA and the Public

Friends and trustees unite voices for America's libraries

Citizen support for libraries will be receiving a big boost on February 1 when Friends of Libraries U.S.A. and the Association for Library Trustees and Advocates will join forces to become an expanded division of ALA—the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends, and Foundations. This new division will help trustees and Friends work together at the local, state, and national levels to effectively promote libraries. The ultimate goal will be to harness the power of hundreds of thousands of library advocates....

Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends, and Foundations



ALA student chapter book drive

Members of the East Carolina University ALA Student Chapter set a record in 2008 with their third annual Christmas Book Drive, collecting some 3,500 donated books and delivering them to children's agencies and shelters throughout the state. Recipients included the Building Hope Community Life Center (above), the Greenville Family Violence Center, Catholic Parish Outreach, the Raleigh Rescue Mission, and the Duke Children's Hospital....



The [Legislative Action Center](#) features updates on all the important library-related legislation making its way through Congress and allows you to directly contact your Members of Congress.

Career Tips from

ALA JobLIST

Find advice that will help you prepare for a productive and effective job search on the [Tips and Tricks](#) page of ALA JobLIST.

If you need help getting your résumé polished, stop by the [ALA Placement Center](#) while you are at the Midwinter Meeting or Annual Conference. The [New Members Round Table](#) provides a **free** résumé-critiquing service to attendees....

@ [More jobs...](#)

i love libraries.org

I Love Libraries

ILoveLibraries.org, an ALA initiative, is a website designed for the people who use and love libraries. It keeps the public informed about everything libraries have to offer, and helps develop new ways to involve library supporters in the continued health and vitality of libraries everywhere....

Seven ways the public library can help in a tough economy

M. G. Farrelly writes: "Libraries listen to consumers! We like to call them patrons, but we really do listen. Do you want a story time for kids after 5 p.m.? Ask for it! Want more books about home finance or budgeting? Just ask! Libraries often go to great pains to suss out what the community wants; letting us know directly is great. The complaint or suggestion of a patron carries a lot of weight with library directors and boards, so you are being heard."...

In the News

House releases stimulus bill . . .

On January 15, the House of Representatives released its version of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 ([PDF file](#)), the highly anticipated stimulus package. The House version includes funding for a host of programs that libraries benefit from, including [Education for the 21st Century](#), K-12 Repair and Modernization, Higher Education Repair and Modernization, Rural Community Facilities Program, State Broadband Development, Community Service Employment for Older Americans, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Head Start/Early Head Start. Here ([PDF file](#)) is an ALA summary of programs included that will benefit libraries. The House Appropriations Committee report ([PDF file](#)) says



@your library®
...A great return on investment

90% of Maryland's citizens say public libraries are "a good investment"

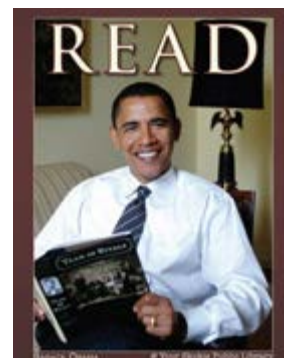
Seattle's new downtown public library contributed nearly
\$16 million to the local economy in its first full year of operation

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is the area's most visited regional asset. It provides **\$6** worth of benefits for every dollar provided by the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny Regional Asset District.

for every **\$1** invested in public libraries
in South Carolina, there is a return on investment of **\$4.48**
in Wisconsin, there is a return on investment of **\$4.06**

89% of Indiana community and business leaders agree that public libraries "significantly improve the local quality of life"

ALA American Library Association
www.ala.org



Create READ posters showing your elected officials. Skokie (Ill.) Public Library did in 2006, and one featured then-Sen. Barack Obama. Nationwide, libraries and schools are using the [READ CD](#) to bring their communities closer together. From classroom projects to legislative partnerships, the READ CDs have helped build relationships in communities while highlighting the

education is a key investment area that will “enable more children to learn in 21st-century classrooms, labs, and libraries to help our kids compete with any worker in the world.”...

District Dispatch, Jan. 16; eSchool News, Jan. 15; American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, p. 180, 192; committee report, p. 4, 15

[... but lacks aid to public libraries](#)

Minneapolis-based architect and ALA member Jeffrey Scherer wrote in a letter to the *New York Times*: “The proposed language of the \$825-billion recovery plan before the House of Representatives today does not include money for our [public] libraries. While it includes roads and bridges to drive across our communities, it must include our intellectual bridges, the public library. It is crucial that they have the financial resources to be upgraded, expanded, and renovated to fit the new era in the 21st century. I urge everyone to encourage Congress to include this crucial American intellectual resource in this recovery package.”...

AL Inside Scoop, Jan. 16



[State funding for public libraries on decline](#)

Forty-one percent of states report declining state funding for U.S. public libraries in fiscal year 2009, according to a survey of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies conducted as part of ALA's Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study. Of these, 20% anticipate an additional reduction in the current fiscal year. While reductions have been seen from coast to coast, the southeastern section of the country has been the hardest hit, with declines as large as 30% in South Carolina and 23.4% in Florida in FY09 compared with FY08....

[Surge in library usage covered by national media](#)

Media outlets across the country are reporting that Americans are visiting their libraries more than ever, taking advantage of free programs and services. ALA's Public Information Office started [educating media](#) about this upsurge in library visits last summer. Media—large and small—started to cover this developing story and placements continue to roll in. On December 31, CBS News anchor [Katie Couric](#) (above) said Americans were saving money and keeping the looming recession at bay by going to their local libraries....



[Folks are flocking to the library](#)

The financial crisis has caused a lot of withdrawals at the public library. A few years ago, public libraries were being written off as goners. The internet had made them irrelevant, the argument went. But libraries across the country are reporting jumps in attendance of as much as 65% over the past year, as newly unemployed people flock to branches to fill out résumés and scan ads for job listings....

Wall Street Journal, Jan. 15

[The role of libraries in hard times](#)

Libraries today have become multimedia centers, offering not only books but DVDs, eBooks, and internet access. They can also be an especially important community resource during times of economic hardship. Carla Hayden (Enoch Pratt Free Library) and Ginnie Cooper (District of Columbia Public Library) joined ALA President Jim Rettig on National Public Radio's Diane Rehm Show January 7 to discuss the

importance of reading.

CREATE YOUR OWN
READ*
POSTERS!

Ask the ALA Librarian



Q. I have heard several news reports mention that public library usage is up due to the slowing economy. As a librarian in a public library, I know that there certainly seem to be more people coming in, but how can I prove it to our Board? This would greatly help us when we ask for an increase in funding.

A. In our newly-released [Advocating in a Tough Economy Toolkit](#), we have a worksheet for “Making the Case.” We suggest stories and examples, but also facts. Gathering [statistics](#) for the various services you offer is key not only for your ongoing need to make operational decisions, but also so that you can advocate for additional funding if your use is skyrocketing—or so that you have the facts in order to work to prevent deleterious

future of libraries. Available in Real Player or Windows Media formats....

WAMU-FM, Jan. 7

[Library funding news](#)

The ALA Public Information Office keeps track of news and information for librarians and library supporters regarding [public](#) and [school](#) library funding....

Stories

[Share your news tips](#)

On this wiki from the ALA Public Information Office, you can view what's happening in the news at libraries across the country, as well as submit news stories on what's going on in your community....

[Inspired leadership in Minneapolis: 1933](#)

In 1933, the Minneapolis Library Board was in dire financial straits. Local libraries had to subsist on a 33% cut from their annual funding level three years earlier. Hours were cut just as the reading rooms were filled to capacity with people who were out of work. Luckily, the city agency had inspired leadership. Minneapolis' determined and politically savvy chief librarian (and 1933–1934 ALA president), Gratia Countryman (right), was not about to let her libraries collapse under the weight of overwhelming budgetary pressures....

Minneapolis Star Tribune, Jan. 8



[Another challenge for Minneapolis: 2008](#)

Anita S. Duckor writes: "Minneapolis Public Library and the suburban Hennepin County Library made history last January when they merged, creating a single system serving 1.1 million people. The unprecedented measure, which required the approval of three elected bodies plus the state legislature and governor, was precipitated by a financial crisis that crippled MPL." Here are some things about advocacy and public awareness that they learned along the way....

American Libraries 40 (Jan./Feb. 2009): 45–47



[Tough times in Tuscaloosa](#)

Andrew Heller sat at a computer in the Tuscaloosa (Ala.) Public Library, scrolling through his email and searching for employer responses to his online job applications. "I don't have the internet at home, and I don't feel like paying for it since I don't have a job," said Heller, 18, of Tuscaloosa County. Heller said he started using the library to help him in his job hunt about two weeks ago. He's been to the library 10 times since. "It's cheaper to come here," he said. "It's here, why not use it?"...

Tuscaloosa (Ala.) News, Jan. 5

[Recessions and their impact on libraries](#)

Hilary Davis writes: "In 1933, ALA Secretary Carl Milam, along with Ora Wildermuth, an attorney in Indiana, and H.L. Woolhiser, a city

cuts. You will also want to know your [costs](#) for the services. In particular, you might want to look at the services in highest demand by your community. Some places to start include: 1) How heavily are your public access computers used? 2) Are more people visiting your library than in the past? 3) What return on investment does your library provide?

[Advocacy](#) for your library is one of the best ways to make sure that it continues to get the funding needed to provide the services your community expects—in any economic climate! See the [ALA Professional Tips wiki](#).

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

Public Perception

How the World Sees Us

"Each of us will have our own recipe for simple pleasures. Here is mine—and it's absolutely free. All I need is my library card. Give me a book and a Sunday afternoon and I'm gone."

—Community volunteer and philanthropist Carole Weinstein, in "How Libraries Can Help You Weather the Economic Storm," *Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch*, Dec. 21.

manager in Illinois, held a radio broadcast called 'How to Reduce the Library Budget.' The transcript (available from the *National Municipal Review* 22, no. 8, 1933) unpacks a revealing conversation about the pressures on libraries during the Great Depression and the corresponding aims of the ALA. It's 2009, and our nation is in a major financial crisis with a new leadership positioning itself to get our economy back on track. What role are libraries playing during the current economic crisis?"...

In the Library with the Lead Pipe, Jan. 14



[The Spokane moms story](#)

The advocacy of three determined Spokane women in 2008 resulted in the first-ever state-level support for school libraries in Washington. A compromise budget passed March 12 included \$4 million for 2008–09 to maintain and improve library materials, collections, and services.

Lisa Layera Brunkan, Denette Hill, and Susan McBurney, troubled at the cuts to school library media programs in Washington and determined to strengthen them statewide, began a [grassroots movement](#) to combat the Spokane school board's decision to cut in half the hours of the 10 full-time, K-8 teacher librarians still employed by Washington's second-largest district....

American Libraries Online, Feb. 4, Mar. 21, 2008



Publications

[Funding in a tough economy](#)

Daniel A. Freeman writes: "Public libraries are crucial to their communities, especially when it comes to technology. According to Larra Clark and Denise Davis of ALA's Office for Research and Statistics, writing in the January issue of [Library Technology Reports](#), nearly three-quarters of all public library branches are the only source of free computer and internet access in their communities.

This is more common (82.5%) in rural communities. We are dealing with one of the worst economic crises in history, and the first to occur during the internet age. At a time like this, how could anyone argue that the only free source of internet access is expendable?"...

ALA TechSource blog, Jan. 19



[Measuring your library's value](#)

Authored by members of the team that developed, tested, and perfected this methodology for over a decade, *Measuring Your Library's Value: How to Do a Cost-Benefit Analysis for Your Public Library* gives librarians the tools to conduct a defensible and credible cost-benefit analysis (CBA) that prepares library leaders to collaborate with economists and



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

Greg Landgraf,
Associate Editor:
glandgraf@ala.org

Leonard Kniffel,
Editor-in-Chief,
American Libraries:
lkniffel@ala.org

To advertise in American Libraries Direct, contact:
Brian Searles,
bsearles@ala.org

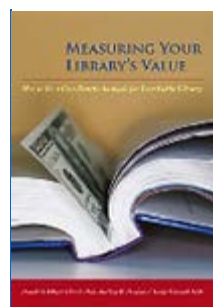
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consultants. Learn how to measure the dollars-and-cents value your library provides to your community....



ISSN 1559-369X.

[The small public library survival guide](#)

In 2002, Herbert B. Landau took on a job as director of the Milanof-Schock Library in Mount Joy, Pennsylvania. He writes: "In order to keep the public library financially viable, functionally relevant, and operationally efficient, I was forced to draw upon virtually all of my corporate experience in finance, marketing, public relations, and human relations, as well as my limited handyman's skills." His book, *The Small Public Library Survival Guide*, offers especially relevant tips on grantsmanship and buying on the cheap....



[Library advocate's handbook](#)

The *Library Advocate's Handbook* covers basic techniques that work, whether you are seeking an increase in funding, campaigning for a new building, or dealing with controversy on social networking or the USA Patriot Act. Used in conjunction with training at state, regional, and national library conferences, the handbook has reached thousands of library advocates, enabling them to increase public awareness and support for library services. It's available online ([PDF file](#)) as a free download....



[The quality library](#)

In an environment of budget cuts and freezes, librarians must keep a tight rein on costs and inefficiencies. Based on more than 50 years of author expertise in organizational improvement, *The Quality Library: A Guide to Staff-Driven Improvement, Better Efficiency, and Happier Customers*, by Sara Laughlin and Ray W. Wilson, offers a methodology to pinpoint and eradicate inefficiencies, mistakes, and poor customer service....



[Marketing today's academic library](#)

Written in a concise and engaging manner that speaks to popular anxiety points about new marketing techniques, *Marketing Today's Academic Library: A Bold New Approach to Communicating with Students* by Brian Mathews is filled with tips and strategies that academic librarians can use to communicate with students, surpassing their expectations of their library experience. Coming in March....



[Creating the customer-driven library](#)

How can libraries make a difference in their

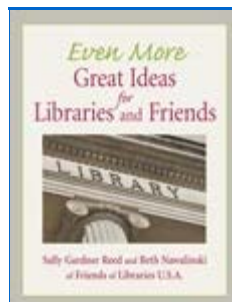
communities when customers choose to hang out in the spacious, well-stocked new bookstore instead? With the goal of helping libraries market their services using low-cost or no-cost techniques, Jeannette Woodward in *Creating the Customer-Driven Library* shares practical lessons for any library's revitalization, inspired by the success of the megabookstores....



[Great ideas for libraries and Friends](#)

Friends of Libraries U.S.A. has collected 101+ terrific ideas and best practices to help you and your Friends team connect with your community. *Even More Great Ideas for Libraries and Friends* offers ideas for innovative programs, successful fundraising, strategic advocacy, powerful public relations, memorable membership campaigns, and more. Non-members of FOLUSA or ALTA must order it directly through [Neal-Schuman Publishers](#)....

Friends of Libraries U.S.A.



[School Libraries Work! edition 3](#) (PDF file)

For the last four years Scholastic has been updating and publishing *School Libraries Work!*, the research that proves the school library positively affects student achievement. Since 2004 more than 200,000 copies have been distributed. The downloadable 24-page document contains the results of research from 19 states and one Canadian province and provides the backbone for your arguments in support of additional resources that will make a difference for your students....

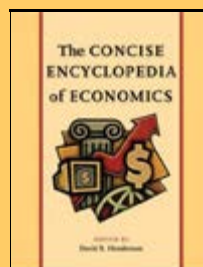
Scholastic



[Booklist](#) ONLINE

[Thrifty reference sources](#)

Mary Ellen Quinn writes: "Expensive new reference sources, whether print or online, can be out of reach for many libraries in these belt-tightening times, but you don't necessarily need to spend a lot to freshen up the print reference shelves. Here are some titles that *Reference Books Bulletin* has reviewed over the past year or so that offer exceptional value."...



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

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american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | January 21, 2009

Contents

[U.S. & World News](#)
[ALA News](#)
[Booklist Online](#)
[Denver Update](#)
[Division News](#)
[Awards](#)
[Seen Online](#)
[Tech Talk](#)
[Publishing](#)
[Actions & Answers](#)
[Calendar](#)

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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

[Supreme Court nixes COPA](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court has rejected a government attempt to resurrect the Child Online Protection Act of 1998, which had been repeatedly rebuffed by lower federal courts over a decade of judicial review. The justices let stand a unanimous ruling last July by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia declaring the law unconstitutional on First and Fifth Amendment grounds—which overturns COPA permanently....

American Libraries Online, Jan. 21

[Watchdog group loses vice-presidential disclosure case](#)

A federal judge dismissed January 19 a lawsuit by the [Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington](#) that sought to force former Vice President Dick Cheney to give to the National Archives all his records pertaining to his executive branch duties. The decision of U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly ended a five-month injunction mandating the preservation of Cheney's records, and comes only two weeks after the House overwhelmingly passed a bill that voided [Executive Order 13233](#), in which President George W. Bush bestowed some latitude in withholding the release of presidential papers indefinitely....

American Libraries Online, Jan. 21



[Feds: Anti-lead law not intended for library books](#)

Taken at face value, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's interpretation of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, which lowers the permissible level of lead in children's products and imposes certification requirements, would require libraries to limit access to their children's collections or have them tested for lead content. However, ALA Washington Office Executive Director Emily Sheketoff told *American Libraries*, "We have spoken with congressional offices and they have said that it was not congressional intent to include books" in the law. ALA is seeking a formal opinion exempting libraries....

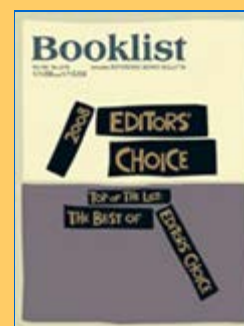
American Libraries Online, Jan. 15



[ALA Midwinter Meeting.](#)

Denver, January 23–28.

As of January 16, **advance registration** was 5,840, compared to 5,833 at the same point for the 2008 Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia. This includes 671 first-time Midwinter Meeting attendees, compared to 371 in Philadelphia.



The January 1 & 15 issue of [Booklist](#) has the "Top of the List: The Best of Editor's Choice" list for 2008. Pick up a copy at the Midwinter Meeting in Denver! **NEW! From**

[OCLC delays WorldCat policy](#)

OCLC has announced that it will delay implementation of its controversial Policy for Use and Transfer of WorldCat Records until the third quarter of 2009. It will also convene a Review Board of Shared Data Creation and Stewardship—a joint board of the OCLC Members Council and the OCLC Board of Trustees—to discuss and review the policy. Librarians had commented unfavorably about clauses they viewed as imposing licenses, restricting their rights to use records, and a perceived lack of openness in the policy's development process....

American Libraries Online, Jan. 16



ALA News

[What's happening at Midwinter](#)

It's that time of year again, when we're all gathering in a cold place during the North American winter. If you're heading to the Midwinter Meeting this week, you naturally want to know about everything that's happening there. To make sure you don't miss any of the big stuff, check out Senior Associate Executive Director Mary Ghikas's "What's Happening" list ([PDF file](#))....

ALA Marginalia, Jan. 19

[Midwinter Meeting exhibitor coupons](#)

Print out these PDF coupons and bring them to Denver to get a head start on drawings, gifts, discounts, previews, and hot tips from exhibitors at the Midwinter Meeting....

ALA and *Library Journal*



[Add It Up focuses on children and teens](#)

A new ALA web-based resource will help library advocates make the case for libraries in the lives of children and teens, [Add It Up: Libraries Make the Difference in Youth Development and Education](#). Divided into three age groups, Add It Up contains top-level talking points, statistics, and links to the bodies of research. This resource is part of [Advocacy University](#). ALA's new initiative geared to providing tools, training, and resources to library advocates....



[State funding for public libraries on decline](#)

Almost half of all states report declining state funding for U.S. public libraries in fiscal year 2009, according to a survey of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies conducted as part of ALA's Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study. Of these, 20% anticipate an additional reduction in the current fiscal year. While reductions have been seen from coast to coast, the southeastern section of the country has been the hardest hit, with declines as large as 30% in South Carolina and 23.4% in Florida in FY09 compared with FY08....

[Jamie Lee Curtis featured on NLW promotion](#)

Bestselling children's author and actress Jamie Lee Curtis, the honorary chair of National Library Week

Booklist.



Hear young adult author **Lauren Myracle** (author of *ttyl*) at the [Freedom to Read Author Event](#). Tattered Cover Book Store, 1628 16th Street, Denver. Proceeds will benefit the Freedom to Read Foundation's efforts to support and defend the First Amendment in libraries and elsewhere. Purchase tickets [here](#).

In this issue

January/February
2009



Gaming @ your library

The Minneapolis-Hennepin merger

Testing the Web 2.0 waters

I Love My Librarian awards

Career Leads from

ALA JobLIST

[Library Director](#), City

(April 12–18), has lent her image to a print public service announcement featuring the 2009 National Library Week theme, "Worlds connect @ your library." The PSA is [available](#) for libraries to use in their public relations efforts. Other tools include a proclamation, sample press release, and letter to the editor, as well as scripts for use in radio PSAs....



[Free programming resource from PPO](#)

ALA's Public Programs Office is offering a new online resource to assist libraries of all types and sizes in creating cultural and community programs. The [Programming Librarian](#) website includes a resource library, live learning opportunities, and a blog to keep librarians informed of upcoming opportunities and provide inspiration for new library programs. As the site continues to develop, users will find more resources, ideas, and opportunities to network with peers and programming experts....

[New Library Champion: Neal-Schuman Foundation](#)

The Neal-Schuman Foundation has joined ALA's [Library Champions](#) program. The foundation was established in 2000 by Patricia Glass Schuman and John Vincent Neal, founders of Neal-Schuman Publishers, to aid, assist, and promote research and educational activities for the improvement of library and information services....

[Last chance to be a Councilor](#) (PDF file)

Anyone planning to run as a petition candidate for ALA Council has until the close of business on January 30 to file a petition form with the ALA Executive Director, in hard copy, with the signatures of no fewer than 25 ALA current personal members (membership numbers must be included). Information must be entered onto an online [biographical information form](#) by the same deadline....

[Scott Turow to headline Freedom to Read gala in Chicago](#)

Award-winning author Scott Turow will be the featured speaker at the Freedom to Read Foundation's 40th anniversary gala celebration, Sunday, July 12, at the new Modern Wing of the Art Institute of Chicago. The event, which will honor FTRF's visionary founder and executive director Judith Krug and the educational work of Chicago's [McCormick Freedom Museum](#), will feature a dinner and gala celebration that includes a gallery viewing of the Renzo Piano–designed museum space. The event, held in conjunction with ALA Annual Conference, will also feature a special address by author Judy Blume....



of Woodstock, Illinois. Charming, historic community of 24,000, one hour northwest of Chicago, seeks dynamic leader for beautiful Woodstock Public Library. Minimum qualifications: MLS and five years of experience....

