

# american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | August 4, 2010

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How much money will you save?  
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## American Libraries Online

### [SkyRiver files antitrust suit against OCLC](#)

SkyRiver Technology Solutions and Innovative Interfaces Inc. have filed suit ([PDF file](#)) in U.S. District Court in San Francisco against OCLC, alleging that the “purported nonprofit with a membership of 72,000 libraries worldwide, is unlawfully monopolizing the markets for cataloging services, interlibrary lending, and bibliographic data, and attempting to monopolize the market for integrated library systems, by anticompetitive and exclusionary practices.” SkyRiver issued a news release ([PDF file](#)) July 29 announcing the suit. Marshall Breeding is maintaining a running list of [resources](#) on the case. Karen Coyle offers an [excellent analysis](#) of the known facts, and Karen Schneider [says](#) the lawsuit “makes for lip-smacking reading.”...

AL: Inside Scoop, July 30; Library Technology Guides; Coyle's InFormation, July 30; Free Range Librarian, July 30



### [Facts, with a generous helping of heart](#)

Beverly Goldberg writes: “Two different library stories in Texas crossed my desk in the past week that gave me pause. The first was the discouraging news from far southeast Jefferson County that county commissioners seeking to close a several-million-dollar deficit have zeroed out the budget for the 80-year-old county library. The second story is about Weatherford Public Library, which kept running in the throes of an oppressive heat wave and boil-water order and passed out bottled water to all.”...

AL: Inside Scoop, Aug. 4

### [Newsmaker: Marlo Thomas](#)

The author of five bestselling books, Marlo Thomas is most famous for her groundbreaking television comedy series *That Girl* and her equally pioneering recording for children *Free to Be . . . You and Me*. HarperCollins will publish her new book, *Growing Up Laughing*, a memoir about her life as the daughter of comedian Danny Thomas, in



### [ALA Midwinter Meeting](#)

in San Diego, California, January 7–11, 2011. [Special events](#) are included with a full registration.

September. *American Libraries* caught up with Thomas before her June 27 program at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C....  
*American Libraries* column, Sept.

### [Were you in Moscow in 1991?](#)

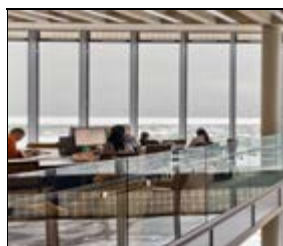
Leonard Kniffel writes: "For many years after the 1991 conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions in Moscow, longtime IFLA-goers who witnessed the coup d'état (right) that broke out there in the middle of the meeting would greet one another with memories of that historic event. While most conferences could not deliver anything as spectacular, there are other dramatic moments to remember—visits from royalty, political intrigue, and splendid cultural venues."...



*American Libraries* feature

### [Loyola's Information Commons](#)

Ted Strand writes: "Conventional wisdom would tell you that building an all-glass library on the shore of Chicago's Lake Michigan is probably not a good idea if your plans call for a high-performance building that is supposed to reduce energy usage. But that is exactly what Loyola University Chicago did with its four-story Richard J. Klarchek Information Commons, an all-digital research library that now is attracting accolades for its energy-savings realization."...



*American Libraries* feature

### [Internet Librarian: Who's in charge here?](#)

Joseph Janes writes: "When Google began its news site in 2002, it got attention in part because it was entirely automatic. The front-page stories got there as a result of popularity, novelty, and linkages. What there wasn't was editorial control. Now comes word that Yahoo has launched a new blog, called [The Upshot](#), which uses search data to help drive its coverage. It's easy to take potshots at this, but what else is new?"...



*American Libraries* column, Sept.

### [Change doesn't come easy](#)

Laura Bruzas writes: "In the late 1970s, as I began embracing an ecofriendly, vegetarian diet, I was so naïve that I truly believed that if I just educated my friends and family members about animal cruelty and the toll a meat-based diet had on our environment, they, too, would stop eating meat. But it wasn't to be. In fact, oftentimes, to my chagrin, the information that I shared had the opposite effect."...



AL: Green Your Library, July 30

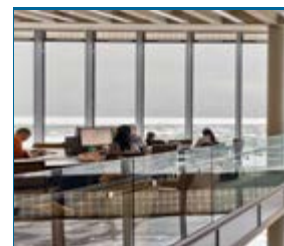


The [READ Genres & Subjects DVD](#) has been formatted to allow for more posters, bookmarks, and type treatments than ever before. Use the disk on its own, or mix and match with art and backgrounds from READ CDs 1 and 2 to design hundreds of unique posters and bookmarks. Subjects include science fiction, travel, comedy, gaming, cooking, romance, and more.  
**NEW! From ALA Graphics.**



"Like" [American Libraries](#) on Facebook.

### **New this week** *in American Libraries*



[Moscow in 1991](#)

[Loyola Information Commons](#)

[Marlo Thomas](#)

[Internet Librarian](#)

## ALA News

### Word of the week: Access

Corey Williams writes: "Much is happening on a number of fronts—from Congress to the U.S. Copyright Office to the FCC—with regard to access and accessibility. Advances in technology are spurring legislative and regulatory action to ensure that internet and telecommunications services are accessible to all Americans, whether it's updating the Americans with Disabilities Act, ensuring public access to taxpayer-funded research, or protecting intellectual freedom by keeping an open, neutral internet. Here's the roundup."...

District Dispatch, July 28

### Volunteer to serve on a committee

ALA President-Elect Molly Raphael is encouraging members to volunteer for ALA and Council committees during the 2011–2012 appointment process. She is chairing both the Committee on Appointments and Committee on Committees. To volunteer for a committee, complete the [online committee volunteer form](#). The deadline is November 5....

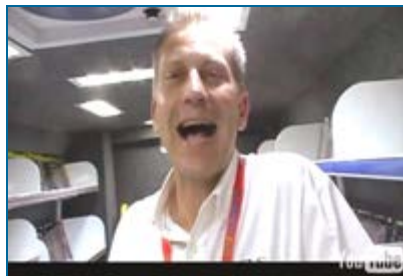
Office of ALA Governance, Aug. 3

### All revved up about bookmobiles

"They're mobile libraries. They're rolling literacy. Get rid of that mystique that the bookmobile's a dinosaur. It's *not*," declares Michael Swendrowski (right), president of Specialty Vehicle Services and chair of the OLOS Subcommittee on Bookmobiles, in a [video](#) (3:14)

made during the June 27 Parade of Bookmobiles at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. He and Stephanie Seipp of Baltimore County Public Library attest to their importance....

OLOS Columns, Aug. 3



### Proposed changes to e-rate application forms

On July 30, ALA filed comments ([PDF file](#)) with the Federal Communications Commission on its Public Notice on the proposed changes to e-rate application forms 470 and 471. While ALA supports the FCC's efforts to streamline the application process, it believes changes should be postponed until after the commission issues its order setting new rules for the e-rate program to allow applicants time to become adequately trained with the revised process....

District Dispatch, Aug. 2

### Author events

*Q. I'm an events coordinator for an independent book store. We try to do author events frequently, often in collaboration with our town's library. The librarian suggested I look into the resources from ALA. What do you have?*

*A. A great place to start is [Programming Librarian](#). This blog is produced*



[Perpetual Beta](#)

[Inside Scoop](#)

[Green Your Library](#)

[Ask the ALA Librarian](#)

[Librarian's Library](#)

[AL Focus](#)



Career Leads from  
ALA JobLIST

### Executive Director,

American Theological Library Association, Chicago. Ability to manage the complex operations of a membership organization that also produces a prestigious e-index and full-text database in religion and theology. Located in downtown Chicago, ATLA has a staff of 35–40 FTEs and a budget of over \$5.5 million. Successful candidates will have a post-baccalaureate degree and a good, current working knowledge of academic libraries and publishing; solid business acumen; excellent communication and negotiation skills; the ability to develop effective strategies within a rapidly

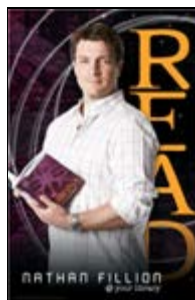
by our Public Programs Office, which promotes cultural programming as an essential part of library service. Also look at the ALSC [tip sheet](#) on events coordination....

AL: Ask the ALA Librarian, Aug. 2

## **READ with Nathan Fillion**

[Nathan Fillion](#), star of the ABC series, *Castle*, joins the ALA Graphics READ Campaign. The Canadian-born actor secured a cult following for his work with Joss Whedon on the series *Firefly*, its film adaptation *Serenity*, and the internet sensation, "Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog." Nathan founded, along with with friend and author PJ Haarsma, the nonprofit organization Kids Need to Read....

ALA Graphics, July 28



changing environment; and at least five years of senior management experience developing and managing people, plans, and budgets in a medium to large organization....



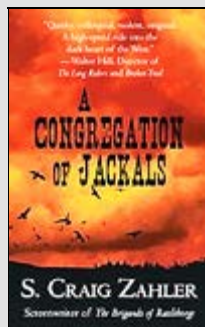
@ [More jobs...](#)

# Booklist ONLINE

## **Featured review: Westerns**

Zahler, S. Craig. *A Congregation of Jackals*. Sept. 2010. 304p. Leisure, paperback (978-0-8439-6415-8).

It's true that many of the "new" westerns being published today are reissues of stories that originally appeared decades ago, but now and then a true original turns up that is wholly in the genre mainstream but that brings a thoroughly modern perspective to the familiar archetypal trappings. So it is with Zahler's latest, which blends a little *High Noon* with a little *Magnificent Seven* but manages to turn our expectations on their heads by throwing both white and black hats into the Montana wind and turning them all to dusty gray. Oswell Danford and brother Godfrey, along with a crack shot called Dicky Serling and a 6'5" former boxer named James Lingham, put their outlaw ways behind them—by double-crossing a sociopath named Quinlan. Now Lingham is about to be married in Montana, but somehow Quinlan has tracked him down and vowed to extract revenge....



## **Top 10 Westerns**

Bill Ott writes: "Typically, our top 10 lists cover one year, but in the case of westerns, the rules require some changing. Not only are there relatively few westerns published in any 12-month span, but many of those that do appear are reissues of stories published decades earlier. Thus, our scan of the best of the best, while emphasizing the last year, extends back to 2001, making this list a kind of best of the decade in a genre that remains much loved among its devotees."...



