U.S. & World News

IFLA closing sessions focus on global financial crisis
The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions closed its 75th World Library and Information Congress August 27 with Italian Library Association President Mauro Guerrini announcing that the five-day conference in Milan was a “great success” and a sign of the vitality of libraries, “especially during this global financial crisis.” It also represents fiscal stability for the federation, which attracted 4,496 attendees for more than 220 sessions, library tours, and cultural events. See all the IFLA photos....
AL Inside Scoop, Aug. 23–28

ALA News

ALA calls for public option in health-care reform
Washington Office Executive Director Emily Sheketoff sent a letter (PDF file) August 19 to all members of Congress, voicing ALA’s support for including a “public option” in health-care reform legislation. ALA also supports a single-payer option and believes removing public options, including potential cooperative arrangements, from the final legislation would not accomplish the strong reform needed....

School librarians and the Race to the Top
ALA filed comments (PDF file) with the Department of Education August 28 regarding the Race to the Top Fund, a competitive one-time grant program funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that aims to encourage and reward states that are leading education innovation and reform. ALA stressed the need for the Secretary of Education to acknowledge the important role that school libraries play in a student’s education....
District Dispatch, Aug. 31; White House blog, July 24
No need for lead testing in children's books

On August 26, the Consumer Product Safety Commission’s final rule on children’s products containing lead was released. In the rule, CPSC confirmed that libraries have no independent obligation to test library books for lead under the law. CPSC also said it would release a Statement of Policy within the next few weeks that will provide specific guidance for libraries with regard to the treatment of older children’s books that could potentially contain lead.

District Dispatch, Aug. 27

Webinar: Building the digital branch for the 21st century

Tune in on September 15 for “Building the Digital Branch: Guidelines to Transform Your Website for the 21st Century,” a free webinar brought to you in special collaboration with WebJunction-Kansas and ALA TechSource. David Lee King, author of the most recent Library Technology Reports on this topic (right), will talk about the process his web team used at Topeka and Shawnee County (Kans.) Public Library to transform their outdated website into a 21st-century digital branch. Registration is required.

BlogJunction, Aug. 28

Connect troubled teens with the power of reading

The ALA Public Programs Office and YALSA are now accepting applications for the next round of Great Stories CLUB grants. Electronic applications for the reading and discussion series will be accepted through November 2. The Great Stories CLUB (Connecting Libraries, Underserved teens and Books) is a book club program designed to reach underserved, troubled teen populations through books that are relevant to their lives.

BlogJunction, Aug. 28

See what student chapters are all about

Each ALA student chapter has its own character and purpose and enhances students’ membership experience by providing leadership and programming opportunities on the campuses. Visit the student chapters page and find out how to form a student group, how to contact other chapters, and where to find chapter resources.

ALA Student Member Blog, Aug. 27

Featured review: Adult books


Google as verb has come to generically refer to a search for information on the internet, but with the astonishing growth of the company, the verb has come to refer as much to steamrolling over “old media” businesses from advertising to publishing and times to the meeting.

Sequels, by Janet G. and Jonathan F. Husband, the most popular and long-lasting guide to novels in series, has returned with greatly expanded series listings. Mysteries continue to be a mainstay, with fantasy, science fiction, and romance listings, plus non-genre fiction selections from authors such as Edward Abbey and Lawrence Durrell. The authors have carefully sifted through a growing group of series to select those most likely to be available in a medium-sized public library, weeding out esoteric, obscure, and less popular series. NEW!

From ALA Editions.

UNESCO’s International Literacy Day is September 8. This year, International Literacy Day will put the spotlight on the empowering role of
news gathering. Veteran reporter Auletta spent two and a half years researching the phenomenon of Google; its intensely private founders, Larry Page and Sergey Brin; and the quirky staff of engineers whose obsession with efficiency led to a powerhouse search engine aimed at helping users find the answer to any question. In the process, Google learned that as it found answers, it also found opportunities for expansion, eventually stepping on the toes of its partners and competitors and provoking government investigation of some planned acquisitions. The company has gone from its messianic philosophy of “Don’t be evil” to being viewed by some as evil (equivalent to Microsoft in villainous potential) because of its size and dominance....

**Audiobooks: That all may read**

Mary Burkey writes: “I’d like to offer a review of long-established programs that exist to serve students with disabilities—at no cost to the child’s school or parents. Audiobooks are proven to increase student literacy, especially for the estimated 10% of our student population on Individualized Education Plans. Add the resources from the organizations here to your educational tool kit, and you will increase your students’ access to audiobooks at no charge.”...

@ Visit [Booklist Online](http://booklistonline.org) for other reviews and much more....

**Division News**

**New poster and bookmark showcase AASL standards**

ALA Graphics has included a [21st-Century Learner poster and bookmark](http://www.alaselections.org) in its new fall 2009 catalog. Graphics produced the set in collaboration with AASL to reinforce to students, teachers, administrators, elected officials, parents, and the community the importance of school library media programs in facilitating teaching and learning. As part of the Learning4Life initiative, the items emphasize the vital roles of critical thinking, decision making, ethical participation in society, and personal growth....

**YALSA’s monthly online chats**

YALSA is now hosting online chats every month in our space in [ALA Connect](http://www.alacommunity.org). It’s an easy, inexpensive way to be more engaged in YALSA and talk with other librarians about topics that matter in teen services. Chats take place the first Wednesday of each month from 8 to 9 p.m. Eastern, and each one has a specific theme. Our next chat

literacy and its importance for participation, citizenship, and social development. “Literacy and Empowerment” is the theme for the 2009–2010 biennium of the [United Nations Literacy Decade](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/literacy/).

**In this issue**

Aug./Sept. 2009

![American Libraries Magazine](http://www.alaselections.org)

**Public Libraries: Necessities or Amenities?**

**Designing User Experiences**

**Sound Recording Collections**

**Learning with Blogs**

**Career Leads from**

[ALA JobLIST](http://www.alajoblist.org)

**Knowledge Administration Manager**, United Service Organizations, Arlington, Virginia, will...
Go mobile at ACRL Midwinter workshops
ACRL is offering two professional development workshops focusing on mobile technology and libraries in conjunction with the 2010 ALA Midwinter Meeting, January 15–20, in Boston. Registration is now open, with an advance registration deadline of December 4. Full details are on the ACRL website....

Best books poster kits available through PLA
Two poster kits created by the West Bloomfield Township (Mich.) Public Library—75 of the Best Books for Young Children and 100 Best Books to Read in Kindergarten—are now available for purchase from PLA. Available in packs of 25, these kits are designed for libraries to distribute to their young readers....

Awards

James Tait Black Memorial Awards
The James Tait Black Memorial Awards are given to one work of fiction and one work of biography each year by the University of Edinburgh. Awarded since 1919, they are the only major British literary prizes judged by both scholars and students. This year, Sebastian Barry’s The Secret Scripture won for fiction, and Michael Holroyd’s A Strange Eventful History won for biography. The £10,000 ($16,280 U.S.) prizes were presented by Scottish crime novelist Ian Rankin at a special awards ceremony at the Edinburgh International Book Festival on August 21....

BBC News, Aug. 21

2009 Australian children’s books of the year
The Children’s Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards for 2009 were announced August 21. These prizes are awarded in five age categories. The winner in the older readers’ category was Shaun Tan’s Tales from Outer Suburbia (Allen & Unwin); for younger readers, Glenda Millard’s Perry Angel’s Suitcase (ABC Books)....

Children’s Book Council of Australia, Aug. 21

Digital Library of the Week
The Joyner Library Digital Collections at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina, support the research and teaching mission of the university and preserve the cultural heritage of the eastern North Carolina community. The library was launched in...

Job seekers nationwide flock to libraries
A new national study by the American Library Association shows that libraries across the United States are filling up with people waiting to get online to fill out applications, write résumés, or look for job openings. “Libraries are really the first responder in this economic crisis, and particularly for job seekers,” said Larra Clark, who managed the study due for release September 15. In 2007, before...
the economy took a nosedive, 44% of public libraries said assisting job seekers was a “critical use” of their library; now it’s 67%. Eight out of 10 libraries nationally have someone on a computer waiting list at some point during the day....
USA Today, Sept. 2

**Don’t mess with MegaBeth**
She’s petite, she’s 53, she’s a librarian, and if she gets a chance, she’ll knock you on your keister. By day, she’s Beth Hollis, reference librarian in the Popular Culture Division of the Akron–Summit County (Ohio) Public Library. By night, she’s MegaBeth, an ageless dynamo on the roller derby rink. Last winter she tried out for the Rubber City Rollergirls and made the team. The MegaBeth legend grew during a June bout with the Glass City Roller Girls, a Toledo team. Yes, her team number (796.21) is the Dewey class for roller-skating. Watch the video (3:38)....
CNN, Aug. 31

**Huge demand exceeds broadband grants**
The federal government on August 27 said it has received requests for nearly $28 billion from groups that want to expand high-speed internet service. The total requests have outstripped available funds seven to one. States, counties, Indian tribes, nonprofits, phone companies, libraries, colleges, universities, and others—2,200 requests in all—lined up in advance of the August 20 deadline. The bulk of the requests are to build out internet lines in rural and underserved areas....
eSchool News, Aug. 28

**Toledo library to cut at least 30 positions**
Between 30 and 35 workers—up to 10% of the work force in the Toledo-Lucas County (Ohio) Public Library system—will be jobless in October, library officials announced September 1. The layoffs will affect both union and exempt staff. Library officials blame state budget cuts and a reduction in local tax revenue, which is expected to be $7.4 million less than what the library received in 2008....
Toledo (Ohio) Blade, Sept. 2

**Warren library loses one-third of its budget**
The Warren–Trumbull County (Ohio) Public Library system will cut about 28% of its hours of service starting September 14. It also will cut $500,000 in personnel expenses, reduce book purchases, and reduce equipment costs to offset a $1.2-million (32.5%) budget reduction. Employees throughout the system will be taking a 3% pay cut effective January 1, and some layoffs are likely....
Youngstown (Ohio) Vindicator, Sept. 1

**Louisville Main Library reopens after flooding**
Bent but not broken, and with signs posted on the doors proclaiming “We’re open!,” the downtown Louisville (Ky.) Free Public Library welcomed patrons back August 27, only 23 days after floodwaters destroyed tens of thousands of books and inflicted $5 million in damage. To be sure, conditions inside were not quite normal. Donors have contributed nearly $100,000 in support of the library’s reopening....
Louisville (Ky.) Courier Journal, Aug. 27

February 2009 and now contains nearly 11,000 digital objects including image, text, audio, and video. The largest collection of materials within the library is a set of 7,000 images digitized from the photo collection of the local newspaper The Daily Reflector. Focusing on the mid-1950s to the late 1960s, the collection covers a period of dramatic social, technological, and economic change in the South as well as in the world in general. Other significant concentrations of material focus on the history of the university, naval and maritime studies, the history of agriculture in the south (particularly tobacco), and the paintings of watercolorist and poet A. R. Ammons.

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

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**Public Perception**
How the World Sees Us

“Today’s new breed of librarians have broken free from those dank and dusty school libraries, the century-old stereotypes, and have evolved into dynamic, progressive, and
**Hawaii seeks donations to keep branches open**

Faced with a $6-million budget cut, the Hawaii State Public Library System will be asking library users, corporations, and foundations to donate whatever they can to prevent major cutbacks at the state’s 51 libraries. The fundraising effort, “Keep the Doors Open,” was announced September 2. The library and its Friends group will conduct separate fundraising drives. The combined effort will attempt to ensure that no library will be closed permanently.

*Honolulu Advertiser, Sept. 2*

**Donations save Omaha’s libraries**

The bucks rolled in August 28 for Omaha (Nebr.) Public Library services, and it looks like the Florence branch will remain open. Library officials said they had raised more than enough to keep the library open and fund other library programs and initiatives. Donations ranging from a Millard patron’s $50 check to $75,000 from a pair of Florence natives were triggered by a $250,000 challenge grant by anonymous donors announced the day before. Operating hours, staff, and programming at OPL branches will not be sliced after all.

*Omaha (Nebr.) World-Herald, Aug. 29*

**Seattle library staffers on furlough this week**

Every branch of the Seattle Public Library system is closed the week of August 31–September 7. All library employees are on furlough for the week leading up to Labor Day. The doors of every branch are locked shut, and all library services—book drops, websites, Quick Information phone services—are inaccessible. SPL spokesperson Andra Addison explained, “Our budget deduction target was about $1 million for 2009. The library closure will allow us to save about $655,000.”

*Fremont Universe, Aug. 29*

**A new assignment: Pick books you like**

For years Lorrie McNeill loved teaching *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the Harper Lee classic that many Americans regard as a literary rite of passage. But last fall, for the first time in 15 years, McNeill did not assign *Mockingbird*—or any other novel. Instead she turned over all the decisions about which books to read to the students in her 7th- and 8th-grade English classes at Jonesboro (Ga.) Middle School. Among their choices: James Patterson’s adrenaline-fueled “Maximum Ride” books, plenty of YA chick-lit novels, and even the “Captain Underpants” series.

*New York Times, Aug. 30*

**No parking? Librarians will deliver**

Staffers at some of the Houston (Tex.) Public Library’s most congested branches are happy to deliver orders right to patrons’ cars. The library’s new curbside service, HPL To Go, is being tested at the Looscan and McGovern-Stella Link branches. If trials go well, the service will be extended to other “parking challenged” branches.

*Houston (Tex.) Chronicle, Aug. 31*

**Camden County parts with its Friends**

most-sought after career people employed by large corporations, IT companies, hospitals, and law firms. Yes, a librarian can now be anyone—from your cute neighbor or cool classmate, to that sophisticated babe or handsome hunk. Or better yet, he can be a multitalented computer expert who is into flip spin, poi, fire breathing, and photography.”

—Rachel C. Barawid, in her article “It’s Hip to Be a Librarian,” Manila Bulletin (Philippines), Aug. 27.

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For 14 years, Ken and Alice Skinner volunteered at least one day of the week at the Vogelson Regional branch of the Camden County (N.J.) Library System, sorting and shelving donated books and helping out at fundraising sales. Then on August 11 the library commission voted to sever ties with its Friends group because their “visions for the future differ and we have reached an impasse.” The mostly senior-citizen volunteers said they feel as if they were blindsided by the decision and are miffed that as a group of unpaid workers they’ve essentially been fired.  

*Cherry Hill (N.J.) Courier-Post, Aug. 30*

**UC Davis science library to close**

More than 400,000 items will be moved out of the University of California, Davis, Physical Sciences and Engineering Library over the next two years. Faced with a 3.5% budget cut, the UCD library followed a recommendation from the Office of Resource Management and Planning to downsize PSEL, move its collections to other libraries, and close the facility by 2011.  

*UC Davis California Aggie, Aug. 24*

**Washington University closes satellite libraries**

In light of departmental budget cuts, Washington University in St. Louis closed its biology and math libraries this summer, reflecting a nationwide trend in universities to cut satellite libraries. The biology and math libraries were targeted because their diminishing traffic did not justify their continued existence, Dean of Libraries Shirley Baker said. Their collections are now housed in the main Olin Library.  

*Washington University Student Life, Sept. 2*

**Rockford library union gets new deadline**

The union representing 86 Rockford (Ill.) Public Library employees is working against a new deadline to come up with an alternative to the library’s package of significant budget cuts. On August 31, speakers asked the Rockford City Council not to allow the cuts to go forward. Union members now have until September 14 to come up with something that can save jobs and prevent the loss of library services.  

*Rockford (Ill.) Register Star, Sept. 1*

**Copenhagen’s Living Library has a global impact**

The Living Library, a Danish antiprejudice initiative, allows “readers” to borrow “human books.” Among the titles at the biggest such library to date in Copenhagen: an ex-stripper, a refugee who lived in a shipping container, and a policeman working the city’s roughest beat. The idea for the Living Library came about in 2000 when the organizer of the Roskilde Festival, one of Europe’s largest summer pop and rock concerts, asked activist Ronni Abergel’s group Stop the Violence to come up with an activity that could be held during his event. The idea has spread around the world and is a popular event at some more traditional libraries.  

*Der Spiegel, Sept. 1; Copenhagen Berlingske Tidende, Aug. 29; Living Library*

**Queens librarians help kids meet reading goals**

Motivating youngsters to read in the summer months when the beach beckons can be a challenge, but several Queens librarians are...
up to the task. Susan Scatena, librarian at the Whitestone branch of the Queens (N.Y.) Library, has found that subjecting herself to a bit of good-humored public humiliation can spur interest in reading....

New York Daily News, Sept. 1

**Ex-librarian refiles suit over reading list dispute**

A former librarian at the Ohio State University’s Mansfield campus has refiled a lawsuit that alleges three faculty members defamed him during a 2006 dispute over a required reading list for freshmen. Scott A. Savage, who characterizes himself as a devout Christian and member of the Religious Society of Friends, sought to have several conservative book titles included on the reading list. He claims faculty members maliciously attacked his character with emails and statements during spring 2006 faculty meetings....

Mansfield (Ohio) News Journal, Aug. 28

**Sustainable Kazakh National Library planned**

A Danish architectural firm, Bjarke Ingels Group, is drawing up plans for a new national library and multicultural center in Astara, Kazakhstan. The four elements of the external design (a circle, rotunda, arch, and yurt) will coalesce into a huge Möbius strip. The architects are employing advanced computer modeling to create a structure that will regulate thermal exposure throughout the year....

Inhabitat, Aug. 27

**Is consumerism creeping into the Alexandria Library?**

It was meant to be the library that recaptured the ancient glories of Alexandria, providing a new home for the world’s knowledge almost 2,000 years after its predecessor was burnt to the ground. But a row has erupted over the decision to build a food court at the heart of Egypt’s showcase Bibliotheca Alexandrina, with campaigners accusing the library’s trustees of selling out its venerable legacy for short-term profit....

The Guardian (U.K.), Aug. 26

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**How to create an RSS feed bundle**

Mark O'Neill writes: “One of Google Reader’s useful features is the ability to make an RSS feed bundle for others to subscribe to. Like me, I’m sure you have a certain list of RSS feeds

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Many libraries are using videogames to provide transformational experiences for traditional nonusers in order to connect with them on a personal level. When this happens, these connections become just as powerful as the ones today’s adults experienced in their youth, and they give these teens that same sense of engagement with their libraries. Read about these connections in the July issue of *Library Technology Reports, Gaming and Libraries: Learning Lessons from the Intersections*, by Jenny Levine.
that you are absolutely loyal to and which you read every day. Perhaps you would like to put those RSS feeds into a clickable package so others can subscribe to them all with the click of a mouse? That’s where the feed bundle comes in.”...

MakeUseOf.com, Aug. 19

Top 10 most usable content management systems
Glen Stansberry writes: “There are plenty of options when it comes to picking a CMS for a development project. Depending on how advanced you need the CMS to be, what language it’s built in, and who is going to be using it, it can be a nightmare trying to find the perfect system. However, some have a slight edge over the rest of the competition because of usability. Some are just easier to install, use, and extend, thanks to some thoughtful planning by the lead developers. Here are 10 of the most usable CMSs.”...

Nettuts+, Aug. 27

APIs and libraries
Stephen Abrams writes: “I’ve been keeping a small list of links for library APIs—those little bits of code that let you do so much to customize your library’s web and OPAC experiences. SirsiDynix trains for API use in all of our ILSs and many of our clients take advantage of the openness of our ILS to add and enhance the user experience. Here is a list of useful links.”...
Stephen’s Lighthouse, Sept. 1

Alt+Tab-style navigation for Firefox
Jason Fitzpatrick writes: “Looking for a visual way to quickly navigate between tabs in Firefox? TabNavigator brings Windows-style Alt+Tab switching to Firefox. After the default installation, TabNavigator enables Alt+R and Alt+W for forward and backward navigation through your tabs. You can modify the navigation keys to be any combination of Ctrl, Alt, or Shift + another key.”...
Lifehacker, Aug. 31

Six inline web-form validators tested
Luke Wroblewski writes: “Real-time inline validation can help people complete web forms more quickly and with less effort, fewer errors, and (surprise) more satisfaction. Inline validation gives people several types of real-time feedback: It can confirm an appropriate answer, suggest valid answers, and provide regular updates to help people stay within necessary limits. These bits of feedback can be presented before, during, and after users provide answers. To better understand the design considerations behind inline validation, I tested 22 average users on six variations of a typical web registration form.”...
A List Apart, Sept. 1

Install Linux on a netbook with no CD-ROM drive
UNetbootin allows you to create bootable Live USB drives for a variety of Linux distributions from Windows or Linux, without requiring you to burn a CD. You can either let it download one of the that they are available for free with a library card.

Calendar

Oct. 3–6: Midwest Chapter, Medical Library Association, Annual Conference, Hyatt on Capitol Square, Columbus, Ohio.

Oct. 7: Going Green @ your library, Online conference hosted by Amigos Library Services. “Lean, Green, and Clean Ideas.”

Oct. 10: Missouri Association of School Librarians, Fall Seminar, Holiday Inn Select, Columbia.

Oct. 11–16: Digital Preservation Management: Implementing Short-Term Strategies for Long-Term Problems, Workshop hosted by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Oct. 13: Introduction to Web 2.0 in Archives...or What You Need to Know in a Nutshell, Online course hosted by the Society of American Archivists.


Oct. 26–28: Internet Librarian, Monterey Conference

AL Direct, September 2, 2009

many distributions supported out-of-the-box for you, or supply your own Linux .iso file if you’ve already downloaded one or your preferred distribution isn’t on the list. You can also use UNetbootin to make a “frugal install” directly on your local hard disk if you don’t have a USB drive....

UNetbootin

Open source: More than just a cheap date
Matt Asay writes: “Perhaps it’s a sign of an upward shift in the economy, or perhaps it was simply an inevitable conclusion, but open source adoption is increasingly a matter of flexibility and innovation, not price. Proprietary software vendors derive an ever-growing chunk of their revenue from software maintenance. Open source offers an exit to this charade, resetting pricing to more manageable levels, and refocusing on the software’s value proposition.”...
The Open Road, Aug. 27

Publishing

Seven odd manga books
Jow McCulloch writes: “Manga inevitably seems a bit strange to American readers, even if they’ve read a lot of comics. Those colorful paperbacks stacked at your favorite big-box bookstore are the beneficiaries of more than half a century of evolution in Japan, where comics flourish as a popular medium. As such, manga reflects not only the mores and attitudes of a culture very different from ours but also a manner of publication unfamiliar in English-speaking environs. Some manga books highlight these differences better than others; here are seven points of departure.”...
Bookforum, Aug. 31

Puzzle and game maps
The materials pictured here share the common characteristics of being a jigsaw puzzle or board game incorporating a map, and being produced before 1900. For example, in 1853 Merriam, Moore, & Co. produced a series of dissected maps (right) of the United States including the Eastern, Middle, Southern, and Western states, and one of New York. The puzzle sits in a wooden case designed to look like a book with a metal clasp to keep it shut. The inside cover includes reviews of the puzzles and a list of other available dissected maps....
BibliOdysssey, Aug. 24

An illustrator to watch
Julie Danielson writes: “It’s galvanic illustrations like this that make John Hendrix’s career one I like to watch these days. He obviously does not shy from drama. Hendrix’s biography of John Brown, one of the most controversial figures in American history, is a force of nature. In John Brown: His Fight for Freedom (Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2009), Hendrix gives us the adult life of white abolitionist John Brown, looking larger than life. Yet things did not go as planned.”...
**Actions & Answers**

**Starting the school year right at UK**
Stacey Greenwell writes: "The University of Kentucky Libraries hosted a huge party in the Information Commons last week for the incoming freshman class. During our two-hour fun fair, the Hubbub, we welcomed around 800 students to campus. This year we were able to move the time slot to 5–7 p.m., which gave us an hour for the party games and socializing to wind down naturally before the building closed." Hubbub 2009 featured board and video games, a photo booth (right), coloring with crayons, palm and Tarot readings, and a balloon artist....

The Uncommon Commons, Aug. 31

**Reading Rainbow comes to an end**
The children’s TV series Reading Rainbow ended its 26-year run August 28; it had won 26 Emmys, and was the third longest-running children’s show in PBS history. The show, which started in 1983, was hosted by actor LeVar Burton. At the end of every show, kids gave their own book reviews, always prefaced by Burton’s trademark line: “But you don’t have to take my word for it.” The show’s absence will leave many open questions about today’s literacy challenges, and what television’s role should be in addressing them....

NPR Morning Edition, Aug. 28

**The new literacy**
Clive Thompson writes: “As the school year begins, be ready to hear pundits fretting once again about how kids today can’t write—and technology is to blame. But Andrea Lunsford isn’t so sure. Lunsford is a professor of writing and rhetoric at Stanford University, where she has organized a mammoth project called the Stanford Study of Writing to scrutinize college students’ prose. From 2001 to 2006, she collected 14,672 student writing samples—everything from in-class assignments, formal essays, and journal entries to emails, blog posts, and chat sessions. Her conclusions are stirring.”...

Wired, Aug. 24

**October is National Reading Group Month**
To celebrate the joy of shared reading and encourage more people to get involved in reading groups, the Women’s National Book Association has designated October as National Reading Group Month. This year will be the third annual celebration. WNBA will host the month’s signature event at the Nashville Public Library Downtown on October 10,
featuring best-selling authors Marie Brenner, Holly Goddard Jones, Perri Klass, Inman Majors, and Kathryn Stockett....
Women's National Book Association, Aug. 23

**Libraries rock! crossword puzzle** (PDF file)
In order to keep up spirits in Ohio, librarian Edmund A. Rossman has created a fun library-related crossword puzzle for his website. He provides the answers, but most ALA members should be able to complete this one with ease (except maybe for 16 Across)....
Castles Against Ignorance

**Medical librarian writes opera about Joe Louis**
Not everyone would see a connection between opera and boxing, but University of Louisville Medical Librarian John Chenault (right) does. The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center and the University of Maryland School of Music commissioned Chenault and his long-time collaborator Frank Proto to write an opera on the life of legendary boxer Joe Louis. *Shadowboxer* will premier April 17, 2010, at the Maryland Opera Studio....
University of Louisville, Aug. 27

**Libraries and museums meet 21st-century learning needs**
As part of its mission to engage libraries and museums, community stakeholders, and policy makers at the national, state, and local levels, the Institute of Museum and Library Services has launched [Museums, Libraries, and 21st Century Skills](#). The website provides a quick online assessment for libraries and museums to evaluate their readiness to engage the public and to deliver 21st-century skills, a downloadable report (PDF file), and an in-depth assessment matrix for library and museum practitioners and policy makers....
Institute of Museum and Library Services, Aug. 28

**The humble index**
Dorothea Salo writes: “Go find a book with an index and flip through it. Seriously, go ahead. I’ll wait. Just bask in the lovely indentedness and order of it all. Now answer me a question: Should Google be calling that huge mass of crawled web data it computes upon an index? Arguably, it shouldn’t, though this is absolutely a lost battle. What Google has is more along the lines of a concordance of the web. An index has three things that Google doesn’t: human intervention, terminological insularity, and intentional grouping.”...
The Book of Trogool, Aug. 25

**Happy birthday, May Hill Arbuthnot**
Larry Nix writes: “August 27 was the 125th anniversary of the birth of May Hill Arbuthnot (1884–1969). Arbuthnot is best known in the library community for her contributions to the field of children’s literature. Her legacy is remembered annually by ALSC through its [May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture Award](#). Students in children’s literature courses are well-acquainted with her book *Children and Books*, which has been published in several editions.”...
Library History Buff, Aug. 27
Chess: The Asian game of kings
Stewart Gordon writes: “Chess is warfare, as much psychology as strategy. To win, one must understand the mentality of the opponent, hinted at in each new move. It is a game of information, false and true, derived from what the opponent ‘should’ do, based on his own past play or that of others, and on what the opponent actually does. The earliest literary reference to chess is in a 7th-century Persian romance, Deeds of Ardashir, Son of Papag. The John G. White Collection at the Cleveland Public Library is the largest library in the world dedicated to chess.”...

Lies my vendor told me
Barbara Fister writes: “The legal publisher West recently kicked up a small dust storm of controversy with a marketing campaign that suggested knowing a librarian was admissible evidence that you were a helpless victim of your own ignorance and crippling dependence. ‘Are you on a first name basis with the librarian?’ the advertisement asks. ‘If so, chances are, you’re spending too much time at the library.’”...

What Facebook quizzes know about you
Sarah Perez writes: “The Northern California chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union has put together a campaign to raise awareness of privacy issues surrounding Facebook applications, in particular quizzes. According to this group, the millions of Facebook users taking quizzes are revealing far more personal information to application developers than they are aware of. This is mostly due to the fact that Facebook’s default privacy settings allow access to all your profile information. Want to see how bad the problem is? Just take the ACLU’s Facebook Quiz (Facebook login required) and prepare to be shocked.”...

Library censorship exhibit for Banned Books Week
When planning your programming for Banned Books Week, you may wish to consider the new edition of the exhibit “Censorship in Schools and Libraries,” created by the Long Island Coalition Against Censorship. The exhibit presents 32 illustrations with accompanying text, each approximately 11 by 14 inches. The exhibit highlights incidents of censorship in the United States over the past century....

If I could do library school over again
Karen Glover writes: “I would take cataloging. What was I thinking? I’ll tell you. I was thinking that I was never going to need cataloging, that’s what. Boy was I wrong. The cataloging of film is a tricky, tricky thing. In this library, it is inconsistent and often unexplainable. Current cataloging standards are too restrictive and unwilling to bend. At least I think they are. I wouldn’t really know.”...
League of Librarian cards
Librarians at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, dreamed up the idea of librarian trading cards in 2005; now they have produced another classic. Marc Bollman came up with the concept of the League of Librarian cards, took the photographs, and made magic happen. Billed as “true stories from the reference desk,” the cards provide the title and specialty for each staffer. The cards are available both on Flickr and Associate Dean of Public Services and Collection Development Katie Clark’s (right) Facebook page (Facebook login required)....
Flickr, Aug. 24

An international welcome to the public library
This introduction (8:37) to the American public library is designed for an international community and specifically for adult learners of English. Produced for the Greenville County (S.C.) Public Library System, it shows key library words in seven different languages and demonstrates the basic features of a public library for an audience that might be unfamiliar with them....
YouTube, May 20

Books We Love: What Color Is Your Underwear?
“Books We Love” is a series of short, personal, book recommendations from Multnomah County librarians and their friends in the Portland, Oregon, area. Anne Tran, youth librarian at Multnomah’s Midland branch, offers a video review (1:04) of What Color Is Your Underwear? by Sam Lloyd. Other short reviews in this series include Sleepy Little Yoga, Dear Zoo, Is This My Nose?, and Tip Tip Dig Dig....
YouTube, Aug. 24

Dance “The Librarian”
Children’s book author Tammi Sauer writes: “In celebration of my latest book Chicken Dance, illustrator Dan Santat and I have been coming up with mini-dance lessons for our website. I’ve just completed the video for my dance lesson debut; it’s a move I call ‘The Librarian.’”....
YouTube, Aug. 31

Librarian stereotypes in music videos
Rachel Heimerdinger writes: “In terms of the music, my favorite librarian music video is Cascada’s Everytime We Touch (3:28). The love interest is a geeky uptight librarian who becomes cool when he takes off his glasses and puts some gel in his hair. But Haunted Love’s Librarian (4:11, above) is better...
for content. Type A female librarians being annoyed by a careless patron? Check and check. Shushing? Check. Happy ending? Big check. One video confirms the stereotypes, the other revels in and mocks them.”

*Lexington (Ky.) Examiner, Aug. 29*
AL Direct, September 2, 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 | September 2, 2009

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

[http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com/

U.S. & World News

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[http://www.flickr.com/photos/americanlibraries/3880930839/in/set-721576220
92392741/] IFLA closing sessions focus on global financial crisis
[http://www.al.ala.org/insidescoop/2009/08/28/ifla-closing-day-puts-focus-b
ack-on-global-economy/] The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions closed its 75th World Library and Information Congress August 27 with Italian Library Association President Mauro Guerrini announcing that the five-day conference in Milan was a "great success" and a sign of the vitality of libraries, "especially during this global financial crisis." It also represents fiscal stability for the federation, which attracted 4,496 attendees for more than 220 sessions, library tours, and cultural events.

t-for-ifla-cultural-evening/] See all the IFLA photos.
ALA calls for public option in health-care reform
Washington Office Executive Director Emily Sheketoff sent a letter (PDF file
[http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/Health-Care-Letter-to-Congress-8-19-09-_2_.pdf]) August 19 to all members of Congress, voicing ALA’s support for including a public option in health-care reform legislation. ALA also supports a single-payer option and believes removing public options, including potential cooperative arrangements, from the final legislation would not accomplish the strong reform needed....

School librarians and the Race to the Top
[http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=3567]
ALA filed comments (PDF file
[http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/ALA-Race-to-the-Top-Comments.pdf]) with the Department of Education August 28 regarding the Race to the Top Fund,
[http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/The-President-on-Race-to-the-Top/] a competitive one-time grant program funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that aims to encourage and reward states that are leading education innovation and reform. ALA stressed the need for the Secretary of Education to acknowledge the important role that school libraries play in a student’s education....
District Dispatch, Aug. 31; White House blog, July 24

No need for lead testing in children’s books
[http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=3560]
On August 26, the Consumer Product Safety Commission’s final rule on children’s products containing lead was released. In the rule, CPSC confirmed that libraries have no independent obligation to test library books for lead under the law. CPSC also said it would release a Statement of Policy within the next few weeks that will provide specific guidance for libraries with regard to the treatment of older children’s books that could potentially contain lead....
District Dispatch, Aug. 27

Tune in on September 15 for “Building the Digital Branch: Guidelines to Transform Your Website for the 21st Century,” a free webinar brought to you in special collaboration with WebJunction-Kansas and ALA TechSource. David Lee King, author of the most recent Library Technology Reports on this topic (right), will talk about the process his web team used at
Topeka and Shawnee County (Kans.) Public Library to transform their outdated website into a 21st-century digital branch. Registration [http://evanced.info/webjunction/evanced/eventsignup.asp?ID=1618] is required.... BlogJunction, Aug. 28

The ALA Public Programs Office and YALSA are now accepting applications for the next round of Great Stories CLUB grants. Electronic applications for the reading and discussion series will be accepted [http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ppo/programming/greatstories/club.cfm] through November 2. The Great Stories CLUB (Connecting Libraries, Underserved teens and Books) is a book club program designed to reach underserved, troubled teen populations through books that are relevant to their lives....

See what student chapters are all about [http://www.students.ala.org/studentmemberblog/?p=342]
Each ALA student chapter has its own character and purpose and enhances students’ membership experience by providing leadership and programming opportunities on the campuses. Visit the student chapters [http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/cro/studentchapters/studentchapters1.cfm] page and find out how to form a student group, how to contact other chapters, and where to find chapter resources.... ALA Student Member Blog, Aug. 27

Google as verb has come to generically refer to a search for information on the internet, but with the astonishing growth of the company, the verb has come to refer as much to steamrolling over "old media" businesses from advertising to publishing and news gathering. Veteran reporter Auletta spent two and a half years researching the phenomenon of Google; its intensely private founders, Larry Page and Sergey Brin; and the quirky staf of engineers whose obsession with efficiency led to a powerhouse search engine aimed at helping users find the answer to any question. In the process, Google learned that as it found answers, it also found opportunities for expansion, eventually stepping on the toes of its partners and competitors and provoked government investigation of some planned acquisitions. The company has gone from its messianic philosophy of "Don’t be evil" to being viewed by some as evil (equivalent to Microsoft in villainous potential) because of its size and dominance....

Mary Burkey writes: “I’d like to offer a review of long-established
programs that exist to serve students with disabilities—at no cost to the child’s school or parents. Audiobooks are proven to increase student literacy, especially for the estimated 10% of our student population on Individualized Education Plans. Add the resources from the organizations here to your educational tool kit, and you will increase your students’ access to audiobooks at no charge.”...

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

Division News

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New poster and bookmark showcase AASL standards
ALA Graphics has included a 21st-Century Learner poster and bookmark [http://www.alastore.ala.org/SearchResult.aspx?KeyWords=21st-century%20learner] in its new fall 2009 catalog. Graphics produced the set in collaboration with AASL to reinforce to students, teachers, administrators, elected officials, parents, and the community the importance of school library media programs in facilitating teaching and learning. As part of the Learning4Life initiative, the items emphasize the vital roles of critical thinking, decision making, ethical participation in society, and personal growth....

YALSA’s monthly online chats
[http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2009/08/26/chats/]
YALSA is now hosting online chats every month in our space in ALA Connect [http://connect.ala.org/yalsa]. It’s an easy, inexpensive way to be more engaged in YALSA and talk with other librarians about topics that matter in teen services. Chats take place the first Wednesday of each month from 8 to 9 p.m. Eastern, and each one has a specific theme. Our next chat is on September 2, with Carla Land, chair of the Teen Read Week committee, moderating a discussion on Teen Read Week....
YALSA Blog, Aug. 26

Go mobile at ACRL Midwinter workshops
ACRL is offering two professional development workshops focusing on mobile technology and libraries in conjunction with the 2010 ALA Midwinter Meeting, January 15–20, in Boston. Registration is now open, with an advance registration deadline of December 4. Full details are on the ACRL website [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/events/acrlatmidwinter.cfm]....

Best books poster kits available through PLA
Two poster kits created by the West Bloomfield Township (Mich.) Public
Library—75 of the Best Books for Young Children [http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=2727] and 100 Best Books to Read in Kindergarten [http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=2728]—are now available for purchase from PLA. Available in packs of 25, these kits are designed for libraries to distribute to their young readers....

Awards

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James Tait Black Memorial Awards [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/edinburgh_and_east/8213869.stm ]
The James Tait Black Memorial Awards are given to one work of fiction and one work of biography each year by the University of Edinburgh. Awarded since 1919, they are the only major British literary prizes judged by both scholars and students. This year, Sebastian Barry’s The Secret Scripture won for fiction, and Michael Holroyd’s A Strange Eventful History won for biography. The £10,000 ($16,280 U.S.) prizes were presented by Scottish crime novelist Ian Rankin at a special awards ceremony at the Edinburgh International Book Festival on August 21....
BBC News, Aug. 21

The Children’s Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards for 2009 were announced August 21. These prizes are awarded in five age categories. The winner in the older readers’ category was Shaun Tan’s Tales from Outer Suburbia (Allen & Unwin); for younger readers, Glenda Millard’s Perry Angel’s Suitcase (ABC Books)....
Children’s Book Council of Australia, Aug. 21

Seen Online

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A new national study by the American Library Association shows that libraries across the United States are filling up with people waiting to get online to fill out applications, write résumés, or look for job openings. “Libraries are really the first responder in this economic crisis, and particularly for job seekers,” said Larra Clark, who managed the study due for release September 15. In 2007, before the economy took a nosedive, 44% of public libraries said assisting job seekers was a “critical use” of their library; now it’s 67%. Eight out of 10 libraries nationally have someone on a computer waiting list at some point during the day....
USA Today, Sept. 2
STCVideo] Don’t mess with MegaBeth
STCText]
She’s petite, she’s 53, she’s a librarian, and if she gets a chance, she’ll knock you on your keister. By day, she’s Beth Hollis, reference librarian in the Popular Culture Division of the Akron–Summit County (Ohio) Public Library. By night, she’s MegaBeth, an ageless dynamo on the roller derby rink. Last winter she tried out for the Rubber City Rollergirls and made the team. The MegaBeth legend grew during a June bout with the Glass City Roller Girls, a Toledo team. Yes, her team number (796.21) is the Dewey class for roller-skating. Watch the video [http://www.cnn.com/2009/LIVING/08/31/roller.derby.librarian/index.html#cnn
STCVideo] (3:38)....
CNN, Aug. 31

Huge demand exceeds broadband grants
The federal government on August 27 said it has received requests for nearly $28 billion from groups that want to expand high-speed internet service. The total requests have outstripped available funds seven to one. States, counties, Indian tribes, nonprofits, phone companies, libraries, colleges, universities, and others—2,200 requests in all—lined up in advance of the August 20 deadline. The bulk of the requests are to build out internet lines in rural and underserved areas....
eSchool News, Aug. 28

Toledo library to cut at least 30 positions
Between 30 and 35 workers—up to 10% of the work force in the Toledo-Lucas County (Ohio) Public Library system—will be jobless in October, library officials announced September 1. The layoffs will affect both union and exempt staff. Library officials blame state budget cuts and a reduction in local tax revenue, which is expected to be $7.4 million less than what the library received in 2008....
Toledo (Ohio) Blade, Sept. 2

Warren library loses one-third of its budget
The Warren–Trumbull County (Ohio) Public Library system will cut about 28% of its hours of service starting September 14. It also will cut $500,000 in personnel expenses, reduce book purchases, and reduce equipment costs to offset a $1.2-million (32.5%) budget reduction. Employees throughout the system will be taking a 3% pay cut effective January 1, and some layoffs are likely....
Youngstown (Ohio) Vindicator, Sept. 1

Louisville Main Library reopens after flooding
Bent but not broken, and with signs posted on the doors proclaiming “We’re open!,” the downtown Louisville (Ky.) Free Public Library welcomed patrons back August 27, only 23 days after floodwaters destroyed tens of thousands of books and inflicted $5 million in damage.
To be sure, conditions inside were not quite normal. Donors have contributed nearly $100,000 in support of the library’s reopening....
Louisville (Ky.) Courier Journal, Aug. 27

Hawaii seeks donations to keep branches open
[http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/20090902/NEWS03/909020357/Hawaii+libraries+to+seek+donations+to+keep+branches+open]
Faced with a $6-million budget cut, the Hawaii State Public Library System will be asking library users, corporations, and foundations to donate whatever they can to prevent major cutbacks at the state’s 51 libraries. The fundraising effort, “Keep the Doors Open,” was announced September 2. The library and its Friends group [http://friendsofthelibraryofhawaii.org/] will conduct separate fundraising drives. The combined effort will attempt to ensure that no library will be closed permanently....
Honolulu Advertiser, Sept. 2

Donations save Omaha’s libraries
[http://www.omaha.com/article/20090829/NEWS01/708299864]
The bucks rolled in August 28 for Omaha (Nebr.) Public Library services, and it looks like the Florence branch will remain open. Library officials said they had raised more than enough to keep the library open and fund other library programs and initiatives. Donations ranging from a Millard patron’s $50 check to $75,000 from a pair of Florence natives were triggered by a $250,000 challenge grant by anonymous donors announced the day before. Operating hours, staff, and programming at OPL branches will not be sliced after all....
Omaha (Nebr.) World-Herald, Aug. 29

Seattle library staffers on furlough this week
Every branch of the Seattle Public Library system is closed the week of August 31–September 7. All library employees are on furlough for the week leading up to Labor Day. The doors of every branch are locked shut, and all library services—book drops, websites, Quick Information phone services—are inaccessible. SPL spokesperson Andra Addison explained, “Our budget deduction target was about $1 million for 2009. The library closure will allow us to save about $655,000.”...
Fremont Universe, Aug. 29

A new assignment: Pick books you like
For years Lorrie McNeill loved teaching To Kill a Mockingbird, the Harper Lee classic that many Americans regard as a literary rite of passage. But last fall, for the first time in 15 years, McNeill did not assign Mockingbird; any other novel. Instead she turned over all the decisions about which books to read to the students in her 7th- and 8th-grade English classes at Jonesboro (Ga.) Middle School. Among their choices: James Patterson’s adrenaline-fueled Maximum Ride; books, plenty of YA chick-lit novels, and even the Captain Underpants series...
New York Times, Aug. 30

No parking? Librarians will deliver
Staffers at some of the Houston (Tex.) Public Library’s most congested branches are happy to deliver orders right to patrons’ cars. The library’s new curbside service, HPL To Go, is being tested at the Looscan and McGovern-Stella Link branches. If trials go well, the service will be extended to other “parking challenged” branches....

Houston (Tex.) Chronicle, Aug. 31

Camden County parts with its Friends
For 14 years, Ken and Alice Skinner volunteered at least one day of the week at the Vogelson Regional branch of the Camden County (N.J.) Library System, sorting and shelving donated books and helping out at fundraising sales. Then on August 11 the library commission voted to sever ties with its Friends group because their “visions for the future differ and we have reached an impasse.” The mostly senior-citizen volunteers said they feel as if they were blindsided by the decision and are miffed that as a group of unpaid workers they’ve essentially been fired....

Cherry Hill (N.J.) Courier-Post, Aug. 30

UC Davis science library to close
More than 400,000 items will be moved out of the University of California, Davis, Physical Sciences and Engineering Library over the next two years. Faced with a 3.5% budget cut, the UCD library followed a recommendation from the Office of Resource Management and Planning to downsize PSEL, move its collections to other libraries, and close the facility by 2011....

UC Davis California Aggie, Aug. 24

Washington University closes satellite libraries
In light of departmental budget cuts, Washington University in St. Louis closed its biology and math libraries this summer, reflecting a nationwide trend in universities to cut satellite libraries. The biology and math libraries were targeted because their diminishing traffic did not justify their continued existence, Dean of Libraries Shirley Baker said. Their collections are now housed in the main Olin Library....

Washington University Student Life, Sept. 2

Rockford library union gets new deadline
The union representing 86 Rockford (Ill.) Public Library employees is working against a new deadline to come up with an alternative to the library’s package of significant budget cuts. On August 31, speakers asked the Rockford City Council not to allow the cuts to go forward. Union members now have until September 14 to come up with something that can save jobs and prevent the loss of library services....

Rockford (Ill.) Register Star, Sept. 1

Copenhagen’s Living Library has a global impact

http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,646298,00.html
The Living Library, a Danish antiprejudice initiative, allows “readers” to borrow “human books.” Among the titles at the biggest such library to date in Copenhagen: an ex-stripper, a refugee who lived in a shipping container, and a policeman working the city’s roughest beat. The idea for the Living Library came about in 2000 when the organizer of the Roskilde Festival, one of Europe’s largest summer pop and rock concerts, asked activist Ronni Abergel’s group Stop the Violence to come up with an activity that could be held during his event. The idea has spread around the world [http://living-library.org/] and is a popular event at some more traditional libraries....

