

american. libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | April 7, 2010

Contents

[American Libraries Online](#)
[ALA News](#)
[Booklist Online](#)
[Division News](#)
[Round Table News](#)
[Awards](#)
[Seen Online](#)
[Tech Talk](#)
[Publishing](#)
[Actions & Answers](#)
[New This Week](#)
[Calendar](#)



American Libraries Online

[Court rules FCC lacks authority to regulate net neutrality](#)

A federal appeals court ruled April 6 that the Federal Communications Commission does not have the authority to require network providers to give equal treatment to the sites or applications to which they provide access. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia overturned ([PDF file](#)) a 2008 ruling by the FCC ordering Comcast to stop blocking its broadband subscribers from using the BitTorrent online file-sharing technology and other applications....

American Libraries news, Apr. 7

[Boston dials back library service cuts](#)

With 48 hours to spare before the Boston Public Library board is scheduled to finalize the system's FY2011 budget for Mayor Thomas M. Menino's review, BPL President Amy E. Ryan (right) has recommended a modified service cutback. The change follows a sustained outpouring of public criticism regarding an earlier proposal to close up to 10 branches and dismiss as much as 25% of the staff. Ryan's April 7 recommendation calls for the closure of four libraries and the retention of present service hours at BPL's 22 other facilities. Under this proposal, 25 staff positions would be eliminated....

American Libraries news, Apr. 7



[Albuquerque can't ban sex offenders from libraries](#)

Citing an individual's right to receive information as paramount, the U.S. District Court of New Mexico has overturned a two-year-old mayoral regulation that banned anyone who is a registered sex offender under federal or state law from visiting the 16-branch Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library. Albuquerque officials were considering their options in light of the ruling. Filed in October 2008, *John Doe v. City of Albuquerque* claimed that the plaintiff had been a frequent library visitor until receiving a letter banning him from the premises....

American Libraries news, Apr. 6

[Librarians, self-preservation, and](#)

American History in Video

"A solid ten . . . and, at this price, an amazing deal. This is a product I wish every library in the U.S. could make accessible to its researchers, from elementary school children to history scholars."

—Library Journal

[CLICK HERE TO TRY IT NOW!](#)

Newsreels & Documentaries
Online in Streaming Video



[construction budgets](#)

Jeannette Woodward writes: "Money issues on a construction project can become so numerous and so stress-producing that you may feel tempted to sign up for the Foreign Legion or flee to Timbuktu. Libraries rarely cost precisely what we expect. Since there are thousands of variables (the price of steel, the condition of the soil, labor disputes), numbers will keep changing throughout the life of the project. You will have to balance your determination to build the perfect library with your instinct for self-preservation."...

American Libraries feature



[Grow your own librarian](#)

Kathy Anderson writes: "In 2004, in response to the difficulties of recruiting professionals to work in public libraries in the state, the Mississippi Library Commission embarked on an innovative program to improve public library services and 'grow their own' librarians. Their solution was to create an intensive Librarianship Institute that not only immerses participants in the principles and tools of public librarianship but may also motivate them to return to school for professional degrees."...

American Libraries feature



[Green crossword puzzle](#)

Laura Bruzas writes: "If you like crossword puzzles as much as I do, here's a special treat in honor of Earth Month. I created it in such a way that you could use it in a variety of settings. You can play [online](#) or download a printable one-page version in Word format. The answers will be provided in a future blog post."...

AL: Green Your Library, Apr. 6

ALA News

[Dinners for Spectrum Scholars](#)

President Camila Alire, President-Elect Roberta Stevens, and Past-President Jim Rettig are working together on a special Presidential Initiative to raise \$1 million for the Spectrum Scholarship program. This spring, they are asking ALA members to help by hosting a Dinner for Spectrum Scholars. The concept is simple: Bring people together for a meal and encourage them to make a donation. 500 dinners, each raising \$500, will bring in \$250,000. Be sure to submit a completed contributions form ([Word file](#)) to the ALA Development Office shortly after your event....

Spectrum Presidential Initiative, Apr. 7



[Another round of ALA staff furloughs](#)

ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels summed up the state of Association finances at a general staff meeting in the Chicago headquarters the morning of April 7. "Overall revenues for 2010 are projected to be 4% less, or just over \$2 million," Fiels said, "than ALA had projected a year ago" (on a total budget of \$54 million). This



[ALA Annual Conference,](#)

Washington, D.C., June 24–29. An ALA Annual Conference in the nation's capital offers many opportunities for

[international visitors.](#)

Check out these [tips](#) on how to get your travel reimbursed, no matter where you work or go to school.



In the April issue of [Library Technology Reports](#), eminent blogger and library technology expert Jason Griffey provides a comprehensive guide to the present and future of modern gadgets, and how they can fit in to any librarian's plan for a high-tech future. Griffey will also be giving a [webinar on gadgets](#) at 2 p.m. Eastern Time, April 22. Register [here](#). **NEW!**
From ALA TechSource.

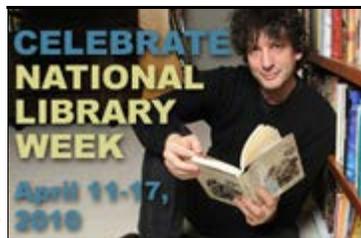
means that ALA will need to dip into its reserve account as well as require all staff to take a one-week furlough prior to July 2....

AL: Inside Scoop, Apr. 7

[National Library Week, April 11-17](#)

With Americans turning to libraries in record number for employment resources and technology support, the nation's libraries celebrate [National Library Week](#), April 11-17. The celebration, sponsored by ALA, includes events held at thousands of libraries to promote the many free resources available. The programs include assisting the unemployed with jobs searches and filing unemployment benefits; helping the unskilled learn to use a computer; and providing homework help, access to e-government services, and accurate financial education information....

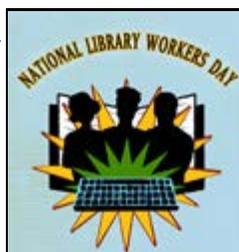
Public Information Office, Apr. 6



[National Library Workers Day, April 13](#)

On [National Library Workers Day](#), April 13, communities across the United States will recognize the contributions made by all library workers—including librarians, support staff, and others who make library services possible. [Submit a star](#) to honor a valued worker, find an inventive way to [advocate](#) for fair pay, or [become a fan](#) on the NLWD Facebook page. Watch a [podcast](#) featuring ALA-APA director Jenifer Grady talking about issues affecting library employees....

Public Information Office, Apr. 6; ALA-Allied Professional Association; Visibility @ your library, Apr. 6



[National Bookmobile Day, April 14](#)

On April 14, communities across America will mark the inaugural celebration of [National Bookmobile Day](#), which honors the role of bookmobiles and direct-delivery outreach services in fulfilling the mission of libraries. Part of National Library Week, National Bookmobile Day will highlight how bookmobiles help communities thrive. With much of the country still struggling through a difficult economy, libraries and mobile services are part of the solution when a community is struggling economically....

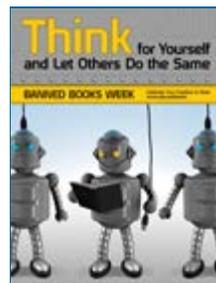
Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, Apr. 6



[Banned Books Week 2010](#)

[Banned Books Week 2010](#) will be held September 25-October 2. "Think for Yourself and Let Others Do the Same" is the slogan for this year's campaign. This year's slogan is borrowed from the Facebook group, "Un-Ban Gilbert Grape! Censorship is Wrong!" According to Andy Lange, one of the group's leaders, the slogan is a shortened version of Voltaire's quote, "Think for yourself and let others enjoy the privilege of doing so too."...

OIF Blog, Apr. 5



[Toolkit for library service to older adults](#)

The latest toolkit from the Office for Literacy and

New this week in American Libraries



[Construction Budgets](#)

[Grow Your Own Librarian](#)

[Perpetual Beta](#)

[Inside Scoop](#)

[Green Your Library](#)

[Ask the ALA Librarian](#)

[AL Focus](#)

Career Leads from ALA JobLIST

[Head, Philosophy Library](#), University of Southern California Libraries, Los Angeles. Seeking an experienced, knowledgeable, and service-oriented librarian to lead the Philosophy Library. Reporting to the Director, Public Services Division I, the Head will oversee the Library's operation and personnel and provide a full range of information resources and services, including reference, instruction, collection development, and

Outreach Services, *Keys to Engaging Older Adults @ your library*, is now available in print and as a free download ([PDF file](#)). The toolkit provides tips and tools to better understand and serve this important and growing segment of the population, covering topics ranging from programming, funding, publicity, accessibility, and best practices. It is the fourth in a series of outreach advocacy toolkits available from OLOS....

Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, Apr. 1



[Prisoners' right to read](#)

Martin Garnar writes: "During its spring meeting, the Intellectual Freedom Committee adopted a draft of [Prisoners' Right to Read: An Interpretation to the Library Bill of Rights](#). We plan to present this interpretation for adoption when I give the report to Council at Council Session III during the 2010 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. The committee would appreciate receiving any comments you may have prior to conference, no later than June 11."...

Librarians for Human Rights, Apr. 1

[Want to get more involved in the profession?](#)

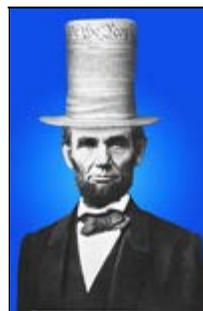
Check out the new [Opportunities Exchange](#), where you can search for assistantships, awards, calls for proposals, and volunteer opportunities. Want to let others know about your grant opportunity or internship? Just fill out the form to add it to the OppEx. You don't even have to log in to view the database, which includes opportunities for nonmembers and international residents. Learn how to add an opportunity [here](#)....

ALA Connect, Apr. 5

[Lincoln traveling exhibit adds 25 more libraries](#)

The ALA Public Programs Office and the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia have announced that the traveling exhibit "[Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War](#)" will be hosted by an additional 25 libraries, extending its reach to a total of 50 libraries from August 2010 through December 2014. The exhibition explores how Lincoln used the Constitution to confront three intertwined crises of the war—secession, slavery, and wartime civil liberties....

Public Programs Office, Apr. 6



[Play ball @ your library](#)

The launch of the fifth season of the ALA and the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's [Step Up to the Plate @ your library](#) program coincides with the start of baseball season. Step Up to the Plate features a baseball trivia contest. People of all ages are encouraged to visit their library and answer a series of trivia questions inspired by our national pastime. One grand-prize winner will receive a trip to the Hall of Fame in October....

Campaign for America's Libraries, Apr. 5



[Serve on an IFLA section committee](#)

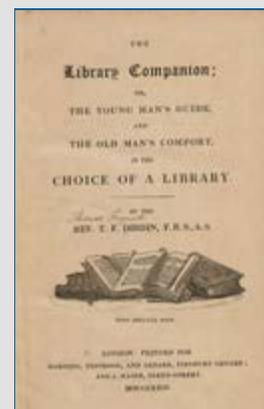
The International Relations Committee is accepting nominations to

outreach to the university, with emphasis on philosophy and religion....



@ [More jobs...](#)

Digital Library of the Week



[Reading: Harvard Views of Readers, Readership, and Reading History](#) is an online exploration of the intellectual, cultural, and political history of reading as reflected in the historical holdings of the Harvard Libraries. For Internet users worldwide, *Reading* provides unparalleled digital access to a significant selection of unique source materials: personally annotated books owned by John Keats, Herman Melville, Hester Lynch Piozzi, and others; William

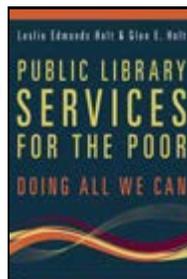
section standing committees of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions for the 2011–2015 term. Any ALA member may be suggested for nomination to an IFLA standing committee. Please forward nomination(s) to [Delin Guerra](#) at the International Relations Office before November 10....

International Relations Office

Public library services for the poor

ALA Editions has released [Public Library Services for the Poor: Doing All We Can](#) by Leslie Edmonds Holt and Glen E. Holt. The work demonstrates how five [key action areas](#) adopted by the ALA Council (diversity, equity of access, education and continuous learning, intellectual freedom, and 21st-century literacy) apply especially to this disadvantaged population and motivates librarians to use creative solutions to meet their needs....

ALA Editions, Apr. 6



Wordsworth's private library catalog; commonplace books used by Joseph Conrad, Washington Irving, and Victor Hugo; records of the Harvard College Library that reveal the reading activities of Emerson, Longfellow, and Thoreau; historical textbooks that document the principles, and some of the biases, in reading instruction from the 18th to the early 20th centuries; and more than 250,000 pages from 1,200 individual items from the Harvard collections, including 800 books and 400 manuscript selections. Materials in the *Reading* collection are chosen to increase the availability and use of Harvard's historical resources for teaching and research. All are in the public domain.

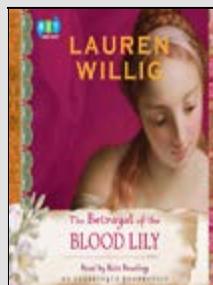
Do you know of a digital library collection that we can mention in this *AL Direct* feature? [Tell us about it.](#) Browse previous Digital Libraries of the Week at the [Love Libraries](#) site.

Booklist ONLINE

Featured review: Audiobook

Willig, Lauren. *The Betrayal of the Blood Lily*. Read by Kate Reading. Jan. 2010. 15hr. Books on Tape, CD (978-0-307-71276-9).

Willig combines vividly imagined characters and an action-filled plot in this sixth title in the Pink Carnation historical spy series. Contemporary American researcher Eloise Kelly discovers papers that suggest some spies, including the Scarlet Pimpernel, were not limited to the French Revolution but played a role in India as well. And so we're off to colonial India, with only brief forays back to the present. Reading, the reader of four previous series titles (also available from Books on Tape), clearly enjoys portraying dashing but disgraced Penelope Deveraux, Lord Frederick Staines's wife. Deveraux speaks in an unmistakably seductive voice, deliberately languid and smoldering, a perfect reflection of the capable, intelligent, alluring, and adventurous young woman trapped in a loveless marriage and looking for an outlet....



Listen-alikes: Series reign supreme

Joyce Saricks writes: "These historical fiction series titles feature excellent readers, many of whom are well known to fans as readers of each title within the series. Excellent narrators are key to listener satisfaction, and this diverse group of skilled narrators brings consistency and personality to familiar series characters."...



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

Public Perception

How the World
Sees Us

"When I visited the new [Cambridge (Mass.) Public Library] building recently, I saw people; I saw open shelves and attractively displayed books. But few people were reading those books,

Division News

[Laurie Halse Anderson on school libraries](#)

AASL School Library Month 2010 spokesperson and award-winning author Laurie Halse Anderson visited with students in the school library at Mexico (N.Y.) High School on March 30. Her message to the students focused on the essential role school libraries and librarians play in education. Mexico Academy's Mike Charbonneau produced this [video](#) (2:50)....

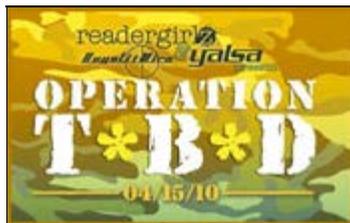
AASL, Apr. 6



[Support Teen Literature Day, April 15](#)

Participate in [Support Teen Literature Day](#) on April 15. The event, sponsored by YALSA, is celebrated on Thursday of National Library Week. The purpose of Support Teen Literature Day is to raise awareness among the general public that young adult literature is a vibrant, growing genre with much to offer today's teens. YALSA will again be part of Operation Teen Book Drop, with 10,000 new books being delivered to teens on native reservations and tribal lands, to coincide with Support Teen Literature Day....

YALSA, Apr. 6



[Apply for YALSA's mentoring program](#)

Applications are now open for YALSA's two-way mentoring program. The new program will pair an experienced librarian with a new librarian or graduate student in an LIS program. [Applications](#) from YALSA members will be accepted in two categories: protégés and mentors. Protégés are those with five years' experience or less or students in a graduate library school program. Mentors are those with more than six years' experience. Check out the [Mentoring Program FAQ](#)....

YALSA Blog, Apr. 5

[Luis Alberto Urrea at the PLA National Conference](#)

Author Luis Alberto Urrea spoke with *American Libraries* at the PLA National Conference about how libraries helped him to build his career and about why people who don't use libraries should. The video (2:48) is available in English and [Spanish](#)....

AL Focus, April 6



[PLA's president at the PLA National Conference](#)

At the PLA National Conference in Portland Oregon, PLA President Sari Feldman spoke (2:16) to *American Libraries* Editor Leonard Kniffel about the new Gates Foundation study, "[Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access at U.S. Libraries](#)," released the first day of the conference; Natalie Merchant;



and I saw way too much unused space, the kind of emptiness beloved by architects. From the third floor, I stared down at a slim man in a chair. He had a laptop on his knees; ear-buds dangled against his black-sweatered chest. Behind him sat more glowing screens on Ikea-like desks. The laptop users perched on the second floor in a glassed-in bay. I was up in the Children's Room—no longer a room but a vast acreage at the top of the building—sitting in a chair that looks as if it were hewn from an exotic log.... But the building, a glass box that's attached to the old Victorian-era gothic fancy, also reflects new ideas about information and who gets access to information. It has none of the old clutter, and for me, that's a problem."

—Freelance journalist Martha Nichols ponders "[What Are Libraries For?](#)" in *Athena's Head*, Mar. 15.



TweetWatch

Follow:

Florida Library Association, Annual

and how conferences can help librarians struggling in tough economic times....

AL Focus, April 6

[Registration open for Back to Basics webinar](#)

To make sure your library is equipped to serve your dynamic population of young adults, register for "Back to Basics: Updated Guidelines for Everyday Service to 21st Century Teens," a YALSA webinar scheduled for 2 p.m. Eastern Time on April 22. [Registration](#) for the webinar closes April 19....

YALSA, Apr. 1

[AASL's new L4L webinars](#)

AASL has announced the presenters and objectives for its new series of Learning4Life webinars. The series is designed for school librarians to learn more about the implementation of the AASL program guidelines. The webinars will be held at 4:30 p.m. Central Time on Wednesdays during the month of April. For more information about the L4L webinar series, presenters, individual and district pricing options, and to register, visit the AASL [website](#)....

AASL, Apr. 6



[ASCLA seeks journal editor](#)

ASCLA seeks an editor for its quarterly online membership journal, *Interface*. The journal serves as the primary source of information and communication between ASCLA and the library and user community and reaches the division's 1,000 members each quarter. Guided by ASCLA editorial policy, the editor is responsible for the content, format, and timely online publication. The deadline for applications is May 3....

ASCLA Blog, Mar. 29



[ASCLA programs at Annual Conference](#)

ASCLA has released a comprehensive guide ([PDF file](#)) to its activities at the upcoming ALA Annual Conference, June 24–29, including preconferences, programs, discussion groups, and special events....

ASCLA, Apr. 6

Round Table News

[Mentors and volunteers needed for Annual Conference](#)

The International Relations Round Table is seeking mentors to meet and interact with international visitors during the ALA 2010 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. To sign up, submit the [online form](#). Volunteers are also needed to staff the International Visitors Center June 25–28. If you are interested in volunteering, contact [Ruby Bell-Gam](#) by June 1....

International Relations Office, Apr. 6

Awards

[2010 Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award](#)

Ernest Freeberg will receive the 2010 Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award for his book, *Democracy's Prisoner: Eugene V. Debs, the Great War, and the Right to Dissent* (Harvard University, 2008). The award is

Conference, Orlando, Apr. 7–9, at: [#fla10](#)

New Mexico Library Association, Annual Conference, Ruidoso, Apr. 7–9, at: [#nmla10](#)

Computers in Libraries 2010, Arlington, Virginia, Apr. 12–13, at: [#cil2010](#)

Texas Library Association, Annual Conference, San Antonio, Apr. 14–17, at: [#txla10](#)

American Libraries news stories, videos, tweets, and blog posts at: [amlibraries](#)

Calendar

Apr. 11–17:
[National Library Week.](#)

Apr. 13:
[National Library Workers Day.](#)

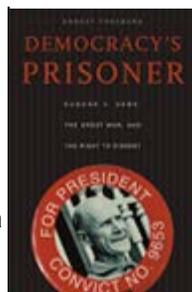
Apr. 14:
[National Bookmobile Day.](#)

Apr. 15:
[Support Teen Literature Day.](#)

Apr. 30:
[El día de los niños/El día de los libros](#)
(Children's Day/Book Day).

May 3:
[Hands-On History and Marketing Our History.](#) workshop sponsored by the Federation of North

presented by the Intellectual Freedom Round Table every two years for the best published work in the area of intellectual freedom. The book is an account of the life of Eugene V. Debs that highlights the legal, political, and social contexts of Debs's influential career as labor union leader and political activist and the lesser-known story of the effect of his case in extending the First Amendment's support of the right to dissent....



[Marshall Breeding wins 2010 LITA Library Hi Tech Award](#)

Marshall Breeding, director for innovative technologies and research for the Vanderbilt University Libraries in Nashville, has been named the winner of the 2010 LITA/Library Hi Tech Award for Outstanding Communication in Library and Information Technology. The \$1,000 award recognizes outstanding persons or institutions for their long-term contributions in the area of LIS technology and its application....

LITA, Mar. 10



[2010 Marshall Cavendish Award](#)

The 2010 Marshall Cavendish Excellence in Library Programming Award goes to Queens (N.Y.) Library for its [HealthLink](#) program and [Cancer Action Councils](#). The award is given by ALA each year to either a school or public library that provides programs that have community impact and respond to community needs. This year, the library is partnering with the Queens Cancer Center, the American Cancer Society of Queens, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center to bring cancer information, screenings, and treatment referrals to medically underserved communities....

Office of ALA Governance, Apr. 6



[2010 Awards for European Information Sources](#)

The joint winners of the European Information Association's 2010 Awards for European Information Sources are the Presseurop and EuroAcademy websites. [Presseurop](#) delivers selected news items from 250 sources, translated into 10 languages, with the aim of promoting public discussion on a wide range of issues relating to the European Union. [EuroAcademy](#) offers information and materials to teachers and pupils involved in learning about the EU and the European Parliament in secondary schools....

European Information Association, Mar. 22



Seen Online

[Iowa state senator says remove school librarian mandate](#)

Registered nurse, librarian, and guidance counselor

Carolina Historical Societies, Caldwell County Public Library, Lenoir, North Carolina.

June 7–11: [Nordic Information Literacy Summer School](#), Korpo,

Finland.

"Transformation from Digital Library to Digital Learning."

June 22–24: [CIP Symposium](#),

Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C. "Hybrid ©: Sustaining Culture in Copyright."

@ [More...](#)



In the [April issue](#) of *College and Research Libraries News*, Robert V. Labaree sheds light on the often mysterious processes of "[Working Successfully with Your Institutional Review Board](#)."

Contact Us

American Libraries
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ALA American
Library
Association

mandates in Iowa schools should be lifted as a way to save money, Iowa Sen. Paul McKinley (R-36th) said April 6. "We have mandated that there be a certified librarian in this age of communication," he told reporters. Elaine Watkins-Miller, spokeswoman for the Iowa Department of Education, countered, "Many librarians are not your traditional librarians. Many times they are the ones teaching the students about the new technologies and the fundamentals of research."...



Des Moines (Iowa) Register, Apr. 6

[New Benning branch is first of five in D.C.](#)

With the opening of a new Benning branch April 5, the District of Columbia Public Library begins a brisk period of exciting change, with five new or substantially remodeled branches opening over the next nine months. The signs are positive that the city isn't just adding new buildings and gadgetry, but striking a smart balance between old and new, traditional and contemporary library functions. Chief Librarian Ginnie Cooper (right) led all the people at the grand opening party in her [signature cheer](#)....



Washington Post, Apr. 5; WJLA-TV, Washington, Apr. 5

[Another Google Books lawsuit](#)

As Google awaits approval of a controversial settlement with authors and book publishers, the company's plan to create an immense digital library and bookstore may face yet another hurdle. On April 7, the American Society of Media Photographers and other groups representing visual artists filed a class-action lawsuit against Google, asserting that the company's efforts to digitize millions of books from libraries amount to large-scale infringement of their copyrights....

New York Times, Apr. 6

[Indianapolis library must cut back](#)

An estimated 7% cut (about \$3.2 million) in the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library operating budget has board members blaming property tax caps as they scramble to avoid program reductions, layoffs, and branch closures. The board has not decided whether it will close branches, but if it does, the East Washington branch (right), a 1909 Carnegie library, could be a target. Because 80% of the library's revenue comes from property taxes, tax caps passed in 2008 have forced the board to reevaluate its spending....



Indianapolis Star, Apr. 6

[Jewish groups say Canadian book is anti-Israel](#)

The Shepherd's Granddaughter, by Toronto author and teacher-librarian Anne Laurel Carter, is currently being read by thousands of Grade 7 and 8 students as part of the Ontario Library Association's massive Forest of Reading program, meant to highlight the best examples of Canadian literature. But two Jewish

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



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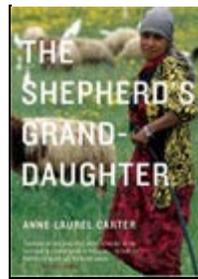


Katie Bane
kbane@ala.org

Send feedback:
aldirect@ala.org

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

All links outside the ALA website are provided for informational purposes only.



groups accuse it of being one-sided. B'Nai B'rith Canada's Anita Bromberg called it "akin to propaganda in the war against Israel" and wants it removed from classrooms around the province. Five school boards in Ontario, including Toronto, have restricted access to the book....

Parentcentral.ca, Mar. 26

[Calvin College's first book-eating contest](#)

Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, celebrated its first book-eating contest April 1 with baked examples of *Peter Rabbit*, *Winnie the Pooh*, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, and *The Scarlet Letter*. Reference Librarian Lois Dye, a self-proclaimed foodie, founded [Books in the Baking](#) (a play on the college motto, "Minds in the Making") this year after learning about the International Edible Book Festival, a similar contest that has been celebrated worldwide on April Fool's Day—also known as Edible Book Day—since 2000. Student Paula Manni's Peter Rabbit display (above) was judged the overall winner....



Grand Rapids (Mich.) Press, Apr. 1

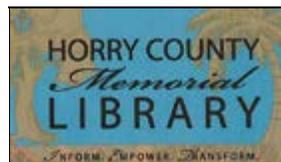
[UIUC library goes mobile](#)

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign launched its [mobile library site](#) March 29. The site allows people to access the library catalog, find library locations and hours, search additional databases with mobile interfaces, and send text-message reference questions to librarians. It can be accessed from any computer or cell phone, including the iPhone and BlackBerry devices....

Daily Illini, Mar. 31

[Library cards feature design by student artist](#)

The Horry County (S.C.) Memorial Library is now issuing new library cards featuring a design created by a student at the Academy for Technology and Academics in Conway. Madalyn Johnson, a senior at the school, created the design for the card, which also includes a key-chain library card....



WMBF-TV, Myrtle Beach, S.C., Apr. 5

[Mississippi librarian competes on Jeopardy!](#)

A Jackson librarian put his research skills to the test April 6 during an appearance on *Jeopardy!* David Hoskins, a reference librarian at the Eudora Welty Library in Jackson, Mississippi, was in third place with \$7,400 going into Final Jeopardy, but missed the last question. He went home with \$1,000....



WAPT-TV, Jackson, Miss., Apr. 5-6

Questions about the content of any external site should be addressed to the administrator of that site.

American Libraries

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ext. 4216

ISSN 1559-369X.

[Another library tests BISAC arrangement](#)

Librarians, and the thousands of patrons who use the 177,280 items in the Natrona County (Wyo.) Public Library, have seen how the Dewey Decimal Classification system—despite its technical genius—can confuse people, said Reference Librarian Betsy O’Neil. Last year, O’Neil and library director Bill Nelson wondered how they could make a good system better, so they began applying the BISAC headings developed by the Book Industry Study Group to the reference collection to test users’ reactions....

Billings (Mont.) Gazette, Mar. 20

[New Jersey cuts would affect interlibrary loans](#)

Library directors in Morris County, New Jersey, say they fear proposed state budget cuts will affect the most popular service they offer—interlibrary loans from the county’s library consortium. The proposed 74% cut in the state library budget, from \$14 million to \$3.7 million, would end loans within the Morris Automated Information Network, as well as dry up funds for cooperative sharing of databases. The [impact](#) would be felt the worst on the smallest libraries. “That’s not shared suffering,” said New Jersey Library Association Executive Director Pat Tumulty. See a [summary](#) of the library situation....

Morristown (N.J.) Daily Record, Apr. 4; Philadelphia Inquirer, Apr. 3; I Love NJ Libraries



[Three Connecticut law libraries close](#)

Courthouse law libraries in Norwich, Willimantic, and Milford, Connecticut, closed their doors for good April 1, all victims of the state budget crunch. Fortunately, no jobs at the affected libraries were eliminated. Barring a near miracle, three more libraries—in Hartford, Bridgeport, and Litchfield—will close in two months. “The big misconception [is that] everything is available electronically,” said Norwich Law Librarian Lori Sulmasy....

Connecticut Law Tribune, Apr. 5

[L.A. employees ask to be spared layoffs](#)

The first of as many as 4,000 job cuts are underway to keep the city of Los Angeles solvent, and confrontations between vulnerable workers and their elected representatives have begun to roll out on a live telecast of the city council’s meetings each week. Hillary George of the Will and Ariel Durant branch in Hollywood appeared March 31, urging a more creative solution than layoffs. Of the 20 librarians on the layoff list so far, George said, she would be twelfth in seniority. Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa proposed April 7 [shutting down](#) city libraries two days a week for three months to help make ends meet....

Los Angeles Times, Mar. 31, Apr. 7

[Collector in chief hoards irreplaceable artifacts](#)

David S. Ferriero is the first national archivist who has been a librarian, a career turn he modestly attributes to his failure to get into medical school. The National Archives is the repository of the nation’s heritage—things like the actual \$7.2-million check with which the United States bought Alaska, strands of wampum attached to an Indian treaty, and a letter from Annie Oakley offering President William McKinley 50 female sharpshooters to fight in the



Spanish-American War (above). Ferriero is witty, engaging, immersed in technology, and he views the jobs of librarian and archivist as very similar....

New York Times, Mar. 31

[U.S. Navy Department Library's 210th birthday](#)

The United States Navy Department Library, established by President John Adams in 1800, celebrated its 210th anniversary March 31. Today, the library, located at the Washington Navy Yard in D.C., still specializes in naval, nautical, and military history. And it is one of the few major military historical libraries in the world that is open to the public....

GlobalSecurity.org, Apr. 2



[Burglars hit Salt Lake library businesses](#)

On March 31, Lindsay Frenndt watched workers repair the glass doors at Salt Lake Citizen, her business located in the Salt Lake City Main Library. Burglars had smashed the doors and broken into the store, which sells locally made clothing and accessories, twice in the past four days. The thief apparently used a bagel-sized rock to break into the Friends of the Library bookstore, then took two granite bookends and used those to smash other windows....

Salt Lake Tribune, Mar. 31

[J. K. Rowling drops to sixth most-stolen author in Scotland](#)

Jacqueline Wilson has overtaken Harry Potter author J. K. Rowling as the writer whose books are most stolen from Scotland's libraries. Rowling's books have slipped from the top spot to sixth in the most-stolen list. Thieves have instead been taking work by children's author Wilson, American thriller writer James Patterson, and romance novelist Nora Roberts. Taxpayers are footing an annual bill of £659,294 (\$1 million U.S.) for the unreturned books, with 129,450 disappearing from the shelves....

The Scotsman, Apr. 3

[Protester held during royal visit to Cambridge library](#)

A protester who was arrested after attempting to breach security during a royal visit to Cambridge, England, has been released. The 55-year-old man was among campaigners demonstrating outside Cambridge Central Library March 31, as Princess Anne arrived to officially open the renovated building. He was part of a group of people from Cambridgeshire Against the Cuts who gathered to protest against plans to slash spending by the county council....

Cambridge (U.K.) News, Apr. 1

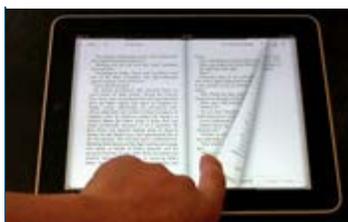
[Go back to the Top](#)

Tech Talk

[Apple iPad: The details](#)

Tim Gideon writes: "After it was announced in January, the unfortunately named Apple iPad seemed like it could be the company's

first major clunker in a long time. But having used the iPad for some time, I can tell you that the device just makes sense.



When you combine basic-but-essential work tools with iWork, an improved browser, email, iPod, and photo applications, a well-executed e-book platform with iBooks, and throw in thousands of downloadable apps and games, and package it all in a gorgeous, slim slate with a beautiful 9.7-inch touch screen, you have yourself a winner." Watch the [video review](#) (5:33). Jason Griffey has two other [video reviews](#) on Perpetual Beta....

PC Magazine, Mar. 31; *AL*: Perpetual Beta, Apr. 1

[Developers seek to link the iPad with education](#)

More than 300,000 iPads were sold April 3 in Apple Stores and through pre-orders, Apple announced April 5, and education-technology enthusiasts finally got to experiment with the device that Apple CEO Steve Jobs describes as a "game changer." The iPad App Store is stocked with more than 150,000 downloadable programs, including some that might catch educators' attention....

eSchool News, Apr. 5

[How green is my iPad?](#)

Daniel Goleman and Gregory Norris write: "With e-readers like Apple's new iPad and Amazon's Kindle touting their vast libraries of digital titles, some bookworms are bound to wonder if tomes-on-paper will one day become quaint relics. But the question also arises: Which is more environmentally friendly, an e-reader or an old-fashioned book? To find the answer, we turned to life-cycle assessment, which evaluates the ecological impact of any product, at every stage of its existence."...