## **Core Collection: Cowboys in Love**

John Charles and Shelley Mosley

## Digital Library of the Week



### The [National Digital Library of Poland](#)

(CBN Polona) was created to enhance wide and easy access to the digital collections of the National Library in Warsaw, including the most important editions of literature and scientific materials, historical documents, journals, graphics, photography, scores, and maps. Its major aims are to present Polish cultural heritage and show the abundance of the library's collections. The library uses dLibra Digital Library Framework software, elaborated and developed by the Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center.

write: "Six-shooters. Horses. Ranches. Cattle drives. Bad guys. Good guys. All are important ingredients not only in classic shoot-'em-up historical westerns but also in historical western romances, making the latter excellent what-do-I-read-next suggestions for readers who have stampeded through your library's entire Louis L'Amour collection. Like traditional westerns, western romances evince a strong sense of place. Author Jill Marie Landis says, 'The West lends itself to larger-than-life heroes and heroines who not only face nearly insurmountable personal odds to survive but also a brutally raw landscape.'"...



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

**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.

## Division News

### [Stanley Kunitz home designated a Literary Landmark](#)

The boyhood home of Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and former United States Poet Laureate Stanley Kunitz (1905–2006) at 4 Woodford Strett, Worcester, Massachusetts (right), has been designated a Literary Landmark by ALTAFF. Kunitz lived in the house from 1919 to 1925, when his widowed mother could no longer afford to pay the mortgage. The Literary Landmark dedication was held June 19....  
ALTAFF, July 30



### [YALSA's fall online courses](#)

Find tools for improving services to teens in your community by enrolling in "Growing, Managing, and Defending the Young Adult Budget" and "Tapping Youth Participation to Strengthen Library Services," online courses offered this fall by YALSA. Both courses run October 4 through November 1. [Registration](#) for both courses will close on September 27....  
YALSA, July 29

### [PLA offers a robust line-up of fall courses](#)

This fall, five PLA Public Library Management Courses will offer in-depth education and interactive opportunities to help library professionals succeed in dynamic and challenging environments. Throughout each workshop, participants will have the opportunity to learn from library experts, engage in group exercises, and leave with practical skills for their libraries. See the [full course descriptions](#)....  
PLA, Aug. 2

### [AASL video introduces new Planning Guide module](#)

AASL has developed a [video introduction](#) (6:36) to its newest tool, "[A Planning Guide for Empowering Learners](#)." Advance

## Public Perception

How the World Sees Us

**"The library may have to shift with the times, but we'll never go away. We are still a needed part of any community."**

—Tempe (Ariz.) Public Library Adult Services Librarian Tracy Hokaj, quoted in "In a Slow Economy, More Readers Are Turning to Public Libraries," Mesa (Ariz.) *East Valley Tribune*, Aug. 2.

**"When I say 'library,' what's the first thing that comes to mind, other than books? Is it an old librarian? Card catalogs? That dusty smell that comes off rows and rows of paperbacks, some of which haven't been cracked open in years? Well, the brand-new Watha T. Daniel / Shaw Neighborhood Library is a place that has the potential to erase all of those associations. . . . It's an incredibly impressive building. The word 'library' doesn't really do it justice."**

—DCist blogger Aaron Morrissey, [reviewing](#) the long-

orders are now available for the tool, which is expected to launch in mid-August. The planning guide is a program evaluation, planning, implementation, and advocacy tool that will ensure school library program planners go beyond the basics to provide goals, priorities, criteria, and general principles for establishing effective library programs....

AASL, Aug. 3



### [Report from the ACRL Immersion Program](#)

Meredith Farkas writes: "It was a time of intense reflection on where we've been, what we've been doing, where we want to go, and what we need to do to get there. It was about developing the persuasive skills to realize our goals. I recognized many missteps I'd made in the past and saw my future path so much more clearly at the end of Immersion that I now feel a renewed sense of purpose. It was like a vision quest minus the peyote."...

Information Wants to Be Free, Aug. 3



### [Norma Blake elected ASCLA president](#)

Norma E. Blake has been elected to serve as ASCLA president. Blake has served New Jersey libraries for more than 30 years and has been the New Jersey State Librarian for the last nine years. She began her term at the conclusion of the ALA 2010 Annual Conference....

ASCLA, Aug. 3



### [ASCLA online professional development series](#)

ASCLA seeks proposals for presentations during its 2011 Virtual Convergence, a series of professional development webinars that will be held in January immediately following the ALA 2011 Midwinter Meeting. The Virtual Convergence is an opportunity for librarians to kick off 2011 with an intensive professional development opportunity. Proposals may be submitted using the online [submission form](#) no later than September 1....

ASCLA, Aug. 3

## Round Table News

### [IFRT monthly video series](#)

The Intellectual Freedom Round Table has begun a monthly video series to promote intellectual freedom among ALA members. IFRT Chair Loida Garcia-Febo, the creator of the series, writes: "Our first [video](#) (3:14) features Barbara Jones (right), director of the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom, who will share news about issues dealt with by her office."...

OIF Blog, July 28



## Awards

sought new branch of the District of Columbia Public Library several days before its opening, July 28.

@ [More quotes...](#)



### TweetWatch

#### Follow:

Annual Conference on Distance Teaching and Learning, Madison, Wisconsin, Aug. 4-6, at:

[#dtl 2010](#)

A Reference Renaissance, BCR and Lyrasis, Denver, Aug. 8-10, at:

[#refren10](#)

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, World Library and Information Congress, Gothenburg, Sweden, Aug. 10-15, at:

[#ifla2010](#)

Society of American Archivists, Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., Aug. 10-15, at: [#saa10](#) and [#dc2010](#)

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

[amlibraries](#)

### [Tell patrons to participate in I Love My Librarian Award](#)

Nominations are now open for the 2010 Carnegie Corporation of New York / *New York Times* I Love My Librarian Award. The award invites library users nationwide to recognize the accomplishments of librarians in public, school, college, community college, and university libraries for their efforts to improve the lives of people in their community. [Nominations](#) run through September 20 and are being accepted online. Up to 10 librarians will be selected, each of whom will receive a \$5,000 cash award....

Public Information Office, Aug. 3



### [YALSA honors the Margaret A. Edwards Trust](#)

YALSA has awarded its first Presidential Citation to the Margaret A. Edwards Trust, which supports literature initiatives aimed at encouraging young adults to read for fun. The trust, managed by Julian Lapidus in Baltimore, was awarded the citation at the 2010 ALA Annual Conference for its outstanding contribution to YALSA and the profession of young adult librarianship....

YALSA, July 29

### [ALSC scholarship winners](#)

ALSC has announced the 2010 recipients of the Frederic G. Melcher and Bound to Stay Bound Books Scholarships. The scholarships are awarded annually to students who plan to enter ALA-accredited programs, obtain a master's degree in library science, and specialize in library service to children. There are four Bound to Stay Bound Books Scholarship winners and two Melcher Scholarship winners....

ALSC, Aug. 4

### [Apply now for ACRL conference scholarships](#)

ACRL will offer 80 complimentary registrations and travel stipends worth more than \$45,000 in five categories for the upcoming ACRL National Conference to be held March 30–April 2, 2011, in Philadelphia. Applications in all categories are due November 9. Read the [complete details](#) on each category and application instructions....

ACRL, July 30

### [And we need a poetry award too](#)

Betsy Bird writes: "No sooner has the discussion of what an [ALA graphic novel award](#) would entail than I launch into a new discussion. What better time then to talk about the fact that there isn't an ALA award for children's poetry? It doesn't exist, you see. Yes, I was as shocked as you when I thought about it. Joyce Sidman fools us by having her illustrators win Caldecotts left and right, but that doesn't mean that the poetry *itself* is winning. Pretty sneaky, Sids."...

*School Library Journal*: A Fuse #8 Production, July 30

### [FLA honors state legislators](#) (PDF file)

The Florida Library Association has honored three state senators and one state representative for playing a critical role in ensuring state funding for public libraries for another year. Sen. Mike Fasano and Rep. Rich Glorioso stood up for libraries repeatedly. Sen. Jeff Atwater provided support throughout the session and Sen. J. D. Alexander (right) "intervened in the final budget meeting and proposed restoring library funding to the previous year level." Other legislators were cited for their



## Calendar

**Sept. 9–11:**

[II Encuentro Latinoamericano de Bibliotecarios, Archivistas y Museólogos.](#)

Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima, Peru.

**Sept. 22–25:**

[American Association for State and Local History.](#) Annual

Conference, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

"Winds of Opportunity."

**Oct. 1–3:**

[Association of Mental Health Librarians.](#)

Annual Conference, Hotel Adagio, San Francisco. "Your Library: Still the Same, Completely Different."

**Oct. 6–8:**

[Minnesota Library Association.](#) Annual

Conference, Mayo Civic Center, Rochester. "Serious Play."

**Oct. 6–8:**

[Missouri Library Association.](#) Annual

Conference, Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake Ozark.

**Oct. 6–9:**

[Idaho Library Association.](#) Annual

Conference, Red Lion Templin's, Post Falls. "Libraries: Bridging the Divide."

**Oct. 7–8:**

[Maine Library Association.](#) Annual

Conference, Samoset Resort, Rockport.

contributions....

Florida Library Association, July 22

### [SLA 2010 John Cotton Dana Award](#)

Jim Tchobanoff, a longtime leader and innovator in the information profession, is the 2010 recipient of the Special Libraries Association's John Cotton Dana Award. The award cited Tchobanoff's leadership in the profession and volunteer work at all levels of the association during more than 30 years of membership....

SLA Blog, Aug. 2



### [Two teens receive memorial scholarships](#)

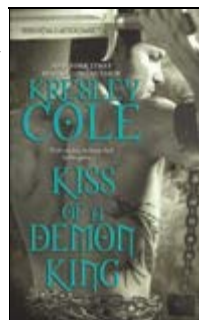
Eighteen-year-old Jane Wynne remembers Kathleen Krasniewicz for her creativity as a librarian, while 17-year-old Diana Pelliccia recalls her as a warm and helpful boss at the Perrot Memorial Library in Old Greenwich, Connecticut. The two college-bound teenagers are the winners of the first memorial scholarships given in memory of Krasniewicz, one of two Old Greenwich librarians killed by a drunk driver in Denver after the 2009 ALA Midwinter Meeting....

Greenwich (Conn.) Time, July 29

### [2010 RITA and Golden Heart Awards](#)

The Romance Writers of America named the winners of its RITA Awards for best published romance novels and novellas and its Golden Heart Awards for best manuscripts at the RWA conference in Orlando July 30. The RITA winner for Best Paranormal Romance was Kresley Cole's *Kiss of a Demon King* (Simon & Schuster). Jennifer Lohmann of Durham County (N.C.) Library was named [Romance Librarian of the Year](#) for her support of the genre....

Romance Writers of America, July 30



### [2010 Victoria and Albert Illustration Awards](#)

The Victoria and Albert Illustration Awards are held annually to highlight the best book and editorial illustration published in the U.K. in the previous year. The Overall Winner was Sarah Carr, whose innovative and complete use of letterpress printing to form the illustrations of *How to Drink* by Victoria Moore (right) immediately caught the judges' attention....