Der Spiegel, Sept. 1; Copenhagen Berlingske Tidende, Aug. 29; Living Library

Motivating youngsters to read in the summer months when the beach beckons can be a challenge, but several Queens librarians are up to the task. Susan Scatena, librarian at the Whitestone branch of the Queens (N.Y.) Library, has found thatsubjecting herself to a bit of good-humored public humiliation can spur interest in reading....
New York Daily News, Sept. 1

Ex-librarian refiles suit over reading list dispute [http://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/article/20090828/NEWS01/908280320/1002/Ex-librarian-refiles-suit-over-reading-list-dispute]
A former librarian at the Ohio State University’s Mansfield campus has refiled a lawsuit that alleges three faculty members defamed him during a 2006 dispute over a required reading list for freshmen. Scott A. Savage, who characterizes himself as a devout Christian and member of the Religious Society of Friends, sought to have several conservative book titles included on the reading list. He claims faculty members maliciously attacked his character with emails and statements during spring 2006 faculty meetings....
Mansfield (Ohio) News Journal, Aug. 28

A Danish architectural firm, Bjarke Ingels Group, is drawing up plans for a new national library and multicultural center in Astara, Kazakhstan. The four elements of the external design (a circle, rotunda, arch, and yurt) will coalesce into a huge Möbius strip. The architects are employing advanced computer modeling to create a structure that will regulate thermal exposure throughout the year....
Inhabitat, Aug. 27

It was meant to be the library that recaptured the ancient glories of Alexandria, providing a new home for the world’s knowledge almost 2,000 years after its predecessor was burnt to the ground. But a row has erupted over the decision to build a food court at the heart of Egypt’s...
showcase Bibliotheca Alexandrina, with campaigners accusing the library’s trustees of selling out its venerable legacy for short-term profit.

The Guardian (U.K.), Aug. 26

Go back to the Top [#top]

Tech Talk

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How to create an RSS feed bundle
[http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/how-to-create-a-rss-feed-bundle-on-google-reader/]
Mark O’Neill writes: “One of Google Reader’s useful features is the ability to make an RSS feed bundle for others to subscribe to. Like me, I’m sure you have a certain list of RSS feeds that you are absolutely loyal to and which you read every day. Perhaps you would like to put those RSS feeds into a clickable package so others can subscribe to them all with the click of a mouse? That’s where the feed bundle [http://www.google.com/reader/view/#bundle-creator-page] comes in.”...
MakeUseOf.com, Aug. 19

[http://www.typolight.org/]Top 10 most usable content management systems
[http://net.tutsplus.com/articles/web-roundups/top-10-most-usable-content-management-systems/]
Glen Stansberry writes: “There are plenty of options when it comes to picking a CMS for a development project. Depending on how advanced you need the CMS to be, what language it’s built in, and who is going to be using it, it can be a nightmare trying to find the perfect system. However, some have a slight edge over the rest of the competition because of usability. Some are just easier to install, use, and extend, thanks to some thoughtful planning by the lead developers. Here are 10 of the most usable CMSs.”...
Nettuts+, Aug. 27

APIs and libraries
Stephen Abrams writes: “I’ve been keeping a small list of links for library APIs—those little bits of code that let you do so much to customize your library’s web and OPAC experiences. SirsiDynix trains for API use in all of our ILSs and many of our clients take advantage of the openness of our ILS to add and enhance the user experience. Here is a list of useful links.”...
Stephen’s Lighthouse, Sept. 1

Alt+Tab-style navigation for Firefox
[http://lifehacker.com/5349304/tabnavigator-brings-alt%252Btab-style-navigation-to-firefox]
tabs. You can modify the navigation keys to be any combination of Ctrl, Alt, or Shift + another key.

Lifehacker, Aug. 31

Six inline web-form validators tested
[http://www.alistapart.com/articles/inline-validation-in-web-forms/]
Luke Wroblewski writes: “Real-time inline validation can help people complete web forms more quickly and with less effort, fewer errors, and (surprise) more satisfaction. Inline validation gives people several types of real-time feedback: It can confirm an appropriate answer, suggest valid answers, and provide regular updates to help people stay within necessary limits. These bits of feedback can be presented before, during, and after users provide answers. To better understand the design considerations behind inline validation, I tested 22 average users on six variations of a typical web registration form.”

A List Apart, Sept. 1

Install Linux on a netbook with no CD-ROM drive
[http://unetbootin.sourceforge.net/]
UNetbootin allows you to create bootable Live USB drives for a variety of Linux distributions from Windows or Linux, without requiring you to burn a CD. You can either let it download one of the many distributions supported out-of-the-box for you, or supply your own Linux .iso file if you’ve already downloaded one or your preferred distribution isn’t on the list. You can also use UNetbootin to make a frugal install directly on your local hard disk if you don’t have a USB drive.

UNetbootin

Open source: More than just a cheap date
Matt Asay writes: “Perhaps it’s a sign of an upward shift in the economy, or perhaps it was simply an inevitable conclusion, but open source adoption is increasingly a matter of flexibility and innovation, not price. Proprietary software vendors derive an ever-growing chunk of their revenue from software maintenance. Open source offers an exit to this charade, resetting pricing to more manageable levels, and refocusing on the software’s value proposition.”

The Open Road, Aug. 27

Publishing

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Seven odd manga books [http://bookforum.com/booklist/4360]
Jow McCulloch writes: “Manga inevitably seems a bit strange to American readers, even if they’ve read a lot of comics. Those colorful paperbacks stacked at your favorite big-box bookstore are the beneficiaries of more than half a century of evolution in Japan, where comics flourish as a popular medium. As such, manga reflects not only the mores and attitudes of a culture very different from ours but also a
manner of publication unfamiliar in English-speaking environs. Some manga books highlight these differences better than others; here are seven points of departure."

Bookforum, Aug. 31

Puzzle and game maps

The materials pictured here share the common characteristics of being a jigsaw puzzle or board game incorporating a map, and being produced before 1900. For example, in 1853 Merriam, Moore, & Co. produced a series of dissected maps (right) of the United States including the Eastern, Middle, Southern, and Western states, and one of New York. The puzzle sits in a wooden case designed to look like a book with a metal clasp to keep it shut. The inside cover includes reviews of the puzzles and a list of other available dissected maps....

BibliOdyssey, Aug. 24

An illustrator to watch

Julie Danielson writes: "It's galvanic illustrations like this that make John Hendrix's career one I like to watch these days. He obviously does not shy from drama. Hendrix's biography of John Brown, one of the most controversial figures in American history, is a force of nature. In John Brown: His Fight for Freedom (Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2009), Hendrix gives us the adult life of white abolitionist John Brown, looking larger than life. Yet things did not go as planned."...

Seven Impossible Things Before Breakfast, Aug. 31

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Actions & Answers

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Starting the school year right at UK

Stacey Greenwell writes: "The University of Kentucky Libraries hosted a huge party in the Information Commons last week for the incoming freshman class. During our two-hour fun fair, the Hubbub, we welcomed around 800 students to campus. This year we were able to move the time slot to 5–7 p.m., which gave us an hour for the party games and socializing to wind down naturally before the building closed." Hubbub 2009 featured board and video games, a photo booth (right), coloring with crayons, palm and Tarot readings, and a balloon artist....

The Uncommon Commons, Aug. 28

comes to an end

The children’s TV series Reading Rainbow ended its 26-year run August 28; it had won 26 Emmys, and was the third longest-running children’s show in PBS history. The show, which started in 1983, was hosted by actor LeVar Burton. At the end of every show, kids gave their own book reviews, always prefaced by Burton’s trademark line: “But you don’t have to take my word for it.” The show’s absence will leave many open questions about today’s literacy challenges, and what television’s role should be in addressing them....  
NPR Morning Edition, Aug. 28

The new literacy

Clive Thompson writes: “As the school year begins, be ready to hear pundits fretting once again about how kids today can’t write—and technology is to blame. But Andrea Lunsford isn’t so sure. Lunsford is a professor of writing and rhetoric at Stanford University, where she has organized a mammoth project called the Stanford Study of Writing to scrutinize college students’ prose. From 2001 to 2006, she collected 14,672 student writing samples; everything from in-class assignments, formal essays, and journal entries to emails, blog posts, and chat sessions. Her conclusions are stirring.”...  
Wired, Aug. 24

October is National Reading Group Month

To celebrate the joy of shared reading and encourage more people to get involved in reading groups, the Women’s National Book Association has designated October as National Reading Group Month. This year will be the third annual celebration. WNBA will host the month’s signature event at the Nashville Public Library Downtown on October 10, featuring best-selling authors Marie Brenner, Holly Goddard Jones, Perri Klass, Inman Majors, and Kathryn Stockett....  
Women’s National Book Association, Aug. 23

Libraries rock! crossword puzzle

In order to keep up spirits in Ohio, librarian Edmund A. Rossman has created a fun library-related crossword puzzle for his website. He provides the answers, but most ALA members should be able to complete this one with ease (except maybe for 16 Across)....  
Castles Against Ignorance

Medical librarian writes opera about Joe Louis

Not everyone would see a connection between opera and boxing, but University of Louisville Medical Librarian John Chenault (right) does. The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center and the University of Maryland School of Music commissioned Chenault and his long-time collaborator Frank Proto to write an opera on the life of legendary boxer Joe Louis. Shadowboxer will premier April 17, 2010, at the Maryland Opera Studio....  
University of Louisville, Aug. 27
As part of its mission to engage libraries and museums, community stakeholders, and policy makers at the national, state, and local levels, the Institute of Museum and Library Services has launched Museums, Libraries, and 21st Century Skills [http://www.imls.gov/about/21stCSkills.shtm]. The website provides a quick online assessment for libraries and museums to evaluate their readiness to engage the public and to deliver 21st-century skills, a downloadable report (PDF file [http://www.imls.gov/pdf/21stCenturySkills.pdf]), and an in-depth assessment matrix for library and museum practitioners and policy makers....
Institute of Museum and Library Services, Aug. 28

The humble index [http://scienceblogs.com/bookoftrogool/2009/08/the_humble_index.php]
Dorothea Salo writes: “Go find a book with an index and flip through it. Seriously, go ahead. I’ll wait. Just bask in the lovely indentedness and order of it all. Now answer me a question: Should Google be calling that huge mass of crawled web data it computes upon an index? Arguably, it shouldn’t, though this is absolutely a lost battle. What Google has is more along the lines of a concordance of the web. An index has three things that Google doesn’t: human intervention, terminological insularity, and intentional grouping.”...
The Book of Trogool, Aug. 25

Larry Nix writes: “August 27 was the 125th anniversary of the birth of May Hill Arbuthnot (1884–1969). Arbuthnot is best known in the library community for her contributions to the field of children’s literature. Her legacy is remembered annually by ALSC through its May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture Award [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/arbuthnotonor/arbuthnotonor.cfm]. Students in children’s literature courses are well-acquainted with her book Children and Books, which has been published in several editions.”...
The Library History Buff, Aug. 27

Chess: The Asian game of kings [http://saudiaramcoworld.com/issue/200904/the.game.of.kings.htm]
Stewart Gordon writes: “Chess is warfare, as much psychology as strategy. To win, one must understand the mentality of the opponent, hinted at in each new move. It is a game of information, false and true, derived from what the opponent ‘should’ do, based on his own past play or that of others, and on what the opponent actually does. The earliest literary reference to chess is in a 7th-century Persian romance, Deeds of Ardashir, Son of Papag. The John G. White Collection at the Cleveland Public Library is the largest library in the world dedicated to chess.”...
Saudi Aramco World 60, no. 4 (July/August): 18–23

Lies my vendor told me
Barbara Fister writes: “The legal publisher West recently kicked up a small dust storm of controversy with a marketing campaign that suggested knowing a librarian was admissible evidence that you were a helpless victim of your own ignorance and crippling dependence. ‘Are you on a first name basis with the librarian?’ the advertisement asks. ‘If so, chances are, you’re spending too much time at the library.’”...

Library Journal, Aug. 27; Law Librarian Blog, Aug. 26

What Facebook quizzes know about you
Sarah Perez writes: “The Northern California chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union has put together a campaign to raise awareness of privacy issues surrounding Facebook applications, in particular quizzes. According to this group, the millions of Facebook users taking quizzes are revealing far more personal information to application developers than they are aware of. This is mostly due to the fact that Facebook’s default privacy settings allow access to all your profile information. Want to see how bad the problem is? Just take the ACLU’s Facebook Quiz (Facebook login required) and prepare to be shocked."

ReadWriteWeb, Aug. 27

Library censorship exhibit for Banned Books Week
When planning your programming for Banned Books Week, you may wish to consider the new edition of the exhibit “Censorship in Schools and Libraries,” created by the Long Island Coalition Against Censorship. The exhibit presents 32 illustrations with accompanying text, each approximately 11 by 14 inches. The exhibit highlights incidents of censorship in the United States over the past century....

Long Island Coalition Against Censorship

If I could do library school over again
Karen Glover writes: “I would take cataloging. What was I thinking? I tell you. I was thinking that I was never going to need cataloging, that’s what. Boy was I wrong. The cataloging of film is a tricky, tricky thing. In this library, it is inconsistent and often unexplainable. Current cataloging standards are too restrictive and unwilling to bend. At least I think they are. I wouldn’t really know.”...

Poplibrarian, Aug. 21

Librarians at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, dreamed up the
idea of librarian trading cards

Marc Bollman came up with the concept of the League of Librarian cards, took the photographs, and made magic happen. Billed as “true stories from the reference desk,” the cards provide the title and specialty for each staffer. The cards are available both on Flickr and Associate Dean of Public Services and Collection Development Katie Clark’s (right) Facebook page.

Flickr, Aug. 24

An international welcome to the public library

This introduction (8:37) to the American public library is designed for an international community and specifically for adult learners of English. Produced for the Greenville County (S.C.) Public Library System, it shows key library words in seven different languages and demonstrates the basic features of a public library for an audience that might be unfamiliar with them....

YouTube, May 20

What Color Is Your Underwear?

“Books We Love” is a series of short, personal, book recommendations from Multnomah County librarians and their friends in the Portland, Oregon, area. Anne Tran, youth librarian at Multnomah’s Midland branch, offers a video review (1:04) of What Color Is Your Underwear?

Other short reviews in this series include Sleepy Little Yoga,

Dear Zoo,

Is This My Nose?, and Tip Tip Dig Dig...

YouTube, Aug. 24

Dance “The Librarian”

Children’s book author Tammi Sauer writes: “In celebration of my latest book Chicken Dance, illustrator Dan Santat and I have been coming up with mini-dance lessons for our website. I’ve just completed the video for my dance lesson debut; it’s a move I call ‘The Librarian.’”...

YouTube, Aug. 31

Librarian stereotypes in music videos

Rachel Heimerdinger writes: “In terms of the music, my favorite librarian music video is Cascada’s Everytime We Touch. The love interest is a geeky uptight librarian who becomes cool when he takes off his glasses and puts some gel in his hair. But Haunted Love’s Librarian...
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ne_WXP7lUWM] (4:11, above) is better for content. Type A female librarians being annoyed by a careless patron? Check and check. Shushing? Check. Happy ending? Big check. One video confirms the stereotypes, the other revels in and mocks them.”...

Lexington (Ky.) Examiner, Aug. 29

[http://www.shapingoutcomes.org/]

ALA Midwinter Meeting,


[http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/2010/travel.cfm#airline] for Boston opened September 1. Special meeting fares have been arranged for travel to the 2010 ALA Midwinter Meeting. Custom itineraries may be booked through the ALA Travel Desk by phone—(800) 644-7313—or email [http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/2010/travel.cfm#airline] only. The Travel Desk offers the lowest applicable airfares and best journey times to the meeting.


Sequels, [http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=2418] by Janet G. and Jonathan F. Husband, the most popular and long-lasting guide to novels in series, has returned with greatly expanded series listings. Mysteries continue to be a mainstay, with fantasy, science fiction, and romance listings, plus non-genre fiction selections from authors such as Edward Abbey and Lawrence Durrell. The authors have carefully sifted through a growing group of series to select those most likely to be available in a medium-sized public library, weeding out esoteric, obscure, and less popular series. NEW! From ALA Editions.


UNESCO’s International Literacy Day [http://www.unesco.org/en/literacy/advocacy/international-literacy-day/] is September 8. This year, International Literacy Day will put the spotlight on the empowering role of literacy and its importance for...
participation, citizenship, and social development. “Literacy and Empowerment” is the theme for the 2009–2010 biennium of the United Nations Literacy Decade.

In this issue
Aug./Sept. 2009

Public Libraries: Necessities or Amenities?
Designing User Experiences
Sound Recording Collections
Learning with Blogs

Career Leads from
Knowledge Administration Manager,
United Service Organizations, Arlington, Virginia, will ensure the USO Knowledge Management System is running smoothly and efficiently. Duties include collecting, synthesizing, and managing information; acting as a change agent, by coordinating, collaborating, and communicating with USO regions and centers around the world; facilitating measurement of successes or failures through documentation of the quality and quantity of knowledge artifacts....

Digital Library of the Week

The Joyner Library Digital Collections at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina, support the research and teaching mission of the university and preserve the cultural heritage of the eastern North Carolina community. The library was launched in February 2009 and now contains nearly 11,000 digital objects including image, text, audio, and video. The largest collection of
materials within the library is a set of 7,000 images digitized from the photo collection of the local newspaper The Daily Reflector. Focusing on the mid-1950s to the late 1960s, the collection covers a period of dramatic social, technological, and economic change in the South as well as in the world in general. Other significant concentrations of material focus on the history of the university, naval and maritime studies, the history of agriculture in the south (particularly tobacco), and the paintings of watercolorist and poet A. R. Ammons.

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

“Today’s new breed of librarians have broken free from those dank and dusty school libraries, the century-old stereotypes, and have evolved into dynamic, progressive, and most-sought after career people employed by large corporations, IT companies, hospitals, and law firms. Yes, a librarian can now be anyone—from your cute neighbor or cool classmate, to that sophisticated babe or handsome hunk. Or better yet, he can be a multitalented computer expert who is into flip spin, poi, fire breathing, and photography.”


[http://www.twitter.com/amlibraries]

AL on Twitter. Follow American Libraries news stories, videos, and blog posts on Twitter. [http://www.twitter.com/amlibraries]

Ask the ALA Librarian

Q. We need help! Our library branch was nearly closed for good last month, before our local representatives intervened. We’ll be able to stay in operation for the immediate future, but we will clearly need more funding down the road. Any ideas? Resources?

A. At the beginning of the year, we addressed how a slow economy [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Slow_Economy_and_Libraries] affects libraries and we pointed you to various advocacy [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Advocacy] and assessment

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

Many libraries are using videogames to provide transformational experiences for traditional nonusers in order to connect with them on a personal level. When this happens, these connections become just as powerful as the ones today’s adults experienced in their youth, and they give these teens that same sense of engagement with their libraries. Read about these connections in the July issue of Library Technology Reports, Gaming and Libraries: Learning Lessons from the Intersections, [http://www.alatechsource.org/ltr/gaming-libraries-learning-lessons-from-the-intersections] by Jenny Levine.

September is Library Card Sign-up Month. [http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/publicawareness/alainitiatives/otherinitiatives/card/librarycard.cfm] A new PSA featuring WNBA star and Honorary Chair of Library Card Sign-up Month Candace Parker reminds parents and children that a library card is the "smartest card" you can have. The PSA highlights all the resources libraries offer, delivering the message that they are available for free with a library card.
Calendar

Oct. 3–6:

Oct. 7:
Going Green @ your library. [http://greenlibs.amigos.org/node/2] Online conference hosted by Amigos Library Services. "Lean, Green, and Clean Ideas."

Oct. 10:

Oct. 11–16:

Oct. 13:
Introduction to Web 2.0 in Archives...or What You Need to Know in a Nutshell. [http://saa.archivists.org/Scripts/4Disapi.dll/4DCGI/events/176.html?Action=Conference_Detail&ConfID_W=176&Time=236283712&SessionID=645316183una7a1b5nhjg1ufdzilipmnqe242n993hd68waj12i1023z76y343h] Online course hosted by the Society of American Archivists.

Oct. 15–18:

Oct. 26–28:

Nov. 1–4:

Nov. 11–13:

Nov. 14–16:
Chicago Colloquium on Digital Humanities and Computer Science, [http://dhcs.iit.edu/] Illinois Institute of Technology.


@ More [http://www.ala.org/ala/alonline/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.

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Leonard Kniffel,
U.S. & World News

Hawaii board rejects monthly two-day closures
The Hawaii Board of Education failed to approve a proposal September 3 to address a $5.7-million cut in funding by closing all public-library branches at least two days a month and furloughing employees twice a month. The plan also called for the elimination of 72 vacant job positions (which would curtail use of temporary workers in those posts), a reduction in operating hours, and intermittent temporary branch closures due to staff shortages....
American Libraries Online, Sept. 4

Faculty strike leaves Oakland University library struggling
“IT is not a happy situation,” said Frank Lepkowski, associate dean and associate professor at Oakland University’s Kresge Library in Rochester, Michigan, after 12 tenure-track library faculty members went out on strike September 3 as part of an action called by the Oakland University chapter of the American Association of University Professors. Lepkowski told AL that the remaining 21 members of the Kresge Library staff are keeping the library open all of its regularly scheduled hours....
American Libraries Online, Sept. 4

Cash-strapped Cuyahoga County drops out of WorldCat ILL
As part of its quest to close a $14-million shortfall for FY2010, Cuyahoga County (Ohio) Public Library has ended its participation in OCLC’s WorldCat Resource Sharing so it can close the library’s interlibrary loan department. CCPL Deputy Director Tracy Strobel told American Libraries that the action “is really no reflection on WorldCat itself or OCLC for that matter,” but of the library’s inability to continue employing ILL staff in order to fulfill requests. However, the library will continue to participate in interlibrary loan through two Ohio-based library cooperatives....
American Libraries Online, Sept. 4
ALA News

Green report on the 2009 Annual Conference
ALA Conference Services Director Deidre Ross shared a report from McCormick Place, the venue for the 2009 Annual Conference. During the meeting, ALA diverted 65% of waste from landfills. The report, provided by Allied Waste, says that the diversion rate is a great indicator of successful capture of recyclable or reusable materials....
ALA Marginalia, Sept. 9

Romania joins the Campaign for the World’s Libraries
The Romanian Library Association (Asociatia Bibliotecarilor din România) recently became the newest member of the Campaign for the World’s Libraries, a joint ALA and IFLA project to showcase the unique and vital roles played by public, school, academic, and special libraries worldwide. The ABR will host a presentation on the Campaign for the World’s Libraries at its Annual Conference in Constanta, September 10–12....

Booklist

Featured review: Books for youth

With a roaring sense of adventure and enough viscera to gag the hardiest of gore hounds, Yancey’s series starter might just be the best horror novel of the year. Will Henry is the 12-year-old apprentice to Pellinore Warthrop, a brilliant and self-absorbed monstrumologist—a scientist who studies (and when necessary, kills) monsters in late-1800s New England. The newest threat is the Anthropophagi, a pack of headless, shark-toothed bipeds, one of whom’s corpse is delivered to Warthrop’s lab courtesy of a grave robber. As the action moves from the dissecting table to the cemetery to an asylum to underground catacombs, Yancey keeps the shocks frequent and shrouded in a splattery miasma of blood, bone, pus, and maggots. The industrial-era setting is populated with leering, Dickensian characters....

Booklist launches free webinar series
Booklist is launching a free webinar series on September 22, building on previous popular Booklist Online webinars. The first in the new series, “The Scoop on Series Nonfiction: Best Uses, Best Practices, and Best New Books for Fall,” will be useful to anyone involved in engaging reluctant readers, promoting reading success, and keeping the library relevant in this era of

In this issue

Public Libraries: Necessities or Amenities?
Designing User Experiences
Sound Recording Collections

October is National Arts and Humanities Month, a coast-to-coast collective celebration of culture in America. Held every year and coordinated by Americans for the Arts, it is the largest annual celebration of the arts and humanities in the nation. Art:21 is the official partner in 2009.
Division News

**AASL will help you collaborate**
AASL will offer a four-week online course, “The Path to Collaboration: Making It Happen,” this fall for school library media specialists, beginning October 5. Participants will learn how to identify and analyze the factors that contribute to successful collaboration with teachers. The course will be facilitated by Marilyn Heath (right)....

**ALCTS webinars on institutional repositories**
Continuing a webinar series begun in the spring, ALCTS has announced four new webinars about various aspects of institutional repositories in September–December. Topics include open access, copyright, datasets, and partnerships....

**Register for the 2009 Women’s Leadership Institute**
ACRL is partnering with seven higher-education associations to offer the 2009 Women’s Leadership Institute, to be held December 6–9, in Amelia Island, Florida. The early-bird registration deadline for the institute is September 18. This year’s program will have a special focus on the economic challenges facing colleges and universities and what is being done to address them....

**PLA National Conference registration now open**
Registration for PLA 2010, the 13th PLA National Conference, opened September 8. Hotel reservations are also being accepted. A special early-bird rate is available for PLA members and members of the Oregon Library Association who register by December 16. PLA 2010 will be held March 23–27 in Portland, Oregon....

**Last chance to sign up for PLA Boot Camp**
This is the fifth year PLA will be holding its Results Boot Camp, October 12–16, at the Hyatt at Olive 8 Hotel in Seattle. This weeklong workshop focuses on current library issues and concerns. Attendees are encouraged to apply workshop exercises to the real-life problems and issues occurring in their libraries. Apply by September 11....

**Cool teen programs for under $100**
YALSA has published Cool Teen Programs for under $100, edited by Jenine Lillian. The book compiles selected inexpensive teen programs submitted by YALSA members in the United States and Canada, all
easily replicable in multiple types of libraries at any budget. It also provides helpful chapters on budgeting for teen services and marketing tips that you can put into practice at any budget.

**Last chance to register for Teen Read Week**

Registration for Teen Read Week, YALSA’s annual literacy initiative, closes September 18. Teen Read Week will be celebrated October 18–24 in thousands of libraries across the United States, with a theme of “Read Beyond Reality @ your library,” which encourages teens to read something out of this world, just for the fun of it. After registering, you can visit the Teen Read Week [website](http://aldirect.ala.org/sites/default/al_direct/2009/september/090909.htm) to find program ideas, helpful planning resources, and tools for publicizing events.

**Awards**

**LLAMA seeks entries for the 2010 John Cotton Dana PR award**

LLAMA is accepting entries for the 63rd [John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award](http://aldirect.ala.org/sites/default/al_direct/2009/september/090909.htm) through December 4. The award honors outstanding library public relations programs that support a specific project, goal, or activity, or a sustained, ongoing program. The contest is open to all libraries and agencies that promote library service.

**7th annual We the People Bookshelf grants**

The ALA Public Programs Office is partnering with the National Endowment for the Humanities for the seventh We the People Bookshelf project. Part of the NEH We the People program, the Bookshelf encourages young people to read and understand great literature while exploring themes in American history. The theme for the 2009–2010 Bookshelf is “A More Perfect Union.” Public and school libraries are invited to [apply online](http://aldirect.ala.org/sites/default/al_direct/2009/september/090909.htm) through January 29. Some 4,000 libraries will be selected to receive the materials.

**ACRL offers e-learning scholarships**

ACRL now has [e-learning scholarships](http://aldirect.ala.org/sites/default/al_direct/2009/september/090909.htm) that will help librarians, library staff, and library school students stretch their professional development dollars. Twenty scholarships, each covering the registration cost of one ACRL e-learning webcast, will be awarded. To qualify, applicants must be ACRL members, complete the online scholarship [application form](http://aldirect.ala.org/sites/default/al_direct/2009/september/090909.htm), and submit a 300-word written statement by October 16.

**Deb Schneider is Romance Writers’ Librarian of the Year**

Deborah Schneider just got swept off her feet with a
romance award from the Romance Writers of America. She is both a budding romance author and public programming coordinator in the Issaquah branch of the King County (Wash.) Library System. At the Romance Writers of America national conference in Washington, D.C., in July, Schneider was presented with the 2009 Librarian of the Year award....

Issaquah (Wash.) Press, Sept. 1; Romance Writers of America

Award dedicated in memory of children’s librarian
The Friends of the Lincoln Library has dedicated its annual Love of Literature Award to the memory of Helen Kent, the Lincoln (Mass.) Public Library’s children’s librarian from 1958 to 1983. The award is given each year to a graduate of Lincoln School, Hanscom Middle School, and Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. Kent, who died in March, was Lincoln’s first children’s librarian and offered the library’s first children’s story hour in 1958....

Lincoln (Mass.) Journal, Sept. 1

2009 Américas Book Awards (PDF file)
The national Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs has given the 2009 Américas Book Award to two works published in 2008 that authentically and engagingly portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos in the United States. Just in Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book by Yuyi Morales (Roaring Brook Press) and The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba’s Struggle for Freedom by Margarita Engle (Holt) will be honored at an October 17 ceremony during Hispanic Heritage Month at the Library of Congress....

Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs

IMLS Native American and Native Hawaiian grants
The Institute of Museum and Library Services announced September 8 the 17 tribal communities and Alaska villages that are this year’s recipients of $2.2 million in Native American Library Services Enhancement grants. IMLS also reported that Alu Like, Inc., has received a Native Hawaiian Library Services grant totaling $531,000....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Sept. 8

MLA withdraws opposition to governor’s order
On August 26, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm issued an Executive Directive (PDF file) clarifying her Executive Order of July 13, which called for the elimination of the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries. The directive addresses many of the Michigan Library Association’s concerns, including prioritization of funding for MeL and MeLCat; respect for the role of the state librarian; and a commitment to seek librarians, historians, and archivists to serve on the Michigan

Public Perception
How the World Sees Us

“When Truman’s mother died in 1947, then-Congressman Lyndon B. Johnson obsequiously wrote the president, saying he would donate a book in memory of the 'First Mother' to the Grandview (Mo.) Public Library. Truman wrote back...
Center for Innovation and Reinvention board. MLA issued an August 26 statement (Word file) that withdrew its opposition.... Michigan Library Association, Aug. 26; Grand Rapids (Mich.) News, Sept. 6

**Google addresses book-search fears**

U.S. District Judge Denny Chin extended the deadline until September 8 for protesting or supporting the Google Books settlement, prompting a flurry of last-minute filings. Supporters include advocates for the blind and some universities, while protesters include the governments of Germany and France. Chin’s announcement came as Google made new concessions to European publishers and agreed to draw up a new privacy policy in response to queries from the Federal Trade Commission. Chin will preside over a fairness hearing in New York on October 7. ALA, ACRL, and the Association of Research Libraries submitted a supplemental filing (PDF file) that addresses recent developments....

New York Times, Sept. 8; Relevant Results, Sept. 3; Library Journal, Sept. 3; Bloomberg, Sept. 7; Google Books, Sept. 3; The Times (U.K.), Sept. 5; District Dispatch, Sept. 2

**Cushing Academy embraces a digital future**

Cushing Academy in Ashburnham, Massachusetts, has all the hallmarks of a New England prep school, with one exception. This year, after having amassed a collection of more than 20,000 books, officials have decided the 144-year-old school no longer needs a traditional library. The academy’s administrators have decided to discard all their books and have given away half of what stocked their sprawling stacks. The school’s new “learning center” will have no books, but they can all be accessed at computer kiosks where some of the former library was. Many bloggers and commenters have opinions on this story, including Linda Braun, Jessamyn West, Rory Litwin, and Buffy Hamilton....

Boston Globe, Sept. 4; YALSA Blog, Sept. 4; librarian.net, Sept. 4; Library Juice, Sept. 6; AASL Blog, Sept. 5

**Boucher drafting new bill on web privacy**

Rep. Rick Boucher (D-Va.) is drafting a bill that would impose broad new rules on websites and advertisers. His goal: to ensure that consumers know what information is being collected about them on the web and how it is being used, and to give them control over that information. Boucher insists his bill will benefit consumers and preserve the underlying economics of the internet, which relies on advertising to keep so much online content free....

Associated Press, Sept. 7

**Web-monitoring software gathers data on kids’ chats**

Parental-control software sold under the Sentry and FamilySafe brands can read private chats conducted through Yahoo, MSN, and AOL, and send back data on what kids are saying about such things as movies, music, or video games. The information is then offered to businesses seeking ways to tailor their marketing messages to kids. The company that sells the software insists it is not putting kids’ information at risk, since the program does not record children’s names or addresses....

Associated Press, Sept. 4

**Islamic search engine filters out**

and thanked Johnson, but added, ‘I regret to advise you that Grandview has no Public Library.’... Margaret Truman said her father ‘never quite trusted’ Johnson.” [Luckily, Grandview now has a library, a branch of the Mid-Continent Public Library in Independence.]


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**Ask the ALA Librarian**

Q. I’m looking for an activity to guide students in how to use the internet to gather reliable sources for their research projects, and so much the better if it’s entertaining! Do you have anything that will help?
sinful material
Muslims can surf the internet without the fear of accidentally encountering sinful material, now that a Dutch company has launched the world’s first Islamic search engine. The ImHalal service works like any other search facility until potentially illicit words are entered, when it rates the search from one to three on its risk of generating "haram" or forbidden material....
*The Times* (U.K.), Sept. 6

**Are Folsom school libraries closed?**
When school bells rang August 31 in Folsom, California, one component was missing—the libraries. Due to budget cuts in the Folsom Cordova Unified School District, libraries at 22 elementary schools and 11 middle and high schools shut and locked their doors, library staff finding themselves out of work. Linda Rodriguez has been with the Folsom High School Library for nearly two decades, but now her services are no longer required. Superintendent Patrick Godwin maintains the libraries will remain open, just without librarians....
*Folsom (Calif.) Telegraph*, Sept. 2

**The future of libraries**
By some accounts, library systems are undergoing a complete transformation that goes far beyond mere image adjustments. Many real-world libraries are moving forward with the assumption that physical books will play a much-diminished or potentially nonexistent role in their efforts to educate the public. Forward-looking librarians are trying to create a conversational loop with Twitter, IM, and other digital services in public libraries. And they are also emphasizing their roles as community centers for civic debate....
*CNN*, Sept. 4

**Clayton Museum will rival the Schomburg Center**
Mayme A. Clayton (right)—a librarian who spent her career at the University of Southern California and UCLA—spent a lifetime scouring garage sales so her son Avery could build a museum. When the Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum of African American History and Culture opens in Culver City, California, it will rival New York’s Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. The museum’s first major exhibition is scheduled to open October 24....
*Associated Press*, Aug. 30

**San Antonio’s Texana Room on the chopping block**
If the proposed San Antonio, Texas, city budget passes September 17, the San Antonio Public Library’s Texana/Genealogy Department, which opened in 1995, will go on the chopping block. Service hours are to be cut from 72 to 40 hours a week, and two full-time librarian positions—40% of the department’s staff—will be eliminated. Besides reduced hours, that means Texana won’t be able to offer as many genealogy and research classes....
*San Antonio (Tex.) Express-News*, Sept. 6

**Denver library plans cuts, closes**

A. ALA has several resources that address teaching students how to evaluate media sources. AASL offers KCTools, which is a research toolbox for students. Information literacy also covers the concept of critically evaluating information. The ALA Library has gathered resources about information literacy and teens and young adults. AASL also has a blog and a wiki which address the issues of information literacy as applied to K-12 schools. Also, ACRL has a section dedicated to information literacy for college-age students. From the ALA Professional Tips wiki.

@ The ALA Librarian welcomes your questions.

**Be a YALSA editor.**
September 30 is the deadline to apply for the position of editor of YALSA’s new online research journal. Candidates must email a cover letter, a résumé that includes editing experiences, and two samples of published work to: Stephanie Kuenn.

**Calendar**
Sept. 22:
Seattle-area discussion group for non-salaried
The Denver Public Library is proposing to close its Byers branch and cut weekly service hours by 18% across the system next year to help offset the city's 2010 budget deficit. Denver is facing a $120-million shortfall next year, and all agencies and departments have been asked to trim their 2010 budgets by 14%. Built in 1918 as a Carnegie library, the Byers branch has been designated a historic landmark by the Denver Landmark Preservation Commission....

Denver Independent, Sept. 9

Chicago branches find budget cuts stacked against them

In mid-July, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley—who could not get the union that represents library employees to agree on budget cuts—fired nearly half of the Chicago Public Library's 279 pages. As a result, some branches were left without any pages for a month and a half, forcing upper-level library staff to find time to put books away. The library system shifted the remaining pages on September 1, giving each branch at least one staff member to shelve books, but that doesn't help small branches with extremely high circulation....

Chicago Tribune, Sept. 5

The world’s strongest librarian

You know you’re not in the average librarian’s office when two Apollo brand kettlebells—one 70 pounds, the other 53 pounds—are positioned directly across the desk. On the office floor is a sledgehammer, perched at the ready for exercises in controlled leverage to strengthen the wrists. Josh Hanagarne, 32-year-old manager of the Salt Lake City Public Library’s Day-Riverside branch, has read more classic titles than he’s ripped phone books in half. Hanagarne’s website chronicles his adventures, including his own struggle with Tourette’s syndrome....

Salt Lake Tribune, Sept. 4; World’s Strongest Librarian

Chinese national library celebrates its centennial

The National Library of China in Beijing celebrated its 100th birthday September 9. With the theme of “Pass on Civilization, Serve the Society,” the centennial of the library’s founding includes a series of activities, including an exhibition of its special collections. The library is hosting a symposium, cosponsored by IFLA, on “International Progress of Libraries: Global Knowledge Sharing,” September 8–12, and a monument inscribed with an ode to the library written by Library Director Zhan Furui was unveiled September 5....

Global Times, Sept. 9; National Library of China

Illinois academic library books can be sold

An amendment to state law now allows public university libraries in Illinois to sell older, out-of-date, and unused books. Before the change, university libraries had no choice but to throw away older books to free up shelf space. The bill, passed August 14, amended

 Oct. 28–30: National Library of China

Oct. 30– Nov. 2: California Library
both the State Library Act and the State Property Control Act to allow libraries to use profits from selling books to purchase new books or help fund databases, electronic books, and other information technology.

Illinois can fund library construction but not operations
Paul Kadner writes: “There may not be enough money to keep some existing libraries open, but the financially strapped state of Illinois has set aside $50 million in its capital budget to build new libraries. To get that money, library districts must obtain matching funds, but operating cash has dwindled along with local property tax revenue. And once the buildings are built, if there’s no money to hire people to work in them or buy the books to fill the shelves or replace the computers, that’s not the state’s problem.”

Chicago Southtown Star, Sept. 2

New National Technical Library opens in Prague
A “hi-tech living room” for students is how the director of the Czech National Technical Library described the institution’s new facility, which officially opened in Prague September 9. Located in the middle of a university campus in the Dejvice district, the building is shaped like an old-fashioned TV screen, essentially square but also rounded. One of the architects who designed the library, Petr Lešek, said one of goals was to build a library that would be, despite its ultramodern technology, simple and environmentally friendly.

Radio Prague, Sept. 9

Moon tapes relaunched by NASA archivists
The images of the moon’s surface taken by five NASA Lunar Orbiter satellites in 1966 and 1967 are still among the most detailed ever made. The original analog data was recorded on magnetic tapes that collected dust for decades. They were nearly discarded, but NASA scientist Nancy Evans relocated them to her garage for 20 years. Now a team of engineers at an abandoned McDonald’s at Moffett Field in Sunnyvale, California, is processing the data using restored and custom-built equipment that will enable the public to view them at their full resolution for the first time.


Texting? No, just trying to read Chapter 6
Yes, the textbook can be digitized and displayed on gadgets that students can carry everywhere. But the iPhone version is painfully limited in its usefulness. The standard-size printed textbook provides the maximum amount of text and graphics in a single view. Once cracked open, two facing pages supply about 155 square inches of
real estate; the iPhone has a grand total of six square inches of display. CourseSmart, a software company in San Mateo, California, is trying to squeeze textbooks into a credit-card-size space....

New York Times, Sept. 5

Seven easy ways to integrate your Google apps
Gina Trapani writes: "The information you keep in Google apps like Gmail, GCal, Reader, and Voice doesn’t just live in one place. Check out a few easy but non-obvious ways to plug different Google apps together and share their data and features."...
Lifehacker, Sept. 9

How to integrate Twitter into your website
Jennifer Farley writes: “In order to grab your attention and have you follow them on Twitter, some website owners choose to go beyond a simple Follow Me and also display their latest tweets. I don’t know if one method is preferable over the other, but I thought it might be helpful to take a look at how you can display tweets and how some designers are making their tweets stand out or blend into the overall design."...
Sitepoint Web Design Blog, Sept. 4

Google Book Downloader app
Brad Linder writes: “Google Book Downloader is a free utility that lets you download any book available in full view in Google Books. Of course, most of these books also feature download links right on the web page, but this app lets you queue up multiple jobs and convert all of the downloaded books to PDF files. The application is available for Windows and requires Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5 SP1.”...
Download Squad, Sept. 2

12 signs of internet addiction
There are 12 signs of internet abuse or addiction, according to Hilarie Cash, executive director of the ReSTART Internet Addiction Recovery Program in Fall City, Washington. Three of these symptoms suggest abuse, five or more addiction....
ReSTART Internet Addiction Recovery Program

50 things that are being killed by the internet
Matthew Moore writes: “Tasks that once took days can be completed in seconds, while traditions and skills that emerged over centuries have been made all but redundant. Below we have compiled 50 things that are in the process of being killed off by the web, from products and business models to life experiences and habits. We’ve also thrown in a few things that have suffered at the hands of other modern networking gadgets, specifically mobile phones and GPS systems."...
Daily Telegraph (U.K.), Sept. 4

Imagine a world without Apple
Sascha Sagan writes: “Imagine there’s no Apple. In the U.S., that’s hard to do. But in technologically advanced, mobile-crazy South Korea, there are no iPhones at all, no Apple stores, and few iPods on the Seoul subway. One of the ways Korea has kept Apple out is through laws that favor domestic manufacturers. Ironically, that protectionism seems to have created more diversity than the iPod monoculture you see in

Feb. 1–3:
Ohio Educational Technology Conference, Greater Columbus Convention Center. “P-20 Conversations: Shaping a Path for the 21st-Century Student.”

Feb. 3–6:
iConference, iHotel and Conference Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Mar. 11–12:
Academic Librarian 2: Singing in the Rain Conference Towards Future Possibilities, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hung Hom, Kowloon, Hong Kong. Closing date for submitting an abstract is Oct. 16.

Mar. 15–18:

Apr. 25–30:
Mountain Plains Library Association, Leadership Institute, YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado.

Apr. 26–28:
Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries Conference, Trondheim, Norway.
big American cities. Without Steve Jobs, would the world tech market look a little more like Korea’s? Here are some ideas based on what I saw over there.”...

PC Magazine, Sept. 2

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**Publishing**

**Dan Brown embargo**

Dan Brown’s *Lost Symbol* will be released September 15. Random House is sending out 5 million copies and trying to keep them all under lock and key until midnight September 14, even issuing a special plea to libraries that notes, “If you have to keep the lurkers occupied, you can always give them a puzzle or two.” Most libraries won’t receive their shipments from wholesalers until the 14th and will have the problem of getting the books processed and assigned to fill holds by opening time the next day, while also keeping them out of the hands of rabid fans.”...

Early Word: The Publisher | Librarian Connection, Sept. 8

**Amazon.com offers to replace copies of Orwell book**

Amazon invited some unflattering literary analogies earlier this summer when it remotely erased unlicensed versions of two George Orwell novels from its customers’ Kindle devices. CEO Jeffrey Bezos apologized, and now the company is offering to deliver new copies of *1984* and *Animal Farm* at no charge to affected customers....

New York Times, Sept. 4

**YA novels getting longer**


Read Roger, Sept. 2

**New audiobook console for Windows Mobile**

Digital audiobook supplier OverDrive has released the first in a series of free digital book applications for mobile devices. *OverDrive Media Console for Windows Mobile* enables users with Windows Mobile phones to wirelessly download audiobooks, music, and video to their devices and play the titles with the same navigation features as the company’s desktop software. Visit the *Microsoft website* to view a list of supported devices, including Sprint Palm Treo, AT&T Samsung Jack, and Verizon HTC Touch Pro....

OverDrive, Sept. 9

**New EBSCO health policy resource** (PDF file)

EBSCO Publishing has released a database that provides extensive coverage of all aspects of health policy and related issues. *Health Policy Reference Center* offers cover-to-cover content from more than 300 publications, including journals, monographs, magazines, and trade publications as well as government-produced content such as Government Accountability Office reports....