@ [More jobs...](#)

Visit the ACRL booth (#2507) at Midwinter and register to win a complimentary registration to the [ACRL 14th National Conference](#), March 12–15, in Seattle. The winner will be announced on the [ACRL Insider blog](#) by January 31.

[Digital Library of the Week](#)



[ETANA \(Electronic Tools and Ancient Near Eastern Archives\)](#) is a cooperative effort to include the permanent archiving, dissemination, and generation of archaeological excavation reports, editions of ancient and modern texts, core early monographs, dictionaries, journals, and reports on

Booklist ONLINE

[Featured review: Adult books](#)

Leach, Penelope. *Child Care Today: Getting It*

Right for Everyone. Jan. 2009. 352p. Knopf, hardcover (978-1-4000-4256-2).

Leach, author of the wildly popular *Your Baby and Child*, which has sold more than 2 million copies since first being published in 1978 (revised in 1997), delivers another parenting tome that will likely become the standard by which all other child-care books are measured. This thoroughly researched, heavily footnoted compendium evaluates the state of child care in the Western world in the context of caring for children (as opposed to rearing children). The rapidly changing makeup of the postindustrial world means the needs of families are changing rapidly, too, and Leach covers the topic in four parts: "Child Care Today," which defines the term and puts it into a cultural context; "Types of Child Care," which breaks down into two general types: "Family Care" (parents, grandparents, or live-in help) and "Formal Care" (day cares, before and after school, etc.); "Quality of Care," which looks at the issue from various viewpoints and helps outline how to choose child care; and "Moving On," which examines the politics and future of child care....



Celebrate Poe's 200th

Ray Olson writes: "In his own time, Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849) was a failure, a victim of the cash-poor early American publishing industry, to be sure, but primarily a victim of his own spectacularly erratic behavior (see Peter Ackroyd's *Poe*, 2009). Maybe he was mentally ill. He was a habitual liar or, if that seems harsh, a hoaxer who could gull himself. That gift (if that's what it was) stood him in good stead in his writing. He knew very well how to write—to use an ironic contemporary term—*truthily*. He adopted the tones and narrative structures of newsmen and researchers, filled descriptions with physical and technical detail, cited real people, and in the piece later called 'The Balloon Hoax' (1844), for example, convinced readers of the *New York Sun* that a famous hot-air balloonist had crossed the Atlantic in 75 hours."...



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

archaeology in the Ancient Near East. It offers the ABZU portal to Near Eastern web resources, an electronic commons where scholars in the field can share data and images, and eventually an electronic publishing depository for born digital publications. The Vanderbilt University Library serves as the host technical site and grant administrator. Other organizations supporting ETANA include the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute (which hosts the ABZU portal), the American Schools of Oriental Research, and Case Western Reserve University Library.

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

"The truth is that the decline of reading for pleasure has little to do with the things that teachers, librarians, and parents seem to think are causing it... Because reading is a private experience, it's an anti-social experience—as opposed to television or movies, which are social experiences. It's still considered

Denver Update

[Arts Guide to Denver](#) (PDF file)

The ACRL Arts Section has compiled a list of arts-related venues and events in and around the Mile-High City. The nine-page guide is divided into sections on architecture and design, and the visual arts. One of the places it recommends is the [Paramount Theatre](#), 1621 Glenarm Place, whose original 1930 interior featured frosted terracotta tiles and Art Deco



decorations....

ACRL Arts Section

[Google Maps mashup of Midwinter](#)

Cindi Trainor prepared this Google Maps mashup of the Denver Convention Center area for LITA. It identifies the Convention Center, ALA hotels, restaurants, shops, and drug stores....

LITA Blog, Jan. 19

[Green activities in Denver](#)

Beth Filar-Williams lists a few "green-ish" sessions to attend and suggests: "Bring your own supplies and don't use those small, wasteful plastic bottles. Reuse your towels and sheets instead of asking for clean ones daily. Make sure your lights are turned off in the room. Drink your morning coffee, tea, or water from your personal mug or bottle you brought with you. Thank publishers who are greening their practices using chlorine-free, soy-based inks or recycled materials."...

Going Green @ your library, Jan. 19

[If weather grounds you, be creative](#)

Just what are your rights when your flight is canceled or delayed? The answer, regrettably, is "very few." With a major disruption, the airlines owe you only what is specified in the "contract of carriage," the actual legal agreement you are presumed to sign with an airline when you buy a ticket. In the event of flight disruptions due to weather, those give you limited choices: Wait for your airline's next available seat, reticket your trip, or ask for a refund of the unused part of your ticket....

Chicago Tribune, Jan. 11

Please:
**Do NOT Change
my Towels.**

Division News

[Top Tech in Denver: Let the trends come to you](#)

LITA's semiannual gathering of trendsters to converse about the leading technologies and tech topics of the day will take place at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver. Drop into the LITA Blog for live blogging of the event, complete with real-time commentary on what's being said in the room, relevant links to more information on what's being discussed, multimedia content, and the opportunity to post comments and ask questions."...

LITA Blog, Jan. 17

[ACRL to honor information literacy innovators](#)

In honor of the 10th anniversary of its popular [Information Literacy Immersion Program](#), ACRL will present a Special Presidential Recognition Award to the founding members of the Institute for Information Literacy Steering Committee and Immersion faculty March 13 at its 14th National Conference in Seattle. The program provides instruction librarians the opportunity to work intensively for four-and-a-half days on all aspects of information literacy....



[Registration opens for AASL National Conference](#)

Registration opened January 21 for the AASL

taboo to read at the dinner table, but no such rule forbids families from keeping the TV on in the background or even eating while watching it. Reading is also considered a frivolous activity—much more frivolous, say, than browsing the internet. If you doubt this, try reading a book at work, even a book you're reading for work, and see how fast you catch your boss's attention—attention that your colleague who spends his days playing Minesweeper isn't likely to attract."

—Justyn Dillingham, opinions editor of the University of Arizona student newspaper, in "The Real Reason Americans Don't Read," an editorial on *Reading on the Rise*, the January 12 National Endowment for the Arts report, in the *Arizona Daily Wildcat*, Jan. 14.

Ask the ALA Librarian



Q. As a school librarian, I find that I am asked often about what information literacy is, and how to educate students in this area. Can you

14th National Conference and Exhibition,
November 5–8, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

School library media specialists, administrators, and supporters of school library media programs will gather for workshops on key issues and concepts taught by leading professionals. This year, conference-goers must register before they are able to secure housing. Registrations received by January 31 will receive an additional \$15 off the already reduced early bird registration.

Knowledge Quest will feature a [preliminary program](#)....



[Deadline approaching for PLA Spring Symposium](#)

The registration deadline for the 2009 PLA Spring Symposium is rapidly approaching. This popular education event will be held April 2–4 in Nashville at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel and Nashville Convention Center. Registration closes February 13. The Spring Symposium will feature six intensive day-and-a-half long workshops focused on subjects pertinent to public libraries and public librarians....



[Kids! Campaign phase two to launch](#)

ALSC will launch phase two of its [Kids! @ your library](#) public awareness campaign at the ALA Annual Conference in July. Phase one of the campaign, launched in 2006, provides a free, online toolkit of resources to help local libraries reach out to children in grades K–4, their parents, and caregivers. Phase two will provide additional resources for marketing the library to kids in grades 5–8....

[Register for LITACamp](#)

Registration is now open for the first-ever [LITACamp](#), "The Everywhere Library: Creating, Communicating, Integrating," May 7–8, at the OCLC Conference Center in Dublin, Ohio. LITACamp is a library technology unconference for anyone interested in using technology to improve services and access for patrons. Keynote speakers include Joan Frye Williams and John Blyberg....

[New LITA guide to core technology competencies](#)

Ideal for public and academic libraries, *Core Technology Competencies for Libraries* provides an excellent starting point to define and evaluate the right inventory of technical skills and management attributes for library staff. LITA guide number 15, published by Neal-Schuman, addresses the core skills and requirements to look for when hiring and training staff....



[YALSA Great Ideas Contest](#)

YALSA seeks members' best ideas for its new Great Ideas contest. The contest is open to all individual members as well as YALSA committees, juries, task forces, discussion groups, interest groups, and advisory boards. Entrants are asked to brainstorm and submit activities that will allow the division to achieve a specific goal in its new strategic plan ([PDF file](#)). The deadline for submitting a form ([PDF file](#)) is May 1....

help me find some resources and guidelines?

A. [Information literacy](#)

is vital in today's society. [AASL's Information Literacy](#) page offers resources for the development of dynamic, student-centered school library media programs. These programs help ensure that students master the information literacy skills needed to be discerning consumers and creative producers of information and ideas. [ACRL's Information Literacy](#) page is a gateway to resources on information literacy. These resources will help you understand and apply the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education to enhance teaching, learning, and research in the higher education community. The process begins in elementary school and continues through college . . . and beyond. From the [ALA Professional Tips wiki](#).

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

Calendar

Feb. 27:
[Lawyers for Libraries Institute](#), Westin Los

[YALSA discussion and interest groups](#)

Members looking to deepen their involvement with YALSA can join one of the division's many discussion or interest groups. The groups allow members to discuss important topics in young adult services—gaming, anime, and attending library school, among others—both in person and virtually. Check out the Discussion and Interest Group Open House, 4–5:30 p.m., January 25, in Room 203 of the Colorado Convention Center in Denver....

Awards

[Follow the Youth Media Awards at home](#)

The ALA Youth Media Awards, which honor the best of the best in children's and young adult literature and media, will be announced during the ALA Midwinter Meeting on Monday, January 26, at the Colorado Convention Center. You can obtain those results in a number of ways besides attending the ceremony: via [webcast](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Second Life](#). PIO Media Relations Manager Macey Morales discusses the media outreach for the event in a [podcast](#)....

Visibility @ your library, Jan. 20



[Picturing America awards](#)

The National Endowment for the Humanities, in cooperation with the ALA Public Programs Office, will provide Picturing America resources to 29,086 schools and public libraries. Picturing America is a free educational resource that brings significant works of American art directly to classrooms and libraries. A complete list of the recipients of this round of awards is available [online](#)....

Seen Online

[RAND study: Pittsburgh libraries should look at merger, closings](#)

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh should consider closing branches and merging with the Allegheny County (Pa.) Library Association to overcome serious funding challenges, according to a RAND Corporation report released January 15. With 19 locations, the Carnegie had asked RAND to examine factors that limit its ability to obtain stable, adequate funding after the state cut \$200,000 of its support....

Pittsburgh (Pa.) Tribune-Review, Jan. 16

[Lowe named director of George W. Bush Presidential Library](#)

Acting Archivist of the United States Adrienne C. Thomas announced January 19 the selection of Alan C. Lowe as the first director of the George W. Bush Presidential Library at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. The appointment is effective April 12. Lowe is currently executive director of the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville....



Angeles Airport. The institute is primarily intended to equip attorneys with tools they need to effectively defend the First Amendment in libraries.

Mar. 8–14:

[Teen Tech Week](#)

"Press Play @ your library."

Mar. 8–14:

[Read an E-Book Week](#)

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, Salem.

"Customer Service Is Our Heart."

Apr. 12–18:

[National Library Week](#)

Apr. 21–23:

[Oklahoma Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Midwest City.

Apr. 22–24:

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

Apr. 22–24:

[Utah Library Association](#), Annual

National Archives, Jan. 19

[Raleigh man finds gold mine in Bush Library](#)

In 2007, George Huger found a scrap of treasure in an internet bargain bin—a lucky turn that just won him \$35,000 from President Bush's sheepish advisers. A Raleigh, North Carolina, web developer, Huger was flipping through a list of expiring domain names when he noticed that www.GeorgeWBushLibrary.com was about to expire. He picked up the rights for five bucks and sat on them for two years, waiting to cash in....

Raleigh (N.C.) News and Observer, Jan. 20



[Grant marches south again](#)

For more than 40 years, Southern Illinois University held the world's largest collection of Ulysses S. Grant papers. But that honor came to an unceremonious end in December, when the Carbondale campus was forced to relinquish them. Following a nearly yearlong conflict with the school, the Ulysses S. Grant Association, which owns the material, recently relocated nearly 100 file cabinets crammed with documents and memorabilia to Mississippi State University....

Chicago Tribune, Jan. 18



[Beulah board bans *Midnight* for four days](#)

One of the most popular nonfiction books in publishing history was [banned](#) from the Beulah (N.Dak.) High School library—but only for four days. The board split 4–3 January 15 on a decision to remove the book, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt, a Southern gothic novel. Keith and Kathy Bohn made the request after their son brought it home as part of an accelerated reading program. But on January 19, the board reversed its decision at the encouragement of board President Phil Eastgate, who said it could unleash a possible court case the board would never win. He said there might be more palatable alternatives....

Bismarck (N.Dak.) Tribune, Jan. 18, 20



[Kansas City facing severe cuts](#)

An expected decline in property tax revenues could force the Kansas City (Mo.) Public Library to start making major cuts this summer. Board members received preliminary numbers January 20 and began figuring out where to cut to match the potential shortfall. They want to allow time to review priorities and gather patron input. The library receives roughly 90% of its revenue from property taxes....

Kansas City (Mo.) Star, Jan. 20

[Revere director resigns amid accusations](#)

A financial auditor specializing in fraud investigations will join a city probe into misspending by Robert E. Rice Jr., director of the Revere (Mass.) Public Library. Rice resigned his job January 13 hours before Mayor Thomas Ambrosino met with city council members to brief them on a city probe into what he described as library money spent by Rice on "things with no relevance to the function of the library." Rice has not yet been criminally charged in the probe....

Lynn (Mass.) Daily Item, Jan. 16

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–

May 1:

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

Apr. 30–

May 2:

[New York Library Association](#), Spring Conference, Saratoga Springs. "Educational Leaders @ your library."

May 6–8:

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

May 7:

[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.

June 24–29:

[Focus on Book Arts Conference](#), Pacific

[Brownsburg tries roving reference](#)

Wanda Pearson, executive director of the Brownsburg (Ind.) Public Library, often wondered how many people left her library discouraged after not finding what they needed or a person to answer their question. A new initiative begun January 12, called the roving reference approach, puts a reference librarian near the front door to be more readily available to visitors. Every 15 minutes or so, that librarian takes a laptop or electronic notepad and walks through the library looking for those who may need help....

Indianapolis Star, Jan. 16

[British Library vandal jailed for two years](#)

A wealthy businessman, publisher, and antiquarian book collector was jailed for two years January 16 after admitting he had stolen pages from about 150 rare 16th-17th century books at the Bodleian and British libraries. Iranian-born Farhad Hakimzadeh cut leaves out of the books at the libraries and inserted the pages into his own copies of the same books. British Library staff believe he smuggled a scalpel into the building and positioned himself out of the sight of security cameras to remove the pages....

The Guardian (U.K.), Jan. 16

[Foundation promotes Czech National Library after architect's death](#)

Czech-born architect Jan Kaplický, 71, designer of a controversial new facility for the Czech National Library, [died](#) January 13 after collapsing from heart failure in a Prague street. His design, popularly known as the Blob or the Octopus, failed to win approval last year from Prague Mayor Pavel Bém and Czech President Václav Klaus and was dropped. A foundation, established in December and led by archivist Olga Sommerová, intends to raise money for a study to show that Kaplický's plans are feasible....

CzechNews, Jan. 15, 19



[Go back to the Top](#)

Tech Talk

[The inauguration from space](#)

Stephen Shankland writes: "GeoEye-1, the satellite that will be supplying Google with high-res imagery of the Earth, took a high-resolution photograph of the inauguration of President Barack Obama. The satellite is expected to start producing data for Google in coming weeks, but in the meantime, this shot shows a bit more tantalizing detail about what will show in Google Earth and Google Maps. It was taken from 423 miles up as the 4,300-pound satellite traveled 17,000 miles per hour. GeoEye [launched](#) GeoEye-1 in September, and Google has [exclusive rights](#) to imagery for online use."...

Underexposed, Jan. 20; *Digital Media*, Aug. 29, Sept. 6



[Day #1 of a new technological era](#)

Jill Hurst-Wahl writes: "Yesterday I watched the inauguration of Barack Hussein Obama with a roomful of people on the Syracuse University campus. Thousands—if not millions—of digital photos were taken, but how many of those should be preserved and in what way?

University, Forest Grove, Oregon. Classes in the book arts—bookbinding, papermaking, printing, artists books, journals—at all skill levels from beginner to advanced.

@ [More...](#)

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Library
Association

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

Greg Landgraf,
Associate Editor:
glandgraf@ala.org

Leonard Kniffel,
Editor-in-Chief,
American Libraries:
lkniffel@ala.org

To advertise in *American Libraries Direct*, contact:
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American Libraries
50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611
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800-545-2433,
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It is the digital records of yesterday that really capture what it meant to us. The raw emotions were Twittered, Facebooked, and Flickr'd, and we don't really know how to deal with them. This is a new era and there are things we need to learn."...

Digitization 101, Jan. 21

[WorldCat on your mobile phone](#)

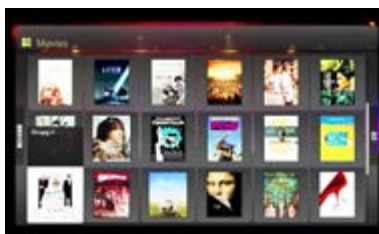
Now you can use your mobile phone to find materials in libraries near you—and help OCLC test a new pilot service. Available in the United States and Canada, this six-month pilot lets you try out mobile search of WorldCat libraries and suggest improvements or additional features. WorldCat has partnered with mobile-technology leader [Boopsie](#) and joined its growing array of search [channels](#). When you download the Boopsie application to your phone, you get library search plus these additional channels. Start by typing this URL into your phone's web browser: www.worldcat.org/m/....



WorldCat Mobile

[Boxee generates buzz](#)

Piping internet video into a television seems as if it should be simple. But consumer electronics and media companies have been moving toward that combination with painstaking caution. Now, with an internet start-up's hubris and whimsical name, an 11-employee New York company called [Boxee](#) is barging into the fray. The software is free and works on Mac and Linux computers, and on Apple's set-top box, Apple TV. A version of Boxee for Windows PCs is being tested....



New York Times, Jan. 16

[International survey of library automation](#)

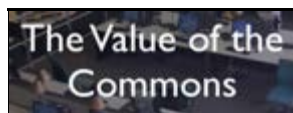
Marshall Breeding writes: "This report describes the results of a survey that I conducted to gather data regarding the perceptions of libraries toward their automation systems, the organizations that provide support, and the quality of support they receive. It also aims to gauge interest in open source library automation systems. The survey attracted the most responses from libraries using Millennium, Unicorn/Symphony, and Horizon."...

Library Technology Guides, Jan. 18

[10 trends and technologies for 2009](#)

Michael Stephens writes: "Welcome to the 2009 version of my annual look at the trends and technologies that I believe will impact what we do in libraries and information centers. My biggest concern is how libraries can respond in turbulent economic times. Make sure you are telling your story well in various marketing and communication channels. It's no excuse to say 'we don't have any money to do that' when these examples highlight ways to reach out and engage your users and funders with simple, open tools."...

Tame the Web, Jan. 12



[Google Calendar desktop gadget](#)

Kevin Purdy writes: "Google Desktop's gadgets are looking more helpful these days, with the addition of an official Google Calendar gadget that puts your

appointments at your fingertips. Google's own Calendar gadget offers quick access to straight-up GCal or Google Apps calendars, and allows for multiple instances if you're on lots of different schedules. Pull it up with the Shift-Shift tap for Desktop gadgets, and you can view your appointments in day-by-day, monthly calendar/agenda, or agenda-only view."...

Lifehacker, Jan. 21



Twittering tips for beginners

David Pogue writes: "I'll admit that, for the longest time, I was exasperated by the Twitter hype. Like the world needs *another* ego-massaging, social-networking time drain? Then my eyes were opened. A few months ago, I was one of 12 judges for a MacArthur grant program in Chicago. A fellow judge posed a critical question to his followers. Within 30 seconds, two people provided the answer, via Twitter, with links."...

New York Times, Jan. 15

10 really cool Google Chrome hacks

Google's Chrome browser is fast becoming the geeks' choice, as users all over the world tinker with it and explore its deeper capabilities. Chrome is now proving that it can do everything, from starting in Incognito mode by default for better browsing safety to reverting to using a single process for all its tabs to conserve resources. Here are 10 handy hacks to whip Chrome into shape....



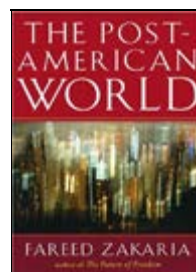
TechRadar, Jan. 18

Publishing

Barack Obama's favorite books

Barack Obama is clearly an avid reader and literature has massively influenced his politics. He talks about books at the drop of a hat, is frequently seen with a book in his hand and, of course, has penned two worldwide bestsellers himself. Books by him, about him, or read by him sell. What is Barack Obama's favorite book? is a common question posed on the internet search engines every day....

Abebooks



An interactive take on Dante

Guy P. Raffa, associate professor of Italian at the University of Texas at Austin, has created an online readers' guide to Dante's *Inferno*, *Purgatorio*, and *Paradiso*. Called [Danteworlds](#), it's an interactive accompaniment to his book on *The Divine Comedy* from the University of Chicago Press. The online Danteworlds maps out Dante's physical progress to Hell and beyond, combining classic images by Botticelli with new illustrations by Suloni Robertson (above). There are also



audio snippets of Dante's work being read in Italian....

Los Angeles Times, Jan. 14



Actions & Answers

[Assessing student information literacy](#)



While we all work diligently to improve students' information literacy, it's not always easy to assess students' knowledge and retention. [TRAILS](#) (Tool for Real-Time Assessment of Information Literacy Skills) provides one possible solution. Created by Kent State University with funding from the Institute for Library and Information Literacy Education, this free online tool uses multiple choice questions based on both *Information Power* and Ohio's 6th- and 9th-grade standards....