Victoria and Albert Museum, June 21



## Seen Online

### [Watch out for the Omega copyright windup](#)

Librarians fear they are going to suffer collateral damage from a curious copyright case that has nothing to do with books. It's *Costco Wholesale Corporation v. Omega, S.A.*—a battle over whether the storied Swiss watch brand can control where and at what price its chronometers are sold in the United States. Omega offers its goods to distributors in places such as Paraguay for less, which is where Costco bought some to import. Omega sued, an appeals court agreed, and now the "first sale doctrine" is at risk....

Wall Street Journal, July 30

"Hard Times and Great Expectations."

**Oct. 7–9:**  
[Colorado Association of Libraries](#), Annual Conference, Embassy Suites, Loveland. "Illumination and Transformation."

**Oct. 13–15:**  
[West Virginia Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Stonewall Jackson Resort, Roanoke.

**Oct. 13–15:**  
[Iowa Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Marriott Coralville Hotel and Conference Center, Coralville. "Hard Times, Hard Decisions."

**Oct. 13–15:**  
[Georgia Council of Media Organizations](#), GaCOMO XXII, Classic Center, Athens. "Celebrate with One Voice."

**Oct. 13–15:**  
[Nebraska Library Association / Nebraska Educational Media Association](#), Annual Conference, Grand Island.

**Oct. 16–17:**  
[West Virginia Book Festival](#), Charleston Civic Center.

**Nov. 3–6:**  
[Charleston Conference](#), Holiday Inn Charleston Historic District, Charleston, South Carolina.

**Nov. 13:**  
[National Gaming Day](#)  
@ your library.

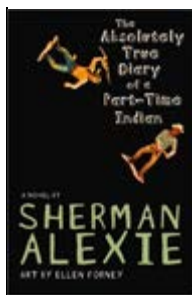


## [Missouri school board to reconsider](#)

### [Alexie book](#)

During the Stockton (Mo.) R-1 School Board meeting on July 21, members unanimously voted to reconsider its previous decision in April to remove Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* from classrooms and the Stockton High School library. The original book review committee will be asked to meet again to discuss the suitability of the book and answer in writing five questions posed by the school board prior to a special meeting August 18....

*Cedar County (Mo.) Republican*, July 28



## [Paul Shaffer too racy for South Dakota?](#)

A book by David Letterman's sidekick, Paul Shaffer, caused a small dust-up at the Mitchell (S.Dak.) Public Library this summer. Mitchell resident Gladys Baldwin asked to have Shaffer's 2009 book *We'll Be Here for the Rest of Our Lives* removed from the library because it told some ribald stories about Shaffer's days playing music in a topless club in Toronto. The board discussed the book but decided to keep it....

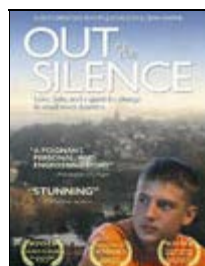
*Mitchell (S.Dak.) Daily Republic*, July 31



## [Showdown in Coudersport](#)

After several hours of people pointing their fingers in her face and telling her she was going to hell, Coudersport (Pa.) Public Library Director Keturah Cappadonia cracked. In tears, she sent an email to Joe Wilson and Dean Hamer, canceling the planned July 28 screening of their award-winning PBS documentary, *Out in the Silence*, about the challenges of being openly gay in rural Pennsylvania. But Board President Jane Metzger stood up to the threats and the screening went as planned, even prompting an [apology](#) from the local Tea Party president....

*Harrisburg (Pa.) Patriot News*, July 31; *Coudy News*, July 28



## [Princeton Review rates best colleges for 2011](#)

The Princeton Review test-prep company has released the 2011 edition of its annual guide to the 373 best colleges. It rates schools in a wide array of categories, with top performers and laggards in each one. In the [best college library category](#) (requires login), Harvard, Duke, Princeton, Colgate, and Cornell were rated the top five....

Huliq.com, Aug. 2; Princeton Review

## [Bricks pave the way to save a Charlotte branch](#)

A library task force has issued its challenge to residents of Davidson, North Carolina: Buy an [engraved brick](#), and you can help "Pave the Way to Save the Library." The task force announced July 22 it will sell the engraved bricks—and accept other cash donations—to help raise the \$175,000 needed to keep the doors open at Charlotte Mecklenburg Library's Davidson branch over the next year....

DavidsonNews.net, July 22

## [New Jersey library's endowment shrinking](#)

Battered by stock market turbulence and declining municipal contributions, the Mary Jacobs Memorial Library in Rocky Hill, New Jersey, a branch of the Somerset County Library System, is, for the first time, appealing for the public's help. The appeal is needed because the library's foundation, which opened the library in 1974

@ [More...](#)

## Contact Us

American Libraries  
Direct

**ALA** American  
Library  
Association

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



George M. Eberhart,  
Editor:  
[geberhart@ala.org](mailto:geberhart@ala.org)



Beverly Goldberg,  
Senior Editor:  
[bgoldberg@ala.org](mailto:bgoldberg@ala.org)



Greg Landgraf,  
Associate Editor:  
[glandgraf@ala.org](mailto:glandgraf@ala.org)



Leonard Kniffel,  
Publisher,  
American Libraries:  
[lkniffel@ala.org](mailto:lkniffel@ala.org)

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Brian Searles,  
[bsearles@ala.org](mailto:bsearles@ala.org)



Katie Bane  
[kbane@ala.org](mailto:kbane@ala.org)

and operates the building, is afraid its endowment will sink to an unsupportably low level....

*Trenton (N.J.) Times, Aug. 1*

### [DCPL opens fourth branch this year](#)

Washington, D.C., Mayor Adrian M. Fenty (right), DCPL Chief Librarian Ginnie Cooper, and other officials joined residents August 2 for a ribbon-cutting of the new Watha T. Daniel/Shaw Neighborhood Library. "The District has worked hard over the past four years to improve public libraries and facilities," said Mayor Fenty. The new building was realized after [years of planning](#), contract negotiation, and construction, and is the fourth of [six new and renovated libraries](#) to open this year. ...



District of Columbia Public Library; *Washington City Paper, July 22*

### [Georgetown cupola restored](#)

The last week in July, HRGH Corporation finished and installed the historic cupola of the Georgetown branch of the District of Columbia Public Library. The original cupola had been destroyed in a 2007 fire. The branch is scheduled to reopen in September....



*Georgetown Metropolitan, July 30*

### [Seattle loves its public libraries](#)

A survey of Seattle Public Library patrons has found that more than 60% of those polled use the library at least twice a month. The [survey](#) in May of 33,000 patrons—about 7% of all those who hold library cards—was part of the library's effort to develop a plan to guide growth. The two most important services libraries offer are proving materials and providing access to technology....

*Seattle Times, July 30; Seattle Public Library, July 30*

### [Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library planned](#)

The [Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library](#) has received a \$50,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment, library founder Julia Whitehead announced in late July. The grant, along with donations that have been collected since 2008, will allow the library to open in November in Indianapolis as planned. The library will double as a museum, complete with artifacts and artwork dedicated to the late author, who was an Indiana native....



*Indianapolis Star, July 31*

### [Judge gives Shakespeare con man eight years](#)

An unemployed "fantasist" with a taste for the high life was jailed for eight years August 2 after he was convicted of handling a stolen copy of a Shakespeare First Folio and trying to sell it to the Folger Library. Raymond Scott was also sentenced on the theft of two paintings worth around £1,000 (\$1,590 U.S.) from a department store in Newcastle in October 2008, four months after his Shakespeare arrest. Judge Richard Lowden said the folio had been kept out of the public eye for many years and had been defaced to hide its true identity....

*Newcastle (U.K.) Journal, Aug. 3*

### [Library thieves go for the copper piping](#)

The thieves had only one thing on their minds when they broke into the Lillian Marrero branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia early on

**Send feedback:**

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ext. 4216

ISSN 1559-369X

July 26: They shut off the water and stripped the basement of its copper piping. Forty personal computers and other valuables were left untouched. The copper theft is the second at the Marrero branch in less than a month....

*Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 30

### [Nixing of library expansion dished as anti-Latino](#)

In a decision that the board of the East Hampton (N.Y.) Library (right) [are ripping](#) as elitist and exclusionary, the town's zoning board has rejected a bid to expand the enclave's tiny Main Street building by roughly 6,000 square feet for a children's wing. Library officials say the the project was rejected so Hispanic children from outside East Hampton village proper would not pour into an inviting new facility. An August 14 referendum on the issue could result in a lawsuit against the zoning board to reverse the decision....



*New York Post*, Aug. 1; East Hampton (N.Y.) Library

### [Book-drop kitten dies](#)

Hemingway, the 6-week-old kitten found in a book drop at the La Mott branch of the Cheltenham Township (Pa.) Library System succumbed to its injuries late July 28 at the Montgomery County SPCA. The cat was suffering from dehydration, diarrhea, and a respiratory infection....

*Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 30

### [St. Louis gets set for massive makeover](#)

Movers in charge of transporting the collection of the St. Louis Public Library's Central branch are more than two weeks into the six-week process of clearing all the materials from the downtown library's shelves. Central closed to the public June 14 for a two-year, \$79-million makeover that will restore the 98-year-old building's façade, some public spaces, and overhaul the electrical and heating systems. The books are being stored in a warehouse....



KWMU Radio, St. Louis, July 29

### [Vatican Library set to reopen in September](#)

The Vatican Library will open its doors again on September 20 after three years of intense refurbishing. The main objective of the remodeling was to improve security in the library to prevent theft or loss. Books will be registered in an electronic system and will contain an RFID identification chip. According to Director Cesare Pasini (right), the security measures were not made because of thefts: The library only wants to better preserve its nearly 1.6 million volumes and 150,000 manuscripts. Watch the [video](#) (1:50)....



Rome Reports TV News Agency, July 24; YouTube, July 23

### [Plagiarism rules blur in the digital age](#)

At Rhode Island College, a freshman copied and pasted from a website's FAQ page about homelessness—and did not think he needed to credit a source because the page did not include author information. Cases like this suggest that many students simply do not

grasp that using words they did not write is a serious misdeed. "Because you're not walking into a library, you're not physically holding the article, which takes you closer to 'this doesn't belong to me,'" said Sarah Brookover of Rutgers University Library....

*New York Times*, Aug. 1

### [Another library in a British phone booth](#)

An iconic red phone booth, snapped up from British Telephone for just £1 (\$1.59 U.S.), has been given a new lease on life as a library. The 1935-built phone booth in Blagdon, Somerset, has been reinvented as a vital village resource. It now boasts a new coat of paint, a number of well-stocked bookshelves, a host of loyal customers, and even its own volunteer librarian, Siobhan Watson....