New York Times, Apr. 4

[LC's new state-of-the-art scanner](#)

A new book2net scanner in the Library of Congress Newspaper and Current Periodical Reading Room is the first and only one of its kind in the United States (there are two others in Canada). The machine, originally designed for use in the reading rooms of the British Library, can capture a JPEG image of an entire newspaper page (or comic book, folio, book, or bound volume) in 0.3 seconds, and it needs only 1.9 seconds of cycling time to scan another page....



Library of Congress Blog, Apr. 2

[Personal printers add workspace convenience](#)

M. David Stone writes: "A personal printer at work spares you the countless trips to pick up your output on a shared machine. The printers we're talking about here are small enough to fit on your desk without dominating it. They don't take up a lot of desktop real estate and they aren't tall enough to tower over you. They include a variety of technologies (monochrome and color laser, color LED, and inkjet) as well as a range of sizes and paper-handling capability."...



Publishing

[Keith Richards wanted to be a librarian](#)

Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards has confessed to a secret longing in his forthcoming autobiography: He is an avid bookworm and wanted to be a librarian at one time. In *Life* (due out in October from Little, Brown), Richards will reveal how he found refuge in books before he discovered the blues, and he once attempted to arrange his large personal collection using the Dewey Decimal Classification....

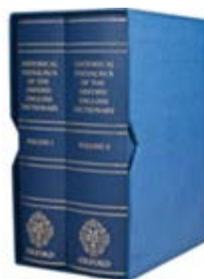
The Sunday Times (U.K.), Apr. 4



[And now, the world's greatest thesaurus](#)

Mary Ellen Quinn writes: "The *OED* has been called the world's greatest dictionary, and it has now been joined by what might be called the world's greatest thesaurus, *Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary*. The history of this thesaurus, though not quite as long as that of the *OED*, is almost as fraught. According to the chronology helpfully provided by the publisher, the project was first announced in 1965. In its [review](#), *The Guardian* notes that the *Thesaurus* might turn out to be "one of the last great printed reference works." *College and Research Libraries News* [says](#) it "deserves a place on the academic shelf because it indeed leaves Roget, Webster, and even other Oxford thesauri far behind."...

Point of Reference, Apr. 6; *The Guardian* (U.K.), Dec. 19, 2009; *College and Research Libraries News* 71, no. 1 (Jan.): 44-45



[5 ways the Google Books Settlement will change the future of reading](#)

Annalee Newitz writes: "If you care about the future of books, you need to understand the Google Books Settlement. It's a complicated legal document, but we've talked to some of its architects, detractors, and defenders—and we break it all down for you. The Google Books Settlement could easily be the 21st century's most important shift in how we deal with copyright in the world of publishing. To understand it, you need a little back story on the previous giant shift in copyright law, which happened about 12 years ago."...

io9, Apr. 2



[PW purchased by former publisher](#)

Reed Business Information has trimmed another title from its list, selling *Publishers Weekly* to a former publisher of the magazine, George Slowik Jr. Slowik's newly formed company, PWxyz LLC, announced the acquisition April 5. The deal was part of Reed Business's ongoing efforts to sell off most of its business-to-business titles. A top priority will be digitizing the 138-year-old magazine's archives, particularly its reviews, which go back to the 1940s....

Crain's New York Business, Apr. 5



[Download 746 free science fiction books to your iPhone](#)

Cyriaque Lamar writes: "A new [iPhone app](#) offers 746 free public domain scifi books from authors such as Jules Verne, Edgar Rice Burroughs, and H. G. Wells. App designers [Spreadsong](#) have aggregated hundreds of classic and pulp works from the architects of modern science fiction, all for the price of a sunbeam. Spreadsong touts the app as a 100% free smorgasbord of classic literature."...

io9, Apr. 5



[Do free digital versions of books increase print sales?](#)

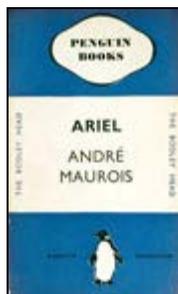
John Hilton III and David Wiley write: "We used BookScan sales data for four categories of books (a total of 41 books) for which we could identify the date when the free digital versions of the books were made available to determine whether the free version affected print sales. We analyzed the data on book sales for the eight weeks before and after the free versions were available. Three of the four categories of books had increased sales after the free books were distributed."...

Journal of Electronic Publishing 13, no. 1 (Winter)

[How the paperback novel changed popular literature](#)

Anne Trubek writes: "In 1935, Allen Lane, chairman of the British publishing house Bodley Head, spent a weekend in the country with Agatha Christie. Publishers were faring poorly during the Depression, and Lane was worrying about how to keep the business afloat. While he was in Exeter station waiting for his train back to London, he browsed shops looking for something good to read. He struck out. All he could find were trendy magazines and junky pulp fiction. And then he had a Eureka! moment: What if quality books were available at places like train stations and sold for reasonable prices—the price of a pack of cigarettes, say?"...

Smithsonian, Mar. 31



[Gund baby books recalled](#)

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Health Canada, and Gund announced a voluntary recall April 6 of almost 16,000 Gund Baby Paperboard Books because they pose a choking hazard. About 15,100 books were recalled in the U.S. and approximately 865 were recalled in Canada. Styrofoam material used in the book's binding may dislodge when chewed or picked at, creating a potential choking hazard....

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Apr. 6



[Scholarly British conference on the undead](#)

Academics at the University of Hertfordshire are organizing a conference that will serve ketchup-smothered food (it's tastier than blood) from coffins, all in the name of putting British vampire fiction back on the map. It's the brainchild of Sam George (right), a lecturer in English literature who is fascinated by vampires and keen to use them



to make literature exciting. Her call for papers led to more than 100 academics from disciplines including film, literature, and cultural studies sending in abstracts; 70 have been selected to talk at the two-day conference, "[Open Graves, Open Minds: Vampires and the Undead in Modern Culture.](#)" April 16–17....

The Guardian (U.K.), Apr. 6



Actions & Answers

[New draft of WorldCat rights and responsibilities](#)

The OCLC Record Use Policy Council members have been working for the past few months to develop the next generation of a WorldCat use policy. This draft document will replace the "Guidelines for Use and Transfer of OCLC Derived Records" developed in 1987 and is open for community review. OCLC is requesting feedback on the document through May 20. You can post comments to the [community forum](#), send an [email](#), or register to [attend a webinar](#) where you can ask questions and submit feedback to members of the council....

OCLC, Apr. 7



[How libraries stack up: 2010](#)

This new two-page report ([PDF file](#)) from OCLC examines the economic, social, and cultural impact of libraries in the United States. As the current economic environment is impacting library budgets and library usage is increasing, particular attention is paid to the role that libraries play in providing assistance to job-seekers and support for small businesses. This information may be useful to librarians as they develop budget proposals and discuss the value of library services in the context of community needs....

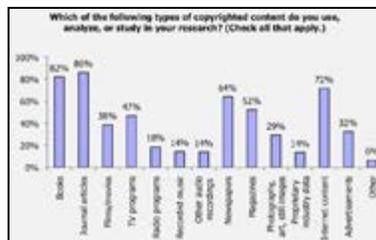
OCLC, Mar.



[Copyright concerns affect communication research](#)

A new survey has found that nearly half of all communication scholars lack confidence in their knowledge of copyright laws in relation to their research. On March 31, American University's Center for Social Media released the [results of a survey](#) of International Communication Association members, which found that nearly 33% avoided specific research topics because of copyright uncertainties, and one-fifth abandoned research already undertaken due to similar concerns....

Chronicle of Higher Education: Wired Campus, Apr. 1



[A proclamation: A library for every school](#)

Joyce Valenza writes: "On April 2, the European and international organizations—European Network for School Libraries and Information

Literacy, International Association of School Librarianship, and IFLA School Libraries and Resource Centres—announced the publication of a joint document, *A Library for Every School* ([PDF file](#)), that can be used to advocate professional school libraries worldwide. We need to adopt this letter. We need to share it broadly. And we need to do it now. The people who need us most do not yet see the bleeding. But they will.”...

NeverEndingSearch, Apr. 2

New test measures students’ digital literacy

Employers are looking for candidates who can navigate, critically evaluate, and make sense of the wealth of information available through digital media—and now there is a certification exam that measures the test-taker’s ability to assess information, think critically, and perform a range of real-world tasks. The test, *iCritical Thinking* certification, created by the Educational Testing Service and Certiport, is aligned ([PDF file](#)) with the ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education....

eSchool News, Apr. 2; Educational Testing Service

Essential journals for physicians

Michelle Kraft writes: “According to a study by the *New England Journal of Medicine*, physicians are three times more likely to read an essential journal sooner and spend twice as much time reading an essential journal. The Essential Journal Study ([PDF file](#)) is an independent study that randomly surveyed physicians in 12 specialties to identify the journals they consider essential. For a medical or hospital librarian to know the top 10 essential journals in speciality fields is extremely helpful for collection development and to justify journal purchases to the administration.”...

The Krafty Librarian, Mar. 29



What makes a great law library?

Keith Carter writes: “Many thought that the digital age would render brick-and-mortar libraries obsolete. But the modern-day law library has emerged as a vital center for learning and research that’s busier than ever. We rank 198 law libraries for resources, service, and space.” The University of Iowa’s College of Law library (right) ranked at the top, followed by Yale and Indiana University....

National Jurist, Mar., pp. 22–29



Online tools your library needs now

Scott Douglas writes: “While a few libraries have implemented what could be considered a digital branch, the majority have not. Here are five basic online reference tools that every major library should have now—they are cheap, popular, and, with the exception of iPhone Apps, easy to set up. I know there are dozens of other tools out there that libraries need, but these are what I consider the easiest to set up or the most important to patrons.”...

Speaking Quietly, Apr. 5



Making the best of the worst of times

Rachel Cannady and Daniel Newton write: “Applying for any job is a

multistep process, and you are probably familiar with the basics: searching for jobs, applying for positions, and interviewing. The academic librarian application process is more strenuous than completing an average job application. Recently, we completed a total of eight face-to-face interviews and 22 phone interviews. We hope that our experience will help others begin the job search process a little wiser than we did.”...

College and Research Libraries News 71, no. 4 (Apr.): 205–207, 212

[Save the Library campaigns](#)

Stephen Abram has compiled a list of online campaigns to save libraries threatened by budget cutting. He writes: “Some of these campaigns are grass roots and some come from the state library association or Friends groups. Some may have ended. It’s just one influencer strategy and it’s not a mark against a state if they haven’t chosen public viral campaigning since there are other choices to educate, lobby, advocate, and influence the budgetary process.”...

Stephen’s Lighthouse, Apr. 1



[Have rolling bag, will travel](#)

Susan Baier writes: “Outreach is one of my favorite aspects of my job, and I eagerly accept most invitations to staff a library information table at community events. Taking the library message outside the walls of your building and into the community is critical in these lean budget years where we need all the advocates we can get. Over the years, I’ve learned about the best approaches to these outreach opportunities. These are my standard items to bring to any event.”...

ALSC Blog, Apr. 5



[Reflections on bookmobile service](#)

Kevin Walsh writes: “When children first step inside a bookmobile, they are like the proverbial kids in the candy store, but even more so, because this candy is free. Like an ice cream truck or a delivery van, the bookmobile has traveled to their neighborhoods bringing books, DVDs, CDs, magazines, and special prizes awarded for participation in the summer reading program. Keely Hall, bookmobile librarian for the Anaheim (Calif.) Public Library, offers these three stories to show how much the bookmobile means to children.”...

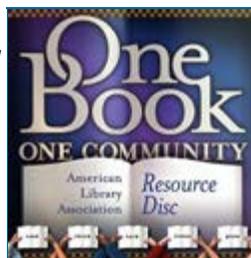
I Love Libraries



[Book groups](#)

Q. A new resident inquired whether our library had any book clubs. The library in the town she moved from supports several and she had found hers to be a congenial way to explore books and reading. What’s involved in starting one? A. Book clubs are indeed offered at many public libraries, and provide a forum where readers can come together and talk about books and the reading experience. Usually each group has a number of participants who read and talk about books from a list or specific topic—and it certainly would be a good way for someone new to your town to meet her neighbors....

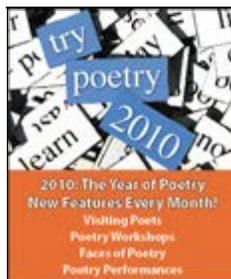
AL: Ask the ALA Librarian, Apr. 7



[Ideas for National Poetry Month](#)

Colleen Barbus writes: "If you're interested in initiating some poetry-related programming in your library—to coincide with April's designation as National Poetry Month, or for any time of year—take a look at programs hosted by [Greensboro \(N.C.\) Public Library](#) and the [Loudoun County \(Va.\) Public Library](#) for insight and ideas. Both libraries have inspired patrons with their annual poetry programming, getting entire communities excited about poetry, and showcasing poetry as a forum for creativity and discussion."...

Programming Librarian, Apr. 6



[Mail-a-book and Talk-a-book](#)

Kaite Stover writes: "Madlyn Schneider, Mail-a-book coordinator at the Queens Village (N.Y.) Community branch of the Queens Library, recently described a program that she devised for her homebound patrons. One of the most popular programs is the [Mail-a-book](#) discussion group. This group is interested in sharing comments and looks forward to the monthly book discussion telemeetings and weekly general chats. Everyone participates via conference call. There are more than 50 registered members, but about 10-15 call for any particular program."...

Book Group Buzz, Apr. 6



[How to build a life-sized Candy Land](#)

Abby Johnson writes: "My library hosted Life-Sized Candy Land over spring break and it was a hit. We ran the game in the afternoon (to give us plenty of time to set up during the day) and opened it to all ages. It's a lot of work to make the props, but then you'll have them for the next time you want to roll out the game. So, move yourself to a red square, take a gumdrop, and think about offering a life-sized board game at your library."...

ALSC Blog, Apr. 6



[A cloud of research](#)

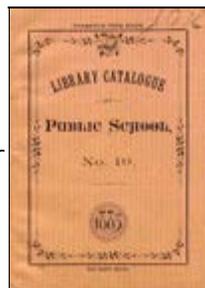
Thanks to a new project called [DuraCloud](#), developers are building software to make it easier for academic librarians to deposit universitywide collections of research papers in off-site data storage services. The project is now in the pilot phase, but developers hope to release a version to share with other libraries by the fall of 2010. A nonprofit group called DuraSpace—formed by the merger of MIT's DSpace Foundation and Cornell's Fedora Commons—is spearheading the effort....

Chronicle of Higher Education: Wired Campus, Apr. 5



[New York school libraries](#)

Larry Nix writes: "April is [School Library Month](#) and in recognition of that occasion I have compiled this post which features two pieces of New York school library ephemera. The first piece is a letter written on October 31, 1844, from a county school superintendent in Epex, New York. The second piece is a small library catalogue of Public School No. 19 in Buffalo, New York, dated 1885; it is organized by subject, but the books are labeled in consecutive order going from 1 to 449."...



Library History Buff Blog, Apr. 6

[Diary of Anne Frank: Teachers' materials](#)

PBS *Masterpiece* is airing an all-new adaptation of *The Diary of Anne Frank* on April 11, Holocaust Remembrance Day. A number of free educational opportunities related to the broadcast are available online, including a teacher's guide, a discussion guide, resources for youth, and a live Twitter event....

PBS *Masterpiece*



[WorldCat records for Google Books Project](#)

OCLC is adding records to WorldCat that represent digitized books from the Google Books Library Project and the HathiTrust Digital Library to provide greater access to and increased visibility of these rich digitized collections. OCLC is working with libraries, Google, and the HathiTrust to derive new MARC records that represent these collections. WorldCat searchers will be able to locate digitized books from these collections and link to the associated book landing page....

OCLC, Apr. 5

[Haiti's Declaration of Independence rediscovered](#)

A Duke University graduate student has discovered what is believed to be the only known printed copy of Haiti's Declaration of Independence. While researching the early independence of Haiti in February, Julia Gaffield found the document, an eight-page pamphlet dated January 1, 1804, in the British National Archives in London. It is only the second declaration of its kind in the world (the first was the 1776 U.S. declaration). Duke has set up a [website](#) about the discovery, and the National Archives has digitized a copy ([PDF file](#))....

Duke University, Apr. 1



[New library in Ometepe, Nicaragua](#)

Lauren Vander Zanden writes: "I've been involved with the San Juan del Sur Biblioteca since last January when I volunteered with a group of eight other Simmons students. Over spring break I returned as a student in the International Librarianship course. As with last time, I was struck by just how much of an uphill climb it has been for Nicaraguans to have lending libraries.

Prior to Jane Mirandette founding the San Juan del Sur Biblioteca, the few libraries in the nation had closed stacks. The reality is that without any access to books Nicaraguans are not able to make the choice for themselves to read or not to read."...

Simmons GSLIS: Dispatches from the Field, Apr. 6



[Rabbit holes await at UBC Library](#)

Nancy Mattoon writes: "The release of Tim Burton's feature film version of *Alice In Wonderland* in March has returned media focus to Lewis Carroll's 1865 classic tale once again. One of the most outstanding library collections of Wonderlandiana in the world is held by the University of British Columbia's Rare Books and Special Collections Department. This collection of nearly 500 books and featuring the work



of more than 80 illustrators was amassed by Victoria rare book dealer and librarian, R. D. Hilton Smith.”...

Book Patrol, Apr. 5

[11 uses for repurposed card catalogs](#)

Grace Light writes: “These literary treasures can be repurposed in a plethora of ways. I’ve blogged about a DIY card catalog [coffee table](#) and my library card catalog turned [bookcase](#) previously, and here are 11 more ways to use card catalogs in your home.” For example, use it for organizing silverware, as a kitchen island, for supplies and storage, or as a workstation table....

Poetic Home {pH} Living in Vintage Poetry, Apr. 6–7



[Librarian Gear](#)

For the librarian who wants to make a statement or create an impression, Librarian Gear (on the Zazzle website) might have just the thing: a multitude of T-shirts, notecards, mugs, keychains, tote bags, stickers, and magnets. Run by M. J. D’Elia, academic liaison librarian at the University of Guelph in Ontario, the site also has a [Facebook page](#)....

Librarian Gear



[Library science fiction: *Tomes and Talismans*](#)

Meredith Blake writes: “If for some strange reason you’ve never heard of *Tomes and Talismans*, just know this: It’s quite possibly the finest post-apocalyptic educational series about library science ever produced by Mississippi Public Television. Set in the year 2223, the 13-episode dystopian drama follows the saga of Miss Bookhart, an impossibly devoted—and improbably named—librarian. During a recent bout of nostalgic procrastination (the best kind), I discovered that *Tomes and Talismans* has been [digitized and uploaded](#) to YouTube in its entirety.”...

New Yorker: The Book Bench, Mar. 31



[Go back to the Top](#)

american. libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | April 7, 2010

Contents

[American Libraries Online](#)
[ALA News](#)
[Booklist Online](#)
[Division News](#)
[Round Table News](#)
[Awards](#)
[Seen Online](#)
[Tech Talk](#)
[Publishing](#)
[Actions & Answers](#)
[New This Week](#)
[Calendar](#)



American Libraries Online

[Court rules FCC lacks authority to regulate net neutrality](#)

A federal appeals court ruled April 6 that the Federal Communications Commission does not have the authority to require network providers to give equal treatment to the sites or applications to which they provide access. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia overturned ([PDF file](#)) a 2008 ruling by the FCC ordering Comcast to stop blocking its broadband subscribers from using the BitTorrent online file-sharing technology and other applications....

American Libraries news, Apr. 7

[Boston dials back library service cuts](#)

With 48 hours to spare before the Boston Public Library board is scheduled to finalize the system's FY2011 budget for Mayor Thomas M. Menino's review, BPL President Amy E. Ryan (right) has recommended a modified service cutback. The change follows a sustained outpouring of public criticism regarding an earlier proposal to close up to 10 branches and dismiss as much as 25% of the staff. Ryan's April 7 recommendation calls for the closure of four libraries and the retention of present service hours at BPL's 22 other facilities. Under this proposal, 25 staff positions would be eliminated....

American Libraries news, Apr. 7



[Albuquerque can't ban sex offenders from libraries](#)

Citing an individual's right to receive information as paramount, the U.S. District Court of New Mexico has overturned a two-year-old mayoral regulation that banned anyone who is a registered sex offender under federal or state law from visiting the 16-branch Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library. Albuquerque officials were considering their options in light of the ruling. Filed in October 2008, *John Doe v. City of Albuquerque* claimed that the plaintiff had been a frequent library visitor until receiving a letter banning him from the premises....

American Libraries news, Apr. 6

[Librarians, self-preservation, and](#)

American History in Video

"A solid ten . . . and, at this price, an amazing deal. This is a product I wish every library in the U.S. could make accessible to its researchers, from elementary school children to history scholars."

—Library Journal

CLICK HERE TO TRY IT NOW!

Newsreels & Documentaries
Online in Streaming Video



[construction budgets](#)

Jeannette Woodward writes: "Money issues on a construction project can become so numerous and so stress-producing that you may feel tempted to sign up for the Foreign Legion or flee to Timbuktu. Libraries rarely cost precisely what we expect. Since there are thousands of variables (the price of steel, the condition of the soil, labor disputes), numbers will keep changing throughout the life of the project. You will have to balance your determination to build the perfect library with your instinct for self-preservation."...

American Libraries feature



[Grow your own librarian](#)

Kathy Anderson writes: "In 2004, in response to the difficulties of recruiting professionals to work in public libraries in the state, the Mississippi Library Commission embarked on an innovative program to improve public library services and 'grow their own' librarians. Their solution was to create an intensive Librarianship Institute that not only immerses participants in the principles and tools of public librarianship but may also motivate them to return to school for professional degrees."...

American Libraries feature



[Green crossword puzzle](#)

Laura Bruzas writes: "If you like crossword puzzles as much as I do, here's a special treat in honor of Earth Month. I created it in such a way that you could use it in a variety of settings. You can play [online](#) or download a printable one-page version in Word format. The answers will be provided in a future blog post."...

AL: Green Your Library, Apr. 6

ALA News

[Dinners for Spectrum Scholars](#)

President Camila Alire, President-Elect Roberta Stevens, and Past-President Jim Rettig are working together on a special Presidential Initiative to raise \$1 million for the Spectrum Scholarship program. This spring, they are asking ALA members to help by hosting a Dinner for Spectrum Scholars. The concept is simple: Bring people together for a meal and encourage them to make a donation. 500 dinners, each raising \$500, will bring in \$250,000. Be sure to submit a completed contributions form ([Word file](#)) to the ALA Development Office shortly after your event....

Spectrum Presidential Initiative, Apr. 7



[Another round of ALA staff furloughs](#)

ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels summed up the state of Association finances at a general staff meeting in the Chicago headquarters the morning of April 7. "Overall revenues for 2010 are projected to be 4% less, or just over \$2 million," Fiels said, "than ALA had projected a year ago" (on a total budget of \$54 million). This



[ALA Annual Conference,](#)

Washington, D.C., June 24–29. An ALA Annual Conference in the nation's capital offers many opportunities for

[international visitors.](#)

Check out these [tips](#) on how to get your travel reimbursed, no matter where you work or go to school.



In the April issue of [Library Technology Reports](#), eminent blogger and library technology expert Jason Griffey provides a comprehensive guide to the present and future of modern gadgets, and how they can fit in to any librarian's plan for a high-tech future. Griffey will also be giving a [webinar on gadgets](#) at 2 p.m. Eastern Time, April 22. Register [here](#). **NEW!**
From ALA TechSource.

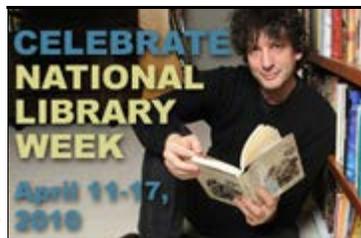
means that ALA will need to dip into its reserve account as well as require all staff to take a one-week furlough prior to July 2....

AL: Inside Scoop, Apr. 7

[National Library Week, April 11-17](#)

With Americans turning to libraries in record number for employment resources and technology support, the nation's libraries celebrate [National Library Week](#), April 11-17. The celebration, sponsored by ALA, includes events held at thousands of libraries to promote the many free resources available. The programs include assisting the unemployed with jobs searches and filing unemployment benefits; helping the unskilled learn to use a computer; and providing homework help, access to e-government services, and accurate financial education information....

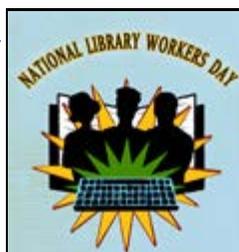
Public Information Office, Apr. 6



[National Library Workers Day, April 13](#)

On [National Library Workers Day](#), April 13, communities across the United States will recognize the contributions made by all library workers—including librarians, support staff, and others who make library services possible. [Submit a star](#) to honor a valued worker, find an inventive way to [advocate](#) for fair pay, or [become a fan](#) on the NLWD Facebook page. Watch a [podcast](#) featuring ALA-APA director Jenifer Grady talking about issues affecting library employees....

Public Information Office, Apr. 6; ALA-Allied Professional Association; Visibility @ your library, Apr. 6



[National Bookmobile Day, April 14](#)

On April 14, communities across America will mark the inaugural celebration of [National Bookmobile Day](#), which honors the role of bookmobiles and direct-delivery outreach services in fulfilling the mission of libraries. Part of National Library Week, National Bookmobile Day will highlight how bookmobiles help communities thrive. With much of the country still struggling through a difficult economy, libraries and mobile services are part of the solution when a community is struggling economically....

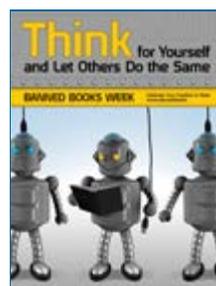
Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, Apr. 6



[Banned Books Week 2010](#)

[Banned Books Week 2010](#) will be held September 25-October 2. "Think for Yourself and Let Others Do the Same" is the slogan for this year's campaign. This year's slogan is borrowed from the Facebook group, "Un-Ban Gilbert Grape! Censorship is Wrong!" According to Andy Lange, one of the group's leaders, the slogan is a shortened version of Voltaire's quote, "Think for yourself and let others enjoy the privilege of doing so too."...

OIF Blog, Apr. 5



[Toolkit for library service to older adults](#)

The latest toolkit from the Office for Literacy and

New this week in *American Libraries*



[Construction Budgets](#)

[Grow Your Own Librarian](#)

[Perpetual Beta](#)

[Inside Scoop](#)

[Green Your Library](#)

[Ask the ALA Librarian](#)

[AL Focus](#)

Career Leads from **ALA JobLIST**

[Head, Philosophy Library](#), University of Southern California Libraries, Los Angeles. Seeking an experienced, knowledgeable, and service-oriented librarian to lead the Philosophy Library. Reporting to the Director, Public Services Division I, the Head will oversee the Library's operation and personnel and provide a full range of information resources and services, including reference, instruction, collection development, and

Outreach Services, *Keys to Engaging Older Adults @ your library*, is now available in print and as a free download ([PDF file](#)). The toolkit provides tips and tools to better understand and serve this important and growing segment of the population, covering topics ranging from programming, funding, publicity, accessibility, and best practices. It is the fourth in a series of outreach advocacy toolkits available from OLOS....



Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, Apr. 1

[Prisoners' right to read](#)

Martin Garnar writes: "During its spring meeting, the Intellectual Freedom Committee adopted a draft of [Prisoners' Right to Read: An Interpretation to the Library Bill of Rights](#). We plan to present this interpretation for adoption when I give the report to Council at Council Session III during the 2010 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. The committee would appreciate receiving any comments you may have prior to conference, no later than June 11."...

Librarians for Human Rights, Apr. 1

[Want to get more involved in the profession?](#)

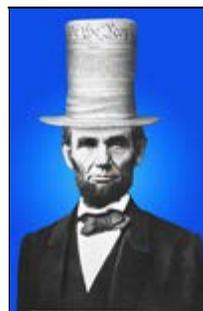
Check out the new [Opportunities Exchange](#), where you can search for assistantships, awards, calls for proposals, and volunteer opportunities. Want to let others know about your grant opportunity or internship? Just fill out the form to add it to the OppEx. You don't even have to log in to view the database, which includes opportunities for nonmembers and international residents. Learn how to add an opportunity [here](#)....

ALA Connect, Apr. 5

[Lincoln traveling exhibit adds 25 more libraries](#)

The ALA Public Programs Office and the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia have announced that the traveling exhibit "[Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War](#)" will be hosted by an additional 25 libraries, extending its reach to a total of 50 libraries from August 2010 through December 2014. The exhibition explores how Lincoln used the Constitution to confront three intertwined crises of the war—secession, slavery, and wartime civil liberties....

Public Programs Office, Apr. 6



[Play ball @ your library](#)

The launch of the fifth season of the ALA and the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's [Step Up to the Plate @ your library](#) program coincides with the start of baseball season. Step Up to the Plate features a baseball trivia contest. People of all ages are encouraged to visit their library and answer a series of trivia questions inspired by our national pastime. One grand-prize winner will receive a trip to the Hall of Fame in October....

Campaign for America's Libraries, Apr. 5



[Serve on an IFLA section committee](#)

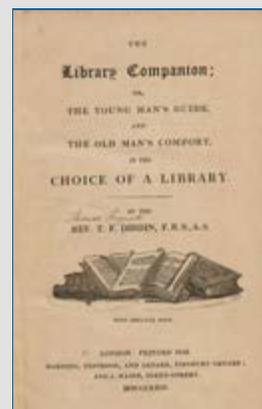
The International Relations Committee is accepting nominations to

outreach to the university, with emphasis on philosophy and religion....



@ [More jobs...](#)

Digital Library of the Week



[Reading: Harvard Views of Readers, Readership, and Reading History](#)

is an online exploration of the intellectual, cultural, and political history of reading as reflected in the historical holdings of the Harvard Libraries. For Internet users worldwide, *Reading* provides unparalleled digital access to a significant selection of unique source materials: personally annotated books owned by John Keats, Herman Melville, Hester Lynch Piozzi, and others; William

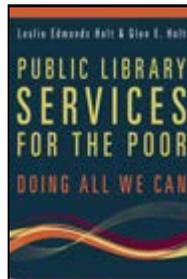
section standing committees of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions for the 2011–2015 term. Any ALA member may be suggested for nomination to an IFLA standing committee. Please forward nomination(s) to [Delin Guerra](#) at the International Relations Office before November 10....

International Relations Office

[Public library services for the poor](#)

ALA Editions has released [Public Library Services for the Poor: Doing All We Can](#) by Leslie Edmonds Holt and Glen E. Holt. The work demonstrates how five [key action areas](#) adopted by the ALA Council (diversity, equity of access, education and continuous learning, intellectual freedom, and 21st-century literacy) apply especially to this disadvantaged population and motivates librarians to use creative solutions to meet their needs....

ALA Editions, Apr. 6



Wordsworth's private library catalog; commonplace books used by Joseph Conrad, Washington Irving, and Victor Hugo; records of the Harvard College Library that reveal the reading activities of Emerson, Longfellow, and Thoreau; historical textbooks that document the principles, and some of the biases, in reading instruction from the 18th to the early 20th centuries; and more than 250,000 pages from 1,200 individual items from the Harvard collections, including 800 books and 400 manuscript selections. Materials in the *Reading* collection are chosen to increase the availability and use of Harvard's historical resources for teaching and research. All are in the public domain.

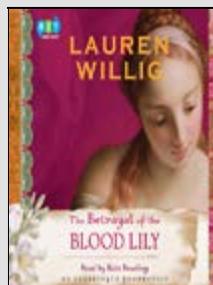
Do you know of a digital library collection that we can mention in this *AL Direct* feature? [Tell us about it.](#) Browse previous Digital Libraries of the Week at the [Love Libraries](#) site.

Booklist ONLINE

[Featured review: Audiobook](#)

Willig, Lauren. *The Betrayal of the Blood Lily*. Read by Kate Reading. Jan. 2010. 15hr. Books on Tape, CD (978-0-307-71276-9).

Willig combines vividly imagined characters and an action-filled plot in this sixth title in the Pink Carnation historical spy series. Contemporary American researcher Eloise Kelly discovers papers that suggest some spies, including the Scarlet Pimpernel, were not limited to the French Revolution but played a role in India as well. And so we're off to colonial India, with only brief forays back to the present. Reading, the reader of four previous series titles (also available from Books on Tape), clearly enjoys portraying dashing but disgraced Penelope Deveraux, Lord Frederick Staines's wife. Deveraux speaks in an unmistakably seductive voice, deliberately languid and smoldering, a perfect reflection of the capable, intelligent, alluring, and adventurous young woman trapped in a loveless marriage and looking for an outlet....



[Listen-alikes: Series reign supreme](#)

Joyce Saricks writes: "These historical fiction series titles feature excellent readers, many of whom are well known to fans as readers of each title within the series. Excellent narrators are key to listener satisfaction, and this diverse group of skilled narrators brings consistency and personality to familiar series characters."...



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

Public Perception

How the World Sees Us

"When I visited the new [Cambridge (Mass.) Public Library] building recently, I saw people; I saw open shelves and attractively displayed books. But few people were reading those books,

Division News

[Laurie Halse Anderson on school libraries](#)

AASL School Library Month 2010 spokesperson and award-winning author Laurie Halse Anderson visited with students in the school library at Mexico (N.Y.) High School on March 30. Her message to the students focused on the essential role school libraries and librarians play in education. Mexico Academy's Mike Charbonneau produced this [video](#) (2:50)....

AASL, Apr. 6



[Support Teen Literature Day, April 15](#)

Participate in [Support Teen Literature Day](#) on April 15. The event, sponsored by YALSA, is celebrated on Thursday of National Library Week. The purpose of Support Teen Literature Day is to raise awareness among the general public that young adult literature is a vibrant, growing genre with much to offer today's teens. YALSA will again be part of Operation Teen Book Drop, with 10,000 new books being delivered to teens on native reservations and tribal lands, to coincide with Support Teen Literature Day....