AASL Blog, Jan. 20

[Libraries and economic renewal](#)

Jesse Montero writes: "Spurring economic recovery and long-term competitiveness through libraries is not a new concept. During the Great Depression, FDR's Works Progress Administration helped libraries in countless ways. New libraries were constructed in 48 states—Rochester, New York's Rundel Memorial Library (right) is just one example. The program also employed some 38,000 library support staff, which more than doubled the number of library workers at the time."...



PLA Blog, Jan. 15

[African-American history programs](#)

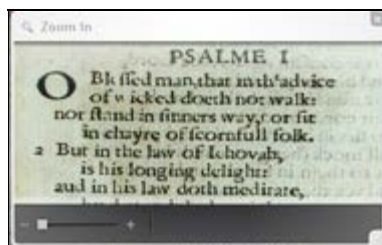
Chris Watkins writes: "With America's first African-American president in the White House, 2009 seems a banner year for library programs celebrating this popular annual theme. February will soon be upon us, and if you already have a strong lineup of related programs planned at your library, congratulations! But if it snuck up on you and you're looking for some quick ideas or are resolved to be better prepared next year, here's what some of your colleagues are up to."...



Programming Librarian, Jan.

[Bay Psalm Book digitized](#)

Ian Christie-Miller, inventor of the Earlybook Imaging System, has placed online a digitized version of the 1640 *Bay Psalm Book*, the first book printed in British North America. The original copy is owned by the Old South Church in Boston, but is held at the Boston Public Library. Earlybook ([PDF file](#)) allows high-quality images to be



obtained by back lighting as well as conventional front lighting, an essential requirement for research into watermarks. The system can also scan a book open only 45 degrees....

Earlybook

[Put your money into books](#)

Cleverly conceal your savings or anything important with this bank disguised as a book, a 2003 design by Jörg Gätjens sold by the Museum of Modern Art. The top features a slot for bills or coins, and slides open for easy access to savings. Made of maple wood with a cloth binding....

Museum of Modern Art



[How to build the ultimate social media résumé](#)

Dan Schawbel writes: "With a social media résumé, you're able to paint a completely different portrait of yourself for hiring managers and customize it to reflect your personal brand. With the inclusion of various multimedia elements, sharing options, integrated social networking feeds, and the same elements you'd find in a traditional résumé, you are better equipped for success. Instead of merely submitting your resume, it becomes a billboard that can be shared, distributed to hiring managers, and searched."...

Mashable, Jan. 13

[Enter the 2009 StoryTubes video contest](#)

The 2009 video contest features new partner libraries, new categories that provide opportunities for kindergartners through high school seniors, groups, and people of all ages, new contest dates, and the addition of TeacherTube as a video host to assist organizations that do not enable access to YouTube. Visit StoryTubes.info to [watch videos](#) from last year, identify the [partner libraries](#), read the [contest rules](#), and find [contact information](#). Three energetic and creative 4th-grade boys from Downers Grove (Ill.) Public Library submitted the very [first entry](#), "The Toilet Paper Tigers." The deadline is February 15....

StoryTubes, Oct. 27



[Calling all catalogers](#)

Nicole Engard writes: "I have been spending time these last few months working on a new web-based cataloging tool. It's finally time! I'd like to invite you to sign up for free and try out tbiblios.net, a community cataloging tool from LibLime. It is a web-based, original and copy cataloging tool with built-in federated search of any Z39.50 target and a large (30 million strong) shared database of catalog records. You can edit and contribute to the database without any restrictions."...

What I Learned Today, Jan. 20



[Library Day, 1915](#)

Larry Nix writes: "I was recently made aware of a post to the AASL listserv concerning a newspaper article in the Cookeville *Putnam County (Tenn.) Herald* for September 16, 1915, about 'Library Day.' The article concerned the declaration of October 1, 1915, by State Superintendent of Public Instruction S. W. Sherrill as Library Day. According to the article, 'On that day every public school in the



State is expected to raise funds to establish or supplement the school library.' The concept of a library day dates back at least to the 1890s and was part of a movement to put a library in every public school."...

Library History Buff Blog, Jan. 20

[Two NYPL branches declared city landmarks](#) (PDF file)

The New York Landmarks Preservation Commission approved two New York Public Library branches as city landmarks, bringing to 1,222 the total number of individual buildings with landmark status in all five boroughs. The George Bruce branch (completed 1915) and the 125th Street branch (right, constructed in 1904) were chosen unanimously January 13. The commission is planning hearings on the status of two additional branches, Woodstock and Hunt's Point....

Landmarks Preservation Commission, Jan. 13



[Treasures of the New York Public Library: The Harlem Renaissance](#)

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture is a national research library devoted to collecting, preserving, and providing access to resources documenting the history and experiences of peoples of African descent throughout the world. In this New York Public Library video (3:38), Schomburg Director Howard Dodson describes some of the artistic and literary treasures dating from the Harlem Renaissance period of the 1920s and 1930s in the center's collections....

YouTube



[Go back to the Top](#)

AL Direct, January 21, 2009

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

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | January 21, 2009

Contents

U.S. & World News [[#usworld](#)]
ALA News [[#alanews](#)]
Booklist Online [[#booklist](#)]
Denver Update [[#denver](#)]
Division News [[#divisionnews](#)]
Awards [[#awards](#)]
Seen Online [[#seenonline](#)]
Tech Talk [[#techtalk](#)]
Publishing [[#publishing](#)]
Actions & Answers [[#actionsanswers](#)]
Calendar [[#datebook](#)]

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

[<http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com>]

U.S. & World News

Supreme Court nixes COPA

[[http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2009/January2009/s
cotuskillscopa.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2009/January2009/s
cotuskillscopa.cfm)]

The U.S. Supreme Court has rejected a government attempt to resurrect the Child Online Protection Act of 1998, which had been repeatedly rebuffed by lower federal courts over a decade of judicial review. The justices let stand a unanimous ruling last July by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia declaring the law unconstitutional on First and Fifth Amendment grounds—which overturns COPA permanently....
American Libraries Online, Jan. 21

Watchdog group loses vice-presidential disclosure case

[[http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2009/January2009/c
heneywinssuit.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2009/January2009/c
heneywinssuit.cfm)]

A federal judge dismissed January 19 a lawsuit by the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington

[<http://www.citizensforethics.org/>] that sought to force former Vice

President Dick Cheney to give to the National Archives all his records pertaining to his executive branch duties. The decision of U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly ended a five-month injunction mandating the preservation of Cheney's records, and comes only two weeks after the House overwhelmingly passed a bill that voided Executive Order 13233 [<http://www.fas.org/sgp/news/2001/11/eo-pra.html>], in which President George W. Bush bestowed some latitude in withholding the release of presidential papers indefinitely....

American Libraries Online, Jan. 21

Feds: Anti-lead law not intended for library books

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2009/January2009/cpsia.cfm>]

Taken at face value, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's interpretation of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, which lowers the permissible level of lead in children's products and imposes certification requirements, would require libraries to limit access to their children's collections or have them tested for lead content. However, ALA Washington Office Executive Director Emily Sheketoff told American Libraries, "We have spoken with congressional offices and they have said that it was not congressional intent to include books in the law. ALA is seeking a formal opinion exempting libraries...."

American Libraries Online, Jan. 15

OCLC delays WorldCat policy

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2009/January2009/worldcatreview.cfm>]

OCLC has announced that it will delay implementation of its controversial Policy for Use and Transfer of WorldCat Records until the third quarter of 2009. It will also convene a Review Board of Shared Data Creation and Stewardship—a joint board of the OCLC Members Council and the OCLC Board of Trustees—to discuss and review the policy. Librarians had commented unfavorably about clauses they viewed as imposing licenses, restricting their rights to use records, and a perceived lack of openness in the policy's development process....

American Libraries Online, Jan. 16

ALA News

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What's happening at Midwinter

[<http://discuss.ala.org/marginalia/2009/01/19/what's-happening-at-midwinter-2009-edition>]

It's that time of year again, when we're all gathering in a cold place during the North American winter. If you're heading to the Midwinter Meeting this week, you naturally want to know about everything that's happening there. To make sure you don't miss any of the big stuff, check out Senior Associate Executive Director Mary Ghikas's "What's Happening" list (PDF file [<http://discuss.ala.org/marginalia/wp-content/uploads/2009/01/wh-mw2009.pdf>])....

ALA Marginalia, Jan. 19

Midwinter Meeting exhibitor coupons

[<http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/ca6626396.html>]

Print out these PDF coupons and bring them to Denver to get a head start on drawings, gifts, discounts, previews, and hot tips from exhibitors at the Midwinter Meeting....

ALA and Library Journal

Add It Up focuses on children and teens

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/olaadditup.cfm>]

A new ALA web-based resource will help library advocates make the case for libraries in the lives of children and teens, Add It Up: Libraries

Make the Difference in Youth Development and Education.

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/advocacyuniversity/additup/index.cfm>] Divided into three age groups, Add It Up contains top-level

talking points, statistics, and links to the bodies of research. This

resource is part of Advocacy University,

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/advocacyuniversity/index.cfm>]

ALA's new initiative geared to providing tools, training, and

resources to library advocates....

State funding for public libraries on decline

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/COSLAsstatelibfunding09.cfm>]

Almost half of all states report declining state funding for U.S.

public libraries in fiscal year 2009, according to a survey of the Chief

Officers of State Library Agencies conducted as part of ALA's Public

Library Funding and Technology Access Study. Of these, 20% anticipate an

additional reduction in the current fiscal year. While reductions have

been seen from coast to coast, the southeastern section of the country

has been the hardest hit, with declines as large as 30% in South Carolina

and 23.4% in Florida in FY09 compared with FY08....

Jamie Lee Curtis featured on NLW promotion

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/nlwjlc.cfm>]

Bestselling children's author and actress Jamie Lee Curtis, the

honorary chair of National Library Week (April 12–18), has lent her image

to a print public service announcement featuring the 2009 National

Library Week theme, "Worlds connect @ your library." The PSA is available

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/hqops/pio/natlibraryweek/nlw.cfm>] for

libraries to use in their public relations efforts. Other tools include a

proclamation, sample press release, and letter to the editor, as well as

scripts for use in radio PSAs....

Free programming resource from PPO

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/ppoprogramminglibrarian.cfm>]

ALA's Public Programs Office is offering a new online resource to assist libraries of all types and sizes in creating cultural and community

programs. The Programming Librarian

[<http://www.programminglibrarian.org/>] website includes a resource

library, live learning opportunities, and a blog to keep librarians informed of upcoming opportunities and provide inspiration for new library programs. As the site continues to develop, users will find more resources, ideas, and opportunities to network with peers and programming experts....

New Library Champion: Neal-Schuman Foundation

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/developmentnealschuman.cfm>]

The Neal-Schuman Foundation has joined ALA's Library Champions [<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/contactus/librarychampions/index.cfm>] program. The foundation was established in 2000 by Patricia Glass Schuman and John Vincent Neal, founders of Neal-Schuman Publishers, to aid, assist, and promote research and educational activities for the improvement of library and information services....

Last chance to be a Councilor

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/alaelection/2009/petitioninstructionm.pdf>] (PDF file)

Anyone planning to run as a petition candidate for ALA Council has until the close of business on January 30 to file a petition form with the ALA Executive Director, in hard copy, with the signatures of no fewer than 25 ALA current personal members (membership numbers must be included). Information must be entered onto an online biographical information form [<https://cs.ala.org/petition/login/login.cfm>] by the same deadline....

Scott Turow to headline Freedom to Read gala in Chicago

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/fttrturow.cfm>]

Award-winning author Scott Turow will be the featured speaker at the Freedom to Read Foundation's 40th anniversary gala celebration, Sunday, July 12, at the new Modern Wing of the Art Institute of Chicago. The event, which will honor FTRF's visionary founder and executive director Judith Krug and the educational work of Chicago's McCormick Freedom Museum [<http://www.freedommuseum.us/>], will feature a dinner and gala celebration that includes a gallery viewing of the Renzo Piano-designed museum space. The event, held in conjunction with ALA Annual Conference, will also feature a special address by author Judy Blume....

Featured review: Adult books

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3305301]

Leach, Penelope. *Child Care Today: Getting It Right for Everyone*. Jan. 2009. 352p. Knopf, hardcover (978-1-4000-4256-2).

Leach, author of the wildly popular *Your Baby and Child*, which has sold more than 2 million copies since first being published in 1978 (revised in 1997), delivers another parenting tome that will likely become the standard by which all other child-care books are measured. This thoroughly researched, heavily footnoted compendium evaluates the state of child care in the Western world in the context of caring for children (as opposed to rearing children). The rapidly changing makeup of the

postindustrial world means the needs of families are changing rapidly, too, and Leach covers the topic in four parts: "Child Care Today," which defines the term and puts it into a cultural context; "Types of Child Care," which breaks down into two general types: "Family Care" (parents, grandparents, or live-in help) and "Formal Care" (day cares, before and after school, etc.); "Quality of Care," which looks at the issue from various viewpoints and helps outline how to choose child care; and "Moving On," which examines the politics and future of child care....

Celebrate Poe's 200th

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3242648]

Ray Olson writes: "In his own time, Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849) was a failure, a victim of the cash-poor early American publishing industry, to be sure, but primarily a victim of his own spectacularly erratic behavior (see Peter Ackroyd's Poe, 2009). Maybe he was mentally ill. He was a habitual liar or, if that seems harsh, a hoaxer who could gull himself. That gift (if that's what it was) stood him in good stead in his writing. He knew very well how to write—to use an ironic contemporary term—truthily. He adopted the tones and narrative structures of newsmen and researchers, filled descriptions with physical and technical detail, cited real people, and in the piece later called 'The Balloon Hoax' (1844), for example, convinced readers of the New York Sun that a famous hot-air balloonist had crossed the Atlantic in 75 hours."...

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

Denver Update

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Arts Guide to Denver

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/about/sections/arts/artsguide/ArtsGuide-Denver-MW1.pdf>] (PDF file)

The ACRL Arts Section has compiled a list of arts-related venues and events in and around the Mile-High City. The nine-page guide is divided into sections on architecture and design, and the visual arts. One of the places it recommends is the Paramount Theatre, [<http://www.denverparamount.com/>] 1621 Glenarm Place, whose original 1930 interior featured frosted terracotta tiles and Art Deco decorations....

ACRL Arts Section

Google Maps mashup of Midwinter

[<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&t=h&msa=0&msid=100234958050911716886.0004560290ace09f0a7f9&ll=39.751545,-104.995737&spn=0.023096,0.036478&z=14>]

Cindi Trainor prepared this Google Maps mashup of the Denver Convention Center area for LITA. It identifies the Convention Center, ALA hotels, restaurants, shops, and drug stores....

LITA Blog, Jan. 19

Green activities in Denver

[<http://greeningyourlibrary.wordpress.com/2009/01/19/going-to-ala-midwinter/>]

Beth Filar-Williams lists a few “green-ish” sessions to attend and suggests: “Bring your own supplies and don’t use those small, wasteful plastic bottles. Reuse your towels and sheets instead of asking for clean ones daily. Make sure your lights are turned off in the room. Drink your morning coffee, tea, or water from your personal mug or bottle you brought with you. Thank publishers who are greening their practices using chlorine-free, soy-based inks or recycled materials.”...

Going Green @ your library, Jan. 19

If weather grounds you, be creative

[<http://www.chicagotribune.com/travel/chi-insider-0111jan11,0,1051938.story>]

Just what are your rights when your flight is canceled or delayed? The answer, regrettably, is “very few.” With a major disruption, the airlines owe you only what is specified in the “contract of carriage,” the actual legal agreement you are presumed to sign with an airline when you buy a ticket. In the event of flight disruptions due to weather, those give you limited choices: Wait for your airline’s next available seat, reticket your trip, or ask for a refund of the unused part of your ticket....

Chicago Tribune, Jan. 11

Division News

Top Tech in Denver: Let the trends come to you

[<http://litablog.org/2009/01/17/top-tech-in-denver-let-the-trends-come-to-you/>]

LITA’s semiannual gathering of trendsters to converse about the leading technologies and tech topics of the day will take place at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver. Drop into the LITA Blog for live blogging of the event, complete with real-time commentary on what’s being said in the room, relevant links to more information on what’s being discussed, multimedia content, and the opportunity to post comments and ask questions.”...

LITA Blog, Jan. 17

ACRL to honor information literacy innovators

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/acrlinfolitinnovators.cfm>]

In honor of the 10th anniversary of its popular Information Literacy Immersion Program,

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/infolit/professactivity/iil/immersion/immersionprograms.cfm>] ACRL will present a Special Presidential Recognition Award to the founding members of the Institute for Information Literacy Steering Committee and Immersion faculty March 13 at its 14th National Conference in Seattle. The program provides instruction librarians the opportunity to work intensively for four-and-a-half days on all aspects of information literacy....

Registration opens for AASL National Conference

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/aaslconferencereg.cfm>]

Registration opened January 21 for the AASL 14th National Conference and Exhibition, November 5–8, in Charlotte, North Carolina. School library media specialists, administrators, and supporters of school library media programs will gather for workshops on key issues and concepts taught by leading professionals. This year, conference-goers must register before they are able to secure housing. Registrations received by January 31 will receive an additional \$15 off the already reduced early bird registration. Knowledge Quest will feature a preliminary program [<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/aaslknowledgequest.cfm>]....

Deadline approaching for PLA Spring Symposium

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/plasdeadline.cfm>]

The registration deadline for the 2009 PLA Spring Symposium is rapidly approaching. This popular education event will be held April 2–4 in Nashville at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel and Nashville Convention Center. Registration closes February 13. The Spring Symposium will feature six intensive day-and-a-half long workshops focused on subjects pertinent to public libraries and public librarians....

Kids! Campaign phase two to launch

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/alsckidscampaign.cfm>]

ALSC will launch phase two of its Kids! @ your library

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/initiatives/kidscampaign/index.cfm>] public awareness campaign at the ALA Annual Conference in July. Phase one of the campaign, launched in 2006, provides a free, online toolkit of resources to help local libraries reach out to children in grades K–4, their parents, and caregivers. Phase two will provide additional resources for marketing the library to kids in grades 5–8....

Register for LITACamp

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/litacamp.cfm>]

Registration is now open for the first-ever LITACamp

[<http://www.lita.org/ala/mgrps/divs/lita/litaevents/litacamp/index.cfm>], “The Everywhere Library: Creating, Communicating, Integrating,” May 7–8, at the OCLC Conference Center in Dublin, Ohio. LITACamp is a library technology unconference for anyone interested in using technology to improve services and access for patrons. Keynote speakers include Joan Frye Williams and John Blyberg....

New LITA guide to core technology competencies

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/litacorecompetencies.cfm>]

Ideal for public and academic libraries, Core Technology Competencies for Libraries provides an excellent starting point to define and evaluate the right inventory of technical skills and management attributes for library staff. LITA guide number 15, published by Neal-Schuman, addresses the

core skills and requirements to look for when hiring and training staff....

YALSA Great Ideas Contest

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/yalsagreatideas.cfm>]

YALSA seeks members' best ideas for its new Great Ideas contest.

The contest is open to all individual members as well as YALSA committees, juries, task forces, discussion groups, interest groups, and advisory boards. Entrants are asked to brainstorm and submit activities that will allow the division to achieve a specific goal in its new strategic plan (PDF file

[http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/aboutyalsab/StrategicPlan08_final.pdf]). The deadline for submitting a form (PDF file

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/sp09contest.pdf>]) is May 1....

YALSA discussion and interest groups

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/yalsagetinvolved.cfm>]

Members looking to deepen their involvement with YALSA can join one of the division's many discussion or interest groups. The groups allow members to discuss important topics in young adult services—gaming, anime, and attending library school, among others—both in person and virtually. Check out the Discussion and Interest Group Open House, 4–5:30 p.m., January 25, in Room 203 of the Colorado Convention Center in Denver....

Awards

Follow the Youth Media Awards at home

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/mwymahighlights.cfm>]

The ALA Youth Media Awards, which honor the best of the best in children's and young adult literature and media, will be announced during the ALA Midwinter Meeting on Monday, January 26, at the Colorado Convention Center. You can obtain those results in a number of ways besides attending the ceremony: via webcast [<http://ala.unikron.com/>], Twitter [<http://twitter.com/ALAYma>], Facebook [<http://www.facebook.com/pages/ALA-Youth-Media-Awards/43002248757>], and Second Life [<http://slurl.com/secondlife/ALA%20Island/128/107/29/>]. PIO Media Relations Manager Macey Morales discusses the media outreach for the event in a podcast [<http://www.pio.ala.org/visibility/?p=204>]....
Visibility @ your library, Jan. 20

Picturing America awards

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/ppicturingamericaawards.cfm>]

The National Endowment for the Humanities, in cooperation with the ALA Public Programs Office, will provide Picturing America resources to 29,086 schools and public libraries. Picturing America is a free educational resource that brings significant works of American art

directly to classrooms and libraries. A complete list of the recipients of this round of awards is available online
[http://picturingamerica.neh.gov/public_awards.php]....