*Weston (U.K.) Mercury*, July 29



### [Materials decaying in Dhaka](#)

Due to lack of proper preservation, century-old manuscripts, rare books, newspapers, and periodicals have been decaying at the Dhaka University Central Library in Bangladesh.

About 200 rare manuscripts and at least 500 microfilmed newspapers have already been damaged. The library has a collection of more than 30,000 such books and manuscripts written on palm and banana leaves, bark, stone slabs, and handmade papers in Sanskrit, Bangla, Arabic, Pali, Urdu, Persian, Maithili, Uriya, Hindi, and a few other dialects....

*Dhaka (Bangladesh) Daily Star*, June 18



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## Tech Talk

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### [Inching closer to the Semantic Web](#)

Jim Giles writes: "The Semantic Web was proposed over a decade ago by Tim Berners-Lee, among others. Now a triumvirate of internet heavyweights—Google, Twitter, and Facebook—are making it real. Computers would handle information in ways we find more useful because they would process the concepts within documents, rather than the documents themselves. It is a wildly attractive idea, but there have been few practical examples. That's about to change."...

*New Scientist*, Aug. 2

### [Five best personal project management tools](#)

Jason Fitzpatrick writes: "It's easy to find a project management tool for large groups, but finding one for personal use that doesn't overwhelm you with group-focused features is a challenge. Here's a look at five popular tools for personal project management."...

*Lifehacker*, Aug. 1



### [Google rolls out multiaccount sign-in](#)

Josh Lowensohn writes: "The shuffle of having to log off, then back onto your Google account to open up Google services from different accounts,



but in the same browser instance, will soon be a thing of the past. As noticed by the [Google Operating System blog](#), and later confirmed by a Google spokesperson, the company is rolling out a [new feature](#) that lets users cycle through up to three of their registered Google accounts without having to reidentify their credentials and switch from one to another with a simple dropdown menu.”...

CNET: Web Crawler, Aug. 3; Google Operating System blog, Aug. 3

### [Five things tech people should stop tweeting about](#)

Alex Wilhelm writes: “Twitter was built, populated, and promoted by the tech community. That just makes it even more ironic that so many of us techies have terrible Twitter manners. We should know better. Twitter is a lovely thing, but when we tweet certain things we make our followers cringe and twitch towards the unfollow button. Do whatever you will, but after reading literally millions of tweets I think that if we cut out the following Tweets we would all be better off.”...

TNW Social Media, Aug. 2

### [Preserving games: The legal, technical hitches](#)

Andrew Webster writes: “When it comes to preservation, video games are problematic. Hardware becomes outdated and the media that houses game code becomes obsolete, not to mention the legal issues with emulation. A new paper from the



*International Journal of Digital Curation*, ‘Keeping the Game Alive: Evaluating Strategies for the Preservation of Console Video Games’ ([PDF file](#)), suggests several ways this problem can be tackled, and the pros and cons of each.”...

Ars Technica: Opposable Thumbs, July 30

### [Maximize your laptop warranty](#)

Shin-GO writes: “Since it recently happened to me, I thought I’d share how to get your laptop warranty to work for you in the event of misfortune. First, it’s important that you read the warranty. There’s no use trying to argue repair or replacement through warranty if you don’t know the terms. If your computer is acting funny, test it in a few ways to support your warranty claim. If hardware that is integral to the machine is on the fritz, it’s covered. Yes, even down to the Ethernet port and the battery.”...

Lifehacker, July 30

### [AT&T launches QR code scanning](#)

Christina Warren writes: “QR codes are poised to take off in the mainstream and AT&T [has jumped](#) on the bandwagon. Code Scanner is a free app for BlackBerry and Android devices that scans both 2D (QR and datamatrix) and 1D (UPC and EAN) barcodes. You can get it from the BlackBerry App World, the Android Market, or through your mobile device. The menu options include a direct link to [Create-a-Code](#) (via desktop or mobile), where you can create a QR code for contacts or for a web page.”...

Mashable: Mobile, Aug. 2; AT&T, Aug. 2

## Publishing

### [\\$200 textbook vs. free: You do the math](#)



Scott McNealy, the fiery cofounder and former chief executive of Sun Microsystems, shuns basic math textbooks as bloated monstrosities: Their price keeps rising while the core information inside of them stays the same. "Ten plus 10 has been 20 for a long time," McNealy said. He has been aiming his energy and some money at [Curriki](#), an online hub for free textbooks and other course material that he spearheaded six years ago....

*New York Times*, July 31

### [American Physical Society offers journals for free](#)



The American Physical Society has announced a new public access initiative that will give readers and researchers in public libraries in the United States full use of all online APS journals, from the most recent articles back to the first in 1893, a collection including over 400,000 scientific research papers. APS will provide this access at no cost to participating public libraries, as a contribution to public engagement with the ongoing development of scientific understanding. Sign up [here](#)....

American Physical Society, July 28

### [Why e-book economics don't work in public libraries](#)

Tim Spalding writes: "The public library conversation about e-books is heating up. Unfortunately, much of the conversation ignores a critical factor that makes e-book lending problematic: For libraries, e-book economics doesn't make sense. What is the cost per circulated book for libraries? It's near \$0.50. Amazon has tried to get everyone to adopt a \$9.99 price point for popular titles, so will e-book sellers accept the \$0.50 deal? Of course not." (Unless the government [makes them](#).) But a recent [report](#) ([PDF file](#)) by the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies is optimistic and well worth reading....



Thingology Blog, July 30; *Wall Street Journal*: Law Blog, Aug. 3; Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, July 23

### [E-books article drinking game](#)

Stephanie Anderson writes: "With sincere apologies if this has been done before, but I think this is the only way I can read another one of these. Maybe I might be cranky today. 'Will e-books wipe out / kill / decimate / pulverize / hulksmash / angry verb real books?'—one drink. Assertion that e-book prices are too high, and will lower soon— one drink."...

Bookavore, July 28

### [On covers](#)

James Bridle writes: "One of the many great debates around the ephemeralization of music has been the lamentation for the loss of cover art; now we are reaching the same point with books. It's not just a physical transformation we're going through, it's a cognitive one. 'Don't judge a book by its cover' has never been more true. Most of us see covers now as blurred little icons; nothing like the designer or art director or marketing department envisaged,



and no use for their intended purpose.”...

Tools of Change for Publishing, Aug. 2

### [Dutch detective covers](#)

Will Schofield writes: “Last year I featured covers from the collections of brothers Uilke and Hillebrand in the post [Dood in Ecstasy: Dutch Mystery Covers](#). Since then they’ve uploaded hundreds more, and I had a blast combing their collections again for this sequel. For example, Mickey Spillane’s *Rendez-vous met de Dood* (*The Jury*) from 1952 (right).”...



A Journey Round My Skull, Aug. 2

### [The best magazine articles ever](#)

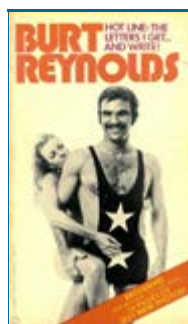
Kevin Kelly writes: “The following are suggestions for the best magazine articles (in English) ever. This is a work in progress. It is an ongoing list of suggestions collectively made by readers of this post. At this point the list has not been vetted or selected by me. In fact, other than the original five items I suggested, all of the articles mentioned here have been recommended by someone other than me.”...



Cool Tools

### [Nine of the worst library books](#)

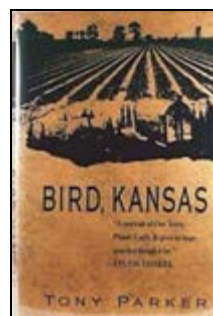
Mary Kelly and Holly Hibner write: “Every library has them: titles in the collection that we stumble upon and think, ‘What is this doing here?’ Librarians weed books that are outdated, irrelevant, or unintentionally funny. [AwfulLibraryBooks](#) is a collection of the worst of library holdings. The authors collect the discards of their colleagues around the world and post them (anonymously, of course). The point is to have fun, laugh, and celebrate the time and place when these old, obscure books were popular.”...



Huffington Post, Aug. 3

### [Bright books for hard times](#)

Jessa Crispin writes: “It’s not just that the news is bleak, it’s the powerlessness that everyone feels. When it’s a torrent of oil spilling into our oceans, deep underground, it’s not the kind of thing you can roll up your sleeves and solve yourself. So here is a reading list about humor in dark times, the strength of community, and people who, no matter how far gone things seemed, shook off apathy and got to work at tipping the scales back to something resembling balance.”...



Need to Know on PBS: Voices, July 27

### [E-readers come to rural Africa](#)

Curt Hopkins writes: “[Worldreader.org](#) has just finished a proof of concept for e-reader use in the African country of Ghana. Verdict? Yes, it helps increase literacy. So they’re going to do a lot more of it. ‘Books to All’ is the motto of this nonprofit spearheaded by David Risher, who led Amazon’s product development for five years. In March, Worldreader finished its Phase 1 trial, using 20 Kindles in the [village of](#)



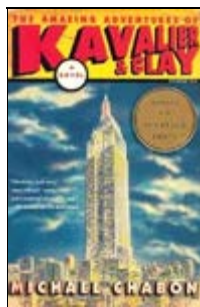
[Ayenyah.](#) "...

ReadWriteWeb, July 27; GhanaWeb, Mar. 16

## [10 books that would make geektastic movies](#)

Gabrielle Dunn writes: "One of the trends in Hollywood right now is to remake classic geeky films instead of tackling the plethora of books that are just ripe for adapting. What makes a book geeky doesn't necessarily mean strictly science fiction; it's a label that includes books whose characters and plot would appeal to those of the geek persuasion. We've picked 10 books that we think would make great films and create new legions of movie fans."...

Inside Movies, July 30



## [What's being bought where](#)

Nora Rawlinson writes: "This is a little scary—the UK-based online bookstore, BookDepository.com, features a [live map](#) of orders being placed on its site. It's curiously fascinating; ooh, look, someone in Belgium bought *The Librarian's Book of Quotes*, published by ALA. Are there interesting library applications, like 'What's Being Placed on Hold' or 'What's Just Been Returned To Which Branch'?"...

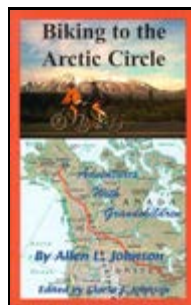
Early Word: The Publisher | Librarian Connection, July 30



## [10 bizarre travel guides](#)

Jamie Frater writes: "This list is taken from our forthcoming book *The Ultimate Book of Bizarre Lists*. Here we look at 10 of the strangest tourist guidebooks you can imagine. Next time you are stuck for a holiday idea, consider getting one of these for an experience you will never forget." Like *Biking to the Arctic Circle: Adventures with Grandchildren*, by Allen L. Johnson (right, Creative Enterprises, 2000)....