YALSA, Apr. 6



[Apply for YALSA's mentoring program](#)

Applications are now open for YALSA's two-way mentoring program. The new program will pair an experienced librarian with a new librarian or graduate student in an LIS program. [Applications](#) from YALSA members will be accepted in two categories: protégés and mentors. Protégés are those with five years' experience or less or students in a graduate library school program. Mentors are those with more than six years' experience. Check out the [Mentoring Program FAQ](#)....

YALSA Blog, Apr. 5

[Luis Alberto Urrea at the PLA National Conference](#)

Author Luis Alberto Urrea spoke with *American Libraries* at the PLA National Conference about how libraries helped him to build his career and about why people who don't use libraries should. The video (2:48) is available in English and [Spanish](#)....

AL Focus, April 6



[PLA's president at the PLA National Conference](#)

At the PLA National Conference in Portland Oregon, PLA President Sari Feldman spoke (2:16) to *American Libraries* Editor Leonard Kniffel about the new Gates Foundation study, "[Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access at U.S. Libraries](#)," released the first day of the conference; Natalie Merchant;



and I saw way too much unused space, the kind of emptiness beloved by architects. From the third floor, I stared down at a slim man in a chair. He had a laptop on his knees; ear-buds dangled against his black-sweatered chest. Behind him sat more glowing screens on Ikea-like desks. The laptop users perched on the second floor in a glassed-in bay. I was up in the Children's Room—no longer a room but a vast acreage at the top of the building—sitting in a chair that looks as if it were hewn from an exotic log.... But the building, a glass box that's attached to the old Victorian-era gothic fancy, also reflects new ideas about information and who gets access to information. It has none of the old clutter, and for me, that's a problem."

—Freelance journalist Martha Nichols ponders "[What Are Libraries For?](#)" in *Athena's Head*, Mar. 15.



TweetWatch

Follow:

Florida Library Association, Annual

and how conferences can help librarians struggling in tough economic times....

AL Focus, April 6

[Registration open for Back to Basics webinar](#)

To make sure your library is equipped to serve your dynamic population of young adults, register for "Back to Basics: Updated Guidelines for Everyday Service to 21st Century Teens," a YALSA webinar scheduled for 2 p.m. Eastern Time on April 22. [Registration](#) for the webinar closes April 19....

YALSA, Apr. 1

[AASL's new L4L webinars](#)

AASL has announced the presenters and objectives for its new series of Learning4Life webinars. The series is designed for school librarians to learn more about the implementation of the AASL program guidelines. The webinars will be held at 4:30 p.m. Central Time on Wednesdays during the month of April. For more information about the L4L webinar series, presenters, individual and district pricing options, and to register, visit the AASL [website](#)....

AASL, Apr. 6



[ASCLA seeks journal editor](#)

ASCLA seeks an editor for its quarterly online membership journal, *Interface*. The journal serves as the primary source of information and communication between ASCLA and the library and user community and reaches the division's 1,000 members each quarter. Guided by ASCLA editorial policy, the editor is responsible for the content, format, and timely online publication. The deadline for applications is May 3....

ASCLA Blog, Mar. 29



[ASCLA programs at Annual Conference](#)

ASCLA has released a comprehensive guide ([PDF file](#)) to its activities at the upcoming ALA Annual Conference, June 24–29, including preconferences, programs, discussion groups, and special events....

ASCLA, Apr. 6

Round Table News

[Mentors and volunteers needed for Annual Conference](#)

The International Relations Round Table is seeking mentors to meet and interact with international visitors during the ALA 2010 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. To sign up, submit the [online form](#). Volunteers are also needed to staff the International Visitors Center June 25–28. If you are interested in volunteering, contact [Ruby Bell-Gam](#) by June 1....

International Relations Office, Apr. 6

Awards

[2010 Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award](#)

Ernest Freeberg will receive the 2010 Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award for his book, *Democracy's Prisoner: Eugene V. Debs, the Great War, and the Right to Dissent* (Harvard University, 2008). The award is

Conference, Orlando, Apr. 7–9, at: [#fla10](#)

New Mexico Library Association, Annual Conference, Ruidoso, Apr. 7–9, at: [#nmla10](#)

Computers in Libraries 2010, Arlington, Virginia, Apr. 12–13, at: [#cil2010](#)

Texas Library Association, Annual Conference, San Antonio, Apr. 14–17, at: [#txla10](#)

American Libraries news stories, videos, tweets, and blog posts at: [amlibraries](#)

Calendar

Apr. 11–17:
[National Library Week.](#)

Apr. 13:
[National Library Workers Day.](#)

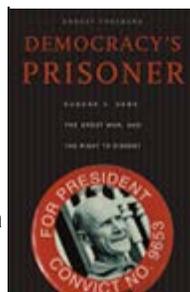
Apr. 14:
[National Bookmobile Day.](#)

Apr. 15:
[Support Teen Literature Day.](#)

Apr. 30:
[El día de los niños/El día de los libros](#)
(Children's Day/Book Day).

May 3:
[Hands-On History and Marketing Our History.](#) workshop sponsored by the Federation of North

presented by the Intellectual Freedom Round Table every two years for the best published work in the area of intellectual freedom. The book is an account of the life of Eugene V. Debs that highlights the legal, political, and social contexts of Debs's influential career as labor union leader and political activist and the lesser-known story of the effect of his case in extending the First Amendment's support of the right to dissent....



[Marshall Breeding wins 2010 LITA Library Hi Tech Award](#)

Marshall Breeding, director for innovative technologies and research for the Vanderbilt University Libraries in Nashville, has been named the winner of the 2010 LITA/Library Hi Tech Award for Outstanding Communication in Library and Information Technology. The \$1,000 award recognizes outstanding persons or institutions for their long-term contributions in the area of LIS technology and its application....

LITA, Mar. 10



[2010 Marshall Cavendish Award](#)

The 2010 Marshall Cavendish Excellence in Library Programming Award goes to Queens (N.Y.) Library for its [HealthLink](#) program and [Cancer Action Councils](#). The award is given by ALA each year to either a school or public library that provides programs that have community impact and respond to community needs. This year, the library is partnering with the Queens Cancer Center, the American Cancer Society of Queens, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center to bring cancer information, screenings, and treatment referrals to medically underserved communities....

Office of ALA Governance, Apr. 6



[2010 Awards for European Information Sources](#)

The joint winners of the European Information Association's 2010 Awards for European Information Sources are the Presseurop and EuroAcademy websites. [Presseurop](#) delivers selected news items from 250 sources, translated into 10 languages, with the aim of promoting public discussion on a wide range of issues relating to the European Union. [EuroAcademy](#) offers information and materials to teachers and pupils involved in learning about the EU and the European Parliament in secondary schools....

European Information Association, Mar. 22



Seen Online

[Iowa state senator says remove school librarian mandate](#)

Registered nurse, librarian, and guidance counselor

Carolina Historical Societies, Caldwell County Public Library, Lenoir, North Carolina.

June 7–11: [Nordic Information Literacy Summer School](#)

Korpo, Finland.

"Transformation from Digital Library to Digital Learning."

June 22–24: [CIP Symposium](#)

Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C. "Hybrid ©: Sustaining Culture in Copyright."

@ [More...](#)



In the [April issue](#) of *College and Research Libraries News*, Robert V. Labaree sheds light on the often mysterious processes of "[Working Successfully with Your Institutional Review Board](#)."

Contact Us

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ALA American
Library
Association

mandates in Iowa schools should be lifted as a way to save money, Iowa Sen. Paul McKinley (R-36th) said April 6. "We have mandated that there be a certified librarian in this age of communication," he told reporters. Elaine Watkins-Miller, spokeswoman for the Iowa Department of Education, countered, "Many librarians are not your traditional librarians. Many times they are the ones teaching the students about the new technologies and the fundamentals of research."...

Des Moines (Iowa) Register, Apr. 6



[New Benning branch is first of five in D.C.](#)

With the opening of a new Benning branch April 5, the District of Columbia Public Library begins a brisk period of exciting change, with five new or substantially remodeled branches opening over the next nine months. The signs are positive that the city isn't just adding new buildings and gadgetry, but striking a smart balance between old and new, traditional and contemporary library functions. Chief Librarian Ginnie Cooper (right) led all the people at the grand opening party in her [signature cheer](#)....

Washington Post, Apr. 5; WJLA-TV, Washington, Apr. 5



[Another Google Books lawsuit](#)

As Google awaits approval of a controversial settlement with authors and book publishers, the company's plan to create an immense digital library and bookstore may face yet another hurdle. On April 7, the American Society of Media Photographers and other groups representing visual artists filed a class-action lawsuit against Google, asserting that the company's efforts to digitize millions of books from libraries amount to large-scale infringement of their copyrights....

New York Times, Apr. 6

[Indianapolis library must cut back](#)

An estimated 7% cut (about \$3.2 million) in the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library operating budget has board members blaming property tax caps as they scramble to avoid program reductions, layoffs, and branch closures. The board has not decided whether it will close branches, but if it does, the East Washington branch (right), a 1909 Carnegie library, could be a target. Because 80% of the library's revenue comes from property taxes, tax caps passed in 2008 have forced the board to reevaluate its spending....

Indianapolis Star, Apr. 6



[Jewish groups say Canadian book is anti-Israel](#)

The Shepherd's Granddaughter, by Toronto author and teacher-librarian Anne Laurel Carter, is currently being read by thousands of Grade 7 and 8 students as part of the Ontario Library Association's massive Forest of Reading program, meant to highlight the best examples of Canadian literature. But two Jewish

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



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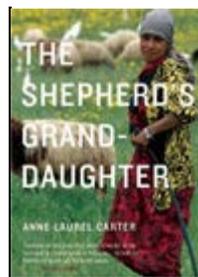


Katie Bane
kbane@ala.org

Send feedback:
aldirect@ala.org

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

All links outside the ALA website are provided for informational purposes only.



groups accuse it of being one-sided. B'Nai B'rith Canada's Anita Bromberg called it "akin to propaganda in the war against Israel" and wants it removed from classrooms around the province. Five school boards in Ontario, including Toronto, have restricted access to the book....

Parentcentral.ca, Mar. 26

[Calvin College's first book-eating contest](#)

Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, celebrated its first book-eating contest April 1 with baked examples of *Peter Rabbit*, *Winnie the Pooh*, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, and *The Scarlet Letter*. Reference Librarian Lois Dye, a self-proclaimed foodie, founded [Books in the Baking](#) (a play on the college motto, "Minds in the Making") this year after learning about the International Edible Book Festival, a similar contest that has been celebrated worldwide on April Fool's Day—also known as Edible Book Day—since 2000. Student Paula Manni's *Peter Rabbit* display (above) was judged the overall winner....

Grand Rapids (Mich.) Press, Apr. 1



[UIUC library goes mobile](#)

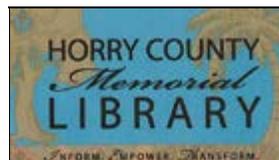
The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign launched its [mobile library site](#) March 29. The site allows people to access the library catalog, find library locations and hours, search additional databases with mobile interfaces, and send text-message reference questions to librarians. It can be accessed from any computer or cell phone, including the iPhone and BlackBerry devices....

Daily Illini, Mar. 31

[Library cards feature design by student artist](#)

The Horry County (S.C.) Memorial Library is now issuing new library cards featuring a design created by a student at the Academy for Technology and Academics in Conway. Madalyn Johnson, a senior at the school, created the design for the card, which also includes a key-chain library card....

WMBF-TV, Myrtle Beach, S.C., Apr. 5



[Mississippi librarian competes on Jeopardy!](#)

A Jackson librarian put his research skills to the test April 6 during an appearance on *Jeopardy!* David Hoskins, a reference librarian at the Eudora Welty Library in Jackson, Mississippi, was in third place with \$7,400 going into Final Jeopardy, but missed the last question. He went home with \$1,000....

WAPT-TV, Jackson, Miss., Apr. 5-6



Questions about the content of any external site should be addressed to the administrator of that site.

American Libraries

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

ISSN 1559-369X.

[Another library tests BISAC arrangement](#)

Librarians, and the thousands of patrons who use the 177,280 items in the Natrona County (Wyo.) Public Library, have seen how the Dewey Decimal Classification system—despite its technical genius—can confuse people, said Reference Librarian Betsy O’Neil. Last year, O’Neil and library director Bill Nelson wondered how they could make a good system better, so they began applying the BISAC headings developed by the Book Industry Study Group to the reference collection to test users’ reactions....

Billings (Mont.) Gazette, Mar. 20

[New Jersey cuts would affect interlibrary loans](#)

Library directors in Morris County, New Jersey, say they fear proposed state budget cuts will affect the most popular service they offer—interlibrary loans from the county’s library consortium. The proposed 74% cut in the state library budget, from \$14 million to \$3.7 million, would end loans within the Morris Automated Information Network, as well as dry up funds for cooperative sharing of databases. The [impact](#) would be felt the worst on the smallest libraries. “That’s not shared suffering,” said New Jersey Library Association Executive Director Pat Tumulty. See a [summary](#) of the library situation....

Morristown (N.J.) Daily Record, Apr. 4; Philadelphia Inquirer, Apr. 3; I Love NJ Libraries



[Three Connecticut law libraries close](#)

Courthouse law libraries in Norwich, Willimantic, and Milford, Connecticut, closed their doors for good April 1, all victims of the state budget crunch. Fortunately, no jobs at the affected libraries were eliminated. Barring a near miracle, three more libraries—in Hartford, Bridgeport, and Litchfield—will close in two months. “The big misconception [is that] everything is available electronically,” said Norwich Law Librarian Lori Sulmasy....

Connecticut Law Tribune, Apr. 5

[L.A. employees ask to be spared layoffs](#)

The first of as many as 4,000 job cuts are underway to keep the city of Los Angeles solvent, and confrontations between vulnerable workers and their elected representatives have begun to roll out on a live telecast of the city council’s meetings each week. Hillary George of the Will and Ariel Durant branch in Hollywood appeared March 31, urging a more creative solution than layoffs. Of the 20 librarians on the layoff list so far, George said, she would be twelfth in seniority. Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa proposed April 7 [shutting down](#) city libraries two days a week for three months to help make ends meet....

Los Angeles Times, Mar. 31, Apr. 7

[Collector in chief hoards irreplaceable artifacts](#)

David S. Ferriero is the first national archivist who has been a librarian, a career turn he modestly attributes to his failure to get into medical school. The National Archives is the repository of the nation’s heritage—things like the actual \$7.2-million check with which the United States bought Alaska, strands of wampum attached to an Indian treaty, and a letter from Annie Oakley offering President William McKinley 50 female sharpshooters to fight in the



Spanish-American War (above). Ferriero is witty, engaging, immersed in technology, and he views the jobs of librarian and archivist as very similar....

New York Times, Mar. 31

[U.S. Navy Department Library's 210th birthday](#)

The United States Navy Department Library, established by President John Adams in 1800, celebrated its 210th anniversary March 31. Today, the library, located at the Washington Navy Yard in D.C., still specializes in naval, nautical, and military history. And it is one of the few major military historical libraries in the world that is open to the public....

GlobalSecurity.org, Apr. 2



[Burglars hit Salt Lake library businesses](#)

On March 31, Lindsay Frenndt watched workers repair the glass doors at Salt Lake Citizen, her business located in the Salt Lake City Main Library. Burglars had smashed the doors and broken into the store, which sells locally made clothing and accessories, twice in the past four days. The thief apparently used a bagel-sized rock to break into the Friends of the Library bookstore, then took two granite bookends and used those to smash other windows....

Salt Lake Tribune, Mar. 31

[J. K. Rowling drops to sixth most-stolen author in Scotland](#)

Jacqueline Wilson has overtaken Harry Potter author J. K. Rowling as the writer whose books are most stolen from Scotland's libraries. Rowling's books have slipped from the top spot to sixth in the most-stolen list. Thieves have instead been taking work by children's author Wilson, American thriller writer James Patterson, and romance novelist Nora Roberts. Taxpayers are footing an annual bill of £659,294 (\$1 million U.S.) for the unreturned books, with 129,450 disappearing from the shelves....

The Scotsman, Apr. 3

[Protester held during royal visit to Cambridge library](#)

A protester who was arrested after attempting to breach security during a royal visit to Cambridge, England, has been released. The 55-year-old man was among campaigners demonstrating outside Cambridge Central Library March 31, as Princess Anne arrived to officially open the renovated building. He was part of a group of people from Cambridgeshire Against the Cuts who gathered to protest against plans to slash spending by the county council....

Cambridge (U.K.) News, Apr. 1

[Go back to the Top](#)

Tech Talk

[Apple iPad: The details](#)

Tim Gideon writes: "After it was announced in January, the unfortunately named Apple iPad seemed like it could be the company's

first major clunker in a long time. But having used the iPad for some time, I can tell you that the device just makes sense.



When you combine basic-but-essential work tools with iWork, an improved browser, email, iPod, and photo applications, a well-executed e-book platform with iBooks, and throw in thousands of downloadable apps and games, and package it all in a gorgeous, slim slate with a beautiful 9.7-inch touch screen, you have yourself a winner." Watch the [video review](#) (5:33). Jason Griffey has two other [video reviews](#) on Perpetual Beta....

PC Magazine, Mar. 31; *AL*: Perpetual Beta, Apr. 1

[Developers seek to link the iPad with education](#)

More than 300,000 iPads were sold April 3 in Apple Stores and through pre-orders, Apple announced April 5, and education-technology enthusiasts finally got to experiment with the device that Apple CEO Steve Jobs describes as a "game changer." The iPad App Store is stocked with more than 150,000 downloadable programs, including some that might catch educators' attention....

eSchool News, Apr. 5

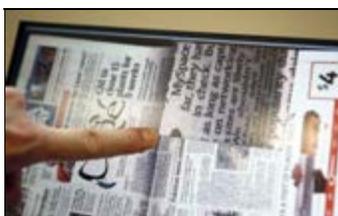
[How green is my iPad?](#)

Daniel Goleman and Gregory Norris write: "With e-readers like Apple's new iPad and Amazon's Kindle touting their vast libraries of digital titles, some bookworms are bound to wonder if tomes-on-paper will one day become quaint relics. But the question also arises: Which is more environmentally friendly, an e-reader or an old-fashioned book? To find the answer, we turned to life-cycle assessment, which evaluates the ecological impact of any product, at every stage of its existence."...

New York Times, Apr. 4

[LC's new state-of-the-art scanner](#)

A new book2net scanner in the Library of Congress Newspaper and Current Periodical Reading Room is the first and only one of its kind in the United States (there are two others in Canada). The machine, originally designed for use in the reading rooms of the British Library, can capture a JPEG image of an entire newspaper page (or comic book, folio, book, or bound volume) in 0.3 seconds, and it needs only 1.9 seconds of cycling time to scan another page....



Library of Congress Blog, Apr. 2

[Personal printers add workspace convenience](#)

M. David Stone writes: "A personal printer at work spares you the countless trips to pick up your output on a shared machine. The printers we're talking about here are small enough to fit on your desk without dominating it. They don't take up a lot of desktop real estate and they aren't tall enough to tower over you. They include a variety of technologies (monochrome and color laser, color LED, and inkjet) as well as a range of sizes and paper-handling capability."...



Publishing

[Keith Richards wanted to be a librarian](#)

Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards has confessed to a secret longing in his forthcoming autobiography: He is an avid bookworm and wanted to be a librarian at one time. In *Life* (due out in October from Little, Brown), Richards will reveal how he found refuge in books before he discovered the blues, and he once attempted to arrange his large personal collection using the Dewey Decimal Classification....

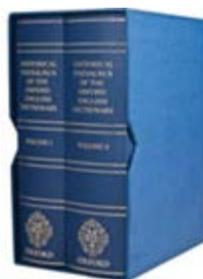
The Sunday Times (U.K.), Apr. 4



[And now, the world's greatest thesaurus](#)

Mary Ellen Quinn writes: "The *OED* has been called the world's greatest dictionary, and it has now been joined by what might be called the world's greatest thesaurus, *Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary*. The history of this thesaurus, though not quite as long as that of the *OED*, is almost as fraught. According to the chronology helpfully provided by the publisher, the project was first announced in 1965. In its [review](#), *The Guardian* notes that the *Thesaurus* might turn out to be "one of the last great printed reference works." *College and Research Libraries News* [says](#) it "deserves a place on the academic shelf because it indeed leaves Roget, Webster, and even other Oxford thesauri far behind."...

Point of Reference, Apr. 6; *The Guardian* (U.K.), Dec. 19, 2009; *College and Research Libraries News* 71, no. 1 (Jan.): 44-45



[5 ways the Google Books Settlement will change the future of reading](#)

Annalee Newitz writes: "If you care about the future of books, you need to understand the Google Books Settlement. It's a complicated legal document, but we've talked to some of its architects, detractors, and defenders—and we break it all down for you. The Google Books Settlement could easily be the 21st century's most important shift in how we deal with copyright in the world of publishing. To understand it, you need a little back story on the previous giant shift in copyright law, which happened about 12 years ago."...

io9, Apr. 2



[PW purchased by former publisher](#)

Reed Business Information has trimmed another title from its list, selling *Publishers Weekly* to a former publisher of the magazine, George Slowik Jr. Slowik's newly formed company, PWxyz LLC, announced the acquisition April 5. The deal was part of Reed Business's ongoing efforts to sell off most of its business-to-business titles. A top priority will be digitizing the 138-year-old magazine's archives, particularly its reviews, which go back to the 1940s....

Crain's New York Business, Apr. 5



[Download 746 free science fiction books to your iPhone](#)

Cyriaque Lamar writes: "A new [iPhone app](#) offers 746 free public domain scifi books from authors such as Jules Verne, Edgar Rice Burroughs, and H. G. Wells. App designers [Spreadsong](#) have aggregated hundreds of classic and pulp works from the architects of modern science fiction, all for the price of a sunbeam. Spreadsong touts the app as a 100% free smorgasbord of classic literature."...

io9, Apr. 5



[Do free digital versions of books increase print sales?](#)

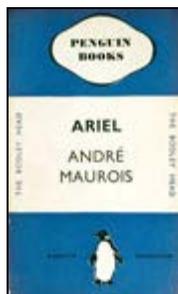
John Hilton III and David Wiley write: "We used BookScan sales data for four categories of books (a total of 41 books) for which we could identify the date when the free digital versions of the books were made available to determine whether the free version affected print sales. We analyzed the data on book sales for the eight weeks before and after the free versions were available. Three of the four categories of books had increased sales after the free books were distributed."...

Journal of Electronic Publishing 13, no. 1 (Winter)

[How the paperback novel changed popular literature](#)

Anne Trubek writes: "In 1935, Allen Lane, chairman of the British publishing house Bodley Head, spent a weekend in the country with Agatha Christie. Publishers were faring poorly during the Depression, and Lane was worrying about how to keep the business afloat. While he was in Exeter station waiting for his train back to London, he browsed shops looking for something good to read. He struck out. All he could find were trendy magazines and junky pulp fiction. And then he had a Eureka! moment: What if quality books were available at places like train stations and sold for reasonable prices—the price of a pack of cigarettes, say?"...

Smithsonian, Mar. 31



[Gund baby books recalled](#)

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Health Canada, and Gund announced a voluntary recall April 6 of almost 16,000 Gund Baby Paperboard Books because they pose a choking hazard. About 15,100 books were recalled in the U.S. and approximately 865 were recalled in Canada. Styrofoam material used in the book's binding may dislodge when chewed or picked at, creating a potential choking hazard....

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Apr. 6



[Scholarly British conference on the undead](#)

Academics at the University of Hertfordshire are organizing a conference that will serve ketchup-smothered food (it's tastier than blood) from coffins, all in the name of putting British vampire fiction back on the map. It's the brainchild of Sam George (right), a lecturer in English literature who is fascinated by vampires and keen to use them



to make literature exciting. Her call for papers led to more than 100 academics from disciplines including film, literature, and cultural studies sending in abstracts; 70 have been selected to talk at the two-day conference, "[Open Graves, Open Minds: Vampires and the Undead in Modern Culture.](#)" April 16–17....

The Guardian (U.K.), Apr. 6



Actions & Answers

[New draft of WorldCat rights and responsibilities](#)

The OCLC Record Use Policy Council members have been working for the past few months to develop the next generation of a WorldCat use policy. This draft document will replace the "Guidelines for Use and Transfer of OCLC Derived Records" developed in 1987 and is open for community review. OCLC is requesting feedback on the document through May 20. You can post comments to the [community forum](#), send an [email](#), or register to [attend a webinar](#) where you can ask questions and submit feedback to members of the council....

OCLC, Apr. 7



[How libraries stack up: 2010](#)

This new two-page report ([PDF file](#)) from OCLC examines the economic, social, and cultural impact of libraries in the United States. As the current economic environment is impacting library budgets and library usage is increasing, particular attention is paid to the role that libraries play in providing assistance to job-seekers and support for small businesses. This information may be useful to librarians as they develop budget proposals and discuss the value of library services in the context of community needs....

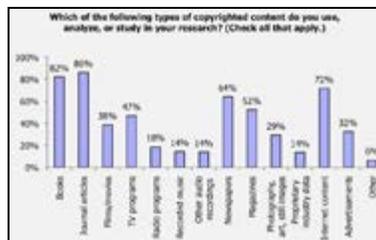
OCLC, Mar.



[Copyright concerns affect communication research](#)

A new survey has found that nearly half of all communication scholars lack confidence in their knowledge of copyright laws in relation to their research. On March 31, American University's Center for Social Media released the [results of a survey](#) of International Communication Association members, which found that nearly 33% avoided specific research topics because of copyright uncertainties, and one-fifth abandoned research already undertaken due to similar concerns....

Chronicle of Higher Education: Wired Campus, Apr. 1



[A proclamation: A library for every school](#)

Joyce Valenza writes: "On April 2, the European and international organizations—European Network for School Libraries and Information

Literacy, International Association of School Librarianship, and IFLA School Libraries and Resource Centres—announced the publication of a joint document, *A Library for Every School* ([PDF file](#)), that can be used to advocate professional school libraries worldwide. We need to adopt this letter. We need to share it broadly. And we need to do it now. The people who need us most do not yet see the bleeding. But they will.”...

NeverEndingSearch, Apr. 2

[New test measures students' digital literacy](#)

Employers are looking for candidates who can navigate, critically evaluate, and make sense of the wealth of information available through digital media—and now there is a certification exam that measures the test-taker's ability to assess information, think critically, and perform a range of real-world tasks. The test, *iCritical Thinking* certification, created by the Educational Testing Service and Certiport, is aligned ([PDF file](#)) with the ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education....

eSchool News, Apr. 2; Educational Testing Service

[Essential journals for physicians](#)

Michelle Kraft writes: “According to a study by the *New England Journal of Medicine*, physicians are three times more likely to read an essential journal sooner and spend twice as much time reading an essential journal. The Essential Journal Study ([PDF file](#)) is an independent study that randomly surveyed physicians in 12 specialties to identify the journals they consider essential. For a medical or hospital librarian to know the top 10 essential journals in speciality fields is extremely helpful for collection development and to justify journal purchases to the administration.”...

The Krafty Librarian, Mar. 29



[What makes a great law library?](#)

Keith Carter writes: “Many thought that the digital age would render brick-and-mortar libraries obsolete. But the modern-day law library has emerged as a vital center for learning and research that's busier than ever. We rank 198 law libraries for resources, service, and space.” The University of Iowa's College of Law library (right) ranked at the top, followed by Yale and Indiana University....

National Jurist, Mar., pp. 22–29



[Online tools your library needs now](#)

Scott Douglas writes: “While a few libraries have implemented what could be considered a digital branch, the majority have not. Here are five basic online reference tools that every major library should have now—they are cheap, popular, and, with the exception of iPhone Apps, easy to set up. I know there are dozens of other tools out there that libraries need, but these are what I consider the easiest to set up or the most important to patrons.”...

Speaking Quietly, Apr. 5



[Making the best of the worst of times](#)

Rachel Cannady and Daniel Newton write: “Applying for any job is a

multistep process, and you are probably familiar with the basics: searching for jobs, applying for positions, and interviewing. The academic librarian application process is more strenuous than completing an average job application. Recently, we completed a total of eight face-to-face interviews and 22 phone interviews. We hope that our experience will help others begin the job search process a little wiser than we did.”...

College and Research Libraries News 71, no. 4 (Apr.): 205–207, 212

[Save the Library campaigns](#)

Stephen Abram has compiled a list of online campaigns to save libraries threatened by budget cutting. He writes: “Some of these campaigns are grass roots and some come from the state library association or Friends groups. Some may have ended. It’s just one influencer strategy and it’s not a mark against a state if they haven’t chosen public viral campaigning since there are other choices to educate, lobby, advocate, and influence the budgetary process.”...

Stephen’s Lighthouse, Apr. 1



[Have rolling bag, will travel](#)

Susan Baier writes: “Outreach is one of my favorite aspects of my job, and I eagerly accept most invitations to staff a library information table at community events. Taking the library message outside the walls of your building and into the community is critical in these lean budget years where we need all the advocates we can get. Over the years, I’ve learned about the best approaches to these outreach opportunities. These are my standard items to bring to any event.”...

ALSC Blog, Apr. 5



[Reflections on bookmobile service](#)

Kevin Walsh writes: “When children first step inside a bookmobile, they are like the proverbial kids in the candy store, but even more so, because this candy is free. Like an ice cream truck or a delivery van, the bookmobile has traveled to their neighborhoods bringing books, DVDs, CDs, magazines, and special prizes awarded for participation in the summer reading program. Keely Hall, bookmobile librarian for the Anaheim (Calif.) Public Library, offers these three stories to show how much the bookmobile means to children.”...

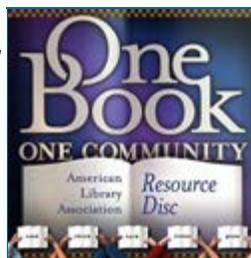
I Love Libraries



[Book groups](#)

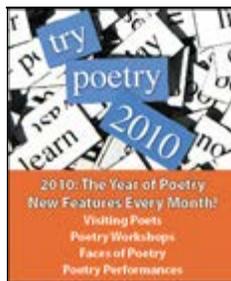
Q. A new resident inquired whether our library had any book clubs. The library in the town she moved from supports several and she had found hers to be a congenial way to explore books and reading. What’s involved in starting one? A. Book clubs are indeed offered at many public libraries, and provide a forum where readers can come together and talk about books and the reading experience. Usually each group has a number of participants who read and talk about books from a list or specific topic—and it certainly would be a good way for someone new to your town to meet her neighbors....

AL: Ask the ALA Librarian, Apr. 7



[Ideas for National Poetry Month](#)

Colleen Barbus writes: "If you're interested in initiating some poetry-related programming in your library—to coincide with April's designation as National Poetry Month, or for any time of year—take a look at programs hosted by [Greensboro \(N.C.\) Public Library](#) and the [Loudoun County \(Va.\) Public Library](#) for insight and ideas. Both libraries have inspired patrons with their annual poetry programming, getting entire communities excited about poetry, and showcasing poetry as a forum for creativity and discussion."...
Programming Librarian, Apr. 6



[Mail-a-book and Talk-a-book](#)

Kaite Stover writes: "Madlyn Schneider, Mail-a-book coordinator at the Queens Village (N.Y.) Community branch of the Queens Library, recently described a program that she devised for her homebound patrons. One of the most popular programs is the [Mail-a-book](#) discussion group. This group is interested in sharing comments and looks forward to the monthly book discussion telemeetings and weekly general chats. Everyone participates via conference call. There are more than 50 registered members, but about 10-15 call for any particular program."...
Book Group Buzz, Apr. 6



[How to build a life-sized Candy Land](#)

Abby Johnson writes: "My library hosted Life-Sized Candy Land over spring break and it was a hit. We ran the game in the afternoon (to give us plenty of time to set up during the day) and opened it to all ages. It's a lot of work to make the props, but then you'll have them for the next time you want to roll out the game. So, move yourself to a red square, take a gumdrop, and think about offering a life-sized board game at your library."...
ALSC Blog, Apr. 6



[A cloud of research](#)

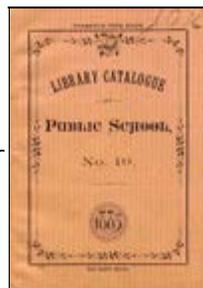
Thanks to a new project called [DuraCloud](#), developers are building software to make it easier for academic librarians to deposit universitywide collections of research papers in off-site data storage services. The project is now in the pilot phase, but developers hope to release a version to share with other libraries by the fall of 2010. A nonprofit group called DuraSpace—formed by the merger of MIT's DSpace Foundation and Cornell's Fedora Commons—is spearheading the effort....



Chronicle of Higher Education: Wired Campus, Apr. 5

[New York school libraries](#)

Larry Nix writes: "April is [School Library Month](#) and in recognition of that occasion I have compiled this post which features two pieces of New York school library ephemera. The first piece is a letter written on October 31, 1844, from a county school superintendent in Epex, New York. The second piece is a small library catalogue of Public School No. 19 in Buffalo, New York, dated 1885; it is organized by subject, but the books are labeled in consecutive order going from 1 to 449."...



Library History Buff Blog, Apr. 6

[Diary of Anne Frank: Teachers' materials](#)

PBS *Masterpiece* is airing an all-new adaptation of *The Diary of Anne Frank* on April 11, Holocaust Remembrance Day. A number of free educational opportunities related to the broadcast are available online, including a teacher's guide, a discussion guide, resources for youth, and a live Twitter event....