Seen Online

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RAND study: Pittsburgh libraries should look at merger, closings
[http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/cityregion/s_607364.html]

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh should consider closing branches and merging with the Allegheny County (Pa.) Library Association to overcome serious funding challenges, according to a RAND Corporation report released January 15. With 19 locations, the Carnegie had asked RAND to examine factors that limit its ability to obtain stable, adequate funding after the state cut \$200,000 of its support....
Pittsburgh (Pa.) Tribune-Review, Jan. 16

Lowe named director of George W. Bush Presidential Library
[<http://news.prnewswire.com/DisplayReleaseContent.aspx?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/01-19-2009/0004956811&EDATE=>]

Acting Archivist of the United States Adrienne C. Thomas announced January 19 the selection of Alan C. Lowe as the first director of the George W. Bush Presidential Library at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. The appointment is effective April 12. Lowe is currently executive director of the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville....
National Archives, Jan. 19

Raleigh man finds gold mine in Bush Library
[<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/1374251.html>]

In 2007, George Huger found a scrap of treasure in an internet bargain bin—a lucky turn that just won him \$35,000 from President Bush's sheepish advisers. A Raleigh, North Carolina, web developer, Huger was flipping through a list of expiring domain names when he noticed that www.GeorgeWBushLibrary.com [http://www.GeorgeWBushLibrary.com] was about to expire. He picked up the rights for five bucks and sat on them for two years, waiting to cash in....
Raleigh (N.C.) News and Observer, Jan. 20

Grant marches south again
[<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-grant-archives-bd18jan18,0,7392029.story>]

For more than 40 years, Southern Illinois University held the world's largest collection of Ulysses S. Grant papers. But that honor came to an unceremonious end in December, when the Carbondale campus was forced to relinquish them. Following a nearly yearlong conflict with the school, the Ulysses S. Grant Association, which owns the material, recently relocated nearly 100 file cabinets crammed with documents and memorabilia to Mississippi State University....
Chicago Tribune, Jan. 18

for four days

[<http://www.bismarcktribune.com/articles/2009/01/20/news/topnews/174523.txt>

]

One of the most popular nonfiction books in publishing history was banned [<http://www.bismarcktribune.com/articles/2009/01/18/news/local/174303.txt>] from the Beulah (N.Dak.) High School library—but only for four days. The board split 4–3 January 15 on a decision to remove the book, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt, a Southern gothic novel. Keith and Kathy Bohn made the request after their son brought it home as part of an accelerated reading program. But on January 19, the board reversed its decision at the encouragement of board President Phil Eastgate, who said it could unleash a possible court case the board would never win. He said there might be more palatable alternatives.... Bismarck (N.Dak.) Tribune, Jan. 18, 20

Kansas City facing severe cuts

[<http://www.kansascity.com/news/local/story/992998.html>]

An expected decline in property tax revenues could force the Kansas City (Mo.) Public Library to start making major cuts this summer. Board members received preliminary numbers January 20 and began figuring out where to cut to match the potential shortfall. They want to allow time to review priorities and gather patron input. The library receives roughly 90% of its revenue from property taxes.... Kansas City (Mo.) Star, Jan. 20

Revere director resigns amid accusations

[<http://www.itemlive.com/articles/2009/01/16/news/news06.txt>]

A financial auditor specializing in fraud investigations will join a city probe into mispending by Robert E. Rice Jr., director of the Revere (Mass.) Public Library. Rice resigned his job January 13 hours before Mayor Thomas Ambrosino met with city council members to brief them on a city probe into what he described as library money spent by Rice on “things with no relevance to the function of the library.” Rice has not yet been criminally charged in the probe.... Lynn (Mass.) Daily Item, Jan. 16

Brownsburg tries roving reference

[<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2009901160309>]

Wanda Pearson, executive director of the Brownsburg (Ind.) Public Library, often wondered how many people left her library discouraged after not finding what they needed or a person to answer their question. A new initiative begun January 12, called the roving reference approach, puts a reference librarian near the front door to be more readily available to visitors. Every 15 minutes or so, that librarian takes a laptop or electronic notepad and walks through the library looking for those who may need help.... Indianapolis Star, Jan. 16

British Library vandal jailed for two years

[<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/jan/16/rare-books-farhad-hakimzadeh>]

A wealthy businessman, publisher, and antiquarian book collector was jailed for two years January 16 after admitting he had stolen pages from about 150 rare 16th-17th century books at the Bodleian and British libraries. Iranian-born Farhad Hakimzadeh cut leaves out of the books at

the libraries and inserted the pages into his own copies of the same books. British Library staff believe he smuggled a scalpel into the building and positioned himself out of the sight of security cameras to remove the pages....

The Guardian (U.K.), Jan. 16

Foundation promotes Czech National Library after architect's death
[<http://aktualne.centrum.cz/czechnews/clanek.phtml?id=627427>]

Czech-born architect Jan Kaplický, 71, designer of a controversial new facility for the Czech National Library, died
[<http://aktualne.centrum.cz/czechnews/clanek.phtml?id=627130>] January 13 after collapsing from heart failure in a Prague street. His design, popularly known as the Blob or the Octopus, failed to win approval last year from Prague Mayor Pavel Bém and Czech President Václav Klaus and was dropped. A foundation, established in December and led by archivist Olga Sommerová, intends to raise money for a study to show that Kaplický's plans are feasible....

CzechNews, Jan. 15, 19

Go back to the Top [#top]

Tech Talk

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The inauguration from space

[http://news.cnet.com/8301-13580_3-10146314-39.html]

Stephen Shankland writes: "GeoEye-1, the satellite that will be supplying Google with high-res imagery of the Earth, took a high-resolution photograph of the inauguration of President Barack Obama. The satellite is expected to start producing data for Google in coming weeks, but in the meantime, this shot shows a bit more tantalizing detail about what will show in Google Earth and Google Maps. It was taken from 423 miles up as the 4,300-pound satellite traveled 17,000 miles per hour. GeoEye launched [http://news.cnet.com/8301-1023_3-10034476-93.html] GeoEye-1 in September, and Google has exclusive rights [http://news.cnet.com/8301-1023_3-10028842-93.html] to imagery for online use."...

Underexposed, Jan. 20; Digital Media, Aug. 29, Sept. 6

Day #1 of a new technological era

[<http://hurstassociates.blogspot.com/2009/01/day-1-of-new-era-and-thinking-about.html>]

Jill Hurst-Wahl writes: "Yesterday I watched the inauguration of Barack Hussein Obama with a roomful of people on the Syracuse University campus. Thousands—if not millions—of digital photos were taken, but how many of those should be preserved and in what way? It is the digital records of yesterday that really capture what it meant to us. The raw emotions were Twittered, Facebooked, and Flickred, and we don't really know how to deal with them. This is a new era and there are things we need to learn."...

Digitization 101, Jan. 21

WorldCat on your mobile phone [<http://www.worldcat.org/mobile/>]

Now you can use your mobile phone to find materials in libraries near

you—and help OCLC test a new pilot service. Available in the United States and Canada, this six-month pilot lets you try out mobile search of WorldCat libraries and suggest improvements or additional features. WorldCat has partnered with mobile-technology leader Boopsie [<http://www.boopsie.com/>] and joined its growing array of search channels [<http://worldcat.boopsie.com/home/channels.html>]. When you download the Boopsie application to your phone, you get library search plus these additional channels. Start by typing this URL into your phone's web browser: www.worldcat.org/m/....
WorldCat Mobile

Boxee generates buzz
[<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/17/technology/internet/17video.html>]
Piping internet video into a television seems as if it should be simple. But consumer electronics and media companies have been moving toward that combination with painstaking caution. Now, with an internet start-up's hubris and whimsical name, an 11-employee New York company called Boxee [<http://www.boxee.tv/>] is barging into the fray. The software is free and works on Mac and Linux computers, and on Apple's set-top box, Apple TV. A version of Boxee for Windows PCs is being tested....
New York Times, Jan. 16

International survey of library automation
[<http://www.librarytechnology.org/perceptions2008.pl>]
Marshall Breeding writes: "This report describes the results of a survey that I conducted to gather data regarding the perceptions of libraries toward their automation systems, the organizations that provide support, and the quality of support they receive. It also aims to gauge interest in open source library automation systems. The survey attracted the most responses from libraries using Millennium, Unicorn/Symphony, and Horizon."...
Library Technology Guides, Jan. 18

10 trends and technologies for 2009
[<http://tametheweb.com/2009/01/12/ten-trends-technologies-for-2009/>]
Michael Stephens writes: "Welcome to the 2009 version of my annual look at the trends and technologies that I believe will impact what we do in libraries and information centers. My biggest concern is how libraries can respond in turbulent economic times. Make sure you are telling your story well in various marketing and communication channels. It's no excuse to say 'we don't have any money to do that' when these examples highlight ways to reach out and engage your users and funders with simple, open tools."...
Tame the Web, Jan. 12

Google Calendar desktop gadget
[<http://lifehacker.com/5135993/google-calendar-desktop-gadget-released>]
Kevin Purdy writes: "Google Desktop's gadgets are looking more helpful these days, with the addition of an official Google Calendar gadget that puts your appointments at your fingertips. Google's own Calendar gadget offers quick access to straight-up GCal or Google Apps calendars, and allows for multiple instances if you're on lots of different schedules. Pull it up with the Shift-Shift tap for Desktop gadgets, and you can view

your appointments in day-by-day, monthly calendar/agenda, or agenda-only view.”...

Lifehacker, Jan. 21

Twittering tips for beginners

[<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/15/technology/personaltech/15pogue-email.html>]

David Pogue writes: “I’ll admit that, for the longest time, I was exasperated by the Twitter hype. Like the world needs another ego-messaging, social-networking time drain? Then my eyes were opened. A few months ago, I was one of 12 judges for a MacArthur grant program in Chicago. A fellow judge posed a critical question to his followers. Within 30 seconds, two people provided the answer, via Twitter, with links.”...

New York Times, Jan. 15

10 really cool Google Chrome hacks

[<http://www.techradar.com/news/internet/10-really-cool-google-chrome-hacks-501492>]

Google’s Chrome browser is fast becoming the geeks’ choice, as users all over the world tinker with it and explore its deeper capabilities. Chrome is now proving that it can do everything, from starting in Incognito mode by default for better browsing safety to reverting to using a single process for all its tabs to conserve resources. Here are 10 handy hacks to whip Chrome into shape....

TechRadar, Jan. 18

Publishing

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Barack Obama’s favorite books

[http://www.abebooks.com/books/barack-obama-favorite-books.shtml?cm_ven=nl&cm_cat=nl&cm_pla=cme_obama&cm_ite=feature]

Barack Obama is clearly an avid reader and literature has massively influenced his politics. He talks about books at the drop of a hat, is frequently seen with a book in his hand and, of course, has penned two worldwide bestsellers himself. Books by him, about him, or read by him sell. What is Barack Obama’s favorite book? is a common question posed on the internet search engines every day....

Abebooks

An interactive take on Dante

[<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/jacketcopy/2009/01/books-1.html>]

Guy P. Raffa, associate professor of Italian at the University of Texas at Austin, has created an online readers' guide to Dante’s Inferno, Purgatorio, and Paradiso. Called Danteworlds

[<http://danteworlds.laits.utexas.edu/>], it’s an interactive accompaniment to his book on The Divine Comedy from the University of Chicago Press. The online Danteworlds maps out Dante’s physical progress to Hell and beyond, combining classic images by Botticelli with new illustrations by Suloni Robertson (above). There are also audio snippets of Dante’s work being read in Italian....

Los Angeles Times, Jan. 14

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[<http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com>]

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Actions & Answers

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Assessing student information literacy

[<http://www.aasl.ala.org/aasblog/2009/01/20/trails-assessing-students-information-literacy/>]

While we all work diligently to improve students' information literacy, it's not always easy to assess students' knowledge and retention. TRAILS [<http://www.trails-9.org/>] (Tool for Real-Time Assessment of Information Literacy Skills) provides one possible solution. Created by Kent State University with funding from the Institute for Library and Information Literacy Education, this free online tool uses multiple choice questions based on both Information Power and Ohio's 6th- and 9th-grade standards....

AASL Blog, Jan. 20

Libraries and economic renewal

[<http://plablog.org/2009/01/from-wpa-to-arrp-libraries-and-economic-renewal.html>]

Jesse Montero writes: "Spurring economic recovery and long-term competitiveness through libraries is not a new concept. During the Great Depression, FDR's Works Progress Administration helped libraries in countless ways. New libraries were constructed in 48 states—Rochester, New York's Rundel Memorial Library (right) is just one example. The program also employed some 38,000 library support staff, which more than doubled the number of library workers at the time."...

PLA Blog, Jan. 15

African-American history programs

[<http://www.programminglibrarian.org/blog/african-american-history-month-programming.html>]

Chris Watkins writes: "With America's first African-American president in the White House, 2009 seems a banner year for library programs celebrating this popular annual theme. February will soon be upon us, and if you already have a strong lineup of related programs planned at your library, congratulations! But if it snuck up on you and you're looking for some quick ideas or are resolved to be better prepared next year, here's what some of your colleagues are up to."...

Programming Librarian, Jan.

digitized

[http://www.oldsouth.org/pubs/BayPsalmBook/Management/object_files/template.htm]

Ian Christie-Miller, inventor of the Earlybook Imaging System, has placed online a digitized version of the 1640 Bay Psalm Book, the first book

printed in British North America. The original copy is owned by the Old South Church in Boston, but is held at the Boston Public Library. Earlybook (PDF file [<http://www.earlybook.info/firstbooks.pdf>]) allows high-quality images to be obtained by back lighting as well as conventional front lighting, an essential requirement for research into watermarks. The system can also scan a book open only 45 degrees.... Earlybook

Put your money into books

[http://www.momastore.org/museum/moma/ProductDisplay_SavingsBook_10451_10001_43845_-1_11523_11466_null__]

Cleverly conceal your savings or anything important with this bank disguised as a book, a 2003 design by Jörg Gätjens sold by the Museum of Modern Art. The top features a slot for bills or coins, and slides open for easy access to savings. Made of maple wood with a cloth binding.... Museum of Modern Art

How to build the ultimate social media résumé;

[<http://mashable.com/2009/01/13/social-media-resume/>]

Dan Schawbel writes: “With a social media résumé, you’re able to paint a completely different portrait of yourself for hiring managers and customize it to reflect your personal brand. With the inclusion of various multimedia elements, sharing options, integrated social networking feeds, and the same elements you’d find in a traditional résumé, you are better equipped for success. Instead of merely submitting your resume, it becomes a billboard that can be shared, distributed to hiring managers, and searched.”...

Mashable, Jan. 13

Enter the 2009 StoryTubes video contest [<http://www.storytubes.info/>]

The 2009 video contest features new partner libraries, new categories that provide opportunities for kindergartners through high school seniors, groups, and people of all ages, new contest dates, and the addition of TeacherTube as a video host to assist organizations that do not enable access to YouTube. Visit StoryTubes.info to watch videos [<http://storytubes.info/index.html#winner>] from last year, identify the partner libraries, [<http://storytubes.info/index.html#libraries>] read the contest rules [<http://storytubes.info/rules/index.html>], and find contact information [<http://storytubes.info/libraries/index.html>]. Three energetic and creative 4th-grade boys from Downers Grove (Ill.) Public Library submitted the very first entry [http://www.teachertube.com/view_video.php?viewkey=344fb031e3735a7284b8], “The Toilet Paper Tigers.” The deadline is February 15.... StoryTubes, Oct. 27

Calling all catalogers [<http://www.web2learning.net/archives/2522>]

Nicole Engard writes: “I have been spending time these last few months working on a new web-based cataloging tool. It’s finally time! I’d like to invite you to sign up for free and try out ‡biblios.net [<http://www.biblios.net>], a community cataloging tool from LibLime [<http://liblime.com>]. It is a web-based, original and copy cataloging tool with built-in federated search of any Z39.50 target and a large (30 million strong) shared database of catalog records. You can edit and contribute to the database without any restrictions.”...

What I Learned Today, Jan. 20

[http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_DtpYdAYE0TY/SXYaX0I6vVI/AAAAAAAAAHU/S7SXMxGh7Ic/s1600-h/env-reading-circle-72.jpg]Library Day, 1915

[<http://libraryhistorybuff.blogspot.com/2009/01/library-day.html>]

Larry Nix writes: "I was recently made aware of a post to the AASL listserv concerning a newspaper article in the Cookeville Putnam County (Tenn.) Herald for September 16, 1915, about 'Library Day.' The article concerned the declaration of October 1, 1915, by State Superintendent of Public Instruction S. W. Sherrill as Library Day. According to the article, 'On that day every public school in the State is expected to raise funds to establish or supplement the school library.' The concept of a library day dates back at least to the 1890s and was part of a movement to put a library in every public school."...

Library History Buff Blog, Jan. 20

Two NYPL branches declared city landmarks

[http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/downloads/pdf/press/01_13_09.pdf] (PDF file)

The New York Landmarks Preservation Commission approved two New York Public Library branches as city landmarks, bringing to 1,222 the total number of individual buildings with landmark status in all five boroughs. The George Bruce branch (completed 1915) and the 125th Street branch (right, constructed in 1904) were chosen unanimously January 13. The commission is planning hearings on the status of two additional branches, Woodstock and Hunt's Point....

Landmarks Preservation Commission, Jan. 13

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0mMabhS5vw>]Treasures of the New York Public Library: The Harlem Renaissance

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0mMabhS5vw>]

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture is a national research library devoted to collecting, preserving, and providing access to resources documenting the history and experiences of peoples of African descent throughout the world. In this New York Public Library video (3:38), Schomburg Director Howard Dodson describes some of the artistic and literary treasures dating from the Harlem Renaissance period of the 1920s and 1930s in the center's collections....

YouTube

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. As of January 16, advance registration was 5,840,

compared to 5,833 at the same point for the 2008 Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia. This includes 671 first-time Midwinter Meeting attendees, compared to 371 in Philadelphia.

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

The January 1 & 15 issue of Booklist [<http://www.booklistonline.com/>] has the “Top of the List: The Best of Editor’s Choice” list for 2008. Pick up a copy at the Midwinter Meeting in Denver! NEW! From Booklist.

Hear young adult author Lauren Myracle (author of *ttyl*) at the Freedom to Read Author Event,

[<http://www.ftrf.org/ala/mgrps/othergroups/freedomtoreadfoundation/ftrfinaction/specialeventsab/myracle.cfm>] Tattered Cover Book Store, 1628 16th Street, Denver. Proceeds will benefit the Freedom to Read Foundation’s efforts to support and defend the First Amendment in libraries and elsewhere. Purchase tickets here.

[<https://dnbweb1.blackbaud.com/OPXREPHIL/EventDetail.asp?cguid=C1556BC1-88C C-4A52-8BFB-A7EE77D56083&eid=19420&sid=98FFFE5A-89C5-4BAE-8227-D7465D3E4F12>]

In this issue
January/February 2009

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

Gaming @ your library

The Minneapolis-Hennepin merger

Testing the Web 2.0 waters

I Love My Librarian awards

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

Library Director,
[<http://joblist.ala.org/modules/jobseeker/controller.cfm?scr=jobdetail&jobid=12550>] City of Woodstock, Illinois. Charming, historic community of 24,000, one hour northwest of Chicago, seeks dynamic leader for beautiful Woodstock Public Library. Minimum qualifications: MLS and five years of experience....

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

Visit the ACRL booth (#2507) at Midwinter and register to win a complimentary registration to the ACRL 14th National Conference, [http://www.eshow2000.com/acrl/2009/conference_program.cfm] March 12–15, in Seattle. The winner will be announced on the ACRL Insider blog [<http://www.acrl.ala.org/acrlinsider/>] by January 31.

Digital Library of the Week

[<http://www.etana.org/abzu/fulldisplay.pl?SID=20090119733367919&code=abzu&RC=20263&Row=327&code=ABZU>]

ETANA (Electronic Tools and Ancient Near Eastern Archives) [<http://www.etana.org/>] is a cooperative effort to include the permanent archiving, dissemination, and generation of archaeological excavation reports, editions of ancient and modern texts, core early monographs, dictionaries, journals, and reports on archaeology in the Ancient Near East. It offers the ABZU portal to Near Eastern web resources, an electronic commons where scholars in the field can share data and images, and eventually an electronic publishing depository for born digital publications. The Vanderbilt University Library serves as the host technical site and grant administrator. Other organizations supporting ETANA include the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute (which hosts the ABZU portal), the American Schools of Oriental Research, and Case Western Reserve University Library.

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

“The truth is that the decline of reading for pleasure has little to do with the things that teachers, librarians, and parents seem to think are causing it... Because reading is a private experience, it’s an anti-social experience—as opposed to television or movies, which are social experiences. It’s still considered taboo to read at the dinner table, but no such rule forbids families from keeping the TV on in the background or even eating while watching it. Reading is also considered a frivolous activity—much more frivolous, say, than browsing the internet. If you doubt this, try reading a book at work, even a book you’re reading for work, and see how fast you catch your boss’s attention—attention that your colleague who spends his days playing Minesweeper isn’t likely to attract.”

?Justyn Dillingham, opinions editor of the University of Arizona student newspaper, in “The Real Reason Americans Don’t Read,” an editorial on Reading on the Rise, the January 12 National Endowment for the Arts

report, in the Arizona Daily Wildcat, Jan. 14.

Ask the ALA Librarian

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/informationliteracycompetency.cfm>]

Q. As a school librarian, I find that I am asked often about what information literacy is, and how to educate students in this area. Can you help me find some resources and guidelines?

A. Information literacy

[http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Information_Literacy] is vital in today's society. AASL's Information Literacy [<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aasliissues/aaslinfolit/informationliteracy1.cfm>] page offers resources for the development of dynamic, student-centered school library media programs. These programs help ensure that students master the information literacy skills needed to be discerning consumers and creative producers of information and ideas. ACRL's Information Literacy [<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/infolit/informationliteracy.cfm>] page is a gateway to resources on information literacy. These resources will help you understand and apply the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education to enhance teaching, learning, and research in the higher education community. The process begins in elementary school and continues through college . . . and beyond. From the ALA Professional Tips wiki [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Information_Literacy_Standards].

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

Calendar

Feb. 27:

Lawyers for Libraries Institute, [<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/oifprograms/lawforlib/lawyerslibraries.cfm>] Westin Los Angeles Airport. The institute is primarily intended to equip attorneys with tools they need to effectively defend the First Amendment in libraries.

Mar. 8–14:

Teen Tech Week, [http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/Teen_Tech_Week] “Press Play @ your library.”

Mar. 8–14:

Read an E-Book Week. [<http://www.ebookweek.com/>]

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, Salem. “Customer Service Is Our Heart.”

Apr. 12–18:
National Library Week.
[<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/hqops/pio/natlibraryweek/nlw.cfm>]

Apr. 21–23:
Oklahoma Library Association, [<http://www.oklibs.org/>] Annual Conference,
Midwest City.

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.

Apr. 30–
May 2:
New York Library Association,
[http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=1564] Spring Conference, Saratoga
Springs. “Educational Leaders @ your library.”

May 6–8:
Florida Library Association, [http://www.flalib.org/conference_2009.php]
Annual Conference, Orlando. “Libraries . . . Connecting People,
Information, and Knowledge.”

May 7:

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.

June 24–29:
Focus on Book Arts Conference,
[<http://www.focusonbookarts.org/index.html>] Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon. Classes in the book arts— bookbinding, papermaking, printing, artists books, journals—at all skill levels from beginner to advanced.