EBSCO, Sept. 3
Actions & Answers

**Florida librarians fight LSSI lawsuit**
Library management firm Library Systems and Services (LSSI) has filed a lawsuit against the Florida Division of Library and Information Services, challenging a proposed amendment to the State Aid Program Guidelines that would require the head of a public library to be a full-time employee of the single administrative unit. The Florida Library Association has voted to intervene in the suit. A final hearing is scheduled for October 8....
Florida Library Association, Sept. 3

**Connecticut restores library funding**
The Connecticut library community was thrilled over the restoration of funding for statewide library programs contained in the budget passed by the General Assembly in the early hours of September 1. Gov. M. Jodi Rell has indicated that she will let it pass into law without her signature. This budget maintains funding for all library programs, including Cooperating Library Service Units and InfoAnytime....
Connecticut Library Association

**Song of the Library Staff**
Larry Nix writes: “Sam Walter Foss (right), librarian of the Somerville (Mass.) Public Library from 1898 to 1911, was also a popular poet. At the 1906 ALA Annual Conference, he read his poem entitled *The Song of the Library Staff*. The poem has five stanzas, each devoted to a different staff position.” The stanza about the Reference Librarian begins, “See the Reference Librarian and the joys that appertain to her; / Who shall estimate the contents and the area of the brain to her?”...
Library History Buff, Sept. 5

**Guantánamo reading list**
Juan Cole writes: “Journalist Besan Sheikh recently visited the Guantánamo Bay prison facility run by the U.S., where al-Qaeda and other prisoners from Bush’s ‘war on terror’ are held. The facility’s library now has 13,500 books. What are the three most requested titles by the remaining 229 prisoners? The Harry Potter novels, Cervantes’s *Don Quixote*, and Barack Obama’s *Dreams from My Father*. Do they think Guantánamo is a little like Hogwarts Academy and that their torturers are Lord Voldemort?”...
Informed Comment, Sept. 5

**The 15 biggest Wikipedia blunders**
J. R. Raphael writes: “Wikipedia recently announced plans to restrict the editing of its articles on still-living people. The change marks a significant shift in the philosophy of the openly edited user-controlled encyclopedia. Here are 15 of the biggest Wikipedia blunders the new
editing system might have prevented. These false facts, according to widely published accounts, all appeared on the Wikipedia site at some point.”...
PC World, Aug. 26

**New online dictionary for word mavens**

Stephen J. Gertz writes: “Launched by Erin McKean, former editor in chief of the *New Oxford American Dictionary*, [Wordnik](http://www.wordnik.com) is a word-feast offering a summary, definitions from dictionaries old and new, related words, pronunciations, real-world usage examples, etymology, synonyms, antonyms, cross references, and usage statistics. One of its great advantages is the example sentences pulled from sources ranging from Twitter to newspaper articles. It even includes photos from Flickr to illustrate words.”...
Book Patrol, Sept. 8

**National Book Festival goes mobile**

The Library of Congress has launched its first-ever mobile campaign to provide National Book Festival-goers with SMS text alerts about the festival, which will be held on the National Mall September 26. By texting “BOOK” to 61399, mobile-phone users can opt in to receive the latest festival announcements, as well as author presentation and signing schedules. Standard messaging rates apply....
Library of Congress, Sept. 3

**Five signs your résumé is passé**

Tania Khadder writes: “The workplace is not what it was five years ago. Neither is the job hunt. The most successful candidates are those who are ready and willing to adapt to a changing landscape. But it doesn’t matter how ready you are for the modern workplace if your résumé's straight out of 1994. Does it speak to the modern hiring manager? Or does it need a serious makeover?”...
DivineCaroline

**Libraries honor 9/11 Day of Service**

Libraries across the country are taking part in the first official September 11 *Day of Service and Remembrance*, a day established by President Obama and Congress to honor the sacrifices of 9/11 heroes, and engage more Americans in serving their communities. All types of libraries will be hosting special volunteer opportunities in remembrance. The event is the culmination of the United We Serve program launched June 22 by the Corporation for National and Community Service....
I Love Libraries; Serve.gov; District Dispatch, Sept. 2

**Outreach is (un)dead**

Emily Ford writes: "What *is* outreach in libraries today? We need to lay to rest outreach’s physical body—that separate entity that comprises library departments and ancillary programs. As well we need to lay to rest the word ‘outreach,’ whose separate existence inhibits and deters us from doing what we as libraries, librarians, and information professionals should be doing. Instead of integrating library promotion, advocacy, and community-specific targeted
services, we have left outreach outside of the inclusive library whole to be an afterthought, a department more likely to get cut.”...
In the Library with the Lead Pipe, Sept. 2

Top 10 library marketing tips (PDF file)
Elizabeth Stearns of the Waukegan (Ill.) Public Library offers 10 tips on how to keep your library financially strong and sustainable. Number 9: “Establish a co-op in your community for shared purchasing of bulk items. Not only can you save on delivery costs, but it is also a greener alternative. While you are at it, make sure it is recyclable and/or compostable.”...
ILA Reporter 27, no. 5 (Oct.): 8–9

Penn State’s new high-tech law library (PDF file)
Kevin Gray writes: “One of the nation’s oldest law schools has just opened one of its two new facilities. The Penn State University Dickinson School of Law’s new Lewis Katz Building, opened in January 2009, marks a new chapter in the school’s 175-year history. The most noticeable feature of the new building from the exterior is its signature glass-curtain wall adorning the south side. Virtually no two glass sections are the same, and each glass plate weighs approximately 400 pounds.”...
AALL Spectrum, May, pp. 24–25, 35

Coca-Cola funds Woodruff Library IT upgrade
The Coca-Cola Company is giving $1.2 million to the Atlanta University Center’s Robert W. Woodruff Library to upgrade its IT infrastructure and enhance its ability to manage and provide access to critical archival documents, including the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. papers....
Reuters, Sept. 9

10 tips for teaching technology to teachers
Liz B. Davis writes: “I have been working with teachers to learn to integrate technology into their teaching for almost ten years. Here are a few of the things I have learned—in no particular order.” Number 10 is “Don’t touch the mouse: Tie your arm behind your back if you have to, but try not to take over mousing for your teachers.”...
The Power of Educational Technology, Sept. 2

Improving Afghan girls’ schools
The Asia Foundation, the National Geographic Society, and the Sheridan-Urbanski family have announced a new fundraising effort to support critical improvements in girls’ schools in Afghanistan that were damaged or destroyed in recent years. The effort seeks to raise $160,000 by December 15. The project will include shipments of English-language books and other educational materials from the Asia Foundation’s Books for Asia program to stock school library shelves....
Asia Foundation, Sept. 9

Hot buttery podcasts
One solution to information overload might be free snacks of information via Longshots podcasts. Longshots is hosted by Sarah Long, executive director of the North Suburban Library System in Wheeling, Illinois, and past president of ALA. The weekly program explores the world of libraries through brief interviews with key library figures and library supporters. NSLS has been producing the weekly podcast since February 2006. Watch the introductory video (1:21)....

North Suburban Library System, Sept. 3

A peek at New York Public Library’s Conservation Lab
Conservators, including Myriam De Arteni (right), at the New York Public Library’s Barbara Goldsmith Conservation Lab prepare rare historical documents (2:23), including maps featured in the library’s major fall exhibition, “Mapping New York’s Shoreline.” Opening September 25, the exhibition marks the quadricentennial of Henry Hudson’s exploration of the Hudson River Valley....

YouTube, Sept. 3

Cursor Miner promotes the library
“The Library” ditty was written, produced, and recorded by British underground electronica producer Cursor Miner and released by Lo Recordings and Uncharted Audio. “The library, the library, it’s the place where books are free . . . it’s a lot better than watching TV.” Perhaps this is the most appropriate music for The Librarian dance?....

YouTube, Nov. 24, 2008

Go back to the Top
AL Direct, September 9, 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 | September 9, 2009

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

[http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com/]

U.S. & World News

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[Hawaii board rejects monthly two-day closures
The Hawaii Board of Education failed to approve a proposal September 3 to address a $5.7-million cut in funding by closing all public-library branches at least two days a month and furloughing employees twice a month. The plan also called for the elimination of 72 vacant job positions (which would curtail use of temporary workers in those posts), a reduction in operating hours, and intermittent temporary branch closures due to staff shortages....
American Libraries Online, Sept. 4

Faculty strike leaves Oakland University library struggling
"It is not a happy situation," said Frank Lepkowsi, associate dean and associate professor at Oakland University's...
Kresge Library in Rochester, Michigan, after 12 tenure-track library faculty members went out on strike September 3 as part of an action called by the Oakland University chapter of the American Association of University Professors. Lepkowski told AL that the remaining 21 members of the Kresge Library staff are keeping the library open all of its regularly scheduled hours....
American Libraries Online, Sept. 4

Cash-strapped Cuyahoga County drops out of WorldCat ILL
As part of its quest to close a $14-million shortfall for FY2010, Cuyahoga County (Ohio) Public Library has ended [http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/StdBackPage.aspx?id=27250] its participation in OCLC’s WorldCat Resource Sharing so it can close the library’s interlibrary loan department. CCPL Deputy Director Tracy Strobel told American Libraries that the action is really no reflection on WorldCat itself or OCLC for that matter; but of the library’s inability to continue employing ILL staff in order to fulfill requests. However, the library will continue to participate in interlibrary loan through two Ohio-based library cooperatives....
American Libraries Online, Sept. 4

ALA News

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Green report on the 2009 Annual Conference
ALA Conference Services Director Deidre Ross shared a report from McCormick Place, the venue for the 2009 Annual Conference. During the meeting, ALA diverted 65% of waste from landfills. The report, provided by Allied Waste, says that the diversion rate is a great indicator of successful capture of recyclable or reusable materials....
ALA Marginalia, Sept. 9

Romania joins the Campaign for the World’s Libraries
The Romanian Library Association (Asociația Bibliotecarilor din România) recently became the newest member of the Campaign for the World’s Libraries, a joint ALA and IFLA project to showcase the unique and vital roles played by public, school, academic, and special libraries worldwide. The ABR will host a presentation on the Campaign for the World’s Libraries at its Annual Conference [http://www.abr.org.ro/conferinta.html] in Constanta, September 10–12....

Featured review: Books for youth
Schuster, hardcover (978-1-4169-8448-1).
With a roaring sense of adventure and enough viscera to gag the hardiest of gore hounds, Yancey’s series starter might just be the best horror novel of the year. Will Henry is the 12-year-old apprentice to Pellinore Warthrop, a brilliant and self-absorbed monstrumologist—a scientist who studies (and when necessary, kills) monsters in late-1800s New England. The newest threat is the Anthropophagi, a pack of headless, shark-toothed bipeds, one of whom’s corpse is delivered to Warthrop’s lab courtesy of a grave robber. As the action moves from the dissecting table to the cemetery to an asylum to underground catacombs, Yancey keeps the shocks frequent and shrouded in a splattery miasma of blood, bone, pus, and maggots. The industrial-era setting is populated with leering, Dickensian characters....

launches free webinar series
Booklist is launching a free webinar series on September 22, building on previous popular Booklist Online webinars. The first in the new series, “The Scoop on Series Nonfiction: Best Uses, Best Practices, and Best New Titles for Fall” will be useful to anyone involved in engaging reluctant readers, promoting reading success, and keeping the library relevant in this era of accountability. You can sign up here [https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/688105115]....

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

Division News
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AASL will help you collaborate
AASL will offer a four-week online course, “The Path to Collaboration: Making It Happen,” this fall for school library media specialists, beginning October 5. Participants will learn how to identify and analyze the factors that contribute to successful collaboration with teachers. The course will be facilitated by Marilyn Heath (right)....

ALCTS webinars on institutional repositories
[http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/confevents/upcoming/webinar/ir_series.cfm]
Continuing a webinar series begun in the spring, ALCTS has announced four new webinars about various aspects of institutional repositories in September–December. Topics include open access, copyright, datasets, and partnerships....

Register for the 2009 Women’s Leadership Institute
ACRL is partnering with seven higher-education associations to offer the 2009 Women’s Leadership Institute, to be held December 6–9, in Amelia Island, Florida. The early-bird registration deadline for the institute is September 18. This year’s program will have a special focus on the economic challenges facing colleges and universities and what is being done to address them.

PLA National Conference registration now open
Registration for PLA 2010, the 13th PLA National Conference, opened September 8. Hotel reservations are also being accepted. A special early-bird rate is available for PLA members and members of the Oregon Library Association who register by December 16. PLA 2010 will be held March 23–27 in Portland, Oregon.

Last chance to sign up for PLA Boot Camp
This is the fifth year PLA will be holding its Results Boot Camp, October 12–16, at the Hyatt at Olive 8 Hotel in Seattle. This weeklong workshop focuses on current library issues and concerns. Attendees are encouraged to apply workshop exercises to the real-life problems and issues occurring in their libraries. Apply by September 11.

Cool teen programs for under $100
YALSA has published Cool Teen Programs for under $100, edited by Jenine Lillian. The book compiles selected inexpensive teen programs submitted by YALSA members in the United States and Canada, all easily replicable in multiple types of libraries at any budget. It also provides helpful chapters on budgeting for teen services and marketing tips that you can put into practice at any budget.

Last chance to register for Teen Read Week
Registration for Teen Read Week, YALSA’s annual literacy initiative, closes September 18. Teen Read Week will be celebrated October 18–24 in thousands of libraries across the United States, with a theme of “Read Beyond Reality @ your library,” which encourages teens to read something out of this world, just for the fun of it. After registering, you can visit the Teen Read Week website.
to find program ideas, helpful planning resources, and tools for
publicizing events....

Awards

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LLAMA seeks entries for the 2010 John Cotton Dana PR award
9/jcdaward_llama.cfm]
LLAMA is accepting entries for the 63rd John Cotton Dana Library Public
Relations Award [http://www.hwwilson.com/jcdawards/nw_jcd.htm] through
December 4. The award honors outstanding library public relations
programs that support a specific project, goal, or activity, or a
sustained, ongoing program. The contest is open to all libraries and
agencies that promote library service....

Bookshelf grants
9/wethepeople_ppo.cfm]
The ALA Public Programs Office is partnering with the National Endowment
for the Humanities for the seventh We the People Bookshelf project. Part
of the NEH We the People program, the Bookshelf encourages young people
to read and understand great literature while exploring themes in
American history. The theme for the 2009–2010 Bookshelf is “A More
Perfect Union.” Public and school libraries are invited to apply online
[http://publicprograms.ala.org/bookshelf/application/2009/] through
January 29. Some 4,000 libraries will be selected to receive the
materials....

ACRL offers e-learning scholarships
9/elearningscholarships_acrl.cfm]
ACRL now has e-learning scholarships
[http://www.acrl.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/events/elearning/escholarships.cfm
] that will help librarians, library staff, and library school students
stretch their professional development dollars. Twenty scholarships, each
covering the registration cost of one ACRL e-learning webcast, will be
awarded. To qualify, applicants must be ACRL members, complete the online
scholarship application form,
[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=RG1LuiwaKZBALmx_2fp52i0g_3d_3d]
and submit a 300-word written statement by October 16....

Deb Schneider is Romance Writers & #8217; Librarian of the Year
Deborah Schneider just got swept off her feet with a romance award from
the Romance Writers of America. She is both a budding romance author and
public programming coordinator in the Issaquah branch of the King County
(Wash.) Library System. At the Romance Writers of America national
conference in Washington, D.C., in July, Schneider was presented with the
2009 Librarian of the Year
[http://www.rwanational.org/cs/contests_and_awards/librarian_of_the_year]
award....
Issaquah (Wash.) Press, Sept. 1; Romance Writersof America
Award dedicated in memory of children's librarian
The Friends of the Lincoln Library has dedicated its annual Love of Literature Award to the memory of Helen Kent, the Lincoln (Mass.) Public Library's children's librarian from 1958 to 1983. The award is given each year to a graduate of Lincoln School, Hanscom Middle School, and Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. Kent, who died in March, was Lincoln's first children's librarian and offered the library's first children's story hour in 1958....
Lincoln (Mass.) Journal, Sept. 1

2009 Américas Book Awards
The national Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs has given the 2009 Américas Book Award to two works published in 2008 that authentically and engagingly portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos in the United States. Just in Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book by Yuyi Morales (Roaring Brook Press) and The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom by Margarita Engle (Holt) will be honored at an October 17 ceremony during Hispanic Heritage Month at the Library of Congress....
Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs

IMLS Native American and Native Hawaiian grants
The Institute of Museum and Library Services announced September 8 the 17 tribal communities and Alaska villages that are this year's recipients of $2.2 million in Native American Library Services Enhancement grants. IMLS also reported that Alu Like, Inc., has received a Native Hawaiian Library Services grant totaling $531,000....
Institute of Museum and Library Services, Sept. 8

Seen Online
===========================================================================
MLA withdraws opposition to governor's order
[http://www.mla.lib.mi.us/node/1035]
Michigan Library Association, Aug. 26; Grand Rapids (Mich.) News, Sept. 6
Google addresses book-search fears
New York Times, Sept. 8; Relevant Results, Sept. 3; Library Journal, Sept. 3; Bloomberg, Sept. 7; Google Books, Sept. 3; The Times (U.K.), Sept. 5; District Dispatch, Sept. 2

Cushing Academy embraces a digital future
Cushing Academy in Ashburnham, Massachusetts, has all the hallmarks of a New England prep school, with one exception. This year, after having amassed a collection of more than 20,000 books, officials have decided the 144-year-old school no longer needs a traditional library. The academy’s administrators have decided to discard all their books and have given away half of what stocked their sprawling stacks. The school’s new “learning center” will have no books, but they can all be accessed at computer kiosks where some of the former library was. Many bloggers and commenters have opinions on this story, including Linda Braun, [http://yals.ala.org/blog/2009/09/04/there-i-said-it-a-risky-blog-post/] Jessamyn West, [http://www.librarian.net/stax/3010/mistakes-were-made-books-were-removed/] Rory Litwin, [http://libraryjuicepress.com/blog/?p=1631] and Buffy Hamilton [http://www.aasl.ala.org/aaslblog/?p=714]....
Boston Globe, Sept. 4; YALSA Blog, Sept. 4; librarian.net, Sept. 4; Library Juice, Sept. 6; AASL Blog, Sept. 5

Boucher drafting new bill on web privacy
[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jDu3Jz5Pe_pkSNm1gHftBmKl AzdQD9AIHAP00]
Rep. Rick Boucher (D-Va.) is drafting a bill that would impose broad new rules on websites and advertisers. His goal: to ensure that consumers know what information is being collected about them on the web and how it is being used, and to give them control over that information. Boucher
insists his bill will benefit consumers and preserve the underlying economics of the internet, which relies on advertising to keep so much online content free....
Associated Press, Sept. 7

Web-monitoring software gathers data on kids’ chats
Parental-control software sold under the Sentry and FamilySafe brands can read private chats conducted through Yahoo, MSN, and AOL, and send back data on what kids are saying about such things as movies, music, or video games. The information is then offered to businesses seeking ways to tailor their marketing messages to kids. The company that sells the software insists it is not putting kids’ information at risk, since the program does not record children’s names or addresses....
Associated Press, Sept. 4

Islamic search engine filters out sinful material
Muslims can surf the internet without the fear of accidentally encountering sinful material, now that a Dutch company has launched the world’s first Islamic search engine. The ImHalal service works like any other search facility until potentially illicit words are entered, when it rates the search from one to three on its risk of generating forbidden material....
The Times (U.K.), Sept. 6

Are Folsom school libraries closed?
When school bells rang August 31 in Folsom, California, one component was missing: the libraries. Due to budget cuts in the Folsom Cordova Unified School District, libraries at 22 elementary schools and 11 middle and high schools shut and locked their doors, library staff finding themselves out of work. Linda Rodriguez has been with the Folsom High School Library for nearly two decades, but now her services are no longer required. Superintendent Patrick Godwin maintains the libraries will remain open, just without librarians....
Folsom (Calif.) Telegraph, Sept. 2

The future of libraries
By some accounts, library systems are undergoing a complete transformation that goes far beyond mere image adjustments. Many real-world libraries are moving forward with the assumption that physical books will play a much-diminished or potentially nonexistent role in their efforts to educate the public. Forward-looking librarians are trying to create a conversational loop with Twitter, IM, and other digital services in public libraries. And they are also emphasizing their roles as community centers for civic debate....
CNN, Sept. 4
Clayton Museum will rival the Schomburg Center. Mayme A. Clayton (right)—a librarian who spent her career at the University of Southern California and UCLA—spent a lifetime scouring garage sales so her son Avery could build a museum. When the Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum of African American History and Culture opens in Culver City, California, it will rival New York’s Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. The museum’s first major exhibition is scheduled to open October 24....
Associated Press, Aug. 30

San Antonio’s Texana Room on the chopping block. If the proposed San Antonio, Texas, city budget passes September 17, the San Antonio Public Library’s Texana/Genealogy Department, which opened in 1995, will go on the chopping block. Service hours are to be cut from 72 to 40 hours a week, and two full-time librarian positions—40% of the department’s staff—will be eliminated. Besides reduced hours, that means Texana won’t be able to offer as many genealogy and research classes....
San Antonio (Tex.) Express-News, Sept. 6

Denver library plans cuts, closes branch. The Denver Public Library is proposing to close its Byers branch and cut weekly service hours by 18% across the system next year to help offset the city’s 2010 budget deficit. Denver is facing a $120-million shortfall next year, and all agencies and departments have been asked to trim their 2010 budgets by 14%. Built in 1918 as a Carnegie library, the Byers branch has been designated a historic landmark by the Denver Landmark Preservation Commission....
Denver Independent, Sept. 9

Chicago branches find budget cuts stacked against them. In mid-July, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley—who could not get the union that represents library employees to agree on budget cuts—fired nearly half of the Chicago Public Library’s 279 pages. As a result, some branches were left without any pages for a month and a half, forcing upper-level library staff to find time to put books away. The library system shifted the remaining pages on September 1, giving each branch at least one staff member to shelve books, but that doesn’t help small branches with extremely high circulation....
Chicago Tribune, Sept. 5

The world’s strongest librarian. You know you’re not in the average librarian’s office when two Apollo brand kettlebells—one 70 pounds, the other 53 pounds—are positioned directly across the desk. On the office floor is a sledgehammer, perched at the ready for exercises in controlled leverage to strengthen the wrists. Josh Hanagarne, 32-year-old manager of the Salt Lake City Public...
Library’s Day—Riverside branch, has read more classic titles than he’s ripped phone books in half. Hanagarne’s website [http://worldsstrongestlibrarian.com/] chronicles his adventures, including his own struggle with Tourette’s syndrome....
Salt Lake Tribune, Sept. 4; World’s Strongest Librarian

Global Times, Sept. 9; National Library of China

Illinois academic library books can be sold [http://www.dailyvidette.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=201] An amendment to state law now allows public university libraries in Illinois to sell older, out-of-date, and unused books. Before the change, university libraries had no choice but to throw away older books to free up shelf space. The bill, passed August 14, amended both the State Library Act and the State Property Control Act to allow libraries to use profits from selling books to purchase new books or help fund databases, electronic books, and other information technology....
Illinois State University Daily Vidette, Aug. 27

Illinois can fund library construction but not operations [http://www.southtownstar.com/news/kadner/1747492,090209Kadner.article] Paul Kadner writes: “There may not be enough money to keep some existing libraries open, but the financially strapped state of Illinois has set aside $50 million in its capital budget to build new libraries. To get that money, library districts must obtain matching funds, but operating cash has dwindled along with local property tax revenue. And once the buildings are built, if there’s no money to hire people to work in them or buy the books to fill the shelves or replace the computers, that’s not the state’s problem.”...
Chicago Southtown Star, Sept. 2

New National Technical Library opens in Prague [http://www.radio.cz/en/article/120090] A “hi-tech living room” for students is how the director of the Czech National Technical Library described the institution’s new facility, which officially opened in Prague September 9. Located in the middle of a university campus in the Dejvice district, the building is shaped like an old-fashioned TV screen, essentially square but also rounded. One of the architects who designed the library, Petr Lešek, said one of goals was to build a library that would be, despite its ultramodern technology, simple and environmentally
Moon tapes relaunched by NASA archivists

The images of the moon's surface taken by five NASA Lunar Orbiter satellites in 1966 and 1967 are still among the most detailed ever made. The original analog data was recorded on magnetic tapes that collected dust for decades. They were nearly discarded, but NASA scientist Nancy Evans relocated them to her garage for 20 years. Now a team of engineers at an abandoned McDonald's at Moffett Field in Sunnyvale, California, is processing the data using restored and custom-built equipment that will enable the public to view them at their full resolution for the first time.

Texting? No, just trying to read Chapter 6

Yes, the textbook can be digitized and displayed on gadgets that students can carry everywhere. But the iPhone version is painfully limited in its usefulness. The standard-size printed textbook provides the maximum amount of text and graphics in a single view. Once cracked open, two facing pages supply about 155 square inches of real estate; the iPhone has a grand total of six square inches of display. CourseSmart, a software company in San Mateo, California, is trying to squeeze textbooks into a credit-card-size space.

Seven easy ways to integrate your Google apps

Gina Trapani writes: “The information you keep in Google apps like Gmail, GCal, Reader, and Voice doesn’t just live in one place. Check out a few easy but non-obvious ways to plug different Google apps together and share their data and features.”

How to integrate Twitter into your website

Jennifer Farley writes: “In order to grab your attention and have you follow them on Twitter, some website owners choose to go beyond a simple Follow Me and also display their latest tweets. I don’t know if one method is preferable over the other, but I thought it might be helpful to take a look at how you can display tweets and how some designers are making their tweets stand out or blend into the overall design.”
Google Book Downloader app
Brad Linder writes: “Google Book Downloader
[http://googlebookdownloader.codeplex.com/] is a free utility that lets
you download any book available in full view in Google Books. Of course,
most of these books also feature download links right on the web page,
but this app lets you queue up multiple jobs and convert all of the
downloaded books to PDF files. The application is available for Windows
and requires Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5 SP1.”...
Download Squad, Sept. 2

12 signs of internet addiction
There are 12 signs of internet abuse or addiction, according to Hilarie
Cash, executive director of the ReSTART Internet Addiction Recovery
Program in Fall City, Washington. Three of these symptoms suggest abuse,
five or more addiction....
ReSTART Internet Addiction Recovery Program

50 things that are being killed by the internet
[http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/6133903/50-things-that-are-being-killed-by-the-internet.html]
Matthew Moore writes: “Tasks that once took days can be completed in
seconds, while traditions and skills that emerged over centuries have
been made all but redundant. Below we have compiled 50 things that are in
the process of being killed off by the web, from products and business
models to life experiences and habits. We’ve also thrown in a few things
that have suffered at the hands of other modern networking gadgets,
specifically mobile phones and GPS systems.”...
Daily Telegraph (U.K.), Sept. 4

Imagine a world without Apple
[http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2352382,00.asp]
Sascha Sagan writes: “Imagine there’s no Apple. In the U.S., that’s hard
to do. But in technologically advanced, mobile-crazy South Korea, there
are no iPhones at all, no Apple stores, and few iPods on the Seoul
subway. One of the ways Korea has kept Apple out is through laws that
favor domestic manufacturers. Ironically, that protectionism seems to
have created more diversity than the iPod monoculture you see in big
American cities. Without Steve Jobs, would the world tech market look a
little more like Korea’s? Here are some ideas based on what I saw over
there.”...
PC Magazine, Sept. 2

Publishing
===========================================================================

Dan Brown’s Lost Symbol will be released September 15. Random House
is sending out 5 million copies and trying to keep them all under lock
and key until midnight September 14, even issuing a special plea to
libraries
that notes, “if you have to keep the lurkers occupied, you can always give them a puzzle or two.” Most libraries won’t receive their shipments from wholesalers until the 14th and will have the problem of getting the books processed and assigned to fill holds by opening time the next day, while also keeping them out of the hands of rabid fans.”

Early Word: The Publisher | Librarian Connection, Sept. 8

Amazon.com offers to replace copies of Orwell book

Amazon invited some unflattering literary analogies earlier this summer when it remotely erased unlicensed versions of two George Orwell novels from its customers’ Kindle devices. CEO Jeffrey Bezos apologized, and now the company is offering to deliver new copies of 1984 and Animal Farm at no charge to affected customers....
New York Times, Sept. 4

YA novels getting longer

Read Roger, Sept. 2

New audiobook console for Windows Mobile

Digital audiobook supplier OverDrive has released the first in a series of free digital book applications for mobile devices. OverDrive Media Console for Windows Mobile enables users with Windows Mobile phones to wirelessly download audiobooks, music, and video to their devices and play the titles with the same navigation features as the company’s desktop software. Visit the Microsoft website to view a list of supported devices, including Sprint Palm Treo, AT&T Samsung Jack, and Verizon HTC Touch Pro....
OverDrive, Sept. 9

New EBSCO health policy resource

EBSCO Publishing has released a database that provides extensive coverage of all aspects of health policy and related issues. Health Policy Reference Center offers cover-to-cover content from more than 300 publications, including journals, monographs, magazines, and trade publications as well as government-produced content such as Government Accountability Office reports....
EBSCO, Sept. 3
Actions & Answers

Florida librarians fight LSSI lawsuit
Library management firm Library Systems and Services (LSSI) has filed a lawsuit against the Florida Division of Library and Information Services, challenging a proposed amendment to the State Aid Program Guidelines that would require the head of a public library to be a full-time employee of the single administrative unit. The Florida Library Association has voted to intervene in the suit. A final hearing is scheduled for October 8....
Florida Library Association, Sept. 3

Connecticut restores library funding
The Connecticut library community was thrilled over the restoration of funding for statewide library programs contained in the budget passed by the General Assembly in the early hours of September 1. Gov. M. Jodi Rell has indicated that she will let it pass into law without her signature. This budget maintains funding for all library programs, including Cooperating Library Service Units and InfoAnytime....
Connecticut Library Association

Song of the Library Staff
Larry Nix writes: “Sam Walter Foss (right), librarian of the Somerville (Mass.) Public Library from 1898 to 1911, was also a popular poet. At the 1906 ALA Annual Conference, he read his poem entitled The Song of the Library Staff”... Library History Buff, Sept. 5

Guantánamo reading list
Juan Cole writes: “Journalist Besan Sheikh recently visited the Guantánamo Bay prison facility run by the U.S., where al-Qaeda and other prisoners from Bush’s ‘war on terror’ are held. The facility’s library now has 13,500 books. What are the three most requested titles by the remaining 229 prisoners? The Harry Potter novels, Cervantes’s Don Quixote, and Barack Obama’s Dreams from My Father. Do they think Guantánamo is a little like Hogwarts Academy and that their torturers are...”

Lord Voldemort?...
Informed Comment, Sept. 5

The 15 biggest Wikipedia blunders
[http://www.pcworld.com/article/170874/the_15_biggest_wikipedia_blunders.html]
J. R. Raphael writes: “Wikipedia recently announced plans to restrict the editing
[http://www.pcworld.com/article/170826/wikipedia_changes_editing_policy.html] of its articles on still-living people. The change marks a significant shift in the philosophy of the openly edited user-controlled encyclopedia. Here are 15 of the biggest Wikipedia blunders the new editing system might have prevented. These false facts, according to widely published accounts, all appeared on the Wikipedia site at some point.”...
PC World, Aug. 26

[http://www.wordnik.com/] New online dictionary for word mavens
[http://www.bookpatrol.net/2009/09/new-online-dictionary-for-word-mavens.html]
Stephen J. Gertz writes: “Launched by Erin McKean, former editor in chief of the New Oxford American Dictionary, Wordnik [http://www.wordnik.com/] is a word-feast offering a summary, definitions from dictionaries old and new, related words, pronunciations, real-world usage examples, etymology, synonyms, antonyms, cross references, and usage statistics. One of its great advantages is the example sentences pulled from sources ranging from Twitter to newspaper articles. It even includes photos from Flickr to illustrate words.”...
Book Patrol, Sept. 8

[http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/] National Book Festival goes mobile
[http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2009/09-164.html] The Library of Congress has launched its first-ever mobile campaign to provide National Book Festival-goers with SMS text alerts about the festival, which will be held on the National Mall September 26. By texting “BOOK” to 61399, mobile-phone users can opt in to receive the latest festival announcements, as well as author presentation and signing schedules. Standard messaging rates apply....
Library of Congress, Sept. 3

Five signs your résumé is passé
[http://www.divinecaroline.com/22276/82418-five-signs-resume-passe] Tania Khadder writes: “The workplace is not what it was five years ago. Neither is the job hunt. The most successful candidates are those who are ready and willing to adapt to a changing landscape. But it doesn’t matter how ready you are for the modern workplace if your résumé’s straight out of 1994. Does it speak to the modern hiring manager? Or does it need a serious makeover?”...
DivineCaroline

Libraries honor 9/11 Day of Service
[http://www.ilovelibraries.org/news/topstories/unitedweserve2.cfm] Libraries across the country are taking part in the first official September 11 Day of Service and Remembrance,
a day established by President Obama and Congress to honor the sacrifices of 9/11 heroes, and engage more Americans in serving their communities. All types of libraries will be hosting special volunteer opportunities in remembrance. The event is the culmination of the United We Serve program launched June 22 by the Corporation for National and Community Service....

I Love Libraries; Serve.gov; District Dispatch, Sept. 2

Outreach is (un)dead

Emily Ford writes: “What is outreach in libraries today? We need to lay to rest the separate entity that comprises library departments and ancillary programs. As well we need to lay to rest the word ‘outreach,’ whose separate existence inhibits and deters us from doing what we as libraries, librarians, and information professionals should be doing. Instead of integrating library promotion, advocacy, and community-specific targeted services, we have left outreach outside of the inclusive library whole to be an afterthought, a department more likely to get cut.”...

In the Library with the Lead Pipe, Sept. 2

Top 10 library marketing tips

Elizabeth Stearns of the Waukegan (Ill.) Public Library offers 10 tips on how to keep your library financially strong and sustainable. Number 9: “Establish a co-op in your community for shared purchasing of bulk items. Not only can you save on delivery costs, but it is also a greener alternative. While you are at it, make sure it is recyclable and/or compostable.”...

ILA Reporter 27, no. 5 (Oct.): 8–9

Penn State’s new high-tech law library

Kevin Gray writes: “One of the nation’s oldest law schools has just opened one of its two new facilities. The Penn State University Dickinson School of Law’s new Lewis Katz Building, opened in January 2009, marks a new chapter in the school’s 175-year history. The most noticeable feature of the new building from the exterior is its signature glass-curtain wall adorning the south side. Virtually no two glass sections are the same, and each glass plate weighs approximately 400 pounds.”...

AALL Spectrum, May, pp. 24–25, 35

Coca-Cola funds Woodruff Library IT upgrade

The Coca-Cola Company is giving $1.2 million to the Atlanta University Center’s Robert W. Woodruff Library to upgrade its IT infrastructure and enhance its ability to manage and provide access to critical archival documents, including the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. papers....

Reuters, Sept. 9

10 tips for teaching technology to teachers
Liz B. Davis writes: “I have been working with teachers to learn to integrate technology into their teaching for almost ten years. Here are a few of the things I have learned—in no particular order.” Number 10 is “Don’t touch the mouse: Tie your arm behind your back if you have to, but try not to take over mousing for your teachers.”...

The Power of Educational Technology, Sept. 2

Improving Afghan girls’ schools

The Asia Foundation, the National Geographic Society, and the Sheridan-Urbanski family have announced a new fundraising effort to support critical improvements in girls’ schools in Afghanistan that were damaged or destroyed in recent years. The effort seeks to raise $160,000 by December 15. The project will include shipments of English-language books and other educational materials from the Asia Foundation’s Books for Asia [http://asiafoundation.org/program/overview/books-for-asia] program to stock school library shelves....

Asia Foundation, Sept. 9

Hot buttery podcasts

One solution to information overload might be free snacks of information via Longshots [http://www.librarybeat.org/longshots] podcasts. Longshots is hosted by Sarah Long, executive director of the North Suburban Library System in Wheeling, Illinois, and past president of ALA. The weekly program explores the world of libraries through brief interviews with key library figures and library supporters. NSLS has been producing the weekly podcast since February 2006. Watch the introductory video [http://www.librarybeat.org/video/42] (1:21)....

North Suburban Library System, Sept. 3

A peek at New York Public Library’s Conservation Lab

Conservators, including Myriam De Arteni (right), at the New York Public Library’s Barbara Goldsmith Conservation Lab prepare rare historical documents (2:23), including maps featured in the library’s major fall exhibition, “Mapping New York’s Shoreline.” Opening September 25, the exhibition marks the quadricentennial of Henry Hudson’s exploration of the Hudson River Valley....

YouTube, Sept. 3

Cursor Miner promotes the library

“The Library” ditty was written, produced, and recorded by British underground electronica producer Cursor Miner and released by Lo Recordings and Uncharted Audio. “The library, the library, it’s the place where books are free . . . it’s a lot better than watching TV.” Perhaps this is the most appropriate music for The Librarian dance...

YouTube, Nov. 24, 2008
ALA Midwinter Meeting,


October is National Arts and Humanities Month, [http://www.americansforthearts.org/get_involved/advocacy/nahm/default.asp] a coast-to-coast collective celebration of culture in America. Held every year and coordinated by Americans for the Arts, it is the largest annual celebration of the arts and humanities in the nation. Art:21 [http://beta.art21.org/] is the official partner in 2009.

In this issue
Aug./Sept. 2009

[http://site.ebrary.com/lib/ala]
Knowledge Management Director,
[http://joblist.ala.org/modules/jobseeker/controller.cfm?scr=jobdetail&jobid=13663] National Coffee Association, New York City. This is a new position that will be responsible for the creation of NCA’s knowledge management program based, in part, on a Web 2.0 platform. The director will be charged with developing and managing a knowledge bank for the coffee industry designed to act as a repository of coffee knowledge and information; designing and managing a web-based knowledge sharing system to benefit members; and developing programs and resources to collect, analyze, synthesize, and disseminate coffee industry knowledge. Ultimately, the director will expand the knowledge capacity of NCA and increase the frequency with which NCA is used as a knowledge resource and recognized as the preferred source of information for coffee industry professionals.

[http://www.facebook.com/pages/ALA-JobLIST/47377008761]
[http://twitter.com/ALA_JobLIST]
@ More jobs [http://joblist.ala.org/]...

Digital Library of the Week


The Hooked on Los Gatos [http://historylosgatos.org/] digital database is a collaborative effort between Los Gatos (Calif.) Public Library and the Museums of Los Gatos, with collections of the two institutions forming the core of the project. Many individuals, families, and organizations have also shared their photo archives. Collections are primarily composed of photographs, but also include maps, letters, postcards, scrapbooks, programs from events, and other materials of historic interest. Included is the Hamsher Collection of approximately 100 historic photographs, many currently hanging on the walls of Los Gatos Library. Most were copied
from original images taken between the late 1860s and 1920. Clarence
Hamsher was a Los Gatos banker who collected the images in the 1920s.
Some images in Hooked on Los Gatos are unidentified. Research is ongoing
to create accurate metadata to accompany each image as it is added to the
database. Can you help identify or date any of these mystery photographs
[http://historylosgatos.org/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/Mysteries]? Send an
email [mailto:history@losgatosca.gov] with your facts or suggestions.

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.

Volunteer to serve on an ALA committee.
[http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/council/councilcommittees/volun
teeform.cfm] ALA members are encouraged volunteer for ALA and Council
committees during the 2010–2011 appointment process. The deadline to
complete the form is December 4.

Public Perception
How the World
Sees Us

“When Truman’s mother died in 1947, then-Congressman Lyndon B.
Johnson obsequiously wrote the president, saying he would donate a book
in memory of the ‘First Mother’ to the Grandview (Mo.) Public
Library. Truman wrote back and thanked Johnson, but added, ‘I
regret to advise you that Grandview has no Public Library.’ . . . Margaret
Truman said her father ‘never quite trusted’ Johnson.” [Luckily,
Grandview now has a library, a branch of the Mid-Continent Public Library
in Independence.]

—Matthew Algeo, Harry Truman’s Excellent Adventure: The True Story of a

[http://www.twitter.com/amlibraries]

AL on Twitter. Follow American Libraries news stories, videos, and blog
posts on Twitter. [http://www.twitter.com/amlibraries]

Ask the ALA Librarian

Q. I’m looking for an activity to guide students in how to use the
internet to gather reliable sources for their research projects, and so
much the better if it’s entertaining! Do you have anything that will help?

A. ALA has several resources that address teaching students how to
evaluate media sources. AASL offers KCTools,
Information literacy also covers the concept of critically evaluating information. The ALA Library has gathered resources about information literacy and teens and young adults.

AASL also has a blog and a wiki which address the issues of information literacy as applied to K-12 schools.

Also, ACRL has a section dedicated to information literacy for college-age students.

From the ALA Professional Tips wiki.

The ALA Librarian welcomes your questions.

Be a YALSA editor.

September 30 is the deadline to apply for the position of editor of YALSA’s new online research journal. Candidates must email a cover letter, a résumé that includes editing experiences, and two samples of published work to: Stephanie Kuenn.

Calendar

Sept. 22:
Seattle-area discussion group for non-salaried librarians, inaugural meeting, Eastgate Starbucks, Bellevue, Washington, 7 p.m. Contact: Season Hughes.

Sept. 26:
Anderson’s Bookshop, 6th Annual Young Adult Literature Conference, Naperville, Illinois.

Oct. 10:
Missouri Association of School Librarians, Fall Seminar, Holiday Inn Select, Columbia.

Oct. 15–16:
National Forum on Information Literacy,
[http://www.infolit.org/20th_anniversary/20th_anniversary.html]20th
Anniversary Celebration, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Conference Center, Washington, D.C. &ldquo;Empowering Future Generations:
Information Literacy.&rdquo;

Oct. 17:
KidLitosphere Conference,

Oct. 20–21: Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts,
[http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=1ab44fbf-f482-4894-8765-3ce15b9178ad] Atlanta History Center. &ldquo;A Race Against Time:
Preserving Our Audiovisual Media.&rdquo;

Oct. 28–30:
Nebraska Library Association,
[http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2009/] Annual Conference,
LaVista Conference Center.

Oct. 30–
Nov. 2:
California Library Association,
[http://www.cla-net.org/events/confexhibition.php] Annual Conference,
Pasadena. Speakers include Paula Poundstone, Bill Barnes, and Gene Ambaum.

Nov. 3–6:
Educause, [http://net.educause.edu/content.asp?SECTION_ID=399&bhcp=1]
Annual Conference, Colorado Convention Center, Denver.

Nov. 6:
Brick and Click: An Academic Library Symposium,
[http://www.brickandclick.org/] Northwest Missouri State University,
Maryville.

Nov. 6–11:
American Society for Information Science and Technology,
[http://www.asis.org/Conferences/AM09/] Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency
Vancouver, British Columbia. &ldquo;Thriving on Diversity;&rdquo;Information Opportunities in a Pluralistic World.&rdquo;

Nov. 7:
Buckeye Book Fair, [http://buckeyebookfair.com/] Fisher Auditorium, Ohio
Agricultural Research and Development Center, Wooster.

Nov. 11–14:
Museum Computer Network, [HTTP://www.mcn.edu/conferences/index.asp]
Annual Conference, Doubletree Hotel&ndash;Lloyd Center, Portland, Oregon.
&Mdquo;Museum Information, Museum Efficiency: Doing More with Less!&rdquo;

Nov. 12:
World Usability Day. [http://www.worldusabilityday.org/] Events held
worldwide.

Nov. 19–22:

Feb. 1–3:

Feb. 3–6:
iConference, [http://www.ischools.org/iConference10/2010index/] iHotel and Conference Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Mar. 11–12:

Mar. 15–18:

Apr. 25–30:

Apr. 26–28:

@ More [http://www.ala.org/ala/alonline/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.
U.S. & World News

**Free Library of Philadelphia could close October 2 if state fails to help**

The Free Library of Philadelphia has posted notices at its branches and on its website advising users that all libraries will close at the end of business on October 2 if the Pennsylvania legislature does not approve the city’s request for a temporary sales-tax hike and a two-year deferral of pension payments. This is Mayor Michael Nutter’s “doomsday” Plan C, which would go into effect if the state Senate does not endorse a plan (H.B. 1828) approved by the House September 11. This helpful Q&A describes the crisis in a nutshell. The Senate has pushed back discussion of the measure to September 17, but if no action is taken, Nutter will send out layoff notices to 3,000 city workers on Friday....

*Philadelphia Inquirer*, Sept. 12, 14, 16; Free Library of Philadelphia; *Philadelphia Business Journal*, Sept. 11

**Michigan librarians demand full funding for resource sharing**

Some six weeks after Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm issued an executive order that would dismantle the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries, some 500 librarians, genealogists, and other library supporters held a September 10 rally at the state capitol in Lansing to demand full funding for state-supported resource-sharing services. The day before, Granholm had issued an executive order September 9 to affirm that the board of the new Michigan Center for Innovation and Reinvention should include “librarians, historians, archivists, and others with relevant expertise.”....

American Libraries Online, Sept. 14

**Copyright head tells House she opposes Google Books settlement**

Testifying before the House Judiciary Committee September 10, Register of Copyrights Marybeth Peters raised strong objections (PDF file) to the proposed settlement of lawsuits challenging Google’s Book Search project. Calling parts of the settlement “fundamentally at odds with the law,” she warned the deal could undermine Congress’ ability...
to govern copyrights and could have “serious international implications” for books published outside the United States....

American Libraries Online, Sept. 16

Archivist saves, restores original NASA moon pictures

The Lunar Orbiter Image Recovery Project is restoring and releasing the first up-close pictures of the moon, taken by five unmanned Lunar Orbiter missions in the late 1960s, among them a famous 1966 black-and-white shot of the Earthrise from the surface of the moon (right). The originals of those images wouldn't exist today at all, however, if not for the efforts of Nancy Evans, a retired NASA archivist and cofounder of NASA's Planetary Data System....

American Libraries Online, Sept. 16

Oakland librarians return to work

In Rochester, Michigan, librarians, teachers, and students at Oakland University went back to school September 10, ending a week-long faculty strike joined by a dozen tenure-track librarians from the Kresge Library. The administration and the faculty union reached a tentative agreement on the faculty’s 2009–2012 contracts, and the strike that canceled classes since September 3 was called off....

American Libraries Online, Sept. 11

ALA News

Washington Office’s Mark Bard dies from injuries

Mark Bard, 26, died September 11 at Blodgett Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from injuries sustained when he was struck by a drunk driver October 1, 2007, near his home in Alexandria, Virginia. He was working as an policy analyst for the ALA Office of Information Technology Policy at the time. An online registry book is available....

Chappell Funeral Home, Fennville, Michigan

Libraries connect Americans with online government and jobs

With national unemployment topping 9% and many Americans seeking online information and new technology skills, U.S. public libraries are first responders in a time of economic uncertainty. Libraries Connect Communities 3: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study 2008–2009 (PDF file), an ALA report released September 15, says libraries are serving as crucial technology hubs for people in need of free web access, computer training, and assistance finding and using e-government and job resources....

Banned Books Week Read-Out, September 26

Join the Office for Intellectual Freedom to kick off Banned Books Week on September 26 in Chicago's historic Bughouse Square. The McCormick Freedom Museum and the Newberry Library are

In The Library: An Illustrated History, Stuart A. P. Murray traces the elaborate history of the library from its very beginnings in the ancient libraries of Babylon and Alexandria to some of the greatest contemporary institutions—the Royal Society of London, the Newberry Library, the Smithsonian, and many others. Illustrated with 130 rich color photos, readers can follow the fascinating progress of the institution we now know today as the library. NEW! From ALA Editions.