PBS *Masterpiece*



[WorldCat records for Google Books Project](#)

OCLC is adding records to WorldCat that represent digitized books from the Google Books Library Project and the HathiTrust Digital Library to provide greater access to and increased visibility of these rich digitized collections. OCLC is working with libraries, Google, and the HathiTrust to derive new MARC records that represent these collections. WorldCat searchers will be able to locate digitized books from these collections and link to the associated book landing page....

OCLC, Apr. 5

[Haiti's Declaration of Independence rediscovered](#)

A Duke University graduate student has discovered what is believed to be the only known printed copy of Haiti's Declaration of Independence. While researching the early independence of Haiti in February, Julia Gaffield found the document, an eight-page pamphlet dated January 1, 1804, in the British National Archives in London. It is only the second declaration of its kind in the world (the first was the 1776 U.S. declaration). Duke has set up a [website](#) about the discovery, and the National Archives has digitized a copy ([PDF file](#))....

Duke University, Apr. 1



[New library in Ometepe, Nicaragua](#)

Lauren Vander Zanden writes: "I've been involved with the San Juan del Sur Biblioteca since last January when I volunteered with a group of eight other Simmons students. Over spring break I returned as a student in the International Librarianship course. As with last time, I was struck by just how much of an uphill climb it has been for Nicaraguans to have lending libraries.

Prior to Jane Mirandette founding the San Juan del Sur Biblioteca, the few libraries in the nation had closed stacks. The reality is that without any access to books Nicaraguans are not able to make the choice for themselves to read or not to read."...

Simmons GSLIS: Dispatches from the Field, Apr. 6



[Rabbit holes await at UBC Library](#)

Nancy Mattoon writes: "The release of Tim Burton's feature film version of *Alice In Wonderland* in March has returned media focus to Lewis Carroll's 1865 classic tale once again. One of the most outstanding library collections of Wonderlandiana in the world is held by the University of British Columbia's Rare Books and Special Collections Department. This collection of nearly 500 books and featuring the work



of more than 80 illustrators was amassed by Victoria rare book dealer and librarian, R. D. Hilton Smith.”...

Book Patrol, Apr. 5

[11 uses for repurposed card catalogs](#)

Grace Light writes: “These literary treasures can be repurposed in a plethora of ways. I’ve blogged about a DIY card catalog [coffee table](#) and my library card catalog turned [bookcase](#) previously, and here are 11 more ways to use card catalogs in your home.” For example, use it for organizing silverware, as a kitchen island, for supplies and storage, or as a workstation table....

Poetic Home {pH} Living in Vintage Poetry, Apr. 6–7



[Librarian Gear](#)

For the librarian who wants to make a statement or create an impression, Librarian Gear (on the Zazzle website) might have just the thing: a multitude of T-shirts, notecards, mugs, keychains, tote bags, stickers, and magnets. Run by M. J. D’Elia, academic liaison librarian at the University of Guelph in Ontario, the site also has a [Facebook page](#)....

Librarian Gear



[Library science fiction: *Tomes and Talismans*](#)

Meredith Blake writes: “If for some strange reason you’ve never heard of *Tomes and Talismans*, just know this: It’s quite possibly the finest post-apocalyptic educational series about library science ever produced by Mississippi Public Television. Set in the year 2223, the 13-episode dystopian drama follows the saga of Miss Bookhart, an impossibly devoted—and improbably named—librarian. During a recent bout of nostalgic procrastination (the best kind), I discovered that *Tomes and Talismans* has been [digitized and uploaded](#) to YouTube in its entirety.”...

New Yorker: The Book Bench, Mar. 31



[Go back to the Top](#)

american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | April 14, 2010

Contents

[American Libraries Online](#)
[ALA News](#)
[Booklist Online](#)
[D.C. Update](#)
[Division News](#)
[Awards](#)
[Seen Online](#)
[Tech Talk](#)
[Publishing](#)
[Actions & Answers](#)
[New This Week](#)
[Calendar](#)



American Libraries Online

[Boston trustees approve closure of four branches](#)

The Boston Public Library board of trustees unanimously approved a plan April 9 to close four branches and eliminate dozens of positions to address a \$3.6-million budget shortfall for FY2011. The plan, proposed April 7 by BPL President Amy E. Ryan, calls for the closure of four branches—Faneuil, Lower Mills, Orient Heights, and Washington Village—and the elimination of up to 69 positions at the main library in Copley Square and in administrative offices....

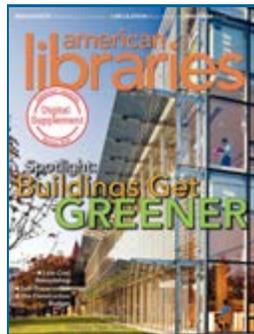
American Libraries news, Apr. 9



[Buildings Get Greener: AL's spring digital supplement](#)

The *American Libraries* April issue has an online supplement that features an expanded digital showcase of library renovation and construction projects, along with articles on remodeling on a budget and renovating to cut expenses. You can read "[Buildings Get Greener](#)" in the page-turning Zmag web browser format, or download it as a PDF file....

American Libraries, Spring Digital Supplement



[Maybe the play's the thing](#)

Senior Editor Beverly Goldberg writes: "In a particularly poignant National Library Week celebration, students at the Templeton Elementary School in Bloomington, Indiana, are debuting a student play April 15, entitled [The Case of the Missing Librarian](#), a fairy tale mashup without much of a happy ending. The play was inspired by the news that Templeton's real-life school librarian, Mrs. Hall, will be laid off at the end of this school year due to budget cuts. On stage, the kids lose their voices until they decide to march on Indianapolis to protest."...

AL: Inside Scoop, Apr. 14; Family Playwrights Blog, Apr. 7

[Remodeling on a budget](#)

American History in Video

"A solid ten . . . and, at this price, an amazing deal. This is a product I wish every library in the U.S. could make accessible to its researchers, from elementary school children to history scholars."
 —Library Journal

CLICK HERE TO TRY IT NOW!

Newsreels & Documentaries Online in Streaming Video



Paul Signorelli writes: "A review of recent plans and completed projects at a variety of California libraries instills a sense of excitement about the possibilities inherent in taking a low-cost approach to the remodeling of libraries.

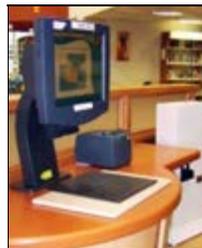


Interviews with sources involved with recent projects throughout the state reveal much of the thinking that has guided successful, fiscally frugal remodeling efforts."...

American Libraries feature

[A circulation renovation cuts expenses](#)

Sally Anglemeyer writes: "With public funding becoming less available throughout the country, libraries are looking for ways to trim their current and future budgets. One library is using popular new technology to reduce staff costs, one of the biggest items in any library's budget: The St. Joseph County Public Library in South Bend, Indiana, recently renovated the circulation department at its Main Library to make many of the functions self-service."...



American Libraries feature

[Everyday existence](#)

Dave Isay writes: "A confession: I am a library freak. I believe deeply in the importance of libraries and think of librarians as some of the most amazing, committed, brilliant, and radical professionals I've ever been lucky enough to meet and work with. I believe that the future of the organization I founded, StoryCorps, will be tightly entwined with libraries." The deadline for the [StoryCorps essay contest](#) is April 15....



American Libraries feature

ALA News

[The State of America's Libraries, 2010](#)

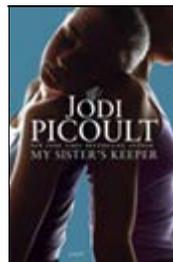
ALA has released its 2010 *State of America's Libraries* report, which shows that Americans have turned to their libraries in much larger numbers in recent years. This national survey indicates that some 219 million Americans feel the public library improves the quality of life in their communities. More than 223 million feel that because it provides free access to materials and resources, the public library plays an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed. The full report can be viewed [full-text](#) or downloaded ([PDF file](#))....



Public Information Office, Apr. 12

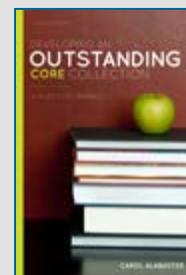
[Top 10 challenged books of 2009](#)

Lauren Myracle's best-selling young adult series written entirely in the style of instant messaging tops the ALA top 10 list of the most frequently challenged books of 2009. Two are new to the list: the *Twilight* series by Stephenie Meyer and *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult. Both Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* and Robert Cormier's *The Chocolate War* return after being dropped from the list in 2008....



[ALA Annual Conference,](#)

Washington, D.C., June 24–29. Plan to attend at least one of these informative [programs](#), especially if you are a first-time attendee. These "Conference 101" programs provide a unique introduction to many of the ALA divisions, as well as an orientation to navigating the Annual Conference.



In [Developing an Outstanding Core Collection](#), newly updated for 2010, Carol Alabaster focuses on acquiring high-quality materials while saving time and money. Packed with selection resources and sample core lists in seven subject areas, this soup-to-nuts manual will be useful whether you are starting from scratch or revitalizing an existing collection. **NEW! From ALA Editions.**

Office for Intellectual Freedom, Apr. 14

[Fans join Neil Gaiman online for National Library Week kickoff](#)

Neil Gaiman kicked off National Library Week on April 12, as librarians, library lovers and fans from across the country and around the world joined the author for a live internet event. Coordinated by the ALA Campaign for America's Libraries and the Jessamine County (Ky.) Public Library, "An Evening with Neil Gaiman" was streamed live by nearly 700 individuals and more than 120 libraries hosting National Library Week events....

Campaign for America's Libraries, Apr. 13



[Why Neil Gaiman loves libraries](#)

This is National Library Week, and one of the people out talking about the importance of libraries is Neil Gaiman. Gaiman, who lives just outside the Twin Cities metro, is serving as honorary chair for the event. He told Minnesota Public Radio's Euan Kerr he knows through personal experience libraries are more vital now than ever....

Minnesota Public Radio, Apr. 12

[House passes National Library Week resolution](#)

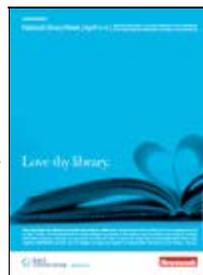
On April 13, the House of Representatives passed H.Res.1222, a resolution to support the goals and ideals of National Library Week. Sponsored by U.S. Rep. Vernon Ehlers (R-Mich.), the resolution outlines the many ways libraries of all kinds serve our country. Read the *Congressional Record* account of the proceedings ([PDF file](#)), including the full text of the resolution and floor speeches....

District Dispatch, Apr. 14

[Gale and Newsweek celebrate National Library Week](#)

Gale, part of Cengage Learning, is celebrating National Library Week with a full-page ad in *Newsweek*. On newsstands April 12, the ad recognizes the importance of libraries and invites readers to join the celebration by visiting their library and expressing appreciation for its services. Gale also announced a nonexclusive [licensing agreement](#) with *Newsweek*....

Gale Cengage Learning, Apr. 7, 13



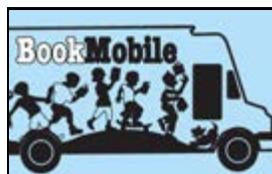
[Thank a library worker every day](#)

Susan Kusel writes: "The best part of National Library Week is always [National Library Workers Day](#). It was yesterday, April 13, but I celebrate it at my library, Arlington County (Va.) Central Library, every day. Let's take a walk around the library and meet some of them. We've got to start with the custodians."...

Booklights: PBS Parents, Apr. 13

[San Francisco Public Library celebrates bookmobiles](#)

On April 14, San Francisco Public Library joined libraries across the country in marking the first-ever [celebration](#) of National Bookmobile Day. Sponsored by the ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services, and the Association for Rural and Small Libraries, National



New this week in *American Libraries*



[Remodeling on a Budget](#)

[A Circulation Renovation](#)

[Everyday Existence](#)

[Perpetual Beta](#)

[Inside Scoop](#)

[Green Your Library](#)

[Ask the ALA Librarian](#)

[AL Focus](#)



The deadline for the [StoryCorps essay contest](#) is April 15.

Career Leads from **ALA JobLIST**

[Integrated Digital Services Librarian](#)

Langsdale Library, University of Baltimore. Responsible for

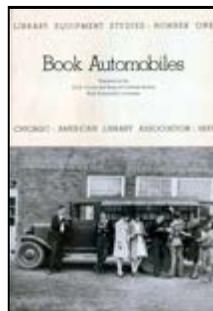
Bookmobile Day celebrates the role of bookmobiles and direct-delivery outreach services in fulfilling the mission of libraries....

Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, Apr. 8

[Bookmobiles in 1937](#)

Larry Nix writes: "On April 14, libraries are celebrating National Bookmobile Day. I recently acquired the 1937 ALA publication *Book Automobiles, Library Equipment Studies: Number One*. It was prepared by the ALA County and Regional Libraries Section's Book Automobile Committee and includes information and pictures of small book automobiles with outside shelving, large book automobiles with outside shelving, large book automobiles with inside and outside shelving, book trailers, simpler forms of service, and delivery trucks."...

Library History Buff Blog, Apr. 13



[Celebrate El día](#)

As the nation continues to become more diverse, hundreds of libraries will showcase multicultural programs and services during national El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day). This year marks the 14th anniversary of El día, a celebration of children, families, and reading that culminates every year on April 30. Libraries across the country will host celebrations with family programs, including bilingual story hours, book giveaways, and other literacy-driven events....

Public Information Office, Apr. 5



[Merritt Humanitarian Fund 40th anniversary](#)

Former ALA President Carol Brey-Casiano discusses (3:03) how the [LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund](#) helped her fight unjust accusations in the wake of the September 11 attacks, as well as the Merritt Fund's upcoming 40th anniversary celebration, to be held June 28 at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C....

AL Focus, Apr. 7



[Building coalitions is key to advocating broadband](#)

Office for Information Technology Policy Analyst Marijke Visser writes: "Having spent two days in early April with members of the Schools, Health, and Libraries Broadband Coalition, I've taken a minute to reflect on the importance of building coalitions in raising the voice of libraries. ALA advocates for big broadband for libraries on its own, but being part of a coalition allows ALA to participate in another level of advocacy."...

District Dispatch, Apr. 12

[Research proposals due April 30](#)

The Office for Research and Statistics invites manuscripts and book and article proposals for its peer-reviewed *ALA Research Series*. Topical areas of interest to the review panel include disaster recovery, assessing return on investment for technology applications, information literacy, new forms of engagement in learning/scholarship, and scholarly evaluation methods. All [submissions](#) must be received

Langsdale's integrated library system and related services. Serves as the library webmaster. Leads the collaborative design and development of the library's web-based services and technology planning, including the implementation of the next-generation ILS (a University System of Maryland consortial system). Supports technology applications in all library departments, including interlibrary loan, course reserves, and digital collections. Maintains an in-depth understanding of technological trends and developments affecting academic libraries through a commitment to ongoing professional development. Works collaboratively and creatively with librarians from Langsdale and the UB Law Library, IT staff, and the university webmaster....



@ [More jobs...](#)

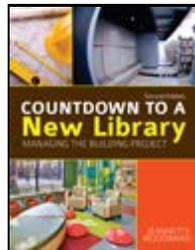
Digital Library of the Week

by April 30....
Office for Research and Statistics

[Managing a library building project](#)

ALA Editions has released the second edition of [Countdown to a New Library: Managing the Building Project](#) by Jeannette Woodward. This crash course in planning and building today's libraries uses real-world examples and insider stories from librarians around the country to guide administrators and library staff through their own projects. Woodward walks readers through the entire process, from planning and construction to oversight and getting settled....

ALA Editions, Apr. 13



[Staff training for any schedule](#)

ALA Editions now offers [ALA Editions eCourses](#), a variety of convenient options for enriching the professional development of library staff. Each course offers the perfect opportunity to train new employees or brush up on and update general office skills. eCourse subjects include management, personal development, computing, marketing and customer service, and digital licensing....

ALA Editions, Apr. 13



[ALA accreditation or certification](#)

COA Chair Vicki L. Gregory writes: "Accreditation and certification can easily be confused. Broadly defined, accreditation is for the program while certification is for the individual. When I was hiring librarians, I remember how an applicant's work or research record might cause me to wonder what the LIS program from which they graduated had been doing or (mostly) not doing. Accreditation cannot ensure, nor is it intended to be a method of ensuring, that every student who graduates from an accredited program will be a great librarian or information professional."...

Prism 18, no. 1 (Spring)

Booklist ONLINE

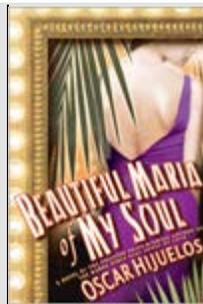
[Featured review: Historical fiction](#)

Hijuelos, Oscar. *Beautiful Maria of My Soul*.
June 2010. 352p. Hyperion, hardcover (978-1-4013-2334-9).

Hijuelos returns to his 1990 Pulitzer Prize winner, *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love*, but this time he tells the story from the point of view of Maria, the young Cuban woman with whom Nestor Castillo fell in love and about



The [Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Online Catalog](#) now has a new look and exciting new features. A dynamic redesign offers clean and visually inviting pages, with easy-to-use features for searching, browsing, and sharing. The site offers access to 1.25 million digital images and more than 600,000 records describing the collections in the Library's Prints and Photographs Division. The new catalog brings the pictures to the forefront of the web pages. The original version, established in 1996, was more text-oriented and in need of an upgrade. The search option has been improved to be available on almost every page of the catalog, allowing for easy modification of searches—no need to click back to a search page to conduct a new search. The search engine is more robust, bringing up all applicable items. There are no limits to the amount of records that can be retrieved. Visitors can now browse by alphabetical lists of subjects, formats and creators across the entire



whom he wrote the Mambo Kings hit bolero, "Beautiful Maria of My Soul." Maria is mostly offstage in the first book, remaining in Cuba after the Castillo brothers immigrate to New York and find success as the Mambo Kings. Here we learn that while the stunningly beautiful Maria, a featured dancer in Havana's pre-Castro nightclubs, did indeed dump Nestor, prompting his exit for New York, she, like him, spent the rest of her life remembering their time together. Yes, it is a story of grand passion found, lost, and mourned, but it is also the story of a young, illiterate girl escaping a life of rural poverty and making a career for herself in the city....

[Top 10 historical novels](#)

Brad Hooper writes: "If public librarians have among their serious fiction lovers some readers who insist historical fiction is not for them, don't slap those poor individuals upside the head, just hand them one of these historical novels, which were reviewed in *Booklist* over the past year, and attitudes are guaranteed to change."...



[A short story](#)

Author and Booklist Online Editor Keir Graff writes: "A lot of historical fiction is about fiction itself. But, as this humorous short story shows, there's a key moment in the history of fiction that's often overlooked.



"John Mackay-Whyte, Esquire, and Gordon Gilbey Boodles, Esquire, climbed down from their hired hackney coach, paid the coachman, and, stepping backward, blundered into the stream of reeking sewage that meandered down the cobblestone street."...

Note: The gritty realism of this story requires the use of some mature language.

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

catalog as well as for individual collections. Colorful banner images highlight the "learn more about it" essays for major collections, such as the popular [Russian Empire photographs](#) by Sergei M. Prokudin-Gorskii. The "view all" feature for major collections opens the door to [interesting visual explorations](#). Viewing options, in general, are greatly expanded and now include gallery, grid, and slideshow features. The [Works Progress Administration posters](#) from the Great Depression are especially interesting in the slideshow format. Another new feature is the share/save tool. With stable and durable URLs, the searches and images can be shared quickly with one's social network.

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

D.C. Update

[100 free \(and almost free\) things to do in D.C.](#)

If you are looking for activities to do before and after ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., June 24–29, check out these fun, free, and

Public Perception

How the World Sees Us

"Cuts to libraries during a recession"

almost-free experiences that await you—performances, family fun, history, parks, economical eats, African-American sites, arts and culture, and GLBT-friendly freebies....

Destination DC



[Tips for getting around D.C.](#)

Washington has a great public transportation system, especially the subway, so getting around from hotel to hotel for meetings and programs is relatively easy. Check out the webpage of the [Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority](#) ahead of time for fares, maps, and a list of stations to give you a head start. Here are some other tips, compiled by Andrea Cheney....

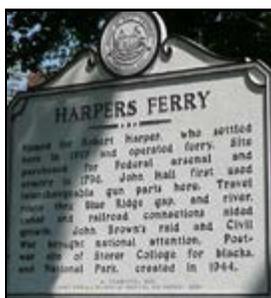
ALA 2010 Annual Conference wiki



[Just a short drive away](#)

If you're planning an extended visit in the Washington area before or after Annual Conference, consider a day trip to one of the nearby cities accessible from D.C. by car or public transportation. During the week, [commuter trains](#) service Frederick, Maryland, and Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, as well as [Fredericksburg](#), Virginia. By car, these are a short drive away when commuters aren't on the road. These cities offer lots of charm, shopping, and tourist attractions....

ALSC Blog, Apr. 12



Division News

[AASL survey on school library cuts](#)

This spring, AASL conducted an informal survey of its state affiliates to gauge the scope of school librarian position eliminations and reductions nationwide. Nearly half of the states responded. The data shows that the ratio of full-time certified school librarians to students will continue to significantly decrease each year. Also, many districts nationwide have had to reduce multiple certified school librarian positions in response to substantial state budget deficits. The widespread reach of position cuts and reductions can be easily seen on a [Google map](#)....

AASL, Apr. 13



[Register for 2010 ALSC National Institute](#)

Registration is now open for the ALSC biennial National Institute, September 23–25, at the Emory Conference Center in Atlanta. The institute is one of the only education and networking events devoted solely to children's and youth library services, offering participants an intimate setting in which to participate in programming and

are like cuts to hospitals during a plague."

—Eleanor Crumblehulme, technical services library assistant at the University of British Columbia Law Library, in a [tweet](#) made in response to Neil Gaiman's posting an article on job searches in public libraries, Apr. 13.

"Why are we cutting libraries at precisely the time when libraries are most needed? And who's using libraries? Parents with pre-school children; people searching for work and applying online; K–12 students; those who must file online for Social Security, veterans' benefits or unemployment compensation; seniors with health concerns; parents in the 'Sandwich Generation' dealing with kids and aging parents; struggling families without an internet connection at home; and many, many more citizens who rely on high-quality, accessible library services across Pennsylvania."

—School librarian Bonnie Hoover, in a [letter to the editor](#) of the *York (Pa.) Daily Record*, Apr. 7.

"Back in the day, there was such a thing as your 'library voice,' which was pitched above a whisper but well

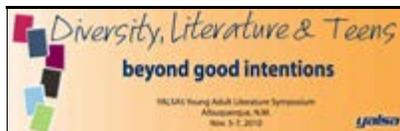
brainstorm ideas. Information on registration and programs can be found on the [ALSC website](#)....

ALSC, Apr. 6

[Early bird registration for YA Literature Symposium](#)

YALSA opened registration for its second Young Adult Literature Symposium, November 5–7, at the Albuquerque Marriott. Early bird pricing begins at \$195 for YALSA members and is available until September 10, after advanced registration pricing will apply. Registration is available on the [YALSA website](#)....

YALSA, Apr. 13



[ASCLA to give people what they want](#)

A stellar lineup of resource-sharing experts will appear for the upcoming ASCLA full-day preconference “Giving People What They Want: Information Access in Libraries and Beyond” on June 25. The event will feature a thought-provoking examination of technology and how its pervasive development is challenging traditional approaches to resource-sharing and content access....

ASCLA, Apr. 13

[Tour a prison library](#)

ASCLA will offer a unique opportunity to gain insider access to a prison library thanks to its Library Services to Prisoners Forum. “Have You Ever Been to Prison? An Insider’s Look at a Prison Library” is an off-site professional development program that will be held June 28 in conjunction with ALA Annual Conference. Participants will be transported from the Washington Convention Center to the Jessup (Md.) Correctional Institution Library....

ASCLA Blog, Apr. 8

below normal conversation, the sort of sotto voce used to deliver shameful apologies. Not anymore. When fellow patrons walk through the doors and make a beeline for the DVD section, when they are clacking the discs’ plastic cases and lecturing on the savvy beauty of *Mad Men* or the intricate plotting of *The Wire*, I can hear their every word across the room.”

—Writer and web developer Sung J. Woo laments the lost silence of library reading rooms, “[The Lost Library Voice.](#)” *New York Times*: City Room Blog, Apr. 9.

Awards

[2010 Equality Award](#)

Patricia Tarin, training officer at the San Francisco Public Library, will receive ALA’s 2010 Equality Award. Donated by Scarecrow Press, the award is bestowed on an individual or group that has made an outstanding contribution toward promoting equality in the library profession. The award jury noted Tarin’s outstanding and continuing efforts to provide venues where librarians from traditionally underrepresented groups can contribute to the profession....

Office of ALA Governance, Apr. 13



[2010 Trustee Citation Award winners](#)

ALTAFF has named Robert O. Bonam of the Rochester Hills (Mich.) Public Library and Margaret J. “Peggy” Danhof of the Fountaindale Public Library in Bolingbrook, Illinois, as 2010 ALA Trustee Citation award winners. The citation recognizes public library trustees for distinguished service to library development....

ALTAFF, Apr. 6

[We the People Bookshelf awards](#)

The ALA Public Programs Office and the National Endowment for the Humanities have selected 4,000 school and public libraries throughout the country to receive the seventh *We the People* Bookshelf. Libraries



TweetWatch

Follow:

National Library Week, Apr. 11–17, at: [#nlw10](#)

National Library Workers’ Day, Apr. 13, at: [#nlwd](#)

National Bookmobile Day, Apr. 14, at: [#nbd2010](#)

Texas Library Association, Annual Conference, San Antonio, Apr. 14–17, at: [#txla10](#)

from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several U.S. territories will receive the collection of 17 books for young readers on the theme "A More Perfect Union."...

ALA Public Programs Office, Apr. 13

[New Prime Time Family Reading Time grants](#)

Applications are currently available for Prime Time Family Reading Time, an award-winning reading, discussion, and storytelling series offered by Prime Time Family Reading, an affiliate of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. The grants are designed to help low-income, low-literate families bond around the act of reading and talking about books. The deadline for [applications](#) is May 28....

Public Programs Office, Apr. 8



[Navajo librarian is 2010 Librarian of the Year](#)

A Navajo Nation librarian was given top honors recently for his contributions to literacy on the 27,000-square-mile reservation near Window Rock, Arizona. Irving Nelson, who serves as program supervisor of the Navajo Nation Library, was selected from a pool of more than 500 librarians worldwide for the title of Librarian of the Year for 2010. Reader to Reader, a nonprofit organization in Amherst, Massachusetts, honored Nelson for his more than three decades of advocating for literacy on the reservation....

Farmington (N.Mex.) Daily Times, Apr. 8



[2010 Pulitzer winners](#)

The Pulitzer Prize is an award for achievements in newspaper journalism, literature, and musical composition. This year's award for fiction went to Paul Harding for *Tinkers* (Bellevue), for history to Liaquat Ahamed for *Lords of Finance* (Penguin), for poetry to Rae Armantrout for *Versed* (Wesleyan), and for nonfiction to David E. Hoffman for *The Dead Hand* (Doubleday)....

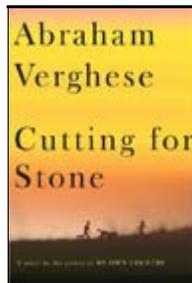
Associated Press, Apr. 12



[2010 Indies Choice Book Awards](#)

The American Booksellers Association announced the winners of the 2010 Indies Choice Book Awards on April 8, reflecting the spirit of independent bookstores nationwide. The Book of the Year winner for fiction was *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese (Knopf) and the winner for nonfiction was *The Lost City of Z* by David Grann (Doubleday). Kate DiCamillo was voted Most Engaging Author both for being an in-store star and for having a strong sense of the importance of indie booksellers to their local communities....

Bookselling This Week, Apr. 8



[2010 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize](#)

Eleanor Ross Taylor has won the 2010 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, which is presented annually to a living U.S. poet whose lifetime accomplishments warrant extraordinary recognition. Established in 1986, the \$100,000 prize is sponsored and administered by the Poetry Foundation, publisher of *Poetry*



American Libraries news stories, videos, tweets, and blog posts at:

[amlibraries](#)

Calendar

Apr. 17, 4 p.m.:

[Freeze-n-Read 4 Libraries](#), an event

initiated by the Gulf Middle School Media Center, Cape Coral, Florida.

Apr. 21–22:

[ACRL/LLAMA Spring Virtual Institute](#),

interactive webcast.

"Doing Well by Doing Good: Entrepreneurial Leadership for Librarians."

May 1:

[MayDay](#), Heritage Preservation.

May 2–8:

[Choose Privacy Week](#).

May 9–15:

[ALA Preservation Week](#).

May 10:

[Pass It On: Personal Archiving Day at the Library of Congress](#),

Mumford Room, 6th Floor, LC James Madison Building, Washington, D.C.

May 11–14:

[American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works](#),

Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency Milwaukee.

May 12–14:

[Utah Library](#)

magazine. A portfolio of 10 of Taylor's poems will be featured in the May issue of *Poetry*....

Poetry Foundation, Apr. 13

[2010 Orion Book Award](#)

The winner of the 2010 Orion Book Award is Charles Bowden's *Some of the Dead Are Still Breathing: Living in the Future* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). Bowden was awarded a \$3,000 prize in New York City April 14 by *Orion Magazine*. The award celebrates books "that deepen our connection to the natural world, present new ideas about our relationship with nature, and achieve excellence in writing."...

Orion Magazine, Apr. 2



[2010 John Nicholas Brown Prize](#)

The Medieval Academy of America awarded the 2010 John Nicholas Brown Prize to Bissera V. Pentcheva for *Icons and Power: The Mother of God in Byzantium* (Penn State, 2006) and to Jonathan Ray for *The Sephardic Frontier: The "Reconquista" and the Jewish Community in Medieval Iberia* (Cornell, 2006). The prize is awarded annually for a first book or monograph on a medieval subject judged by the selection committee to be of outstanding quality....

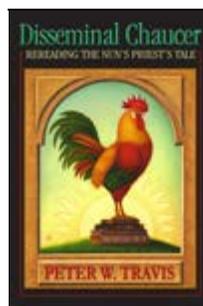
Medieval Academy of America, Apr. 8



[2009 Warren-Brooks Award](#)

Peter W. Travis, Henry Winkley Professor of Anglo-Saxon and English Language and Literature at Dartmouth, is the winner the 2009 Warren-Brooks Award for Outstanding Literary Criticism, for his book *Disseminial Chaucer: Rereading the Nun's Priest's Tale* (University of Notre Dame, 2009). Given by the Robert Penn Warren Center at Western Kentucky University, the award will be presented April 16 during the annual Robert Penn Warren Symposium at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green....

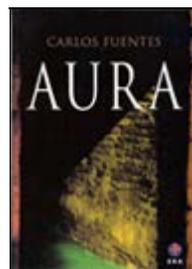
Dartmouth News, Apr. 12



[2010 Jefferson Muzzles](#)

The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression has awarded its 2010 Jefferson Muzzles award to 10 people and institutions that in the past year forgot or disregarded Jefferson's admonition that freedom of speech "cannot be limited without being lost." One awardee is the Puerto Rico Department of Education, which in September 2009 decided to ban five books from the public high school curriculum and school libraries because of allegedly coarse language. Among the banned books was *Aura* by Mexican author Carlos Fuentes....

Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression, Apr. 13



Seen Online

[Academic librarian died in Polish plane crash](#) (in Polish)

Ewa Bąkowska, director of scientific information at the Jagiellonian University Library in Kraków, Poland, was

[Association](#), Annual Conference, Hilton Garden Inn, St. George.

May 12–14:
[Workshop for Instruction in Library Use](#), McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. "Design, Play, Learn."

May 13–14:
[New Hampshire Library Association](#), Spring Conference, Attitash Grand Summit Hotel and Conference Center.

May 14:
[Northern Ohio Technical Services Librarians](#), Spring Meeting, Shisler Convention Center, Ohio State University, Wooster Campus. "Getting Ready for RDA: Preparing for the Transition."

May 15:
[BookCamp Toronto](#), University of Toronto iSchool.

May 15:
[Preservation Clinic for Books, Papers, and Photographs](#), Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

May 16–19:
[Care and Identification of Photographs workshop](#), Iowa State University Library, Ames.

May 25:
[Vermont Library Association](#), Annual Conference, St. Michael's College, Colchester.



one of the passengers on the Polish Air Force airliner that crashed near Smolensk, Russia, April 10 with Polish President Lech Kaczyński aboard. She was the granddaughter of General Mieczysław Smorawiński, who was one of the 20,000 killed in the 1940 Katyn massacre that the president and other dignitaries were on their way to commemorate. Bąkowska had apparently [intended](#) to take an earlier flight and was not originally scheduled to be on this one. The university has set up an [online book of condolences](#)....

Gazeta Kraków, Apr. 12; *Toronto Star*, Apr. 10

[The public library lifeline is fraying](#)

Art Brodsky writes: "Libraries, once considered a necessity, are now seen as a luxury. They are low-hanging fruit for budget pluckers, particularly at the state and local levels of government. It's been a slow death by attrition over the past couple of years. First, it was the budget for books and materials because, after all, books and materials aren't people. Then came the hours of operation, then the staff, then the closure of branches. No two communities are approaching the situation identically."...

Huffington Post, Apr. 11

[The Boston Public Library needs private help](#)

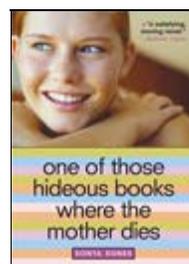
Sam Allis writes: "The four branches of the Boston Public Library slated for extinction can live. All of the 26 branches can remain as they are. The only question is where the \$3.3 million needed to preserve everything will come from. Absent more city support, the private sector, that's where. This kind of situation is why God invented the private sector."...