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

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American Libraries Direct

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George M. Eberhart,
Editor:
geberhart@ala.org [<mailto:geberhart@ala.org>]

Greg Landgraf,
Associate Editor:
glandgraf@ala.org [<mailto:glandgraf@ala.org>]

Leonard Kniffel,
Editor-in-Chief,
American Libraries: lkniffel@ala.org [<mailto:lkniffel@ala.org>]

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Contents

[U.S. & World News](#)
[ALA News](#)
[AL Focus](#)
[Booklist Online](#)
[Division News](#)
[Round Table News](#)
[Awards](#)
[Seen Online](#)
[Tech Talk](#)
[Publishing](#)
[Actions & Answers](#)
[Calendar](#)



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

[Obama relaxes secrecy regulations](#)

The day after becoming the 44th president of the United States, Barack Obama issued two directives that encourage government agencies to release federal and presidential information to the public. "In the face of doubt, openness prevails," Obama declared January 21 in a [memo](#) urging agencies to comply with the Freedom of Information Act. He also issued an [Executive Order on Presidential Records](#) that makes the final decision on withholding information located in the records of the incumbent president subject to review by the U.S. attorney general, White House counsel, and the courts....
American Libraries Online, Jan. 26

[Troubled Sacramento library undertakes 302 reforms](#)

The interim director of the Sacramento (Calif.) Public Library has released a list of 302 reforms he plans to implement in the wake of recent charges of mismanagement and financial improprieties. Phil Batchelor, who succeeded Anne Marie Gold after her December 1 retirement, called the roster of changes "ambitious but doable." He told *American Libraries* that he expects 71% of the changes will be in effect by June, in time for the planned hiring of a new director....
American Libraries Online, Jan. 27

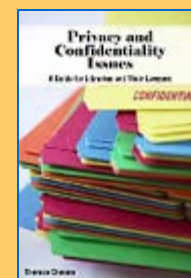
ALA News

[ALA urges library exemption from Consumer Product Safety Act](#)

ALA filed comments ([PDF file](#)) January 26 with the Consumer Product Safety Commission, urging it to issue a notification confirming that the new lead limits under the Consumer Product Safety Act do not apply to library books and related materials. Under the act, passed by Congress in August, children's products are required to undergo stringent testing for lead and phthalates. Currently, the CPSC general counsel is interpreting the law to apply to ordinary, paper-based books for children 12 years of age or younger, so that all such books would have to be tested for lead content. Librarians wishing to explain their position to the CPSC should contact [Tom Moore](#) at (301)



[Midwinter Meeting
2009 Flickr photos](#)



Imagine receiving a subpoena requiring patron records or internet use history. What is your library's policy? Do you know? Does your library have a policy? How big a problem is this? In [Privacy and Confidentiality Issues: A Guide for Libraries and their Lawyers](#), Theresa Chmura, a partner with the Washington,

504-7902....

[FINRA, ALA award \\$882,000 in grants to support financial literacy](#)

The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Investor Education Foundation and ALA awarded \$882,000 in grant money January 24 to 12 public libraries and library networks for the purpose of giving patrons greater access to unbiased investing information and resources. The grants, administered by RUSA and FINRA/IEF, are part of ALA's Smart Investing @ your library campaign. The Loveland (Colo.) Public Library received \$32,000, with which it plans to expand its [Money Talks](#) program to provide free advice on an array of financial topics....

Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Jan. 24; *Loveland (Colo.) Reporter-Herald*, Jan. 25



[Muhammad Yunus on defeating poverty](#)

Leonard Kniffel writes: "Could ALA President Jim Rettig have picked a better speaker for this Midwinter President's Program than Muhammad Yunus? With American capitalism failing at numerous levels, on January 25 the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner and author of *Banker to the Poor: Micro-Lending and the Battle Against World Poverty* told the amazing story about his crusade to end world poverty with a lending system that defies the traditional notion of how banks do business."...

AL Inside Scoop, Jan. 27



[Jim Sheeler inspires at Arthur Curley lecture](#)

Jim Sheeler, the 2006 Pulitzer Prize winner for his feature articles in Denver's *Rocky Mountain News* covering the impact of the Iraq War on Colorado military families, delivered the 10th annual Arthur Curley Memorial Lecture January 24. He presented vignettes from his book, *Final Salute: A Story of Unfinished Lives*, and said he came to know and understand the families he's covered in a very personal way....

ALA Cognates, Jan. 25, p. 1, 3



[Good humor man opens Sunrise Speaker series](#)

Kay Ikuta writes: "Bright and early January 24, H. W. Wilson presented cartoonist Leigh Rubin at the Sunrise Speaker series. Often described as a 'sit-down' comedian who just makes people laugh, he is the creator of the single-panel cartoon *Rubes*, which appears in hundreds of newspapers around the country."...

ALA Cognates, Jan. 25, p. 1



[Google search settlement discussion](#)

A panel of representatives from Google and the library community spoke

D.C., office of Jenner and Block, shares her decades of experience in easy-to-understand, jargon-free language. **NEW! From ALA Editions.**



[Heard and overheard.](#)

"I'm just going to stand here and have a wonderful time!" said a woman near the Denver Convention Center entrance on Friday, apparently after unexpectedly meeting the latest in a string of friends. AL Associate Editor Greg Landgraf offers a collection of interesting, thought-provoking, or just amusing quotes from the Midwinter Meeting.

In this issue
January/February
2009



Gaming @ your library

The Minneapolis-Hennepin merger

before a standing-room-only audience during an open discussion on the proposed Google Book Search settlement agreement January 24. The lively discussion, hosted by the Committee on Legislation's Copyright Subcommittee and moderated by Subcommittee Chair Nancy Kranich, addressed the recent settlement and the question of what's in it for libraries....

District Dispatch, Jan. 27



[Membership Town Hall](#)

Greg Landgraf writes: "The full breadth of ALA's membership was on display at the well-attended and generally upbeat Membership Town Hall meeting sponsored by ALA's Executive Board and Membership Meeting Committee. Dozens of members offered their voices on the topic 'What Do Library Staff Want President Obama to Know?' Members asked ALA President Jim Rettig to remind the president of the needs of libraries of all types, from public, academic, and school libraries to those serving more specialized populations like military, tribal, or federal libraries."...

AL Inside Scoop, Jan. 25



[Advocating in a tough economy](#)

Leonard Kniffel writes: "The ALA Washington Office Update January 24 offered Midwinter Meeting goers an opportunity to connect in person with Washington Office staffers. Lynne Bradley, director of the Office of Government Relations, noted that on the Hill, traditional library issues are still on the agenda, but with a new twist. Appropriations will be extremely competitive in the current economic climate, and it's important for librarians, with more voices than ever, to make the case for libraries as the best bang for the buck."...

AL Inside Scoop, Jan. 24



[Emerging Leaders meet](#)

Karen Keys writes: "The [Emerging Leaders](#) program focuses on getting new leadership on the fast track to become involved in ALA. In its third year, the program has identified and offered opportunities to approximately 325 leadership-inclined members. At its all-day meeting in Denver January 23, the group discovered that most of them have been ALA members for two to five years. Leslie Burger, past president and the program's founder, joked, 'So you're all new to the organization; you haven't been tainted.'"...

PLA Blog, Jan. 24



[Did you miss American Libraries' digital supplement?](#)

It was emailed in mid-January, but you can read it at the link above. It's a 37-page Winter 2009 issue, hosted on ZMags and powered by page-turning software. Features include: discovering high-tech,

Testing the Web 2.0 waters

I Love My Librarian awards

Career Leads from

ALA JobLIST

[Life Sciences and Bio-Inspired Technologies Collection Development Librarian](#), George

Washington University, Washington, D.C. The Gelman Library System is seeking an enthusiastic and innovative librarian able to effectively grow and shape the collections in this field. This librarian will play a critical role in working with faculty in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences as well as in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences to enhance and enrich the collections in biological sciences, biomedical engineering, systems biology, bioinformatics, evolutionary biology, chemistry, and forensic science....

@ [More jobs...](#)

Digital Library of the Week

high-touch LIS opportunities; ALA continuing education resources; ALA-accredited master's programs; and three views on service learning in library education....

OITP's new Section 108 spinner

Section 108 of the U.S. Copyright code allows libraries and archives, under certain circumstances, to make reproductions of copyrighted materials without the permission of the copyright holder. ALA's Office for Information Technology Policy has released a new Section 108 spinner, a useful tool that can help determine whether a particular reproduction is covered by the 108 exemption. The Section 108 spinner is available [online](#), along with OITP's [Public Domain](#) slider....

District Dispatch, Jan. 23



The [Norman B. Leventhal Map Center](#) at the Boston Public Library created this website in 2006 with the goal of bringing its collection of rare maps and atlases into the hands of patrons of all ages. To date, more than 2,200 maps have been digitized and added to the site, complete with authoritative metadata. Additional maps are added on a monthly basis. With the special "zoomify" tool that accompanies each map, users are able to examine small details. The website also features teacher resources, a "maps in the news" feature, and a digital archive of all exhibits held at the Leventhal Center.

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.

AL Focus

2009 ALA Presidential Candidates Forum

ALA Presidential Candidates Kenton Oliver and Roberta Stevens responded to member questions at the Presidential Candidates Forum (39:45) held January 24 at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver. ALA Immediate Past-President Lorlene Roy (right) moderated the forum. Questions included: How soon can ALA gain connections with the Obama administration? How can you attract young members and develop young leaders?...



Booklist ONLINE

Featured review: Books for youth

Smith, Sherri L. *Flygirl*. Jan. 2009. 288p. Putnam, hardcover. Grades 7-10 (978-0-399-24709-5).

This breakthrough title adds a new story to the shelves of World War II books. Here, the enemy is not just a foreign threat; it is also prejudice—of both race and gender—here at home. In 1941, black high-school graduate Ida Mae Jones, 18, worries about her soldier brother, who is on the front, and longs to fight for her country, too. Her late dad taught her to fly a crop-dusting



Public Perception How the World Sees Us

"I believe that librarians are the unacknowledged legislators of the

plane, and when the U.S. starts the WASP (Women Airforce Service Program), she is determined to join up. The slights against women are constant, as is racial prejudice, including the *n* word. Ida Mae is so light-skinned that she can pass as white, which means leaving her family and friends and creating a new identity....

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

Division News

[YALSA Preconference: Serving diverse teens](#)

Nick Franklin writes: "Providing adequate, friendly service to new Americans has always been a central goal of public libraries, but we can now look at it as a mission of mutual understanding and learning and, above all, helping immigrant teens preserve their sense of identity while still being active participants in their new homeland. This was overall message of the three presentations at the YALSA Preconference January 23 given by Jennifer Velasquez, Vicki Emery, and Oesei Akoto Baffour."...

PLA Blog, Jan. 24

[Liveblogging YALSA's Best Books for Young Adults teen session](#)

Teen readers and others got together January 25 in Denver, physically and virtually, to discuss recent young adult titles. View the comments to see what people thought about L. J. Adlington's *Cherry Heaven* (right, "Really, really deeply creepy, but in a good way") or Joseph Bruchac's *March Toward the Thunder* ("Why does every military book have a girl dressed like a boy?")....

YALSA Blog, Jan. 25



[YALSA mixer and tech playground](#)

Kelly Czarnecki writes: "Things really got rockin' by the time the America's Best Booktalkers were up for their performances: a cover song from Leona Lewis's 'Bleeding Love' to introduce *Ophelia* by Lisa Klein, then a description of *Stargirl* so good we knew who she was before the booktalker revealed the title. Chris Shoemaker was the fantastic emcee for the event. A democratic vote took place via Twitter and the winner was Jack Martin (right) for booktalking *Freak Show* by James St. James."...

YALSA Blog, Jan. 27



[School librarians envision their future](#)

In a lively discussion, AASL members tackled strategic planning January 23 in a day-long meeting. Paul D. Meyer, principal partner of Tecker Consultants, helped attendees review language, vision, and values in documents developed four years ago to help drive AASL to their goals....

ALA Cognates, Jan. 24, p. 4

[ALCTS Forum on shared library data](#)

Norman Oder writes: "In much of her presentation January 26 at the

universe."

—Author Alex Beam, *A Great Idea at the Time: The Rise, Fall, and Curious Afterlife of the Great Books* (Perseus Books Group, 2008), p. 204.

Ask the ALA Librarian



Q. With many camp registrations occurring around this time, our patrons are asking about our summer reading program. Does ALA have resources to help set up a theme for the program? Also, can you direct me to any research showing the benefits of such a program?

A. [Summer reading programs](#) have been around since the late 19th century and have proven successful in attracting children to libraries during the summer months. [Research](#) shows that kids who keep the reading habit through the long vacation do better when they return to school. While ALA does not set themes for reading programs, we do have a wide range of resources for you to tap into. Themes can be locally developed, sometimes on a statewide basis, with a number of states [cooperating](#) on

ALCTS Forum, OCLC Vice-President Karen Calhoun firmly defended the intent of OCLC's proposed policy on record sharing, suggesting that critics in the blogosphere had an unrealistic view of the library ecosystem. In response, some panelists suggested that OCLC itself was failing to modernize."...

Library Journal, Jan. 27

Round Table News

[Women of Mystery at Midwinter](#)

Greg Landgraf writes: "My last bloggable event of January 23 was the Exhibits Round Table Author Forum, subtitled 'Women of Mystery' and featuring the mystery authors Erica Spindler, Francine Mathews, Mary Jane Clark, and Nancy Atherton. I'd like to share some juicy quotes from the first half of the forum."...

AL Inside Scoop, Jan. 23

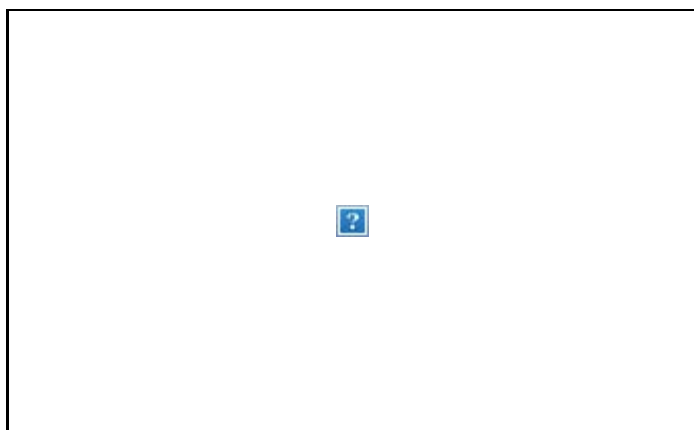


[Video Round Table announces 2009 Notable Videos](#)

The VRT Notable Videos Committee has compiled its 2009 list of Notable Videos for Adults, a list of 15 outstanding programs released on video within the past two years and suitable for all libraries serving adults. Its purpose is to call attention to recent video releases that make a significant contribution to the world of video recordings. One of them is wildlife photographer Rob Stewart's *Sharkwater*, a compassionate argument for understanding and protection of sharks....



Awards



[Youth Media Award winners](#)

ALA announced the top books, videos, and audiobooks for children and young adults—including the Caldecott, King, Newbery, Schneider Family, and Printz awards—January 26 at the Midwinter Meeting in Denver. The announcement was webcast (large [QuickTime file](#)) for those who could not attend. In addition, ALA celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Coretta Scott King Book Awards and introduced a new award, the William C. Morris Award. It is also the first year that the Pura Belpré Award will be given annually....

common themes, for children, young adults, and adults. Here is a sampling of our resources. For more, see the [ALA Professional Tips wiki](#).

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

Calendar

Feb. 2, 27:
[PALINET webinar](#), "ITI Library and Consortia Resource Collection."

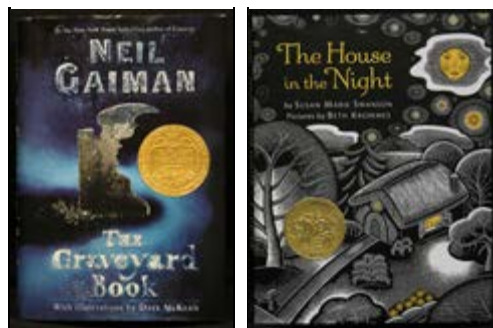
Feb. 5:
[ACRL webcast](#), "The Role of the Librarian in Combating Student Plagiarism."

Feb. 15–21:
[Music Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Marriott Chicago Downtown.

Mar. 18–21:
[Visual Resources Association](#), Annual Conference, Sheraton Centre Toronto, Ontario.

Mar. 22–24:
[Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association](#), Annual Conference, Monona Terrace Convention Center, Madison. "Networking for Accountability: Weaving a Web of Best Practice."

Mar. 24–25:
[Metropolitan New York Library Council](#), METRO Training



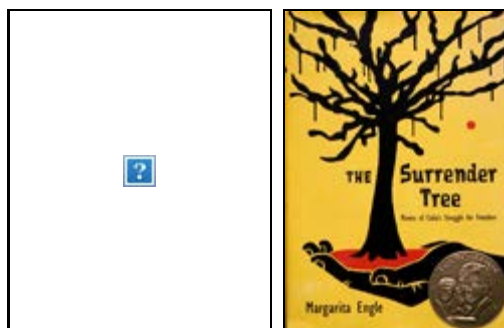
[Newbery and Caldecott winners](#)

Neil Gaiman, author of *The Graveyard Book*, and Beth Krommes, illustrator of *The House in the Night*, are the 2009 winners of the John Newbery and Randolph Caldecott Medals. The Newbery and Caldecott medals honor outstanding writing and illustration of works published in the United States during the previous year....



[Nelson, Cooper win Coretta Scott King Awards](#)

Kadir Nelson, author of *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*, and Floyd Cooper, illustrator of *The Blacker the Berry*, are the winners of the 2009 Coretta Scott King Book Awards honoring African American authors and illustrators of outstanding books for children and young adults. Shadra Strickland, illustrator of *Bird*, is the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award winner....



[Morales, Engle win Pura Belpré Awards](#)

Yuyi Morales, illustrator of *Just in Case*, and Margarita Engle, author of *The Surrender Tree*, are the 2009 winners of the Pura Belpré Illustrator Award and Author Award, which honor Latino authors and illustrators whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in children's books....

[Mo Willems wins Geisel Award](#)

Author and illustrator Mo Willems is the 2009 winner of the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award for the book *Are You Ready to Play Outside?* The tale is simply told

Center, New York City. "Stewardship of Digital Assets" workshop.

Mar. 28–29:

[Reading the World](#), a conference celebrating multicultural literature for children and young adults, University of San Francisco.

Apr. 1–3:

[Kansas Library Association / Mountain Plains Library Association](#), Annual Conference,

Hyatt Regency/Century II Convention Center, Wichita. "Libraries: Dynamic People, Places, and Ideas."

Apr. 2:

[International Children's Book Day](#).

Apr. 3:

[Youth Services Section, New York Library Association](#),

Spring Conference, The Inn on the Lake, Canandaigua.

Apr. 17–20:

[Major Orchestra Librarians' Association](#), Annual

Conference, Marriott at Metro Center Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Apr. 19–21:

[Missouri Association of School Librarians](#),

Spring Conference, Tar-Tar-A, Osage Beach. "Passport to Treasures @ your library."

Apr. 22–25:

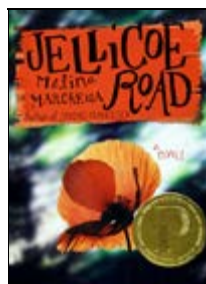
[Montana Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Hilton Garden Inn, Kalispell. "Creating New Paths."

through the use of dialogue, which melds perfectly with uncluttered pink and grey cartoon-style illustrations. Aside from the friendship theme that appears throughout Willems's work, he continues to create astonishing emotional depth using the simplest of facial expressions on his characters....



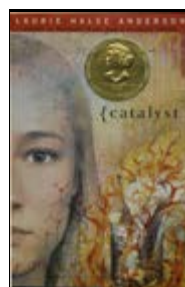
Melina Marchetta wins Printz Award

Melina Marchetta, author of *Jellicoe Road*, published by HarperTeen, an imprint of HarperCollins, has won the 2009 Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in young adult literature. Haunted by the past, Taylor Markham reluctantly leads the students of the Jellicoe School in their secret territory wars against the Townies and the Cadets. Marchetta's lyrical writing evokes the Australian landscape in a suspenseful tale of raw emotion, romance, humor, and tragedy....



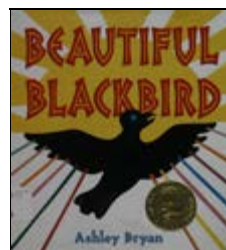
Laurie Halse Anderson honored with Edwards Award

Laurie Halse Anderson is the recipient of the 2009 Margaret A. Edwards Award honoring her significant and lasting contribution to writing for teens. The award was presented for her books, *Catalyst*, *Fever 1793*, and *Speak*. These gripping and exceptionally well-written novels, through various settings, time periods, and circumstances, poignantly reflect the growing and changing realities facing teens....



Ashley Bryan wins 2009 Wilder Award

Ashley Bryan is the winner of the 2009 Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, which honors an author or illustrator whose books have made a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children. His numerous works include *Dancing Granny*, *Beat the Story-Drum*, *Pum-Pum*, and *Beautiful Blackbird*. Dynamic use of line marks Bryan's varied art forms, which include chalk sketches, full-color paintings, stylized drawings, and cut-paper collages....



Batchelder Award honors Arthur A. Levine Books

Arthur A. Levine Books, an imprint of Scholastic, is the winner of the 2009 Mildred L. Batchelder Award for for the most outstanding children's book originally published in a foreign language and subsequently translated into English for publication in the United States. Originally published in Japanese in 1996 as *Seirei no Moribito*, *Moribito: Guardian of the Spirit* was written by Nahoko Uehashi and translated by Cathy Hirano....



Carnegie Medal goes to March On!

Paul R. Gagne and Melissa Reilly of Weston Woods Studios, producers of *March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World*, are the 2009 recipients of

May 12–13:

Vermont Library Conference, Sheraton Hotel, South Burlington. "Speaking Up! Advocacy for Libraries."

May 14–15:

SOLINET, Annual Membership Meeting, Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center, Atlanta. "The Changing World, Changing Libraries."

May 15–20:

Medical Library Association, Annual Meeting, Honolulu. "iFusions."

May 27–29:

Northeast Document Conservation Center, Westin San Diego, California. "Digital Directions: Fundamentals of Creating and Managing Digital Collections."

June 14–17:

Special Libraries Association, Annual Conference, Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C.

@ [More...](#)

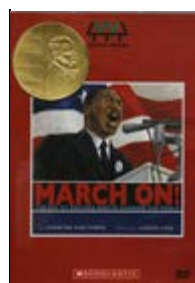
Contact Us

American Libraries Direct

ALA American Library Association

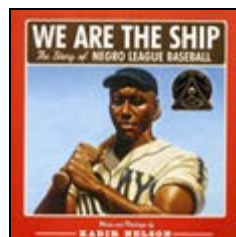
AL Direct is a free electronic newsletter emailed every

the Andrew Carnegie Medal for excellence in children's video. The video is Dr. Christine King Farris's memory of the historic march on Washington, which took place on August 23, 1963, and her brother Martin's preparation for and delivery of the monumental "I Have a Dream" speech....