Listverse, July 30



# Actions & Answers

## [See Sally research: An environmental scan](#)

Joyce Valenza writes: "Recently, Doug Johnson and I were asked to write a chapter on how student research has evolved for an upcoming book aimed at school administrators. I thought that some of you might find our draft helpful. Digital and ubiquitous sources of information, expanded definitions of literacy and audience, and greater emphasis on creative problem-solving have dramatically changed how students do research. The following scenarios scan the evolution of the information and communication landscapes."...

*School Library Journal*: NeverEndingSearch, Aug. 2

## [Studies show summer reading keeps skills strong](#)

University of Tennessee researchers Richard Allington and Anne McGill-Franzen have completed a three-year study that shows a significantly higher level of reading achievement in students who had access to books for summer reading at home. A





study ([PDF file](#)) by the Dominican University GSLIS also showed that students who participated in public library summer reading programs scored higher on reading achievement tests at the beginning of the next school year than students who did not participate....

*Tennessee Today*, July 21; Dominican University, June 22

### **[Chicago to get \\$8.9 million for library computers](#)**

The federal National Telecommunications and Information Administration will provide Chicago with \$8.9 million in stimulus funding to upgrade public computers in the city and provide training to residents. The funds will add or upgrade more than 3,300 computer workstations at over 150 locations, including city libraries, workforce centers, public housing sites, and all seven city colleges. As a result, the centers will be able to accommodate an estimated 200,000 additional weekly users and train up to 20,000 residents over the two-year life of the project....

National Telecommunications and Information Administration, July 30

### **[The economic returns of public access policies](#)**

Delivering timely, open, online access to the results of federally funded research in the United States will significantly increase the return on the public's investment in science, according to a new study by John Houghton at the Centre for Strategic Economic Studies at Victoria University. "[The Economic and Social Returns on Investment in Open Archiving Publicly Funded Research Outputs](#)" was coauthored by Bruce Rasmussen and Peter Sheehan....

SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition), Aug. 4

### **[The future of the academic library](#)**

Tracy Mitrano writes: "In the next few blogs I will highlight some moments from the Institute for Computer Policy and Law held July 20–22 at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Five sessions were captured on video and [archived](#). Seated as if by a pool, imaginary cocktail umbrellas in their imaginary cocktails, Susan Perry and Jay Schafer had a casual conversation about the topic that in all seriousness has been their life work. The conversation revolved around a list of 'Ten Things to Keep in Mind' that Susan uses."...

*Inside Higher Ed: BlogU*, July 28

### **[LC launches National Digital Stewardship Alliance](#)**

The Library of Congress announced August 3 the formation of the [National Digital Stewardship Alliance](#), a partnership of institutions and organizations dedicated to preserving and providing access to selected databases, web pages, video, audio, and other digital content with enduring value. The alliance is an outgrowth of the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program, which the library has administered since 2000....

Library of Congress, Aug. 3

### **[ARL promotes large-scale digitization principles](#)**

The Association of Research Libraries Board of Directors unanimously voted on July 26 to endorse a set of nine principles ([PDF file](#)) to guide

vendor/publisher relations in large-scale digitization projects of special collections materials. The board's vote strongly encourages ARL member libraries to refrain from signing future agreements with publishers or vendors, either individually or through consortia, that do not adhere to the principles....

Association of Research Libraries, Aug. 4

### [When like doesn't mean like](#)

Jenny Levine writes: "If you're watching the [Target Facebook Page](#) right now, you're seeing another social media disaster on a par with Nestle's [débâcle](#) back in March. It's like watching a train wreck in slow motion, but it's another great case study for us about *what not to do* online. Hint: Don't set your page to show only your posts first and then abandon it when controversy arises. If you're not familiar with the current controversy, you can go [here](#) to read about Target's donation to a homophobic gubernatorial candidate in Minnesota."...

The Shifted Librarian, Aug. 3; techguerilla talk, Mar. 22; Chicagoist, July 28



### [Logic-defying arguments](#)

Barbara Fister writes: "In case you haven't noticed, library budgets are being gobbled up by the ever-rising cost of subscriptions to journals and databases, most of it temporary electronic access to research that gets turned off like the lights if we can no longer scrape together the rent. This increased budgeting for databases and journals means we have less money to buy things we actually own. But *don't worry about it!* According to Alan Adler of the Association of American Publishers, we have no problem ([PDF file](#))."...

Inside Higher Ed: Library Babel Fish, Aug. 2

### [Millennials do care about Facebook privacy](#)

Jacqui Cheng writes: "Student use of privacy controls has skyrocketed recently, according to two researchers. Eszter Hargittai, associate professor at Northwestern University, and Danah Boyd, research associate at Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet and Society, published their findings in the online peer-reviewed journal [First Monday](#), noting that young people are very engaged with the privacy settings on Facebook, contrary to the popular belief that their age group is reckless with public postings."...

Ars Technica: Web, July 31; First Monday, Aug. 2

### [Harvesting the grapes of literacy](#)

Adrienne Jeffries writes: "The sales of Twitter's [Fledgling](#) wine, which is set to be bottled August 25, will benefit [Room to Read](#), a San Francisco-based nonprofit that promotes literacy around the world. 'The Fledgling Initiative embodies two things that are at the core of Twitter's mission: providing access to information and highlighting the power of open communication to bring about positive change,' Twitter cofounders Biz Stone and Evan Williams said." Besides, they note, "if you can't read you can't Tweet!" Watch the [video](#) (1:50)....

ReadWriteWeb, Aug. 2; YouTube, Oct. 13, 2009



### [A blended librarian talks info literacy](#)

It's no surprise that growing up in a computer age does not make you an automatically savvy consumer of electronic resources. Students "just



tend to gravitate to what they're comfortable with," says Mark McBride, a blended librarian at Buffalo State College. With Emerging Technology Librarian Ken Fujiuchi, McBride teaches [Library 300](#). Although it's billed as an advanced course, it focuses on what are more and more recognized as the basics of 21st-century information literacy....

*Chronicle of Higher Education*, Aug. 2

### [The role of a social media librarian](#)

Steven Bell writes: "Academic libraries are leveraging social networks to increase opportunities to connect with students and faculty. But just because you tweet all day and watch lots of YouTube videos doesn't mean that you know how to turn social media into proactive tools for getting consumers excited about your organization and what it offers. Does librarianship need to provide more opportunities for LIS students to gain these skills?"...

ACRLLog, Aug. 3

### [Seven search engines for students](#)

Richard Byrne writes: "A major concern that teachers, parents, librarians, and school administrators have whenever their students search for information on the internet is having the students stumble across inappropriate materials. One way to alleviate that fear is to [create your own](#) search engine using Google Custom Search, but that could be time-consuming. Another option is to have students use search engines intended for academic and or child use. Here are seven search engines for students of all ages."...

Free Technology for Teachers, Aug. 2



### [Get crafty @ your library](#)

Arts and crafts have always been staples of children's activities at the library. Now, with the growing interest in do-it-yourself projects and crafting in popular culture, libraries are reaching out to crafty library users of all ages. Bennington (Nebr.) Public Library recently launched a new multigenerational [crochet/knit @ your library](#) program that is open to anyone interested in learning and sharing knitting and crocheting techniques....

Campaign for America's Libraries, July 31



### [LC puts jazz photos on Flickr](#)

The Library of Congress has begun uploading to Flickr a historic collection of photographs of jazz artists of the 1930s and 1940s taken by William P. Gottlieb, a columnist for the *Washington Post*. The first 200 images show the photographs alongside Gottlieb's personal recollections that were published in his book *The Golden Age of Jazz*. The photographs in LC's Gottlieb Collection entered into the public domain in February, in accordance with Gottlieb's wishes....

Library of Congress, July 30



### [Some thoughts on interlibrary loan data](#)

Constance Malpas writes: "Over the past few years, OCLC Research has done quite a bit of analytic work based on supply-side data, much of it aggregated from WorldCat. More recently, we have begun to think about how we might make better use of the demand-side data

that is generated by a variety of routine library operations, especially circulation and interlibrary loans. A considerable quantity of data is on hand as a byproduct of the millions of ILL requests handled each year by WorldCat Resource Sharing."...

hangingtogether.org, July 30

### [The breathtaking book art of Richard Minsky](#)

Stephen J. Gertz writes: "Yale University is now celebrating an astonishing career with a wondrous and extraordinary retrospective exhibition, '[Material Meets Metaphor: A Half Century of Book Art by Richard Minsky](#),' at its Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library. The fact that Richard Minsky began his own letterpress printing business when he was 13 years old and has remained intensely focused on books and their creative possibilities as an object-medium for artistic expression may have had something to do with it. A half-century later, his influence has been incalculable."...

BookTryst, Aug. 2



### [Henri-Cartier Bresson in Chicago](#)

Mark R. Gould writes: "An exhibit of Henri Cartier-Bresson's moving and poetic photographs can be enjoyed at the Art Institute of Chicago through October 3, then travels to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. 'Henri Cartier-Bresson—the Modern Century' is the first full retrospective of his work in three decades. The Art Institute's David Travis offers his thoughts about his friend and colleague."...

@ your library



### [LC's Division for Special Information](#)

Larry Nix writes: "The Division for Special Information was established in the Library of Congress in the summer of 1941 for the purpose of analyzing information and data bearing on national security. This meant obtaining and analyzing documents and publications originating in hostile nations. Neutral nations such as Ireland assisted LC in obtaining some of these publications. In 1943 the unit moved from the Library of Congress to the Office of Strategic Services. Librarian of Congress Archibald MacLeish was an active player."...

Library History Buff Blog, Aug. 3



### [Library of Congress, 1905 and 2007](#)

Compare and contrast the Library of Congress Main Reading Room in the Thomas Jefferson Building in these two photos taken 102 years apart: The first made on analog black-and-white film by the Detroit Publishing Company, the second taken with a Phase One P45+ digital back by Carol Highsmith. View the original sizes for lush detail....

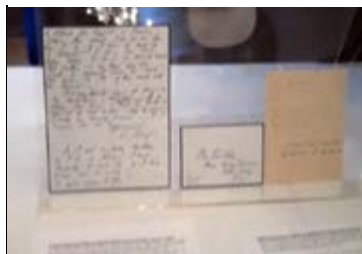
Shorpy, July 31



## [The Grace Tully Collection of FDR papers](#)

U.S. Archivist David S. Ferriero writes: "After almost 30 years of effort, the National Archives and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library have obtained the papers that Grace Tully collected and maintained during her time as FDR's primary secretary, 1941–1945. When the collection is open to scholars in a few months, it will provide a window into the inner workings of the Roosevelt White House." The collection also includes a considerable amount of material from Tully's predecessor, Missy LeHand. Watch the [video](#) (3:25)....