You can register now for ALA’s second annual National Gaming Day @ your library, November 14. This will put your location on the national map and allow you to request free donations if you are one of the first 1,000 libraries to sign up. Academic, school, and public libraries are all welcome. Registration will be closing in mid-October in order to get the games shipped to you. Sign up...
cosponsors. Chris Crutcher will host authors of six of the 10 most challenged books of 2008, as they read from their work and share their experiences as censorship targets. The readings begin at noon and will be followed by book signings. City Lit Theatre Company and Chicago Public Library Readers’ Theatre will perform works from frequently challenged authors who couldn’t travel to Chicago....

New look, enhanced features for JobLIST
ALA JobLIST has had a facelift in response to user feedback. Its redesigned homepage displays the most recent listings at a glance, offers clearer paths for job seekers and employers to find what they need, and allows employers more options to control the response to their ads. Listings are searchable and sortable on a variety of criteria for professional and support-staff positions in libraries of all types, and for IT and knowledge-management positions with many types of nonprofits and companies. Positions can also be saved and shared through a variety of social networking sites and tools....

MentorConnect launches this week
ALA Internet Development Specialist Jenny Levine writes: “Now that phase one of ALA Connect is in operation, we are focusing on other services aimed at members who want to get involved professionally, but not necessarily at the committee level. The first of those projects is MentorConnect, a service that allows ALA members to create mentoring profiles that highlight their expertise and experience. Any member can search for a mentor using a variety of criteria (gender, type of library, ethnicity) and request mentorship.”...
AL Marginalia, Sept. 11

A new pipeline, direct to the public
American Libraries Editor-in-Chief Leonard Kniffel writes: "Every librarian knows that today's libraries face contradictions in many areas of public perception: While libraries are popular, they are often taken for granted. While libraries are ubiquitous, they are not often visible. While libraries are unique, they face competition. ALA launched the @ your library website, designed not as a tool for librarians but as a direct pipeline to the general public."...
AL Inside Scoop, Sept. 16

Showing films in the classroom
ALA and the Association of Research Libraries have released a document titled “Performance of or Showing Films in the Classroom” (PDF file) to provide guidance on digital delivery of content to the physical classroom. Understanding what is permitted under the TEACH Act of 2002 in combination with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act and existing exceptions, such as fair use, has become increasingly confusing to many practitioners....
District Dispatch, Sept. 10

Endowment Fund trustee needed
Applications are being accepted for the position of Endowment Trustee for the ALA Endowment Fund. The candidate will be selected by the Executive Board at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Boston. The
newly elected trustee will serve a three-year term that will officially begin at the conclusion of the 2010 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. The deadline for applications (PDF file) is November 15....

**Updated resource for library trustees**

ALA Editions has released a second edition of *The Successful Library Trustee Handbook* by Mary Y. Moore. Designed to improve any board’s effectiveness, this thoroughly revised resource includes updated state and federal legislation affecting public libraries, new tips on meeting management, and a new chapter on library technology. Practical checklists, tables, and “what have you learned?” review items will help anyone maximize the experience of serving on a board....

**How librarians helped get out the vote... in 1952**

Jenny Levine writes: “An article in a 2008 issue of *Libraries and the Cultural Record* pinpoints the moment in time when libraries became known for providing high-quality, accurate, authentic information about all sides of an issue. It’s certainly the point at which libraries became outlets for information about voting. In a fascinating look back, author Jean Preers chronicles the efforts made to civically engage Americans and increase voter turnout in the 1948 and 1952 elections, when ALA ‘undertook its own program to promote the discussion of current issues in public libraries.’”

The Shifted Librarian, Sept. 15

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**Booklist ONLINE**

**Featured review: Media**

*The National Parks: America’s Best Idea.*
Oct. 2009. 12hr. PBS, DVD.

Acclaimed filmmaker Ken Burns’s latest epic lives up to all expectations. Premiering on PBS stations on September 27, this six-part series chronicles the history of the national parks. The fascinating story cannot be told without highlighting those who led the way, including conservationist John Muir, outdoorsman Theodore Roosevelt, naturalist Adolph Murie, environmentalist David Brower, and others. The first episode, “The Scripture of Nature,” begins in the mid–19th century, when President Lincoln signed a bill to preserve lands in Yosemite, “a majestic cathedral of rocks and spires.” Immense Yellowstone became the nation’s first national park, in 1870. “The Last Refuge” concentrates on Muir and Roosevelt’s efforts to preserve lands and spearhead the conservation movement. Remaining episodes move chronologically, concluding with “The Morning of Creation,” which begins in 1946, when a postwar explosion of park visitors strained the system. In highly personal recollections, park enthusiasts, including historian metadata strategy documentation; and work closely with team members to develop ways to meet evolving metadata needs in this rapidly changing field....

**Digital Library of the Week**

The **Center for Applied Linguistics Collection** contains 118 hours of recordings documenting North American English dialects. The collection debuted September 10 on the Library of Congress American Memory website. The recordings include speech samples, linguistic interviews, oral histories, conversations, and excerpts from public speeches. They were drawn from various archives, and from the private collections of 50 collectors, including linguists and folklorists. The
John Hope Franklin and Burns’s collaborator Dayton Duncan, tell how park visits with their families left indelible impressions.

**Audiobook romances**

Mary Burkey writes: “Romance, in every flavor and style, is the hottest trend in audiobooks. According to the Romance Writers of America, the romance genre outsells literary fiction nearly three to one, and OverDrive Media reports that romance drives library digital downloads, with women (ages 40 to 59) the top consumers. Audiobook essentials of emotion, engagement, and authentic characterization are also the main ingredients in top-quality romances. Eileen Hutton, vice president and associate publisher of Brilliance Audio, reaffirms this as she shares her production criteria. ‘First and foremost, it has to be a good story well told. That’s always the bottom line for me when I’m acquiring. In studio production, it is essential to hire a narrator who can do strong, feminine heroines as well as strong, masculine heroes. There is nothing worse than a male narrator trying to do female voices and having them all come out sounding like whiny idiots—or a female narrator lowering her voice so much that the male characters sound like Neanderthals!’”

Visit [Booklist Online](http://www.booklistonline.com) for other reviews and much more.

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**Division News**

**Promote Teen Read Week with YALSA publicity tools**

School and public libraries planning special events to celebrate Teen Read Week can promote their events using publicity tools offered by YALSA. Teen Read Week will be celebrated October 18–24 in thousands of libraries across the United States. Download sample press releases, public service announcement scripts, and audio PSAs featuring Emmy Award–winning actress Nancy Cartwright (who plays Bart on *The Simpsons*) from the [Teen Read Week website](http://www.ala.org/teenread).

**Polls close soon for Teens’ Top Ten**

Teens can voice their choice one last time in the [Teens’ Top Ten](http://www.ala.org/teens/teens-topten), a booklist chosen entirely by teens and sponsored by YALSA. Through September 18, teens can vote for their favorite books from the last year in the annual poll. The 25 nominees for this year’s list are available online (PDF file), along with bookmarks, flyers, and other promotional tools for librarians.

**New AASL toolkit helps parents become advocates**

AASL has launched a new resource on its website, the [Parent Outreach Toolkit](http://www.ala.org/aasl), created to help school library media specialists educate and garner support from parents. The toolkit asks the question, “How can parents help their child succeed in this changing collection includes recordings from 43 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and parts of Canada. They were made from 1941 to 1984, with the bulk being recorded between 1968 and 1982. Some of the recordings are by famous Americans (such as aviator Amelia Earhart, above), but most are the voices of people whose specific identities are unknown, but whose comments represent the richness of the American experience. There are Gullah speakers from coastal South Carolina, sharecroppers from Arkansas, Puerto Rican teenagers in New York City, Basque shepherders from Colorado, Chesapeake Bay watermen, Vietnamese immigrants from Northern Virginia, and many others. 350 of the collection’s 405 recordings are available on this website; of these, 148 have accompanying transcriptions. The remaining recordings, which could not be posted due to copyright issues and other restrictions, may be heard in the American Folklife Center Reading Room in Washington, D.C.

Do you know of a digital library collection that we can mention in this AL Direct feature? [Tell us about it.](http://www.aladirect.org)

Browse previous Digital Libraries of the Week at the I Love Libraries site.
global economy?” The answer: by equipping every school with a full-time certified school library media specialist....

New templates for Learning4Life
Just in time for back to school, AASL has posted new templates for Learning4Life, the division’s national plan to implement the learning standards and guidelines for the 21st century. The templates can be downloaded from the resources pages. Templates include a brochure, letter frame, postcards (right), notecards, a PowerPoint template, bumper sticker, button, and web banners....

RUSA 2010 Annual Conference programs
RUSA has released its list of programs scheduled for the 2010 ALA Annual Conference, June 24–29, 2010, in Washington, D.C. The RUSA President’s Program, “For the Love of Reference,” will explore the twin appeals of information discovery and fulfilling users’ needs that drive the devotion to reference and readers’ advisory work....

Reference Research Forum: Call for proposals
The RUSA Research and Statistics Committee invites the submission of research projects for presentation at RUSA’s 16th Annual Reference Research Forum, June 27, as a part of Annual Conference events in Washington, D.C. Submissions should be sent by email by January 4 to Committee Chair Liane Luckman. Examples of projects presented at past forums are on the committee’s website....

YALSA seeks poster sessions for Annual Conference
YALSA invites proposals for a poster session on exceptional Teen Tech Week events to be held at ALA Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., June 24–29, 2010. The poster session will highlight successful and innovative library services and Teen Tech Week programs that integrate technology in a way that is effective, affordable, and replicable at other libraries....

CE presenters needed for YALSA e-courses
As part of a goal to provide quality continuing education opportunities to the library community, YALSA offers three sessions of e-courses per year as well as face-to-face licensed institutes. The division is currently looking for instructors for 2010 and 2011 to design and deliver curriculum for both types of learning experiences in four areas. If you have experience and interest, submit a proposal (Word file) to Beth Yoke by October 30....

YALSA Blog, Sept. 11

Awards

ALA website wins web development award
The ALA website has been recognized for outstanding achievement in web development. The site developer, Duo Consulting, was awarded a Non-Profit Standard of Excellence WebAward by the Web Marketing Association, a 13-year-old organization focused on setting a high standard for internet...
marketing and development of the best websites....
Web Marketing Association, Sept. 15

**ALCTS awards nominations**
Nominations are being accepted for the 2010 ALCTS awards. ALCTS presents numerous awards each year, among them two preservation awards, two publications awards, two awards for innovation and collaboration, three professional recognition awards, two continuing resources awards, and the Ross Atkinson Lifetime Achievement Award. If you are interested in nominating a candidate for any of the awards, contact the chair of that award jury. The deadline for nominations and supporting materials is December 1....

**2009 Pimp My Bookcart contest**
It’s time for the fourth annual contest run by the library-themed comic strip Unshelved to see who can best pimp, trick, or otherwise improve a standard bookcart. Libraries and schools often stage youth programs to generate entries. Prizes are provided by Unshelved and this year’s sponsor, Smith System. Unshelved cocreators Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum are the sole judges. Submitted photos will be posted online as they arrive. The deadline for submissions is October 31.... Unshelved

**FLICC awards for federal librarianship**
The Federal Library and Information Center Committee has announced the winners of its 10th annual awards for federal librarianship. Honors went to the National Institute of Standards and Technology Research Library (right) in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and the U.S. Air Force Hurlburt Field Library in Florida. Verlene Herrington, chief of the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Library in Fort Huachuca, Arizona, was named Federal Librarian of 2008, and Lawana Gladney, library technician in the U.S. Department of Justice, was named Federal Library Technician of 2008.... Federal Library and Information Center Committee, Sept. 14

**2009 book blogger awards**
The votes are in for the best book blogs of 2009, and the winners include J. Kaye’s Book Blog (best commentator and most prolific blogger), The Book Smugglers (best collaborative blog), Books on the Nightstand (best general review blog and most eclectic taste), Hey Lady! Whatcha’ Readin’? (best literary fiction blog), Bermudaonion (most concise), and The Story Siren (most extravagant giveaways).... Book Blogger Appreciation Week, Sept. 15

**Dragon Codex Song Contest winner**
Librarian Heather Perry of Little Elm (Tex.) Public Library and two young patrons have won Mirrorstone’s Dragon Codex Song Contest. Their winning entry for the Green Dragon Codex lyric has now been recorded as part of the publisher’s Dragon Codex series. Download the song (MP3 file) or the lyrics (PDF file). Each Dragon Codex novel takes a type of dragon and weaves a spellbinding story around it....

Q. My administrator wants to know what the library’s plan for preventing the spread of the H1N1 flu is for this school year. He has asked if we need to wipe down the books daily, or otherwise clean them to prevent transmission. Does ALA have information to help libraries on this subject?

A. As yet, ALA has not prepared detailed guidelines for a response to the H1N1 flu (also commonly called “swine flu”), other than as part of general disaster readiness guidelines. The reasons for this are that most libraries are part of another organization that may have plans to guide the broader community, and that our member groups, who write the guidelines, are focusing on their expertise: protecting the collections. The ALA Library has compiled flu preparedness resources, which include a list of topics to include in an

**Brooklyn returns to a seven-day schedule**

Four Brooklyn Public Library branches will once again be open on Sundays, returning to a seven-day schedule that ended in January because of anticipated budget cuts. Sunday service was axed after Mayor Michael Bloomberg proposed a $17.5-million (21%) cut to the library budget beginning in March. That was a particularly bad blow to neighborhoods like Borough Park, where most residents observe the Jewish Sabbath on Saturday and can’t use the library then. The New York Public Library is also expanding hours at 10 of its branches in Manhattan and the Bronx....


**D.C. libraries fear staff cuts**

The District of Columbia Public Library will be forced to cut staff and reduce services if its proposed $44-million budget for fiscal year 2010 is further reduced in moves that Chief Librarian Ginnie Cooper (right) says are a last resort to save money in a tough economic climate. Cooper said she has exhausted all other options for saving money. A declining operating budget could lead to staff and budget cuts and pose a problem for new construction projects, as buildings could open without enough staff to run them....

*Washington Times, Sept. 14*

**A virtual revolution is brewing for colleges**

Zephyr Teachout writes: “Undergraduate education is on the verge of a radical reordering. Colleges, like newspapers, will be torn apart by new ways of sharing information enabled by the internet. The business model that sustained private U.S. colleges cannot survive. Major universities are already teaching a few of their courses online. And the young students of tomorrow will be growing up in an on-demand, personalized world, in which the notion of a set-term, offline, prepackaged education will seem anachronistic.”...

*Washington Post, Sept. 13*

**NBA star Dwyane Wade helps out hometown library**

Miami Heat player Dwyane Wade was back in his hometown of Robbins, Illinois, September 10 to donate $25,000 to the William Leonard Public Library District. Wade had learned of the district’s financial woes—the library was nearly closed until donors came forward this summer—and wanted to help. The donation from his Wade’s World Foundation will keep the library open through October....

*Chicago Southtown Star, Sept. 11*

**Preservation spat over North Beach branch**

The San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission is scheduled to vote September 16 to determine whether as many as eight branch libraries built between 1953 and 1966 and designed by Appleton and Wolfard should be studied as potential landmarks. The
trigger for the landmark push is the North Beach branch, which opened in 1959. Like other libraries by the defunct firm, the branch shows why the public tired of the dogmatic modernism that typified so much change after World War II....
San Francisco Chronicle, Sept. 12

Danny Glover to star in library film
Dozens of people were at the closed McGregor Public Library in Highland Park, Michigan, September 14 to announce the production of a movie aptly titled Highland Park. The movie, slated for release in 2010, will star Danny Glover and chronicle the struggles of the once prosperous city as well as serve as an attempt to refurbish the library on Woodward Avenue that has been closed since March 2002. Filming is set to begin September 28....
Detroit Free Press, Sept. 14–15

Rockford union offers a counterproposal
Library union officials submitted an alternative proposal to the city September 14 for cutting about $1.5 million from the Rockford (Ill.) Public Library budget that could save some jobs. The offer includes no closures or reduced hours or services, although one option involves nine (instead of 30) layoffs. During the city council meeting, some two dozen parents, children, and library workers gathered on the city hall steps for a special story time to protest the proposed cuts....
Rockford (Ill.) Register Star, Sept. 14

Kansas City firm plays role in New Orleans library rebirth
If all goes according to plan, five New Orleans Public Library branches will open next spring, a mere 10 months after groundbreaking, thanks to a fast-track process that has had Kansas City, Missouri, architects operating at a breakneck pace for much of this year. The architectural firm of Gould Evans Associates landed the contract in a competition this summer. The $26.4-million project is not the biggest reconstruction effort under way in the hurricane-damaged city, but the libraries are important symbols of renewal in their respective neighborhoods....
Kansas City (Mo.) Star, Sept. 10

Alvin Community College library makes a comeback
One year ago, tornados from Hurricane Ike visited Alvin (Tex.) Community College and left $15-million worth of damage resulting from flooded buildings, molding books, useless computers, and mangled roofs. ACC Librarian Tom Bates had to dispose of about 5,000 books worth $250,000. Now, though, he believes his library is better than ever. The final piece that means total recovery for the ACC Library is the modern furniture that is expected to arrive at the end of September....
Brazoria (Tex.) Education Headlines Examiner, Sept. 11

Elgin trustee gets into trouble again
Gail Borden Public Library Trustee Randolph Hopp—already banned from the library except for board meetings—got into another altercation with a library employee, according to a police report.

Calendar
Oct. 2–3: Santa Fe Antiquarian Book Show, El Museo Cultural 1615 Paseo de Peralta in the Historic Railyard District, Santa Fe, New Mexico.


Oct. 4: Collectible Paperback and Pulp Fiction Expo, Holiday Inn, 440 West 57th Street, New York City.


Oct. 10–11: Seattle Antiquarian Book Fair and Book Arts Show, Seattle Center Exhibition Hall.


Elgin, Illinois, police said they were called to the library shortly before the September 8 board meeting in response to an accusation that Hopp was trespassing at the library and shoved Dave Considine, Gail Borden’s director of facilities and building operations....

*Elgin (Ill.) Courier-News, Sept. 11*

**Disney archives on display at Anaheim’s D23 Expo**

Ninety-two items from Disney films that have long been kept under lock and key—including the giant bejeweled storybook (right) used in 1959 for the opening scene of *Sleeping Beauty*—headlined an unusual exhibition of memorabilia at the first D23 Expo (Disney + 1923, when the Disney Studio opened), September 10–13, in Anaheim, California. CEO Robert A. Iger is committed to expanding the holdings of the Disney Archives and making their treasures more public. Since Iger put a renewed focus on the collection, archivists have added about 15,000 items, partly by combing through storerooms....

*New York Times, Sept. 8*

**They don’t ban books in San Francisco**

The San Francisco Public Library’s planned celebration of Banned Books Week, September 26–October 3, provides an opportunity for local folks to feel good about themselves. The library’s collection development director, Laura Lent, says she can recall only one instance in the past decade in which the library opted to pull a book off the shelves as a result of patron insistence. And this patron happened to be the book’s author....

*San Francisco Weekly, Sept. 9*

**Twilight books too racy for some Sydney schools**

At some religious-based primary schools in the Sydney, Australia, area, librarians have removed Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* books from the shelf either because the content is too sexual or goes against religious beliefs. Helen Schutz, head librarian at Santa Sabina College, a Roman Catholic girl’s day school in Strathfield, said the themes are different from those in the Harry Potter series: “We wanted to make sure they realize it’s fictitious and ensure they don’t have a wrong grasp on reality.”....

*Sydney (N.S.W.) Daily Telegraph, Sept. 12*

**Lexington Public Library to cut its budget**

The Lexington (Ky.) Public Library board voted September 9 to cut its budget for the first time in 25 years, resulting in 10% less money for new materials, a hiring freeze, and indefinite delays on renovation projects. The library, mostly financed by Fayette County property taxes, is proving to be in shakier financial condition than the board previously thought. Also, LPL has budgeted $250,000 in fees for a legal firm to represent the library during recent investigations of its spending....

*Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader, Sept. 10*

**Anchorage libraries feeling a budget squeeze**

These are hard times for Anchorage, Alaska, library users. Hours were cut to account for unpaid furloughs this summer. Loussac Library and its branches have only been open four days a week. And...
those are cuts in a staff that already runs bare bones, according to a preliminary study by the library consulting firm Himmel and Wilson. But before anyone is tempted to close the book and turn out the lights, there's some good news too....

Anchorage (Alaska) Daily News, Sept. 9

**Köln to build new city archives**

Half a year after the dramatic collapse of its city archives building, Köln, Germany’s documents are to be given a new home. The city council announced September 10 that it plans to spend over 97-million euros on a new, purpose-built building that will also provide space for a variety of other cultural institutions....

Medieval News, Sept. 11

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**Tech Talk**

**Bing launches new Visual Search**

Phil Bradley writes: “No sooner does one new visual search option come along, than you get another. Neck and neck with Google’s Fast Flip (which allows users to skim through Google News stories by viewing an enlarged thumbnail) do we have Bing’s Visual Search. It’s a simple concept: People like searching visually. The idea is that you simply click on what interests you, and you'll get a bunch of images. You can then mouse over the one that interests you and immediately see some information below the search box, with the person/thing/whatever added into the search box for you.”...

Phil Bradley's Weblog, Sept. 15; Google News Blog, Sept. 14

**Popular search engines of the 1990s: Then and now**

Jacob Gube writes: “In the heyday of the internet, when Google wasn't the only search engine people used to seek information, web surfers had several options for finding what they needed. This article harks back to the days of AltaVista, HotBot, and Ask Jeeves. You’ll see how the web designs of ubiquitous search engines of the past have evolved through time.”...

Six Revisions, Sept. 12

**Top 10 things library administrators should know about technology**

Roy Tennant writes: “It's not insulting to say that those who run libraries tend not to know all that much about technology. A very different set of skills are needed to run an organization, and those skills do not often come packaged along with technical knowledge and experience. But administrators need to know some specific things about technology in order to do their jobs well, so here is my list.”...

TechEssence, Sept. 12

**Great software cheat sheets**

Need a handy printout for some of the software that you or your staff use? Here are some application cheat sheets for Microsoft Office, web browsers, Linux, Photoshop, Twitter, Vi/Vim, and search
engine optimization that you can post on a nearby bulletin board. A few others can be found here. ....

10 tips to safeguard your Facebook privacy
Mahendra Palsule writes: "Facebook has 250 million active users, each with an average of 120 friends. More than 1 billion photos are uploaded every month by its users, over 70% of whom use applications like games and quizzes in Facebook. Unfortunately, most users don’t know the implications of entering personal information, making friends, and playing games on Facebook. This guide will show what you can (and cannot) do to safeguard your Facebook privacy." ...

MakeUseOf.com, Sept. 13

Publishing

Robert Darnton’s case for books
Harvard University Library Director Robert Darnton writes: "The book is not dead. In fact, the world is producing more books than ever before. According to Bowker, 700,000 new titles were published worldwide in 1998; 859,000 in 2003; and 976,000 in 2007. Despite the Great Recession of 2009 that has hit the publishing industry so hard, one million new books will soon be produced each year. Yet the general lack of concern for history among Americans has made us vulnerable to exaggerated notions of historic change—and so has our fascination with technology." ...

Publishers Weekly, Sept. 14

Getting into print
Jennifer Roland writes: "Rejection is the constant companion of both the editor and the writer. The editor must make decisions when selecting articles, turning a harsh eye on submissions that don’t fit the format or tone of the magazine. And the writer who hasn’t amassed a hefty collection of rejections is probably writing only for his or her own consumption. The key to seeing your article in print is to follow the rules and be persistent." ...

Blue Skunk Blog, Sept. 15

The oldest living reference work?
Mary Ellen Quinn writes: "If there’s an older surviving reference work than the Annual Register, I haven’t come across it. Founded by Edmund Burke in 1758 (and written and edited by him through 1765), the Annual Register is celebrating ‘250 years of uninterrupted publication’ with the 2009 edition. For the anniversary volume, there is a speculative preface to a 300th (2059) edition (the population of Antarctica is 3–4 million, thanks in part to melting polar ice). The 2009 Annual Register is published by ProQuest along with a special edition of the very first volume. The entire archive is available online." ...

Points of Reference, Sept. 11
Actions & Answers

Obama administration open to Patriot Act reform
In a September 14 letter sent to Senate Judiciary Chairman Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), the Department of Justice called for the reauthorization of three expiring provisions of the Patriot Act, but also expressed that the Obama administration is open to reforming those and other provisions. The provisions, including Section 215 or the “library records” provision, are up for renewal this year and will expire on December 31 if Congress does not take action. The committee will hold hearings on the Patriot Act September 23....
American Civil Liberties Union, Sept. 15

National Hispanic Heritage Month
Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, Smithsonian Institution, and other organizations are offering resources to help appreciate Hispanic cultures....
Library of Congress

IMLS grant will help libraries help the unemployed
Through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, OCLC’s WebJunction and the State Library of North Carolina have launched a one-year initiative to gather and share best practices for providing library-based employment services and programs to the unemployed. The partners will develop and host an online training module—available to everyone—that adapts the curriculum of a North Carolina state workshop held earlier in the year....
Institute of Museum and Library Services, Sept. 10

Five universities endorse open-access journals
Five leading universities—Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, MIT, and UC-Berkeley—announced September 14 a new Compact for Open Access Publishing Equity in which they have pledged to develop systems to pay open access journals for the articles they publish by the institutions’ scholars. In doing so, the institutions are attempting to put to rest the idea that only older publication models (paid and/or print) can support rigorous peer review and quality assurance. And they are inviting others to join them....
Inside Higher Education, Sept. 15

Redesigned ARSL website highlights its members
The Association for Rural and Small Libraries has redesigned its website as a dynamic space that captures ARSL’s personality and mission in a way that is appealing and relevant to its members. It is also spotlighting its member libraries on the
homepage each month. Elements of this website, including the new ARSL logo, were unveiled at their annual conference in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, September 11–13....
Association for Rural and Small Libraries

The 11 commandments of student research
Mary W. George writes: “I would like to offer a list of precepts for student researchers, all in a positive vein but doing Moses one better. Whereas the Children of Israel were never admonished to critique their own behavior—just read the tablets and follow the rules, already!—the children of the 21st century must learn to search thoughtfully and judge sources wisely lest they too wander for decades in a metaphysical desert or accept mirages as reality. These are matters that I, as a college librarian, would like undergraduates to know (or at least know about) before I encounter them.”...
Keywords from a Librarian, Sept. 14

Why isn’t a picture worth 1,000 words?
Kristine Alpi writes: “Although entire books have been written about the value of color as communication, color has always been a special request for interlibrary loan copies. Now, color is much more common—in situations where color is crucial, and in cases such as graphs where well-presented shades of gray could convey the message. Yet neither color nor image quality is mentioned in the ALA Interlibrary Loan Code for the United States (2008), nor in the sample ALA Interlibrary Loan Request Forms.”...
In the Library with the Lead Pipe, Sept. 16

A wish list
Buffy J. Hamilton writes: “I’ve been thinking today about what I wish I and my high-school students could have access to in the library. Forget all the restrictions currently in place in the name of network security, student safety, legal protections, and such—this is a list of favorite things that I feel could enhance student learning if the school network and filter were to be unfettered.”...
The Unquiet Librarian, Sept. 12

40th Mexican Library Association conference in Acapulco
Christy Zlatos writes: “For American librarians with Spanish-language skills, the annual conference of the Asociación Mexicana de Bibliotecarios—held this year in Acapulco, September 9–11—is a great way to give a talk and share ideas with Mexican colleagues about research. For example, OCLC representative Bruce Crocco spoke in English about OCLC’s user experience research alongside a distinguished Mexican speaker, Dr. Adolfo Rodriguez Gallardo, who discussed Mexico’s national consortium catalog for academic libraries.” ALA President Camila Alire also gave a presentation. See more photos here....
Glorious Journeys and Outrageous Interludes, Sept. 9, 11

Swedish librarians visit the Digital Bookmobile
The Rocky River (Ohio) Public Library hosted the 74-foot traveling Digital Bookmobile, sponsored by audiobook
provider OverDrive, on August 20, and six librarians from Sweden were on hand to take notes. They were visiting Ohio libraries for one week on a grant from the Swedish Arts Council. Many Rocky River patrons also took advantage of the traveling bookmobile tour to see what the library has available. Take a video tour yourself (4:46), watch an interview with the Swedes (4:01), or read their own comments in their blog (if you know Swedish)....

Bay Village (Ohio) West Shore Sun, Aug. 29; blip.tv, Sept. 1; YouTube, Sept. 10; Digitala bokbussen

eCycling programs
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is working to educate consumers and others on why it is important to reuse and recycle electronics and what the options are for safe reuse and recycling of these products. State and local governments, manufacturers, and retailers, are providing more opportunities to recycle and reuse this equipment. This website offers basic information on recycling electronics, regional and state programs, organizations and retailers with donation and recycling programs, regulations for handling equipment, and an FAQ on electronic waste....

Environmental Protection Agency

OCLC convenes Record Use Policy Council
The OCLC Board of Trustees has convened a Record Use Policy Council, which will draw upon the fundamental values of the OCLC cooperative and engage with the global library community to develop the next generation of the WorldCat Record Use Policy. The intent is to recommend to the OCLC Board of Trustees a new policy that is aligned with the present and future information landscape....

OCLC, Sept. 14

Lexington teams up with WUKY-FM for NPR book club
The Lexington (Ky.) Public Library and WUKY-FM will begin monthly book discussions of books by on-air National Public Radio personalities, starting with a discussion of Geoffrey Nunberg’s Going Nucular: Language, Politics, and Culture in Controversial Times on October 13. The book club will meet the second Tuesday of each month, rotating library branch locations. Interviews with the book discussion facilitators will be aired on the station in advance and will be available by podcast on the WUKY website....

Lexington (Ky.) Public Library, Sept. 4

OCLC’s Classify service
Classify is a prototype OCLC web service designed to support the assignment of classification numbers for books, DVDs, CDs, and many other types of materials. The prototype provides access to more than 36 million WorldCat records that contain Dewey Decimal Classification, Library of Congress
Classification, or National Library of Medicine Classification numbers. You can retrieve a classification summary by ISBN, ISSN, UPC, OCLC number, or author/title....
OCLC Research

**Read Across Jamaica launches literacy campaign**
The Read Across Jamaica Foundation has begun a campaign to increase literacy awareness in Caribbean communities in the United States and Jamaica. Donors can drop off new or gently used children's books at [supporting locations](http://aldirect.ala.org/sites/default/al_direct/2009/september/090916.htm). The materials will be distributed to students and participating schools in January, May, and November each year....
Read Across Jamaica Foundation

**Thinking outside the barn**
The Rolling Prairie Library System in Decatur, Illinois, designed its booth for the Farm Progress Show with the theme “Think outside the barn @ your library” to promote the value of librarians, libraries, and their services to the residents of agricultural communities. The logo, originally designed in 2007, has appeared on banners, yard signs, coffee mugs, post-it notes, and the staff's polo shirts. RPLS Executive Director Bev Obert explains the concept in this [video](http://aldirect.ala.org/sites/default/al_direct/2009/september/090916.htm) (4:25)....
Visibility @ your library, Sept. 15

**Did you know 4.0**
This is another official update (4:45) to the original (2008) [Shift Happens](http://aldirect.ala.org/sites/default/al_direct/2009/september/090916.htm) video (8:28). This completely new Fall 2009 version includes facts and stats focusing on the changing media landscape, including convergence and technology, and was developed in partnership with the *Economist*. Content by XPLANE, the *Economist*, Karl Fisch, Scott McLeod, and Laura Bestler....
YouTube, Sept. 14

[Go back to the Top](http://aldirect.ala.org/sites/default/al_direct/2009/september/090916.htm)
**U.S. & World News**

**Philly dodges Doomsday; other Pennsylvania libraries in limbo**
With less than a day to spare before layoff notices were to be sent to library staff, the Pennsylvania Senate approved a law September 17 that gives Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter the revenue to fund the Free Library of Philadelphia. Only a week earlier, library officials had posted a notice online as well as on building doors that lack of funds was forcing the indefinite closure of the entire 54-facility system as of October 2. Although the Philadelphia crisis has eased, other libraries have already begun tightening their belts in anticipation of hard times....
American Libraries Online, Sept. 18

**Senate bill defends reader privacy by regulating surveillance**
A bill introduced in the Senate September 17 would reform three provisions of the USA Patriot Act set to expire at the end of the year, as well as the FISA Amendments Act and other surveillance authorities, to safeguard the constitutional rights of Americans while also ensuring that the federal government has the necessary tools to fight terrorism. The JUSTICE Act (Judiciously Using Surveillance Tools in Counterterrorism Efforts), S.B. 1684 would reauthorize Section 215 of the Patriot Act, often referred to as the "library provision," but with additional checks and balances....
American Libraries Online, Sept. 18

**Second Senate Patriot Act reform bill in a week**
On September 22, Sens. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), Benjamin Cardin (D-Md.), and Ted Kaufman (D-Del.) introduced the USA Patriot Act Sunset Extension Act of 2009 (PDF file). The bill raises the legal standards to obtain a Section 215 order by requiring the government to show "relevance" for an authorized investigation....
American Libraries Online, Sept. 22

**FCC head proposes rules supporting net neutrality**
The chairman of the Federal Communications Commission announced regulations September 21 that would prevent internet service...
providers from blocking or slowing web traffic over their networks. The rules make good on a campaign promise by President Barack Obama to support net neutrality—the concept that network providers should not discriminate regarding the sites or applications to which they provide access.

American Libraries Online, Sept. 23

Georgia town returns to its Carnegie Library roots
A week of festivities commemorated the September 15 rededication to its original mission of suburban Atlanta’s Newnan Carnegie Library after having relinquished its original role 22 years ago. “Newnan is probably the only Carnegie library anywhere to be transitioned to another purpose and reopened as a library,” Andrew Carnegie historian Glenn Walsh asserted at the ceremony, after which the Royal Scottish Country Dancers performed in honor of Carnegie’s ethnicity.

American Libraries Online, Sept. 22

Interview with Iraqi Parliament’s librarian
Mohammad Abbas talks about his role as head of the new Library Department of the Iraqi Council of Representatives, the nation’s parliament, in Baghdad. American Libraries Editor in Chief Leonard Kniffel interviewed Abbas August 24 during the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions meeting in Milan, Italy, and by email in the days following.

American Libraries Online, Sept. 21

ALA News

September savings on ALA 2010 conferences
ALA is offering bundled registration for the 2010 Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference at a discounted price. Register for both conferences during the month of September and save more than 20% off the advance registration rate you would pay if you bought each event separately. The discount is only available until September 30. Register online by clicking on “Registration.”

Book banning attempts continue
What do books from the Harry Potter series, To Kill a Mockingbird, and Little Red Riding Hood have in common? All have faced removal from library bookshelves in the United States. In many cases, it is only through public intervention that books are saved from confiscation or from being kept under lock and key. From coast to coast, libraries and bookstores will battle censorship and celebrate the freedom to read during Banned Books Week, September 26–October 3.
**Oprah’s Book Club selection**
AL public, middle school, high school, and community college organizational members are eligible to receive the latest Oprah’s Book Club selection, *Say You’re One of Them* by Uwem Akpan, chosen September 18. Current organizational members will receive 2–8 copies of the selection, depending on size. Little, Brown, and Company, the publisher, shipped the book in September. (ALA personal memberships do not qualify.)...

**Gear up for National Gaming Day**
Hundreds of libraries across the country will join ALA to celebrate the second annual National Gaming Day @ your library on November 14. During National Gaming Day, public, school, and academic libraries will offer a variety of in-person gaming activities, including a national video game tournament. Players of all ages and experience levels will be able to see how they rank on local, regional, and national leaderboards. Fill out this survey to register your library’s participation and qualify for materials....

**October 3: Make It Matter Day**
ALA has signed on as a sponsor of Make It Matter Day, an effort to encourage Americans to participate in literacy and education activities, organized by Reader’s Digest. Make It Matter Day will be held October 3. Earlier this year, Reader’s Digest editors asked readers to identify a cause that mattered most to them. The winner was literacy and education. The magazine is encouraging the public to participate in literacy events at local Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCAs, and libraries....

**ALA becomes 2010 Census partner**
ALA will be working with the Census Bureau to promote the value of accurate and complete census data and to create a positive impact on the 2010 questionnaire response rate. In February and March, the Census Bureau will begin mailing or delivering census questionnaires to households in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The Census Bureau has developed a wide array of downloadable free materials to promote participation....

**Fiber to the library**
The ALA Office for Information Technology Policy has released the official version of its policy brief, “Fiber to the Library: How Public Libraries Can Benefit” (PDF file). The purpose of this paper is to assist libraries in understanding the benefits of fiber-optic technology and to suggest strategies they can consider when exploring how to obtain fiber connectivity. It also provides arguments that may be useful in library community applications to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program....

**OIF videos from Annual Conference**
The Office for Intellectual Freedom has four new videos on blip.tv featuring programs from the 2009 ALA Annual
Conference in Chicago. One is the popular panel discussion, “My, Those Novels Certainly Are . . . Graphic” (right), featuring Neil Gaiman, Terry Moore, and Craig Thompson....

AL Focus

Book-banning puppets
In this Banned Books Week video (2:23) from the Office for Intellectual Freedom, Chad, Rustle, and Moon, the Crash Pad puppets, misinterpret the meaning of Banned Books Week, trying to throw some books with objectionable content —Of Mice and Men, The Grapes of Wrath, The Joy of Cooking, and the phone book— out of the library, until Herb points out the error of their ways. Written and performed by Josh Zagoren and Andrew Marchetti....

2009 IFLA World Library and Information Congress, Milan
This video (2:03) includes scenes from the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Milan, Italy, including music from the Concert for IFLA, held August 25 in the Duomo, and interviews with Mexican delegate Jesus Lau, outgoing IFLA President Claudia Lux, Paula Restrepo Duque (right) of the EPM Foundation, Deborah Jacobs of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, new IFLA President Ellen Tise, and U.S. delegate Barbara Ford. Read more about the IFLA conference on AL Inside Scoop....

Keeping up with ALA Connect
This is one (2:49) in a series of introductory screencasts on using the ALA Connect website that was created by members of the ALA Emerging Leaders Group I. “There’s so much happening on ALA Connect, you may feel a bit overwhelmed trying to find your way. But with a few easy features, you can quickly put your finger on the pulse of ALA Connect.” Watch 11 other Connect videos on the AL Focus website....

Digital Library of the Week
Wisconsin Heritage Online is a collaborative project with contributions from public, special, and academic libraries, historical societies, and museums from all over the state. Initiated in 2004, the site continues to grow under a grant from the Nicholas Family Foundation, which....

Featured review: Reference

Featured review: Reference
Salisbury, Joyce E. (ed.). *Greenwood Encyclopedia of Global Medieval Life and Culture*. Mar. 2009. 3v. 1,200p. Greenwood, hardcover (978-0-313-33801-4). This set is a much-expanded version of the *Greenwood Encyclopedia of Daily Life, Volume II* (2004), which covered daily life in the Middle Ages in European, Viking, Chinese, Muslim, Byzantine, Mongol, and Polynesian societies. As its title suggests, the new set extends the coverage of medieval life around the globe. The work analyzes culture and life during the time period from 400 CE to 1400 CE, but coverage is extended to 1600 for the Americas, Africa, Southeast Asia, and North Africa and the Middle East. What makes this excellent set so valuable are the topical essays, 8 to 10 pages in length, covering the history, religion, economy, arts, society, and science and technology in each area. Essays discussing “Global Ties” do an outstanding job of showing how each region was connected to other parts of the world....

Visit [Booklist Online](http://aldirect.ala.org/sites/default/al_direct/2009/september/090923.htm) for other reviews and much more....

### Division News

**ALSC revises competencies document**

ALSC has released a revised edition of its *Competencies for Librarians Serving Children in Public Libraries*. The division recommends these core competencies to all children's librarians and other library staff whose primary duties include delivering library service to and advocating library service for children from birth to age 14. As an added bonus to ALSC members, free downloadable versions of the competencies are also available to print for training and workshops....

**RFP on the value of academic libraries**

ACRL is seeking proposals from experienced researchers for the development and delivery of a comprehensive review of the quantitative and qualitative literature, methodologies and best practices currently in place for demonstrating the value of academic libraries. The request for proposals (PDF file) is available on the ACRL website. Responses are due by November 2....

**National Friends of Libraries Week, October 18–24**

ALTAFF is coordinating the fourth annual national Friends of Libraries Week, October 18–24. The celebration offers an opportunity to honor library Friends by creatively showcasing your group in the community, raising awareness, and promoting membership. It is also an excellent opportunity for libraries and trustees to recognize the Friends for their help and support....

Public Perception

How the World Sees Us


—John Smith, of Vienna, Virginia, in response to the *New York Times* reader question, “What are your survival strategies? How are you getting by in the economic downturn?” Sept. 21. Smith’s response was recommended as helpful by the most readers.

**AL on Twitter.** Follow *American Libraries* news stories, videos, and blog posts on [Twitter](http://aldirect.ala.org/sites/default/al_direct/2009/september/090923.htm).

Ask the ALA Librarian
RUSA Readers’ Advisory course now open
The RUSA online course, Readers’ Advisory 101, is now open for registration for the upcoming fall session. This popular course, offered October 26–December 7, is perfect for support staff, library technicians, and newly hired reference librarians looking to become more comfortable in providing readers’ advisory services. Register online or download the registration form (PDF file) to register by fax or mail....

Julie Walker elected to P21 Strategic Council
AASL Executive Director Julie Walker has been elected to serve as vice chair of the Strategic Council of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, a national advocacy organization focused on infusing 21st-century skills into education....

Sign up for the 2009 AASL Bloggers’ Café
Are you attending the 2009 AASL National Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina? If so, be a part of the bloggers’ café. Presentation equipment and an internet connection will be available. Host a discussion, create a Birds of a Feather session, or expand on your concurrent session. Sign up here....
AASL Blog, Sept. 20

AASL commends four reading and literacy programs
AASL formally commended the following programs because they align with the division’s learning standards, guidelines, and principles expressed in its mission and value statements: the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, the William Allen White Children’s Book Awards program, No Book Left Unread, and Funds for Public Schools’ Library REACH. The AASL Affiliate Assembly presented these programs to the board at the 2009 Annual Conference in Chicago....

ACRL/LLAMA Spring Virtual Institute
ACRL and LLAMA are now accepting proposals for their Spring Virtual Institute, “Doing Well by Doing Good: Entrepreneurial Leadership for Librarians,” April 21–22. Submissions for interactive webcasts and online poster sessions will be accepted through November 16. The institute will explore different models and aspects of leadership and management and their impact on academic librarianship in today’s challenged and flat economic environments....

Awards

Nominations for Sara Jaffarian Award
The ALA Public Programs Office is now accepting nominations for the 2009 Sara Jaffarian School Library Program Award for Exemplary Humanities Programming. School libraries, public or private, that serve children in any combination of grades K–8 and conducted humanities programs during the 2008–2009 school year are eligible. Nominations and applications must be received by December 15....

RUSA literary awards
RUSA literary awards committees are seeking outstanding published works for consideration for a variety of 2010 reference awards and prestigious lists for the adult reader. Publishers are invited to submit titles for the Notable Books List, the Reading List, the Sophie Brody...
Medal, the Dartmouth Medal, and the Outstanding Reference Sources list. Send nominations to the section committee chairperson for each.

Iowa paper scientist named MacArthur Fellow

Timothy Barrett, founding director of the papermaking facilities at the University of Iowa Center for the Book—the only program in the United States that focuses on making Western- and Japanese-style paper by hand—was named one of 24 Fellows by the MacArthur Foundation September 22. Barrett is an internationally recognized master craftsman and paper historian who is preserving and enhancing the art of hand-papermaking through his work as a practitioner, scholar, and teacher....

MacArthur Foundation, Sept. 22

Tenopir wins 2009 ASIS&T Award of Merit

University of Tennessee School of Information Science Professor Carol Tenopir has been honored with the 2009 Award of Merit by the American Society for Information Science and Technology. The award is the society’s highest honor, bestowed annually on an individual who has made a noteworthy contribution to the field of information science....

University of Tennessee, Sept. 18

Arlington library director honored by Muslim group

Local Muslims gathered at the Dallas–Fort Worth Islamic Educational Center in Arlington, Texas, September 17 and honored four public servants for their service to the Muslim community. One of those was Arlington Public Library Director Cary Ann Siegfried, who revoked the meeting-room privileges of the Grand Prairie chapter of ACT! for America in July because it was violating library rules about soliciting funds and allowing free access to meetings. The group was also invoking the threat of radical Islam in order to raise money....

Fort Worth (Tex.) Star-Telegram, Sept. 18

Excellence in digital storytelling

Seven New Jersey libraries were recognized September 15 for excellence in digital storytelling by the New Jersey State Library at an Academy Award–like ceremony at the New Jersey State Museum Auditorium in Trenton. The first-place award in the library’s “Tell Us Your Story” video competition went to the Cape May County Library for its video, “Get Your Game On @ your library” (right, 2:24). Watch the winners here....

New Jersey State Library, Sept. 17

Skinner and Bausch win Dayton Literary Peace Prizes

A Crime So Monstrous: Face-to-Face with Modern-Day...
Slavery (Free Press) by E. Benjamin Skinner, and Peace (Knopf) by Richard Bausch were named winners September 22 of the 2009 Dayton Literary Peace Prize for nonfiction and fiction, respectively. The prize was founded in 2006 as an outgrowth of the Dayton Peace Prize, which commemorates the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords ending the war in Bosnia....

Dayton Literary Peace Prize, Sept. 22

2009 Royal Society Prize for Science Books
The 2009 Royal Society Prize for Science Books was awarded September 15 to Richard Holmes for his book The Age of Wonder: How the Romantic Generation Discovered the Beauty and Terror of Science, which investigates how a fascination for science swept across Britain at the end of 18th century. The £10,000 prize ($16,225 U.S.) celebrates the best new popular-science writing for a general adult readership....