[Kadir Nelson wins 2009 Sibert Medal](#)

Kadir Nelson, author and illustrator of *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*, was named the winner of the 2009 Robert F. Sibert Medal for the most distinguished informational book for children published in 2008. Nelson scores a home run with this fascinating and well-documented history of Negro League Baseball told in the voice of an "everyman" narrator....



[2009 Alex Awards](#)

YALSA has selected 10 adult books that will appeal to teen readers to receive the 2009 Alex Awards. The awards, sponsored by the Margaret Edwards Trust, were announced at the 2009 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver, January 23–28, and will appear with full annotations in the March 15 issue of *Booklist* magazine....

[Elizabeth C. Bunce wins first-ever William C. Morris Award](#)

A Curse Dark as Gold, written by Elizabeth C. Bunce, has been named the inaugural winner of the William C. Morris Award, which honors a book written for young adults by a first-time, previously unpublished author. At the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, Charlotte Miller strikes a bargain with the malevolent Jack Spinner, who can transform straw into gold, to save her family's mill. The award was presented by YALSA at the Midwinter Meeting in Denver....



[Odyssey Award goes to Recorded Books](#)

Recorded Books, producer of the audiobook *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, has won the second annual Odyssey Award for excellence in audiobook production. The Odyssey Award is given to the producer of the best audiobook produced for children and/or young adults. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* was written and narrated by Sherman Alexie....



[Schneider Family Book Award winners](#)

Winners of the Schneider Family Book Award, which honors an author or illustrator for the artistic expression of the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences, were announced at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver. *Piano Starts Here: The Young Art Tatum* by Robert Andrew Parker is the



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:
lnkniffel@ala.org

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winner in the young children's category; *Waiting for Normal* by Leslie Connor is the winner in the middle-school category; and *Jerk, California* by Jonathan Friesen is the winner in the teen category....

[Pop Culture Universe wins RUSA's Dartmouth Medal](#)

Greenwood Publishing Group's *Pop Culture Universe* database was awarded the 2009 Dartmouth Medal at the RUSA Awards

Ceremony in Denver. It was the first time that an exclusively electronic reference source has won this prestigious honor. The medal is donated by Dartmouth College and awarded for the creation of the single most outstanding and significant reference work of the year....

PCU Blog, Jan. 26



[Kathleen T. Horning to deliver 2010 Arbuthnot Lecture](#)

Kathleen T. Horning, director of the University of Wisconsin–Madison's Cooperative Children's Book Center, will deliver the 2010 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture. Each year, an individual of distinction in the field of children's literature is chosen to write and deliver a lecture that will make a significant contribution to the world of children's literature. The award is administered by ALSC....



[Fallenberg, Eskridge win Stonewall Book Awards](#)

ALA's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Round Table has announced the winners of the 2009 Stonewall Book Awards. *Light Fell* by Evan Fallenberg is the winner of the Barbara Gittings Book Award in Literature, and *Dishonorable Passions: Sodomy Laws in America, 1861–2003* by William N. Eskridge Jr. is the winner of the Israel Fishman Book Award for Nonfiction....

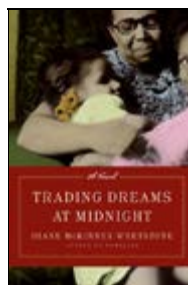
ALA Cognates, Jan. 26, p. 6



[The 2009 BCALA Literary Awards](#)

The Black Caucus of the American Library Association announced the winners of the BCALA Literary Awards January 25 during the ALA Midwinter Meeting. The awards recognize excellence in adult fiction and nonfiction by African-American authors published in 2008, including the work of a first novelist and a citation for Outstanding Contribution to Publishing. The winner in the fiction category is *Trading Dreams at Midnight* by Diane McKinney-Whetstone....

ALA Cognates, Jan. 26, p. 5



[Nominate a library for the National Medal](#)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is seeking nominations for the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor for exemplary museum and library community service. The medal winners will be the institutions that make the most extraordinary civic, educational, economic, environmental, and social contributions. The medal includes prizes of \$10,000 to each recipient and an awards ceremony to be held in Washington, D.C. The deadline for [nominations](#) is February 17....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Dec. 15

Seen Online

[Woman gives birth at Denver Public Library](#)

A woman got off a bus in front of the main [Denver Public Library](#) just before it opened January 27 and asked for assistance—to deliver her baby. Security guards helped her inside the east entrance of the library and got her off to the side of the foyer, where the woman delivered a healthy girl. “That’s the first time we had a birth at the library,” DPL spokeswoman Celeste Jackson said. “It’s pretty exciting.” The library staff has already bought the baby its first set of books (above) and plans to visit the mother after her name is released. Watch the [news video](#)....

Denver Post, Jan. 27; *AL Inside Scoop*, Jan. 27; *KUSA-TV*, Denver, Jan. 27



[New Arapahoe branch named after Eloise May](#)

Arapahoe Library District Executive Director Eloise May will be honored by having the district’s newest branch named after her. The [Eloise May Library](#), at South Parker Road and East Florida Avenue in Denver, will open February 21. May is being honored for her 37 years of leadership and service....

Denver Post, Jan. 23



[College endowments loss is worst drop since 1970s](#)

The value of university endowments fell about 23% on average in the five months that ended November 30, according to two newly released reports. The steep declines are forcing colleges and universities across the country to contemplate wage freezes, layoffs, and a halt to construction projects. The drop found by the reports is the biggest in the value of college and university endowments since the mid-1970s....

New York Times, Jan. 26

[Berkeley Public Library in nuclear dispute](#)

The Berkeley (Calif.) Public Library is facing a showdown with the city’s Peace and Justice Commission over whether a service contract for the book check-out system violates the city’s nuclear-free ordinance. The dispute centers on a five-year contract the library wants to sign with 3M to service five scanning machines. But 3M refused to sign a nuclear-free disclosure form as required by the Nuclear Free Berkeley Act passed by voters in 1986....

San Francisco Chronicle, Jan. 27

[Darby Free Library faces the ax](#)

The Darby (Pa.) Free Library, in continuous operation since it was founded by Quaker townsmen in 1743, will be forced to close its doors at year’s end unless it can find a generous donor. Director Susan Borders said the library has been using interest from its endowment to close a funding gap, but in recent years it has been dipping into the endowment itself—about \$20,000 a year—to cover operating expenses and capital improvements. “We’re on the chopping block,” Borders said....



Philadelphia Daily News, Jan. 22

[New Orleans branches to be rebuilt this spring](#)

Five New Orleans libraries shuttered since Hurricane Katrina will be replaced by new buildings with construction beginning in April, a city official told the city council January 21. Recovery Program Manager Randy Richardson said construction would begin on a new Algiers Regional Library by April and that others to be redeveloped include the New Orleans East, Norman Mayer, Robert E. Smith, and Nora Navra (above, pre-Katrina) branches....

WWL-TV, New Orleans, Jan. 21



[Philadelphia branch cuts = students will wind up with nothing](#)

Though Philadelphia's public library services recently landed on the chopping block, the city's public school students have watched school library services dwindle for years. Today, more than half of the district's 281 schools have no library staff. In one region, it's up to 78%. It's a worsening problem....

Philadelphia Inquirer, Jan. 26

[Josephine County branch reopens](#)

A ceremony held January 23 celebrated the newly reopened Grants Pass branch in Josephine County, Oregon. An advocacy group, [Josephine Community Libraries](#), expects to reopen the county's three other branches—in Illinois Valley, Williams, and Wolf Creek—by year's end. Two years ago, Josephine and neighboring Jackson County closed their libraries after losing federal timber payments. So a small group of citizens formed something unique in Oregon: a private nonprofit to run public libraries....

Portland Oregonian, Jan. 23



[Not your father's censorship](#) (subscription required)

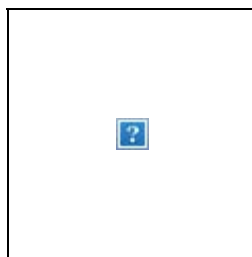
Harry Lewis writes: "With almost everything digitized, new communication technologies have led to a global proliferation of censorship agents, methods, and rationales. Ironically for the American pioneers who expected the internet to foster unprecedented information freedom, its rapid and ubiquitous adoption has created a flexible and effective mechanism for thought control. In America the distorting lens of censorship can be adjusted to satisfy various tastes."...

Chronicle of Higher Education, Jan. 16

[Inside the White House Record Library](#)

When Barack Obama moved into the White House on January 20, he gained access to five chefs, a private bowling alley, and a killer collection of classic LPs. Stored in the basement of the executive mansion is the official White House Record Library: several hundred LPs that include landmark albums in rock, punk, cult classics, and disco....

Rolling Stone, Jan. 23



[Renovated Bancroft Library reopens](#)

After a nearly four-year hiatus, the University of

California, Berkeley's Bancroft Library reopened January 20 at its freshly renovated location adjacent to Doe Memorial Library. The \$64-million renovation included a seismic retrofit, climate-controlled storage for rare materials, additional gallery space for exhibitions, and complete interior remodeling....

Daily Californian, Jan. 26



[Librarians become unofficial job counselors](#)

The downward economy is putting more stress on libraries. Popular movies and books now have wait lists, the unemployed are in line for computers to work on résumés, and some librarians are even acting as unofficial job counselors. *Day to Day* co-host Madeleine Brand talks with Linda Yoder, director of the Nappanee (Ind.) Public Library, in this recent broadcast (3:03)....

Day to Day (National Public Radio), Jan. 23

[Former page leaves Santa Ana library \\$123,000](#)

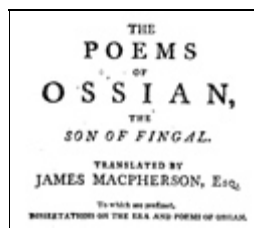
A \$123,000 donation from the estate of a woman who was once laid off from her job as a part-time page at the library is being used to create a TeenSpace designed by teens in the basement of the Santa Ana (Calif.) Public Library. A grand-opening ceremony January 24 honored Estella R. Shulse, who worked in the library in the 1990s until her job was eliminated in a round of budget cuts. She left her entire estate to the library when she died a few years ago....

Santa Ana (Calif.) *Orange County Register*, Jan. 22

[Paranormal group investigates DePauw University library](#)

A group of investigators from Hoosier State Paranormal entered the Roy West Library at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, and headed up to the second floor where a very special book is locked away in the Archives and Special Collections area. Among the books donated by Gov. James Whitcomb (1795–1852) is one purported to be haunted: *The Poems of Ossian, the Son of Fingal*, a set of poems that the Scottish poet James Macpherson claimed to have translated from ancient Gaelic sources....

Greencastle (Ind.) Banner Graphic, Jan. 26



[Magna Carta at the Reagan Presidential Library](#)

Hundreds of visitors came to see the Magna Carta on January 23, its first day on display at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California. The 1215 charter, the first document forced onto an English King by a group of his subjects, is the main attraction of the library exhibit, "Magna Carta: The Essence of Democracy," which runs through June 20. The document, one of four copies extant, is on loan from the Lincoln Cathedral, in Lincoln, England....

Ventura County (Calif.) Star, Jan. 24



[Bowling Green wedded to innovative fundraising](#)

Friends of the Bowling Green (Mo.) Library hope a little love will help

fill the bookcases. The group hosted its first-ever bridal show January 24 at the Pike County Fairgrounds, with proceeds from booth rentals slated to buy new library materials. "We were trying to come up with something original to the area," said librarian Pat Moore. "It seems like you have to go to Quincy or Columbia or St. Louis to a bridal show, so we thought this would be a good way to showcase some local businesses."...

Hannibal (Mo.) Courier-Post, Jan. 21

Beulah students benefit from brief book ban

The author of a book banned for four days from the Beulah (N. Dak.) High School library said the incident made him think about North Dakota for the first time. John Berendt, the New York author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, followed every word in the local newspapers. He plans to send a signed copy of the book to the three high school girls who showed up at the January 19 school board meeting to defend their right to read the book....

Bismarck (N. Dak.) Tribune, Jan. 22

[Go back to the Top](#)

Tech Talk

LITA's Top Tech Trends

Greg Landgraf writes: "LITA's traditional Top Tech Trends discussion played to a standing-room-only crowd January 25, although the event was briefly delayed by a fire alarm. Participants focused on four topics: the management of open-source software, the growth of geolocational technologies, linked data, and the effect of the economy on technology choices in libraries. The [LITA Blog](#) liveblogged the session, and the session was also [streamed](#)."...

AL Inside Scoop, Jan. 25; LITA Blog, Jan. 25; Ustream.tv



The view from the top

Add-on product demand has increased because ILS vendors have not kept up with what libraries want, asserted Rob McGee of RMG Consultants, at the 19th annual "View from the Top" seminar at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver. This situation is "similar to the early days when libraries came up with their own solutions," said McGee, emceeding a panel of presidents and CEOs from top library vendors....

AL Inside Scoop, Jan. 24

How to find the right GPS

Corinne Iozzio writes: "Now that gas prices have come back down to earth, it's a lot easier to get back behind the wheel. So, whether that means you're commuting to work again or you're finally taking that road trip, a GPS device can help keep you on track. Today's navigators, though, can do a lot more than just get you from point A to point B. Depending on the unit you choose, it can help you sidestep traffic, find a great new restaurant, or even make hands-free cell-phone calls."...

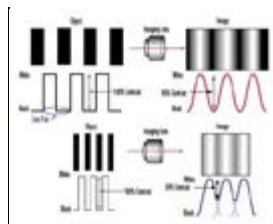
PC Magazine, Jan. 22



[How to evaluate a scanner](#) (PDF file)

Derek Jenkins writes: "Choosing a scanner to scan books or microfilm documents can be a daunting task. The industry has scanners available from a few thousand dollars to more than \$100,000. In many ways, your budget drives your selection, but buying the wrong machine could prove a waste of money and cause your project to be both late and tarnished with unacceptable image quality. Here are my evaluation criteria."...

Image Retrieval, Inc., Sept. 18



Publishing

[Art Spiegelman on comics](#)

Comics artist and graphic novelist Art Spiegelman spoke on "What the %@!* Happened to Comics?" January 25 at the Alexander Street Press customer appreciation breakfast during the ALA Midwinter Meeting. "Everything I know I learned from comics," he said. "I learned about sex from Betty and Veronica. I learned about politics from Pogo. And I learned about everything else from *Mad* magazine. I studied *Mad* the same way some kids studied the Talmud."

Alexander Street Press



[Assassination scholar meets his subject](#)

Author and researcher James L. Swanson (*Manhunt*, 2006) was interviewed by none other than Abraham Lincoln (played by Scholastic's Director of Library and Educational Marketing John Mason) at a January 24 reception to celebrate the publication of Swanson's new YA book, *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* (Scholastic, 2009). Swanson told how he had become fascinated with the Lincoln assassination at an early age and has amassed an enormous collection that includes a lock of Lincoln's hair snipped by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton on the 16th president's deathbed.



[Top 50 true crime blogs](#)

Alisa Miller writes: "True crime stories have intrigued the masses for as long as crime has been around. These sites bring the detectives and their work to you through the writings on their blogs. Whether you want to read about detectives on the police force, private eyes, British detectives, true crime, or even a little bit about fictional detectives, these blogs will provide you with hours of crime and criminals."...

e-Justice Blog, Jan. 22



[Multilingual health databases](#)

(PDF file)

EBSCO Publishing is helping libraries answer non-English-speaking patrons' health-related questions with its new *Multilingual Health Databases*. These databases, in 17 different languages, contain evidence-based reports



for the 200 most common health topics, written at a 3rd-to-7th-grade reading level. Each database is presented entirely in the given language, including screen wording, help, browsing, and full text....

EBSCO Publishing, Jan. 23

[Layoffs at Reed Business Information](#)

Sara Nelson, the editor-in-chief of *Publishers Weekly*, the main trade magazine for the book industry, has been laid off in a restructuring by the publication's parent company, Reed Business Information. As a result, Brian Kenney (right), editor in chief of *School Library Journal*, will now be editorial director of three magazines: *Publishers Weekly*, *School Library Journal*, and *Library Journal*. *Críticas*, the twice-monthly online newsletter for reviews in English of Spanish-language titles, will suspend publication. Among those [leaving LJ](#) are long-time, valued staffers Ann Burns, book review associate editor; Ann Kim, special projects editor; Lynn Blumenstein, senior editor, *Library Hotline*; and Aida Bardales, *Críticas* senior editor....

New York Times, Jan. 26; *Library Journal*, Jan. 27



[H. W. Wilson's new text-to-audio tool](#)

A new ReadSpeak feature converts full-text articles in WilsonWeb databases into audio files for immediate listening or downloading. WilsonWeb clients can listen to articles as streaming audio or save files in MP3 format to iPods and other portable devices. The new tool covers content from some 2,500 publications back as far as 15 years....

H. W. Wilson, Jan. 26

[Amazon to drop Microsoft, Adobe eBook formats](#)

Amazon.com has notified its publisher and author clients that it plans to cease offering eBooks in the Microsoft Reader and Adobe formats. In the future, the online retailer says it plans to offer eBooks only in the Kindle format (for wireless download to its Kindle reading device) and the Mobipocket format, both of which are owned by Amazon. Amazon is asking publishers and authors to make sure the company has written permission to offer their books for sale in the Mobipocket format....

Publishers Weekly, Jan. 26



Actions & Answers

[The 2009 Horizon Report](#)

The annual Horizon Report is a collaborative effort between the New Media Consortium and the Educause Learning Initiative. Each year, the report identifies and describes six areas of emerging technology likely to have a significant impact on teaching, learning, or creative expression in higher education. Those cited this year are: mobile devices, cloud computing, geo-everything, the personal web, semantic-aware applications, and smart objects....

Educause Connect, Jan. 20



New Labor Department reemployment portal

The U.S. Department of Labor has announced a new CareerOneStop reemployment portal. The website is designed to provide employment, training, and financial assistance during the process of job transition. Users can find information on unemployment insurance benefits, health-care coverage, dealing with job loss, and job hunting....

CareerOneStop



Rural Assistance Center

A product of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Rural Initiative, the Rural Assistance Center was established in December 2002 as a health and human services portal geared toward rural communities. RAC offers extensive lists of resources on more than 70 topics, and professional librarians provide custom assistance to clients via phone and email....

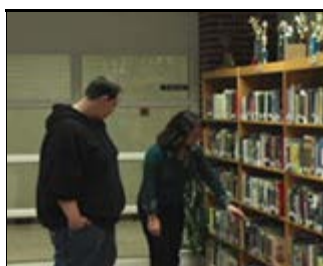
Rural Assistance Center



Michigan video showcases media specialists

The Library of Michigan and Michigan Department of Education have created a video on the [21st Century Media Center](#), a collaborative effort showcasing the essential need for fully supported school library media centers with qualified staff—all for the benefit of Michigan's K–12 students' educational success. The video is geared toward the stakeholders who influence school library media programs in Michigan schools....

Michigan Department of History, Arts, and Libraries, Jan. 21



Report: Schools must show flexibility

Successful learning environments break through the barriers that separate schools from the real world, educators from each other, and policymakers from the communities they serve. Yet many schools perpetuate rigid schedules, inflexible facilities, and fixed boundaries between grades, disciplines, and classrooms, according to a new paper, *21st Century Learning Environments* ([PDF file](#)). Some school media centers are resisting this by successfully transforming themselves into learning commons that serve as gateways to a wide variety of resources and services....

Partnership for 21st Century Skills, Jan. 23



LC receives grant to catalog African maps

The Library of Congress has received a Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources to support a project that will catalog 125,000 sheet maps of Africa. The \$240,240 grant will aid in the creation of geographic coordinates for each map that will make it possible to view the coverage area of individual sheet maps using geographical browsers such as Google Earth....

Library of Congress, Jan. 21

Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears

Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears is a free

online magazine aimed at helping elementary educators integrate science and literacy instruction through the context of the polar regions. Monthly thematic issues include professional resources, lesson plans, research on misconceptions and tools for formative assessment, stories of polar researchers, and leveled text written specifically for students. Features include the ability to translate articles into 12 different languages, a blog, and a new podcast series....

Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears



50 famous last words in less than four minutes

Author John Green recites the last words of 50 politicians, authors, generals, Roman emperors, and others in this rapid-fire tribute to final thoughts (3:48). For example, Union Major General John Sedgwick at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House in 1864 said, "They couldn't hit an elephant at this dist—."...

YouTube, Dec. 15



[Go back to the Top](#)

AL Direct, January 28, 2009

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

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | January 28, 2009

Contents

U.S. & World News [[#usworld](#)]
ALA News [[#alanews](#)]
AL Focus [[#alfocus](#)]
Booklist Online [[#booklist](#)]
Division News [[#divisionnews](#)]
Round Table News [[#roundtable](#)]
Awards [[#awards](#)]
Seen Online [[#seenonline](#)]
Tech Talk [[#techtalk](#)]
Publishing [[#publishing](#)]
Actions & Answers [[#actionsanswers](#)]
Calendar [[#datebook](#)]

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

[<http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com>]

U.S. & World News

Obama relaxes secrecy regulations

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2009/January2009/obamaundoessecrecy.cfm>]

The day after becoming the 44th president of the United States, Barack Obama issued two directives that encourage government agencies to release federal and presidential information to the public. “In the face of doubt, openness prevails,” Obama declared January 21 in a memo [http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/FreedomofInformationAct/] urging agencies to comply with the Freedom of Information Act. He also issued an Executive Order on Presidential Records [http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/ExecutiveOrderPresidentialRecords/] that makes the final decision on withholding information located in the records of the incumbent president subject to review by the U.S. attorney general, White House counsel, and the courts....