AOTUS: Collector in Chief, July 29; YouTube, July 27



## [British Library acquires J. G. Ballard papers](#)

The archive of J. G. Ballard, one of the most visionary British writers of the 20th century, has been acquired by the British Library. Ballard's fiction predicted the rise of terrorism against tourists, the alienation of a society obsessed by new technology, and ecological disasters such as the melting of the ice caps. His important and lasting literary legacy includes such iconic works as *Empire of the Sun* and *Crash*, both of which were turned into major films....

British Library, June 10



## [Why digital preservation is important for everyone](#)

Our personal photos, papers, music, and videos are important to us. They record the details of our lives and help define us. But increasingly, our possessions and our communications are no longer material—they are digital and dependent on technology to make them accessible. This Library of Congress video (7:44) offers simple and practical strategies for personal digital preservation....

YouTube, July 27



## [John Ary loves the Topeka Library media dispenser](#)

John Ary writes: "Why spend money at the Redbox when you can get new DVD releases, Blu-ray discs, and video games from the media dispenser at the Topeka and Shawnee County (Kans.) Public Library for free?" This is a homage (1:18) to the Libramation MediaBank media dispenser at TSCPL, which offers a selection of some 3,000 movies and video games in addition to their large regular collection....

YouTube, July 27



## [Research devil vs. angel](#)

The University of Alabama Libraries sponsored a video contest to promote library resources and services and encourage students to create collaborative teams from the student perspective. Nine



teams entered and a panel of judges selected four videos as finalists. More than 1,800 votes later, this video (4:07) emerged the winner. Team members were Josh Sahib, Jana Motes, and Sydney Prather....

YouTube, Aug. 3

### **The magic of a university library**

The wonders of the University of Bergen Library in Norway are illustrated by Head of Acquisitions Ole Gunnar Evensen in this fun promotional video (3:25, in English). Bergen may not be the largest library in the world, Evensen says, but its selection is enormous: "If you pile all the books on top of each other, it would be just as high as Mount Everest."...



YouTube, Dec. 17, 2009

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# american. libraries DIRECT

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BUYERS GUIDE

## American Libraries Online

### [SkyRiver files antitrust suit against OCLC](#)

SkyRiver Technology Solutions and Innovative Interfaces Inc. have filed suit ([PDF file](#)) in U.S. District Court in San Francisco against OCLC, alleging that the "purported nonprofit with a membership of 72,000 libraries worldwide, is unlawfully monopolizing the markets for cataloging services, interlibrary lending, and bibliographic data, and attempting to monopolize the market for integrated library systems, by anticompetitive and exclusionary practices." SkyRiver issued a news release ([PDF file](#)) July 29 announcing the suit. Marshall Breeding is maintaining a running list of [resources](#) on the case. Karen Coyle offers an [excellent analysis](#) of the known facts, and Karen Schneider [says](#) the lawsuit "makes for lip-smacking reading."...

AL: Inside Scoop, July 30; Library Technology Guides; Coyle's InFormation, July 30; Free Range Librarian, July 30



RIP US  
OFF!

FREE articles  
for your  
website and  
newsletter!

@your library

### [Facts, with a generous helping of heart](#)

Beverly Goldberg writes: "Two different library stories in Texas crossed my desk in the past week that gave me pause. The first was the discouraging news from far southeast Jefferson County that county commissioners seeking to close a several-million-dollar deficit have zeroed out the budget for the 80-year-old county library. The second story is about Weatherford Public Library, which kept running in the throes of an oppressive heat wave and boil-water order and passed out bottled water to all."...

AL: Inside Scoop, Aug. 4

### [Newsmaker: Marlo Thomas](#)

The author of five bestselling books, Marlo Thomas is most famous for her groundbreaking television comedy series *That Girl* and her equally pioneering recording for children *Free to Be . . . You and Me*. HarperCollins will publish her new book, *Growing Up Laughing*, a memoir about her life as the



### [ALA Midwinter Meeting](#)

in San Diego, California, January 7–11, 2011. [Special events](#) are included with a full registration.

daughter of comedian Danny Thomas, in September. *American Libraries* caught up with Thomas before her June 27 program at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.... *American Libraries* column, Sept.

### [Were you in Moscow in 1991?](#)

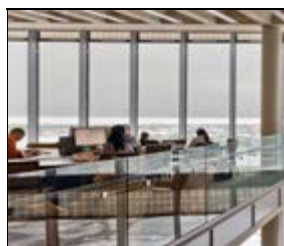
Leonard Kniffel writes: "For many years after the 1991 conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions in Moscow, longtime IFLA-goers who witnessed the coup d'état (right) that broke out there in the middle of the meeting would greet one another with memories of that historic event. While most conferences could not deliver anything as spectacular, there are other dramatic moments to remember—visits from royalty, political intrigue, and splendid cultural venues."...



*American Libraries* feature

### [Loyola's Information Commons](#)

Ted Strand writes: "Conventional wisdom would tell you that building an all-glass library on the shore of Chicago's Lake Michigan is probably not a good idea if your plans call for a high-performance building that is supposed to reduce energy usage. But that is exactly what Loyola University Chicago did with its four-story Richard J. Klarchek Information Commons, an all-digital research library that now is attracting accolades for its energy-savings realization."...



*American Libraries* feature

### [Internet Librarian: Who's in charge here?](#)

Joseph Janes writes: "When Google began its news site in 2002, it got attention in part because it was entirely automatic. The front-page stories got there as a result of popularity, novelty, and linkages. What there wasn't was editorial control. Now comes word that Yahoo has launched a new blog, called [The Upshot](#), which uses search data to help drive its coverage. It's easy to take potshots at this, but what else is new?"...



*American Libraries* column, Sept.

### [Change doesn't come easy](#)

Laura Bruzas writes: "In the late 1970s, as I began embracing an ecofriendly, vegetarian diet, I was so naïve that I truly believed that if I just educated my friends and family members about animal cruelty and the toll a meat-based diet had on our environment, they, too, would stop eating meat. But it wasn't to be. In fact, oftentimes, to my chagrin, the information that I shared had the opposite effect."...



AL: Green Your Library, July 30

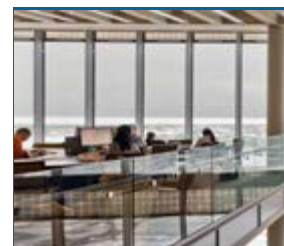


The [READ Genres & Subjects DVD](#) has been formatted to allow for more posters, bookmarks, and type treatments than ever before. Use the disk on its own, or mix and match with art and backgrounds from READ CDs 1 and 2 to design hundreds of unique posters and bookmarks. Subjects include science fiction, travel, comedy, gaming, cooking, romance, and more. **NEW! From ALA Graphics.**



"Like" [American Libraries](#) on Facebook.

### **New this week** in *American Libraries*



[Moscow in 1991](#)

[Loyola Information Commons](#)

[Marlo Thomas](#)

[Internet Librarian](#)



## ALA News

### Word of the week: Access

Corey Williams writes: "Much is happening on a number of fronts—from Congress to the U.S. Copyright Office to the FCC—with regard to access and accessibility. Advances in technology are spurring legislative and regulatory action to ensure that internet and telecommunications services are accessible to all Americans, whether it's updating the Americans with Disabilities Act, ensuring public access to taxpayer-funded research, or protecting intellectual freedom by keeping an open, neutral internet. Here's the roundup."...

District Dispatch, July 28

### Volunteer to serve on a committee

ALA President-Elect Molly Raphael is encouraging members to volunteer for ALA and Council committees during the 2011–2012 appointment process. She is chairing both the Committee on Appointments and Committee on Committees. To volunteer for a committee, complete the [online committee volunteer form](#). The deadline is November 5....

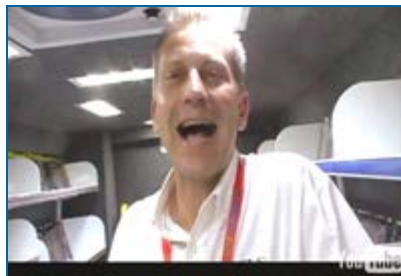
Office of ALA Governance, Aug. 3

### All revved up about bookmobiles

"They're mobile libraries. They're rolling literacy. Get rid of that mystique that the bookmobile's a dinosaur. It's *not*," declares Michael Swendrowski (right), president of Specialty Vehicle Services and chair of the OLOS Subcommittee on Bookmobiles, in a [video](#) (3:14)

made during the June 27 Parade of Bookmobiles at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. He and Stephanie Seipp of Baltimore County Public Library attest to their importance....

OLOS Columns, Aug. 3



### Proposed changes to e-rate application forms

On July 30, ALA filed comments ([PDF file](#)) with the Federal Communications Commission on its Public Notice on the proposed changes to e-rate application forms 470 and 471. While ALA supports the FCC's efforts to streamline the application process, it believes changes should be postponed until after the commission issues its order setting new rules for the e-rate program to allow applicants time to become adequately trained with the revised process....

District Dispatch, Aug. 2

### Author events

*Q. I'm an events coordinator for an independent book store. We try to do author events frequently, often in collaboration with our town's library. The librarian suggested I look into the resources from ALA. What do you have?*

*A. A great place to start is [Programming Librarian](#). This blog is produced*



[Perpetual Beta](#)

[Inside Scoop](#)

[Green Your Library](#)

[Ask the ALA Librarian](#)

[Librarian's Library](#)

[AL Focus](#)



Career Leads from  
ALA JobLIST

### Executive Director,

American Theological Library Association, Chicago. Ability to manage the complex operations of a membership organization that also produces a prestigious e-index and full-text database in religion and theology. Located in downtown Chicago, ATLA has a staff of 35–40 FTEs and a budget of over \$5.5 million. Successful candidates will have a post-baccalaureate degree and a good, current working knowledge of academic libraries and publishing; solid business acumen; excellent communication and negotiation skills; the ability to develop effective strategies within a rapidly

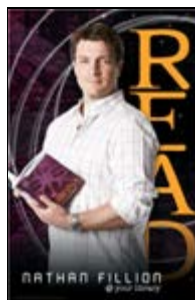
by our Public Programs Office, which promotes cultural programming as an essential part of library service. Also look at the ALSC [tip sheet](#) on events coordination....

AL: Ask the ALA Librarian, Aug. 2

## **READ with Nathan Fillion**

[Nathan Fillion](#), star of the ABC series, *Castle*, joins the ALA Graphics READ Campaign. The Canadian-born actor secured a cult following for his work with Joss Whedon on the series *Firefly*, its film adaptation *Serenity*, and the internet sensation, "Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog." Nathan founded, along with with friend and author PJ Haarsma, the nonprofit organization Kids Need to Read....

ALA Graphics, July 28



changing environment; and at least five years of senior management experience developing and managing people, plans, and budgets in a medium to large organization....