Royal Society, Sept. 15

2009 Award for Indexing Excellence
At its annual dinner September 12, the Society of Indexers presented the Wheatley Medal for an outstanding index to Rudy Hirschmann, representing the members of the Einstein Papers Project, for the indexes in volume 11 of The Collected Papers of Albert Einstein (edited by A. J. Kox, et al., Princeton University Press, 2009). The papers were published as 11 volumes, and the indexes are extremely comprehensive for such a massive work, exhibiting a high quality of indexing....

Society of Indexers, Sept. 16

Seen Online

Walkout called over UC budget cuts
Hundreds of faculty, students, and staff from the University of California’s 10 campuses are planning a systemwide walkout September 24 to protest UC’s handling of its budget crisis. The protest was sparked by UC President Mark Yudof’s recent proposal to raise student tuition by about 30% by fall 2010. The university says it is trying to close a budget shortfall of at least $753 million. The walkout has gotten the support of some 800 faculty members systemwide, as well as the UC Students Association (PDF file), the American Association of University Professors, and the University Professional and Technical Employees. Library employees are upset about layoffs and reduced hours....

San Francisco Chronicle, Sept. 23; Changing Universities; KGO-TV, San Francisco, Sept. 16

Google Books Settlement hearing delayed
After the Department of Justice recommended September 18 that a federal judge reject the
Google Books settlement (see Karen Coyle’s analysis of the DOJ’s concerns), the parties involved in the Google Book Search settlement have asked a federal court to postpone an October 7 fairness hearing while they work out a new deal (PDF file). The court is expected to agree. Meanwhile, Google seems to be preparing for victory by purchasing reCAPTCHA and contracting with On Demand Books to let Espresso Book Machine owners print out and bind public-domain books from its database.

Relevant Results, Sept. 22; Coyle’s InFormation, Sept. 20; New York Times, Sept. 18, 20; Information Week, Sept. 16; Epicenter, Sept. 17

**House bill includes initiatives for community college libraries**

Community college libraries were included in the House-passed Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009 (H.R. 3221) in mid-September—a true victory for libraries, considering the original bill did not include them. ALA sought the opportunity to promote the role of community college library services by ensuring they were explicitly spelled out in Section 503 in the language titled “Grants to Eligible Entities for Community College Reform.”

District Dispatch, Sept. 21

**Anti-porn group demands filters in Owosso library**

More than 50 area residents gathered September 21 to discuss ways to filter internet computers at Shiawassee District Library in Owosso, Michigan. The meeting, organized by Citizens for Filtering Shiawassee District Library Public Access Computers, comes two days before the library board meeting to discuss its internet policy. The group wants the board to require children 13 or younger to be accompanied by a parent or guardian when accessing the internet and to require children between the ages of 10 and 18 to have permission forms signed by a parent or guardian before they can access the internet.

Owosso (Mich.) Argus-Press, Sept. 22

**Author talk canceled until school reviews her book**

A visit by a best-selling author to Whittier Middle School in Norman, Oklahoma, was canceled after a parent questioned the content of one of the author’s books. Author Ellen Hopkins was scheduled to speak to 8th-graders September 22 about her career, writing process, and books. But she was notified that her visit was canceled because a parent at the school requested a review of her book Glass, the second in a series about a teen dealing with drug addiction. Hopkins said it’s ironic her visit was canceled this week because the ALA’s Banned Books Week begins September 26....

Oklahoma City Oklahoman, Sept. 22

**Threatening notes at Eden Prairie branch**

A man has been charged with leaving threatening notes with drawings of airplanes and references to 9/11 over three days at the
Eden Prairie branch of the Hennepin County (Minn.) Library. When interviewed by police, Abdulahi Hassan Farah told officers that the United States was attacked by terrorists before and will be attacked again. The notes were left at the library service desk....

*Minneapolis Star-Tribune, Sept. 22*

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**Vancouver library calls off assisted-suicide workshop**

The Vancouver (B.C.) Public Library has refused permission for Exit International, an Australian assisted-suicide organization, to hold a workshop on suicide in its main downtown library. The organization had proposed holding the workshop September 10 in the central library, but City Librarian Paul Whitney canceled it after seeking legal advice. The seminar had included a private presentation for those over the age of 55 seeking information on methods of committing suicide. Whitney stands by his decision: "Freedom of speech and access to information are core values for us, but . . . the library was not prepared to be party to a probable criminal offense, which could result in the loss of life."...

*Vancouver (B.C.) Sun, Sept. 22; Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Sept. 22*

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**Gwinnett takes a regional approach**

The Gwinnett County (Ga.) Public Library will be divided into a regional system, a move that will spare the Dacula branch (right) from closure. Trustees voted September 22 to restructure the system into three regional libraries, nine community libraries, and three library computer labs open fewer hours (of which Dacula will be one). The conversion is meant to offset a $4-million funding cut to the branches while allowing all 14 of them to remain open....

*Gwinnett (Ga.) Daily Post, Sept. 23*

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**Students donate books for Alabama Black Belt**

University of Alabama students, faculty, and staff, and Tuscaloosa community members are taking part in “Books for the Alabama Black Belt,” a campaign designed to put a book in the hands of the more than 30,000 children in the Alabama Black Belt. The campaign is an effort to help children in the 12 Black Belt counties develop a passion for reading and learning at an early age. The program has been going on for the past three years....

*University of Alabama Crimson White, Sept. 17*

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**West Virginia library home to Bataan collection**

When recounting the darkest events in American history, the 1942 Bataan Death March often is overlooked, according to Mary Kay Wallace. Wallace, director of the Brooke County (W.Va.) Public Library, believes that is a mistake. And with more than 100,000 books, documents, and artifacts related to the death march and American prisoners of war in the Philippines during World War II, the library claims to have the world’s most extensive collection of materials on the topic....

*Wheeling (W.Va.) Intelligencer, Sept. 22*

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**Only 5% of UK web users would pay to read news**

If Rupert Murdoch thinks readers will pay to read his websites, maybe he should think again. According to a Harris Interactive survey, if their favorite news site began charging for access to
content, three quarters of people would simply switch to an alternative free news source, and only 5% of those readers would choose to pay to continue reading the site....

The Guardian (U.K.), Sept. 21

**Canadian libraries are in good health**

Contrary to what you might have heard, Canadian libraries are not in a terminal state of decline, “they’re not even sick,” says Wendy Newman, a senior fellow at the University of Toronto faculty of information. Circulation was up 27% this summer across Ontario’s 330 systems and 1,000 branches. Toronto, already the largest system in the world with 99 branches, is expanding with two more. “We’re not intimidated by the future at all,” laughs Shelagh Paterson, executive director of the Ontario Library Association....

Toronto Star, Sept. 20

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**Tech Talk**

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**Turn a Twitter feed into an RSS feed**

Eyal Sela writes: “Twitter is a great source for online content. Some might even argue that it has the potential to aggregate better content than an RSS reader because the aggregation is done by people, rather than previously chosen feeds. Readtwit is a 3-step service that seamlessly integrates this aggregation power of the people you follow—into your RSS reader.”...

MakeUseOf, Sept. 20

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**Twitter techniques for libraries**

David Allen Kelly writes: ”When we decided to start a Twitter feed in mid-2008, we started experimenting with different techniques. We’ve found some things that we like and that our customers seem to like as well. This isn’t meant to be an exhaustive list—just a jumping-off point for any libraries looking for ideas. If you feel pretty comfortable with Twitter, jump down to Tweet 5, since this is the biggest way I think most libraries are probably not taking advantage of Twitter.”...

kellydallen, July 29

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**Use WorldCat apps on Facebook pages**

Bob Robertson-Boyd writes: “We’ve updated our CiteMe and WorldCat Facebook applications for use on organizational Facebook pages. Now your group, school, or library website can provide these services too. These instructions are written for the CiteMe application, but apply to the WorldCat application as well.”...

WorldCat blog, Sept. 21

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**300+ resources to make you a WordPress expert**

Cameron Chapman writes: “WordPress is one of the most popular blogging platforms available today. It’s powerful enough to be a complete CMS, has every feature or function a blogger could dream of (either...
built in or available via plugins or custom functions), and it’s free and open source. Here are more than 300 resources to help you master WordPress, no matter what your skill level is."...

Webdesigner Depot, Sept. 17

Make computers more senior-friendly

Seniors with reduced vision often encounter difficulties with computers because technology is still created for a younger audience. For example, screen resolutions have become enormous, providing more desktop space, and as a result smaller icons and text. Fortunately, Windows provides options to roll back these features and make computers more accessible. It also comes with tools that enhance visibility. Here are some of them....

MakeUseOf, Sept. 19

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**Publishing**

Surrealism improves learning skills

Reading Franz Kafka’s *The Country Doctor* or watching *Blue Velvet* by director David Lynch could make you smarter, according to research by psychologists at the University of California, Santa Barbara and the University of British Columbia. Exposure to surrealism apparently enhances the cognitive mechanisms that oversee implicit learning functions. The findings appear in an article published in the September issue of *Psychological Science*....

University of California, Santa Barbara, Sept. 15

The Wondermark steam-powered genre-fiction generator

Lauren Davis writes: "Need help on your chronopunk novel about a journeyman inventor in a post-apocalyptic Antarctica? Look no further than David Malki’s [Genre-Fiction Generator](http://www.genre-fictiongenerator.com/), a simple flow chart that will have you concocting that perfect science-fiction story in no time."...

io9, Sept. 22; Wondermark

A gallery of Slovak book covers

Will writes: “I came across these Slovak book covers while book hunting online. I have no memory of saving the images to my hard drive. Luckily I named the files (for once) and was therefore able to provide the names of the illustrators for most of the covers.” More covers are [here](http://www.bookhunter.net/). On the right, cover art for *Klísata na harfě* (1948) by Jaroslav Vojtěch....

A Journey Round My Skull, Aug. 12, Sept. 14
Actions & Answers

**Literacy instruction: The key to education reform**
A new report from Carnegie Corporation of New York pinpoints adolescent literacy as a cornerstone of the current education reform movement, upon which efforts such as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act must be built. The report, *Time to Act: An Agenda for Advancing Adolescent Literacy for College and Career Success*, recommends actions that point out important intersections with the Obama administration’s $4.35-billion Race to the Top competitive grant guidelines....
Carnegie Corporation of New York, Sept. 15

**14 ways school librarians can teach social media**
Joyce Valenza writes: “A school’s teacher-librarian is its chief information officer, but in a networked world, the position is more that of moderator or coach—the person who ensures that students and teachers can effectively interact with information and leverage it to create and share and make a difference in the community and beyond. There are at least 14 retooled learning strategies that teacher-librarians should be sharing with classroom teachers and learners in the 2009–2010 school year.”...
NeverEndingSearch, Sept. 21

**School librarians are in short supply**
Pamela Martineau writes: “If adequately supported, school librarians—or teacher-librarians as they are called in California—are vital educational leaders on campus who update educators’ and students’ research skills in an era of ever-changing technology. But many education policymakers don’t actually know what good teacher-librarians do, school library advocates claim, so library programs are especially vulnerable to budget cuts when the state backs cash-strapped schools into tight fiscal corners such as the ones they’re in now.”...
*California Schools Magazine*, Fall 2009

**Target unveils 16 school library makeovers**
Thousands of underserved elementary children across the country are returning to their schools this fall to find fully equipped and renovated eco-friendly media centers, thanks to the Target Volunteers School Library Makeover program, sponsored by the Heart of America Foundation. A program on September 10 unveiled one of 16 extreme library makeovers at New York City’s P.S. 76 Bennington School, which not only doubled the library’s size but also included an original mural by Disney artist Cecilia Washington Carr....
*School Library Journal*, Sept. 22; Target Corporation, Sept. 8

**12 things academic libraries must do to survive**
Steven Bell writes: “Newspapers are getting lots of advice for what they need to do to survive in the 21st century. How well might that advice work for academic libraries? I wanted to put that question to the test. Let’s take Vadim Lavrusik’s *12 Things Newspapers Should Do to Survive* and see how well academic libraries could implement these recommendations.”...
ACRLog, Sept. 17; Mashable, Aug. 14
Support grows for access to publicly funded research
The presidents of 57 liberal arts colleges in the United States have declared their support for the Federal Research Public Access Act (S. 1373) in an open letter released September 23. The letter is the first from higher education administrators to be issued in support of the bill, which would require that journal articles stemming from publicly funded research be made available in an online repository no later than six months after publication....
Alliance for Taxpayer Access, Sept. 23

Lessons of good customer service
Amy Fry writes: “When I worked at Barnes and Noble, I learned about the ‘up-sell,’ wherein you try to sell an additional, related item to someone already making a purchase. A related concept is the ‘hand-sell,’ wherein I was to be personally committed to promoting a specific item during my shifts at the store. What would happen if I applied these concepts to the reference desk? What kind of academic library add-ons could I promote with each patron interaction?”...
Library Journal, Sept. 1

Herb and Dorothy Vogel
Herb and Dorothy will makes its TV debut October 13 on the PBS series Independent Lens: “He was a postal clerk. She was a librarian. With modest means, this couple managed to build one of the most important modern art collections in history. Meet Herbert and Dorothy Vogel, whose shared passion and commitment defied stereotypes and redefined what it means to be an art collector.” Actress Maggie Gyllenhaal will be this season’s host. Watch the trailer here....
Independent Lens; Beyond the Box Blog, Sept. 21; Herb & Dorothy

Teach a man to Google
mk Eagle writes: “I’ve been working at my new job for less than a month, but already I’m raising some eyebrows. And for once, it’s not the piercings or tattoos. So what am I doing that’s so controversial? Instruction. Direct instruction to students was a vital part of my GSLIS school library teacher program, but mention that I want to give bibliographic instruction, and you’d think I’d suggested kicking off the school year with a bonfire using Catcher in the Rye as kindling.”...
YALSA Blog, Sept. 22

StoryCorps launches Latino initiative
The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress will be the repository for personal interviews with Latino Americans from across the United States as StoryCorps launches its “Historias” mobile booth. These contemporary personal narrative recordings of Latinos and Latinas will complement other Hispanic and Latin-American collections at the center. The national launch of StoryCorps Historias will be held September 24 at the United States Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C....
Library of Congress, Sept. 21

Topeka’s first podcamp
David Lee King writes: “On September 19,
Topeka and Shawnee County (Kans.) Public Library cohosted (with WIBW Studios) its first podcamp, Podcamp Topeka. Don’t know what a podcamp is? It’s an unconference dedicated to Web 2.0 tools and social media. How did I organize this thing? The important planning revolves around how many people you hope to attract—you have to have enough space to accommodate them."...
David Lee King, Sept. 21

Best links for RDA
Karen Anderson writes: "If you have anything to do with library services, you know that RDA has the world all a-buzz right now. But it can be difficult to keep up with everything that’s going on. For that reason, I asked our RDA Librarian to compile a list of her favorite places to get information. Here are links on RDA, FRBR, and FRAD that I have found very helpful and informative."...
MARS Automation Services, Sept. 21

OSU cartoon library named for Columbus artist
Ohio State University trustees approved renaming the school’s renowned Cartoon Library and Museum after Billy Ireland, a cartoonist for the Columbus Dispatch from 1898 until his death in 1935. The library has moved to a temporary location in preparation for a $21-million rehab of its space in historic Sullivant Hall. The project got the go-ahead in large part because of a $7-million gift with naming rights from the Elizabeth Ireland Graves Charitable Trust, which manages Ireland’s estate....
Ohio State University, Sept. 18

Video games need more diversity
A recent survey reveals that males, adults, and white people are overrepresented in American video games. Females, black people, children, and the elderly are correspondingly underrepresented. Dmitri Williams at the University of Southern California and his colleagues say that this is the first research on the types of people represented by characters in video games—whose actions are claimed by some to act as role models for people’s behavior in the real world....
New Scientist, Sept. 22

Can you ask library users to leave if they have H1N1?
Attorney Grayson Barber writes: “Public officials cannot eject members of the public from a public library unless there’s a very good reason for doing so. If you suspect a customer has H1N1, and you ask them to leave for that reason, you are taking a huge risk if you guess wrong. The better approach would be to encourage the customer to comply with posted guidelines for protecting himself, herself, and the community.”...
LibraryLaw Blog, Sept. 20

Top 15 reasons people join volunteer boards
Patricia Martin writes: “It’s important to understand why people join boards and committees, in order to know what it will take to motivate and maintain members who are committed to the organization. Here are the top 15 reasons why people become involved on boards and committees.”...

**Pigeon for a day**
Angela Reynolds writes: “One might not think that someone with a master’s degree would end up walking in a parade in a paint-covered hoodie with a cardboard bird body attached, but this, my friends, is the true calling of many a librarian. To hear a crowd of young parade watchers yell out ‘Don’t let the pigeon drive the bus!’ is a joy indeed. Even adults, who probably have never read a Mo Willems book enjoyed the costume” crafted for the 26th annual Bridgetown (Nova Scotia) Ciderfest Parade September 12....

**Queens librarian dances the “chicken dance”**
Susan Scatena, librarian at the Whitestone branch of the Queens (N.Y.) Library, challenged her summer readers: If they read 2,500 books, she would dress up as a chicken and do the chicken dance on the library steps. The youngsters were so anxious to see the spectacle, 355 of them read more than 5,800 books. Scatena was in fine feather September 10, and paid off her promise before a large audience....

**Children’s room, Brooklyn Public Library, 1941**
This photo of the Children’s Room at the Brooklyn Public Library in Prospect Park Plaza was taken from the balcony on February 1, 1941. The original is a 5-by-7-inch safety negative by Sam Gottscho. Click through on the photo to see a larger image....

**Book necklaces and other old-leather book items**
Margaux Kent, of TheBlackSpotBooks in Philadelphia, creates necklaces made out of specially manufactured, miniature, hand-sewn, leather-bound books. The mini-books, as well as her larger creations, are made of a “mix of antique and scrap leathers” (whatever Kent has found in antique stores) and the paper is lineless Strathmore artist paper—thick, hand-torn, acid-free pages that work perfectly with ink, pens, pencil, charcoal, and other media. Watch the video (2:09). ...

**Dirty librarian chains**
Perhaps you like your accessories to possess an edgy, understated, and yet slightly askew elegance that reflects your personal style? Check out “dirty
librarian chains” by designer Susan Domelsmith. These chains are refitted from second-hand materials. A piece such as the Call Number Necklace incorporates 11 gold-and-silver-plated vintage chains and four vintage charms. Other selections include a Monograph Bracelet, Collation Earrings, a Dewey Sunglass Chain, and a Sudocs Chain. 
Dirty Librarian Chains

A librarian looks like . . .
Eric Frierson writes: “I recently went out to do a library instruction session for a freshman-level U.S. government class at the University of Texas at Arlington—these kids were from all majors. Before saying my name or who I was, I asked them to take out a sheet of paper and draw a librarian, list things a librarian does, and list some things at the library.” Some of the other drawings are in this large PDF file. ....
Live Wire Librarian, Sept. 8

Ask a Librarian now includes marriage proposals
Paula Bagwell, a librarian at St. Petersburg College, was proposed to on Ask a Librarian, Florida’s virtual reference service managed by the Tampa Bay Library Consortium. In her own words: “My boyfriend of two years, Josh, just proposed to me via Ask a Librarian. I was covering virtual chat and he signed on and asked me to marry him. Then I learned he was actually at the Clearwater library and was using a computer in the lab. He got down on his knee and proposed to me in the middle of the library.”...
Ask a Librarian Blog, Sept. 23

The smartest card in North Carolina
For the fourth year in a row, the State Library of North Carolina is proving that the smartest card in North Carolina is a library card. For the latest edition of North Carolina’s Smartest Card campaign, the state library selected Gov. Bev Perdue as its spokesperson. “A public library card gives you access to a whole world of information and imagination,” said Gov. Perdue in a promotional video (2:02)....
ALA, Sept. 22; YouTube, Sept. 1

The library at Coventry University
Students at Coventry University in the U.K. are the best advocates for library services. In this video (5:33), they describe the helpful staff, extended hours during exams, self-service checkout, media services, the Centre for
Academic Writing, the phone zone, laptop loan service, the resources shop, the learning lounge, and the café....

Can you spot the librarian?
Librarians at Marion County (Ky.) Public Library have much more to offer than “shhhhh.” They are fun, clever, and extremely helpful people who are ready and willing to connect patrons with facts, technology, and fun events and programs. They are also willing to dress up in all sorts of costumes (2:04) in order to deliver information creatively, so “don’t judge the profession by its cover, or its perceived cover.”...
AL Direct, September 16, 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 | September 16, 2009

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

[http://americanlibrariesbuyersguide.com/]

U.S. & World News

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Free Library of Philadelphia could close October 2 if state fails to help
The Free Library of Philadelphia has posted notices at its branches and
on its website [http://libwww.freelibrary.org/closing/] advising users
that all libraries will close at the end of business on October 2 if the
Pennsylvania legislature does not approve the city’s request for a
temporary sales-tax hike and a two-year deferral of pension payments.
This is Mayor Michael Nutter’s doomsday Plan C, which
would go into effect if the state Senate does not endorse a plan
[H.B. 1828] approved by the House September 11. This helpful Q&amp;A
pushed back
[http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/heardinthehall/No_Senate_action_today_on_700_million_city_relief_bill.html] discussion of the measure to
September 17, but if no action is taken, Nutter will send out layoff
notices to 3,000 city workers on Friday....
Philadelphia Inquirer, Sept. 12, 14, 16; Free Library of Philadelphia;
Philadelphia Business Journal, Sept. 11

Michigan librarians demand full funding for resource sharing
/ MichiganLibrariansDemandFullFunding091409.cfm
Some six weeks after Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm issued an executive
order that would dismantle the Department of History, Arts, and
Libraries, some 500 librarians, genealogists, and other library
supporters held a September 10 rally at the state capitol in Lansing to
demand full funding for state-supported resource-sharing services. The
day before, Granholm had issued an executive order
http://www.michigan.gov/gov/0,1607,7-168-21975-221451---,00.html
September 9 to affirm that the board of the new Michigan Center for
Innovation and Reinvention should include &ldquo;librarians, historians,
archivists, and others with relevant expertise.&rdquo;....
American Libraries Online, Sept. 14

Copyright head tells House she opposes Google Books settlement
petersopposesgooglebooks091609.cfm
Testifying before the House Judiciary Committee September 10, Register of
Copyrights Marybeth Peters raised strong objections (PDF file
http://judiciary.house.gov/hearings/pdf/Peters090910.pdf) to the
proposed settlement of lawsuits challenging Google&rsquo;s Book Search
project. Calling parts of the settlement &ldquo;fundamentally at odds
with the law,&rdquo; she warned the deal could undermine Congress&rsquo; ability to govern copyrights and could have &ldquo;serious international
implications&rdquo;... for books published outside the United States....
American Libraries Online, Sept. 16

Archivist saves, restores original NASA moon pictures
nasaimagessaved091609.cfm
The Lunar Orbiter Image Recovery Project is restoring and releasing the
first up-close pictures of the moon, taken by five unmanned Lunar Orbiter
missions in the late 1960s, among them a famous 1966 black-and-white shot
of the Earthrise from the surface of the moon (right). The originals of
those images wouldn&rsquo;t exist today at all, however, if not for the
efforts of Nancy Evans, a retired NASA archivist and cofounder of
NASA&rsquo;s Planetary Data System....
American Libraries Online, Sept. 16

Oakland librarians return to work
oaklandustrikeover091109.cfm
In Rochester, Michigan, librarians, teachers, and students at Oakland
University went back to school September 10, ending a week-long faculty
strike joined by a dozen tenure-track librarians from the Kresge Library.
The administration and the faculty union reached a tentative agreement on
the faculty’s 2009&ndash;2012 contracts, and the strike that canceled
classes since September 3 was called off....
American Libraries Online, Sept. 11
ALA News

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Washington Office’s Mark Bard dies from injuries
Mark Bard, 26, died September 11 at Blodgett Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from injuries sustained when he was struck by a drunk driver October 1, 2007, near his home in Alexandria, Virginia. He was working as an policy analyst for the ALA Office of Information Technology Policy at the time. An online registry book is available....

Chappell Funeral Home, Fennville, Michigan

Libraries connect Americans with online government and jobs
With national unemployment topping 9% and many Americans seeking online information and new technology skills, U.S. public libraries are first responders in a time of economic uncertainty. Libraries Connect Communities 3: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study 2008–2009 (PDF file), an ALA report released September 15, says libraries are serving as crucial technology hubs for people in need of free web access, computer training, and assistance finding and using e-government and job resources....

Banned Books Week Read-Out, September 26
Join the Office for Intellectual Freedom to kick off Banned Books Week on September 26 in Chicago’s historic Bughouse Square. The McCormick Freedom Museum and the Newberry Library are cosponsors. Chris Crutcher will host authors of six of the 10 most challenged books of 2008, as they read from their work and share their experiences as censorship targets. The readings begin at noon and will be followed by book signings. City Lit Theatre Company and Chicago Public Library Readers’ Theatre will perform works from frequently challenged authors who couldn’t travel to Chicago....

New look, enhanced features for JobLIST
ALA JobLIST has had a facelift in response to user feedback. Its redesigned homepage displays the most recent listings at a glance, offers clearer paths for job seekers and employers to find what they need, and allows employers more options to control the response to their ads. Listings are searchable and sortable on a variety of criteria for professional and support-staff positions in libraries of all types, and for IT and knowledge-management positions with many types of nonprofits and companies. Positions can also be saved and shared through...
MentorConnect launches this week
ALA Internet Development Specialist Jenny Levine writes: “Now that phase one of ALA Connect is in operation, we are focusing on other services aimed at members who want to get involved professionally, but not necessarily at the committee level. The first of those projects is MentorConnect, [http://connect.ala.org/mentorconnect-help] a service that allows ALA members to create mentoring profiles that highlight their expertise and experience. Any member can search for a mentor using a variety of criteria (gender, type of library, ethnicity) and request mentorship.”...
ALA Marginalia, Sept. 11

A new pipeline, direct to the public
American Libraries Editor-in-Chief Leonard Kniffel writes: “Every librarian knows that today’s libraries face contradictions in many areas of public perception: While libraries are popular, they are often taken for granted. While libraries are ubiquitous, they are not often visible. While libraries are unique, they face competition. ALA launched the @ your library website [http://www.atyourlibrary.org/], designed not as a tool for librarians but as a direct pipeline to the general public.”...
AL Inside Scoop, Sept. 16

Showing films in the classroom
[http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=3630]
ALA and the Association of Research Libraries have released a document titled "Performance of or Showing Films in the Classroom" (PDF file [http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/copyright/fairuse/web-digital%20delivery%20filmsinclassroomrev3psa.pdf]) to provide guidance on digital delivery of content to the physical classroom. Understanding what is permitted under the TEACH Act of 2002 in combination with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act and existing exceptions, such as fair use, has become increasingly confusing to many practitioners....
District Dispatch, Sept. 10

Endowment Fund trustee needed
[http://ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/financialdata/EndowTrusteeAnnouncement09.cfm]
Applications are being accepted for the position of Endowment Trustee for the ALA Endowment Fund. The candidate will be selected by the Executive Board at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Boston. The newly elected trustee will serve a three-year term that will officially begin at the conclusion of the 2010 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. The deadline for applications (PDF file [http://ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/financialdata/EndowApp109.pdf]) is November 15....
Updated resource for library trustees
ALA Editions has released a second edition of The Successful Library Trustee Handbook [http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=2752] by Mary Y. Moore. Designed to improve any board’s effectiveness, this thoroughly revised resource includes updated state and federal legislation affecting public libraries, new tips on meeting management, and a new chapter on library technology. Practical checklists, tables, and “what have you learned?” review items will help anyone maximize the experience of serving on a board....

[http://www.archive.org/details/goodcitizenright00amerrich]How librarians helped get out the vote... in 1952
Jenny Levine writes: “An article in a 2008 issue of Libraries and the Cultural Record pinpoints the moment in time when libraries became known for providing high-quality, accurate, authentic information about all sides of an issue. It’s certainly the point at which libraries became outlets for information about voting. In a fascinating look back, author Jean Preers chronicles the efforts made to civically engage Americans and increase voter turnout in the 1948 and 1952 elections, when ALA ‘undertook its own program to promote the discussion of current issues in public libraries.’”... The Shifted Librarian, Sept. 15

Featured review: Media
Acclaimed filmmaker Ken Burns’s latest epic lives up to all expectations. Premiering on PBS stations on September 27, this six-part series chronicles the history of the national parks. The fascinating story cannot be told without highlighting those who led the way, including conservationist John Muir, outdoorsman Theodore Roosevelt, naturalist Adolph Murie, environmentalist David Brower, and others. The first episode, “The Scripture of Nature,” begins in the mid-19th century, when President Lincoln signed a bill to preserve lands in Yosemite, a majestic cathedral of rocks and spires. Immense Yellowstone became the nation’s first national park, in 1870. The Last Refuge concentrates on Muir and Roosevelt’s efforts to preserve lands and spearhead the conservation movement. Remaining episodes move chronologically, concluding with “The Morning of Creation,” which begins in 1946, when a postwar explosion of park visitors strained the system. In highly personal recollections, park enthusiasts, including historian John Hope Franklin and Burns’s collaborator Dayton Duncan, tell how park visits with their families left indelible impressions....

Audiobook romances
Mary Burkey writes: “Romance, in every flavor and style, is the hottest trend in audiobooks. According to the Romance Writers of America, the romance genre outsells literary fiction nearly three to one, and OverDrive Media reports that romance drives library digital downloads, with women (ages 40 to 59) the top consumers. Audiobook essentials of emotion, engagement, and authentic characterization are also the main ingredients in top-quality romances. Eileen Hutton, vice president and associate publisher of Brilliance Audio, reaffirms this as she shares her production criteria. ‘First and foremost, it has to be a good story well told. That’s always the bottom line for me when I’m acquiring. In studio production, it is essential to hire a narrator who can do strong, feminine heroines as well as strong, masculine heroes. There is nothing worse than a male narrator trying to do female voices and having them all come out sounding like whiny idiots; or a female narrator lowering her voice so much that the male characters sound like Neanderthals!’”

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

Division News

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School and public libraries planning special events to celebrate Teen Read Week can promote their events using publicity tools offered by YALSA. Teen Read Week will be celebrated October 18–24 in thousands of libraries across the United States. Download sample press releases, public service announcement scripts, and audio PSAs featuring Emmy Award-winning actress Nancy Cartwright (who plays Bart on The Simpsons) from the Teen Read Week website [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/teenreading/trw/trw2009/publicity.cfm]....

Teens can voice their choice one last time in the Teens’ Top Ten, a booklist chosen entirely by teens and sponsored by YALSA. Through September 18, teens can vote [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=aljbsPGeLCZcE_2bKFze8DuA_3d_3d] for their favorite books from the last year in the annual poll. The 25 nominees for this year’s list are available online (PDF file [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/teenreading/teenstopten/teenstoptenttt09.pdf]), along with bookmarks, flyers, and other promotional tools for librarians....
New AASL toolkit helps parents become advocates
AASL has launched a new resource on its website, the Parent Outreach Toolkit,
[http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/issues/toolkits/parentoutreach.cfm] created to help school library media specialists educate and garner support from parents. The toolkit asks the question, "How can parents help their child succeed in this changing global economy?" The answer: by equipping every school with a full-time certified school library media specialist....

New templates for Learning4Life
Just in time for back to school, AASL has posted new templates for Learning4Life, the division’s national plan to implement the learning standards and guidelines for the 21st century. The templates can be downloaded from the resources pages.
[http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/guidelinesandstandards/learning4life/resources/resources.cfm] Templates include a brochure, letter frame, postcards (right), notecards, a PowerPoint template, bumper sticker, button, and web banners....

RUSA 2010 Annual Conference programs
RUSA has released its list of programs scheduled for the 2010 ALA Annual Conference, June 24–29, 2010, in Washington, D.C. The RUSA President’s Program, "For the Love of Reference," will explore the twin appeals of information discovery and fulfilling users’ needs that drive the devotion to reference and readers’ advisory work....

Reference Research Forum: Call for proposals
The RUSA Research and Statistics Committee invites the submission of research projects for presentation at RUSA’s 16th Annual Reference Research Forum, June 27, as a part of Annual Conference events in Washington, D.C. Submissions should be sent by email by January 4 to Committee Chair Liane Luckman [mailto:lluckman@txstate.edu]. Examples of projects presented at past forums are on the committee’s website
[http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/rusa/sections/rss/rsssection/rssresearchstatistics.cfm]....

YALSA seeks poster sessions for Annual Conference
YALSA invites proposals for a poster session on exceptional Teen Tech Week events to be held at ALA Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., June 24–29, 2010. The poster session will highlight successful and innovative library services and Teen Tech Week programs that integrate technology in a way that is effective, affordable, and replicable at other libraries....
CE presenters needed for YALSA e-courses
As part of a goal to provide quality continuing education opportunities to the library community, YALSA offers three sessions of e-courses per year as well as face-to-face licensed institutes. The division is currently looking for instructors for 2010 and 2011 to design and deliver curriculum for both types of learning experiences in four areas. If you have experience and interest, submit a proposal (Word file [http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/form_CourseProposal.rtf]) to Beth Yoke [mailto:byoke@ala.org] by October 30....

YALSA Blog, Sept. 11

Awards

[http://ala.org]ALA website wins web development award
The ALA website has been recognized for outstanding achievement in web development. The site developer, Duo Consulting, was awarded a Non-Profit Standard of Excellence WebAward by the Web Marketing Association, a 13-year-old organization focused on setting a high standard for internet marketing and development of the best websites....

Web Marketing Association, Sept. 15

ALCTS awards nominations
[http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/september2009/atkinson_alcts.cfm] If you are interested in nominating a candidate for any of the awards, contact the chair of that award jury. The deadline for nominations and supporting materials is December 1....

It’s time for the fourth annual contest run by the library-themed comic strip Unshelved to see who can best pimp, trick, or otherwise improve a standard bookcart. Libraries and schools often stage youth programs to generate entries. Prizes are provided by Unshelved and this year’s sponsor, Smith System. Unshelved co-creators Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum are the sole judges. Submitted photos will be posted online [http://www.unshelved.com/PimpMyBookcart/carts.aspx?year=2009] as they
Unshelved

[http://www.unshelved.com/PimpMyBookcart/submit.aspx] is October 31....

FLICC awards for federal librarianship
The Federal Library and Information Center Committee has announced the winners of its 10th annual awards for federal librarianship. Honors went to the National Institute of Standards and Technology Research Library (right) in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and the U.S. Air Force Hurlburt Field Library in Florida. Verlene Herrington, chief of the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Library in Fort Huachuca, Arizona, was named Federal Librarian of 2008, and Lawana Gladney, library technician in the U.S. Department of Justice, was named Federal Library Technician of 2008.... Federal Library and Information Center Committee, Sept. 14

Book Blogger Appreciation Week, Sept. 15

Dragon Codex Song Contest winner
[http://www.wizards.com/default.asp?x=dnd/4dnd/greendragon] Librarian Heather Perry of Little Elm (Tex.) Public Library and two young patrons have won Mirrorstone’s Dragon Codex Song Contest. Their winning entry for the Green Dragon Codex lyric has now been recorded as part of the publisher’s Dragon Codex series. Download the song (MP3 file [http://www.wizards.com/books/mirrorstone/BalladDragonCodex.mp3]) or the lyrics (PDF file [http://www.wizards.com/books/mirrorstone/WinningDragonLyrics.pdf]). Each Dragon Codex novel takes a type of dragon and weaves a spellbinding story around it.... Mirrorstone, Sept. 9

Seen Online

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Brooklyn returns to a seven-day schedule
Four Brooklyn Public Library branches will once again be open on Sundays, returning to a seven-day schedule that ended in January because of
anticipated budget cuts. Sunday service was axed after Mayor Michael Bloomberg proposed a $17.5-million (21%) cut to the library budget beginning in March. That was a particularly bad blow to neighborhoods like Borough Park, where most residents observe the Jewish Sabbath on Saturday and can’t use the library then. The New York Public Library is also expanding hours [http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/09/14/new-york-public-library-extended-hours/] at 10 of its branches in Manhattan and the Bronx....


The District of Columbia Public Library will be forced to cut staff and reduce services if its proposed $44-million budget for fiscal year 2010 is further reduced in moves that Chief Librarian Ginnie Cooper (right) says are a last resort to save money in a tough economic climate. Cooper said she has exhausted all other options for saving money. A declining operating budget could lead to staff and budget cuts and pose a problem for new construction projects, as buildings could open without enough staff to run them....

Washington Times, Sept. 14

Zephyr Teachout writes: “Undergraduate education is on the verge of a radical reordering. Colleges, like newspapers, will be torn apart by new ways of sharing information enabled by the internet. The business model that sustained private U.S. colleges cannot survive. Major universities are already teaching a few of their courses online. And the young students of tomorrow will be growing up in an on-demand, personalized world, in which the notion of a set-term, offline, prepackaged education will seem anachronistic.”...

Washington Post, Sept. 13

NBA star Dwyane Wade helps out hometown library [http://www.southtownstar.com/news/1764242,091109wadedonation.article]  
Miami Heat player Dwyane Wade was back in his hometown of Robbins, Illinois, September 10 to donate $25,000 to the William Leonard Public Library District. Wade had learned of the district’s financial woes—the library was nearly closed until donors came forward this summer—and wanted to help. The donation from his Wade’s World Foundation will keep the library open through October....

Chicago Southtown Star, Sept. 11

The San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission is scheduled to vote September 16 to determine whether as many as eight branch libraries built between 1953 and 1966 and designed by Appleton and Wolfard should be studied as potential landmarks. The trigger for the landmark push is the North Beach branch, which opened in 1959. Like other libraries by the defunct firm, the branch shows why the public tired of the dogmatic
modernism that typified so much change after World War II....
San Francisco Chronicle, Sept. 12

Danny Glover to star in library film
Dozens of people were at the closed McGregor Public Library in Highland Park, Michigan, September 14 to announce the production of a movie aptly titled Highland Park. The movie, slated for release in 2010, will star Danny Glover and chronicle the struggles of the once prosperous city as well as serve as an attempt to refurbish the library on Woodward Avenue that has been closed since March 2002. Filming
[http://www.freep.com/article/20090915/NEWS02/909150413/1320/Everyone-wants-a-part-in--Highland-Park--] is set to begin September 28....
Detroit Free Press, Sept. 14–15

Rockford union offers a counterproposal
Library union officials submitted an alternative proposal to the city September 14 for cutting about $1.5 million from the Rockford (Ill.) Public Library budget that could save some jobs. The offer includes no closures or reduced hours or services, although one option involves nine (instead of 30) layoffs. During the city council meeting, some two dozen parents, children, and library workers gathered on the city hall steps for a special story time to protest the proposed cuts....
Rockford (Ill.) Register Star, Sept. 14

Kansas City firm plays role in New Orleans library rebirth
[http://www.kansascity.com/637/story/1435413.html]
If all goes according to plan, five New Orleans Public Library branches will open next spring, a mere 10 months after groundbreaking, thanks to a fast-track process that has had Kansas City, Missouri, architects operating at a breakneck pace for much of this year. The architectural firm of Gould Evans Associates landed the contract in a competition this summer. The $26.4-million project is not the biggest reconstruction effort under way in the hurricane-damaged city, but the libraries are important symbols of renewal in their respective neighborhoods....
Kansas City (Mo.) Star, Sept. 10

Alvin Community College library makes a comeback
One year ago, tornados from Hurricane Ike visited Alvin (Tex.) Community College and left $15-million worth of damage resulting from flooded buildings, molding books, useless computers, and mangled roofs. ACC Librarian Tom Bates had to dispose of about 5,000 books worth $250,000. Now, though, he believes his library is better than ever. The final piece that means total recovery for the ACC Library is the modern furniture that is expected to arrive at the end of September....
Brazoria (Tex.) Education Headlines Examiner, Sept. 11

Elgin trustee gets into trouble again
Gail Borden Public Library Trustee Randolph Hopp—already banned from the library except for board meetings—got into another altercation with a library employee, according to a police report. Elgin, Illinois, police said they were called to the library shortly before the September 8 board meeting in response to an accusation that Hopp was trespassing at the library and shoved Dave Considine, Gail Borden’s director of facilities and building operations.

Elgin (Ill.) Courier-News, Sept. 11

Disney archives on display at Anaheim’s D23 Expo

Ninety-two items from Disney films that have long been kept under lock and key—including the giant bejeweled storybook (right) used in 1959 for the opening scene of Sleeping Beauty—headline an unusual exhibition of memorabilia at the first D23 Expo (Disney + 1923, when the Disney Studio opened), September 10–13, in Anaheim, California. CEO Robert A. Iger is committed to expanding the holdings of the Disney Archives and making their treasures more public. Since Iger put a renewed focus on the collection, archivists have added about 15,000 items, partly by combing through storerooms.

New York Times, Sept. 8

They don’t ban books in San Francisco

The San Francisco Public Library’s planned celebration of Banned Books Week, September 26–October 3, provides an opportunity for local folks to feel good about themselves. The library’s collection development director, Laura Lent, says she can recall only one instance in the past decade in which the library opted to pull a book off the shelves as a result of patron insistence. And this patron happened to be the book’s author.

San Francisco Weekly, Sept. 9

books too racy for some Sydney schools

At some religious-based primary schools in the Sydney, Australia, area, librarians have removed Stephenie Meyer’s Twilight books from the shelf either because the content is too sexual or goes against religious beliefs. Helen Schutz, head librarian at Santa Sabina College, a Roman Catholic girl’s day school in Strathfield, said the themes are different from those in the Harry Potter series: “We wanted to make sure they realize it’s fictitious and ensure they don’t have a wrong grasp on reality.”

Sydney (N.S.W.) Daily Telegraph, Sept. 12

Lexington Public Library to cut its budget

The Lexington (Ky.) Public Library board voted September 9 to cut its budget for the first time in 25 years, resulting in 10% less money for new materials, a hiring freeze, and indefinite delays on renovation
projects. The library, mostly financed by Fayette County property taxes, is proving to be in shakier financial condition than the board previously thought. Also, LPL has budgeted $250,000 in fees for a legal firm to represent the library during recent investigations of its spending....
Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader, Sept. 10

Anchorage libraries feeling a budget squeeze
[http://www.adn.com/opinion/view/story/928949.html]
These are hard times for Anchorage, Alaska, library users. Hours were cut to account for unpaid furloughs this summer. Loussac Library and its branches have only been open four days a week. And those are cuts in a staff that already runs bare bones, according to a preliminary study by the library consulting firm Himmel and Wilson. But before anyone is tempted to close the book and turn out the lights, there’s some good news too....
Anchorage (Alaska) Daily News, Sept. 9

Köln to build new city archives
Half a year after the dramatic collapse of its city archives building, Köln, Germany’s documents are to be given a new home. The city council announced September 10 that it plans to spend over 97-million euros on a new, purpose-built building that will also provide space for a variety of other cultural institutions....
Medieval News, Sept. 11

Tech Talk

Bing launches new Visual Search
Phil Bradley writes: “No sooner does one new visual search option come along, than you get another. Neck and neck with Google’s Fast Flip (http://googlenewsblog.blogspot.com/2009/09/read-news-fast-with-google-fast-flip.html) (which allows users to skim through Google News stories by viewing an enlarged thumbnail) do we have Bing’s Visual Search (http://www.bing.com/visualsearch). It’s a simple concept: People like searching visually. The idea is that you simply click on what interests you, and you’ll get a bunch of images. You can then mouse over the one that interests you and immediately see some information below the search box, with the person/thing/whatever added into the search box for you.”...
Phil Bradley’s Weblog, Sept. 15; Google News Blog, Sept. 14

Popular search engines of the 1990s: Then and now
[http://sixrevisions.com/web_design/popular-search-engines-in-the-90s-then-and-now/]
Jacob Gube writes: “In the heyday of the internet, when Google wasn’t the only search engine people used to seek information, web surfers had several options for finding what they needed. This article
harks back to the days of AltaVista, HotBot, and Ask Jeeves. You’ll see how the web designs of ubiquitous search engines of the past have evolved through time.”...
Six Revisions, Sept. 12

Top 10 things library administrators should know about technology
[http://techessence.info/topten]
Roy Tennant writes: “It’s not insulting to say that those who run libraries tend not to know all that much about technology. A very different set of skills are needed to run an organization, and those skills do not often come packaged along with technical knowledge and experience. But administrators need to know some specific things about technology in order to do their jobs well, so here is my list.”...
TechEssence, Sept. 12

Great software cheat sheets
Need a handy printout for some of the software that you or your staff use? Here are some application cheat sheets for Microsoft Office, web browsers, Linux, Photoshop, Twitter, Vi/Vim, and search engine optimization that you can post on a nearby bulletin board. A few others can be found here [http://www.customguide.com/quick_references.htm]....
MakeUseOf.com, Sept. 14; CustomGuide

10 tips to safeguard your Facebook privacy
[http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/the-complete-guide-to-facebook-privacy/]
Mahendra Palsule writes: “Facebook has 250 million active users, each with an average of 120 friends. More than 1 billion photos are uploaded every month by its users, over 70% of whom use applications like games and quizzes in Facebook. Unfortunately, most users don’t know the implications of entering personal information, making friends, and playing games on Facebook. This guide will show what you can (and cannot) do to safeguard your Facebook privacy.”...
MakeUseOf.com, Sept. 13

Publishing
===========================================================================
Robert Darnton’s case for books
[http://www.publishersweekly.com/article/CA6696290.html]
Harvard University Library Director Robert Darnton writes: “The book is not dead. In fact, the world is producing more books than ever before. According to Bowker, 700,000 new titles were published worldwide in 1998; 859,000 in 2003; and 976,000 in 2007. Despite the Great Recession of 2009 that has hit the publishing industry so hard, one million new books will soon be produced each year. Yet the general lack of concern for history among Americans has made us vulnerable to exaggerated notions of historic change; and so has our fascination with technology.”...
Publishers Weekly, Sept. 14

Getting into print
Jennifer Roland writes: “Rejection is the constant companion of both the editor and the writer. The editor must make decisions when selecting articles, turning a harsh eye on submissions that don’t fit the format or tone of the magazine. And the writer who hasn’t amassed a hefty collection of rejections is probably writing only for his or her own consumption. The key to seeing your article in print is to follow the rules and be persistent.”...
Blue Skunk Blog, Sept. 15

The oldest living reference work?
Mary Ellen Quinn writes: “If there’s an older surviving reference work than the Annual Register, I haven’t come across it. Founded by Edmund Burke in 1758 (and written and edited by him through 1765), the Annual Register is celebrating ‘250 years of uninterrupted publication’ with the 2009 edition. For the anniversary volume, there is a speculative preface to a 300th (2059) edition (the population of Antarctica is 3–4 million, thanks in part to melting polar ice). The 2009 Annual Register is published by ProQuest along with a special edition of the very first volume. The entire archive is available online.”...
Points of Reference, Sept. 11

Obama administration open to Patriot Act reform
In a September 14 letter sent to Senate Judiciary Chairman Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), the Department of Justice called for the reauthorization of three expiring provisions of the Patriot Act, but also expressed that the Obama administration is open to reforming those and other provisions. The provisions, including Section 215 or the “library records” provision, are up for renewal this year and will expire on December 31 if Congress does not take action. The committee will hold hearings on the Patriot Act September 23....
American Civil Liberties Union, Sept. 15

National Hispanic Heritage Month
Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. The Library of
Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, Smithsonian Institution, and other organizations are offering resources to help appreciate Hispanic cultures.