American Libraries Online, Jan. 26

Troubled Sacramento library undertakes 302 reforms

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2009/January2009/sacramentoreforms.cfm>]

The interim director of the Sacramento (Calif.) Public Library has released a list of 302 reforms he plans to implement in the wake of recent charges of mismanagement and financial improprieties. Phil Batchelor, who succeeded Anne Marie Gold after her December 1 retirement, called the roster of changes “ambitious but doable.” He told American Libraries that he expects 71% of the changes will be in effect by June, in time for the planned hiring of a new director....
American Libraries Online, Jan. 27

ALA News

ALA urges library exemption from Consumer Product Safety Act

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/wocpsc.cfm>]

ALA filed comments (PDF file

[http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/wp-content/uploads/2009/01/ala_comments1.pdf]) January 26 with the Consumer Product Safety Commission, urging it to issue a notification confirming that the new lead limits under the Consumer Product Safety Act do not apply to library books and related materials. Under the act, passed by Congress in August, children’s products are required to undergo stringent testing for lead and phthalates. Currently, the CPSC general counsel is interpreting the law to apply to ordinary, paper-based books for children 12 years of age or younger, so that all such books would have to be tested for lead content. Librarians wishing to explain their position to the CPSC should contact Tom Moore [<mailto:tmoore@cpsc.gov>] at (301) 504-7902....

FINRA, ALA award \$882,000 in grants to support financial literacy

[<http://www.finra.org/Newsroom/NewsReleases/2009/P117754>]

The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Investor Education Foundation and ALA awarded \$882,000 in grant money January 24 to 12 public libraries and library networks for the purpose of giving patrons greater access to unbiased investing information and resources. The grants, administered by RUSA and FINRA/IEF, are part of ALA’s Smart Investing @ your library campaign. The Loveland (Colo.) Public Library received \$32,000, with which it plans to expand its Money Talks

[http://reporterherald.com/news_story.asp?ID=21186] program to provide free advice on an array of financial topics....

Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Jan. 24; Loveland (Colo.)

Reporter-Herald, Jan. 25

Muhammad Yunus on defeating poverty

[<http://www.al.ala.org/insidescoop/2009/01/27/midwinter-monday-muhammad-yunus-on-defeating-poverty/>]

Leonard Kniffel writes: “Could ALA President Jim Rettig have picked a better speaker for this Midwinter President’s Program than Muhammad Yunus? With American capitalism failing at numerous levels, on January 25 the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner and author of Banker to the Poor: Micro-Lending and the Battle Against World Poverty told the amazing story

about his crusade to end world poverty with a lending system that defies the traditional notion of how banks do business.”...

AL Inside Scoop, Jan. 27

Jim Sheeler inspires at Arthur Curley lecture

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

Jim Sheeler, the 2006 Pulitzer Prize winner for his feature articles in Denver’s Rocky Mountain News covering the impact of the Iraq War on Colorado military families, delivered the 10th annual Arthur Curley Memorial Lecture January 24. He presented vignettes from his book, *Final Salute: A Story of Unfinished Lives*, and said he came to know and understand the families he’s covered in a very personal way....

ALA Cognotes, Jan. 25, p. 1, 3

Good humor man opens Sunrise Speaker series

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

Kay Ikuta writes: “Bright and early January 24, H. W. Wilson presented cartoonist Leigh Rubin at the Sunrise Speaker series. Often described as a ‘sit-down’ comedian who just makes people laugh, he is the creator of the single-panel cartoon *Rubes*, which appears in hundreds of newspapers around the country.”...

ALA Cognotes, Jan. 25, p. 1

Google search settlement discussion

[<http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=1649>]

A panel of representatives from Google and the library community spoke before a standing-room-only audience during an open discussion on the proposed Google Book Search settlement agreement January 24. The lively discussion, hosted by the Committee on Legislation’s Copyright Subcommittee and moderated by Subcommittee Chair Nancy Kranich, addressed the recent settlement and the question of what’s in it for libraries....

District Dispatch, Jan. 27

Membership Town Hall

[<http://www.al.ala.org/insidescoop/2009/01/25/midwinter-saturday-membership-town-hall/>]

Greg Landgraf writes: “The full breadth of ALA’s membership was on display at the well-attended and generally upbeat Membership Town Hall meeting sponsored by ALA’s Executive Board and Membership Meeting Committee. Dozens of members offered their voices on the topic ‘What Do Library Staff Want President Obama to Know?’ Members asked ALA President Jim Rettig to remind the president of the needs of libraries of all types, from public, academic, and school libraries to those serving more specialized populations like military, tribal, or federal libraries.”...

AL Inside Scoop, Jan. 25

Advocating in a tough economy

[<http://www.al.ala.org/insidescoop/2009/01/24/midwinter-saturday-advocating-in-a-tough-economy/>]

Leonard Kniffel writes: “The ALA Washington Office Update January 24 offered Midwinter Meeting goers an opportunity to connect in person with

Washington Office staffers. Lynne Bradley, director of the Office of Government Relations, noted that on the Hill, traditional library issues are still on the agenda, but with a new twist. Appropriations will be extremely competitive in the current economic climate, and it's important for librarians, with more voices than ever, to make the case for libraries as the best bang for the buck."...

AL Inside Scoop, Jan. 24

Emerging Leaders meet

[<http://plablog.org/2009/01/emerging-leaders-at-ala.html>]

Karen Keys writes: "The Emerging Leaders

[http://wikis.ala.org/emergingleaders/index.php/2009_Emerging_Leaders_Program] program focuses on getting new leadership on the fast track to become involved in ALA. In its third year, the program has identified and offered opportunities to approximately 325 leadership-inclined members.

At its all-day meeting in Denver January 23, the group discovered that most of them have been ALA members for two to five years. Leslie Burger, past president and the program's founder, joked, 'So you're all new to the organization; you haven't been tainted.'"...

PLA Blog, Jan. 24

[<http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/4696d0a9#/4696d0a9/1>]; digital supplement? [<http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/4696d0a9#/4696d0a9/1>]

It was emailed in mid-January, but you can read it at the link above.

It's a 37-page Winter 2009 issue, hosted on ZMags and powered by page-turning software. Features include: discovering high-tech, high-touch LIS opportunities; ALA continuing education resources; ALA-accredited master's programs; and three views on service learning in library education....

OITP's new Section 108 spinner

[<http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=1369>]

Section 108 [<http://www.copyright.gov/title17/92chap1.html#108>] of the U.S. Copyright code allows libraries and archives, under certain circumstances, to make reproductions of copyrighted materials without the permission of the copyright holder. ALA's Office for Information Technology Policy has released a new Section 108 spinner, a useful tool that can help determine whether a particular reproduction is covered by the 108 exemption. The Section 108 spinner is available online, [<http://librarycopyright.net/108spinner/>] along with OITP's Public Domain [<http://librarycopyright.net/digitalslider/>] slider....

District Dispatch, Jan. 23

AL Focus

[<http://alfocus.ala.org/videos/2009-ala-presidential-candidates-forum>]

ALA Presidential Candidates Forum

[<http://alfocus.ala.org/videos/2009-ala-presidential-candidates-forum>]

ALA Presidential Candidates Kenton Oliver and Roberta Stevens responded to member questions at the Presidential Candidates Forum (39:45) held January 24 at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver. ALA Immediate Past-President Lorie Roy (right) moderated the forum. Questions included: How soon can

ALA gain connections with the Obama administration? How can you attract young members and develop young leaders?...

Featured review: Books for youth

[http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=show_product&pid=3041647]

Smith, Sherri L. Flygirl. Jan. 2009. 288p. Putnam, hardcover. Grades 7–10 (978-0-399-24709-5).

This breakthrough title adds a new story to the shelves of World War II books. Here, the enemy is not just a foreign threat; it is also prejudice—of both race and gender—here at home. In 1941, black high-school graduate Ida Mae Jones, 18, worries about her soldier brother, who is on the front, and longs to fight for her country, too. Her late dad taught her to fly a crop-dusting plane, and when the U.S. starts the WASP (Women Airforce Service Program), she is determined to join up. The slights against women are constant, as is racial prejudice, including the n word. Ida Mae is so light-skinned that she can pass as white, which means leaving her family and friends and creating a new identity....

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

Division News

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YALSA Preconference: Serving diverse teens

[<http://plablog.org/2009/01/yalsa-pre-conference-serving-todays-diverse-teens.html>]

Nick Franklin writes: “Providing adequate, friendly service to new Americans has always been a central goal of public libraries, but we can now look at it as a mission of mutual understanding and learning and, above all, helping immigrant teens preserve their sense of identity while still being active participants in their new homeland. This was overall message of the three presentations at the YALSA Preconference January 23 given by Jennifer Velasquez, Vicki Emery, and Oesei Akoto Baffour.”... PLA Blog, Jan. 24

Liveblogging YALSA’s Best Books for Young Adults teen session

[<http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2009/01/25/live-blogging-best-books-for-young-adults-teen-session/>]

Teen readers and others got together January 25 in Denver, physically and virtually, to discuss recent young adult titles. View the comments to see what people thought about L. J. Adlington’s *Cherry Heaven* (right, “Really, really deeply creepy, but in a good way”) or Joseph Bruchac’s *March Toward the Thunder* (“Why does every military book have a girl dressed like a boy?”)....

YALSA Blog, Jan. 25

YALSA mixer and tech playground

[<http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2009/01/27/yalsa-mixer-tech-playground/>]

Kelly Czarnecki writes: “Things really got rockin’ by the time the America’s Best Booktalkers were up for their performances: a cover song from Leona Lewis’s ‘Bleeding Love’ to introduce Ophelia by Lisa Klein, then a description of Stargirl so good we knew who she was before the booktalker revealed the title. Chris Shoemaker was the fantastic emcee for the event. A democratic vote took place via Twitter and the winner was Jack Martin (right) for booktalking Freak Show by James St. James.”...

YALSA Blog, Jan. 27

School librarians envision their future

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferenceevents/upcoming/midwinter/2009/cognotes.cfm>]

In a lively discussion, AASL members tackled strategic planning January 23 in a day-long meeting. Paul D. Meyer, principal partner of Tecker Consultants, helped attendees review language, vision, and values in documents developed four years ago to help drive AASL to their goals....

ALA Cognotes, Jan. 24, p. 4

ALCTS Forum on shared library data

[<http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6632413.html?rssid=191>]

Norman Oder writes: “In much of her presentation January 26 at the ALCTS Forum, OCLC Vice-President Karen Calhoun firmly defended the intent of OCLC’s proposed policy on record sharing, suggesting that critics in the blogosphere had an unrealistic view of the library ecosystem. In response, some panelists suggested that OCLC itself was failing to modernize.”...

Library Journal, Jan. 27

Round Table News

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Women of Mystery at Midwinter

[<http://www.al.ala.org/insidescoop/2009/01/23/midwinter-friday-women-of-mystery/>]

Greg Landgraf writes: “My last bloggable event of January 23 was the Exhibits Round Table Author Forum, subtitled ‘Women of Mystery’ and featuring the mystery authors Erica Spindler, Francine Mathews, Mary Jane Clark, and Nancy Atherton. I’d like to share some juicy quotes from the first half of the forum.”...

AL Inside Scoop, Jan. 23

Video Round Table announces 2009 Notable Videos

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/vrt.cfm>]

The VRT Notable Videos Committee has compiled its 2009 list of Notable Videos for Adults, a list of 15 outstanding programs released on video within the past two years and suitable for all libraries serving adults. Its purpose is to call attention to recent video releases that make a significant contribution to the world of video recordings. One of them is

wildlife photographer Rob Stewart's Sharkwater, a compassionate argument for understanding and protection of sharks....

Awards

Youth Media Award winners

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/ymawrap.cfm>]

ALA announced the top books, videos, and audiobooks for children and young adults—including the Caldecott, King, Newbery, Schneider Family, and Printz awards—January 26 at the Midwinter Meeting in Denver. The announcement was webcast (large QuickTime file [<http://cs.ala.org/ra/2life/2009yma.mov>]) for those who could not attend. In addition, ALA celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Coretta Scott King Book Awards and introduced a new award, the William C. Morris Award. It is also the first year that the Pura Belpré Award will be given annually....

Newbery and Caldecott winners

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/ymanewberycaldecott.cfm>]

Neil Gaiman, author of *The Graveyard Book*, and Beth Krommes, illustrator of *The House in the Night*, are the 2009 winners of the John Newbery and Randolph Caldecott Medals. The Newbery and Caldecott medals honor outstanding writing and illustration of works published in the United States during the previous year....

Nelson, Cooper win Coretta Scott King Awards

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/ymacsk.cfm>]

Kadir Nelson, author of *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*, and Floyd Cooper, illustrator of *The Blacker the Berry*, are the winners of the 2009 Coretta Scott King Book Awards honoring African American authors and illustrators of outstanding books for children and young adults. Shadra Strickland, illustrator of *Bird*, is the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award winner....

Morales, Engle win Pura Belpré Awards

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/ymabelpre.cfm>]

Yuyi Morales, illustrator of *Just in Case*, and Margarita Engle, author of *The Surrender Tree*, are the 2009 winners of the Pura Belpré Illustrator Award and Author Award, which honor Latino authors and illustrators whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino

cultural experience in children's books....

Mo Willems wins Geisel Award

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/ymageisel.cfm>]

Author and illustrator Mo Willems is the 2009 winner of the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award for the book *Are You Ready to Play Outside?* The tale is simply told through the use of dialogue, which melds perfectly with uncluttered pink and grey cartoon-style illustrations. Aside from the friendship theme that appears throughout Willems's work, he continues to create astonishing emotional depth using the simplest of facial expressions on his characters....

Melina Marchetta wins Printz Award

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/ymaprintz.cfm>]

Melina Marchetta, author of *Jellicoe Road*, published by HarperTeen, an imprint of HarperCollins, has won the 2009 Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in young adult literature. Haunted by the past, Taylor Markham reluctantly leads the students of the Jellicoe School in their secret territory wars against the Townies and the Cadets. Marchetta's lyrical writing evokes the Australian landscape in a suspenseful tale of raw emotion, romance, humor, and tragedy....

Laurie Halse Anderson honored with Edwards Award

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/ymaedwards.cfm>]

Laurie Halse Anderson is the recipient of the 2009 Margaret A. Edwards Award honoring her significant and lasting contribution to writing for teens. The award was presented for her books, *Catalyst*, *Fever 1793*, and *Speak*. These gripping and exceptionally well-written novels, through various settings, time periods, and circumstances, poignantly reflect the growing and changing realities facing teens....

Ashley Bryan wins 2009 Wilder Award

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/ymawilder.cfm>]

Ashley Bryan is the winner of the 2009 Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, which honors an author or illustrator whose books have made a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children. His numerous works include *Dancing Granny*, *Beat the Story-Drum*, *Pum-Pum*, and *Beautiful Blackbird*. Dynamic use of line marks Bryan's varied art forms, which include chalk sketches, full-color paintings, stylized drawings, and cut-paper collages....

Batchelder Award honors Arthur A. Levine Books

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/ymabatchelder.cfm>]

Arthur A. Levine Books, an imprint of Scholastic, is the winner of the 2009 Mildred L. Batchelder Award for the most outstanding children's book originally published in a foreign language and subsequently translated into English for publication in the United States. Originally published in Japanese in 1996 as *Seirei no Moribito*, *Moribito: Guardian of the Spirit* was written by Nahoko Uehashi and translated by Cathy

Hirano....

March On!

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/ymacarnegie.cfm>]

Paul R. Gagne and Melissa Reilly of Weston Woods Studios, producers of March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World, are the 2009 recipients of the Andrew Carnegie Medal for excellence in children's video. The video is Dr. Christine King Farris's memory of the historic march on Washington, which took place on August 23, 1963, and her brother Martin's preparation for and delivery of the monumental "I Have a Dream" speech....

Kadir Nelson wins 2009 Sibert Medal

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/ymasibert.cfm>]

Kadir Nelson, author and illustrator of We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball, was named the winner of the 2009 Robert F. Sibert Medal for the most distinguished informational book for children published in 2008. Nelson scores a home run with this fascinating and well-documented history of Negro League Baseball told in the voice of an "everyman" narrator....

2009 Alex Awards

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/ymaalex.cfm>]

YALSA has selected 10 adult books that will appeal to teen readers to receive the 2009 Alex Awards. The awards, sponsored by the Margaret Edwards Trust, were announced at the 2009 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver, January 23–28, and will appear with full annotations in the March 15 issue of Booklist magazine....

Elizabeth C. Bunce wins first-ever William C. Morris Award

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/ymamorris.cfm>]

A Curse Dark as Gold, written by Elizabeth C. Bunce, has been named the inaugural winner of the William C. Morris Award, which honors a book written for young adults by a first-time, previously unpublished author. At the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, Charlotte Miller strikes a bargain with the malevolent Jack Spinner, who can transform straw into gold, to save her family's mill. The award was presented by YALSA at the Midwinter Meeting in Denver....

Odyssey Award goes to Recorded Books

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/ymaodyssey.cfm>]

Recorded Books, producer of the audiobook The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, has won the second annual Odyssey Award for excellence in audiobook production. The Odyssey Award is given to the producer of the best audiobook produced for children and/or young adults. The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian was written and narrated by Sherman Alexie....

Schneider Family Book Award winners

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/ymaschneider.cfm>]

Winners of the Schneider Family Book Award, which honors an author or illustrator for the artistic expression of the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences, were announced at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver. *Piano Starts Here: The Young Art Tatum* by Robert Andrew Parker is the winner in the young children's category; *Waiting for Normal* by Leslie Connor is the winner in the middle-school category; and *Jerk, California* by Jonathan Friesen is the winner in the teen category....

wins RUSA's Dartmouth Medal

[<http://pop.greenwood.com/blog/index.php/2009/01/26/pcu-wins-prestigious-dartmouth-medal/>]

Greenwood Publishing Group's Pop Culture Universe database was awarded the 2009 Dartmouth Medal at the RUSA Awards Ceremony in Denver. It was the first time that an exclusively electronic reference source has won this prestigious honor. The medal is donated by Dartmouth College and awarded for the creation of the single most outstanding and significant reference work of the year....

PCU Blog, Jan. 26

Kathleen T. Horning to deliver 2010 Arbuthnot Lecture

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/january2009/ymaarbuthnot.cfm>]

Kathleen T. Horning, director of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Cooperative Children's Book Center, will deliver the 2010 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture. Each year, an individual of distinction in the field of children's literature is chosen to write and deliver a lecture that will make a significant contribution to the world of children's literature. The award is administered by ALSC....

Fallenberg, Eskridge win Stonewall Book Awards

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

ALA's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Round Table has announced the winners of the 2009 Stonewall Book Awards. *Light Fell* by Evan Fallenberg is the winner of the Barbara Gittings Book Award in Literature, and *Dishonorable Passions: Sodomy Laws in America, 1861–2003* by William N. Eskridge Jr. is the winner of the Israel Fishman Book Award for Nonfiction....

ALA Cognotes, Jan. 26, p. 6

The 2009 BCALA Literary Awards

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

The Black Caucus of the American Library Association announced the winners of the BCALA Literary Awards January 25 during the ALA Midwinter Meeting. The awards recognize excellence in adult fiction and nonfiction by African-American authors published in 2008, including the work of a first novelist and a citation for Outstanding Contribution to Publishing. The winner in the fiction category is *Trading Dreams at Midnight* by Diane McKinney-Whetstone....

Nominate a library for the National Medal

[<http://www.imls.gov/news/2008/121508b.shtm>]

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is seeking nominations for the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor for exemplary museum and library community service. The medal winners will be the institutions that make the most extraordinary civic, educational, economic, environmental, and social contributions. The medal includes prizes of \$10,000 to each recipient and an awards ceremony to be held in Washington, D.C. The deadline for nominations [<http://www.imls.gov/about/medals.shtm>] is February 17....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Dec. 15

Seen Online

Woman gives birth at Denver Public Library

[http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_11564089]

A woman got off a bus in front of the main Denver Public Library

[<http://www.ala.org/insidescoop/2009/01/27/midwinter-tuesday-its-a-girl-your-library/>] just before it opened January 27 and asked for

assistance—to deliver her baby. Security guards helped her inside the east entrance of the library and got her off to the side of the foyer, where the woman delivered a healthy girl. “That’s the first time we had a birth at the library,” DPL spokeswoman Celeste Jackson said. “It’s pretty exciting.” The library staff has already bought the baby its first set of books (above) and plans to visit the mother after her name is released.

Watch the news video

[<http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=108627>]....

Denver Post, Jan. 27; AL Inside Scoop, Jan. 27; KUSA-TV, Denver, Jan. 27

New Arapahoe branch named after Eloise May

[http://www.denverpost.com/search/ci_11532518]

Arapahoe Library District Executive Director Eloise May will be honored by having the district’s newest branch named after her. The Eloise May Library, [<http://www.arapahoelibraries.org/go2.cfm?pid=5830&p1=10&p2=1>] at South Parker Road and East Florida Avenue in Denver, will open February 21. May is being honored for her 37 years of leadership and service....

Denver Post, Jan. 23

College endowments loss is worst drop since 1970s

[<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/27/education/27college.html>]

The value of university endowments fell about 23% on average in the five months that ended November 30, according to two newly released reports. The steep declines are forcing colleges and universities across the country to contemplate wage freezes, layoffs, and a halt to construction projects. The drop found by the reports is the biggest in the value of college and university endowments since the mid-1970s....

New York Times, Jan. 26

Berkeley Public Library in nuclear dispute

[<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/01/27/BASK15HJ10.DTL&tsp=1>]

The Berkeley (Calif.) Public Library is facing a showdown with the city's Peace and Justice Commission over whether a service contract for the book check-out system violates the city's nuclear-free ordinance. The dispute centers on a five-year contract the library wants to sign with 3M to service five scanning machines. But 3M refused to sign a nuclear-free disclosure form as required by the Nuclear Free Berkeley Act passed by voters in 1986....

San Francisco Chronicle, Jan. 27

Darby Free Library faces the ax

[http://www.philly.com/philly/hp/news_update/38128204.html]

The Darby (Pa.) Free Library, in continuous operation since it was founded by Quaker townsmen in 1743, will be forced to close its doors at year's end unless it can find a generous donor. Director Susan Borders said the library has been using interest from its endowment to close a funding gap, but in recent years it has been dipping into the endowment itself—about \$20,000 a year—to cover operating expenses and capital improvements. "We're on the chopping block," Borders said....

Philadelphia Daily News, Jan. 22

New Orleans branches to be rebuilt this spring

[<http://www.wvlv.com/topstories/stories/wwl012109tplibrary.1925d066.html>]

Five New Orleans libraries shuttered since Hurricane Katrina will be replaced by new buildings with construction beginning in April, a city official told the city council January 21. Recovery Program Manager Randy Richardson said construction would begin on a new Algiers Regional Library by April and that others to be redeveloped include the New Orleans East, Norman Mayer, Robert E. Smith, and Nora Navra (above, pre-Katrina) branches....