Boston Globe, Apr. 12

[Fond du Lac board makes its *Hideous* decision](#)

The Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, Board of Education voted April 12 to uphold Superintendent Jim Sebert's decision to keep the book, *One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies*, available to students in 6th through 8th grades. Parent Ann Wentworth, who had opposed the sexual content and age-appropriateness of the Sonja Sones book, said she was not surprised. She also plans to move two more books through the process: *Forever in Blue: The Fourth Summer of the Sisterhood* by Ann Brashares and *Get Well Soon* by Julie Halpern....

Fond du Lac (Wis.) Reporter, Apr. 13



[Oklahoma lawmakers seek to shut down school libraries](#)

Lauren Barack writes: "Oklahoma is on track to permit its schools to fire librarians if the state legislature passes a bill in the next few weeks. Drafted by State Sen. Jim Halligan, Oklahoma [House Bill 3029](#) allows school districts to effectively shutter all school libraries through the 2012 school year—an override of state standards meant to ease budget concerns across the state. Schools will not have to meet class size restrictions, purchase new textbooks, maintain a library budget, or employ a library media specialist."...

School Library Journal: Talkback, Apr. 7; Oklahoma Library Association

May 25–26:

[The Tectonics of Digital Curation: A Symposium on the Shifting Preservation and Access](#)

[Landscape](#), sponsored by the Northeast Document Conservation Center, Ray and Maria Stata Center, MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

May 25–27:

[BookExpo America](#),

Jacob K. Javits Center, New York City.

May 25–27:

[INFORUM](#) conference on professional information resources, Prague, Czech Republic.

May 27–28:

[Rhode Island Library Association](#), Annual

Conference, Bryant Center, Bryant University, Smithfield.

June 2–4:

[Society for Scholarly Publishing](#), Annual

Meeting, Hilton San Francisco.

June 13–16:

[Special Libraries Association](#), Annual

Conference, Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans.

June 22–24:

[CIP Symposium](#),

Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C. "Sustaining Culture in Copyright."

[Library calls on Tom Sawyer for its centennial](#)

Artist Jim Franklin hopes his sculpture for the Perry (Okla.) Carnegie Library will last longer than the centennial celebration it was designed to commemorate. The bronze statue features a life-sized girl reading Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* as Tom looks over her shoulder. Franklin said the story seemed appropriate for the occasion because of its enduring legacy. The sculpture was unveiled on the library's south lawn April 14....

Oklahoma City *Oklahoman*, Apr. 11



[Tiverton library loses 4,000 books to flooding](#)

A week after its basement flooded during the historic rainfall of March 30, the Essex Public Library in Tiverton, Rhode Island, was still sorting through the damage. Director Ann Grealish-Rust (right) estimates that at least 4,000 of the library's collection of children's and young adult books were damaged by nearly a foot of water that had collected in the basement. The library reopened April 6, but its basement will be closed indefinitely. Watch the [news video](#) (2:36). [Stonington \(Conn.\) Free Library](#), the [Richard Memorial Library](#) in North Attleboro, Massachusetts, and the [Boxford \(Mass.\) Town Library](#) also sustained flood damage....

Tiverton (R.I.) *Sakonnet Times*, Apr. 7; WJAR-TV, Providence, Apr. 7; *New London (Conn.) Day*, Apr. 7; *Attleboro (Mass.) Sun Chronicle*, Apr. 11; *Boxford (Mass.) Tri-Town Transcript*, Apr. 7



[Funding plan threatens Reading Is Fundamental](#)

Under the federal budget submitted for the 2011 fiscal year, the Department of Education has proposed distributing to state and local governments the money it allocates to Reading Is Fundamental, a family nonprofit literacy organization that delivers free books and literacy resources to children and families who need them most. Under that plan, RIF and six other programs would have to compete state by state for federal funds. RIF has received an annual allocation from the Department of Education for the past 34 years....

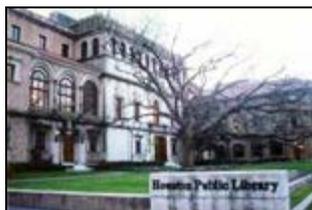
New York Times, Apr. 8



[Houston: Bad news and good news](#)

Hammered by \$2.2 million in budget cuts, the Houston Public Library system is reducing its hours by 28%—closing most of its 42 branches on Saturdays and trimming expenditures. Cuts to the library's \$39.3-million budget came as the city faced a budget shortfall of \$12–\$20 million for the current fiscal year. But the good news: HPL's [Houston Metropolitan Research Center](#) reopened to the public April 5 in the new wing of the Julia Ideson Building, with a new Texas Room that's much bigger than the old one. The Julia Ideson Library Preservation Partners raised \$30.1 million of the \$32 million the project requires....

Houston Chronicle, Apr. 7, 9



July 25–27:
[Ohio Library Support Staff Institute](#),
Baldwin-Wallace
College, Berea.

@ [More...](#)

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[LAPL cuts began April 11](#)

Citing solutions to the city's budget crisis, the Los Angeles Public Library formally announced new hours which began immediately. Citywide, all libraries are closed on Sundays. On April 9, a group of librarians [protested](#) outside a Department of Water and Power building to bring attention to the possibility of even more cuts, thanks to the utility's decision to [renege](#) on a promised \$73.5-million transfer to the city's general budget, which pays for core services like police, streets, and libraries....

LAist, Apr. 9-10



[Santa Cruz branches at risk](#)

The Santa Cruz (Calif.) Public Library System faces a \$500,000 shortfall next year that is expected to grow to \$5 million by 2013. Library Director Teresa Landers [presented](#) her board with four alternative scenarios April 5: Two scenarios reduced hours, staff, and the materials budget to varying degrees; one alternative drastically reduced the materials budget; and another included restructuring the system, keeping four regional branches open and turning six neighborhood branches over to local communities as reading rooms or learning centers....

Santa Cruz (Calif.) Sentinel, Apr. 6, 8



[Geocaching in Toledo](#)

Two treasure-hunting aficionados were the first to find Toledo-Lucas County (Ohio) Public Library pens April 10 using Global Positioning System coordinates posted on the internet, with hand-held GPS units, beating about 40 other buffs. The search capped an hour-long talk on the subject of the GPS-assisted worldwide game of treasure hunting, geocaching. Library workers cataloged hidden containers (geocaches) and then hid them throughout the county library system, bookshelves included, to usher in National Library Week....

Toledo (Ohio) Blade, Apr. 11



[San Jose's Countdown to 100 Million contest](#)

You know that thrill you get when your car's odometer rolls over to a new big number? Well, the San Jose (Calif.) Public Library is getting set for a really big thrill. The large digital counter that tracks the number of books circulated at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. main library is getting close to 100 million. Patrons with a library card can go [online](#) to guess the date and time the milestone will be reached. You get one guess before the contest ends April 30....

San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News, Apr. 13

[With budget zeroed out, school librarian buys books](#)

Audrey Daigneault, librarian at the West Side Middle School in Groton, Connecticut, has been buying books for the library all year, ever since the budget eliminated any money for new library books in any school. In 2009 alone, Daigneault spent \$1,800 on books, a number she hadn't tracked until she filled out her taxes for that year. She hasn't started to count how much she has spent this year....



Katie Bane
kbane@ala.org

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aldirect@ala.org

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

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New London (Conn.) Day, Apr. 9

[Jacqueline Kennedy tapes to be released](#)

More than six hours of interviews with Jacqueline Kennedy, recorded by historian Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. in early 1964 in the aftermath of her husband's assassination, are to be made public for the first time in 2011 after her daughter Caroline Kennedy agreed to unseal the tapes and offer the transcripts for publication. The interviews, recorded on open-reel audiotape in seven separate sessions, have been closed to all listening under strict seal at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston. [Hyperion](#) plans to publish a book based on the tapes next year....

The Guardian (U.K.), Apr. 13; JFK Presidential Library and Museum, Apr. 13

[Academic reference librarians: The student's secret weapon](#)

Jenna Johnson writes: "Ah, college research papers—it takes most students all four years to figure out how to complete them quickly and accurately. Your secret weapon? The college reference librarian (two examples on the right). No, seriously. And here are some reasons why: For one, they can help get you started, even if you don't understand your topic."...



Washington Post: Campus Overload, Apr. 9

[Turmoil in La Marque, Texas](#)

Kathy Nixie still is the librarian in La Marque. At least for now. Nixie supporters claim the four-year veteran head of the library was told by city administrators she had to resign April 7 or be fired, but was given no reason why she was being forced out. The turmoil came less than a month after Nixie reported to a city council member that Councilwoman Connie Trube had demanded records about an overdue book fine owed by Mayor Pro Tem Keith Bell's wife....

Galveston County (Tex.) Daily News, Apr. 9

[Former director loses appeal in pension loss](#)

A Massachusetts Superior Court judge has rejected an appeal by former Beverly Public Library Director Thomas Scully over the loss of his \$37,000-a-year pension. Judge Richard Welch III said in a ruling released in early April that a lower court was correct in concluding that Scully's 2005 conviction on two child pornography charges could be linked to his job, triggering a state law that allows the forfeiture of pensions in such cases....

Salem (Mass.) News, Apr. 7

[Littleton fires judge who issued warrant for overdue DVD](#)

Municipal Judge James Kimmel (right) was fired by the Littleton, Colorado, city council April 6 after he issued an arrest warrant to a teen, Aaron Henson, for an overdue DVD from the city's Bemis Public Library. Councilors cited the judge's "lack of good judgment" in this case and others. Kimmel said he did not regret issuing the warrant because the city loses thousands of dollars a year in unreturned library materials. However, library records show Henson actually returned the DVD a week before the summons was delivered....



Denver Post, Apr. 7; KUSA-TV, Denver, Apr. 7

[Multitasking librarian coaches four teams](#)

Gina Harrington, director of library services at Chaminade Julienne High School in Dayton, Ohio, is as comfortable on the playing field as in the library stacks. She has been a coach every year since she started at CJHS in 2004. She is now the bowling team's program coordinator, boys' freshman soccer coach, assistant swim coach, and assistant coach for boys' junior varsity tennis. Did we mention she is a mother of four and working on a second master's degree?...

Dayton (Ohio) Daily News, Apr. 10

[The new struggle: One school, one library, one librarian](#)

Graeme Bloch and Njabulo S. Ndebele write: "Fewer than 7% of schools in South Africa have a functioning library. Perhaps 21% have some kind of structure called a reading room, but these are usually used for classrooms, are seldom stocked properly, and do not have a library professional in charge to ensure that the right books are there. The lack of libraries compounds many other problems that combine to make our reading outcomes, at all grade levels, among the worst in Africa."...

Johannesburg (S. Africa) Sunday Times, Apr. 10

[Go back to the Top](#)

Tech Talk

[99 iPad apps reviewed](#)

Mark Wilson writes: "We spent hundreds of dollars and countless man-hours reviewing the first batch of iPad apps just to save you the trouble. Here is our complete compendium of reviews, sorted by category, ranked by preference. In other words, follow each of these links for a simple list of applications broken down by iTunes umbrella topics. The applications reviewed near the top of each list are our favorites; the applications reviewed near the bottom of each list are often so horrid they aren't worth mentioning, beyond saving you the trouble."...

Gizmodo, Apr. 13



[Mobile-accessible library websites](#)

Q. *We'd like to make our website available to patrons who have smartphones. Do you have any resources to help us?* A. Unlike your typical website, designed for a 14" or larger screen, sites viewed on mobile devices have much less viewing space available. We have gathered some [resources](#) to assist you in creating a site that will allow your smartphone-using patrons to access your library. Got a question? [Ask the ALA Librarian](#)....

AL: Ask the ALA Librarian, Apr. 12



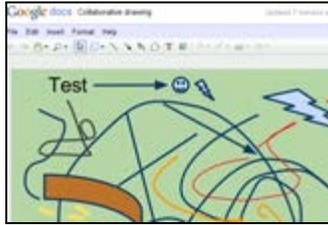
[Ditch desktop apps for webapps](#)

Whitson Gordon writes: "Desktop applications have their charm, but most of your information already lives on the web. Ditch those clunky desktop apps for webapps without losing their better features—like notifications, shortcuts, offline access—and free up precious system resources along the way. With operating systems like Chrome OS on the horizon, the world looks to be becoming more and more browser-based."...

Lifehacker, Apr. 14

[Major update for Google Docs](#)

Google Docs has been constantly updated since 2006, but adding new features became increasingly difficult. Now that browsers are much better than they were four years ago and cutting-edge apps like Google Wave can run in a browser, [new versions](#) will be rolled out in the coming days. The document editor has real-time editing, sidebar chat, a new commenting system, better formatting, and an improved importing feature. There's also an application for creating collaborative drawings: Google Drawings. Watch the [video](#) (1:48)....
Google Operating System, Apr. 12-13; YouTube, Apr. 9



[Five tips for creating the perfect profile pic](#)

Matt Silverman writes: "It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand that the first thing we see when checking out a new Twitter follower, Facebook friend, or LinkedIn connection is a profile photo. And in a world of quick clicks and divergent attention, if the photo you present isn't eye-catching or illustrative of your personal brand, you may miss your shot at making a positive first impression. We asked social design experts for their take on what makes for a killer profile pic."...
Mashable, Apr. 13



[Seven qualities of highly effective technology trainers](#)

Doug Johnson writes: "I was tickled to read [The 15 Essentials of Bad Professional Development in Technology](#) by Jacob Gutnicki, mostly, I suppose, since it reminded me of how little things have changed in technology training over the past 15-20 years. This is a section from my book *The Indispensable Teacher's Guide to Computer Skills* (1st edition) that came out in 1997."...
Blue Skunk Blog, Apr. 12; The Innovative Educator, Apr. 11

[Create online banner ads with Bannersketch](#)

John McClain writes: "Looking to create your very own online banner ads? With the web, it doesn't take much at all to have a banner ready to go in just minutes. You don't have to buy any special software, and no design experience is necessary either with [Bannersketch](#). The free tool allows you to quickly and easily create online banner ads for your product, service, or whatever you'd like to promote. Everything is highly customizable."...
MakeUseOf, Apr. 11



Publishing

[Richard Wagner and the roots of superhero culture](#)

David Ng writes: "To whom do we owe our super-saturated superhero culture? If you excavate superhero roots long enough, you will inevitably bump smack into Richard Wagner, the 19th-century composer whose four-opera cycle *The Ring of the Nibelung* is regarded by many as an important genetic mother ship for today's fleet of action heroes. In terms of its cast of characters alone, Wagner's *Ring*

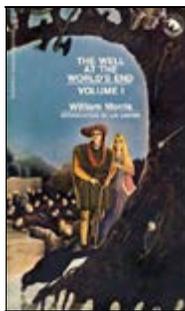


tetralogy has fanboy potential written all over it.”...
Los Angeles Times, Apr. 11

[Top 10 underrated fantasy classics prior to 1937](#)

Ophiucha writes: “J. R. R. Tolkien changed the face of the fantasy genre when he published *The Hobbit* in 1937 and subsequently his famous *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. But with this defining moment in the genre, many of the great works that preceded Tolkien have been forgotten in time. This list gives you my top 10 underrated classics of fantasy prior to the publication of *The Hobbit*.”...

Listverse, Apr. 8



[Real-time encyclopedia](#)

Mary Ellen Quinn writes: “In March, a new free discovery engine called [Mashpedia](#) was launched. Mashpedia provides real-time results for specific queries, aggregating content from multiple web feeds (Wikipedia, YouTube, Flickr, and Twitter) to create article pages. Content is ranked with the most recent appearing first. Unlike traditional encyclopedias, Mashpedia operates without the benefit of an editorial hand.”...

Points of Reference, Apr. 12



[National Non-Fiction Day planned for November](#)

An annual National Non-Fiction Day has been launched by the Federation of Children’s Book Groups in the U.K., in conjunction with Scholastic, with the inaugural day taking place on November 4. It will be dedicated to celebrating the best information and narrative nonfiction books for children. FCBG regional members will work with local schools, museums, and libraries to organize events....

The Bookseller, Apr. 13



[Bookslut on Chicago Tonight](#)

What should you be reading this spring? Jessa Crispin, better known as Bookslut after the name of her popular [website](#) and [blog](#), returns to Chicago from Berlin for a few days to recommend some titles and warn about ones you might want to avoid (7:29)....

Chicago Tonight, WTTW-TV, Chicago, Apr. 13



[Gwyneth Paltrow's recommended children's books](#)

Actress Gwyneth Paltrow writes: “Some of the best memories I have from childhood are of my mother lying in bed with me and reading me stories. We had a few greatest hits, *Eloise* and *The Chronicles of Narnia* being frontrunners. That time together was pretty indelible. I’m always looking for great books I may not know about to read to my kids. My friends [including NYPL Children’s Librarian Elizabeth Bird] have put together some recommendations that are worth checking out.”...



GOOP Newsletter, Apr.

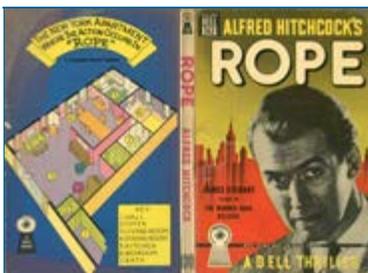
[News sites rethink anonymous comments](#)

When news sites, after years of hanging back, embraced the idea of allowing readers to post comments, the near-universal assumption was that anyone could weigh in and remain anonymous. But now, that idea is under attack from several directions, and journalists, more than ever, are questioning whether anonymity should be a given on news sites....

New York Times, Apr. 11

[Hard-boiled cartography](#)

Frank Jacobs writes: "Dell Books published many genres, but they excelled in detective stories. They often featured maps on the back cover, setting the scene for the adventures and crimes within the covers. A grand total of 577 'Map Backs' were published during the lifetime of the series, from 1943 to 1952.



The subject of the maps reflected the setting of the murder mystery and could be anything from the diagram of a multistory building to the layout of a city or state."...

Strange Maps, Apr. 11

[What is a Gutenberg moment anyway?](#)

Dennis Baron writes: "For months, commentators have been referring to the release of Apple's iPad as a 'Gutenberg moment,' or insisting, if they don't like the idea of the iPad, that it has no hope of being a Gutenberg moment. It's fine to characterize a Gutenberg moment as a revolution in text delivery, but only if you acknowledge that it actually took not a moment, but several hundred years, for the real effects of printing to take hold."...

The Web of Language, Apr. 6



Actions & Answers

[How Tweet it is: LC acquires entire Twitter archive](#)

Matt Raymond writes: "Congratulations: Your 140 characters or less will now be housed in the Library of Congress. Every public tweet, ever, since Twitter's inception in March 2006, will be archived digitally at the Library of Congress. That's a *lot* of tweets, by the way." Twitter made its own [announcement](#)....

Library of Congress blog, Apr. 14; *Twitter Blog*, Apr. 14

[New Ithaka report: Academics and digital media](#)

A new report released by the Ithaka group confirms what many librarians already know: Faculty members do not use the library as a gateway to information nearly as much as they used to. The [report](#), "Faculty Survey 2009: Key Strategic Insights for Libraries, Publishers, and Societies," focuses on how faculty members



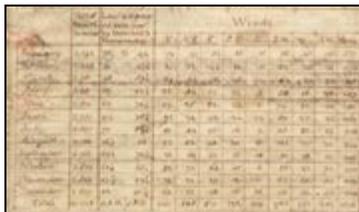
perceive their campus libraries; how they are handling the print-to-digital shift in scholarly work; and how much they have or have not changed their professional habits in an increasingly electronic environment....

Chronicle of Higher Education, Apr. 7

[Massachusetts posts *Notes on the State of Virginia*](#)

The original manuscript of *Notes on the State of Virginia*, Thomas Jefferson's only full-length book, is now available [online](#), courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society. The site enables visitors to see and interact with passages that were previously hidden from view due to the methods Jefferson used to insert changes onto handwritten pages. Work on the website began several years ago when MHS made conservation work on the manuscript a priority....

Massachusetts Historical Society, Apr. 8



[A quick guide to health care reform](#)

As part of its efforts to help Americans understand the impact of the recently enacted health reform package, AARP has launched new online resources for people with questions about the new law. The *AARP Bulletin Today's* "[The New Health Care Law and You](#)" provides practical answers to questions submitted by visitors. Each week, AARP is answering the top questions about the new health care reform law emailed by readers....

PLA Blog, Apr. 8; *AARP Bulletin Today*, Apr. 12



[Books at home lead to education](#)

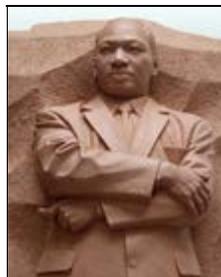
Tom Jacobs writes: "After examining statistics from 27 nations, a group of American and Australian researchers found that the presence of book-lined shelves in the home—and the intellectual environment those volumes reflect—gives children an enormous advantage in school. *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* published the results ([in press](#)): "Growing up in a home with 500 books would propel a child 3.2 years further in education, on average, than would growing up in a similar home with few or no books."...

Miller-McCune Magazine, Apr. 8

[Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial](#)

The Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial is an initiative of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity to erect a monument to the American civil rights leader. The monument will be located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Groundbreaking occurred in 2006, and the dedication is tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2011. After many years of fundraising, the memorial is only \$14 million away from its goal of \$120 million. Take a [virtual tour](#) (3:26)....

National Memorial Project Foundation



[Getting good reads to incarcerated teens](#)

Betsy Mikel writes: "[Chicago Deskset](#) is a new group of bibliophiles, librarians, archivists, information professionals, and friends of



libraries who are putting their bookish heads together to find new ways to improve their communities. To kick off National Library Week, they organized a book drive at a local pub on April 10 for incarcerated teens." Over 100 people attended the event and donated more than 350 books. Their next event is scheduled for May 23....

Chicagoist, Apr. 9; *Chicago Deskset*, Apr. 11

[OCLC's new record use policy](#)

Karen Coyle writes: "OCLC has issued a [new draft](#) of its record use policy for member comment. As others have remarked, while better worded and seemingly less draconian than the previous policy (the one that was withdrawn), the substance has not changed one iota. The primary problem with it is not the text of the policy but the way that OCLC has chosen to define the problem it is trying to solve. Here are some of the issues I have with this approach."...

Coyle's InFormation, Apr. 9

[Cultivating citizen archivists](#)

Archivist of the U.S. David S. Ferriero writes: "Recently, NASA launched an online project called '[Be A Martian](#).' At first glance, this website is a highly sophisticated public education tool that creates an online experience to connect the public with NASA's mission. On closer inspection, this is also an important crowdsourcing project. The Martian Map room is an intriguing interface where the public is invited to actually add value to the vast amount of data from several Mars missions. Do you see where I'm going with this?"...

AOTUS: Collector in Chief, Apr. 12



[Cataloging rule changes of the past](#)

Michael Gorman, Janet Swan Hill (right), and Arlene Taylor discuss what it was like to live through cataloging rule changes in the past in this program from the 2010 Association for Library and Information Science Education conference: "Technical Services: Past, Present, Future." The audio discussion of how libraries transitioned from the ALA-LC cataloging rules to AACR and from AACR to AACR2 is worth listening to. The full transcript is also available....

ALISE Conference 2010, Jan. 15



[It's Mathematics Awareness Month](#)

The 2010 theme for Mathematics Awareness Month is "Mathematics and Sports." The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics has gathered activity ideas for each grade level that can be used to celebrate the theme. [Mathematics Awareness Month](#) is sponsored each year by the Joint Policy Board for Mathematics to recognize the importance of mathematical developments and applications in a particular area....

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics



[Tweeting 101: A Twitter cheat sheet](#)

Aliza Sherman writes: "I put together this 'Twitter Cheat Sheet' for a client, and thought it might be also helpful for others who are still struggling with how to get started with Twitter. It provides some gentle guidelines that should help to keep emerging best practices in mind." Meredith Farkas writes about [coming to terms](#) with Twitter.... WebWorkerDaily, Apr. 7; Information Wants to Be Free, Apr. 7

[Why banning social media often backfires](#)

Greg Ferenstein writes: "From the Great Firewall of China to the public schools of Britain, IT security experts are finding that restricting internet access can have the unintended consequences of civic backlash, poor worker productivity, and students unprepared for cyberthreats. Here are a few examples that illustrate the ban and backfire." ...

Mashable, Apr. 13

[Camden County donates Pennies for Peace](#)

The Camden County (N.J.) Library System participated in the Pennies for Peace program in February and March, collecting 28,609 pennies from users and staff at its six branches to help build and supply schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan. After collecting all the money raised by libraries across the state, the New Jersey State Library will forward it the Pennies for Peace campaign sponsored by the Central Asia Institute....



New at the Camden County Library, Apr. 8

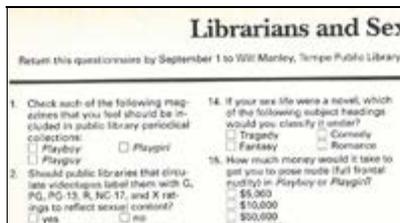
[Irish librarians explain the profession](#) (MP3 file)

RTÉ radio host Ryan Tubridy of [The Tubridy Show](#) talks to Irish librarians Maria Donohue and Michael Molloy from Dublin and Máirín Uí Chonghaile from Inishmaan as they explore books, old stereotypes, and new library services in the 21st century....

The Tubridy Show, Apr. 8

[The 1992 Librarians and Sex Survey results](#)

Will Manley writes: "You asked for it; you got it! These are the results of the 1992 Librarians and Sex Survey that *Wilson Library Bulletin* refused to run. They did run the initial survey



questionnaire (right) in the June 1992 issue in my 'Facing the Public' column and then fired me and destroyed the unsold copies of the magazine. Over 5,000 librarians sent in their questionnaires to me. Here are the results." ...

Will Unwound, Apr. 11

[Rules for creating mainstream media gaming controversies](#)

Ben Kuchera writes: "Several times a year, the media picks up on an event that portrays games as terrible, terrible things that will destroy the very souls of our nation's children. But many times, these stories are manufactured to create controversy, not to educate viewers about the realities of gaming. Which is why we've decided to help. For people who don't follow the gaming industry, we offer these rules for deciding if a gaming-related story is really worth the anger, outrage, or



disbelief.”...

Ars Technica, Apr. 12

[Paper your walls with books](#)

Stephen J. Gertz writes: “[Cavern](#) is a New York and Los Angeles–based boutique wallpaper-and-textiles design firm that invites us to reimagine our living environment. Its hand silk-screened, ecofriendly designer wallpaper draws inspiration from the natural world and urban landscape.



One of Cavern’s Artist Editions that debuted at the New York Antiquarian Book Fair April 9–11 is Tom Slaughter’s wallpaper design, called Library.”...

Book Patrol, Apr. 13

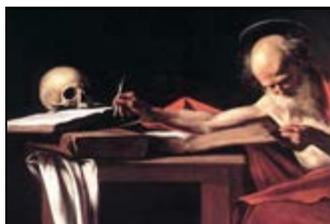
[Vote for your favorite amazing American library](#)

It’s National Library Week and the *Huffington Post* is celebrating America’s most amazing libraries. They are still a haven for reading in this day of electronics and they are still lending free books. Vote for your favorite of eight in the slide show on their website....

Huffington Post, Apr. 12

[On bones and libraries](#)

Colin Dickey writes: “Every librarian, every book collector, finds him or herself between two mythical places—the Perfect Library of God and the Infinite Library of Babel, the one transcribed by St. Jerome, the other by Jorge Luis Borges. But in some ways, they are closer to one another than they first appear. Borges’s description of the infinite library as a series of hexagonal cells that disappear into the distance, echoes the Roman catacombs that Jerome would visit while he was a young scholar, with bodies instead of books.”...



Cranioklepty, Apr. 6

[Celebrate National Library Week with Freeze-n-Read](#)

Kathy Adams, media specialist at Gulf Middle School in Cape Coral, Florida, wants us all to help save libraries. On her project website, “[Freeze-n-Read 4 Libraries, 4.17.10 @ 4pm everywhere](#),” she writes: “Libraries are cool! If you think so too, Freeze-n-Read on Saturday, April 17, at 4 p.m. Set your alarm now to freeze wherever you are and chill with a good book in support of libraries.”...

Moving at the Speed of Creativity, Apr. 11

[Celebrate National Library Week with food](#)

Mary the Food Librarian, a Los Angeles–based blogger and baking aficionado, writes: “Bust out your library card and celebrate National Library Week with me. This is the second annual celebration on the Food Librarian blog. Sometimes, I just gotta put the Librarian in the Food Librarian! Of course, I start the week with a bundt and the Librarian Action Figure (modeled after real-life librarian and author Nancy Pearl). Don’t laugh. How many other occupations have their own action figure?” Take note: There are giveaways....



The Food Librarian, Apr. 12

[Go back to the Top](#)

american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | April 21, 2010

Contents

- [American Libraries Online](#)
- [ALA News](#)
- [Booklist Online](#)
- [D.C. Update](#)
- [Division News](#)
- [Awards](#)
- [Seen Online](#)
- [Tech Talk](#)
- [Publishing](#)
- [Actions & Answers](#)
- [New This Week](#)
- [Calendar](#)

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American Libraries Online

[2010 HAPLR Index released](#)

The 2010 version of [Hennen's American Public Library Ratings](#), using the latest federal data reported by 7,930 public libraries in the United States, was released April 15. Published since 1999, the HAPLR Index identifies the public libraries in America with the highest input and output measures. As index author, Thomas J. Hennen Jr. adds the scores for each library within nine population categories to develop a weighted score. A list of the [top 10 libraries](#) in each population category is also available....

American Libraries news, Apr. 21



[Faculty survey tracks perceptions of the library](#)

A new survey of U.S. colleges and universities has some troubling findings for libraries about their declining use by faculty, but also holds clues as to how they can maintain their relevance. The report, *Faculty Survey 2009: Key Strategic Insights for Libraries, Publishers, and Societies* ([PDF file](#)), is the fourth conducted by Ithaka S+R over the past decade on faculty attitudes and behaviors, and the trend shows that "the library's physical edifice and catalog have declined steadily as starting points for research."...

American Libraries news, Apr. 21



[Reforma urges balance in Texas curriculum standards](#)

John Sandstrom, a member of ALA Council, on April 20 circulated a "Resolution on Texas State Board of Education Curriculum Standards" developed by Reforma: The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking. The public comment period on the standards began April 16....

AL: Inside Scoop, Apr. 20

[A literature of risk](#)

Michael Cart writes: "Risky behaviors remain very real factors in the daily lives of 21st-century teens. Does it seem counterintuitive to now argue that we need more

American History in Video

"A solid ten . . . and, at this price, an amazing deal. This is a product I wish every library in the U.S. could make accessible to its researchers, from elementary school children to history scholars."
—Library Journal

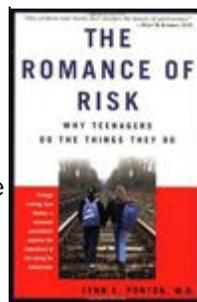
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Newsreels & Documentaries Online in Streaming Video



—not less—literature that addresses these same behaviors honestly and realistically? In the wake of the tsunami of violence inundating today's YAs, do we really need books that embrace violence, too? Well, yes, I believe we do. After all, the great gift literature can give its readers that new—and old—media can't is the experience of empathy and sympathy."...

American Libraries feature



[Will social media activism rescue besieged libraries?](#)

Cindi Trainor writes: "Library workers and supporters nationwide are turning to social media to spread the word about proposed funding cuts and recruit advocates. Despite what looks to be a very bleak FY2011, social media blitzes to stave off cuts for the current fiscal year may have laid some groundwork toward influencing budgetmakers."...

American Libraries feature



[Internet Librarian: The biggest front porch](#)

Joseph Janes writes: "Author Patricia McKissack's (right) love for storytelling started on a real front porch where, as a girl, she would sit with family and neighbors, building a sense of community and togetherness that's easy to envy. Today's front porch is now a whole lot bigger. We tell our stories, in all their myriad forms, using whatever tools are around, and sometimes we even invent a new tool when the story requires it. In the process, the medium shapes the message and vice versa."...

American Libraries column, May



[Youth Matters: Chalkboard heroine](#)

Jennifer Burek Pierce writes: "Recent media attention to declining education funds prompt me to enthuse about my longtime friend Laura, now a 3rd-grade teacher in California, who reinforces my belief in the power of public education to support literacy and related learning. While the school has a library, it lacks a librarian to shape the collection or even a clerical aide to manage circulation functions."...

American Libraries column, May

[Next Steps: Weeding grows the garden](#)

Brian Mathews writes: "Michael Sawyer (right) takes pride in weeding books. As director of the Calcasieu Parish (La.) Public Library, Sawyer feels that weeding the collection is one of the most essential practices that a library can do. While there are many benefits, the main reason is that it helps to improve circulation."...

American Libraries column, May



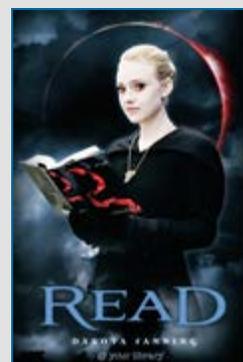
[In Practice: Dipping into the stream](#)

Meredith Farkas writes: "When you think of Twitter, you might think of Oprah. You might think of Ashton Kutcher. But do you think of Roy



[ALA Annual Conference,](#)

Washington, D.C., June 24–29. This year, you can attend ALA's [Virtual Conference](#) online. ALA is offering interactive web sessions July 7–8. The conference will begin each day at 11 a.m. Eastern Time and end at 5 p.m. Eastern Time. Interact with speakers and other attendees during each of these hour long sessions on a variety of exciting topics. Registration is only available [online](#).