Library of Congress

IMLS grant will help libraries help the unemployed

Through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, OCLC’s WebJunction and the State Library of North Carolina have launched a one-year initiative to gather and share best practices for providing library-based employment services and programs to the unemployed. The partners will develop and host an online training module—available to everyone—that adapts the curriculum of a North Carolina state workshop held earlier in the year.

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Sept. 10

Five universities endorse open-access journals

Five leading universities—Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, MIT, and UC-Berkeley—announced September 14 a new Compact for Open Access Publishing Equity in which they have pledged to develop systems to pay open access journals for the articles they publish by the institutions’ scholars. In doing so, the institutions are attempting to put to rest the idea that only older publication models (paid and/or print) can support rigorous peer review and quality assurance. And they are inviting others to join them.

Inside Higher Education, Sept. 15

Redesigned ARSL website highlights its members

The Association for Rural and Small Libraries has redesigned its website as a dynamic space that captures ARSL’s personality and mission in a way that is appealing and relevant to its members. It is also spotlighting its member libraries on the homepage each month. Elements of this website, including the new ARSL logo, were unveiled at their annual conference in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, September 11–13.

Association for Rural and Small Libraries

The 11 commandments of student research

Mary W. George writes: “I would like to offer a list of precepts for student researchers, all in a positive vein but doing Moses one better. Whereas the Children of Israel were never admonished to critique their own behavior; just read the tablets and follow the rules, already! The children of the 21st century must learn to search thoughtfully and judge sources wisely lest they too wander for decades in a metaphysical desert or accept mirages as reality. These are matters that I, as a college librarian, would like undergraduates to know (or at least know about) before I encounter them.”

Keywords from a Librarian, Sept. 14

Why isn’t a picture worth 1,000 words?

Kristine Alpi writes: “Although entire books have been written about the value of color as communication, color has always been a special request for interlibrary loan copies. Now, color is much more common—in situations where color is crucial, and in cases such as graphs where well-presented shades of gray could convey the message. Yet neither color nor image quality is mentioned in the ALA Interlibrary Loan Code for the United States [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/rusa/resources/guidelines/interlibrary.cfm] (2008), nor in the sample ALA Interlibrary Loan Request Forms.”... 
In the Library with the Lead Pipe, Sept. 16

A wish list [http://theunquietlibrarian.wordpress.com/2009/09/12/a-wish-list/]
Buffy J. Hamilton writes: “I’ve been thinking today about what I wish I and my high-school students could have access to in the library. Forget all the restrictions currently in place in the name of network security, student safety, legal protections, and such—that’s a list of favorite things that I feel could enhance student learning if the school network and filter were to be unfettered.”...
The Unquiet Librarian, Sept. 12

Christy Zlatos writes: “For American librarians with Spanish-language skills, the annual conference of the Asociación Mexicana de Bibliotecarios—held this year in Acapulco, September 9–11—is a great way to give a talk and share ideas with Mexican colleagues about research. For example, OCLC representative Bruce Crocco spoke in English about OCLC’s user experience research alongside a distinguished Mexican speaker, Dr. Adolfo Rodríguez Gallardo, who discussed Mexico’s national consortium catalog for academic libraries.” ALA President Camila Alire [http://christyzlatos.blogspot.com/2009/09/dr-camila-alire.html] also gave a presentation. See more photos here [http://www.flickr.com/photos/27830686@N02/sets/72157622198525321/]....
Glorious Journeys and Outrageous Interludes, Sept. 9, 11

Swedish librarians visit the Digital Bookmobile [http://blog.cleveland.com/westshoresun/2009/08/rocky_river_residents_are_gett.html]
The Rocky River (Ohio) Public Library hosted the 74-foot traveling Digital Bookmobile, sponsored by audiobook provider OverDrive, on August 20, and six librarians from Sweden were on hand to take notes. They were visiting Ohio libraries for one week on a grant from the Swedish Arts Council. Many Rocky River patrons also took advantage of the traveling bookmobile tour to see what the library has available. Take a video tour [http://blip.tv/file/2541688] yourself (4:46), watch an interview [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFy3P9nV9z8] with the Swedes (4:01), or read their own comments [http://digitalabokbussen.blogspot.com/] in their blog (if you know Swedish)....
Bay Village (Ohio) West Shore Sun, Aug. 29; blip.tv, Sept. 1; YouTube, Sept. 10; Digitala bokbussen
eCycling programs
[http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/materials/ecycling/index.htm]
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is working to educate consumers and others on why it is important to reuse and recycle electronics and what the options are for safe reuse and recycling of these products. State and local governments, manufacturers, and retailers, are providing more opportunities to recycle and reuse this equipment. This website offers basic information on recycling electronics, regional and state programs, organizations and retailers with donation and recycling programs, regulations for handling equipment, and an FAQ on electronic waste....
Environmental Protection Agency

OCLC convenes Record Use Policy Council
The OCLC Board of Trustees has convened a Record Use Policy Council, which will draw upon the fundamental values of the OCLC cooperative and engage with the global library community to develop the next generation of the WorldCat Record Use Policy. The intent is to recommend to the OCLC Board of Trustees a new policy that is aligned with the present and future information landscape....
OCLC, Sept. 14

Lexington teams up with WUKY-FM for NPR book club
[http://www.lexpublib.org/librarynews/article.cfm?ArticleID=287]
The Lexington (Ky.) Public Library and WUKY-FM will begin monthly book discussions of books by on-air National Public Radio personalities, starting with a discussion of Geoffrey Nunberg’s Going Nucular: Language, Politics, and Culture in Controversial Times on October 13. The book club will meet the second Tuesday of each month, rotating library branch locations. Interviews with the book discussion facilitators will be aired on the station in advance and will be available by podcast on the WUKY website [http://www.wuky.org]....
Lexington (Ky.) Public Library, Sept. 4

OCLC's Classify service
[http://www.oclc.org/research/researchworks/classify/]
Classify [http://deweyresearch.oclc.org/classify2/] is a prototype OCLC web service designed to support the assignment of classification numbers for books, DVDs, CDs, and many other types of materials. The prototype provides access to more than 36 million WorldCat records that contain Dewey Decimal Classification, Library of Congress Classification, or National Library of Medicine Classification numbers. You can retrieve a classification summary by ISBN, ISSN, UPC, OCLC number, or author/title....
OCLC Research

Read Across Jamaica launches literacy campaign
[http://www.readacrossja.com/bookdrive.html]
The Read Across Jamaica Foundation has begun a campaign to increase literacy awareness in Caribbean communities in the United States and Jamaica. Donors can drop off new or gently used children’s books at supporting locations. [http://www.readacrossja.com/bookcollectionsites.html] The materials will
be distributed to students and participating schools in January, May, and November each year.

Read Across Jamaica Foundation

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5V36EoYXx4]Thinking outside the barn
[http://www.pioALA.org/visibility/?p=1065]
The Rolling Prairie Library System in Decatur, Illinois, designed its booth for the Farm Progress Show with the theme “Think outside the barn @ your library” to promote the value of librarians, libraries, and their services to the residents of agricultural communities. The logo, originally designed in 2007, has appeared on banners, yard signs, coffee mugs, post-it notes, and the staff’s polo shirts. RPLS Executive Director Bev Obert explains the concept in this video [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5V36EoYXx4] (4:25).…

Visibility @ your library, Sept. 15

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ILQrUrEWe8] Did you know 4.0
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ILQrUrEWe8]
This is another official update (4:45) to the original (2008) Shift Happens [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FdTOFkhaplo] video (8:28). This completely new Fall 2009 version includes facts and stats focusing on the changing media landscape, including convergence and technology, and was developed in partnership with the Economist. Content by XPLANE, the Economist, Karl Fisch, Scott McLeod, and Laura Bestler…. YouTube, Sept. 14

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[http://www.shapingoutcomes.org/]

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[http://www.ala.org/ala/conferences/events/upcoming/midwinter/2010/index.cfm]

ALA Midwinter Meeting,
[http://www.ala.org/ala/conferences/events/upcoming/midwinter/2010/exhibits.cfm] will open on Friday, January 15, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 5:15 p.m. preceding the All-Conference Reception on the Exhibit Floor. Special events on the exhibit floor include the ERT Author Forum, a Spotlight on Adult Literature, and a Technology Showcase.

In The Library: An Illustrated History, [http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=2643] Stuart A. P. Murray traces the elaborate history of the library from its very beginnings in the ancient libraries of Babylon and Alexandria to some of the greatest contemporary institutions—the Royal Society of London, the Newberry Library, the Smithsonian, and many others. Illustrated with 130 rich color photos, readers can follow the fascinating progress of the institution we now know today as the library. NEW! From ALA Editions.

[http://ngd.ala.org/]

You can register [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=EzQezW7pxCulkbcgUJv6DA_3d_3d] now for ALA’s second annual National Gaming Day @ your library, [http://ngd.ala.org/] November 14. This will put your location on the national map and allow you to request free donations if you are one of the first 1,000 libraries to sign up. Academic, school, and public libraries are all welcome. Registration will be closing in mid-October in order to get the games shipped to you. Sign up each of your branches separately so that each one can receive its own game. Contact Jenny Levine [mailto:jlevine@ala.org] for more details.

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

Public Libraries: Necessities or Amenities?

Designing User Experiences

Sound Recording Collections

Learning with Blogs

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

Ontology Specialist, [http://joblist.ala.org/modules/jobseeker/controller.cfm?scr=jobdetail&jobid=13680] Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, to assume responsibility for ongoing implementation of the Mayo Consumer Health Vocabulary and the metadata strategies to support business requirements for Global Products and Services Internet activities. Working as part of the MCGPS Consumer Products and Services entity, the incumbent will assign appropriate metadata to resources; develop and maintain metadata strategy documentation; and work closely with team members to develop ways to meet evolving metadata needs in this rapidly changing field....

Digital Library of the Week

[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=afc1986022&fileName=afc1986022ms0904.db&recNum=0&itemLink=D?afccalbib:2:./temp/~ammem_PdJY::]

The Center for Applied Linguistics Collection [http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/linguistics/] contains 118 hours of recordings documenting North American English dialects. The collection debuted September 10 on the Library of Congress American Memory website. The recordings include speech samples, linguistic interviews, oral histories, conversations, and excerpts from public speeches. They were drawn from various archives, and from the private collections of 50 collectors, including linguists and folklorists. The collection includes recordings from 43 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and parts of Canada. They were made from 1941 to 1984, with the bulk being recorded between 1968 and 1982. Some of the recordings are by famous Americans (such as aviator Amelia Earhart, above), but most are the voices of people whose specific identities are unknown, but whose comments represent the richness of the American experience. There are Gullah speakers from coastal South Carolina, sharecroppers from Arkansas, Puerto Rican teenagers in New York City, Basque sheepherders from Colorado, Chesapeake Bay watermen, Vietnamese immigrants from Northern Virginia, and many others. 350 of the collection's 405 recordings are available on this website; of these, 148 have accompanying transcriptions. The remaining recordings, which could not be posted due to copyright issues and other restrictions, may be heard in the American Folklife Center Reading Room in Washington, D.C.

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

Public Perception
How the World Sees Us

“I never forgot [my school librarians] Miss Stubbs, Miss Browning, and Ms. Scott/Whittaker. Because of them, I’m a librarian. Because they showed me that no matter how screwed up my family and home was, I could always read and learn and dream about more. They told me that girls could
put their minds to anything, and books were the doorway to that, even if
the books were fluffy or silly. They taught me that reading would always
elevate me out of whatever pit I was in, be it depression, a violent
home, being broke or lonely. They taught me that so long as I could read,
life could be better, that it would be better. If people in books could
sort it out, I could. Sometimes that lesson was all that got me through
parts of my life.”

—IT Librarian Kath Read, Brisbane (Qld.) City Council Library Services,
“Why I Became a Librarian” post, Sleepydumpling’s Big Adventure blog,

[http://www.twitter.com/amlibraries]

AL on Twitter. Follow American Libraries news stories, videos, and blog
posts on Twitter. [http://www.twitter.com/amlibraries]

Ask the ALA Librarian

Q. My administrator wants to know what the library’s plan for preventing
the spread of the H1N1 flu is for this school year. He has asked if we
need to wipe down the books daily, or otherwise clean them to prevent
transmission. Does ALA have information to help libraries on this subject?

A. As yet, ALA has not prepared detailed guidelines for a response to the
H1N1 flu (also commonly called “swine flu”), other than as part of
general disaster readiness guidelines. The reasons for this are that most
libraries are part of another organization that may have plans to guide
the broader community, and that our member groups, who write the
guidelines, are focusing on their expertise: protecting the collections.
The ALA Library has compiled flu preparedness resources,
[http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Pandemic_Planning] which
include a list of topics to include in an individual library policy.
According to an official at the Cook County (Ill.) Department of Public
Health: “Books do not need to be wiped down and books will not cause flu.
Almost all flu is passed directly from person to person through droplets,
such as when someone sneezes and coughs on you.” What libraries should do
is follow common sense precautions: encourage people to wash their hands
in the bathroom, encourage people to cover their coughs and cough into a
tissue or into the crook of their elbow, and don’t go to the
library or anywhere else if you are sick. From the ALA Professional Tips

@ The ALA Librarian [mailto:AskTheLibrarian@ala.org] welcomes your
questions.
Register [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/teenreading/trw/trw2009/home.cfm] for Teen Read Week, October 18–24. YALSA offers six incentives [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/teenreading/trw/trw2009/registration.cfm] to register. This year’s theme is Read Beyond Reality @ your library, which encourages teens to read something out of this world, just for the fun of it. The deadline is September 18.

Calendar

Oct. 2–3:
Santa Fe Antiquarian Book Show, [http://www.santafebookshow.com/] El Museo Cultural 1615 Paseo de Peralta in the Historic Railyard District, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Oct. 2–4:

Oct. 4:

Oct. 4:

Oct. 10–11:
Seattle Antiquarian Book Fair and Book Arts Show, [http://www.seattlebookfair.com/] Seattle Center Exhibition Hall.

Oct. 16–18:

Oct. 20–22:

Oct. 24–25:

Oct. 30:
Academic Library Association of Ohio, [http://www.alaoebon.org/conferences/conf2009/] Annual Conference, Roberts
Centre, Wilmington. “At the Crossroads: Recharging, Redefining, and Realigning Our Libraries.”

Nov. 8–15: 

Nov. 13–15: 
Boston International Antiquarian Book Fair, [http://www.bostonbookfair.com/] Hynes Convention Center.

Dec. 5–6: 

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

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American Libraries Direct

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AL Direct, September 23, 2009

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The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | September 23, 2009

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U.S. & World News

===========================================================================

[http://libwww.freelibrary.org/donate/thankyou.cfm]Philly dodges Doomsday; other Pennsylvanians libraries in limbo
With less than a day to spare before layoff notices were to be sent to library staff, the Pennsylvania Senate approved a law September 17 that gives Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter the revenue to fund the Free Library of Philadelphia. Only a week earlier, library officials had posted a notice online as well as on building doors that lack of funds was forcing the indefinite closure of the entire 54-facility system as of October 2. Although the Philadelphia crisis has eased, other libraries have already begun tightening their belts in anticipation of hard times....
American Libraries Online, Sept. 18

Senate bill defends reader privacy by regulating surveillance
[http://www.ala.org/ala/alonline/currentnews/newsarchive/2009/september2009...
A bill introduced in the Senate September 17 would reform three provisions of the USA Patriot Act set to expire at the end of the year, as well as the FISA Amendments Act and other surveillance authorities, to safeguard the constitutional rights of Americans while also ensuring that the federal government has the necessary tools to fight terrorism. The JUSTICE Act (Judiciously Using Surveillance Tools in Counterterrorism Efforts), S.B. 1684 would reauthorize Section 215 of the Patriot Act, often referred to as the "library provision," but with additional checks and balances.

American Libraries Online, Sept. 18

Second Senate Patriot Act reform bill in a week

American Libraries Online, Sept. 22

FCC head proposes rules supporting net neutrality
The chairman of the Federal Communications Commission announced regulations September 21 that would prevent internet service providers from blocking or slowing web traffic over their networks. The rules make good on a campaign promise by President Barack Obama to support net neutrality—the concept that network providers should not discriminate regarding the sites or applications to which they provide access.

American Libraries Online, Sept. 23

Georgia town returns to its Carnegie Library roots
A week of festivities commemorated the September 15 rededication to its original mission of suburban Atlanta's Newnan Carnegie Library after having relinquished its original role 22 years ago. Newnan Carnegie Library is probably the only Carnegie library anywhere to be transitioned to another purpose and reopened as a library. Andrew Carnegie historian Glenn Walsh asserted at the ceremony, after which the Royal Scottish Country Dancers performed in honor of Carnegie and his ethnicity.

American Libraries Online, Sept. 22

Interview with Iraqi Parliament's librarian
[http://www.ala.org/ala/alonline/resources/slctdarticles/abbasinterview092109.cfm]
Mohammad Abbas talks about his role as head of the new Library Department of the Iraqi Council of Representatives, the nation's parliament,
in Baghdad. American Libraries Editor in Chief Leonard Kniffel interviewed Abbas August 24 during the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions meeting in Milan, Italy, and by email in the days following....

American Libraries Online, Sept. 21

[http://www.appraisalinstitute.org/ALA/]

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ALA News

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September savings on ALA 2010 conferences
ALA is offering bundled registration for the 2010 Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference at a discounted price. Register for both conferences during the month of September and save more than 20% off the advance registration rate you would pay if you bought each event separately. The discount is only available until September 30. Register online [http://www.ala.org/midwinter] by clicking on “Registration.”...

Book banning attempts continue
What do books from the Harry Potter series, To Kill a Mockingbird, and Little Red Riding Hood have in common? All have faced removal from library bookshelves in the United States. In many cases, it is only through public intervention that books are saved from confiscation or from being kept under lock and key. From coast to coast, libraries and bookstores will battle censorship and celebrate the freedom to read during Banned Books Week, [http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/bannedbooksweek/index.cfm] September 26–October 3....

Oprah’s Book Club selection
[http://www.ala.org/ala/membership/whyjoinala/memberbenefits/orgbenefits/oprah/index.cfm]
ALA public, middle school, high school, and community college organizational members are eligible to receive the latest Oprah’s Book Club selection, Say You’re One of Them by Uwem Akpan, chosen September 18. Current organizational members will receive 2–8 copies of the selection, depending on size. Little, Brown, and Company, the publisher, shipped the book in September. (ALA personal memberships do not qualify.)...

Gear up for National Gaming Day
Hundreds of libraries across the country will join ALA to celebrate the
second annual National Gaming Day @ your library on November 14. During National Gaming Day, public, school, and academic libraries will offer a variety of in-person gaming activities, including a national video game tournament. Players of all ages and experience levels will be able to see how they rank on local, regional, and national leaderboards. Fill out this survey [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=EzQezW7pxCulkbcgUJv6DA_3d_3d] to register your library’s participation and qualify for materials....

ALA has signed on as a sponsor of Make It Matter Day, [http://www.rd.com/make-it-matter-make-a-difference/help-us-support-literacy-and-education/article154983.html] an effort to encourage Americans to participate in literacy and education activities, organized by Reader’s Digest. Make It Matter Day will be held October 3. Earlier this year, Reader’s Digest editors asked readers to identify a cause that mattered most to them. The winner was literacy and education. The magazine is encouraging the public to participate in literacy events at local Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCAs, and libraries....

ALA will be working with the Census Bureau to promote the value of accurate and complete census data and to create a positive impact on the 2010 questionnaire response rate. In February and March, the Census Bureau will begin mailing or delivering census questionnaires to households in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The Census Bureau has developed a wide array of downloadable free materials [http://2010.census.gov/2010census/promotional_materials/009579.html] to promote participation....

Fiber to the library [http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=3679]
The ALA Office for Information Technology Policy has released the official version of its policy brief, “Fiber to the Library: How Public Libraries Can Benefit” (PDF file [http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/FiberToTheLibrary-ALA-OITP-Sept2009-Final-SinglePages.pdf]). The purpose of this paper is to assist libraries in understanding the benefits of fiber-optic technology and to suggest strategies they can consider when exploring how to obtain fiber connectivity. It also provides arguments that may be useful in library community applications to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program....
District Dispatch, Sept. 21

The Office for Intellectual Freedom has four new videos on blip.tv featuring programs from the 2009 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. One is the popular panel discussion, “My, Those Novels Certainly Are . . . Graphic” (right), featuring Neil Gaiman, Terry Moore, and Craig
Book-banning puppets

In this Banned Books Week video (2:23) from the Office for Intellectual Freedom, Chad, Rustle, and Moon, the Crash Pad puppets, misinterpret the meaning of Banned Books Week, trying to throw some books with objectionable content—Of Mice and Men, The Grapes of Wrath, The Joy of Cooking, and the phone book—out of the library, until Herb points out the error of their ways. Written and performed by Josh Zagoren and Andrew Marchetti.

2009 IFLA World Library and Information Congress, Milan

This video (2:03) includes scenes from the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Milan, Italy, including music from the Concert for IFLA, held August 25 in the Duomo, and interviews with Mexican delegate Jesus Lau, outgoing IFLA President Claudia Lux, Paula Restrepo Duque (right) of the EPM Foundation, Deborah Jacobs of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, new IFLA President Ellen Tise, and U.S. delegate Barbara Ford. Read more about the IFLA conference on AL Inside Scoop.

Keeping up with ALA Connect

This is one (2:49) in a series of introductory screencasts on using the ALA Connect website that was created by members of the ALA Emerging Leaders Group I. “There’s so much happening on ALA Connect, you may feel a bit overwhelmed trying to find your way. But with a few easy features, you can quickly put your finger on the pulse of ALA Connect.” Watch 11 other Connect videos on the AL Focus website.

Featured review: Reference


This set is a much-expanded version of the Greenwood Encyclopedia of Daily Life, Volume II (2004), which covered daily life in the Middle Ages in European, Viking, Chinese, Muslim, Byzantine, Mongol, and Polynesian societies. As its title suggests, the new set extends the coverage of
medieval life around the globe. The work analyzes culture and life during the time period from 400 CE to 1400 CE, but coverage is extended to 1600 for the Americas, Africa, Southeast Asia, and North Africa and the Middle East. What makes this excellent set so valuable are the topical essays, 8 to 10 pages in length, covering the history, religion, economy, arts, society, and science and technology in each area. Essays discussing "Global Ties" do an outstanding job of showing how each region was connected to other parts of the world....

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

Division News

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ALSC revises competencies document
ALSC has released a revised edition of its Competencies for Librarians Serving Children in Public Libraries.
[http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/edcareeers/alsccorecomps/index.cfm]
The division recommends these core competencies to all children's librarians and other library staff whose primary duties include delivering library service to and advocating library service for children from birth to age 14. As an added bonus to ALSC members, free downloadable versions of the competencies are also available to print for training and workshops....

RFP on the value of academic libraries
ACRL is seeking proposals from experienced researchers for the development and delivery of a comprehensive review of the quantitative and qualitative literature, methodologies and best practices currently in place for demonstrating the value of academic libraries. The request for proposals (PDF file [http://www.acrl.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/ACRL_RFP_Value.pdf]) is available on the ACRL website. Responses are due by November 2....
ACRL Insider, Sept. 17

[http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/altaff/altaff/folweek/index.cfm]
ALTAFF is coordinating the fourth annual national Friends of Libraries Week, October 18–24. The celebration offers an opportunity to honor library Friends by creatively showcasing your group in the community, raising awareness, and promoting membership. It is also an excellent opportunity for libraries and trustees to recognize the Friends for their help and support....

RUSA Readers&#8217; Advisory course now open
The RUSA online course, Readers' Advisory 101, is now open for registration for the upcoming fall session. This popular course, offered October 26–December 7, is perfect for support staff, library technicians, and newly hired reference librarians looking to become more comfortable in providing readers’ advisory services. Register online or download the registration form (PDF file) to register by fax or mail.

Julie Walker elected to P21 Strategic Council

AASL Executive Director Julie Walker has been elected to serve as vice chair of the Strategic Council of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, a national advocacy organization focused on infusing 21st-century skills into education.

Sign up for the 2009 AASL Bloggers' Café

Are you attending the 2009 AASL National Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina? If so, be a part of the bloggers’ café. Presentation equipment and an internet connection will be available. Host a discussion, create a Birds of a Feather session, or expand on your concurrent session. Sign up here.

AASL commends four reading and literacy programs

AASL formally commended the following programs because they align with the division’s learning standards, guidelines, and principles expressed in its mission and value statements: the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, the William Allen White Children’s Book Awards program, No Book Left Unread, and Funds for Public Schools’ Library REACH. The AASL Affiliate Assembly presented these programs to the board at the 2009 Annual Conference in Chicago.

ACRL/LLAMA Spring Virtual Institute

ACRL and LLAMA are now accepting proposals for their Spring Virtual Institute, “Doing Well by Doing Good: Entrepreneurial Leadership for Librarians,” April 21–22. Submissions for...
interactive webcasts and online poster sessions will be accepted through November 16. The institute will explore different models and aspects of leadership and management and their impact on academic librarianship in today’s challenged and flat economic environments....

Awards

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Nominations for Sara Jaffarian Award
The ALA Public Programs Office is now accepting nominations for the 2009 Sara Jaffarian School Library Program Award for Exemplary Humanities Programming. School libraries, public or private, that serve children in any combination of grades K–8 and conducted humanities programs during the 2008–2009 school year are eligible. Nominations and applications http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ppo/awardsgrants/jaffarian/jaffarianapp.cfm must be received by December 15....

RUSA literary awards
RUSA literary awards committees are seeking outstanding published works for consideration for a variety of 2010 reference awards and prestigious lists for the adult reader. Publishers are invited to submit titles for the Notable Books List, the Reading List, the Sophie Brody Medal, the Dartmouth Medal, and the Outstanding Reference Sources list. Send nominations to the section committee chairperson for each....

Iowa paper scientist named MacArthur Fellow
Timothy Barrett, http://www.macfound.org/site/c.lkLX8MQKhR/b.5458003/k.9768/Timothy_Barrett.htm founding director of the papermaking facilities at the University of Iowa Center for the Book—the only program in the United States that focuses on making Western- and Japanese-style paper by hand—was named one of 24 Fellows by the MacArthur Foundation September 22. Barrett is an internationally recognized master craftsman and paper historian who is preserving and enhancing the art of hand-papemaking through his work as a practitioner, scholar, and teacher....
MacArthur Foundation, Sept. 22

Tenopir wins 2009 ASIS&T Award of Merit
http://www.sis.utk.edu/node/10546
University of Tennessee School of Information Science Professor Carol Tenopir has been honored with the 2009 Award of Merit by the American Society for Information Science and Technology. The award is the society’s highest honor, bestowed annually on an individual who has made a noteworthy contribution to the field of information science....
University of Tennessee, Sept. 18

Arlington library director honored by Muslim group
Local Muslims gathered at the Dallas–Fort Worth Islamic Educational Center in Arlington, Texas, September 17 and honored four public servants for their service to the Muslim community. One of those was Arlington Public Library Director Cary Ann Siegfried, who revoked the meeting-room privileges of the Grand Prairie chapter of ACT! for America in July because it was violating library rules about soliciting funds and allowing free access to meetings. The group was also invoking the threat of radical Islam in order to raise money....

Fort Worth (Tex.) Star-Telegram, Sept. 18

Excellence in digital storytelling
Seven New Jersey libraries were recognized September 15 for excellence in digital storytelling by the New Jersey State Library at an Academy Award–like ceremony at the New Jersey State Museum Auditorium in Trenton. The first-place award in the library’s “Tell Us Your Story” video competition went to the Cape May County Library for its video, “Get Your Game On at your library” (right, 2:24). Watch the winners here.

New Jersey State Library, Sept. 17

Skinner and Bausch win Dayton Literary Peace Prizes
A Crime So Monstrous: Face-to-Face with Modern-Day Slavery (Free Press) by E. Benjamin Skinner, and Peace (Knopf) by Richard Bausch were named winners September 22 of the 2009 Dayton Literary Peace Prize for nonfiction and fiction, respectively. The prize was founded in 2006 as an outgrowth of the Dayton Peace Prize, which commemorates the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords ending the war in Bosnia....

Dayton Literary Peace Prize, Sept. 22

2009 Royal Society Prize for Science Books
The 2009 Royal Society Prize for Science Books was awarded September 15 to Richard Holmes for his book The Age of Wonder: How the Romantic Generation Discovered the Beauty and Terror of Science, which investigates how a fascination for science swept across Britain at the end of 18th century. The £10,000 prize ($16,225 U.S.) celebrates the best new popular-science writing for a general adult readership....

Royal Society, Sept. 15

2009 Award for Indexing Excellence
At its annual dinner September 12, the Society of Indexers presented the Wheatley Medal for an outstanding index to Rudy Hirschmann, representing the members of the Einstein Papers Project, for the indexes in volume 11 of The Collected Papers of Albert Einstein (edited by A. J. Kox, et al., Princeton University Press, 2009). The papers were published as 11 volumes, and the indexes are extremely comprehensive for such a massive work, exhibiting a high quality of indexing....

Society of Indexers, Sept. 16
Walkout called over UC budget cuts
Hundreds of faculty, students, and staff from the University of California’s 10 campuses are planning a systemwide walkout [http://ucfacultywalkout.com/] September 24 to protest UC’s handling of its budget crisis. The protest was sparked by UC President Mark Yudof’s recent proposal to raise student tuition by about 30% by fall 2010. The university says it is trying to close a budget shortfall of at least $753 million. The walkout has gotten the support [http://changinguniversities.blogspot.com/] of some 800 faculty members systemwide, as well as the UC Students Association (PDF file [http://www.ucsa.org/board/resolutions/UC%20Walk%20Out%20Resolution%20Final.pdf]), the American Association of University Professors, [http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/newsroom/2009PRS/ucwalkout.htm] and the University Professional and Technical Employees [http://www.upte.org/publication-mm/2009-08-31.html]. Library employees are upset about layoffs [http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/education&id=7017046] and reduced hours....
San Francisco Chronicle, Sept. 23; Changing Universities; KGO-TV, San Francisco, Sept. 16

Google Books Settlement hearing delayed
Relevant Results, Sept. 22; Coyle’s InFormation, Sept. 20; New York Times, Sept. 18, 20; Information Week, Sept. 16; Epicenter, Sept. 17

House bill includes initiatives for community college libraries
Community college libraries were included in the House-passed Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009 (H.R. 3221) in mid-September—a true victory for libraries, considering the original bill did not include them. ALA sought the opportunity to promote the role of community college library services by ensuring they were explicitly spelled out in Section 503 in the language titled "Grants to Eligible Entities for Community College Reform..."

Anti-porn group demands filters in Owosso library

More than 50 area residents gathered September 21 to discuss ways to filter internet computers at Shiawassee District Library in Owosso, Michigan. The meeting, organized by Citizens for Filtering Shiawassee District Library Public Access Computers, comes two days before the library board meeting to discuss its internet policy. The group wants the board to require children 13 or younger to be accompanied by a parent or guardian when accessing the internet and to require children between the ages of 10 and 18 to have permission forms signed by a parent or guardian before they can access the internet.

Author talk canceled until school reviews her book

A visit by a best-selling author to Whittier Middle School in Norman, Oklahoma, was canceled after a parent questioned the content of one of the author's books. Author Ellen Hopkins was scheduled to speak to 8th-graders September 22 about her career, writing process, and books. But she was notified that her visit was canceled because a parent at the school requested a review of her book Glass, the second in a series about a teen dealing with drug addiction. Hopkins said it’s ironic her visit was canceled this week because the ALA’s Banned Books Week begins September 26.

Threatening notes at Eden Prairie branch

A man has been charged with leaving threatening notes with drawings of airplanes and references to 9/11 over three days at the Eden Prairie branch of the Hennepin County (Minn.) Library. When interviewed by police, Abdulahi Hassan Farah told officers that the United States was attacked by terrorists before and will be attacked again. The notes were left at the library service desk.

Vancouver library calls off assisted-suicide workshop

The Vancouver (B.C.) Public Library has refused permission for Exit International, an Australian assisted-suicide organization, to hold a workshop on suicide in its main downtown library. The organization had proposed holding the workshop September 10 in the central library, but
City Librarian Paul Whitney canceled it after seeking legal advice. The seminar had included a private presentation for those over the age of 55 seeking information on methods of committing suicide. Whitney stands by [http://blog.seattlepi.com/bookpatrol/archives/179985.asp] his decision: “Freedom of speech and access to information are core values for us, but . . . the library was not prepared to be party to a probable criminal offense, which could result in the loss of life.”...

Vancouver (B.C.) Sun, Sept. 22; Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Sept. 22

Gwinnett takes a regional approach
[http://www.gwinnettdailypost.com/main.asp?SectionID=6&SubSectionID=84&ArticleID=64878]
The Gwinnett County (Ga.) Public Library will be divided into a regional system, a move that will spare the Dacula branch (right) from closure. Trustees voted September 22 to restructure the system into three regional libraries, nine community libraries, and three library computer labs open fewer hours (of which Dacula will be one). The conversion is meant to offset a $4-million funding cut to the branches while allowing all 14 of them to remain open....
Gwinnett (Ga.) Daily Post, Sept. 23

Students donate books for Alabama Black Belt
[http://www.cw.ua.edu/students-donate-books-for-black-belt-1.1881865] University of Alabama students, faculty, and staff, and Tuscaloosa community members are taking part in “Books for the Alabama Black Belt,” a campaign designed to put a book in the hands of the more than 30,000 children in the Alabama Black Belt. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alabama_Black_Belt] The campaign is an effort to help children in the 12 Black Belt counties develop a passion for reading and learning at an early age. The program has been going on for the past three years....
University of Alabama Crimson White, Sept. 17

West Virginia library home to Bataan collection
[http://www.theintelligencer.net/page/content.detail/id/528756.html] When recounting the darkest events in American history, the 1942 Bataan Death March often is overlooked, according to Mary Kay Wallace. Wallace, director of the Brooke County (W.Va.) Public Library, believes that is a mistake. And with more than 100,000 books, documents, and artifacts related to the death march and American prisoners of war in the Philippines during World War II, the library claims to have the world’s most extensive collection of materials on the topic....
Wheeling (W.Va.) Intelligencer, Sept. 22

Only 5% of UK web users would pay to read news
[http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/pda/2009/sep/21/paid-content-newspapers-on-line-news] If Rupert Murdoch thinks readers will pay to read his websites, maybe he should think again. According to a Harris Interactive survey, if their favorite news site began charging for access to content, three quarters of people would simply switch to an alternative free news source, and only 5% of those readers would choose to pay to continue reading the site....
The Guardian (U.K.), Sept. 21
Canadian libraries are in good health

Contrary to what you might have heard, Canadian libraries are not in a terminal state of decline, “they’re not even sick,” says Wendy Newman, a senior fellow at the University of Toronto faculty of information.

Circulation was up 27% this summer across Ontario’s 330 systems and 1,000 branches. Toronto, already the largest system in the world with 99 branches, is expanding with two more. “We’re not intimidated by the future at all,” laughs Shelagh Paterson, executive director of the Ontario Library Association....

Toronto Star, Sept. 20

Tech Talk

[http://www.readtwit.com/]Turn a Twitter feed into an RSS feed

Eyal Sela writes: “Twitter is a great source for online content. Some might even argue that it has the potential to aggregate better content than an RSS reader because the aggregation is done by people, rather than previously chosen feeds. Readtwit [http://www.readtwit.com/] is a 3-step service that seamlessly integrates this aggregation power of the people you follow—into your RSS reader.”...

MakeUseOf, Sept. 20

Twitter techniques for libraries

David Allen Kelly writes: “When we decided to start a Twitter feed in mid-2008, we started experimenting with different techniques. We’ve found some things that we like and that our customers seem to like as well. This isn’t meant to be an exhaustive list—just a jumping-off point for any libraries looking for ideas. If you feel pretty comfortable with Twitter, jump down to Tweet 5, since this is the biggest way I think most libraries are probably not taking advantage of Twitter.”...

kellydallen, July 29

Use WorldCat apps on Facebook pages

Bob Robertson-Boyd writes: “We’ve updated our CiteMe [http://apps.facebook.com/citemeapp/] and WorldCat Facebook [http://apps.facebook.com/worldcat/] applications for use on organizational Facebook pages. Now your group, school, or library website can provide these services too. These instructions are written for the CiteMe application, but apply to the WorldCat application as well.”...

WorldCat blog, Sept. 21

[http://onepresscommunity.com/]300+ resources to make you a WordPress
Cameron Chapman writes: “WordPress is one of the most popular blogging platforms available today. It’s powerful enough to be a complete CMS, has every feature or function a blogger could dream of (either built in or available via plugins or custom functions), and it’s free and open source. Here are more than 300 resources to help you master WordPress, no matter what your skill level is.”... 
Webdesigner Depot, Sept. 17

Seniors with reduced vision often encounter difficulties with computers because technology is still created for a younger audience. For example, screen resolutions have become enormous, providing more desktop space, and as a result smaller icons and text. Fortunately, Windows provides options to roll back these features and make computers more accessible. It also comes with tools that enhance visibility. Here are some of them.... 
MakeUseOf, Sept. 19

Surrealism improves learning skills 
Reading Franz Kafka’s The Country Doctor or watching Blue Velvet by director David Lynch could make you smarter, according to research by psychologists at the University of California, Santa Barbara and the University of British Columbia. Exposure to surrealism apparently enhances the cognitive mechanisms that oversee implicit learning functions. The findings appear in an article published in the September issue of Psychological Science.... 
University of California, Santa Barbara, Sept. 15

Lauren Davis writes: “Need help on your chronopunk novel about a journeyman inventor in a post-apocalyptic Antarctica? Look no further than David Malki’s Genre-Fiction Generator, [http://wondermark.com/554/] a simple flow chart that will have you concocting that perfect science-fiction story in no time.”... 
io9, Sept. 22; Wondermark

A gallery of Slovak book covers 
Will writes: “I came across these Slovak book covers while book hunting online. I have no memory of saving the images to my hard drive. Luckily I named the files (for once) and was therefore able to provide the names of the illustrators for most of the covers.” More covers are here.
On the right, cover art for Klisata na harfe (1948) by Jaroslav Vojtech....

A Journey Round My Skull, Aug. 12, Sept. 14

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Actions & Answers

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Literacy instruction: The key to education reform
A new report from Carnegie Corporation of New York pinpoints adolescent literacy as a cornerstone of the current education reform movement, upon which efforts such as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act must be built. The report, Time to Act: An Agenda for Advancing Adolescent Literacy for College and Career Readiness recommends actions that point out important intersections with the Obama administration’s $4.35-billion Race to the Top competitive grant guidelines....

Carnegie Corporation of New York, Sept. 15

14 ways school librarians can teach social media
Joyce Valenza writes: “A school’s teacher-librarian is its chief information officer, but in a networked world, the position is more that of moderator or coach—the person who ensures that students and teachers can effectively interact with information and leverage it to create and share and make a difference in the community and beyond. There are at least 14 retooled learning strategies that teacher-librarians should be sharing with classroom teachers and learners in the 2009-2010 school year.”...

NeverEndingSearch, Sept. 21

School librarians are in short supply
Pamela Martineau writes: “If adequately supported, school librarians; or teacher-librarians as they are called in California; are vital educational leaders on campus who update educators; and students; research skills in an era of ever-changing technology. But many education policymakers don’t actually know what good teacher-librarians do, school library advocates claim, so library programs are especially vulnerable to budget cuts when the state backs cash-strapped schools into tight fiscal corners such as the ones they’re in now.”...

California Schools Magazine, Fall 2009
Target unveils 16 school library makeovers
[http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6698106.html]
Thousands of underserved elementary children across the country are returning to their schools this fall to find fully equipped and renovated eco-friendly media centers, thanks to the Target Volunteers School Library Makeover program, sponsored by the Heart of America Foundation. A program on September 10 unveiled one of 16 extreme library makeovers [http://pressroom.target.com/pr/news/community/teaminvolvement/school-library-extreme-makeovers.aspx] at New York City’s P.S. 76 Bennington School, which not only doubled the library’s size but also included an original mural by Disney artist Cecilia Washington Carr....
School Library Journal, Sept. 22; Target Corporation, Sept. 8

12 things academic libraries must do to survive
[http://acrl.org/2009/09/17/a-dozen-newspaper-survival-tips-for-academic-librarians/]
Steven Bell writes: “Newspapers are getting lots of advice for what they need to do to survive in the 21st century. How well might that advice work for academic libraries? I wanted to put that question to the test. Let’s take Vadim Lavrusik’s 12 Things Newspapers Should Do to Survive [http://mashable.com/2009/08/14/newspaper-survival/] and see how well academic libraries could implement these recommendations.”...
ACRLog, Sept. 17; Mashable, Aug. 14

Support grows for access to publicly funded research
The presidents of 57 liberal arts colleges in the United States have declared their support for the Federal Research Public Access Act (S. 1373) in an open letter released September 23. The letter is the first from higher education administrators to be issued in support of the bill, which would require that journal articles stemming from publicly funded research be made available in an online repository no later than six months after publication....
Alliance for Taxpayer Access, Sept. 23

Lessons of good customer service
[http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6677264.html]
Amy Fry writes: “When I worked at Barnes and Noble, I learned about the ‘up-sell,’ wherein you try to sell an additional, related item to someone already making a purchase. A related concept is the ‘hand-sell,’ wherein I was to be personally committed to promoting a specific item during my shifts at the store. What would happen if I applied these concepts to the reference desk? What kind of academic library add-ons could I promote with each patron interaction?”...
Library Journal, Sept. 1

Herb and Dorothy Vogel
[http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/herb-and-dorothy/]
Herb and Dorothy will makes its TV debut October 13 on the PBS series Independent Lens: “He was a postal clerk. She was a librarian. With modest means, this couple managed to build one of the most important modern art collections in history. Meet Herbert and Dorothy Vogel, whose shared passion and commitment defied stereotypes and redefined what it means to be an art collector.” Actress Maggie Gyllenhaal
Teach a man to Google
[http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2009/09/22/teach-a-man-to-google/

mk Eagle writes: “I’ve been working at my new job for less than a month, but already I’m raising some eyebrows. And for once, it’s not the piercings or tattoos. So what am I doing that’s so controversial? Instruction. Direct instruction to students was a vital part of my GSLIS school library teacher program, but mention that I want to give bibliographic instruction, and you’d think I’d suggested kicking off the school year with a bonfire using Catcher in the Rye as kindling.”...

YALSA Blog, Sept. 22

StoryCorps launches Latino initiative
The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress will be the repository for personal interviews with Latino Americans from across the United States as StoryCorps launches its “Historias” mobile booth. These contemporary personal narrative recordings of Latinos and Latinas will complement other Hispanic and Latin-American collections at the center. The national launch of StoryCorps Historias [http://www.storycorps.org/historias-en] will be held September 24 at the United States Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C....

Library of Congress, Sept. 21

Topeka’s first podcamp
David Lee King writes: “On September 19, Topeka and Shawnee County (Kans.) Public Library cohosted (with WIBW Studios) its first podcamp, Podcamp Topeka. Don’t know what a podcamp is? It’s an unconference dedicated to Web 2.0 tools and social media. How did I organize this thing? The important planning revolves around how many people you hope to attract—you have to have enough space to accommodate them.”...

David Lee King, Sept. 21

Best links for RDA
Karen Anderson writes: “If you have anything to do with library services, you know that RDA has the world all a-buzz right now. But it can be difficult to keep up with everything that’s going on. For that reason, I asked our RDA Librarian to compile a list of her favorite places to get information. Here are links on RDA, FRBR, and FRAD that I have found very helpful and informative.”...