WWL-TV, New Orleans, Jan. 21

Philadelphia branch cuts = students will wind up with nothing

[<http://www.philly.com/philly/news/local/38314784.html>]

Though Philadelphia's public library services recently landed on the chopping block, the city's public school students have watched school library services dwindle for years. Today, more than half of the district's 281 schools have no library staff. In one region, it's up to 78%. It's a worsening problem....

Philadelphia Inquirer, Jan. 26

Josephine County branch reopens

[http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/01/communitys_efforts_reopen_jose.html]

A ceremony held January 23 celebrated the newly reopened Grants Pass branch in Josephine County, Oregon. An advocacy group, Josephine Community Libraries, [<http://www.josephinelibrary.org/>] expects to reopen the county's three other branches—in Illinois Valley, Williams, and Wolf Creek—by year's end. Two years ago, Josephine and neighboring Jackson County closed their libraries after losing federal timber payments. So a small group of citizens formed something unique in Oregon: a private nonprofit to run public libraries....

Portland Oregonian, Jan. 23

Not your father's censorship

[<http://chronicle.com/temp/email2.php?id=wRqhrNpxnZCjjzdqxxBkfyk4Sw3W9zyv>]

(subscription required)

Harry Lewis writes: "With almost everything digitized, new communication technologies have led to a global proliferation of censorship agents, methods, and rationales. Ironically for the American pioneers who expected the internet to foster unprecedented information freedom, its rapid and ubiquitous adoption has created a flexible and effective mechanism for thought control. In America the distorting lens of censorship can be adjusted to satisfy various tastes."...

Chronicle of Higher Education, Jan. 16

Inside the White House Record Library

[http://www.rollingstone.com/news/story/25584782/obamas_secret_record_collection]

When Barack Obama moved into the White House on January 20, he gained access to five chefs, a private bowling alley, and a killer collection of classic LPs. Stored in the basement of the executive mansion is the official White House Record Library: several hundred LPs that include landmark albums in rock, punk, cult classics, and disco....

Rolling Stone, Jan. 23

Renovated Bancroft Library reopens

[http://www.dailycal.org/article/104040/renovated_bancroft_library_reopens_on_campus]

After a nearly four-year hiatus, the University of California, Berkeley's Bancroft Library reopened January 20 at its freshly renovated location adjacent to Doe Memorial Library. The \$64-million renovation included a seismic retrofit, climate-controlled storage for rare materials, additional gallery space for exhibitions, and complete interior remodeling....

Daily Californian, Jan. 26

Librarians become unofficial job counselors

[<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=99800264>]

The downward economy is putting more stress on libraries. Popular movies and books now have wait lists, the unemployed are in line for computers to work on résumés, and some librarians are even acting as unofficial job counselors. Day to Day co-host Madeleine Brand talks with Linda Yoder, director of the Nappanee (Ind.) Public Library, in this recent broadcast (3:03)....

Day to Day (National Public Radio), Jan. 23

Former page leaves Santa Ana library \$123,000

[<http://www.oregister.com/articles/library-santa-center-2288504-school-city>]

A \$123,000 donation from the estate of a woman who was once laid off from her job as a part-time page at the library is being used to create a TeenSpace designed by teens in the basement of the Santa Ana (Calif.) Public Library. A grand-opening ceremony January 24 honored Estella R. Shulse, who worked in the library in the 1990s until her job was eliminated in a round of budget cuts. She left her entire estate to the

library when she died a few years ago....

Santa Ana (Calif.) Orange County Register, Jan. 22

Paranormal group investigates DePauw University library

[<http://www.bannergraphic.com/story/1496437.html>]

A group of investigators from Hoosier State Paranormal entered the Roy West Library at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, and headed up to the second floor where a very special book is locked away in the Archives and Special Collections area. Among the books donated by Gov. James Whitcomb (1795–1852) is one purported to be haunted: The Poems of Ossian, the Son of Fingal, a set of poems that the Scottish poet James Macpherson claimed to have translated from ancient Gaelic sources....

Greencastle (Ind.) Banner Graphic, Jan. 26

Magna Carta at the Reagan Presidential Library

[<http://www.venturacountystar.com/news/2009/jan/24/no-headline---nb1fcmagnacarta24/>]

Hundreds of visitors came to see the Magna Carta on January 23, its first day on display at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California. The 1215 charter, the first document forced onto an English King by a group of his subjects, is the main attraction of the library exhibit, "Magna Carta: The Essence of Democracy," which runs through June 20. The document, one of four copies extant, is on loan from the Lincoln Cathedral, in Lincoln, England....

Ventura County (Calif.) Star, Jan. 24

Bowling Green wedded to innovative fundraising

[http://www.hannibal.net/news_local/x1369594225/Bowling-Green-library-plans-bridal-show-fund-raiser]

Friends of the Bowling Green (Mo.) Library hope a little love will help fill the bookcases. The group hosted its first-ever bridal show January 24 at the Pike County Fairgrounds, with proceeds from booth rentals slated to buy new library materials. "We were trying to come up with something original to the area," said librarian Pat Moore. "It seems like you have to go to Quincy or Columbia or St. Louis to a bridal show, so we thought this would be a good way to showcase some local businesses...."

Hannibal (Mo.) Courier-Post, Jan. 21

Beulah students benefit from brief book ban

[<http://www.bismarcktribune.com/articles/2009/01/22/news/local/174605.txt>]

The author of a book banned for four days from the Beulah (N. Dak.) High School library said the incident made him think about North Dakota for the first time. John Berendt, the New York author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, followed every word in the local newspapers. He plans to send a signed copy of the book to the three high school girls who showed up at the January 19 school board meeting to defend their right to read the book....

Bismarck (N. Dak.) Tribune, Jan. 22

Go back to the Top [[#top](#)]

Tech Talk

LITA's Top Tech Trends

[<http://www.ala.org/insidescoop/2009/01/25/midwinter-sunday-top-tech-trends/>]

Greg Landgraf writes: "LITA's traditional Top Tech Trends discussion played to a standing-room-only crowd January 25, although the event was briefly delayed by a fire alarm. Participants focused on four topics: the management of open-source software, the growth of geolocation technologies, linked data, and the effect of the economy on technology choices in libraries. The LITA Blog [<http://litablog.org/2009/01/24/top-tech-trends-liveblog/>] liveblogged the session, and the session was also streamed [<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/griffey/>]."...

AL Inside Scoop, Jan. 25; LITA Blog, Jan. 25; Ustream.tv

The view from the top

[<http://www.ala.org/insidescoop/2009/01/24/midwinter-friday-the-view-from-the-top/>]

Add-on product demand has increased because ILS vendors have not kept up with what libraries want, asserted Rob McGee of RMG Consultants, at the 19th annual "View from the Top" seminar at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver. This situation is "similar to the early days when libraries came up with their own solutions," said McGee, emceeding a panel of presidents and CEOs from top library vendors....

AL Inside Scoop, Jan. 24

[<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2329347,00.asp>]How to find the right GPS [<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2339300,00.asp>]

Corinne Iozzio writes: "Now that gas prices have come back down to earth, it's a lot easier to get back behind the wheel. So, whether that means you're commuting to work again or you're finally taking that road trip, a GPS device can help keep you on track. Today's navigators, though, can do a lot more than just get you from point A to point B. Depending on the unit you choose, it can help you sidestep traffic, find a great new restaurant, or even make hands-free cell-phone calls."...

PC Magazine, Jan. 22

How to evaluate a scanner

[<http://www.iiri.com/pdfs/How%20to%20Evaluate%20a%20Scanner.pdf>] (PDF file)

Derek Jenkins writes: "Choosing a scanner to scan books or microfilm documents can be a daunting task. The industry has scanners available from a few thousand dollars to more than \$100,000. In many ways, your budget drives your selection, but buying the wrong machine could prove a waste of money and cause your project to be both late and tarnished with unacceptable image quality. Here are my evaluation criteria."...

Image Retrieval, Inc., Sept. 18

Publishing

Art Spiegelman on comics

[<http://alexanderstreet.com/events/ALAmw09/denver.htm>]

Comics artist and graphic novelist Art Spiegelman spoke on “What the %@!* Happened to Comics?” January 25 at the Alexander Street Press customer appreciation breakfast during the ALA Midwinter Meeting. “Everything I know I learned from comics,” he said. “I learned about sex from Betty and Veronica. I learned about politics from Pogo. And I learned about everything else from Mad magazine. I studied Mad the same way some kids studied the Talmud.”

Alexander Street Press

[<http://www.flickr.com/photos/marieslim/3224017021/>]Assassination scholar meets his subject

Author and researcher James L. Swanson (Manhunt, 2006) was interviewed by none other than Abraham Lincoln (played by Scholastic’s Director of Library and Educational Marketing John Mason) at a January 24 reception to celebrate the publication of Swanson’s new YA book, Chasing Lincoln’s Killer (Scholastic, 2009). Swanson told how he had become fascinated with the Lincoln assassination at an early age and has amassed an enormous collection that includes a lock of Lincoln’s hair snipped by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton on the 16th president’s deathbed.

[<http://incoldblogger.blogspot.com/>]Top 50 true crime blogs

[<http://www.criminaljusticeusa.com/blog/2009/private-eye-reading-the-top-50-detective-blogs/>]

Alisa Miller writes: “True crime stories have intrigued the masses for as long as crime has been around. These sites bring the detectives and their work to you through the writings on their blogs. Whether you want to read about detectives on the police force, private eyes, British detectives, true crime, or even a little bit about fictional detectives, these blogs will provide you with hours of crime and criminals.”...

e-Justice Blog, Jan. 22

Multilingual health databases

[<http://www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=6&topicID=1183>]
(PDF file)

EBSCO Publishing is helping libraries answer non-English-speaking patrons’ health-related questions with its new Multilingual Health Databases. These databases, in 17 different languages, contain evidence-based reports for the 200 most common health topics, written at a 3rd-to-7th-grade reading level. Each database is presented entirely in the given language, including screen wording, help, browsing, and full text....

EBSCO Publishing, Jan. 23

Layoffs at Reed Business Information

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/27/books/27arts-TOPEDITORATP_BRF.html]

Sara Nelson, the editor-in-chief of Publishers Weekly, the main trade magazine for the book industry, has been laid off in a restructuring by the publication’s parent company, Reed Business Information. As a result, Brian Kenney (right), editor in chief of School Library Journal, will now be editorial director of three magazines: Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal, and Library Journal. Críticas, the twice-monthly online newsletter for reviews in English of Spanish-language titles, will suspend publication. Among those LJ

[<http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6632647.html>] are long-time, valued staffers Ann Burns, book review associate editor; Ann Kim, special projects editor; Lynn Blumenstein, senior editor, Library Hotline; and Aída Bardales, Críticas senior editor....
New York Times, Jan. 26; Library Journal, Jan. 27

H. W. Wilson's new text-to-audio tool
[http://www.hwwilson.com/news/news_1_26_09.htm]
A new ReadSpeak feature converts full-text articles in WilsonWeb databases into audio files for immediate listening or downloading. WilsonWeb clients can listen to articles as streaming audio or save files in MP3 format to iPods and other portable devices. The new tool covers content from some 2,500 publications back as far as 15 years....
H. W. Wilson, Jan. 26

Amazon to drop Microsoft, Adobe eBook formats
[<http://www.publishersweekly.com/article/CA6631991.html?nid=2286&source=title&rid=1596218152>]
Amazon.com has notified its publisher and author clients that it plans to cease offering eBooks in the Microsoft Reader and Adobe formats. In the future, the online retailer says it plans to offer eBooks only in the Kindle format (for wireless download to its Kindle reading device) and the Mobipocket format, both of which are owned by Amazon. Amazon is asking publishers and authors to make sure the company has written permission to offer their books for sale in the Mobipocket format....
Publishers Weekly, Jan. 26

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[<http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com>]

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Actions & Answers

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The 2009 Horizon Report
[<http://connect.educause.edu/Library/ELI/2009HorizonReport/48003>]
The annual Horizon Report is a collaborative effort between the New Media Consortium and the Educause Learning Initiative. Each year, the report identifies and describes six areas of emerging technology likely to have a significant impact on teaching, learning, or creative expression in higher education. Those cited this year are: mobile devices, cloud computing, geo-everything, the personal web, semantic-aware applications, and smart objects....
Educause Connect, Jan. 20

New Labor Department reemployment portal
[<http://www.careeronestop.org/ReEmployment/>]
The U.S. Department of Labor has announced a new CareerOneStop reemployment portal. The website is designed to provide employment, training, and financial assistance during the process of job transition. Users can find information on unemployment insurance benefits, health-care coverage, dealing with job loss, and job

hunting....
CareerOneStop

Rural Assistance Center [<http://www.raconline.org/about/>]
A product of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services's Rural Initiative, the Rural Assistance Center was established in December 2002 as a health and human services portal geared toward rural communities. RAC offers extensive lists of resources on more than 70 topics, and professional librarians provide custom assistance to clients via phone and email....
Rural Assistance Center

Michigan video showcases media specialists
[http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-18835_18896_20585-207242--,00.htm]
The Library of Michigan and Michigan Department of Education have created a video on the 21st Century Media Center, [<http://www.mdvideoprod.com/mcv1.htm>] a collaborative effort showcasing the essential need for fully supported school library media centers with qualified staff—all for the benefit of Michigan's K–12 students' educational success. The video is geared toward the stakeholders who influence school library media programs in Michigan schools....
Michigan Department of History, Arts, and Libraries, Jan. 21

Report: Schools must show flexibility
[http://21stcenturyskills.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=598&Itemid=64]
Successful learning environments break through the barriers that separate schools from the real world, educators from each other, and policymakers from the communities they serve. Yet many schools perpetuate rigid schedules, inflexible facilities, and fixed boundaries between grades, disciplines, and classrooms, according to a new paper, 21st Century Learning Environments (PDF file [http://21stcenturyskills.org/documents/le_white_paper-1.pdf]). Some school media centers are resisting this by successfully transforming themselves into learning commons that serve as gateways to a wide variety of resources and services....
Partnership for 21st Century Skills, Jan. 23

LC receives grant to catalog African maps
[<http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2009/09-012.html>]
The Library of Congress has received a Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources to support a project that will catalog 125,000 sheet maps of Africa. The \$240,240 grant will aid in the creation of geographic coordinates for each map that will make it possible to view the coverage area of individual sheet maps using geographical browsers such as Google Earth....
Library of Congress, Jan. 21

Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears [<http://beyondpenguins.nsdl.org/>]
Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears is a free online magazine aimed at helping elementary educators integrate science and literacy instruction through the context of the polar regions. Monthly thematic issues include

professional resources, lesson plans, research on misconceptions and tools for formative assessment, stories of polar researchers, and leveled text written specifically for students. Features include the ability to translate articles into 12 different languages, a blog, and a new podcast series....

Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLm-5B7NXug>] 50 famous last words in less than four minutes [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLm-5B7NXug>]

Author John Green recites the last words of 50 politicians, authors, generals, Roman emperors, and others in this rapid-fire tribute to final thoughts (3:48). For example, Union Major General John Sedgwick at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House in 1864 said, "They couldn't hit an elephant at this dist—."...

YouTube, Dec. 15

Go back to the Top [#top]

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

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/ala_members/3223473852/]

Midwinter Meeting 2009 Flickr photos

[<http://www.flickr.com/groups/alamw2009/>]

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=product_detail&_op=2579]

Imagine receiving a subpoena requiring patron records or internet use history. What is your library's policy? Do you know? Does your library have a policy? How big a problem is this? In Privacy and Confidentiality Issues: A Guide for Libraries and their Lawyers,

[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=product_detail&_op=2579] Theresa Chmara, a partner with the Washington, D.C., office of Jenner and Block, shares her decades of experience in easy-to-understand, jargon-free language. NEW! From ALA Editions.

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/ala_members/3232275928/]

Heard and overheard.

[<http://www.al.ala.org/insidescoop/2009/01/27/midwinter-tuesday-heard-and-overheard/>] "I'm just going to stand here and have a wonderful time!" said a woman near the Denver Convention Center entrance on Friday, apparently after unexpectedly meeting the latest in a string of friends. AL Associate Editor Greg Landgraf offers a collection of interesting, thought-provoking, or just amusing quotes from the Midwinter

Meeting.

In this issue
January/February 2009

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

Gaming @ your library

The Minneapolis-Hennepin merger

Testing the Web 2.0 waters

I Love My Librarian awards

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

Life Sciences and Bio-Inspired Technologies Collection Development Librarian,
[<http://joblist.ala.org/modules/jobseeker/controller.cfm?scr=jobdetail&jobid=12598>] George Washington University, Washington, D.C. The Gelman Library System is seeking an enthusiastic and innovative librarian able to effectively grow and shape the collections in this field. This librarian will play a critical role in working with faculty in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences as well as in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences to enhance and enrich the collections in biological sciences, biomedical engineering, systems biology, bioinformatics, evolutionary biology, chemistry, and forensic science....

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

Digital Library of the Week

[http://maps.bpl.org/details_10494/]

The Norman B. Leventhal Map Center [<http://maps.bpl.org/>] at the Boston Public Library created this website in 2006 with the goal of bringing its collection of rare maps and atlases into the hands of patrons of all ages. To date, more than 2,200 maps have been digitized and added to the site, complete with authoritative metadata. Additional maps are added on a monthly basis. With the special “zoomify” tool that accompanies each map, users are able to examine small details. The website also features teacher resources, a “maps in the news” feature, and a digital archive of all exhibits held at the Leventhal Center.

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 believe that librarians are the unacknowledged legislators of the universe.”

—Author Alex Beam, *A Great Idea at the Time: The Rise, Fall, and Curious Afterlife of the Great Books* (Perseus Books Group, 2008), p. 204.

Ask the ALA Librarian

Q. With many camp registrations occurring around this time, our patrons are asking about our summer reading program. Does ALA have resources to help set up a theme for the program? Also, can you direct me to any research showing the benefits of such a program?

A. Summer reading programs [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Summer_Reading_Programs] have been around since the late 19th century and have proven successful in attracting children to libraries during the summer months. Research [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Summer_Reading_Programs#Research] shows that kids who keep the reading habit through the long vacation do better when they return to school. While ALA does not set themes for reading programs, we do have a wide range of resources for you to tap into. Themes can be locally developed, sometimes on a statewide basis, with a number of states cooperating [http://cslpreads.org] on common themes, for children, young adults, and adults. Here is a sampling of our resources. For more, see the ALA Professional Tips wiki [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Summer_Reading].

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

Calendar

Feb. 2, 27:
PALINET webinar,
[http://www.palinet.org/ep_workshops_wsdesc.aspx?WSID=536] “ITI Library

and Consortia Resource Collection.”

Feb. 5:

ACRL webcast,

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/proftools/courses/plagiarism.cfm>]

“The Role of the Librarian in Combating Student Plagiarism.”

Feb. 15–21:

Music Library Association, [<http://www.mla2009.org/>] Annual Conference, Marriott Chicago Downtown.

Mar. 18–21:

Visual Resources Association,

[<http://www.vraweb.org/conferences/toronto2009/index.html>] Annual

Conference, Sheraton Centre Toronto, Ontario.

Mar. 22–24:

Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association,

[<http://www.wemtaonline.org/se3bin/clientgenie.cgi?websitename=school100029>

2&statusFlag=goGenie&geniesite=139] Annual Conference, Monona Terrace

Convention Center, Madison. “Networking for Accountability: Weaving a Web of Best Practice.”

Mar. 24–25:

Metropolitan New York Library Council,

[http://www.metro.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=329]

METRO Training Center, New York City. “Stewardship of Digital Assets” workshop.

Mar. 28–29:

Reading the World,

[http://www.soe.usfca.edu/institutes/reading_world/conference.html] a

conference celebrating multicultural literature for children and young adults, University of San Francisco.

Apr. 1–3:

Kansas Library Association / Mountain Plains Library Association,

[<http://www.kansaslibraryassociation.org/displayconvention.cfm?conventionnr=5635>] Annual Conference, Hyatt Regency/Century II Convention Center,

Wichita. “Libraries: Dynamic People, Places, and Ideas.”

Apr. 2:

International Children’s Book Day.

[<http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=269>]

Apr. 3:

Youth Services Section, New York Library Association,

[http://nyla.org/index.php?page_id=1625] Spring Conference, The Inn on the Lake, Canandaigua.

Apr. 17–20:

Major Orchestra Librarians’ Association, [<http://www.mola-inc.org/>]

Annual Conference, Marriott at Metro Center Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Apr. 19–21:

Missouri Association of School Librarians,
[<http://www.maslonline.org/calendar/spring/SC2009.php>] Spring Conference,
Tar-Tar-A, Osage Beach. “Passport to Treasures @ your library.”

Apr. 22–25:

Montana Library Association, [<http://tandtevents.com/>] Annual
Conference, Hilton Garden Inn, Kalispell. “Creating New Paths.”

May 12–13:

Vermont Library Conference, [<http://www.vermontlibraryconference.org/>]
Sheraton Hotel, South Burlington. “Speaking Up! Advocacy for Libraries.”

May 14–15:

SOLINET,
[[http://www.solinet.net/Classes%20and%20Events/SOLINET%20Annual%20Membershi
p%20Meeting.aspx](http://www.solinet.net/Classes%20and%20Events/SOLINET%20Annual%20Membershi%20Meeting.aspx)] Annual Membership Meeting, Georgia Tech Hotel and
Conference Center, Atlanta. “The Changing World, Changing Libraries.”

May 15–20:

Medical Library Association, [<http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2009/>] Annual
Meeting, Honolulu. “iFusions.”

May 27–29:

Northeast Document Conservation Center,
[<http://www.nedcc.org/about/news.savethedate.php>] Westin San Diego,
California. “Digital Directions: Fundamentals of Creating and Managing
Digital Collections.”

June 14–17:

Special Libraries Association,
[<http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/ac2009/index.cfm>] Annual
Conference, Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C.

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

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personal members of the American Library Association [<http://www.ala.org>]
and subscribers.

George M. Eberhart,

Editor:

geberhart@ala.org [<mailto:geberhart@ala.org>]

Greg Landgraf,

Associate Editor:

glandgraf@ala.org [mailto:glandgraf@ala.org]

Leonard Kniffel,
Editor-in-Chief,
American Libraries: lkniffel@ala.org [mailto:lkniffel@ala.org]

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American Libraries
50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611
www.ala.org/online/ [<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/index.cfm>]
800-545-2433,
ext. 4216

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