In [Eclipse](#), the third book of the Twilight saga, Bella is forced to choose between her love for vampire Edward Cullen and werewolf Jacob Black. The movie adaptation of [Eclipse](#) will hit theaters in June, featuring Dakota Fanning as Jane, an

Tennant, Jessamyn West, and ACRL? Social networks are useful for keeping up with celebrities, friends, and family, and can also connect you to the brightest individuals in librarianship.”...

American Libraries column, May

[Will's World: Quirkiness "r" us](#)

Will Manley writes: "A couple of months ago I started a daily blog entitled Will Unwound. At first, I had no idea what I was doing. All I knew was that as a retired librarian, I wanted to stay connected to librarians on a daily basis. Call me crazy, but I think librarians are the most interesting tribe of people on the planet. The characteristic that most differentiates librarians from all the other occupational groups I've worked with is a very weird and shockingly offbeat sense of humor."...

American Libraries column, May



ALA News

[Roberta Stevens discusses the state of America's libraries](#)

ALA President-Elect Roberta Stevens participated in a 90-minute webinar on April 13 that detailed key findings from the just-released ALA State of America's Libraries report ([PDF file](#)). The webinar, developed by the SirsiDynix Institute, focused on the growing demand for library services and the shrinking resources to support them. The webinar can be [replayed](#) by registering with BrightTalk's webcasting service....

Public Information Office, Apr. 20

[An evening with Neil Gaiman](#)

Newbery-winning author Neil Gaiman spoke to more than 700 library lovers and fans as part of an online event during National Library Week. Watch the two-part video to learn more on Gaiman's thoughts on libraries and librarians, from the time he was a child in England to coming to America and becoming involved in intellectual freedom issues....

@ your library, Apr. 16



[ALA at the Chicago Comic Expo](#)

ALA staffers were on hand at the Chicago Comic and Entertainment Expo held in McCormick Place April 16-18. In addition to selling banned books T-shirts and celebrity READ posters, ALA sponsored talks on graphic novel challenges, programming, and collection development. Appropriate costumes helped them resonate with comics fans....



[Auditorium Speaker series welcomes John Grisham](#)

Best-selling author John Grisham will make a rare appearance at the ALA Auditorium Speaker Series on June 28 during the ALA Annual Conference in

elite member of the Volturi, an Italian vampire coven. Be prepared with this ALA Celebrity READ poster. **NEW!** From ALA Graphics.

New this week
in *American Libraries*



[A Literature of Risk](#)

[Social Media Activism](#)

[Internet Librarian](#)

[Youth Matters](#)

[In Practice](#)

[Will's World](#)

[Next Steps](#)

[Perpetual Beta](#)

[Inside Scoop](#)

[Green Your Library](#)

[Ask the ALA Librarian](#)

[Librarian's Library](#)

[AL Focus](#)

Career Leads from
ALA JobLIST

[Digital Collections Coordinator](#), Harry



Washington, D.C. Grisham will be publishing his first-ever children's book in May for Penguin Young Readers Group, with *Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer*. The two novels in this new series will be aimed at readers ages 8–12....
ALA Conference Services, Apr. 20

[JobLIST career counseling at Annual Conference](#)



The JobLIST Placement Center will provide free career counseling sessions on June 26–27 during the ALA 2010 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. As part of its effort to help job seekers retool their skills and prepare for job searches, the center will host Caitlin Williams, a career-development consultant and coach from San Jose, California....
Office for Human Resource Development and Recruitment, Apr. 20

[National Women's History Museum: A progress report](#)



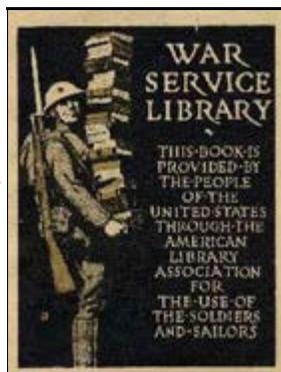
The Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship will cosponsor an Annual Conference program discussing the progress of the National Women's History Museum project in developing grassroots support and legislative action towards creating a permanent site for a national museum dedicated to the accomplishments of women in America. The program will be held on June 27 and will have opening remarks by former COSWL Chair Kathleen de la Peña McCook....
Office for Human Resource Development and Recruitment, Apr. 20

[A tribute to YAAN](#)

Cindy Welch writes: "In this article you'll meet the *Young Adult Alternative Newsletter* (YAAN), published from 1973 to 1979. YAAN was born at a conference when a group of young adult librarians at the 1973 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Washington, D.C., sat late into the night discussing their work. This conversation was priceless since many of them were isolated in their home libraries by the unique (and mostly unappreciated) nature of their clients (teens). A few short weeks later, Carol Starr mailed the first issue to approximately 300 teen librarians."...
In the Library with the Lead Pipe, Apr. 14

[War Service Library books](#)

Q. Today I was going through some books donated to our book sale and ran across one with a bookplate stating "War Service Library" with a picture of a World War I soldier carrying a stack of books. This plate was found in a 1918 book. What is the story behind this bookplate?
A. The bookplate—sometimes a label or a stamp with the words "American Library Association, Soldiers and Sailors Camp Library"—is one of several versions affixed to books furnished to sailors and soldiers by ALA during World War I....
AL: Ask the ALA Librarian, Apr. 19



Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin. Develop and oversee maintenance of a digital assets management system as an integral part of the research, teaching, and learning mission of the center; advise on acquisitions of archival collections including born-digital materials in all formats; work with archivists to develop best practices to access, preserve, describe, and interpret digital materials; participate in the development of online exhibitions and digital collections; work with counterparts worldwide in developing best practices for the preservation and management of digital collections....



@ [More jobs...](#)

Digital Library of the Week



Turning the public library green

ALA Editions has released [Public Libraries Going Green](#) by Kathryn Miller. This highly practical guide serves as an ideal reference source for public libraries wishing to become more environmentally friendly. Going green is now a national issue, and patrons expect their library to respond in the same way many corporations have. This is the first book to focus strictly on the library's role in going green....

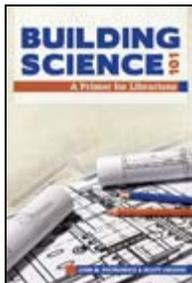
ALA Editions, Apr. 20



Revamping your building on a budget

ALA Editions has released [Building Science 101: A Primer for Librarians](#) by Lynn M. Piotrowicz and Scott Osgood. This handy guide provides a tour of the library building from foundation to roof, offering managers and administrators expert advice on possible changes at their own libraries. This book is designed for libraries where construction of a completely new building is not feasible....

ALA Editions, Apr. 20



Booklist ONLINE

Another look at Thornton Wilder

Brad Hooper writes: "Few novels identify their basic plotline as succinctly and forthrightly as the opening line of Thornton Wilder's 1927 novel, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*: 'On Friday noon, July the twentieth, 1714, the finest bridge in all Peru broke and precipitated five travellers into the gulf below.' The collapse of the bridge, as the reader learns, startled colonial Peruvians because the structure 'seemed to be among the things that last forever; it was unthinkable that it should break.' So, why *did* the bridge fail? An accident or an act of God? Wilder later summarized his story's theme as: 'Is there a direction and meaning in lives beyond the individual's own will?'"...



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

The [Mark Twain Project Online](#) applies [innovative technology](#) to more than four decades' worth of archival research by expert editors. Its ultimate purpose is to produce a digital critical edition, fully annotated, of everything Mark Twain wrote. MTPO is a [collaboration](#) between the Mark Twain Papers and Project of the Bancroft Library, the California Digital Library, and the University of California Press. The site currently offers more than 2,300 of Twain's letters (both facsimile and text) and critical editions of [The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn](#) and [Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer among the Indians](#).

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

Public Perception

How the World Sees Us

"If government is to serve the people instead of serving itself, then those who govern should listen to the people. 'We want our libraries!' is a rallying cry of fairness, not a selfish mandate. It is a cry from people that this core service is critical to the

Division News

Celebrate Preservation Week, May 9-15

Recognizing the critical role libraries play in preservation, ALCTS, in partnership with the Library of Congress and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, launched the first national [Preservation Week](#), May 9-15. It is the first national campaign targeting collections preservation awareness for the general public by strengthening community partnerships for preservation.



Explore techniques with two [free live preservation webinars](#)....

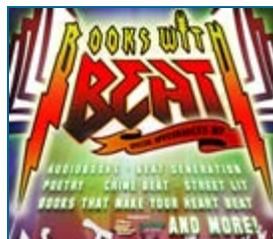
ALCTS, Apr. 20

[Teen Read Week registration, mini-grant applications](#)

YALSA launched its [Teen Read Week 2010 website](#) on April 15 (Support Teen Literature Day). In addition to free registration, visitors to the site can find activity ideas relating to this year's theme, planning resources, publicity tools, and applications for Teen Read Week mini-grants.

Teen Read Week will be celebrated October 17–23, with the theme "Books with Beat @ your library," which encourages teens to read poetry, audiobooks, and books about music for the fun of it....

YALSA, Apr. 15



[New products support Teen Read Week](#)

In anticipation of Teen Read Week, ALA Graphics has released a poster, bookmark, and several digital art files that represent "Books with Beat @ your library," this year's theme. Designed with visuals that resemble a band gig poster, the [Teen Read Week products](#) suggest many interpretations of the theme. YALSA launched the 2010 [Teen Read Week website](#) on April 15....

ALA Graphics, Apr. 15

[2010 Teens' Top Ten nominations](#)

Nominations for YALSA's annual Teens' Top Ten ([PDF file](#)) are now available. YALSA encourages teens to read the 26 nominees before the national [Teens' Top Ten](#) vote, which will take place in August and September. The winners will be announced during Teen Read Week, October 17–23. The Teens' Top Ten is a teen choice list, in which teens nominate and choose their favorite books of the previous year....

YALSA, Apr. 15

[2010 WrestleMania Reading Challenge](#)

The WrestleMania Reading Challenge has been revamped as it enters its fifth year. The challenge now will take place during Teen Read Week. Librarians and educators can register to participate through July 31. As part of the challenge activities, students will pledge to read five books or graphic novels between Teen Read Week and WrestleMania XXVII on April 3, 2011. The winners will represent their libraries at the WrestleMania Reading Challenge World Finals in Atlanta on April 2, 2011, and win their libraries \$2,000 in grants and other prizes....

YALSA Blog, Apr. 16



[The laugh's on ALTAFF](#)

Comedian and ALTAFF spokesperson Paula Poundstone (right) will headline "The Laugh's on Us!" an ALA Annual Conference event June 27 that will feature top comedians and authors. Wine and cheese will be served, and a book signing will follow. Some books will be given away free, and others will be available for purchase at a generous discount. Purchase tickets early, because this event is always a sell-out....

ALTAFF



community, especially when we see our social safety net slipping away. San Diego County continues to keep the doors of its libraries open even though the county has suffered the same economic crisis our city has. The city of San Diego should drape the doors of our libraries in black as a sign of mourning of yet another step backwards in this latest dumbing down of our city."

—Writer Sandy Lippe, on San Diego's decision to close the city's Central Library on Saturdays and branch libraries on Mondays for 18 months, *La Jolla (Calif.) Village News*, Apr. 15.



TweetWatch

Follow:

DrupalCon San Francisco, Apr. 19–21, at: [#dcsf](#)

Evergreen International Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Apr. 21–23, at: [#evg10](#)

Society of Architectural Historians, Annual Meeting, Chicago, Apr. 21–25, at: [#sah2010](#)

[ALCTS preconferences at Annual Conference](#)

ALCTS is offering four exciting and highly informative preconferences at the ALA 2010 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. You can register by going to the ALA Annual Conference [website](#). The topics are linked data, licensing, XSLT, and cartographic cataloging....

ALCTS, Apr. 15

[ALCTS web courses](#)

Register now for the popular ALCTS "Fundamentals" web courses beginning in May: Fundamentals of Acquisitions, Fundamentals of Collection Development and Management, and the new Fundamentals of Preservation. To register, complete the online registration form for the session you would like to attend on the [ALCTS website](#)....

ALCTS, Apr. 15

[Upcoming ALCTS webinars](#)

ALCTS is offering four webinars over the next two months—two on institutional repositories and two on disaster preparedness. For registration information visit the [ALCTS website](#)....

ALCTS, Apr. 15

[ACRL 2011 National Conference keynote speakers](#)

ACRL will present a celebrated lineup of keynote speakers for its 2011 National Conference, "A Declaration of Interdependence," March 30–April 2, 2011, in Philadelphia. Be challenged and entertained by ACRL's three distinguished speakers: Tiffany Shlain, award-winning filmmaker and artist; Raj Patel, economic activist; and Clinton Kelly, television co-host and author....

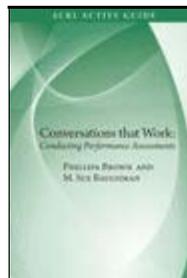
ACRL, Apr. 20



[ACRL conversations that work](#)

ACRL has published [Conversations that Work: Conducting Performance Assessments](#) by Phillipa Brown and M. Sue Baughman. The third entry in the ACRL Active Guide series, the book is a practical guide for addressing the real-life experiences of conducting performance evaluations in the workplace. Tools and techniques for all stages are provided, including exercises that offer the opportunity to practice and develop your assessment and evaluation skills....

ACRL, Apr. 20



[New RUSA standards and guidelines](#)

New standards and guidelines were recently approved by the RUSA board: Guidelines for Implementing and Maintaining Virtual Reference Services ([PDF file](#)), Guidelines for Liaison Work in Managing Collections and Services ([PDF file](#)), and Guidelines for the Preparation of a Bibliography ([PDF file](#)). Feel free to use and distribute them....

RUSA Blog, Apr. 19

Awards

[The American Dream Starts @ your library grants](#)

Seventy [public libraries](#) in 21 states have been selected by ALA to receive \$5,000 grants as part of the "American Dream Starts @ your library" literacy initiative, funded by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. The grant funds will be used by the libraries to build

Maryland Library Association, Annual Conference, Ocean City, Apr. 21–23: [#mla2010](#)

Art Libraries Society of North America, Annual conference, Boston, Apr. 23–26, at: [#arlisna10](#)

World Wide Web 2010, Raleigh, North Carolina, Apr. 26–30, at: [#www2010](#)

American Libraries news stories, videos, tweets, and blog posts at: [amlibraries](#)

Calendar

Apr. 27–30: [Substance Abuse Librarians and Information Specialists](#), Annual Conference, Zena and Michael A. Wiener Conference Center, Columbia University, New York City. "ATOD Policy and Information Technology in an Era of Change."

May 14: [OpenSciNY](#), Bobst Library, New York University, New York City. A free conference on the impact of publicly accessible scientific tools and resources, open access publishing in the sciences, and open data/notebook efforts.

June 2–4: [Society for Scholarly Publishing](#), Annual Meeting, Hilton San

innovative literacy services for adult English-language learners living and working in their communities....

Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, Apr. 19

[RUSA Public Librarian Support Award](#)

Ed Rossman, adult services librarian at the Shaker Heights (Ohio) Public Library, is the 2010 winner of the [Public Librarian Support Award](#), a conference travel grant administered by RUSA for public librarians who provide business reference services. Rossman will receive \$1,000 in travel funds for the ALA 2010 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C....

RUSA, Apr. 15



[PLA Leadership Fellows scholarships](#)

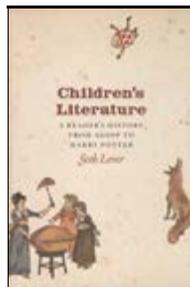
PLA has awarded Leadership Fellows scholarships for programs at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. The recipients are Chang Liu, of the District of Columbia Public Library, and Jennifer Wright, of the Free Library of Philadelphia....

PLA, Apr. 16

[2010 Truman Capote Award](#)

Seth Lerer has won the 2010 Truman Capote Award for Literary Criticism for his *Children's Literature: A Reader's History from Aesop to Harry Potter* (University of Chicago, 2008). The \$30,000 award—the largest annual cash prize in English-language literary criticism—is administered for the Capote estate by the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop. The book, which previously won the 2009 National Book Critics Circle Award, touches upon Lerer's youthful passion for reading and his experience as a parent....

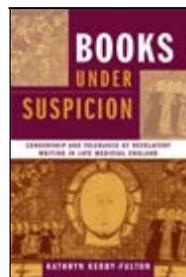
University of Iowa, Apr. 14



[2010 Haskins Gold Medal](#)

Kathryn Kerby-Fulton, professor of English at the University of Notre Dame, has received the 2010 Haskins Gold Medal from the Medieval Academy of America for her work, *Books Under Suspicion: Censorship and Tolerance of Revelatory Writing in Late Medieval England*. The award is given annually to a book, published in the previous six years, that is judged to be distinguished in the field of Medieval studies....

University of Notre Dame, Apr. 16



Seen Online

[FCC will expand broadband](#)

The chairman of the Federal Communications Commission told a Congressional panel April 14 that a recent court ruling that the agency lacked authority to regulate the internet should not prevent it from carrying out its plan to broadly expand the country's high-speed internet service. FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski said in testimony before the Senate Commerce Committee that the agency's lawyers were still considering the effect of *Comcast v. FCC* on the National Broadband Plan....

New York Times, Apr. 14

Francisco. "A Golden Opportunity: A Shared Vision for Publishers, Librarians and Users."

[June 3–6: North American Serials Interest Group](#)

Annual Conference, Rancho Las Palmas Resort, Palm Springs, California.

[June 6–9: National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development](#)

Phoenix. "Emotional Intelligence: A 21st Century Skill for Children and Adults."

[June 13–16: Special Libraries Association](#)

Annual Conference, Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans.

[June 25–26: Urban Libraries Council](#)

Annual Conference, Cosmos Club and Mandarin Hotel, Washington, D.C.

[July 23–27: Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials](#)

Providence Biltmore Hotel, Rhode Island. "The Future of Latin American Library Collections and Research: Contributing and Adapting to New Trends in Research Libraries."

[July 25–27: Ohio Library Support Staff Institute](#)

Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea.

[Animal cruelty video ban overturned](#)

The Supreme Court struck down a 1999 federal law aimed at banning videos depicting graphic violence against animals April 20, saying that it violates the constitutional right to free speech. In the ruling on *United States v. Stevens*, Chief Justice John J. Roberts Jr. said the law was overly broad and not allowed by the First Amendment. He rejected the government's argument that whether certain categories of speech deserve constitutional protection depends on balancing the value of the speech against its societal costs....

Washington Post, Apr. 20

[Rutgers asked to absorb New Jersey State Library](#)

New Jersey Lieutenant-Governor Kim Guadagno told the state Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee April 20 that the administration favors merging Thomas Edison State College, which houses the state library, with Rutgers University. She cited "a hostile budget climate" as the major reason. In a March 17 [statement](#), Rutgers University President Richard L. McCormick (right) promised to vet Gov. Chris Christie's "unsolicited proposal" in light of "Rutgers' enormous budget challenges," including cuts to higher education....

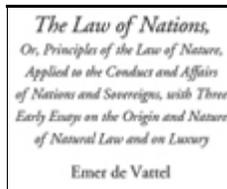
NewJerseyNewsroom.com, Apr. 20; Rutgers University Office of the President, Mar. 17



[George Washington's missing library books](#)

More than 200 years ago, the nation's first president borrowed two volumes from the New York Society Library and never returned them. On October 5, 1789, George Washington checked out Emer de Vattel's *The Law of Nations* and volume 12 of the British *House of Commons Debates*. Washington spent his first year as President in New York City at a mansion that was located near Pearl and Dover Streets (now under the Brooklyn Bridge), only a short carriage ride from the library, which was then in Federal Hall at 23 Wall Street. He moved to Philadelphia in 1790, perhaps taking the books with him....

New York Daily News, Apr. 17



[A George Washington Presidential Library](#)

Kathleen Parker writes: "The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association is working on setting up a repository of George Washington's books and papers that will also serve as a center for educational outreach and scholarly research. Officially named the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington ([PDF file](#)), the 41,000-square-foot building is expected to be completed in 2012—assuming that the association, now in its 151st year of running the estate exclusively with private funds, can raise \$20 million this year."...

Washington Post, Apr. 21



[New York's Library Card Act makes it easier for students](#)

City Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer, a longtime advocate for public libraries, had vast

July 26–30:

[SIBMAS: International Association of Libraries and Museums of the Performing Arts](#),

Conference, Munich, Germany. "Connecting points: Performing Arts Collections Uniting Past and Future."

July 28–

Aug. 1: **[Southampton Children's Literature Conference](#)**, Stony Brook Southampton, New York.

July 29–

Aug. 1: **[National Storytelling Conference](#)**, Warner Center Marriott—Los Angeles (Woodland Hills), California.

Aug. 8–10:

[Reference Renaissance 2010: Inventing the Future](#), Denver Marriott Tech Center.

Aug. 10–15:

[Archives*Records / DC 2010](#), joint meeting of CoSA, NAGARA, and SAA, Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Sept. 3–5:

[Miniature Book Society](#), Grand Conclave, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Lexington, Kentucky.

Sept. 23–25:

[ALSC National Institute](#), Emory Conference Center Hotel, Atlanta.

support from the New York Public Library, the Queens Library, and the Brooklyn Public Library when he introduced the Library Card Act, which was signed into law (right) by Mayor Michael Bloomberg April 14. The legislation requires the New York City Department of Education to supply library card applications to students entering kindergarten, 6th grade, 9th grade, and when transferring to a new school....

Queens (N.Y.) Courier, Apr. 16



[Iceland volcano propels British teens into DCPL](#)

The Martin Luther King Jr. central branch of the District of Columbia Public Library is enabling a group of 20 British teens to access their school's virtual classwork despite being grounded in the nation's capital by ash clouds from Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano. Seventeen-year-old Christopher Burke says he doesn't mind. Watch the [video](#) (5:55)....

WUSA-TV, Washington, D.C., Apr. 20



[Charlotte closures still likely](#)

No matter how it's handled, a targeted 50% cut in money from Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, will close library branches starting next fiscal year. The big question the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library trustees are trying to answer is just how many. Library staff presented three scenarios to the trustees April 15, the toughest of which calls for closing all 16 community branches....

Charlotte (N.C.) Observer, Apr. 16

[The Superman of Lehman College Library](#)

A portrait of Superman hangs in the Lehman College Library in the Bronx, just past the card catalog, but how it got there was long forgotten until recently. David Saunders, an artist and art historian from Westhampton Beach, New York, says the painting is the first official full-length portrait of Superman, commissioned to promote *The Adventures of Superman* radio series that went on the air in 1940. Its provenance came as a surprise to college officials....

New York Times: City Room, Apr. 18



[Strong women shaped Dallas Public Library history](#)

As librarian Cleora Clanton frequently pointed out in the 1930s, "Probably no institution in the city touches the lives of the citizens at more points than the public library." Clanton, who headed the Dallas library system from 1922 to 1954, defending it from budget cuts during the Great Depression and from right-wing political attacks early in the McCarthy era, is one of the library's many unsung heroines. Women, ranging from prominent civic leaders to underpaid librarians, have sustained the library for more than 100 years....

Dallas Morning News, Apr. 16

[California's university system: What went wrong?](#)

Fifty years ago this month, California promised a low-cost, high-quality university education for every qualified high school graduate in

@ [More...](#)

Contact Us

American Libraries Direct



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the state. But that promise—inflated by growing populations and academic aspirations—expanded beyond the state’s willingness to pay for it. How did the university system that was long the envy of the world suddenly become the focus of angry street protests?...

San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News, Apr. 18

[Library fire at UC Santa Cruz](#)

An overheated extension cord being used to charge power tools caused a two-alarm fire April 15 in a part of UC Santa Cruz’s McHenry Library that is under renovation. The fire was extinguished within an hour of breaking out on the second floor of the older portion of the library. However, smoke traveled to an adjacent section where the library’s general collections are housed, leaving a layer of soot on half of the 1.4 million volumes inside, University Librarian Ginny Steel said. [Cleanup](#) will take until April 23 or longer....

Santa Cruz (Calif.) Sentinel, Apr. 17, 19

[Flood repair nearly complete at Manoa library](#)

Construction crews will complete repair work in May on the University of Hawaii’s Hamilton Library, which was damaged in a devastating flood in October 2004. The library took the brunt of the flash flood that hit on a weekend night. The university has been able to replace about 80% of its collection. Library Facilities Manager Steve Pickering (right) said the building is now more flood-resistant....

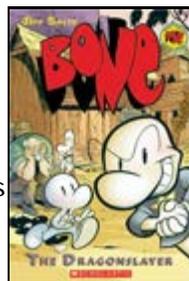
KITV-TV, Honolulu, Apr. 17



[Bone of contention](#)

After Ramona DeLay’s son Hardy brought home a copy of the fourth book in Jeff Smith’s *Bone* graphic novel series, the Apple Valley, Minnesota, resident and Southview Elementary parent filed a request March 15 for the school district to reconsider having the materials available in the library. She objected to the book’s portrayal of gambling, alcohol and tobacco use, and “sexual situations between characters.” A school reconsideration [committee](#) met April 20....

Sun Newspapers (Eden Prairie, Minn.), Apr. 15; St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press, Apr. 20



[Salinas gains a toy library](#)

The John Steinbeck branch of the Salinas (Calif.) Public Library has gained a 4,000-piece toy library, inherited from the Salinas Adult School’s Parent Center. The collection’s myriad puzzles, games, dinosaurs, plastic pigs, and Tinker Toys opened for lending on April 17. The toys are not only to play with. Each has been selected because playing with it will contribute to a child’s development and early literacy....

Salinas Californian, Apr. 16

[What you don’t know about the 1906 earthquake](#)

Former San Francisco City Archivist Gladys Hansen has made it her goal in life to account fully for the number of people killed by the devastating earthquake of April 18, 1906, and the ensuing firestorm. The official death toll is less than 500—but after more than 30 years of research, Hansen has collected nearly 3,000 [names or stories](#) of the dead or



Katie Bane
kbane@ala.org

Send feedback:
aldirect@ala.org

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

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missing. She believes the total number of victims may be three times that number. For an interesting [photo gallery](#) of the quake, see the items from Bob Bragman's private collection....

KNTV-TV, San Jose, Calif., Apr. 18; Virtual Museum of San Francisco; *San Francisco Chronicle*, Apr. 18

[The future of art bibliography](#)

On April 20, an international conclave of art scholars, librarians, and art-history devotees gathered at the Metropolitan Museum of Art to discuss a pressing scholarly crisis—the future of art bibliography. The urgency of the meeting, convened by the Getty Research Institute, stems from the institute's recent withdrawal of financial support for one of its programs, the Bibliography of the History of Art. It is the most trusted and second-most-used (slightly behind JSTOR) resource of its kind....

Wall Street Journal, Apr. 20

[An era ends for blind listeners in Utah](#)

After 34 years, the Utah State Library for the Blind and Disabled's radio reading service is going off the air April 21, a victim of budget reductions. About 100 volunteers contributed, many reading Utah's daily newspapers from cartoons to obituaries, as part of a menu of programs that included *Cooking in the Dark* and old-time radio shows. The library provided blind listeners with a special radio that allowed them to hear the broadcast, which was not accessible by the general public....

Salt Lake Tribune, Apr. 14

[Lake Elmo library supporters consider mutiny](#)

It's easy to argue that the Rosalie E. Wahl branch (right) of the Washington County (Minn.) Library should be closed. It's open only four hours a day and closed on weekends. Most residents of Lake Elmo don't even use it. Library Director Patricia Conley, wrestling with a 4% budget cut, is considering replacing it with a stand-alone kiosk. To make sure that doesn't happen, Lake Elmo officials are talking about withdrawing from the county system to start their own city-run library....

St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press, Apr. 19



[Indianapolis residents protest library cuts](#)

A budget-cutting proposal to close six Indianapolis–Marion County Public Library branches is meeting heavy opposition. Library CEO Laura Bramble has received at least 30 letters, including one from U.S. Rep. André Carson (D-Indianapolis). The Flanner House branch is one that could close. Though it's the city's smallest branch, plans to shelve it are creating a big uproar: Besides serving an economically challenged area, the branch is attached to a K-6 charter school....

WTHR-TV, Indianapolis, Apr. 16



[Layoffs coming to Stanislaus County](#)

Stanislaus County, California, is preparing to shut its 13 branches every Friday and lay off 25 library employees as part of a cost-cutting strategy intended to shore up the library budget. County officials must slash \$23 million in spending by the July 1 start of the next fiscal year. Laying off 25 librarians and administrative clerks means

losing nearly 16% of the system's staff of 159....

Modesto (Calif.) Bee, Apr. 17

[Marginalia in the Mark Twain Library](#)

Proof of Mark Twain's talent as a literary critic has resided, mostly unnoticed, in the Mark Twain Library in Redding, Connecticut, where hundreds of his personal books have been housed since his death 100 years ago. They are filled with notes in his own cramped, scratchy handwriting. Irrepressible when he spotted something he did not like, but also impatient with good books that he thought could be better, he was often savage in his commentary....

New York Times, Apr. 18



[Newberry acquires 14th-century codex by Peter Olivi](#)

Denounced by the Vatican as heretical seven centuries ago, the writings of Franciscan dissident Peter John Olivi (1248–1298) have found their way to Chicago's Newberry Library. The handwritten texts, bought in March jointly with the University of Notre Dame, could shed light on theological disputes during the early Inquisition. The collection, purchased for \$45,000 at an auction at Christie's, is considered a triumph for the library, especially because Olivi has in recent years come to be regarded as a figure of major importance in church history....

Chicago News Cooperative, Apr. 16

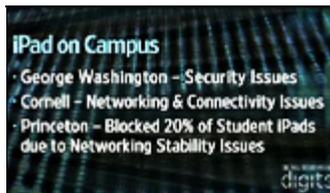
[Go back to the Top](#)

Tech Talk

[iPad struggles at some colleges](#)

Melissa Korn writes: "The iPad isn't having an easy time during college admissions season. The tablet, lauded by many as the next wave in education technology, is having difficulty being accepted at George Washington University and Princeton University because of network stability issues. Cornell University also says it is seeing connectivity problems with the device and is concerned about bandwidth overload."...

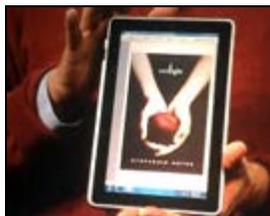
Wall Street Journal, Apr. 19



[HP Slate v. Apple iPad: Which is better?](#)

Tony Bradley writes: "The Apple iPad has only been physically available to the general public for a few weeks, and the HP Slate (right) is still a prototype waiting for a launch date, but that hasn't stopped the two from being compared head-to-head as the defining epic battle for tablet supremacy. An early review of the HP Slate suggests that the iPad has the crown locked up, but 'better' depends on the intended use and is in the proverbial 'eye of the beholder.'"...

PC World: Tech Audit, Apr. 21



[Top 10 ways to access blocked stuff on the web](#)

Kevin Purdy writes: "The web is a generally free place, but some sites and services want to make it annoying to navigate and enjoy. Stream any video you'd like, see the sites you need, and get at services you thought were down with these tips."...

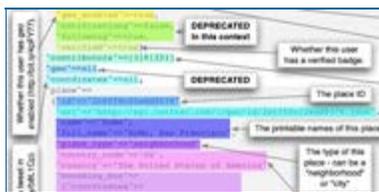
Lifehacker, Apr. 17

[This is what a tweet looks like](#)

Sarah Perez writes: "Think a tweet is just 140 characters of text? Think again.

To developers building tools on top of the Twitter platform, they know tweets contain far more information than just whatever brief, passing thought you felt the urge to share with your friends via the microblogging network. A tweet is filled with metadata —information about when it was sent, by who, and using what Twitter application. Now, thanks to Raffi Krikorian, a developer on Twitter's API/Platform team, you can see [what a tweet looks like](#), in all its data-rich detail."...

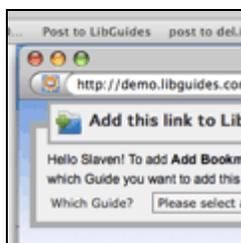
ReadWriteWeb, Apr. 19



[Top 10 reasons to use LibGuides](#)

Buffy J. Hamilton writes: "Over the last few months, I have received quite a few inquiries as to why I love [LibGuides](#) so much, so I thought it might be helpful to share a brief post highlighting my 10 favorite features. It empowers me to integrate a diverse range of information sources and instructional support materials in an organized manner that works for my students and makes it easy for them to navigate the broad range of resources I can provide for a collaboratively designed research project."...

The Unquiet Librarian, Apr. 16



[50+ ways to search Twitter](#)

Josh Peters writes: "Hashtags, people, conversations, topics, etc. Sometimes it can be a bit daunting to look for what you need on Twitter. However, having the right tools helps a lot. I've put together this list of 50+ sites that you can use to help you find who or what you're looking for."...

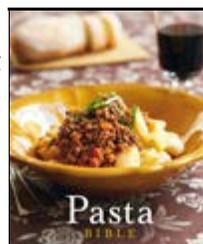
Social Media Today, Apr. 15

Publishing

[Cookbook in hot water over typo](#)

Penguin Group Australia was forced to pulp and reprint 7,000 copies of *Pasta Bible* in early April after a recipe called for "salt and freshly ground black people"—instead of pepper—to be added to the spelt tagliatelle with sardines and prosciutto. The exercise will cost the company \$20,000. Head of Publishing Bob Sessions said Penguin would replace books that have already been purchased at the customer's request....

Melbourne Age (Australia), Apr. 17



[Top 100 children's novels poll](#)

Betsy Bird writes: "We've had a lot of fun here, haven't we? I've had fun putting these posts from the poll together. You've had fun predicting them and making crazy



stats left and right. Good times. Here is the list of every book that has appeared on the countdown with links to the posts giving background information." But wait, there's more: odd books that [didn't make the list](#), books that [came close](#), everything else parts [one](#) and [two](#), and a [video interview](#) that explains it all....