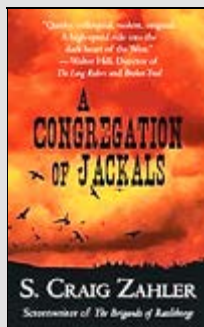
@ [More jobs...](#)

# Booklist ONLINE

## **Featured review: Westerns**

Zahler, S. Craig. *A Congregation of Jackals*. Sept. 2010. 304p. Leisure, paperback (978-0-8439-6415-8).

It's true that many of the "new" westerns being published today are reissues of stories that originally appeared decades ago, but now and then a true original turns up that is wholly in the genre mainstream but that brings a thoroughly modern perspective to the familiar archetypal trappings. So it is with Zahler's latest, which blends a little *High Noon* with a little *Magnificent Seven* but manages to turn our expectations on their heads by throwing both white and black hats into the Montana wind and turning them all to dusty gray. Oswell Danford and brother Godfrey, along with a crack shot called Dicky Serling and a 6'5" former boxer named James Lingham, put their outlaw ways behind them—by double-crossing a sociopath named Quinlan. Now Lingham is about to be married in Montana, but somehow Quinlan has tracked him down and vowed to extract revenge....



## **Top 10 Westerns**

Bill Ott writes: "Typically, our top 10 lists cover one year, but in the case of westerns, the rules require some changing. Not only are there relatively few westerns published in any 12-month span, but many of those that do appear are reissues of stories published decades earlier. Thus, our scan of the best of the best, while emphasizing the last year, extends back to 2001, making this list a kind of best of the decade in a genre that remains much loved among its devotees."...



## **Core Collection: Cowboys in Love**

John Charles and Shelley Mosley

## **Digital Library of the Week**



### The [National Digital Library of Poland](#)

(CBN Polona) was created to enhance wide and easy access to the digital collections of the National Library in Warsaw, including the most important editions of literature and scientific materials, historical documents, journals, graphics, photography, scores, and maps. Its major aims are to present Polish cultural heritage and show the abundance of the library's collections. The library uses dLibra Digital Library Framework software, elaborated and developed by the Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center.



write: "Six-shooters. Horses. Ranches. Cattle drives. Bad guys. Good guys. All are important ingredients not only in classic shoot-'em-up historical westerns but also in historical western romances, making the latter excellent what-do-I-read-next suggestions for readers who have stampeded through your library's entire Louis L'Amour collection. Like traditional westerns, western romances evince a strong sense of place. Author Jill Marie Landis says, 'The West lends itself to larger-than-life heroes and heroines who not only face nearly insurmountable personal odds to survive but also a brutally raw landscape.'"...

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

**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.

## Division News

### [Stanley Kunitz home designated a Literary Landmark](#)

The boyhood home of Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and former United States Poet Laureate Stanley Kunitz (1905–2006) at 4 Woodford Strett, Worcester, Massachusetts (right), has been designated a Literary Landmark by ALTAFF. Kunitz lived in the house from 1919 to 1925, when his widowed mother could no longer afford to pay the mortgage. The Literary Landmark dedication was held June 19....  
ALTAFF, July 30



### [YALSA's fall online courses](#)

Find tools for improving services to teens in your community by enrolling in "Growing, Managing, and Defending the Young Adult Budget" and "Tapping Youth Participation to Strengthen Library Services," online courses offered this fall by YALSA. Both courses run October 4 through November 1. [Registration](#) for both courses will close on September 27....  
YALSA, July 29

### [PLA offers a robust line-up of fall courses](#)

This fall, five PLA Public Library Management Courses will offer in-depth education and interactive opportunities to help library professionals succeed in dynamic and challenging environments. Throughout each workshop, participants will have the opportunity to learn from library experts, engage in group exercises, and leave with practical skills for their libraries. See the [full course descriptions](#)....  
PLA, Aug. 2

### [AASL video introduces new Planning Guide module](#)

AASL has developed a [video introduction](#) (6:36) to its newest tool, "[A Planning Guide for Empowering Learners](#)." Advance

## Public Perception

How the World Sees Us

**"The library may have to shift with the times, but we'll never go away. We are still a needed part of any community."**

—Tempe (Ariz.) Public Library Adult Services Librarian Tracy Hokaj, quoted in "In a Slow Economy, More Readers Are Turning to Public Libraries," Mesa (Ariz.) *East Valley Tribune*, Aug. 2.

**"When I say 'library,' what's the first thing that comes to mind, other than books? Is it an old librarian? Card catalogs? That dusty smell that comes off rows and rows of paperbacks, some of which haven't been cracked open in years? Well, the brand-new Watha T. Daniel / Shaw Neighborhood Library is a place that has the potential to erase all of those associations. . . . It's an incredibly impressive building. The word 'library' doesn't really do it justice."**

—DCist blogger Aaron Morrissey, [reviewing](#) the long-



orders are now available for the tool, which is expected to launch in mid-August. The planning guide is a program evaluation, planning, implementation, and advocacy tool that will ensure school library program planners go beyond the basics to provide goals, priorities, criteria, and general principles for establishing effective library programs....

AASL, Aug. 3

### [Report from the ACRL Immersion Program](#)

Meredith Farkas writes: "It was a time of intense reflection on where we've been, what we've been doing, where we want to go, and what we need to do to get there. It was about developing the persuasive skills to realize our goals. I recognized many missteps I'd made in the past and saw my future path so much more clearly at the end of Immersion that I now feel a renewed sense of purpose. It was like a vision quest minus the peyote."...

Information Wants to Be Free, Aug. 3



### [Norma Blake elected ASCLA president](#)

Norma E. Blake has been elected to serve as ASCLA president. Blake has served New Jersey libraries for more than 30 years and has been the New Jersey State Librarian for the last nine years. She began her term at the conclusion of the ALA 2010 Annual Conference....

ASCLA, Aug. 3



### [ASCLA online professional development series](#)

ASCLA seeks proposals for presentations during its 2011 Virtual Convergence, a series of professional development webinars that will be held in January immediately following the ALA 2011 Midwinter Meeting. The Virtual Convergence is an opportunity for librarians to kick off 2011 with an intensive professional development opportunity. Proposals may be submitted using the online [submission form](#) no later than September 1....

ASCLA, Aug. 3

## Round Table News

### [IFRT monthly video series](#)

The Intellectual Freedom Round Table has begun a monthly video series to promote intellectual freedom among ALA members. IFRT Chair Loida Garcia-Febo, the creator of the series, writes: "Our first [video](#) (3:14) features Barbara Jones (right), director of the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom, who will share news about issues dealt with by her office."...

OIF Blog, July 28



## Awards

sought new branch of the District of Columbia Public Library several days before its opening, July 28.

@ [More quotes...](#)



### TweetWatch

#### Follow:

Annual Conference on Distance Teaching and Learning, Madison, Wisconsin, Aug. 4-6, at:

[#dtl 2010](#)

A Reference Renaissance, BCR and Lyrasis, Denver, Aug. 8-10, at:

[#refren10](#)

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, World Library and Information Congress, Gothenburg, Sweden, Aug. 10-15, at:

[#ifla2010](#)

Society of American Archivists, Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., Aug. 10-15, at: [#saa10](#) and [#dc2010](#)

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

[amlibraries](#)

## [Tell patrons to participate in I Love My Librarian Award](#)

Nominations are now open for the 2010 Carnegie Corporation of New York / *New York Times* I Love My Librarian Award. The award invites library users nationwide to recognize the accomplishments of librarians in public, school, college, community college, and university libraries for their efforts to improve the lives of people in their community. [Nominations](#) run through September 20 and are being accepted online. Up to 10 librarians will be selected, each of whom will receive a \$5,000 cash award....

Public Information Office, Aug. 3

*I Love My Librarian!*  
2010 Award

## [YALSA honors the Margaret A. Edwards Trust](#)

YALSA has awarded its first Presidential Citation to the Margaret A. Edwards Trust, which supports literature initiatives aimed at encouraging young adults to read for fun. The trust, managed by Julian Lapidés in Baltimore, was awarded the citation at the 2010 ALA Annual Conference for its outstanding contribution to YALSA and the profession of young adult librarianship....

YALSA, July 29

## [ALSC scholarship winners](#)

ALSC has announced the 2010 recipients of the Frederic G. Melcher and Bound to Stay Bound Books Scholarships. The scholarships are awarded annually to students who plan to enter ALA-accredited programs, obtain a master's degree in library science, and specialize in library service to children. There are four Bound to Stay Bound Books Scholarship winners and two Melcher Scholarship winners....

ALSC, Aug. 4

## [Apply now for ACRL conference scholarships](#)

ACRL will offer 80 complimentary registrations and travel stipends worth more than \$45,000 in five categories for the upcoming ACRL National Conference to be held March 30–April 2, 2011, in Philadelphia. Applications in all categories are due November 9. Read the [complete details](#) on each category and application instructions....

ACRL, July 30

## [And we need a poetry award too](#)

Betsy Bird writes: "No sooner has the discussion of what an [ALA graphic novel award](#) would entail than I launch into a new discussion. What better time then to talk about the fact that there isn't an ALA award for children's poetry? It doesn't exist, you see. Yes, I was as shocked as you when I thought about it. Joyce Sidman fools us by having her illustrators win Caldecotts left and right, but that doesn't mean that the poetry *itself* is winning. Pretty sneaky, Sids."...

*School Library Journal*: A Fuse #8 Production, July 30

## [FLA honors state legislators](#) (PDF file)

The Florida Library Association has honored three state senators and one state representative for playing a critical role in ensuring state funding for public libraries for another year. Sen. Mike Fasano and Rep. Rich Glorioso stood up for libraries repeatedly. Sen. Jeff Atwater provided support throughout the session and Sen. J. D. Alexander (right) "intervened in the final budget meeting and proposed restoring library funding to the previous year level." Other legislators were cited for their



## Calendar

**Sept. 9–11:**

[II Encuentro Latinoamericano de Bibliotecarios, Archivistas y Museólogos.](#)

Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima, Peru.

**Sept. 22–25:**

[American Association for State and Local History.](#) Annual

Conference, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

"Winds of Opportunity."

**Oct. 1–3:**

[Association of Mental Health Librarians.](#)

Annual Conference, Hotel Adagio, San Francisco. "Your Library: Still the Same, Completely Different."

**Oct. 6–8:**

[Minnesota Library Association.](#) Annual

Conference, Mayo Civic Center, Rochester. "Serious Play."

**Oct. 6–8:**

[Missouri Library Association.](#) Annual

Conference, Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake Ozark.

**Oct. 6–9:**

[Idaho Library Association.](#) Annual

Conference, Red Lion Templin's, Post Falls. "Libraries: Bridging the Divide."

**Oct. 7–8:**

[Maine Library Association.](#) Annual

Conference, Samoset Resort, Rockport.

contributions....