MARS Automation Services, Sept. 21

OSU cartoon library named for Columbus artist
[http://www.osu.edu/news/newsitem2555]
Ohio State University trustees approved renaming the school’s renowned Cartoon Library and Museum after Billy Ireland, a cartoonist for
the Columbus Dispatch from 1898 until his death in 1935. The library has moved to a temporary location in preparation for a $21-million rehab of its space in historic Sullivant Hall. The project got the go-ahead in large part because of a $7-million gift with naming rights from the Elizabeth Ireland Graves Charitable Trust, which manages Ireland’s estate....
Ohio State University, Sept. 18

A recent survey reveals that males, adults, and white people are overrepresented in American video games. Females, black people, children, and the elderly are correspondingly underrepresented. Dmitri Williams at the University of Southern California and his colleagues say that this is the first research on the types of people represented by characters in video games—whose actions are claimed by some to act as role models for people’s behavior in the real world....
New Scientist, Sept. 22

Can you ask library users to leave if they have H1N1?
[http://blog.librarylaw.com/librarylaw/2009/09/asking-library-users-to-leave-if-they-have-h1n1.html] Attorney Grayson Barber writes: “Public officials cannot eject members of the public from a public library unless there’s a very good reason for doing so. If you suspect a customer has H1N1, and you ask them to leave for that reason, you are taking a huge risk if you guess wrong. The better approach would be to encourage the customer to comply with posted guidelines for protecting himself, herself, and the community.”...
LibraryLaw Blog, Sept. 20

Top 15 reasons people join volunteer boards
[http://blog.patricia-martin.com/2009/09/top-15-reasons-people-join-volunteer.html] Patricia Martin writes: “It’s important to understand why people join boards and committees, in order to know what it will take to motivate and maintain members who are committed to the organization. Here are the top 15 reasons why people become involved on boards and committees.”...
Culture Scout Blog, Sept. 21

[http://www.novanewsnow.com/article-376460-PHOTO-ESSAY-Bridgetown-Ciderfest-Parade.html#photos] Pigeon for a day
[http://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/?p=874] Angela Reynolds writes: “One might not think that someone with a master’s degree would end up walking in a parade in a paint-covered hoodie with a cardboard bird body attached, but this, my friends, is the true calling of many a librarian. To hear a crowd of young parade watchers yell out ‘Don’t let the pigeon drive the bus!’ is a joy indeed. Even adults, who probably have never read a Mo Willems book enjoyed the costume” crafted for the 26th annual Bridgetown (Nova Scotia) Ciderfest Parade September 12....
ALSC Blog, Sept. 17

Queens librarian dances the &chicken dance&;
Susan Scatena, librarian at the Whitestone branch of the Queens (N.Y.) Library, challenged her summer readers: If they read 2,500 books, she would dress up as a chicken and do the chicken dance on the library steps. The youngsters were so anxious to see the spectacle, 355 of them read more than 5,800 books. Scatena was in fine feather September 10, and paid off her promise before a large audience....

Queens Library, Sept. 10

Children’s room, Brooklyn Public Library, 1941

This photo of the Children’s Room at the Brooklyn Public Library in Prospect Park Plaza was taken from the balcony on February 1, 1941. The original is a 5-by-7-inch safety negative by Sam Gottscho. Click through on the photo to see a larger image....

Shorpy, Sept. 22

Book necklaces and other old-leather book items

Margaux Kent, of TheBlackSpotBooks in Philadelphia, creates necklaces made out of specially manufactured, miniature, hand-sewn, leather-bound books. The mini-books, as well as her larger creations, are made of a “mix of antique and scrap leathers” (whatever Kent has found in antique stores) and the paper is lineless Strathmore artist paper—thick, hand-torn, acid-free pages that work perfectly with ink, pens, pencil, charcoal, and other media. Watch the video (2:09)....

Etsy

Dirty librarian chains

Perhaps you like your accessories to possess an edgy, understated, and yet slightly askew elegance that reflects your personal style? Check out “dirty librarian chains” by designer Susan Domelsmith. These chains are refitted from second-hand materials. A piece such as the Call Number Necklace incorporates 11 gold-and-silver-plated vintage chains and four vintage charms. Other selections include a Monograph Bracelet, Collation Earrings, a Dewey Sunglass Chain, and a Sudocs Chain....

Dirty Librarian Chains

A librarian looks like . . .

Eric Frierson writes: “I recently went out to do a library instruction session for a freshman-level U.S. government class at the University of Texas at Arlington—these kids were from all majors. Before saying my name or who I was, I asked them to take out a sheet of paper and draw a librarian, list things a librarian does, and list some things at the library.” Some of the other drawings are in this large PDF file....

Live Wire Librarian, Sept. 8
Ask a Librarian now includes marriage proposals
Paula Bagwell, a librarian at St. Petersburg College, was proposed to on
Ask a Librarian,
[http://www.askalibrarian.org/vrl_intro.asp?library=flcc2400] Florida’s virtual reference service managed by the Tampa Bay Library Consortium. In her own words: “My boyfriend of two years, Josh, just proposed to me via Ask a Librarian. I was covering virtual chat and he signed on and asked me to marry him. Then I learned he was actually at the Clearwater library and was using a computer in the lab. He got down on his knee and proposed to me in the middle of the library.”...
Ask a Librarian Blog, Sept. 23

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyC9Pa74Tzs]The smartest card in North Carolina
For the fourth year in a row, the State Library of North Carolina is proving that the smartest card in North Carolina is a library card. For the latest edition of North Carolina’s Smartest Card campaign, the state library selected Gov. Bev Perdue as its spokesperson. “A public library card gives you access to a whole world of information and imagination,” said Gov. Perdue in a promotional video
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyC9Pa74Tzs] (2:02)....
ALA, Sept. 22; YouTube, Sept. 1

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85seOShlWM0]The library at Coventry University
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85seOShlWM0]
Students at Coventry University in the U.K. are the best advocates for library services. In this video (5:33), they describe the helpful staff, extended hours during exams, self-service checkout, media services, the Centre for Academic Writing, the phone zone, laptop loan service, the resources shop, the learning lounge, and the café....
YouTube, Sept. 23

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4VkNmyXaxs]Can you spot the librarian?
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4VkNmyXaxs]
Librarians at Marion County (Ky.) Public Library have much more to offer than “shhhhh.” They are fun, clever, and extremely helpful people who are ready and willing to connect patrons with facts, technology, and fun events and programs. They are also willing to dress up in all sorts of costumes (2:04) in order to deliver information creatively, so “don’t judge the profession by its cover, or its perceived cover.”...
YouTube, Sept. 23

Go back to the Top [#top]
===========================================================================
To unsubscribe from this newsletter: click here [<%= edition.unsubscribeLink %>]
===========================================================================
ALA Midwinter Meeting,

[http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/2010/ALA_Boston_Hotelmap_FINAL.pdf]


Banned Books Week
[http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/bannedbooksweek/index.cfm],
[http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/bannedbooksweek/index.cfm] September 26–October 3, is an annual event sponsored by ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom. Resources to publicize local library activities are available. Free downloads, display ideas, activity ideas, PSA scripts, a letter to the editor and a proclamation are available here [http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/bannedbooksweek/ideasandresources/free_downloads/index.cfm]. Posters, bookmarks, buttons, and a BBW resource guide are available for purchase at the ALA Store.
[http://www.alastore.ala.org/SearchResult.aspx?KeyWords=banned%20books%20week%202009]

In this issue
Aug./Sept. 2009

Public Libraries: Necessities or Amenities?
Designing User Experiences
Sound Recording Collections
Learning with Blogs

Career Leads from

Theodore Roosevelt Center Digital Library Coordinator/Archivist, Dickinson State University, North Dakota. Manage the acquisition and cataloging of materials to be included in the Theodore Roosevelt Digital Library; maintain imaging and metadata standards for the project; provide support to contributing entities; and train and supervise volunteers to assist with the cataloging of the collection. The coordinator/archivist will be expected to explore and guide the implementation of new technologies, including Web 2.0; meet research and reference needs of patrons; manage project resources and establish processing priorities and oversee day-to-day production workflows.

Digital Library of the Week

Wisconsin Heritage Online is a collaborative project with contributions from public, special, and academic libraries, historical societies, and museums from all over the state. Initiated in 2004, the site continues to grow under a grant from the Nicholas Family Foundation, which supports staff who can travel across the state to help institutions get their treasures online. Teachers, students, genealogists, history buffs, and others who value Wisconsin and its wealth of digitized materials will enjoy finding...
interesting or useful material.

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


[http://www.twitter.com/amlibraries]

AL on Twitter. Follow American Libraries news stories, videos, and blog posts on Twitter. [http://www.twitter.com/amlibraries]

Ask the ALA Librarian

Q. My library is in the process of creating its budget, and I have been asked to find out how much certain items and functions cost. Can you help?


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

Selling your products and services to the library market just got easier. The 2010 media kit (PDF file) for American Libraries, AL Direct, and AL Online is now available for advertisers. Learn how American Libraries publications can help your business grow.

Calendar


Oct. 29–30:
Oct. 30:

Nov. 5–8:

Nov. 6–11:

Jan. 15–17:

Mar. 23–27:

Apr. 29–May 1:

@ More [http://www.ala.org/ala/alonline/calendar/calendar.cfm]...
U.S. & World News

Denver bibliophile’s bedbugs take a bite out of ILL service
Denver Public Library has destroyed 31 books and fumigated four areas of its central library after a bedbug infestation (right) caused, ironically, by a patron dedicated to preserving classic literature. The contaminated books, which are rare works that were borrowed from DPL through interlibrary loan, had been checked out by Roger Goffeney, a retired poet and minister, who volunteers for the online collection Project Gutenberg. However, in early September library staff discovered bugs, their larvae, and droppings inside books returned by Goffeney....
American Libraries Online, Sept. 30; KFSN-TV, Fresno, Calif., Sept. 24

Salinas draws 15,000 to its centennial
In just four hours, 15,000 people gathered September 27 at the three branches of Salinas (Calif.) Public Library—John Steinbeck, El Gabilan, and César Chávez—for a simultaneous celebration of the library’s 100th birthday that included entertainment, a read-out, birthday cake, and the sealing of a time capsule. Library Director Elizabeth Martinez told American Libraries that the success of the event “just tells me how grateful the people are that the library is back.”...
American Libraries Online, Sept. 30

ALA News

Even Banned Books Week has its detractors

AL Direct, September 30, 2009
Kevin Melrose writes: “I wasn’t sure what I was going to write about Banned Books Week until I read this somewhat-maddening column in the Wall Street Journal that paints ALA as a well-funded, reactionary bully attempting to silence ‘a few unorganized, law-abiding parents.’ What really irked me, though, is this: Without a hint of irony, the author tsks-tsks ALA’s use of ‘loose language,’ then asserts that books aren’t truly banned in this country because if you can’t find a title at the local library or bookstore, you can always track it down elsewhere.”...

Robot 6, Sept. 28; Wall Street Journal, Sept. 25

**The Google Books settlement in a nutshell**

The Association of Research Libraries, ALA, and ACRL have prepared The Google Books Settlement: Who Is Filing And What Are They Saying? (PDF file) to summarize in a few pages of charts some key information about the hundreds of filings that have been submitted to the federal district court presiding over the Google Books litigation. The charts are meant to give the reader a general idea of who the filers are and what they are saying about the settlement. In response to these filings, there is a chance the proposed agreement will change substantially....

District Dispatch, Sept. 29

**Midwinter Meeting registration opens October 1**

The first day of registration for the 2010 ALA Midwinter Meeting is October 1. Registration for the meeting, to be held January 15–19 in Boston, will open at 9 a.m. Central Time. Participants can register online, by fax, or by mail. Hotel reservations can also be made at this time. Attendees must be registered for the meeting before they can make a hotel reservation. Advance registration, available until December 4, will ensure the lowest rates....

Sunrise Speaker Series features Gilbert, Gawande

Elizabeth Gilbert (right), author of the New York Times bestseller Eat, Pray, Love, will kick off the 2010 Sunrise Speaker Series January 16 during the ALA Midwinter Meeting. On January 17, author and surgeon Atul Gawande will talk about his most recent book, Better: A Surgeon’s Notes on Performance....

**Update on ALA’s strategic plan**

ALA President Camila A. Alire writes: “The weekend of September 11, a group comprised of the ALA board members, division leaders, round table representatives, and senior staff met in Itasca, Illinois, to begin the development of ALA’s new strategic plan. The new plan’s goals and objectives will set the Association’s strategic directions through 2015. For the last six months, work has been underway to gather member input and information on the changing environment for libraries, librarians, and the association.”...

MemberBlog, Sept. 22

**A tight financial outlook**

In Building the Digital Branch: Guidelines for Transforming Your Library’s Website, David Lee King explores the idea of the digital branch—a library website that is a vital, functional resource for patrons and enhances the library’s place within its community. The August/September issue of Library Technology Reports takes you from the design stage to maintaining and upgrading the site once it is built. NEW! From ALA TechSource.

Download an atyourlibrary.org badge or banner for your website. All you need to do is copy the code under the image and paste it into your page template or CMS. Atyourlibrary.org is the public website for the ALA’s public awareness campaign—the Campaign for America’s Libraries, which promotes the value of libraries and librarians.

In this issue

Aug./Sept. 2009
American Libraries Editor in Chief Leonard Kniffel writes: “ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels met with staff in late September for a frank assessment of the financial outlook for the Association. On everyone’s mind was what the recession means to libraries and how it will affect our work at ALA. Fiels indicated that information on ALA’s year-end performance for 2009 and updated 2010 projections will not be available until October, when final-close adjustments have been made and following the fall meetings of the Budget Analysis and Review Committee and the Executive Board.”...

USA Patriot Act watch

Issues surrounding the USA Patriot Act and related privacy and surveillance laws are of utmost importance to the library community. Since the swift passage of this bill, ALA has focused primarily on Section 215 because of its potential to provide law enforcement with access to confidential library records and another investigative tool that has even less legal review, National Security Letters. ALA has consistently sought reforms to the act and other surveillance laws in order to protect library patrons and the general public from abuse of these investigative tools....

Congress, FCC listening to libraries on broadband

As the ALA Washington Office continues its ongoing strategy to inform Congress and the NTIA of the benefits of investing in broadband stimulus funding for libraries, it is seeing very public evidence that the message is resonating. On September 17, the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet held an oversight hearing that examined the views of the FCC Commissioners on the national broadband plan....

LSSC course proposals wanted

On October 1, the ALA–Allied Professional Association will begin accepting applications from education providers interested in offering courses for candidates in the Library Support Staff Certification program. The LSSC is the first national, voluntary certification program for library support staff. Potential providers should submit an application (Word file), a course syllabus, a description of the course’s teaching methods and assessment plan, and the instructor’s résumé....

Inaugural Reader’s Digest Make It Matter Day

Libraries across the country will play an important role in celebrating the cause of reading during Make It Matter Day, sponsored by Reader’s Digest magazine. On October 3, more than 100 events will be held on this national volunteer day of reading, writing, and learning in support of literacy and education....
**Why join ALA? Two pros, two cons**
Boise State University Reference Librarian Kim Leeder weighs the pros and cons of joining ALA in this short video (1:01). On the plus side: meeting people and contributing to the profession. On the minus side: conference costs and the bigness of ALA....
YouTube, Sept. 28

**Surveying the state of children’s library services**
ALA Editions has released *Twenty-First-Century Kids, Twenty-First-Century Librarians* by Virginia A. Walter. Inspired by a new generation of librarians and children, Walter reconsiders the legacy passed on by the matriarchs of children’s services and examines more recent trends and challenges growing out of changes in educational philosophy and information technology....

**Greece promotes public libraries with “@ your library”**
The Association of Greek Librarians and Information Scientists showcased the “@ your library” brand at the recent 2009 IFLA Conference in Milan, Italy. George Glossiotis, vice-president of the association, presented a report on Greece’s use of the brand and how it can promote public libraries. He also distributed calendars created for librarians that use an “@ your library” slogan for the opening page of each month....

**AL Focus**

**2009 Banned Books Read-Out**
Each of the top 10 most challenged books were represented at the 2009 Banned Books Read-Out, which kicked off Banned Books Week September 26 at Chicago’s Bughouse Square (across the street from the Newberry Library.) This video (2:00) features ALA President Camila Alire, authors Cecily von Ziegesar (right, *Gossip Girl*) and Lauren Myracle (*ttyl*), and a reading from Chicago Public Library’s Teen Volume Reader’s Theatre troupe....

**Booklist ONLINE**

**Featured review: Adult books**
A mysterious clue leading to a series of puzzles;
a ruthless villain who will stop at nothing; ancient secrets; mysterious organizations that link past to present—Brown has taken the elements that made The Da Vinci Code a success and reworked them in this long-anticipated sequel. Robert Langdon, the symbologist hero of Da Vinci Code and Angels and Demons, is lured to Washington, D.C., where he believes he is to give a speech. Instead, he finds that an old friend has been abducted. Only Langdon can unlock the hidden mysteries that can save his friend’s life. Brown combines Freemasons, the Institute of Noetic Sciences, Albrecht Dürer, and various other ingredients to create a story that could be a mishmash but never quite loses cohesiveness. Readers who found the previous Langdon novels to be excessively wordy and much too slowly paced will level the same criticisms here, and Brown really needs to cool it with the amateurish overuse of exclamation marks, italics, and sentence-ending punctuation like “?!” On the other hand, you can’t deny that he knows how to put together an intriguing, if emotionally uninvolving, story....

Top 10 business books of 2009
Brad Hooper writes: “In our perennial effort to help librarians maintain a wide-ranging business collection, we offer below 10 outstanding titles reviewed in Booklist over the past year that are worthy of inclusion in, and guaranteed to expand the range of, any public library business collection. Here’s one: Crude World: The Violent Twilight of Oil, by Peter Maass. Knopf, 978-1-4000-4169-5. The author shows how an oil-based economy that undergoes booms and busts is neither a reliable nor a healthy solution for creating long-term sustainable growth.”...

Top 10 travel books of 2009
Brad Hooper writes: “Now, don’t stop booking flights and hotel rooms to nice destinations once you’ve savored the armchair delights of the following books, reviewed in Booklist over the past year. Armchair should always be mixed with actual. For example, this one: Ancient Shore: Dispatches from Naples, by Shirley Hazzard and Francis Steegmuller. Univ. of Chicago, 978-0-226-32201-8. By two famous authors, this book speaks to how blessed they felt about their time spent in Naples and the indelible impressions with which the city left them.”...

@ Visit Booklist Online for other reviews and much more....

Division News

years, the files were hidden in a storage area where all but a few library staff had forgotten them. They were rediscovered around 2003 when the storage area was being cleaned out for building renovations. In summer 2008, the state library put out a call to public libraries seeking participation in building the collection. In response, 23 libraries sent photos and 34 libraries sent historical information that was added to the collection.

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

“If large numbers of people believe in freedom of speech, there will be freedom of speech, even if the law forbids it. But if public opinion is sluggish, inconvenient minorities will be persecuted, even if laws exist to protect them.”—George Orwell, author, ca. 1945. From notable quotations on the First Amendment, censorship, and the freedom to read.

Public Perception
How the World Sees Us

“Of all the current assaults on our noble republic,
**AASL National Conference: 
$b$ there**
Registration is now open for the virtual component to the AASL 14th National Conference and Exhibition, November 5–8 in Charlotte, North Carolina. "$b$ there—Your Virtual Track Pass" will offer both national conference attendees and non-attendees a chance to connect virtually. Register on the AASL website....

**2009 RBMS Preconference: 
Electronic files**
ACRL’s Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, with the help of OCLC, has posted online selected presentations and documents (including audio) from its 50th annual preconference. Cornell University’s Oya Y. Rieger presented a paper on preservation and large-scale digitization, which is available as both an MP3 file and a PDF file....

**ASCLA Midwinter institute on consulting**
Librarians looking to strike out on their own in the library profession, or those library professionals approaching retirement and seeking a flexible way to maintain employment, won’t want to miss “Assembling a Consulting Toolkit: What You Need to Know to Become a Successful Library Consultant” in Boston January 15. The day-long institute is designed to prepare participants to begin—or advance—a successful consulting career. Register by January 8....

**Universal design best practices at 2010 ASCLA Midwinter Institute**
Maximizing the library experience for all patrons, including those with functional differences, is a challenging endeavor—one that libraries can get help with by attending “Breaking Down Barriers: Best Practices in Universal Design for Libraries,” an institute sponsored by ASCLA at the 2010 Midwinter Meeting in Boston. This intensive half-day event January 15 was assembled through a partnership between ASCLA and the Institute for Human-Centered Design....

**LLAMA fall webinar series**
LLAMA is offering three interactive webinars designed to meet the needs of experienced leaders and managers at the dean, director, department head, and branch manager levels. Each of the 60–90-minute programs will feature library consultant Pat Wagner of Pattern Research. Find the full details here....
Leads from LLAMA, Sept. 29

**YALSA seeks presenters for continuing education**
YALSA is seeking instructors for 2010 and 2011 to design and deliver curriculum for face-to-face institutes and online courses on the following topics: advocating for teen services, incorporating youth participation into teen services, readers’ advisory, and innovative teen programming. Interested instructors should submit a proposal (RTF file) by October 30....

**YALSA needs a blog manager**
YALSA will launch a new blog focused on young adult literature in 2010 and is looking for a member to manage it. The blog will focus perhaps none is more dangerous than the public option — specifically, the public library option. . . . And just what does this public option give us? People can spend hours and hours in these dens of socialism without having to buy so much as a cappuccino. Furthermore, not only can anyone read books for free in the library, they can take them home, too. They get a simple card that can be used at any library in town. No checking on the previous condition of books they’ve read. No literacy test. Nothing. Yet, do these libertines of literature let you choose any book you want, anytime you want it? No. Have you ever tried to get the latest bestseller at a public library? They put you on a waiting list for that, my friend. And if you do ask these government apparatchiks a question about a book, they start talking your ear off, and pretty soon they’re telling you what to read.”

solely on young adult literature. The member manager will lead an advisory board that prepares content for the blog and solicits content from the YALSA community.

**Round Table News**

**Exhibits Round Table Author Forum**
Best-selling authors will gather in Boston at the ALA Midwinter Meeting for the ALA Exhibits Round Table Author Forum. Eric Van Lustbader, Chuck Hogan, Tracy Chevalier, and Julie Powell will share their experiences in taking a bestseller to the big screen. Sponsored by ALA and Exhibits Round Table, the forum will be held January 15.

**Serve on the Depository Library Council**
The Government Documents Round Table is soliciting nominations for documents librarians to serve on the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer. GODORT will forward nominations to the Government Printing Office. The deadline to apply or nominate is December 1.

**Awards**

**Carnegie-Whitney awards**
The ALA Publishing Committee provides a grant of up to $5,000 for the preparation of print or electronic reading lists, indexes, or other guides to library resources that promote reading or the use of library resources at any type of library. Applications must be received by November 6.

**Calloway pounds pavement to support Spectrum**
Gregory Calloway, ALA associate executive director of finance, is in training to run the Chicago Marathon for the fifth time. His efforts will once again raise funds for ALA’s Spectrum Scholarship Program and contribute to the Spectrum Presidential Initiative, which hopes to generate $1 million in contributions to Spectrum. The Spectrum Presidential Initiative is a 2009–2010 campaign developed by ALA President Camila Alire, Past President Jim Rettig, and President-Elect Roberta Stevens.

**Virginia Boucher Award nominations**
RUSA is actively seeking outstanding interlibrary loan and document delivery librarians as nominees for its 2010 Virginia Boucher–OCLC Distinguished ILL Librarian Award. The award honors a librarian for outstanding professional achievement, leadership, and contributions to the interlibrary loan and document delivery field. Nominations (PDF file) must be received by December 15.

**Nominations for Shores/ABC-CLIO award**
RUSA seeks nominations for its 2010 Louis Shores/ABC-CLIO Award, presented to a librarian, individual, group, editor, review medium, or

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**AL on Twitter.** Follow American Libraries news stories, videos, and blog posts on Twitter.

**Ask the ALA Librarian**

Q. It’s the question most often heard from students during Banned Books Week: “Why was this book banned?” More accurately, the question is who challenged this book being in the library and wanted it removed, and why, when, and where did this happen—and how did things turn out?

A. The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom maintains information on which books are challenged and why and regularly publishes this information every three years, most recently in the Banned Books: 2007 Resource Guide, edited by Robert P. Doyle of the Illinois Library Association. The book lists challenged and banned books in alphabetical order by the author’s last name, and gives the dates and places and reasons that a book was threatened with removal (challenged).
organization for extraordinary contribution to the book/media reviewing process. Nominations (PDF file) must be received by December 15....

**RUSA ILL mentoring award**
Nominations are sought for the RUSA 2010 STARS/Atlas Systems Mentoring Award, an ALA Conference travel grant designated for those who are new to the field of interlibrary loan. The grant offers $1,000 to fund travel expenses associated with attending the ALA Annual Conference. The recipient must be a library practitioner who has worked in the field of interlibrary loan/document delivery or electronic reserves for less than two years. Nominations (PDF file) must be received by December 15....

**AASL awards and grants**
AASL’s awards program will offer more than $50,000 in awards in 2010 to AASL members. The division’s 10 awards recognize excellence and showcase best practices in the school library media field in categories that include research, collaboration, leadership, and innovation. The 2010 applications can be viewed and downloaded here....

**Deadline extended for National Library Week Grant**
The deadline for the Scholastic Library Publishing National Library Week grant has been extended to November 6. U.S. libraries of all types are invited to apply for a $3,000 grant that will be awarded to the best public-awareness campaign that promotes the theme “Communities thrive @ your library” during National Library Week, April 11–17, 2010. The grant application is an electronic form....

**IMLS awards 51 National Leadership Grants**
The Institute of Museum and Library Services has awarded National Leadership Grants totaling $17.9 million to 51 institutions. Projects by these institutions will advance the ability of museums and libraries to preserve culture, heritage, and knowledge while enhancing learning. Recipients include the King County (Wash.) Library System, Washington University Libraries, OCLC/WebJunction, the University of Guam Library, and the WGBH Educational Foundation....

School librarian wins sunflower-growing contest
Burrowmoor Primary School in March, Cambridgeshire, has won a set of five NEO 2 classroom computers in a U.K.-wide sunflower-growing competition. School Librarian Audrey Morton (holding the computer) managed to grow a sunflower three meters (9 feet, 11 inches) tall. The Watch Them Grow competition was sponsored by Renaissance Learning UK. Prizes were awarded for the tallest and widest sunflowers....

**2009 Great Book Group reads**
Mary Ellen Quinn writes: “October is National Reading Group Month. This program of the Women’s National Book Association was launched in 2007 to promote reading groups and to celebrate the joy of shared reading. Book Group Buzz is thrilled to be chosen by and/or was removed (banned) from a library or school. Doyle also puts together a free annual brochure, which can be found as a PDF file on the website of the Illinois Library Association. Students can use the Banned Books: 2007 Resource Guide entry at WorldCat.org to search via ZIP code for the closest public and/or community college library that has an available copy. For more information and resources, see Researching Challenged (“Banned”) Books. From the ALA Professional Tips wiki.

@ The ALA Librarian welcomes your questions.

Lightning Talks at LITA Forum 2009. LITA still wants some fast talkers with great ideas at the **LITA Forum** in Salt Lake City this weekend. Lightning talks are fun for attendees and an opportunity for presenters to showcase late-breaking ideas, trends, and achievements. Speakers are strictly held to five minutes. Send an email to Karen Schneider with your name, email, organization, title for your lightning talk, and preferred session (October 2 or October 3).
the WNBA as a National Reading Group Month partner. Here’s the 2009 list of Great Group Reads chosen by the National Reading Group Month Selection Committee."

Book Group Buzz, Sept. 29

Aleksandar Hemon wins first St. Francis College Literary Prize

The jury for the first-ever St. Francis College Literary Prize has selected Aleksandar Hemon for his book, Love and Obstacles (Riverhead, 2009) as the winner of the $50,000 award, one of the richest literary prizes in the United States. Hemon, raised in Sarajevo and now residing in Chicago, wrote his first work in English in 1995. He was awarded the prize at the opening night party for the Brooklyn Book Festival, September 12.

St. Francis College, Sept. 12

Avi wins Beacon of Freedom Award

Newbery Award–winning author Avi will accept the 2009 Beacon of Freedom Award for his novel Iron Thunder (Hyperion, 2007), about the 1862 Battle of Hampton Roads between the USS Monitor and CSS Virginia, at Williamsburg (Va.) Regional Library October 16. The award is presented annually to an author who introduces American history to children in a historically accurate and engaging manner.

Williamsburg (Va.) Regional Library, Sept. 28

Malott Prize for Recording Community Activism

The first winner of the new biannual Gene E. and Adele R. Malott Prize for Recording Community Activism is Bruce Barcott for The Last Flight of the Scarlet Macaw: One Woman’s Fight to Save the World’s Most Beautiful Bird (Random House, 2008). The Malott Prize recognizes both significant grassroots activists and the authors, journalists, and film makers who cover them; however, the basis for the prize is for the quality of the writing or film.

Langum Charitable Trust, Sept. 26

Sunburst Awards for Canadian Literature of the Fantastic

The Sunburst Award committee has announced its 2009 winners: The Gargoyle by Andrew Davidson (Random House) in the adult category, and Little Brother by Cory Doctorow (Tor) in the young adult category. The awards are given to Canadian writers who have published a speculative fiction novel or book-length collection any time during the previous calendar year.

Sunburst Award, Sept. 28

October is American Archives Month, a program of the Society of American Archivists to raise awareness about the value of archives and archivists. This 2009 American Archives Month Public Relations Kit (PDF file) provides basic materials that can be adapted to make your own archives program more visible and more appreciated.

Calendar

Oct. 7: YouTube for Nonprofits, 1–2 p.m. Eastern Time. Webinar presented by See3 Communications.


Oct. 14: Lazerow Memorial Lecture, with Peter Ingwersen, University
**2009 Booktrust Early Years Awards**
The British national charity Booktrust announced the winners of its Early Years Awards at a special ceremony in London September 23. The winning books exemplify the remarkable creativity in words, design, and illustration needed to encourage young children to read. The winner of the Baby Book award was *Chick* by Ed Vere (Puffin); the Pre-School Award went to *Oliver Who Travelled Far and Wide* by Mara Bergman (Hodder Children’s Books)....

*Booktrust, Sept. 23*

**Frank O’Connor Short Story Award**
British author Simon Van Booy won the Frank O’Connor Short Story Award, now in its fifth year, for his collection, *Love Begins in Winter*. The Munster Literature Centre sponsors the €35,000 ($51,000 U.S.) prize, the richest award for a short story collection, and is presented at the Frank O’Connor Festival in Cork, Ireland....

*Irish Examiner, Sept. 21*

**Why J. K. Rowling did not get a Presidential Medal**
A memoir by George W. Bush’s former speechwriter claims that Bush administration officials objected to giving J. K. Rowling a Presidential Medal of Freedom on the grounds that her Harry Potter books “encouraged witchcraft.” Matt Latimer’s *Speech-less: Tales of a White House Survivor* reveals how politicized the medal, America’s highest civilian honor, became during the Bush administration....

*The Guardian (U.K.), Sept. 29*

**Apply for a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Grant**
The Institute of Museum and Library Services invites proposals from libraries, archives, library agencies, associations, and consortia for the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grant program. Categories of funding include doctoral and master’s LIS programs, research about librarianship as a profession, and CE for library and archives staff. The deadline for applications is December 15....

*Institute of Museum and Library Services, Sept. 24*

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**Seen Online**

**Dealing with controversial titles is a challenge**
Terry Lewis, Ed Irons Middle School librarian and Lubbock (Tex.) Independent School District library facilitator for secondary schools, said school librarians work hard to provide material appropriate to the ages of their readers while at the same time avoiding the censoring of ideas. That can be challenging in an environment where books can draw opposition from parents for a variety of reasons. Lewis said at least once a year a parent will request that a child not be allowed to check out a particular book....

*Lubbock (Tex.) Avalanche-Journal, Sept. 27*

**Banned Books Week: Still needed in the United States**

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Joan E. Bertin and Chris Finan write: “For a country that venerates its First Amendment guarantee of freedom of speech, the United States tries to ban books with alarming frequency. Stick a pin in each place where there’s been a challenge to a school or library book, and you’ll have a map of the United States that looks like a hedgehog in need of a haircut. As the late, great, and much-censored author Kurt Vonnegut would say: And so it goes.”...

_Huffington Post, Sept. 28_

**Know your age, find your book**

Responding to a call by parents and church and community leaders concerned about provocative books available to teens at the Leesburg (Fla.) Public Library, city commissioners voted 4–1 September 28 to separate all books based on age groups. A measure to label specific books with a “mature content” warning failed 3–2. At least 43 books in the young adult section will now be reviewed for content, with the racier titles moved into a separate area in the library stairwell and labeled “HS” for a high school audience....

Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel, Sept. 28; Central Florida News 13, Sept. 28–29

**Michigan lawmakers slash library budget**

Michigan legislative conference committees agreed September 27 on a reduced budget for the state education department, which included a cut in library funding from the current $10 million to $6 million. Rep. Terry Brown (D-Pigeon), chair of the conference committee, was the lone no vote for the education budget. “A lot of our libraries have a difficult time existing as it is,” Brown said....

_Detroit Free Press, Sept. 28_

**Oak Brook lays off library director, four others**

Village officials laid off Oak Brook (Ill.) Library Director Meg Klinkow Hartmann and four other employees in early September as part of a “restructuring” recommended by a consulting firm, Library Associates Companies, hired to find ways to cut the library’s budget. Youth Services Librarian Sue Madorin has been named interim director. The layoffs prompted some residents to register complaints at the village board meeting September 22. The move came only a few weeks after the staff filed a petition to join the Teamsters union....

_Oak Brook (Ill.) The Doings, Sept. 2, 15, 23_

**Group calls for reinstatement of Castleton director**

The Castleton (N.Y.) Public Library board of directors fired longtime library director Darlene Miller in mid-September. Now a group of her supporters has mounted a campaign to reinstate her. The decision was said to be made as a result of a long-standing disagreement between the board of trustees and Miller over programming, but opponents of the move say they believe the library is financially struggling and officials are moving to close it....

_Albany (N.Y.) Times-Union, Sept. 27_

**Reading to close three branches, bookmobile**

Faced with funding cuts from the city and state, the Reading (Pa.) Public Library will shut down its bookmobile (right), close its three branches, and lay...
off 12 of its full-time staff before the end of the year, library officials announced September 25. The Northwest, Northeast, and Southeast branches could close as early as October. The city is discontinuing its $450,000 annual funding to the library, and state support could be cut 34–50% in a new state budget....

Reading (Pa.) Eagle, Sept. 27

**Seattle libraries may slash hours**
The Seattle Public Library System is facing a 23% reduction in branch hours next year under the mayor's 2010 budget proposal. Twenty-one branches could be closed on Fridays and Sundays to meet the cost-cutting goal set by Mayor Greg Nickels. To compensate, hours would be extended at the Central Library downtown and at some larger neighborhood branches....

*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, Sept. 30

**Rockford board saves Lewis Lemon branch**
Rockford (Ill.) Public Library’s Lewis Lemon branch (located inside the Lewis Lemon Global Studies Academy) will remain open—that’s the biggest decision that came out of the September 28 board meeting. Library employees are happy the board is listening. A round of applause came after trustees unanimously voted to delay any decisions about laying off 30 workers or cutting library hours until after they hold discussions with the AFSCME union....

*WIFR-TV, Rockford, Ill.*, Sept. 28

**Aurora group to fight library tax plan**
A group of Aurora, Colorado, residents called the Colorado Union of Taxpayers is organizing opposition to a property tax increase on the November ballot that would fund the city library, saying a 40% increase is too much right now. But advocates of the tax proposal say that without it, Aurora Public Library would have no choice but to close more than half its branches. If the measure passes, it would provide approximately $12.5 million for the library system, and would free up about $3.6 million for the city's general fund....

*Denver Post*, Sept. 24

**A rainy National Book Festival attracts 130,000**
Despite a midday deluge, book lovers turned out in record numbers for the ninth annual National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., September 26, as some 130,000 people attended readings and signings on the National Mall. The event, organized by the Library of Congress, also featured the launch of LC’s newest literacy initiative, Read.gov, with the unveiling of the yearlong online story, *The Exquisite Corpse Adventure*. For those who were unable to attend, the authors’ presentations are available as webcasts. Watch the *Washington Post* video (5:47). More photos are on Flickr....


**Harvard libraries must work together, Faust says**
Harvard University President Drew Faust is pushing to break down traditional budgeting barriers among the school’s independent divisions, after the school lost $11 billion of endowment value last fiscal year. Harvard’s 70 libraries, for example, must work together to increase savings, she said in a September 25 speech on campus. “Curious practices have grown up as the system has grown—obstacles to sharing and coordination,” Faust said, adding that
economic arrangements at the libraries discourage them from working together....
Bloomberg, Sept. 25

**Childhood essay by Paul McCartney found in library**
A prize-winning essay on Queen Elizabeth’s coronation by a 10-year-old Paul McCartney was found among records at Liverpool’s Central Library by Kevin Roach while he was researching a book on the Beatles songwriter. McCartney won a prize for the 300-word essay in a city council competition on May 27, 1953. Roach discovered the volume in March in a library collection marked “coronation events”....
*The Times* (U.K.), Sept. 28

**Library access in Britain now easier**
Readers in the U.K. can now borrow books from more than 4,000 public libraries regardless of where they live. The Society of Chief Librarians said members of the public in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland can simply show an existing library card or proof of address to join or use a library. Some libraries in Scotland are also considering joining the plan, which could help vacationers or those who work in a different place from where they live. The news came as Arts and Culture Minister Margaret Hodge prepared to unveil plans to modernize the public library service, which including launching a Netflix-like plan to allow users to order books or DVDs online for delivery by mail....
*The Guardian* (U.K.), Sept. 28; *The Times* (U.K.), Sept. 27

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**Tech Talk**

**Libraries are finding better search software**
Traditional online library catalogs do not always order search results by ranked relevance, and they can befuddle users with clunky interfaces. Two tech trends are changing that. First, some universities are shelling out serious money for sophisticated software that makes exploring their collections more like the easy-to-filter experience you might find in an online Sears catalog. Second, others are producing free open-source programs that tackle the same problems with no licensing fees....
*Chronicle of Higher Education*, Sept. 28

**A hands-on look at Google Wave**
Ryan Paul writes: “The scope of Google’s Wave project is broad, which makes it difficult to define concisely. It brings together elements of instant messaging, email, collaborative rich document editing, and generic support for third-party web services in a single seamless communication medium that is more flexible than any of those things individually. On a technical level, it is a messaging platform that consists of a protocol, a web service, a set of standard extension APIs, and an open-source concurrency framework. Conclusion: Wave represents an extraordinary technical achievement and delivers truly remarkable messaging capabilities. Although the current prototype...
still has some limitations, it offers the most compelling alternative to email that I have encountered.” Here’s another first look....
Ars Technica, Sept. 29; Lifehacker, Sept. 30

**FCC: Broadband up to 50% slower than claimed**

Access to high-speed internet service is quickly moving from a luxury to a necessity. The FCC is charged with coming up with a national broadband plan by February 2010, and officials provided a glimpse into their findings thus far at the commission’s September meeting. Broadband speeds advertised by ISPs are generally slower than they claim to be—as much as 50% “and possibly more during the busy hours,” according to a statement from the FCC. About 1% of all users drive 20% of traffic, and 20% of all users drive 80% of traffic....
*PC Magazine*, Sept. 29

**New Apple tablet could redefine print**

Brian Lam writes: “Steve Jobs said people don’t read any more. But Apple is in talks with several media companies rooted in print, negotiating content for a new device. And they’re not just going for e-books and mags. They’re aiming to redefine print. Long having established music, movie, and TV content, Apple is working hard to load up iTunes with print content from several major publishing houses across several media.”...
*Gizmodo*, Sept. 30

**How to attribute a Creative Commons photo**

Bobbi L. Newman writes: “Yes, the absolutely correct way! You need to follow the guidelines set by the license, and (my suggestion) let the author know. That is a lot to include. So what does a perfect attribution look like? How do you include all that information? Here are some examples.”....
*Librarian by Day*, Sept. 28

**Be your own tech support**

Meryl Evans writes: “I’m not suggesting you crack open your computer to fix it, but with a few of the tactics outlined in this post you can solve many of your computer problems on your own. Besides, wouldn’t you rather solve your problems instead of waiting for a live support person to pick up the phone? Here are 10 steps to becoming your own Mr. or Ms. Fix-it.”....
*Web Worker Daily*, Sept. 22

**Four simple tips to organize your files on Windows**

Paul Coffman writes: “Much like the situation with my desk, keeping my computer organized improves productivity. It also helps my less organized coworkers. The moment they can’t find an important email or paper, they ask me for it. I find it—quickly. Let’s look at some simple and basic tips to organize Windows that you may be overlooking and that won’t cost you a nickel.”....
*MakeUseOf*, Sept. 28

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**Publishing**

**E-book reader comparison**
guide
ebook-reader-guide.com compares e-book readers on the market in the United States so that you can pick the model best suited to you. This feature comparison table shows ratings, screen size, connectivity, memory, battery, weight, audio, file formats, and price of the 10 major models. Consult the worldwide table for all 16 models, or specific tables for the UK, Europe, and Asia. If you are new to e-book readers, here are the e-reader basics....
ebook-reader-guide.com

Princeton’s Kindle experiment a flop
When Princeton University announced its Kindle e-reader pilot program last May, administrators seemed cautiously optimistic that the e-readers would both be sustainable and serve as a valuable academic tool. But less than two weeks after 50 students received the free Kindle DX e-readers, many of them said they were dissatisfied and uncomfortable with the devices....
Daily Princetonian, Sept. 28

Encyclopedias of life
Christine Bulson writes: “Encyclopedia of Life was first funded by a MacArthur Foundation grant in 2007. The goal of the site is to have a webpage for all 1.8 million organisms on earth. After two years, there are now more than 150,000 pages of expert-verified text and images. Anyone may add text, images, or videos that are authenticated by expert curators.” The BBC is attempting something similar with its Wildlife Finder, and, of course, there’s Wikispecies....
Points of Reference, Sept. 27

Libraries and librarians in children’s books
Larry Nix writes: “How librarians and libraries are depicted in popular culture is a topic of great interest to those who collect and study librariana. How libraries and librarians are depicted in children’s books is a specialized aspect of this topic. University of Connecticut Library Director Emeritus Norman D. Stevens has created a WorldCat bibliography of nearly 500 children’s books that involve librarians, libraries, and books and reading that he has collected information on for a number of years. Stevens says this is only a partial list and that it will be expanded in the future.”...
Library History Buff Blog, Sept. 19

30 books worth buying for the cover alone
Beth Carswell writes: “Not long ago, we featured my 30 favorite pieces of contemporary fiction—based entirely on the cover art, instead of the content. Since so many AbeBooks customers loved the feature and asked for more, and we love any excuse to root through the stacks (okay, listings) in search of beautiful treasures, we’ve found 30 more. As before, some are the only copy available, and they range in price, but many are very affordable, and all are works of art.”...
Bibliomysteries
L. D. Mitchell writes: “One subgenre that resonates with book-lovers building a private library is the bibliomystery, defined as a mystery that deals in some significant way with books and the world associated with books. The bibliomystery is not a recent invention. Fredric Perkins, for example, penned *Scrope: or the Lost Library* in 1870. Believed to be the first bibliomystery published in the United States, it is rarely offered for sale in anything approaching fine condition.” Don’t miss part 2....
The Private Library, Sept. 27–28

Actions & Answers

Manifesto for academic libraries: A preview
Ricky Erway writes: “An RLG working group is writing a manifesto for academic libraries, addressing the need for change to better support research. The recent clamor over Dan Greenstein’s intentionally provocative remarks about the future of university libraries has prompted us to offer a preview of our work. In an effort to rise above the debate on the current and future value of libraries, the draft suggests a set of principles to guide academic libraries in improving research support in a changing environment.”...
HangingTogether, Sept. 28; Inside Higher Ed, Sept. 24

Print collections management in the digital age
As journals are increasingly accessed in digitized form, many libraries have grown interested in de-accessioning little-used print originals; but desires to repurpose space often come into conflict with concerns about preservation. *What to Withdraw: Print Collections Management in the Wake of Digitization* (PDF file) analyzes which types of journals can be withdrawn responsibly today and how that set of materials can be expanded to allow libraries the maximum possible flexibility and savings in the future....
Ithaka, Sept. 28

Take the global library survey (PDF file)
On September 28, the CIBER research group at University College London invited all libraries to participate in an international survey examining challenges, trends, and best practices in tough economic times. Based on input from nearly 200 librarians worldwide, the questionnaire is now available and will remain open through October 18. Results of the survey, which is cosponsored by Baker and Taylor’s YBP Library Services and ebrary, will be announced at the Charleston Conference, November 4–7....
ebrary, Sept. 28

Tupac Shakur papers donated to Woodruff Library
Afeni Shakur-Davis, mother of platinum recording artist Tupac Shakur, has made available her son's manuscripts and other papers to Atlanta University Center's Robert W. Woodruff Library. The collection features the late Shakur's handwritten lyrics and track listings, personal notes, video and film concepts, fan correspondence, promotional materials, and other items that provide a unique insight into his career and creative genius.

Robert W. Woodruff Library, Sept. 23

**Better World Books breaks a record**

The social-enterprise bookseller [Better World Books](http://www.betterworldbooks.com) finalized the sale September 24 of a rare 1848 Peter Force facsimile of the Declaration of Independence on behalf of the Mercy College Libraries in Dobbs Ferry, New York. Much of the record sale price, $16,000, will go back to the library and its literacy partner, Books for Africa. BWB takes donated books that libraries would otherwise have to throw out, sells them online, and reinvests a portion of the profits in literacy programs and nonprofit partners.

Social Entrepreneurship, Sept. 25

**Google Scholar’s ghost authors and other problems**

Peter Jacso writes: "Research faculty and academic libraries dealing with Google Scholar face a metadata disaster. Millions of records have erroneous metadata, as well as inflated publication and citation counts. A free tool, Google Scholar has become the most convenient resource to find a few good scholarly papers—often in free full-text format—on even the most esoteric topics. For topical keyword searches, GS is most valuable. But it cannot be used to analyze the publishing performance and impact of researchers."

*Library Journal*, Sept. 24

**101 great blogs for bloggers**

Kevin Muldoon writes: "As a blogger, I think it is very important to stay up to date with the latest news and discussions with your blog’s topic and with blogging and web development in general. This is particularly true for those that are still developing skills as a blogger. You may be aware of many of these blogs, though I hope that I can bring your attention to a few gems you haven’t found yet."

*Blogging Tips*, Sept. 29

**What medical librarians do**

Jamie Graham writes: "You may have seen us at clinical rounds, faculty council, or IRB sessions. You may have wondered why a medical librarian would be present outside the library. Our exact function is often a mystery to clinicians, and so, we have decided to take this opportunity in our inaugural issue to introduce ourselves and tell you everything we have to offer."