School Library Journal: A Fuse #8 Production, Apr. 13-16; YouTube, Apr. 14

[The Kindle can motivate reluctant readers](#)

Lotta Larson, a Kansas State University assistant professor of elementary education, is finding that electronic readers allow children to interact with texts in ways they don't interact with the printed word. Since fall 2009, Larson has been using the Amazon Kindle in her work with a pair of 2nd graders. The e-reader has features that make the text audible, increase or decrease font size, and let readers make notes about the book....

Science Daily, Apr. 17



Actions & Answers

[School librarian to testify in ESEA hearing](#)

Jamie Greene, librarian at Hugh Cole Elementary School in Warren, Rhode Island, and president of the Rhode Island Educational Media Association, will testify before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions April 22 in a hearing titled "[ESEA Reauthorization: Meeting the Needs of the Whole Student.](#)" C-SPAN will provide a live online video stream of the hearing; check the schedule on the [C-SPAN Video Library](#) website for updates....

District Dispatch, Apr. 21

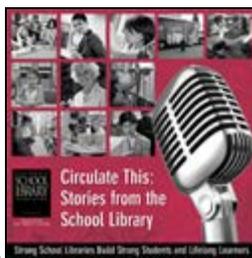
[USDA funding will help some rural libraries](#)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced April 15 that rural communities in 32 states will receive loans and grants provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to address local needs including library renovations, construction, and equipment upgrades. ALA President Camila Alire said the investments in rural libraries will ensure that populations will have the resources they need. A complete list of grant recipients is [here](#)....

District Dispatch, Apr. 20; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Apr. 16

[Circulate this: Stories from the school library](#)

The California School Library Association had released an audio journal, "Circulate This: Stories from the School Library," which is packed with powerful stories about school libraries. CSLA Past President Connie Williams and storyteller Joe McHugh collaborated on an audio journal project to



capture stories from teachers, school administrators, children's authors, legislators, parents, and students about how school libraries and librarians make a difference in the lives of children. It is available as an [MP3 audio file](#), an [iTunes podcast](#), and a CD....

California School Library Association, Apr. 6

[Libraries contribute to Earth Day celebration](#)

Laura Bruzas writes: "Every year on April 22 a nationwide grassroots demonstration on behalf of the environment is celebrated. Aptly named Earth Day, it was founded by Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.) in 1970 to give the environment a place on our country's political agenda. Not sitting on the sidelines, libraries across the country are planning entertaining and informative programs to honor Earth Day."...

AL: Green Your Library, Apr. 16



[What we might learn from tweets](#)

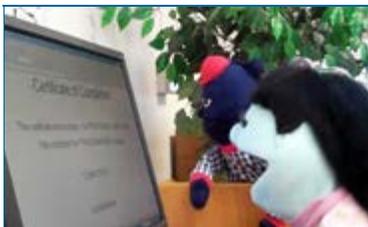
U.S. National Archivist David Ferriero writes: "On April 14, the Library of Congress announced that they are acquiring the digital archive of public tweets. In the world of electronic records, this is a historic announcement. The donation of billions of tweets to the Library of Congress is a profound example of the changing fabric of our records. This summer, I will issue a *NARA Bulletin* that will give federal agencies guidance about their use of Twitter and other Web 2.0 services." Martha Anderson, director of the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program, offers her [insight](#) on the *American Prospect* website, while Fred Stutzman examines the [implications](#)....

AOTUS: Collector in Chief, Apr. 16; *American Prospect*, Apr. 16; Fred Stutzman, Apr. 16

[Help Indiana Free Library win a Pepsi grant](#)

The Indiana (Pa.) Free Library needs your votes each day in April for the library to win a Pepsi Refresh Project grant to fund its "EverOpen Library" initiative. Pepsi will award \$50,000 grants in May to 10 candidates who garner the most votes online in April. Voters need not be local residents or library members to cast ballots in support of the library. The initiative's goal is to teach patrons how to fearlessly integrate technology into their lives. Watch the [video](#) (1:08)....

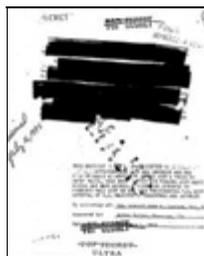
Indiana (Pa.) Free Library



[Disarray in the government's secrecy system](#)

Jay Stanley writes: "The U.S. Information Security Oversight Office released important new information about government secrecy April 16. In particular, the report reveals that most government classification decisions are made by people with little training and no accountability. For 50 years the problem has been growing, and study after study have come to the same conclusions: The government classifies way too much information, and that hurts government accountability, democracy, and national security."...

Blog of Rights, Apr. 16



[Google and governments](#)

David Drummond writes: "It's no

surprise that Google regularly receives demands from government agencies to remove content from our services. The vast majority of these requests are valid, and the information needed is for legitimate criminal investigations. We are launching a new [Government Requests tool](#) to give people information about the requests for user data or content removal we receive from government agencies around the world. For this launch, we are using data from July–December 2009, and we plan to update the data in six-month increments.”...

Official Google Blog, Apr. 20



[Teens, cell phones, and texting](#)

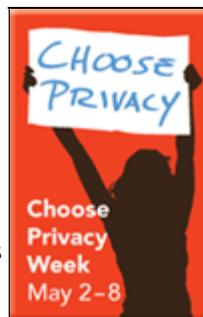
Cell-phone texting has become the preferred channel of basic communication between teens and their friends, with cell calling a close second, according to a new study by the Pew Internet and American Life Project. Fully 72% of all teens—or 88% of teen cell-phone users—are text-messagers. That is a sharp rise from the 51% of teens who were texters in 2006. More than half of teens (54%) are daily texters. Garrison Keillor [thinks](#) this makes them awkward and inarticulate....

Pew Internet and American Life Project, Apr. 20; *Chicago Tribune*, Apr. 21

[Choose Privacy Week and libraries](#)

Martin Garnar writes: “Many privacy concerns revolve around the online world. As mobile computing moves from the exception to the rule, those concerns start applying to more parts of our lives. Even those people who go out of their way to avoid sharing information online are still subject to having private information collected, stored, and marketed by others, whether it’s the doctor’s office, the government, or online directories like Spokeo or Switchboard. It’s not until they use one of those directories that some people realize just how much of their personal information is freely available.”...

I Love Libraries



[Queens Library suit settled out of court](#)

The lawsuit brought in July 2009 against SirsiDynix by the Queens (N.Y.) Library has been settled out of court, resulting in the case’s dismissal. The original complaint accused the company of misconduct during the library’s ILS procurement process in 2005. No terms of the settlement were disclosed, according to terse court documents that state that each party will bear its own costs and fees....

Library Journal, Apr. 16

[Give the tobacco money to libraries](#)

Shonda Brisco writes: “In April, Oklahoma received a \$58-million tobacco settlement that stipulates ‘the earnings from the trust can be spent on programs to improve the health and well-being of Oklahomans.’ It seems obvious that the best placement for these funds should be directed at Oklahoma’s public schools—and particularly toward the school librarians who teach students the information and media literacy skills necessary to become informed consumers and healthy citizens.”...

Curriculum Materials Librarian, Apr. 17

[Liability and the health librarian](#)

Dean Giustini writes: "The chances of health librarians being held liable for providing unprofessional information services (or, negligent misinformation) is a topic of some interest in the library literature and at conferences. Health librarians do not seem to be especially susceptible to malpractice, but it is nonetheless important to be aware of some dangers. Strictly speaking, information malpractice means the occurrence of any professional conduct that shows a blatant disregard or negligence and a lack of duty of care."...

The Search Principle Blog, Apr. 19

[Alabama students raise funds for Haiti](#)

Students at the University of Alabama's School of Library and Information Studies are raising funds for the recovery and reconstruction of libraries in Haiti that were ruined by the recent earthquake. Book arts and library science students and faculty worked together to create the Haiti Broadside, which features "Night and Day" by Haitian poet Paul Laraque and an original design by UA artist Sarah Marshall printed on handmade paper. Fifty of the limited edition of 75 numbered copies are still available for \$55....

University of Alabama SLIS



[South Florida SLIS students make a big splash at aquarium](#)

Students from the University of South Florida library school collaborated with mass communication and business students to assess and recommend designs for a new website that would meet the needs of the Florida Aquarium in Tampa. Four teams participated in the competition to design and present website prototypes to judges from the aquarium and faculty from USF on April 15. The team led by SLIS student Ava Iuliano (right) won the prize....

University of South Florida SLIS, Apr. 16



[From holes in the sand to a digital library](#)

Charlotte Wiedemann writes: "Abdelkader Haidara inherited 9,000 manuscripts from his father, the largest private collection in Timbuktu. He opened them up to the public, starting a new trend: private owners preserving their treasures themselves rather than placing them in the care of the Malian government. For some years now, the families have been opening the chests where they keep their yellowing, gilded calligraphies. The manuscripts are evidence that Africa has had a share in Islamic knowledge for nearly a thousand years."...

Qantara.de, Apr. 21



[How to make a book-like carrying case for your iPad](#)

Ben Lang writes: "There is definitely more than one way to make an iPad case, and if you have more appropriate tools, feel free to improvise. The methods I selected were based on low cost and simplicity and will at least give you a good idea of the process. Project cost: approximately \$10. Project time: can be completed in a single day."...



Carrypad, Apr. 15

[ProQuest staffers reminisce](#)

As part of their National Library Week festivities, ProQuest employees recalled their fondest library memory, experience, or book and are sharing them online. One writes: "I was driving home last week with two of my kids, and my son pointed to a big hole in the ground and said (correctly), 'That's where our library used to be.' I found it poignant."...

ProQuest



[Another librarian on Jeopardy](#)

Hilary Caws-Elwitt, systems librarian at the Susquehanna County (Pa.) Historical Society and Free Library Association, will appear on the game show *Jeopardy!* April 22. Caws-Elwitt taped the appearance in early February, and while she isn't allowed to reveal the game's outcome, "It was quite dramatic, and almost everything I wanted to happen did happen," she said....



Susquehanna County Library, Apr. 15

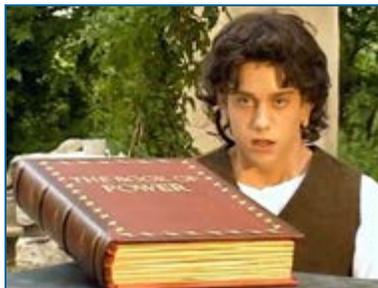
[Stupid reference questions](#)

Will Manley writes: "When I was a working librarian, one of my favorite activities was writing down stupid reference questions. Remember David Letterman's Stupid Pet Tricks routine? Well, I developed a stupid reference question routine. Here are some of my favorites."...

Will Unwound, Apr. 21

[A Kansas filmmaker's library epics](#)

A young filmmaker who got his start producing and directing promotional videos for the University of Kansas Libraries won an Emmy in September 2009 as part of the team that produced the special effects on the TV series *Heroes*. But Christopher D. Martin's library videos are entertaining as well. A *Matrix* parody, [Library Revolutions](#) (11:14), follows a tired, confused student, Leo, who chooses the red book over the blue book and discovers the secrets of the KU library system. In [Lord of the Libraries](#) (above, 18:09), the heroes fight bookwraiths with CGI-animated arrows and fireballs, and Sam and Frodo meet up with "Lady Librarowen" in the Watson Library stacks while trying to return *The Book of Power*, which is 30 years overdue....



Bibliophile, Fall 2009; YouTube

[Go back to the Top](#)

american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | April 28, 2010

Contents

[American Libraries Online](#)
[ALA News](#)
[Booklist Online](#)
[D.C. Update](#)
[Division News](#)
[Round Table News](#)
[Awards](#)
[Seen Online](#)
[Tech Talk](#)
[Publishing](#)
[Actions & Answers](#)
[New This Week](#)
[Calendar](#)

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[In midnight deal, Florida legislature repleves public library funding](#)

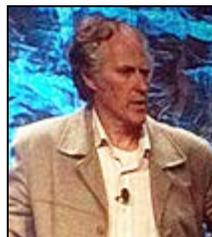
Last-minute wrangling in the Florida legislature produced a deal to preserve state funding for libraries at the current-year level. At just before midnight on April 26, the House, which originally wanted to zero out all funding for the State Aid to Public Libraries program, accepted a Senate offer to restore it to the FY2009 appropriation of \$21.2 million. The restored funding level makes the state eligible for \$8.4 million in matching federal funds. The budget agreement was reached at the last possible minute....

American Libraries news, Apr. 28

[Drupal: The change we need](#)

Sean Fitzpatrick writes: "The change we need," according to Tim O'Reilly (right), keynote speaker on day two (April 20) of DrupalCon San Francisco, 'is DIY on a civic scale.' We've come to rely on what O'Reilly called 'vending machine government,' where we put tax dollars in and expect services out, but real progress in civic organizations during tough economic times will depend on grassroots efforts mimicking an agile, open-source approach—like, say, Drupal. Countless libraries all over the country are contributing to their communities and to the Drupal project by working on what O'Reilly called 'stuff that matters.'..."

AL: Inside Scoop, Apr. 28



[Librarian-turned-activist to bike the Underground Railroad](#)

Leonard Kniffel writes: "Satia Orange, former director of the ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, wrote April 27 to say that former librarian Khafre K. Abif is planning to [Cycle for Freedom](#) by taking a 2,028-mile bicycle trip from the Gulf of Mexico to Canada, embarking June 27. Abif says his goal is 'to raise awareness about the seriousness of HIV/AIDS in black communities in the U.S. by retracing the historic path of those who fled slavery and those that provided shelter' on what became known



American History in Video

"A solid ten . . . and, at this price, an amazing deal. This is a product I wish every library in the U.S. could make accessible to its researchers, from elementary school children to history scholars."
—*Library Journal*

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ALEXANDER STREET PRESS
 PBS
 MEDIA RICH
 bullfrog FILMS
 HISTORY
 Documentary

as the Underground Railroad.”...

AL: Inside Scoop, Apr. 27

[Neil Gaiman on the May cover](#)

The digital edition of the May 2010 *American Libraries* is now available online in the Zmags page-flip format. National Library Week Honorary Chair Neil Gaiman serves as cover guy. This month’s topics include features on readers theatre, troubled teens and YA fiction, fixing the federal depository library program, library volunteers, and the StoryCorps oral history project....

American Libraries, May



[Research proves value of online access](#)

Jill Nishi writes: “The economic downturn has led to unprecedented demand for free computer and internet access at public libraries across the nation, as proven by groundbreaking new research from the Gates Foundation and IMLS. [‘Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access at U.S. Libraries’](#) reaffirms what many of us already thought to be true—that library technology services have created opportunity for millions of Americans.”...

American Libraries feature



[From children’s literature to readers theatre](#)

Elizabeth A. Poe writes: “Five 2nd-graders stand before a group of 20 preschool children sitting on the rug in the library’s story area. Each of them is holding a hardback copy of Eric Rohmann’s picture book *A Kitten Tale* (Knopf, 2008). After the name and author of the book have been announced, the children read their designated parts. When they finish, they bow and sit down on the rug. The preschoolers clap enthusiastically and rush to the older children, wanting to see the pictures in the books they hold.”...

American Libraries feature



[Fixing the Federal Depository Library Program](#)

Patrick Ragains writes: “In the wake of two crucial reports—*Federal Depository Library Program Strategic Plan, 2009–2014* ([PDF file](#)) and [Documents for a Digital Democracy](#)—I will try to clarify the key issues related to the future of depository libraries and emphasize practical steps in a transition to new models for collections and public service. I hope this wider exposure will help elevate this discussion beyond depository librarians and the GPO to the level of the national library community.”...

American Libraries feature



[Newsmaker: Katherine Paterson](#)

Katherine Paterson, two-time winner of both the National Book Award (*The Great Gilly Hopkins* and *The Master Puppeteer*) and Newbery Medal (*Bridge to Terabithia* and *Jacob Have I Loved*), is the second person to be named



[ALA Annual Conference,](#)

Washington, D.C., June 24–29. This year’s track programs include 12 exciting [Grassroots Programs](#) on a wide variety of topics and selected by a jury of practitioners chosen from past and present ALA Emerging Leaders. These Grassroots programs are an initiative to increase opportunities for members to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from the Association.



Booklist Online single-password accounts are [50% off in April](#). You will get access to powerful workflow tools and 130,000 *Booklist* reviews and features, plus a **free** *Booklist* print magazine subscription (a \$109.95 value) for a full year. This offer ends April 30. **NEW!** **From *Booklist*.**

New this week
in *American Libraries*



National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. Paterson discussed her new role, the inspiration for her "Read for Your Life" theme, and the importance of public and school libraries....

American Libraries feature

[On My Mind: Let's review everything](#)

Jeffrey Beall writes: "For many years, readers' advisory has been a fundamental and valuable library service that has helped library patrons and others decide what books to borrow. It's time to expand their coverage and include shorter publications, such as magazine and journal articles, essays, short stories, and even individual poems. Readers lack the time needed to scan through them all to determine which are worth investing time in reading."...

American Libraries column, May

[Put out the welcome mat for green groups](#)

Laura Bruzas writes: "By offering a place where grassroots groups can regularly gather, exchange ideas, and create programs to disseminate need-to-know information to the community, libraries can become partners in helping make the world a better, more just, and ecofriendly place. What partnerships have you created with grassroots groups to build momentum on important issues?"...

AL: Green Your Library, Apr. 22



ALA News

[Library Advocacy Day video contest](#)

ALA is holding a contest for the best Library Advocacy Day video. The first-place winner will receive \$175 and the runner-up will receive \$75. To enter, create a video, upload it to Vimeo, tag it "library advocacy day," and send your full name, phone number, city, state, and the URL of your work to [Jacob Roberts](#) with the subject line "LAD video entry." All submissions must be uploaded, tagged, and emailed by May 26....

District Dispatch, Apr. 22



[Libraries urge users to choose privacy](#)

In the past, privacy could be protected by closing a curtain, sealing a record, or simply choosing not to share information. But in today's digital environment, more and more of our personal information exists online. The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom has established [Choose Privacy Week](#), May 2-8, to help libraries work with their communities around these complicated but vital issues. Choose Privacy Week invites library users into a national conversation about privacy rights in a digital age....

Office for Intellectual Freedom, Apr. 27

[Choose Privacy Week trailer](#)



[Reports Prove Value of Online Access](#)

[From Children's Lit to Readers Theatre](#)

[Fixing FDLP](#)

[Newsmaker](#)

[On My Mind](#)

[Rousing Reads](#)

[Perpetual Beta](#)

[Inside Scoop](#)

[Green Your Library](#)

[Ask the ALA Librarian](#)

[Librarian's Library](#)

[AL Focus](#)

Career Leads
from
ALA JobLIST

[Special Collections Librarian](#)

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia. Develops and manages a cohesive collection of manuscripts, periodicals and newspapers, books, oral history recordings and transcripts, and photographs of the

The Office for Intellectual Freedom has released a [trailer](#) (1:28) for its upcoming [Choose Privacy Week](#) video. Produced by filmmaker Laura Zinger, the full video will be available the week of April 26 for use during Choose Privacy Week (May 2–8). Libraries can share the video online and host events to discuss the issues it raises. In addition to “man on the street” interviews, the finished video will feature Neil Gaiman, Cory Doctorow, and ALA President Camila Alire discussing privacy....

OIF Blog, Apr. 22



[Libraries fight graphic novel challenges](#)

Brigid Alverson writes: “At the recent Chicago Comic and Entertainment Expo, a librarian from Jessamine County, Kentucky, spoke firsthand about dealing with calls for censorship in his library, and Deborah Caldwell-Stone from the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom discussed how to handle challenges to graphic novels at a panel titled ‘Burn It, Hide It, Misshelve It, Steal It, Ban It! Dealing with Graphic Novel Censorship in Your Library.’” ...

Publishers Weekly, Apr. 26



[Step up to the preservation plate](#)

Step Up to the Plate during ALA Preservation Week, May 9–15, and celebrate baseball and libraries. Recognizing the critical role libraries play in preservation, ALCTS is launching National Preservation Week, the first national campaign targeting preservation awareness for the general public. At the same time, the fifth season of the Step Up to the Plate initiative celebrates the Baseball Hall of Fame’s role as a collecting museum and library in the preservation of our national pastime....

Campaign for America’s Libraries, Apr. 27

[Advocating in a Tough Economy program](#)

Reserve your spot for “Advocating in a Tough Economy: An Advocacy Institute Workshop” June 25, during the ALA 2010 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Advance registration is priced at \$50 for the half-day program and will be available until May 14. Learn how to better advocate for your library throughout this recession and get the facts on frontline advocacy....

Office for Library Advocacy, Apr. 26

[Happy birthday, ALA Connect](#)

Jenny Levine writes: “This month marks the one-year anniversary when [ALA Connect](#) went live. Technically, that would have been on April 6, but we like to celebrate birthdays for an entire month. Overall, we’re very happy about how folks have embraced the service and how much it’s being used. We still have big plans for adding to the site, but this seems like a good moment to stop and reflect on where we’re at one year in. To start, here’s a list of what we’ve accomplished in the last 12 months.” ...

ITTS News, Apr. 27

[10K Run/Walk for Haiti](#)

The University of South Carolina Library and Information Science Student Association, an ALA student chapter, managed to raise \$950 for the

history of the central Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and of the university. Collaborates with colleagues in other units on digitization initiatives for unique local materials and to facilitate cataloging, preservation, information literacy, and reference assistance of appropriate materials....



@ [More jobs...](#)

Digital Library of the Week



The University of North Texas Digital Libraries has just released an [Environmental Science Digital Collection](#) with 285 documents focusing on environmental policy. It contains web publications from the United States, Europe, China, and Japan that cover climate change, emissions, land use, sustainable development, water issues, and

[ALA Haiti Relief Fund](#) during a 10k Run/Walk event held in Columbia March 20. LISSA President Chess Schmidt (right) promised to shave his legs, head, and beard if the students raised more than \$750....
LISSA



[ALA conference outings in the 19th century](#)

Lauren Hewes writes: "The ongoing processing of the American Antiquarian Society's [Group Photograph collection](#) has recently turned up a small cache of 19th-century photographs of librarians. When this cluster of eight photographs of ALA outings turned up during our survey, we were all intrigued. The photographs were taken at the time of the ALA's annual conferences and range in date from 1887 to 1897. They show large groups of men and women gathered in a variety of locations, from Lookout Mountain in Tennessee (above) to Nova Scotia."...



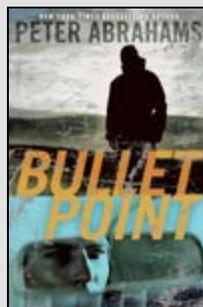
Past Is Present, Apr. 22

Booklist ONLINE

[Featured review: Crime fiction](#)

Abrahams, Peter. *Bullet Point*. May 2010. 304p. HarperTeen, Grades 9–12, hardcover (978-0-06-122769-1).

It's common enough to call a book a page-turner, but here's one that should've been printed on a scroll—those pesky page turns take far too much time. With an engulfing plot, multifaceted characters, and a plausibility rare to the genre, Abrahams's latest beats you senseless and leaves you for dead. Great, huh? When a budget crunch squeezes out his school's baseball program, 16-year-old Wyatt moves across the state to take advantage of another school's team. It's there that he meets Greer—a few years older, beautiful, and equipped with wildly fluctuating mood swings. The frequent arguments between the two are the book's heart, skipping fluently and believably between impatience, attraction, desperation, and hope....



[Top 10 crime fiction for youth](#)

Ian Chipman writes: "Whether your tastes run toward historical whodunits, high-stakes heists, or hard-boiled hawkshaws, outstanding examples of each can be found in the best crime fiction for youth reviewed in *Booklist* over the



biodiversity. Documents from the U.S. Climate Change Science Program, NOAA, the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, the UN Environment Programme, and the World Meteorological Organization are included. The coordinator of the collection, [Nathan Hall](#), is actively seeking content partners to contribute relevant materials.

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

Public Perception How the World Sees Us

"You can't just be a 'book' librarian anymore and be considered professionally competent, even if your area of interest and expertise is literature. If you work with books and kids, you can't do your job without understanding how to use technology in your field. Tech's no longer a 'nice extra'—it's a vital set of tools, skills, and understandings you need to master if you want to provide the services kids

past 12 months." Eight-year-olds might like Lewis B. Montgomery's *The Case of the Stinky Socks*, while teens will go for Anthony McGowan's *The Knife That Killed Me*....

Crime fiction past and present

Need help tracking down crime fiction titles for collection development or readers' advisory? Join *Booklist* the afternoon of May 6 for an informative hour-long webinar, moderated by Booklist Online Senior Editor Keir Graff, as David Wright of the Seattle Public Library, Edwin Buckhalter of Severn House Publishers, Talia Sherer of Macmillan Publishing, and Jessica Tribble of Poisoned Pen Press discuss all things mystery, from little-known gems of the genre to today's newest trends and titles....

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

deserve. I would categorize librarians who fail to recognize how technology can support what they do as unprofessional and incompetent as a doctor who can't use a CAT scan or an accountant who can't use a spreadsheet or an engineer who doesn't use CAD/CAM. There you have it. There are no more 'book only' librarians."

—Doug Johnson, director of media and technology for the Mankato (Minn.) Public Schools. in a blog post, "[The Last of the Book Librarians.](#)" Blue Skunk Blog, Apr. 25.

D.C. Update

Getting around Washington by cell phone

[Ask Mobile Search](#) offers a stripped-down interface for cell phones that can access the web. The nice thing about this service is that you can put in two locations and get walking directions, instead of just driving directions. It also gives you an easy option to swap your start and end location so you can get back to where you were without having to retype the addresses. It works on regular computers, too, although the full-blown [Ask Maps & Directions](#) service offers the walking directions feature plus maps....

ALA 2010 Annual Conference wiki



Museum tips from YALSA

Want to see Kermit the Frog, Jerry Seinfeld's puffy shirt, the Star-Spangled Banner, or an inauguration gown worn by a First Lady? Drop by the [National Museum of American History](#). This museum has undergone a big facelift, so even if you have been here before, it is worth seeing again. At the [National Portrait Gallery](#) you can see Elvis, our Presidents, and many other faces—famous and not....

YALSA Blog, Apr. 23



TweetWatch

Follow:

New Jersey Library Association, Annual Conference, Long Branch, Apr. 26–28, at: [#njla10](#)

World Wide Web 2010, Raleigh, North Carolina, Apr. 26–30, at: [#www2010](#)

Massachusetts Library Association, Annual Conference, Hyannis, Apr. 28–30, at: [#mla2010](#)

Off-Campus Library Services Conference, Cleveland, Apr. 28–30,

Division News

Advanced registration open for AASL Fall Forum

Registration is now open for the AASL Fall Forum, "In Focus: The Essentials for 21st-Century Learning," to be held November 5–6 in Portland, Oregon. The keynote speaker will be Paige Johnson (right), global manager of K–12 education for Intel's Corporate Affairs Group and past chair of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. To register, visit the [AASL website](#)....

AASL, Apr. 27



[Common Core grade-band standards](#)

AASL has issued comments on the grade-level bands of the Common Core Standards. The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers. View the [comments in full](#) on AASL's website....

AASL, Apr. 27

[John Palfrey hosts ACRL's free privacy webinar](#)

Born Digital author John Palfrey will host a May 5 webinar on privacy issues for ACRL members that coincides with the inauguration of the May 2–8 Choose Privacy Week by the Office for Intellectual Freedom. Although the live, interactive 2010 ACRL Springboard Event is free, registration is [required](#) by May 3....

ACRL, Apr. 27



[Register for YALSA advocacy webinar](#)

Cultivating relationships with notable community members—including government officials and school board members—to help your library meet its mission is critical in the current economic climate. YALSA's May 20 webinar, "VIPs: Why You Need Them for Advocacy," will teach how to garner support. Registration is now [open](#)....

YALSA, Apr. 27

[Meet the YALSA literary award winners](#)

YALSA will celebrate the winners of its literary awards and selected list honorees with special events and programs at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., June 25–29. Tickets are available for the YALSA Margaret A. Edwards Award Luncheon on June 26, the YA Authors Coffee Klatch on June 27, and the Michael L. Printz Award Program and Reception on June 28. Advanced registration ends May 14. Free Alex and Odyssey Award events are also scheduled....

YALSA, Apr. 27

[Boost YA expertise with summer online courses](#)

YALSA is offering two continuing-education opportunities July 12–August 9. "Power Up with Print" gives tips on boosting circulation through teen-centered programming, selecting and evaluating materials, and giving engaging booktalks. "Beyond Booklists" explores ways to design, implement, and evaluate more in-depth services and programs for diverse teen populations and address issues such as language barriers, cultural differences, and institutional support.

[Registration](#) closes July 6....

YALSA, Apr. 27

[Travel stipend for Library Advocacy Day](#)

Thanks to the Friends of YALSA, funding has been provided for five YALSA members to receive up to \$1,000 in travel stipends to attend [National Library Advocacy Day](#), June 29, in conjunction with ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. The deadline for applications is April 30, so fill out your application ([PDF file](#)) or ([Word file](#)) soon....

YALSA Blog, Apr. 23

Round Table News

[GODORT occasional papers available](#)

The Government Documents Round Table has

at:

[#ocls2010](#)

Choose Privacy Week, May 2–8, at:

[#chooseprivacy](#)

American Libraries news stories, videos, tweets, and blog posts at:

[amlibraries](#)

Calendar

May 1:

[MayDay](#), Heritage Preservation.

May 2–8:

[Choose Privacy Week](#).

May 9–15:

[ALA Preservation Week](#).

May 21:

[Library of Congress Geography and Maps Division](#), conference on "Re-Examining the Portolan Chart: History, Navigation, and Science," Coolidge Auditorium, Thomas Jefferson Building.

May 25:

[Vermont Library Association](#), Annual Conference, St. Michael's College, Colchester.

May 25–27:

[BookExpo America](#), Jacob K. Javits Center, New York City.

May 27–28:

[Rhode Island Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Bryant Center, Bryant University, Smithfield.

published GODORT Occasional Papers 3 and 4. Occasional Paper #3, [Librarian's Guide on How to Use the American Community Survey Multiyear Estimates](#), explains how to get the most out of the American Community Survey data available on the Census Bureau website. Occasional Paper #4, [1957 Crisis at Central High: An Annotated Bibliography of Government Publications](#), provides sources for the Little Rock Central High School civil rights crisis of 1957....

ALA Connect GODORT group



Awards

Award-winning Libraries

Q. Our library is beginning to think about a major addition. I recall that the ALA gives an award for library buildings. I'd like to plan a cross-country trip so that I could see some of these. How can I get a list of these libraries?

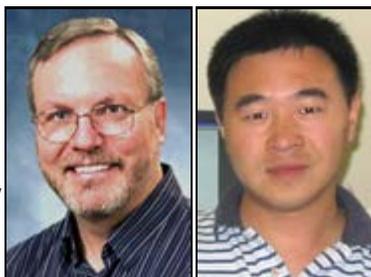


A. LLAMA has collaborated with the American Institute of Architects in presenting the [Library Building Awards](#) since the early 1950s. These awards, intended to "encourage excellence in the architectural design and planning of libraries" are given biennially....

AL: Ask the ALA Librarian, Apr. 28

Business-reference research grants bestowed

Kevin Harwell, associate librarian at Pennsylvania State University's Schreyer Business Library, and Tao Jin, assistant professor at the Louisiana State University SLIS, are the 2010 recipients of the Emerald Research Grants administered by RUSA's Business Reference and Services Section. Harwell will study the rate of burnout and level of job engagement among business reference professionals in academic and public libraries; Jin will uncover the information-seeking behaviors of microenterprise owners....



RUSA, Apr. 27

2010 Jesse Shera Awards

The Library Research Round Table has announced the winners of the Jesse H. Shera Award for Distinguished Published Research and the Jesse H. Shera Award for the Support of Dissertation Research. Jane Greenberg won the former for her work entitled "Theoretical Considerations of Lifecycle Modeling," published in *Cataloging and Classification Quarterly*, April 2009. Hea Lim Rhee won the latter for a University of Pittsburgh dissertation on archival appraisal practice.... Office for Research and Statistics, Apr. 26

ALA Student Chapter of the Year



The New Members Round Table and the ALA Membership Committee have chosen the student chapter at [San Jose State University](#) as the winner of the 2010 ALA Student Chapter of the Year Award. This is

June 7: NJLA College and University Section / ACRL-NJ User Education Committee.

Summer Information Literacy Workshop, Bart Luedeke Center, Rider University, Lawrenceville, New Jersey. "Everything You Wanted to Know About Teaching Information Literacy But Were Too Afraid to Ask."

June 11-13: Southern California Genealogical Society.

Jamboree 2010, Los Angeles Marriott Hotel, Burbank.

Nov. 13: National Gaming Day @ your library.

@ [More...](#)

Contact Us

American Libraries Direct



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



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



Sean Fitzpatrick, Associate Editor:

the second year in a row San Jose has won this award. The winning student chapter receives a \$1,000 travel grant to help with the cost of ALA conference attendance....

Human Resource Development and Recruitment, Apr. 27

[ACRL supports Spectrum](#)

In a two-year commitment totaling \$70,000, ACRL will sponsor two MLS students of color, one in 2010 and another in 2011, who express an interest in academic and research librarianship. The [Spectrum Presidential Initiative](#) is a special one-year campaign to raise \$1 million for the Spectrum Scholarship Program, which addresses underrepresentation of critically needed ethnic librarians within the profession....

Office for Diversity, Apr. 27



[Literacy grants renewed for American Dream](#)

In April, ALA awarded a second round of funding to five public libraries participating in the Dollar General Literacy Foundation's "American Dream Starts @ your library" to continue their programs for adult English-language learners. The recipients were chosen for their [Phase 1 accomplishments](#) and will expand their print and digital literacy collections, offering classes and conversation clubs, developing mobile tech labs, and reaching out to immigrant organizations. Another 70 public libraries in 21 states [have also received](#) American Dream grants....

Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, Apr. 23

[Gale Cengage Learning Student Travel Award](#)

Nancy Origer Poole is the recipient of the 2010 Gale Cengage Learning Student Travel Award to attend the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. RUSA's Business Reference and Services Section awards the grant to a student enrolled in an ALA-accredited master's program who has demonstrated notable interest in a business reference librarianship career. Poole attends the University of North Carolina Department of Library and Information Studies in Greensboro....

RUSA, Apr. 27

[Apply for Friends Baker & Taylor Awards](#)

ALTAFF is accepting applications for the 2010 Baker & Taylor Awards, which recognize Friends groups for outstanding efforts in 2009 to support their library. Applications must be postmarked by May 3; see the entry form ([PDF file](#)) and release form ([PDF file](#)) for details....

ALTAFF, Apr. 27

[Outstanding Canadian Academic Librarian](#)

University of Guelph, Ontario, Chief Librarian Mike Ridley has been named the 2010 Miles Blackwell Outstanding Academic Librarian by the Canadian Library Association and the Canadian Association of College and University Libraries. The award is presented to an individual who has made significant national or international contributions to academic librarianship and library development....

University of Guelph, Apr. 21



[Four librarians win first-ever LIBER awards](#)

Publisher Elsevier and the Association of European Research Libraries

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(LIBER) have announced that Ana van Meegen Silva, Imke Limpens, Graham Stone, and Jani Sassali are the winners of the first-ever LIBER Award for Library Innovation. The award honors the authors of three abstracts that best describe an achievement in the overall theme of the June 29–July 2 LIBER Annual Conference in Aarhus, Denmark, “Reinventing the Library: Challenges in the New Information Environment.”...

Elsevier, Apr. 28

[2010 L.A. Times Book Prizes](#)

Author Dave Eggers was the surprise big winner April 23 at the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize ceremony when he was awarded the Current Interest Prize for *Zeitoun* (McSweeney's) before being presented with the inaugural Innovator's Award. Rafael Yglesias was awarded the fiction prize for his novel *A Happy Marriage* (Scribner), and Philipp Meyer accepted the Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction for his novel *American Rust* (Spiegel and Grau)....

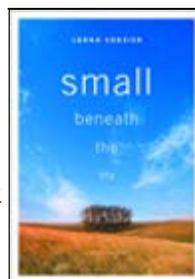
Los Angeles Times: Jacket Copy, Apr. 23



[Lorna Crozier wins B.C. prize for nonfiction](#)

North Saanich poet Lorna Crozier won the British Columbia Book Prize's nonfiction award April 24. She received the Hubert Evans Nonfiction Prize for *Small Beneath the Sky: A Prairie Memoir*. The book is a frank telling of Crozier's upbringing in Swift Current, Saskatchewan. Toronto author Frieda Wishinsky won the Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize for the book *Maggie Can't Wait*....

Victoria (B.C.) Times-Colonist, Apr. 25

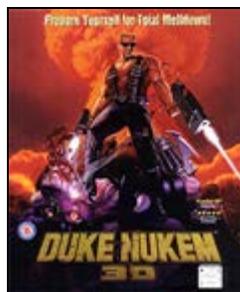


Seen Online

[Supreme Court to hear California video game case](#)

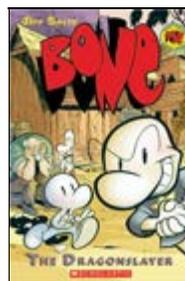
The U.S. Supreme Court agreed April 26 to decide whether California can ban the sale of violent video games to minors, a law that lower courts have declared an unconstitutional restriction on free speech. The high court will review a decision by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco to throw out the ban on the grounds that government has no authority to restrict even the most violent games. The ban became law in October 2005 but has never been enforced. It would bar the sale of an interactive video game to anyone under 18 if the game was so violent it was “patently offensive.”...

San Francisco Chronicle, Apr. 26



[Bone not banned](#)

A graphic novel series will remain in elementary libraries in a Minneapolis-area school district, a committee decided April 27 after debating whether its content is appropriate for students. The group of parents, teachers, and media specialists from the Rosemount–Apple Valley–Eagan school district agreed 10–1 that the *Bone* series by Jeff Smith should not be banned from 12 of the district's 18 elementary schools.



The question came after parent Ramona DeLay asked for its removal because the books include smoking, drinking, and gambling in their graphics and storylines....

St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press, Apr. 27

[Hulu to test subscriptions](#)

Hulu, the popular online site for watching television shows, plans to begin testing a subscription service as soon as May 24. Under the proposal, Hulu will continue to provide for free the five most recent episodes of shows like *Glee*, *Lost*, or *Saturday Night Live*. But viewers who want to see additional episodes would pay \$9.95 a month to access a more comprehensive selection called Hulu Plus....

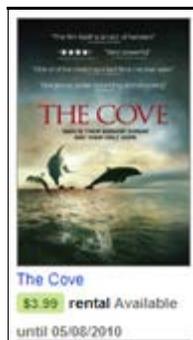
Los Angeles Times: Company Town, Apr. 21



[YouTube to expand video rentals](#)

Google's YouTube is expanding its low-key [movie rental service](#). In addition to films from the Sundance Festival added in January, YouTube now offers selections from more than 500 other content partners. They're not all obscure movies, either: A quick glance at the YouTube store shows a number of popular movies, such as *Reservoir Dogs*, *Precious*, *Pi*, and *The Cove*. The films range in both price and rental window. The most common rental window for movies is for 24 hours after you begin watching....

Ars Technica, Apr. 23



[Brevard County debates access to R-rated videos](#)

Dot Uhl was so shocked at the language and nudity in *The Informers*, a DVD she checked out from the Melbourne Beach branch of the Brevard County (Fla.) Public Library, that she wrote a letter to Library Director Cathy Schweinsberg. Uhl's letter triggered library debate in late April during public meetings in Viera, Titusville, and Melbourne Beach. Officials may add teeth to statements of parental/guardian responsibility for juvenile library cards....

Melbourne Florida Today, Apr. 23



[Twiggs County library destroyed in fire](#)

Thousands of books and historical documents were lost when the Twiggs County Public Library in Jeffersonville, Georgia, went up in flames April 25. Investigators from the state insurance commissioner's office still are reviewing the case, but early signs are that lightning was a factor. More than 15,000 books were burned and the building was destroyed, said Thomas Jones, director of the Middle Georgia Regional Library System....

Macon (Ga.) Telegraph, Apr. 27

[College libraries are humming in Vermont](#)

Tim Johnson writes: "This being the season of term papers, you might suppose that college students simply are Googling away in the comfort of their dorm rooms, and that college librarians have it easy—like Maytag repairmen. You would be wrong. Librarians prefer another simile. They consider themselves to be more like tax accountants in April—much sought-after as



deadlines loom. Jake Barickman (right), who was staffing the reference desk at the University of Vermont's Bailey/Howe Library, was fielding a query every six minutes or so."...

Burlington (Vt.) Free Press, Apr. 19

[U.K. university students proclaim their library crushes](#)

In late April, a new website was launched that should ensure students get even less work done than usual. [Fitfinder](#)—think Twitter meets a personal ads column—allows students to proclaim and potentially contact their library crushes. The concept is simple. If you “find a fitty” in the library you can anonymously post a short description of them on your university's fitfinder. For example: “Male, brunette. Curly, waistcoat, bit of a Tory, he's gawwwwgeous!”...

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



[New Maricopa County branch to have nature center](#)

A new branch being built by White Tank Mountain Regional Park will be the first shared space between sister agencies Maricopa County (Ariz.) Library District and the county Parks and Recreation department. It's also the first county library to have an Arizona nature center, a green feature that could draw people who don't often visit a library. The White Tank branch, scheduled to open in September, has saved the agencies time and money, county officials say....

Phoenix Arizona Republic, Apr. 23



[Hearse brings first books to new Sevierville branch](#)

Just as its first library received its first shipment of books 88 years ago, the Sevier County (Tenn.) Public Library System's King Family branch received its first books with the arrival of a blue Cadillac hearse on April 20. Library founder Fred Rawlings was a local mortician who in 1922 drove to Knoxville to fill his hearse with books to stock the new library's shelves. “We thought it would be really special to reenact the moving of the books again,” SCPLS Director K. C. Williams said....

Sevierville (Tenn.) Mountain Press, Apr. 22

[Milwaukee proposal calls for fewer but bigger libraries](#)

More than half of Milwaukee Public Library's city branches would be dramatically reshaped by a 10-year, \$18.1-million plan to merge some neighborhood libraries into regional centers and move others into buildings shared with housing, stores, or hotels. Library officials are trying to avoid rising maintenance costs by replacing aging facilities with a new array of libraries more in tune with a digital world. But they will have to overcome skepticism from residents and some aldermen, who cherish the network of 13 libraries spaced no more than three miles apart....

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Apr. 25



[St. Paul circ clerk charged with theft](#)

A St. Paul (Minn.) Public Library circulation clerk has been charged with stealing more than 1,400 items, including DVDs and books,

according to charges filed April 26 by the Ramsey County Attorney. Amanda Marie Cortright faces one count of felony theft by swindle for allegedly stealing the library materials and for stealing public funds by reversing fines and order-due charges. In December 2009, library staff became suspicious of Cortright and began checking their records....

St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press, Apr. 26

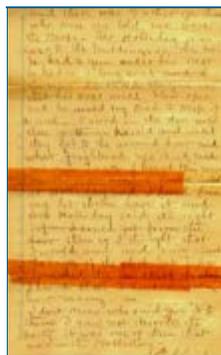
Sheriff warns of "library" collection calls

The Solano County, California, Sheriff's Office is warning that people are being called and asked for credit card numbers to pay fines for overdue library books. Recently a woman received a call from a man who claimed he worked for a collection agency, who said she owed money to her local library and needed to pay by credit card over the phone. The woman became suspicious when the caller said it would be unnecessary to contact the library to verify the information....

Vallejo (Calif.) Times-Herald, Apr. 24

O.K. Corral inquest notes rediscovered

The yellowed and taped original handwritten minutes of the 1881 inquest into the famous shootout at the O.K. Corral, in which Wyatt Earp and other lawmen took on four outlaws, made their way to the Arizona Department of Library and Archives for preservation April 21. Two clerks assigned to clean out a closet holding exhibits of Cochise County Superior Court in Bisbee stumbled across an old box in which they found a manila envelope containing official notes of the inquest, stored away and forgotten for 50 years....



Phoenix Arizona Daily Star, Apr. 22

Man arrested for sexual assaults at Downey Library

Police arrested Daniel Ignacio Gil, 28, April 20 after he allegedly sexually assaulted two young children at the Downey (Calif.) City Library. On April 12, Gil allegedly asked a 6-year-old girl for help in getting a book and assaulted her before fleeing. A 9-year-old girl was assaulted April 19 but a witness was able to get a partial license plate number as the attacker drove away....

Downey (Calif.) Patriot, Apr. 23

UCC library director fiddles around

Nine years ago, David Hutchison, director of the Umpqua Community College Library in Roseburg, Oregon, decided to pick up a fiddle to learn how to play Irish music. It took six months of lessons to learn the basics, but it was a book that taught him to play Irish tunes. Now Hutchison has a band, Irish Creme, which was formed in 2009, and he is the one who researches and finds most of the music they play....

Roseburg (Oreg.) News-Review, Apr. 26

Dogs encourage young readers in Winterville

The Reading Education Assistance Dogs program, launched about a decade ago in Utah, features therapy animals trained to act as companions to readers. Local READ teams visit the Winterville (N.C.) Library once a month to help teach children that not only dogs, but books, can be their best friends. READ volunteer Emily Blankenship said the idea of reading to a dog takes some of the pressure off children who may feel self-conscious about trying to pronounce new words....

Greenville (N.C.) Daily Reflector, Apr. 11

[Go back to the Top](#)

Tech Talk

[10 emerging technologies in 2010](#)

Each year, *Technology Review* selects what it believes are the 10 most important emerging technologies. The winners are chosen based on the editors' coverage of key fields. The question they ask is simple: Is the technology likely to change the world? Some of these changes are on a global scale. Others will be more local and involve how we use technology. New ways to implant medical electronics and develop drugs for diseases will affect us on the most intimate level of all. The one that most affects libraries is [real-time search](#)....

Technology Review, May–June



[Six technologies soon to affect education](#)

Cloud computing and collaborative learning environments are set to take hold in K–12 schools in the very near future, with mobile devices, game-based learning, and other education technologies to follow suit in the next few years, according to the [2010 Horizon Report's K–12 edition](#), released by the New Media Consortium. NMC researchers examined 100 different technologies and whittled them down to the six most prominent technologies that are on the verge of classroom adoption in the next five years....

eSchool News, Apr. 15; New Media Consortium



[NYPL's mighty sorting machine](#)

A gigantic new \$2.3-million automated book sorter—believed to be the largest of its kind—housed in a renovated warehouse in Long Island City, Queens, has eliminated much of the book-sorting drudgery at the New York Public Library since it was turned on in February. Now, when a library visitor anywhere in the system requests a book located at another branch, the automated sorter does the work of routing it. Here's how it works. Watch the [video](#) (2:10)....

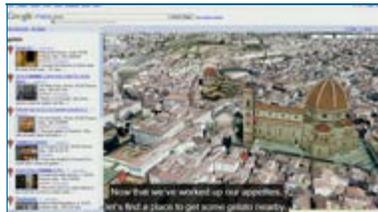
New York Times, Apr. 21



[Google Earth added to Google Maps](#)

Google has started to combine its Earth and Maps products with its recent [announcement](#) that Earth view is available to all Google Maps users. To see 3D imagery in Google Maps, you'll need the Google Earth plugin, which anyone can now use; it's been available to developers since 2008. There's also a new "Earth" tab on Google Maps, right next to the Satellite and Map tabs. Watch the [how-to video](#) (2:04)....

Search Engine Land, Apr. 26; Official Google Blog, Apr. 26; YouTube, Apr. 20



[Getting your photos out of Flickr](#)

and Picasa

Jacqui Cheng writes: "For some internet users, Flickr and Picasa Web Albums are *the* place to store and organize photos. But what happens if you decide to just pick up and go to another service? Or you've experienced a catastrophic crash and lost locally stored copies of all your photos? Backup lecture aside, there are numerous reasons for pulling your photos *down* from the cloud. Here's a brief how-to."...

Ars Technica: Software, Apr. 23



iPad college-ban rumors erased

Rumors that Cornell, Princeton, and George Washington universities had banned the use of Apple's iPad on their campuses [ran rampant](#) across the blogosphere in mid-April, leaving some to wonder whether the device had some type of hidden problem. Those rumors, it turns out, were false: All three institutions have categorically denied that they ever banned the iPad. However, iPad owners at all three universities have faced varying degrees of connectivity issues....

CNET News: Apple, Apr. 27; *Wall Street Journal*, Apr. 19

Keep your computers safe from malware

Sarah Houghton-Jan writes: "Think your computer is spyware free? That your magical Norton antivirus sheds unicorn tears and shoots out rainbows of safe goodness? Wrong! According to [Symantec](#), only 51% of malware in 2009 was even detected, much less quarantined successfully or fixed. If you have a home computer, smart phone, or a Wi-Fi network, which you likely do, please follow this advice. It's worth making yourself secure."...

Librarian in Black, Apr. 23; CrunchGear, Apr. 20

Publishing

Can the iPad topple the Kindle?

Ken Auletta writes: "On the morning of January 27—an aeon ago, in tech time—Steve Jobs was to appear at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, in downtown San Francisco, to unveil Apple's new device, the iPad. Although speculation about the device had been intense, few in the audience knew yet what it was called or exactly what it would do, and there was a feeling of expectation in the room worthy of the line outside the grotto at Lourdes. The industry's great hope was that the iPad would bring electronic books to the masses—and help make them profitable."...

New Yorker, Apr. 26



iPad restores the written word to 99-year-old

Virginia Campbell is totally focused on her new toy: an iPad. After earning her B.A. in English literature in the 1930s, Campbell has always been an avid reader. But she suffers from glaucoma, making it difficult to read. Now Campbell (right) is reading books on the iPad and writing limericks on it as well. "It's changed her life," said Ginny Adelsheim, one of her daughters. It's also made Campbell a YouTube sensation; a [video](#) (1:52) showing her using the iPad has gone viral....

Portland Oregonian, Apr. 21; YouTube, Apr. 7



[The Brigadoon library](#)

Tim Spalding writes: "TechCrunch just [reported](#) an interesting development with Barnes and Noble's Nook e-reader. If you've got a Nook and you're in a physical Barnes and Noble store, you can read any e-book they carry. When you leave the store, the book goes away. What works for Barnes and Noble could also work for libraries."...

Thingology, Apr. 23; TechCrunch, Apr. 23

[OverDrive for the iPhone](#)

OverDrive announced the availability of its free audiobook application for iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch devices. With OverDrive Media Console for iPhone, users can now wirelessly download MP3 audiobooks from OverDrive-powered library and retail websites to their Apple devices. The free audiobook app can be accessed in iTunes and on the Apple App Store....

OverDrive, Apr. 21



[Rousing Reads: Alan Furst](#)

Bill Ott writes: "'On the tenth of March 1938, the night train from Budapest pulled into the Gare du Nord a little after four in the morning.' To readers of historical espionage fiction, that sentence can only mean one thing: Alan Furst. Furst writes about the years from 1938 to 1941 as if they were recurring characters, and over the course of several books, he has laid claim to the period as his own."...

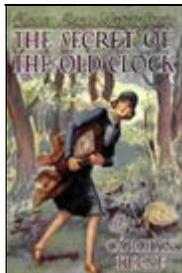
American Libraries column, May



[Nancy Drew still draws readers after 80 years](#)

If Nancy Drew—still an amateur detective after all these years—aged like the rest of us, she'd be 98. But Nancy remains a plucky teenager solving crimes in River Heights, USA, 80 years after the debut on April 28, 1930, of the first (right) of 371 books credited to Carolyn Keene, a pen name for scores of ghostwriters. The writing was formulaic, the plot twists implausible, but it's Nancy Drew herself who continues to appeal to young readers....

USA Today, Apr. 26



[The best aliens in science fiction](#)

The SF Signal asked its team of Mind Meld panelists what their favorite fictional aliens were and what made them superior to other, more humdrum extraterrestrials. Sarah A. Hoyt voted for the aliens in Frederic Brown's *Martians, Go Home* because they are the "only aliens that do feel alien and inscrutable, even when they are speaking English and behaving like, well, little green men from Mars."...

SF Signal, Mar. 31



Actions & Answers

[Senate HELP committee wants your feedback](#)

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee that Rhode Island school librarian Jamie Greene (right, with Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I.) [testified](#) before on April 22 is seeking input from the educational community's key stakeholders—librarians, parents, teachers, students, administrators—on necessary changes to the current ESEA law, feedback on the Obama Administration's Blueprint for Reform, and any other ideas you may want to share. HELP is a bipartisan committee that has started the process of reauthorizing ESEA. Read this letter ([PDF file](#)) for instructions on submitting comments by May 7....



AASL Blog, Apr. 22

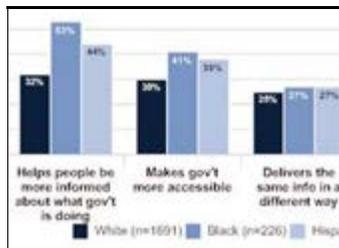
[Federal Research Public Access Act](#)

On April 15, the Federal Research Public Access Act ([H.R. 5037](#)) was introduced, a bill that would ensure free and timely online access to the published results of research funded by 11 federal agencies. This bipartisan House bill mirrors the Senate version ([S. 1373](#)) introduced in June 2009. Essentially, the bill would advance and expand the National Institutes of Health [Public Access Policy](#). Without passage of this bill, taxpayer-funded research will continue to be inaccessible (without a fee) to those already funding it—the public....

ACRL Insider, Apr. 23

[How Americans interact with government online](#)

As government agencies at all levels bring their services online, Americans are turning in large numbers to government websites to access information and services. Fully 82% of internet users (representing 61% of all American adults) looked for information or completed a transaction on a government website in the 12 months preceding this survey by the Pew Research Center. African Americans and Latinos are also much more likely than whites to say it is "very important" for government agencies to post information and alerts on such social media sites as Facebook and Twitter....



Pew Research Center, Apr. 27

[Social media addiction](#)

University of Maryland students who went 24 hours without TV, cell phones, MP3 players, and laptops during a recent International Center for Media and the Public Agenda [study](#) reported symptoms you might expect from someone struggling with substance abuse, including an "unbearable" need for electronic communication, persistent anxiety, and a frantic "craving for some technology." The study also found that young people rely primarily on their Twitter streams, Facebook friends, and other instantaneous social-media feeds for news about current events....



eCampus News, Apr. 26; International Center for Media and the Public Agenda, Apr. 21

[Opt out of Facebook's instant](#)

[personalization](#)

Riva Richmond writes: "In late April, Facebook introduced the 'open graph,' a giant expansion of the 'social graph' concept on which Facebook is built. In the open graph, Facebook sees us as connected not just to our friends on Facebook, but to myriad things all over the web. Now, if you click a Like button or make a comment, know that you are authorizing Facebook to publish it on your Facebook profile and in your friends' news feeds. Here are the instructions on how to reverse this." Jeremiah Owyang [analyzes](#) Facebook's announcement and points out opportunities, threats, and what no one tells you; and Alex Iskold discusses the [privacy implications](#) for users and publishers....

New York Times: Gadgetwise, Apr. 25; Web Strategy, Apr. 21; ReadWriteWeb, Apr. 23



[Schumer challenges Facebook on privacy](#)

Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) has [asked the FTC](#) to design privacy rules for social networking sites, including clear guidelines on how information submitted to Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter is used and disseminated. The main feature Schumer wants to add is reverting the standard from opt-out to opt-in. This way, many social networkers who are unfamiliar with their privacy options aren't forced to first discover the many ways their data is being mined and then shut them off....

PC World, Apr. 26; Sen. Charles E. Schumer, Apr. 26

[Four reasons why nonprofits should rethink Facebook](#)

Heather Mansfield writes: "People *love* Facebook. The vast majority of nonprofits love Facebook too. Yet recently, I sense some frustration with Facebook from nonprofits. At a training last week with a lot of longtime Facebook admins in the room, I saw much head-nodding and eyes rolling. I think the time has come for nonprofits to examine their Facebook presence more deeply."...

Nonprofit Tech 2.0, Apr. 24

[The inner workings of Wikipedia](#)

Mathieu von Rohr writes: "Wikipedia, the world's largest encyclopedia, is a massive project where human knowledge is collected and edited by ordinary users. But behind the scenes of the German-language version of this intellectual utopia is a group of small and dedicated volunteers. Their passion for truth at times leads to bitter disputes. When Wladyslaw Sojka changed one word in the description of Vienna's [Danube Tower](#) (right), it resulted in pages and pages full of insults and corrections that ultimately reached a length of 600,000 characters."...

Der Spiegel, Apr. 23



[Harvard's libraries deal with change](#)

Jonathan Shaw writes: "'Throw it in the Charles River,' one scientist recently suggested as a fitting end for the Widener Library's collection at Harvard. The remark was outrageous—especially at an institution whose very name honors a gift of books—but it was pointed. Increasingly, in the scientific disciplines, information ranging from online journals to

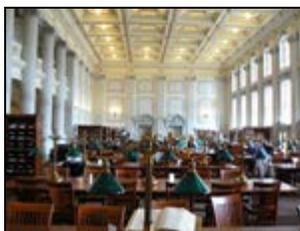


databases must be recent to be relevant, so Widener's collection of books, its miles of stacks, can appear museum-like. Users are changing—but so, too, are libraries. The future is clearly digital.”...

Harvard Magazine, May–June

[One of the most beautiful reading rooms](#)

Larry Nix writes: “Today I visited the newly [renovated library reading room](#) at the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison. After its renovation I believe that it is one of the five most beautiful reading rooms in America.



When ALA met in Waukesha in 1901, conference attendees came to Madison to visit the newly completed building of the Wisconsin Historical Society, and ‘There was but one opinion of the entire party in regard to the beauty and arrangement of the building, and that was satisfactory to the highest degree.’”...

Library History Buff Blog, Apr. 23; Wisconsin Historical Society, Apr. 21

[Student essay contest spotlights foreign libraries](#)

Students from foreign countries travel each year to study at Penn State, and for the past six years the university libraries have given these students a chance to share their international library experiences. “Our goals for the contest were to gather information about how libraries and librarians around the world have influenced students’ academic lives and to expand the Penn State community’s understanding of our students’ experiences with international libraries,” said Reference Librarian Dawn Amsberry....

Penn State Daily Collegian, Apr. 28

[May is Jewish American Heritage Month](#)

The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of Jewish Americans who have helped form the fabric of American history, culture, and society. Visit LC’s [Jewish veterans of World War II](#) online exhibit....



Jewish American Heritage Month

[Special GrantStation membership discount](#)

TechSoup and GrantStation are offering a discounted one-year membership to GrantStation, which offers nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and government agencies ways to identify potential funding sources for their programs. Visit the [TechSoup website](#) May 11–12 to request a membership at one-third the normal cost. This special offer is available to U.S. nonprofits with 501(c)(3) status....



TechSoup

[FBI to accept FOIA requests online](#)

People can now submit Freedom of Information Act requests to the FBI electronically through a new eFOIA form ([PDF file](#)). The FBI said the new electronic form makes requesting information easier. The bureau said it revamped its records [website](#) to include a [guide for research](#) in FBI records, details on [what happens](#) after you make a request, and data on how to file an appeal with the Justice

Department...

Federal Computer Week, Apr. 26

[What you can learn from an envelope](#)

Chuck Whiting writes: "I got this 1923 cover for *The Thresher*, the student newspaper at Rice Institute (now Rice University) in Houston, because of the local



history, which I collect. Turns out, though, it has a pretty good bibliographic angle. Had it not been connected to Houston history, I would have overlooked the book connections and interesting history that I discovered by researching the addressee on the envelope—author and librarian Gilbert Harry Doane (1897–1980)."...

Bibliophemera, Apr. 26

[Nine reflections on copresenting](#)

Peter Bromberg writes: "For a number of reasons, copresenting can be very beneficial and raise the overall quality of your workshop and the experience of the participants. With two brains reviewing the content, errors are reduced and points are clarified. Likewise, the logical sequencing of the content will also be improved. Based on my very recent experience, here are nine reflections on copreparing and copresenting a full-day workshop."...



ALA Learning, Apr. 27

[Dangerous statements for librarians to make](#)

Doug Johnson writes: "An online workshop I took April 19 made me think a little about how librarians can be their own worst enemies. I am not convinced that the profession as a whole is in a crisis, but I suspect a lot of librarians may be. I shudder when I hear certain phrases uttered. Here are 21 dangerous statements, off the top of my head."...

Blue Skunk Blog, Apr. 21

[Mobile-friendly library sites](#)

Aaron Tay writes: "Everyone knows mobile is hot now, and many libraries are scrambling to add mobile-friendly pages. Currently the most complete listing of libraries with mobile sites can be found at the [Library Success Wiki site](#), which lists more than 40. I thought it would be helpful to look at these 40+ sites to see what are the common services that are being offered to mobile users."...



Musings About Librarianship, Apr. 24

[Staff potlucks as a morale booster](#)

Will Manley writes: "In the past few weeks I have received two different comments on this blog about the importance of using staff potlucks as a morale booster. I have just one question: Exactly whose morale are these potlucks supposed to raise? Certainly not mine! One of the reasons I took early retirement was to get away from staff potlucks forever. I am convinced that if potlucks are not an invention of librarians, at least librarians can take credit for having perfected them."...

Will Unwound, Apr. 28

[Seattle reference questions](#)

[showcased](#)

The Seattle Public Library is running an irregular series of posts on its Shelf Talk blog that feature real reference questions and the answers that the reference librarians came up with. "They don't know everything; instead they know where to find everything." The April 23 post has them finding the death dates of two women who were killed by a speeding car in the mid-1960s near the Spanish Castle Ballroom (above) in King County, Washington....

Seattle Post-Intelligencer: Shelf Talk, Apr. 23



[Rescued by a librarian](#)

YA author Kiersten White writes: "Many of you may know I have a literary thing for John Green. On April 23, he came to San Diego and I had to go, of course. It turns out San Diego is kind of big. So 20 minutes before the book signing started, I found myself sitting in the parking lot of a high school with no idea where I was or how to get to where I needed to be. Then I did what anyone would do: I called a librarian. Valerie Taylor (above), bookmobile librarian for the San Diego County Library, said: 'It's not too far out of my way. Meet me in the parking lot and I'll escort you there.'..."

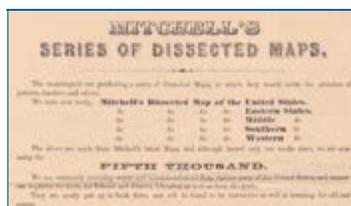
Kiersten Writes, Apr. 26



[G. & C. Merriam archive dispersed](#)

Stephen Ferguson writes: "About two years ago, 19th-century American book trade circulars, announcements, advertisements, and such like ephemera started appearing on the antiquarian market. They all had one thing in common—they were originally once part of the 19th-century business records and working papers of the successful American dictionary publisher G. & C. Merriam Company of Springfield, Massachusetts. How and why did this happen?"...

Rare Book Collections @ Princeton, Apr. 20



[Kentucky Library Association steps up to the plate](#)

The Kentucky Library Association's Library Awareness Committee has designed a license plate to promote the state's libraries. The Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing requires 900 commitments in order to produce the plate; KLA currently has 890 names but is waiting until it has around 1,200 pledges to begin requesting applications and the \$25 fee....

Kentucky Library Association



[Free access to Ethnographic Video Online](#)

Sue Polanka writes: "Alexander Street Press is offering free access to its Ethnographic Video Online collection through May 31. The collection [contains](#) more than 1,000 of the most frequently used films in anthropology courses, including classic works from the pioneers of ethnographic film, including Robert Flaherty, Timothy Asch, John Marshall, Robert



Gardner, Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson, and Jean Rouch.
[Register online](#) for an immediate username/password."...

No Shelf Required, Apr. 27

[10 resources for teaching and learning economics](#)

Richard Byrne writes: "I really enjoy teaching economics because talking about money generally gets my students excited (if not excited, at least very interested). Here are some of the resources I've either created or used to teach economics lessons over the last few years."...

Free Technology for Teachers, Apr. 25

[Two Helsinki libraries](#)

Aaron Schmidt writes: "I visited some great places as part of my participation in the Gates Foundation's 2010 Global Libraries Peer Learning Meeting. The libraries I saw have overcome their addiction to circulating content. Now they're all about doing, making, publishing, working, and experiences revolving around content. People are still getting print books and CDs for the library, sure, but other stuff seems more important. Here's a little report on the Helsinki 10 Library and Meetingpoint."...

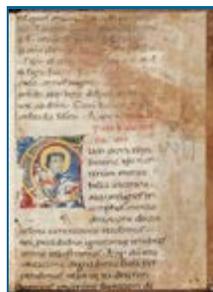
Walking Paper, Apr. 19



[Recycling the law at Yale University](#)

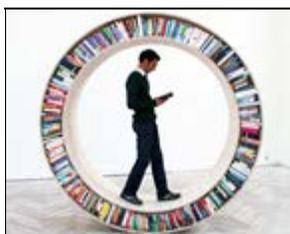
Nancy Mattoon writes: "The bindings of nearly 150 books in the rare book collection of Yale University's Lilian Goldman Law Library show that recycling was second nature among European bookbinders as early as the 1300s. These medieval artisans reused the materials they had on hand: discarded manuscripts. The strong, flexible, and prohibitively pricey parchment of these documents proved the perfect product for binding new books. What are now considered priceless volumes, dating from as early as 975 AD, were to these craftsmen nothing more than a serviceable source of scraps."...

Book Patrol, Apr. 26



[Exercise your book collection](#)

Ariel Schwartz writes: "Bookworms know that it isn't easy to live a mobile life with a massive book collection. The [David Garcia Studio](#) in Copenhagen offers an innovative solution: Archive II, a circular bookshelf propelled by walking that is currently on exhibition at Denmark's University of Roskilde Main Library."



The Archive Series is an investigation into space and books. Archive III is a censored book stand, in which the books close suddenly if anyone approaches the reading stand...

Inhabitat, Apr. 26; David Garcia Studio: Archive Series

[Doonesbury examines a document](#)

Doonesbury's Mark Slackmeyer has Library of Congress Archivist Violet McPhee on his radio show, where she shows off a valuable new acquisition: Newt Gingrich's famous GOPAC memo....

Doonesbury, Apr. 25



[A theme song for the Library](#)

[of Congress](#)

Joyce Valenza writes: "My students and I created a theme song for the Library of Congress. I was working on an application for LC's [TPS Mentor](#) program. The kids offered to help me with my required video. But after including some required elements, we couldn't squeeze in the song we produced into the application video. So, it runs in the background. Then we decided to produce it much more elaborately as a [stand-alone](#) (2:13) and present it to LC as a gift."...

School Library Journal: NeverEndingSearch, Apr. 27



[Thrall and Zorga learn about jackalopes](#)

Yavapai College Library in Prescott, Arizona, won a 2010 bronze Telly Award in the infomercial category for "Thrall and Zorga in...Let's Ask a Librarian" (3:54). The video is an entertaining look at the library's "Ask a Librarian" services that are so personalized and helpful that even a Cro-Magnon man can understand the answer. Special congratulations go to screenwriter/director James Rider; actors Mike Byrnes, student Bud Garso, and former library staffer (and co-screenwriter) Ustadza Ely; and narrator Tom Agostino....

YouTube, Apr. 9



[Go back to the Top](#)