*Clinical Correlations*, Sept. 25

**An inflection point for public libraries**

Jean Costello writes: "2009 may be an inflection point for public libraries. This year, the deepest recession in U.S. history accelerated their financial trajectory. Following nearly a decade of level or eroding budgets, libraries across America were threatened with closure due to lack of funds. Some have closed and..."
most are operating with dramatically reduced budgets. The recession has also increased usage. So is there light at the end of this tunnel?

"...
In the Library with the Lead Pipe, Sept. 30

Jumpstarting the UPenn–Botswana partnership

In 2007, the University of Pennsylvania Library received a $40,000 Elsevier Foundation grant to conduct a medical information-needs assessment at the University of Botswana. In this video (6:08), find out how four Penn librarians interviewed over 30 government officials, librarians, researchers, and clinicians to help Botswana improve their channels for sharing medical information....

YouTube, Sept. 28

Birthday Zoo storytime with Miss Pat

Kids can learn about animals through rhymes, thanks to Pikes Peak Library District Children’s Librarian Pat Masias, who offers this video storytime (2:14) reading of Birthday Zoo by Deborah Lee Rose: “Get them to laugh, advised the giraffe. Recycle the paper, reminded the tapir. Your wish will come true, applauded the gnu.”...

YouTube, Sept. 28

Future librarians of America

Grace Carr, super librarian (right, 1:43), has an office in an overturned play car and wields an awesome Virgin Mary checkout stamp. But can she match the bibliothecal confidence of 2-year-old Tessa (0:48), who apparently uses a light fixture to scan for circulation barcodes?...

YouTube, Feb. 8, Apr. 18, 2008

Libraries get creative on YouTube: Five favorites

Charlie Thomason writes: “There are some highly imaginative librarians and library lovers out there and some of them have been making a big splash on YouTube. So, we decided to sort through and pick out our favorite library-related YouTube videos.” One of them is this 2007 parody of The Wizard of Oz (2:10) from the Salt Lake County (Utah) Library....

@ your library, Sept. 23

Go back to the Top
AL Direct, September 30, 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 | September 30, 2009

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

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U.S. & World News

===========================================================================
Denver Public Library has destroyed 31 books and fumigated four areas of its central library after a bedbug infestation
[http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/video?id=7030200] (right) caused, ironically, by a patron dedicated to preserving classic literature. The contaminated books, which are rare works that were borrowed from DPL through interlibrary loan, had been checked out by Roger Goffeney, a retired poet and minister, who volunteers for the online collection Project Gutenberg. However, in early September library staff discovered bugs, their larvae, and droppings inside books returned by Goffeney....

American Libraries Online, Sept. 30; KFSN-TV, Fresno, Calif., Sept. 24

Salinas draws 15,000 to its centennial
In just four hours, 15,000 people gathered September 27 at the three branches of Salinas (Calif.) Public Library—John Steinbeck, El Gabilan, and César Chávez—for a simultaneous celebration of the library's 100th birthday that included entertainment, a read-out, birthday cake, and the sealing of a time capsule. Library Director Elizabeth Martinez told American Libraries that the success of the event “just tells me how grateful the people are that the library is back.”

American Libraries Online, Sept. 30

Even Banned Books Week has its detractors

Kevin Melrose writes: “I wasn’t sure what I was going to write about Banned Books Week until I read this somewhat-maddening column in the Wall Street Journal that paints ALA as a well-funded, reactionary bully attempting to silence ‘a few unorganized, law-abiding parents.’ What really irked me, though, is this: Without a hint of irony, the author tsk-tsks ALA’s use of ‘loose language,’ then asserts that books aren’t truly banned in this country because if you can’t find a title at the local library or bookstore, you can always track it down elsewhere.”

Robot 6, Sept. 28; Wall Street Journal, Sept. 25

The Google Books settlement in a nutshell

The Association of Research Libraries, ALA, and ACRL have prepared The Google Books Settlement: Who Is Filing And What Are They Saying? (PDF file) to summarize in a few pages of charts some key information about the hundreds of filings that have been submitted to the federal district court presiding over the Google Books litigation. The charts are meant to give the reader a general idea of who the filers are and what they are saying about the settlement. In response to these filings, there is a chance the proposed agreement will change substantially.

District Dispatch, Sept. 29

Midwinter Meeting registration opens October 1

The first day of registration for the 2010 ALA Midwinter Meeting is
October 1. Registration for the meeting, to be held January 15–19 in Boston, will open at 9 a.m. Central Time. Participants can register online [http://ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/2010/index.cfm], by fax, or by mail. Hotel reservations can also be made at this time. Attendees must be registered for the meeting before they can make a hotel reservation. Advance registration, available until December 4, will ensure the lowest rates [http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/2010/registration.cfm]....


Update on ALA’s strategic plan [http://blogs.ala.org/memberblog.php?title=a_message_from_ala_president_camila_a_al_2015&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1]
ALA President Camila A. Alire writes: “The weekend of September 11, a group comprised of the ALA board members, division leaders, round table representatives, and senior staff met in Itasca, Illinois, to begin the development of ALA’s new strategic plan. The new plan’s goals and objectives will set the Association’s strategic directions through 2015. For the last six months, work has been underway to gather member input and information on the changing environment for libraries, librarians, and the association.”...
MemberBlog, Sept. 22

American Libraries Editor in Chief Leonard Kniffel writes: “ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels met with staff in late September for a frank assessment of the financial outlook for the Association. On everyone’s mind was what the recession means to libraries and how it will affect our work at ALA. Fiels indicated that information on ALA’s year-end performance for 2009 and updated 2010 projections will not be available until October, when final-close adjustments have been made and following the fall meetings of the Budget Analysis and Review Committee and the Executive Board.”...
AL Inside Scoop, Sept. 30

USA Patriot Act watch [http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=3703] Issues surrounding the USA Patriot Act and related privacy and surveillance laws are of utmost importance to the library community. Since the swift passage of this bill, ALA has focused primarily on Section 215 because of its potential to provide law enforcement with...
access to confidential library records and another investigative tool that has even less legal review, National Security Letters. ALA has consistently sought reforms to the act and other surveillance laws in order to protect library patrons and the general public from abuse of these investigative tools.

District Dispatch, Sept. 24

Congress, FCC listening to libraries on broadband
[http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=3779]
As the ALA Washington Office continues its ongoing strategy to inform Congress and the NTIA of the benefits of investing in broadband stimulus funding for libraries, it is seeing very public evidence that the message is resonating. On September 17, the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet held an oversight hearing that examined the views of the FCC Commissioners on the national broadband plan.

District Dispatch, Sept. 25

LSSC course proposals wanted
On October 1, the ALA–Allied Professional Association will begin accepting applications from education providers interested in offering courses for candidates in the Library Support Staff Certification program. The LSSC is the first national, voluntary certification program for library support staff. Potential providers should submit an application (Word file [http://ala-apa.org/lsscp/courseapprovalapplication.doc]), a course syllabus, a description of the course’s teaching methods and assessment plan, and the instructor’s résumé.

Make It Matter Day
Libraries across the country will play an important role in celebrating the cause of reading during Make It Matter Day, [http://www.readersdigest.com/makeitmatterday] sponsored by Reader’s Digest magazine. On October 3, more than 100 events will be held on this national volunteer day of reading, writing, and learning in support of literacy and education.

Boise State University Reference Librarian Kim Leeder weighs the pros and cons of joining ALA in this short video (1:01). On the plus side: meeting people and contributing to the profession. On the minus side: conference costs and the bigness of ALA.

YouTube, Sept. 28

Surveying the state of children’s library services
Walter reconsiders the legacy passed on by the matriarchs of children’s services and examines more recent trends and challenges growing out of changes in educational philosophy and information technology....

The Association of Greek Librarians and Information Scientists [http://www.eebep.gr/] showcased the “@ your library” brand at the recent 2009 IFLA Conference in Milan, Italy. George Glossiotis, vice-president of the association, presented a report on Greece’s use of the brand and how it can promote public libraries. He also distributed calendars created for librarians that use an “@ your library” slogan for the opening page of each month....

AL Focus
===========================================================================
Each of the top 10 most challenged books were represented at the 2009 Banned Books Read-Out, which kicked off Banned Books Week September 26 at Chicago’s Bughouse Square (across the street from the Newberry Library.) This video (2:00) features ALA President Camila Alire, authors Cecily von Ziegesar (right, Gossip Girl) and Lauren Myracle (ttyl), and a reading from Chicago Public Library’s Teen Volume Reader’s Theatre troupe....

A mysterious clue leading to a series of puzzles; a ruthless villain who will stop at nothing; ancient secrets; mysterious organizations that link past to present; Brown has taken the elements that made The Da Vinci Code a success and reworked them in this long-anticipated sequel. Robert Langdon, the symbologist hero of Da Vinci Code and Angels and Demons, is lured to Washington, D.C., where he believes he is to give a speech. Instead, he finds that an old friend has been abducted. Only Langdon can unlock the hidden mysteries that can save his friend’s life. Brown combines Freemasons, the Institute of Noetic Sciences, Albrecht Dürer, and various other ingredients to create a story that could be a mishmash but never quite loses cohesiveness. Readers who found the previous Langdon novels to be excessively wordy and much too slowly paced will level the same criticisms here, and Brown really needs to cool it with the amateurish overuse of exclamation marks, italics, and sentence-ending punctuation like “!”; On the other hand, you can’t deny that he knows how to put together an intriguing, if emotionally uninvolving, story....
Top 10 business books of 2009
Brad Hooper writes: “In our perennial effort to help librarians maintain a wide-ranging business collection, we offer below 10 outstanding titles reviewed in Booklist over the past year that are worthy of inclusion in, and guaranteed to expand the range of, any public library business collection. Here’s one: Crude World: The Violent Twilight of Oil, by Peter Maass. Knopf, 978-1-4000-4169-5. The author shows how an oil-based economy that undergoes booms and busts is neither a reliable nor a healthy solution for creating long-term sustainable growth.”...

Top 10 travel books of 2009
Brad Hooper writes: “Now, don’t stop booking flights and hotel rooms to nice destinations once you’ve savored the armchair delights of the following books, reviewed in Booklist over the past year. Armchair should always be mixed with actual. For example, this one: Ancient Shore: Dispatches from Naples, by Shirley Hazzard and Francis Steegmuller. Univ. of Chicago, 978-0-226-32201-8. By two famous authors, this book speaks to how blessed they felt about their time spent in Naples and the indelible impressions with which the city left them.”...

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

Division News
===========================================================================
[http://www.ala.org/aasl/bthere]
b there
Registration is now open for the virtual component to the AASL 14th National Conference and Exhibition, November 5–8 in Charlotte, North Carolina. “b there/#8212;Your Virtual Track Pass [http://www.ala.org/aasl/bthere]” will offer both national conference attendees and non-attendees a chance to connect virtually. Register [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/conferencesandevents/national/charlotte2009/forattendees/attendeeereg/national2009reg.cfm#btherereg] on the AASL website....

2009 RBMS Preconference: Electronic files
ACRL’s Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, with the help of OCLC, has posted online selected presentations and documents (including audio) from its 50th annual preconference. Cornell University’s Oya Y. Rieger presented a paper on preservation and large-scale digitization, which is available as both an MP3 file [http://rbms.info/conferences/preconfdocs/2009/Talks/Plenaries/P4_Rieger.mp3] and a PDF file [http://rbms.info/conferences/preconfdocs/2009/Rieger_RBMS.pdf]....
Librarians looking to strike out on their own in the library profession, or those library professionals approaching retirement and seeking a flexible way to maintain employment, won’t want to miss "Assembling a Consulting Toolkit: What You Need to Know to Become a Successful Library Consultant" in Boston January 15. The day-long institute is designed to prepare participants to begin—or advance—a successful consulting career. Register by January 8....

Maximizing the library experience for all patrons, including those with functional differences, is a challenging endeavor—one that libraries can get help with by attending "Breaking Down Barriers: Best Practices in Universal Design for Libraries," an institute sponsored by ASCLA at the 2010 Midwinter Meeting in Boston. This intensive half-day event January 15 was assembled through a partnership between ASCLA and the Institute for Human-Centered Design....

LLAMA is offering three interactive webinars designed to meet the needs of experienced leaders and managers at the dean, director, department head, and branch manager levels. Each of the 60–90-minute programs will feature library consultant Pat Wagner of Pattern Research. Find the full details here

YALSA is seeking instructors for 2010 and 2011 to design and deliver curriculum for face-to-face institutes and online courses on the following topics: advocating for teen services, incorporating youth participation into teen services, readers' advisory, and innovative teen programming. Interested instructors should submit a proposal (RTF file) by October 30....

YALSA will launch a new blog focused on young adult literature in 2010 and is looking for a member to manage it. The blog will focus solely on young adult literature. The member manager will lead an advisory board that prepares content for the blog and solicits content from the YALSA community....
Exhibits Round Table Author Forum
Best-selling authors will gather in Boston at the ALA Midwinter Meeting for the ALA Exhibits Round Table Author Forum. Eric Van Lustbader, Chuck Hogan, Tracy Chevalier, and Julie Powell will share their experiences in taking a bestseller to the big screen. Sponsored by ALA and Exhibits Round Table, the forum will be held January 15....

Serve on the Depository Library Council
[http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rtsgodort/godortcommittees/godortnominating/dlcform.cfm]
The Government Documents Round Table is soliciting nominations for documents librarians to serve on the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer. [http://www.fdlp.gov/home/about/61-dlc] GODORT will forward nominations [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rtsgodort/godortcommittees/godortnominating/dlcform.cfm] to the Government Printing Office. The deadline to apply or nominate is December 1....

Awards
===========================================================================
Carnegie-Whitney awards
The ALA Publishing Committee provides a grant of up to $5,000 for the preparation of print or electronic reading lists, indexes, or other guides to library resources that promote reading or the use of library resources at any type of library. Applications [http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/publishing/sundry/alapubawards/carnegiewhitney.cfm] must be received by November 6....

Calloway pounds pavement to support Spectrum
Gregory Calloway, ALA associate executive director of finance, is in training to run the Chicago Marathon for the fifth time. His efforts will once again raise funds for ALA’s Spectrum Scholarship Program and contribute to the Spectrum Presidential Initiative, which hopes to generate $1 million in contributions [http://www.ala.org/giveala] to Spectrum. The Spectrum Presidential Initiative is a 2009–2010 campaign developed by ALA President Camila Alire, Past President Jim Rettig, and President-Elect Roberta Stevens....

Virginia Boucher Award nominations
RUSA is actively seeking outstanding interlibrary loan and document
delivery librarians as nominees for its 2010 Virginia Boucher–OCLC Distinguished ILL Librarian Award. The award honors a librarian for outstanding professional achievement, leadership, and contributions to the interlibrary loan and document delivery field. Nominations (PDF file [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/rusa/awards/boucher/bouchernomination09.pdf]) must be received by December 15....


RUSA ILL mentoring award [http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/september2009/illmentoring_rusa.cfm] Nominations are sought for the RUSA 2010 STARS/Atlas Systems Mentoring Award, an ALA Conference travel grant designated for those who are new to the field of interlibrary loan. The grant offers $1,000 to fund travel expenses associated with attending the ALA Annual Conference. The recipient must be a library practitioner who has worked in the field of interlibrary loan/document delivery or electronic reserves for less than two years. Nominations (PDF file [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/rusa/awards/mentoring/starsatlasnomination.pdf]) must be received by December 15....

AASL awards and grants [http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/september2009/grants_aasl.cfm] AASL’s awards program will offer more than $50,000 in awards in 2010 to AASL members. The division’s 10 awards recognize excellence and showcase best practices in the school library media field in categories that include research, collaboration, leadership, and innovation. The 2010 applications can be viewed and downloaded here [http://www.ala.org/aasl/awards]....

Deadline extended for National Library Week Grant [http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/september2009/nlwextended_pio.cfm] The deadline for the Scholastic Library Publishing National Library Week grant has been extended to November 6. U.S. libraries of all types are invited to apply for a $3,000 grant that will be awarded to the best public-awareness campaign that promotes the theme “Communities thrive @ your library” during National Library Week, April 11–17, 2010. The grant application is an electronic form [http://www.ala.org/nlwgrant]....

Leadership Grants totaling $17.9 million to 51 institutions.
Projects by these institutions will advance the ability of museums and libraries to preserve culture, heritage, and knowledge while enhancing learning. Recipients include the King County (Wash.) Library System, Washington University Libraries, OCLC/WebJunction, the University of Guam Library, and the WGBH Educational Foundation.

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Sept. 24

School librarian wins sunflower-growing contest
Burrowmoor Primary School in March, Cambridgeshire, has won a set of five NEO 2 classroom computers in a U.K.-wide sunflower-growing competition. School Librarian Audrey Morton (holding the computer) managed to grow a sunflower three meters (9 feet, 11 inches) tall. The Watch Them Grow competition was sponsored by Renaissance Learning UK. Prizes were awarded for the tallest and widest sunflowers.

Cambs Times, Sept. 28

2009 Great Book Group reads
Mary Ellen Quinn writes: “October is National Reading Group Month. This program of the Women’s National Book Association was launched in 2007 to promote reading groups and to celebrate the joy of shared reading. Book Group Buzz is thrilled to be chosen by the WNBA as a National Reading Group Month partner. Here’s the 2009 list of Great Group Reads chosen by the National Reading Group Month Selection Committee.”

Book Group Buzz, Sept. 29

Aleksandar Hemon wins first St. Francis College Literary Prize
The jury for the first-ever St. Francis College Literary Prize has selected Aleksandar Hemon for his book, Love and Obstacles (Riverhead, 2009) as the winner of the $50,000 award, one of the richest literary prizes in the United States. Hemon, raised in Sarajevo and now residing in Chicago, wrote his first work in English in 1995. He was awarded the prize at the opening night party for the Brooklyn Book Festival, September 12.

St. Francis College, Sept. 12

Avi wins Beacon of Freedom Award
Newbery Award–winning author Avi will accept the 2009 Beacon of Freedom Award for his novel Iron Thunder (Hyperion, 2007), about the 1862 Battle of Hampton Roads between the USS Monitor and CSS Virginia, at Williamsburg (Va.) Regional Library October 16. The award is presented annually to an author who introduces American history to children in a historically accurate and engaging manner.
Malott Prize for Recording Community Activism
[http://www.langumtrust.org/news.html#2009_Malott_Prize_Winner]
The first winner of the new biannual Gene E. and Adele R. Malott Prize for Recording Community Activism is Bruce Barcott for The Last Flight of the Scarlet Macaw: One Woman’s Fight to Save the World's Most Beautiful Bird (Random House, 2008). The Malott Prize recognizes both significant grassroots activists and the authors, journalists, and film makers who cover them; however, the basis for the prize is for the quality of the writing or film....
Langum Charitable Trust, Sept. 26

Sunburst Awards for Canadian Literature of the Fantastic
[http://www.sunburstaward.org/content/2009-winners]
The Sunburst Award committee has announced its 2009 winners: The Gargoyle by Andrew Davidson (Random House) in the adult category, and Little Brother by Cory Doctorow (Tor) in the young adult category. The awards are given to Canadian writers who have published a speculative fiction novel or book-length collection any time during the previous calendar year....
Sunburst Award, Sept. 28

2009 Booktrust Early Years Awards
[http://www.booktrust.org.uk/show/feature/Home/Booktrust-Early-Years-Awards]
The British national charity Booktrust announced the winners of its Early Years Awards at a special ceremony in London September 23. The winning books exemplify the remarkable creativity in words, design, and illustration needed to encourage young children to read. The winner of the Baby Book award was Chick by Ed Vere (Puffin); the Pre-School Award went to Oliver Who Travelled Far and Wide by Mara Bergman (Hodder Children's Books)....
Booktrust, Sept. 23

Frank O'Connor Short Story Award
[http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/writer-scoops-cork-award-101426.html]
British author Simon Van Booy won the Frank O'Connor Short Story Award, now in its fifth year, for his collection, Love Begins in Winter. The Munster Literature Centre sponsors the €35,000 ($51,000 U.S.) prize, the richest award for a short story collection, and is presented at the Frank O'Connor Festival in Cork, Ireland....
Irish Examiner, Sept. 21

Why J. K. Rowling did not get a Presidential Medal
[http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2009/sep/29/harry-potter-rowling-medal]A memoir by George W. Bush’s former speechwriter claims that Bush administration officials objected to giving J. K. Rowling a Presidential Medal of Freedom on the grounds that her Harry Potter books “encouraged witchcraft.” Matt Latimer’s Speech-less: Tales of a White House Survivor reveals how politicized the medal, America’s highest civilian honor, became during the Bush administration....
The Guardian (U.K.), Sept. 29
Apply for a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Grant
The Institute of Museum and Library Services invites proposals from libraries, archives, library agencies, associations, and consortia for the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grant program. Categories of funding include doctoral and master’s LIS programs, research about librarianship as a profession, and CE for library and archives staff. The deadline for applications
[http://www.imls.gov/applicants/grants/21centuryLibrarian.shtm] is December 15....
Institute of Museum and Library Services, Sept. 24

Seen Online
===========================================================================
Dealing with controversial titles is a challenge
Terry Lewis, Ed Irons Middle School librarian and Lubbock (Tex.) Independent School District library facilitator for secondary schools, said school librarians work hard to provide material appropriate to the ages of their readers while at the same time avoiding the censoring of ideas. That can be challenging in an environment where books can draw opposition from parents for a variety of reasons. Lewis said at least once a year a parent will request that a child not be allowed to check out a particular book....
Lubbock (Tex.) Avalanche-Journal, Sept. 27

Banned Books Week: Still needed in the United States
Joan E. Bertin and Chris Finan write: “For a country that venerates its First Amendment guarantee of freedom of speech, the United States tries to ban books with alarming frequency. Stick a pin in each place where there’s been a challenge to a school or library book, and you’ll have a map of the United States that looks like a hedgehog in need of a haircut. As the late, great, and much-censored author Kurt Vonnegut would say: And so it goes.”...
Huffington Post, Sept. 28

Know your age, find your book
Responding to a call by parents and church and community leaders concerned about provocative books available to teens at the Leesburg (Fla.) Public Library, city commissioners voted 4–1 September 28 to separate all books based on age groups. A measure to label specific books with a “mature content” warning failed 3–2. At least 43 books
[http://www.cfnews13.com/News/Sidebar/2009/9/28/books_up_for_debate_in_lake_county.html] in the young adult section will now be reviewed for content, with the racier titles moved into a separate area in the library stairwell

Michigan lawmakers slash library budget
Michigan legislative conference committees agreed September 27 on a reduced budget for the state education department, which included a cut in library funding from the current $10 million to $6 million. Rep. Terry Brown (D-Pigeon), chair of the conference committee, was the lone no vote for the education budget. “A lot of our libraries have a difficult time existing as it is,” Brown said.

Detroit Free Press, Sept. 28

Oak Brook lays off library director, four others
Village officials laid off Oak Brook (Ill.) Library Director Meg Klinkow Hartmann and four other employees in early September as part of a “restructuring” recommended by a consulting firm, Library Associates Companies, hired to find ways to cut the library’s budget. Youth Services Librarian Sue Madorin has been named interim director. The layoffs prompted some residents to register complaints at the village board meeting September 22. The move came only a few weeks after the staff filed a petition to join the Teamsters union.

Oak Brook (Ill.) The Doings, Sept. 2, 15, 23

Group calls for reinstatement of Castleton director
The Castleton (N.Y.) Public Library board of directors fired longtime library director Darlene Miller in mid-September. Now a group of her supporters has mounted a campaign to reinstate her. The decision was said to be made as a result of a long-standing disagreement between the board of trustees and Miller over programming, but opponents of the move say they believe the library is financially struggling and officials are moving to close it.

Albany (N.Y.) Times-Union, Sept. 27

Reading to close three branches, bookmobile
Faced with funding cuts from the city and state, the Reading (Pa.) Public Library will shut down its bookmobile (right), close its three branches, and lay off 12 of its full-time staff before the end of the year, library officials announced September 25. The Northwest, Northeast, and Southeast branches could close as early as October. The city is discontinuing its $450,000 annual funding to the library, and state support could be cut 34–50% in a new state budget.
Seattle libraries may slash hours
[http://www.seattlepi.com/local/410656_library30.html]
The Seattle Public Library System is facing a 23% reduction in branch hours next year under the mayor’s 2010 budget proposal. Twenty-one branches could be closed on Fridays and Sundays to meet the cost-cutting goal set by Mayor Greg Nickels. To compensate, hours would be extended at the Central Library downtown and at some larger neighborhood branches....
Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Sept. 30

Rockford board saves Lewis Lemon branch
Rockford (Ill.) Public Library’s Lewis Lemon branch (located inside the Lewis Lemon Global Studies Academy) will remain open—that’s the biggest decision that came out of the September 28 board meeting. Library employees are happy the board is listening. A round of applause came after trustees unanimously voted to delay any decisions about laying off 30 workers or cutting library hours until after they hold discussions with the AFSCME union....
WIFR-TV, Rockford, Ill., Sept. 28

Aurora group to fight library tax plan
[http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_13406658]
A group of Aurora, Colorado, residents called the Colorado Union of Taxpayers is organizing opposition to a property tax increase on the November ballot that would fund the city library, saying a 40% increase is too much right now. But advocates of the tax proposal say that without it, Aurora Public Library would have no choice but to close more than half its branches. If the measure passes, it would provide approximately $12.5 million for the library system, and would free up about $3.6 million for the city’s general fund....
Denver Post, Sept. 24

A rainy National Book Festival attracts 130,000
Despite a midday deluge, book lovers turned out in record numbers for the ninth annual National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., September 26, as some 130,000 people attended readings and signings on the National Mall. The event, organized by the Library of Congress, also featured the launch of LC’s newest literacy initiative, Read.gov, [http://read.gov] with the unveiling of the yearlong online story, The Exquisite Corpse Adventure. [http://read.gov/exquisite-corpse/] For those who were unable to attend, the authors’ presentations are available as webcasts [http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/]. Watch the Washington Post video [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/video/2009/09/28/VI2009092801101.html] (5:47). More photos [http://www.flickr.com/photos/tags/2009nbf/] are on Flickr....
Los Angeles Times, Sept. 28; Library of Congress, Sept. 26; Washington Post, Sept. 28

Harvard libraries must work together, Faust says
Harvard University President Drew Faust is pushing to break down traditional budgeting barriers among the school's independent divisions, after the school lost $11 billion of endowment value last fiscal year. Harvard's 70 libraries, for example, must work together to increase savings, she said in a September 25 speech on campus. Curious practices have grown up as the system has grown—obstacles to sharing and coordination, Faust said, adding that economic arrangements at the libraries discourage them from working together....

Bloomberg, Sept. 25

Childhood essay by Paul McCartney found in library

A prize-winning essay on Queen Elizabeth’s coronation by a 10-year-old Paul McCartney was found among records at Liverpool’s Central Library by Kevin Roach while he was researching a book on the Beatles songwriter. McCartney won a prize for the 300-word essay in a city council competition on May 27, 1953. Roach discovered the volume in March in a library collection marked coronation events....

The Times (U.K.), Sept. 28

Library access in Britain now easier

Readers in the U.K. can now borrow books from more than 4,000 public libraries regardless of where they live. The Society of Chief Librarians said members of the public in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland can simply show an existing library card or proof of address to join or use a library. Some libraries in Scotland are also considering joining the plan, which could help vacationers or those who work in a different place from where they live. The news came as Arts and Culture Minister Margaret Hodge prepared to unveil plans to modernize the public library service, which including launching a Netflix-like plan to allow users to order books or DVDs online for delivery by mail....

The Guardian (U.K.), Sept. 28; The Times (U.K.), Sept. 27

Tech Talk

Libraries are finding better search software

Traditional online library catalogs do not always order search results by ranked relevance, and they can befuddle users with clunky interfaces. Two tech trends are changing that. First, some universities are shelling out serious money for sophisticated software that makes exploring their collections more like the easy-to-filter experience you might find in an online Sears catalog. Second, others are producing free open-source programs that tackle the same problems with no licensing fees....

Chronicle of Higher Education, Sept. 28
A hands-on look at Google Wave
Ryan Paul writes: “The scope of Google’s Wave project is broad, which makes it difficult to define concisely. It brings together elements of instant messaging, email, collaborative rich document editing, and generic support for third-party web services in a single seamless communication medium that is more flexible than any of those things individually. On a technical level, it is a messaging platform that consists of a protocol, a web service, a set of standard extension APIs, and an open-source concurrency framework. Conclusion: Wave represents an extraordinary technical achievement and delivers truly remarkable messaging capabilities. Although the current prototype still has some limitations, it offers the most compelling alternative to email that I have encountered.” Here’s another first look
Ars Technica, Sept. 29; Lifehacker, Sept. 30

FCC: Broadband up to 50% slower than claimed
Access to high-speed internet service is quickly moving from a luxury to a necessity. The FCC is charged with coming up with a national broadband plan by February 2010, and officials provided a glimpse into their findings thus far at the commission’s September meeting. Broadband speeds advertised by ISPs are generally slower than they claim to be—as much as 50% “and possibly more during the busy hours,” according to a statement from the FCC. About 1% of all users drive 20% of traffic, and 20% of all users drive 80% of traffic....
PC Magazine, Sept. 29

New Apple tablet could redefine print
Brian Lam writes: “Steve Jobs said people don’t read any more. But Apple is in talks with several media companies rooted in print, negotiating content for a new device. And they’re not just going for e-books and mags. They’re aiming to redefine print. Long having established music, movie, and TV content, Apple is working hard to load up iTunes with print content from several major publishing houses across several media.”...
Gizmodo, Sept. 30

How to attribute a Creative Commons photo
Bobbi L. Newman writes: “Yes, the absolutely correct way! You need to follow the guidelines set by the license, and (my suggestion) let the author know. That is a lot to include. So what does a perfect attribution look like? How do you include all that information? Here are some examples.”....
Librarian by Day, Sept. 28

Be your own tech support
Meryl Evans writes: “I’m not suggesting you crack open your computer to fix it, but with a few of the tactics outlined in this post you can solve many of your computer problems on your own. Besides, wouldn’t you rather solve your problems instead of waiting for a live support person to pick up the phone? Here are 10 steps to becoming your own Mr. or Ms. Fix-it.”...
Web Worker Daily, Sept. 22

Four simple tips to organize your files on Windows
Paul Coffman writes: “Much like the situation with my desk, keeping my computer organized improves productivity. It also helps my less organized coworkers. The moment they can’t find an important email or paper, they ask me for it. I find it—quickly. Let’s look at some simple and basic tips to organize Windows that you may be overlooking and that won’t cost you a nickel.”...
MakeUseOf, Sept. 28

Publishing

E-book reader comparison guide
E-book reader comparison guide compares e-book readers on the market in the United States so that you can pick the model best suited to you. This feature comparison table shows ratings, screen size, connectivity, memory, battery, weight, audio, file formats, and price of the 10 major models. Consult the worldwide table for all 16 models, or specific tables for the UK, Europe, and Asia. If you are new to e-book readers, here are the e-reader basics....

Princeton’s Kindle experiment a flop
When Princeton University announced its Kindle e-reader pilot program last May, administrators seemed cautiously optimistic that the e-readers would both be sustainable and serve as a valuable academic tool. But less than two weeks after 50 students received the free Kindle DX e-readers, many of them said they were dissatisfied and uncomfortable with the devices....
Daily Princetonian, Sept. 28

Christine Bulson writes: “Encyclopedia of Life was first funded by a MacArthur Foundation grant in 2007. The goal of the
site is to have a webpage for all 1.8 million organisms on earth. After two years, there are now more than 150,000 pages of expert-verified text and images. Anyone may add text, images, or videos that are authenticated by expert curators.” The BBC is attempting something similar with its Wildlife Finder, [http://www.bbc.co.uk/wildlifefinder/] and, of course, there’s Wikispecies [http://species.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page]....

Points of Reference, Sept. 27

Libraries and librarians in children’s books

Larry Nix writes: “How librarians and libraries are depicted in popular culture is a topic of great interest to those who collect and study libraria. How libraries and librarians are depicted in children’s books is a specialized aspect of this topic. University of Connecticut Library Director Emeritus Norman D. Stevens has created a WorldCat bibliography [http://www.worldcat.org/profiles/normanstevens/lists/1038144] of nearly 500 children’s books that involve librarians, libraries, and books and reading that he has collected information on for a number of years. Stevens says this is only a partial list and that it will be expanded in the future.”...

Library History Buff Blog, Sept. 19

30 books worth buying for the cover alone
[http://www.abebooks.com/books/antiquarian-rare-design/more-beautiful-19th-century-covers.shtml?cm_mmc=nl_-nl_-h00-30bbksX_-feature]

Beth Carswell writes: “Not long ago, we featured my 30 favorite pieces of contemporary fiction—based entirely on the cover art, instead of the content. Since so many AbeBooks customers loved the feature and asked for more, and we love any excuse to root through the stacks (okay, listings) in search of beautiful treasures, we’ve found 30 more. As before, some are the only copy available, and they range in price, but many are very affordable, and all are works of art.”...

Abebooks.com

Bibliomysteries

L. D. Mitchell writes: “One subgenre that resonates with book-lovers building a private library is the bibliomystery, defined as a mystery that deals in some significant way with books and the world associated with books. The bibliomystery is not a recent invention. Fredric Perkins, for example, penned Scrope: or the Lost Library in 1870. Believed to be the first bibliomystery published in the United States, it is rarely offered for sale in anything approaching fine condition.” Don’t miss part 2 [http://privatelibrary.typepad.com/the_private_library/2009/09/bibliomysteries-and-the-private-library-part-ii.html]....

The Private Library, Sept. 27–28
Actions & Answers

Manifesto for academic libraries: A preview
[http://hangingtogether.org/?p=741]
Ricky Erway writes: “An RLG working group
[http://www.oclc.org/programs/ourwork/researchinfo/support/roadmap.htm]
is writing a manifesto for academic libraries, addressing the need for
change to better support research. The recent clamor over Dan
Greenstein’s intentionally provocative remarks
future of university libraries has prompted us to offer a preview of our
work. In an effort to rise above the debate on the current and future
value of libraries, the draft suggests a set of principles to guide
academic libraries in improving research support in a changing
environment.”...
HangingTogether, Sept. 28; Inside Higher Ed, Sept. 24

Print collections management in the digital age
[http://www.ithaka.org/ithaka-s-r/research/what-to-withdraw]
As journals are increasingly accessed in digitized form, many libraries
have grown interested in de-accessioning little-used print originals; but
desires to repurpose space often come into conflict with concerns about
preservation. What to Withdraw: Print Collections Management in the Wake
of Digitization (PDF file
[http://www.ithaka.org/ithaka-s-r/research/what-to-withdraw/What%20to%20With
draw-%20Print%20Collections%20Management%20in%20the%20Wake%20of%20Digitiza
tion.pdf]) analyzes which types of journals can be withdrawn responsibly
today and how that set of materials can be expanded to allow libraries
the maximum possible flexibility and savings in the future....
Ithaka, Sept. 28

Take the global library survey
file)
On September 28, the CIBER research group at University College London
invited all libraries to participate in an international survey examining
challenges, trends, and best practices in tough economic times. Based on
input from nearly 200 librarians worldwide, the questionnaire
[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=BKU3bWUcC_2b3w4fUVMA9COA_3d_3d] is
now available and will remain open through October 18. Results of the
survey, which is cosponsored by Baker and Taylor’s YBP Library
Services and ebrary, will be announced at the Charleston Conference,
November 4–7....
ebrary, Sept. 28

Tupac Shakur papers donated to Woodruff Library
woodruff-library-partner-to-prepare-tupac-shakur-writings-and-papers-for-sc
holarly-research-60791097.html]
Afeni Shakur-Davis, mother of platinum recording artist Tupac Shakur, has
made available her son’s manuscripts and other papers to Atlanta University Center’s Robert W. Woodruff Library. The collection features the late Shakur’s handwritten lyrics and track listings, personal notes, video and film concepts, fan correspondence, promotional materials, and other items that provide a unique insight into his career and creative genius.

Robert W. Woodruff Library, Sept. 23

Better World Books breaks a record

The social-enterprise bookseller Better World Books finalized the sale September 24 of a rare 1848 Peter Force facsimile of the Declaration of Independence on behalf of the Mercy College Libraries in Dobbs Ferry, New York. Much of the record sale price, $16,000, will go back to the library and its literacy partner, Books for Africa. BWB takes donated books that libraries would otherwise have to throw out, sells them online, and reinvests a portion of the profits in literacy programs and nonprofit partners.

Social Entrepreneurship, Sept. 25

Google Scholar’s ghost authors and other problems

Peter Jacso writes: “Research faculty and academic libraries dealing with Google Scholar face a metadata disaster. Millions of records have erroneous metadata, as well as inflated publication and citation counts. A free tool, Google Scholar has become the most convenient resource to find a few good scholarly papers; often in free full-text format; on even the most esoteric topics. For topical keyword searches, GS is most valuable. But it cannot be used to analyze the publishing performance and impact of researchers.”

Library Journal, Sept. 24

Kevin Muldoon writes: “As a blogger, I think it is very important to stay up to date with the latest news and discussions with your blog’s topic and with blogging and web development in general. This is particularly true for those that are still developing skills as a blogger. You may be aware of many of these blogs, though I hope that I can bring your attention to a few gems you haven’t found yet.”

Blogging Tips, Sept. 29

What medical librarians do

Jamie Graham writes: “You may have seen us at clinical rounds, faculty council, or IRB sessions. You may have wondered why a medical librarian would be present outside the library. Our exact function is often a mystery to clinicians, and so, we have decided to take this opportunity in our inaugural issue to introduce ourselves and tell you everything we have to offer.”

Clinical Correlations, Sept. 25

An inflection point for public libraries
Jean Costello writes: “2009 may be an inflection point for public libraries. This year, the deepest recession in U.S. history accelerated their financial trajectory. Following nearly a decade of level or eroding budgets, libraries across America were threatened with closure due to lack of funds. Some have closed and most are operating with dramatically reduced budgets. The recession has also increased usage. So is there light at the end of this tunnel?”...

In the Library with the Lead Pipe, Sept. 30

Botswana partnership

In 2007, the University of Pennsylvania Library received a $40,000 Elsevier Foundation grant to conduct a medical information-needs assessment at the University of Botswana. In this video (6:08), find out how four Penn librarians interviewed over 30 government officials, librarians, researchers, and clinicians to help Botswana improve their channels for sharing medical information....

YouTube, Sept. 28

Birthday Zoo

Kids can learn about animals through rhymes, thanks to Pikes Peak Library District Children’s Librarian Pat Masias, who offers this video storytime (2:14) reading of Birthday Zoo by Deborah Lee Rose: “Get them to laugh, advised the giraffe. Recycle the paper, reminded the tapir. Your wish will come true, applauded the gnu.”...

YouTube, Sept. 28

Future librarians of America

Grace Carr, super librarian (right, 1:43), has an office in an overturned play car and wields an awesome Virgin Mary checkout stamp. But can she match the bibliothecal confidence of 2-year-old Tessa (0:48), who apparently uses a light fixture to scan for circulation barcodes?...

YouTube, Feb. 8, Apr. 18, 2008

Libraries get creative on YouTube: Five favorites

Charlie Thomason writes: “There are some highly imaginative librarians and library lovers out there and some of them have been making a big splash on YouTube. So, we decided to sort through and pick out our favorite library-related YouTube videos.” One of them is this 2007 parody of The Wizard of Oz (2:10) from the Salt Lake County (Utah) Library....

@ your library, Sept. 23

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In Building the Digital Branch: Guidelines for Transforming Your Library’s Website, [http://www.alatechsource.org/ltr/building-the-digital-branch-guidelines-for-transforming-your-library-website] David Lee King explores the idea of the digital branch—a library website that is a vital, functional resource for patrons and enhances the library’s place within its community. The August/September issue of Library Technology Reports takes you from the design stage to maintaining and upgrading the site once it is built. NEW! From ALA TechSource.

[http://www.atyourlibrary.org/download-our-banner]

Download [http://www.atyourlibrary.org/download-our-banner] an atyourlibrary.org badge or banner for your website. All you need to do is copy the code under the image and paste it into your page template or CMS. Atyourlibrary.org [http://www.atyourlibrary.org/] is the public website for the ALA’s public awareness campaign—the Campaign for America’s Libraries, which promotes the value of libraries and librarians.

In this issue
Aug./Sept. 2009

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

Public Libraries: Necessities or Amenities?
Designing User Experiences

Sound Recording Collections

Learning with Blogs

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

Director of Technical Services, [http://joblist.ala.org/modules/jobseeker/controller.cfm?scr=jobdetail&jobid=13725] University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Provide administrative oversight of technical service and information technology departments (acquisitions, cataloging, collection development, serials, and IT); participate with dean and other directors in the leadership and management of the library; coordinate technical services and IT activities and workflow with other areas of the library and university; participate in library-wide programs such as collection development, assessment, and strategic planning; and take a leadership role, locally and nationally, in identifying and implementing new developments in the field through active participation in professional organizations....

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[http://twitter.com/ALA_JobLIST]

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

Digital Library of the Week


Transforming the Tar Heel State: The Legacy of Public Libraries in North Carolina [http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/dimp/digital/publiclibraries/about.html] is a statewide collaborative digital project that celebrates North Carolina public libraries. The core of this collection has been scanned from the State Library of North Carolina’s Public Library History Files. These files contain photographs, reports, newspaper clippings, and other materials that had been sent to the North Carolina Library Commission from public libraries throughout the state. The files span from the late 19th century through the 1970s, with the majority of the materials dating from the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. For years, the files were hidden in a storage area where all but a few library staff had forgotten them. They were rediscovered around 2003 when the storage area was being cleaned out for building renovations. In summer 2008, the state library put out a call to public libraries seeking participation in building the
collection. In response, 23 libraries sent photos and 34 libraries sent historical information that was added to the collection.

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.

“If large numbers of people believe in freedom of speech, there will be freedom of speech, even if the law forbids it. But if public opinion is sluggish, inconvenient minorities will be persecuted, even if laws exist to protect them.”—George Orwell, author, ca. 1945. From notable quotations [http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/ifissues/issuesrelatedlinks/quotations.cfm] on the First Amendment, censorship, and the freedom to read.

Public Perception
How the World Sees Us

“Of all the current assaults on our noble republic, perhaps none is more dangerous than the public option — specifically, the public library option. . . . And just what does this public option give us? People can spend hours and hours in these dens of socialism without having to buy so much as a cappuccino. Furthermore, not only can anyone read books for free in the library, they can take them home, too. They get a simple card that can be used at any library in town. No checking on the previous condition of books they’ve read. No literacy test. Nothing. Yet, do these libertines of literature let you choose any book you want, anytime you want it? No. Have you ever tried to get the latest bestseller at a public library? They put you on a waiting list for that, my friend. And if you do ask these government apparatchiks a question about a book, they start talking your ear off, and pretty soon they’re telling you what to read.”


[http://www.twitter.com/amlibraries]

AL on Twitter. Follow American Libraries news stories, videos, and blog posts on Twitter. [http://www.twitter.com/amlibraries]

Ask the ALA Librarian

Q. It’s the question most often heard from students during Banned Books Week: “Why was this book banned?” More accurately, the question is who challenged this book being in the library and wanted it removed, and why,
when, and where did this happen—and how did things turn out?

A. The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom [http://www.ala.org/oif] maintains information on which books are challenged and why and regularly publishes this information every three years, most recently in the Banned Books: 2007 Resource Guide [http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=285], edited by Robert P. Doyle of the Illinois Library Association. The book lists challenged and banned books in alphabetical order by the author's last name, and gives the dates and places and reasons that a book was threatened with removal (challenged) and/or was removed (banned) from a library or school. Doyle also puts together a free annual brochure, which can be found as a PDF file [http://ila.org/pdf/2009banned.pdf] on the website of the Illinois Library Association. Students can use the Banned Books: 2007 Resource Guide [http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/163583089] entry at WorldCat.org to search via ZIP code for the closest public and/or community college library that has an available copy. For more information and resources, see Researching Challenged ("Banned") Books. From the ALA Professional Tips wiki [http://wikis.ala.org/professionaltips/index.php/Researching_Challenged_%22Banned%22%20Books] and @ The ALA Librarian [mailto:AskTheLibrarian@ala.org] welcomes your questions.

Lightning Talks at LITA Forum 2009. [http://ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/lita/litaevents/forum2009/lightning.cfm] LITA still wants some fast talkers with great ideas at the LITA Forum in Salt Lake City this weekend. Lightning talks are fun for attendees and an opportunity for presenters to showcase late-breaking ideas, trends, and achievements. Speakers are strictly held to five minutes. Send an email to Karen Schneider [mailto:kgs@esilibrary.com] with your name, email, organization, title for your lightning talk, and preferred session (October 2 or October 3).

October is American Archives Month, [http://www.archivists.org/archivesmonth/index.asp] a program of the Society of American Archivists to raise awareness about the value of archives and archivists. This 2009 American Archives Month Public Relations Kit (PDF file [http://www.archivists.org/archivesmonth/2009_AAMKit.pdf]) provides basic materials that can be adapted to make your own archives program more visible and more appreciated.
Calendar

Oct. 7:

Oct. 8–10:

Oct. 14:

Oct. 20–23:

Oct. 21–23:

Oct. 26–28:
Internet Librarian, [http://www.infotoday.com/il2009/] Monterey Conference Center, California.

Oct. 29–30:

Nov. 3:

Nov. 9–15:
Text Encoding Initiative Consortium, [http://www.lib.umich.edu/spo/teimeeting09/] conference and member’s meeting, Gallery of the Hatcher Graduate Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Dec. 7–8:

Dec. 14:
Library Management Institute Fall Conference, [http://www.arcadia.edu/about/default.aspx?id=14650] Arcadia University,
Glenside, Pennsylvania.

Feb. 12–16:

Mar. 23–27:

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

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American Libraries Direct

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