Florida Library Association, July 22

### [SLA 2010 John Cotton Dana Award](#)

Jim Tchobanoff, a longtime leader and innovator in the information profession, is the 2010 recipient of the Special Libraries Association's John Cotton Dana Award. The award cited Tchobanoff's leadership in the profession and volunteer work at all levels of the association during more than 30 years of membership....

SLA Blog, Aug. 2



### [Two teens receive memorial scholarships](#)

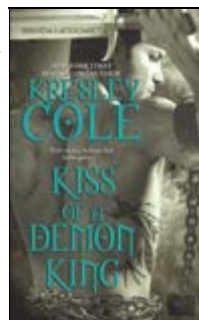
Eighteen-year-old Jane Wynne remembers Kathleen Krasniewicz for her creativity as a librarian, while 17-year-old Diana Pelliccia recalls her as a warm and helpful boss at the Perrot Memorial Library in Old Greenwich, Connecticut. The two college-bound teenagers are the winners of the first memorial scholarships given in memory of Krasniewicz, one of two Old Greenwich librarians killed by a drunk driver in Denver after the 2009 ALA Midwinter Meeting....

Greenwich (Conn.) Time, July 29

### [2010 RITA and Golden Heart Awards](#)

The Romance Writers of America named the winners of its RITA Awards for best published romance novels and novellas and its Golden Heart Awards for best manuscripts at the RWA conference in Orlando July 30. The RITA winner for Best Paranormal Romance was Kresley Cole's *Kiss of a Demon King* (Simon & Schuster). Jennifer Lohmann of Durham County (N.C.) Library was named [Romance Librarian of the Year](#) for her support of the genre....

Romance Writers of America, July 30



### [2010 Victoria and Albert Illustration Awards](#)

The Victoria and Albert Illustration Awards are held annually to highlight the best book and editorial illustration published in the U.K. in the previous year. The Overall Winner was Sarah Carr, whose innovative and complete use of letterpress printing to form the illustrations of *How to Drink* by Victoria Moore (right) immediately caught the judges' attention....

Victoria and Albert Museum, June 21



## Seen Online

### [Watch out for the Omega copyright windup](#)

Librarians fear they are going to suffer collateral damage from a curious copyright case that has nothing to do with books. It's *Costco Wholesale Corporation v. Omega, S.A.*—a battle over whether the storied Swiss watch brand can control where and at what price its chronometers are sold in the United States. Omega offers its goods to distributors in places such as Paraguay for less, which is where Costco bought some to import. Omega sued, an appeals court agreed, and now the "first sale doctrine" is at risk....

Wall Street Journal, July 30

"Hard Times and Great Expectations."

**Oct. 7–9:**  
[Colorado Association of Libraries](#), Annual Conference, Embassy Suites, Loveland. "Illumination and Transformation."

**Oct. 13–15:**  
[West Virginia Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Stonewall Jackson Resort, Roanoke.

**Oct. 13–15:**  
[Iowa Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Marriott Coralville Hotel and Conference Center, Coralville. "Hard Times, Hard Decisions."

**Oct. 13–15:**  
[Georgia Council of Media Organizations](#), GaCOMO XXII, Classic Center, Athens. "Celebrate with One Voice."

**Oct. 13–15:**  
[Nebraska Library Association / Nebraska Educational Media Association](#), Annual Conference, Grand Island.

**Oct. 16–17:**  
[West Virginia Book Festival](#), Charleston Civic Center.

**Nov. 3–6:**  
[Charleston Conference](#), Holiday Inn Charleston Historic District, Charleston, South Carolina.

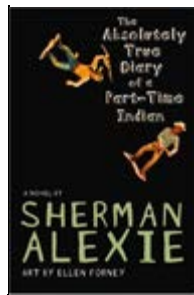
**Nov. 13:**  
[National Gaming Day](#)  
@ your library.

## [Missouri school board to reconsider](#)

### [Alexie book](#)

During the Stockton (Mo.) R-1 School Board meeting on July 21, members unanimously voted to reconsider its previous decision in April to remove Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* from classrooms and the Stockton High School library. The original book review committee will be asked to meet again to discuss the suitability of the book and answer in writing five questions posed by the school board prior to a special meeting August 18....

*Cedar County (Mo.) Republican*, July 28



## [Paul Shaffer too racy for South Dakota?](#)

A book by David Letterman's sidekick, Paul Shaffer, caused a small dust-up at the Mitchell (S.Dak.) Public Library this summer. Mitchell resident Gladys Baldwin asked to have Shaffer's 2009 book *We'll Be Here for the Rest of Our Lives* removed from the library because it told some ribald stories about Shaffer's days playing music in a topless club in Toronto. The board discussed the book but decided to keep it....

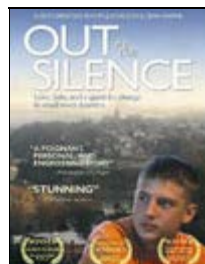
*Mitchell (S.Dak.) Daily Republic*, July 31



## [Showdown in Coudersport](#)

After several hours of people pointing their fingers in her face and telling her she was going to hell, Coudersport (Pa.) Public Library Director Keturah Cappadonia cracked. In tears, she sent an email to Joe Wilson and Dean Hamer, canceling the planned July 28 screening of their award-winning PBS documentary, *Out in the Silence*, about the challenges of being openly gay in rural Pennsylvania. But Board President Jane Metzger stood up to the threats and the screening went as planned, even prompting an [apology](#) from the local Tea Party president....

*Harrisburg (Pa.) Patriot News*, July 31; *Coudy News*, July 28



## [Princeton Review rates best colleges for 2011](#)

The Princeton Review test-prep company has released the 2011 edition of its annual guide to the 373 best colleges. It rates schools in a wide array of categories, with top performers and laggards in each one. In the [best college library category](#) (requires login), Harvard, Duke, Princeton, Colgate, and Cornell were rated the top five....

Huliq.com, Aug. 2; Princeton Review

## [Bricks pave the way to save a Charlotte branch](#)

A library task force has issued its challenge to residents of Davidson, North Carolina: Buy an [engraved brick](#), and you can help "Pave the Way to Save the Library." The task force announced July 22 it will sell the engraved bricks—and accept other cash donations—to help raise the \$175,000 needed to keep the doors open at Charlotte Mecklenburg Library's Davidson branch over the next year....

DavidsonNews.net, July 22

## [New Jersey library's endowment shrinking](#)

Battered by stock market turbulence and declining municipal contributions, the Mary Jacobs Memorial Library in Rocky Hill, New Jersey, a branch of the Somerset County Library System, is, for the first time, appealing for the public's help. The appeal is needed because the library's foundation, which opened the library in 1974

@ [More...](#)

## Contact Us

American Libraries  
Direct



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George M. Eberhart,  
Editor:  
[geberhart@ala.org](mailto:geberhart@ala.org)



Beverly Goldberg,  
Senior Editor:  
[bgoldberg@ala.org](mailto:bgoldberg@ala.org)



Greg Landgraf,  
Associate Editor:  
[glandgraf@ala.org](mailto:glandgraf@ala.org)



Leonard Kniffel,  
Publisher,  
*American Libraries*:  
[lkniffel@ala.org](mailto:lkniffel@ala.org)

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[bsearles@ala.org](mailto:bsearles@ala.org)



Katie Bane  
[kbane@ala.org](mailto:kbane@ala.org)

and operates the building, is afraid its endowment will sink to an unsupportably low level....

*Trenton (N.J.) Times, Aug. 1*

### [DCPL opens fourth branch this year](#)

Washington, D.C., Mayor Adrian M. Fenty (right), DCPL Chief Librarian Ginnie Cooper, and other officials joined residents August 2 for a ribbon-cutting of the new Watha T. Daniel/Shaw Neighborhood Library. "The District has worked hard over the past four years to improve public libraries and facilities," said Mayor Fenty. The new building was realized after [years of planning](#), contract negotiation, and construction, and is the fourth of [six new and renovated libraries](#) to open this year. ...



District of Columbia Public Library; *Washington City Paper, July 22*

### [Georgetown cupola restored](#)

The last week in July, HRGH Corporation finished and installed the historic cupola of the Georgetown branch of the District of Columbia Public Library. The original cupola had been destroyed in a 2007 fire. The branch is scheduled to reopen in September....



*Georgetown Metropolitan, July 30*

### [Seattle loves its public libraries](#)

A survey of Seattle Public Library patrons has found that more than 60% of those polled use the library at least twice a month. The [survey](#) in May of 33,000 patrons—about 7% of all those who hold library cards—was part of the library's effort to develop a plan to guide growth. The two most important services libraries offer are proving materials and providing access to technology....

*Seattle Times, July 30; Seattle Public Library, July 30*

### [Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library planned](#)

The [Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library](#) has received a \$50,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment, library founder Julia Whitehead announced in late July. The grant, along with donations that have been collected since 2008, will allow the library to open in November in Indianapolis as planned. The library will double as a museum, complete with artifacts and artwork dedicated to the late author, who was an Indiana native....



*Indianapolis Star, July 31*

### [Judge gives Shakespeare con man eight years](#)

An unemployed "fantasist" with a taste for the high life was jailed for eight years August 2 after he was convicted of handling a stolen copy of a Shakespeare First Folio and trying to sell it to the Folger Library. Raymond Scott was also sentenced on the theft of two paintings worth around £1,000 (\$1,590 U.S.) from a department store in Newcastle in October 2008, four months after his Shakespeare arrest. Judge Richard Lowden said the folio had been kept out of the public eye for many years and had been defaced to hide its true identity....

*Newcastle (U.K.) Journal, Aug. 3*

### [Library thieves go for the copper piping](#)

The thieves had only one thing on their minds when they broke into the Lillian Marrero branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia early on

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July 26: They shut off the water and stripped the basement of its copper piping. Forty personal computers and other valuables were left untouched. The copper theft is the second at the Marrero branch in less than a month....

*Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 30

### [Nixing of library expansion dished as anti-Latino](#)

In a decision that the board of the East Hampton (N.Y.) Library (right) [are ripping](#) as elitist and exclusionary, the town's zoning board has rejected a bid to expand the enclave's tiny Main Street building by roughly 6,000 square feet for a children's wing. Library officials say the the project was rejected so Hispanic children from outside East Hampton village proper would not pour into an inviting new facility. An August 14 referendum on the issue could result in a lawsuit against the zoning board to reverse the decision....



*New York Post*, Aug. 1; East Hampton (N.Y.) Library

### [Book-drop kitten dies](#)

Hemingway, the 6-week-old kitten found in a book drop at the La Mott branch of the Cheltenham Township (Pa.) Library System succumbed to its injuries late July 28 at the Montgomery County SPCA. The cat was suffering from dehydration, diarrhea, and a respiratory infection....

*Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 30

### [St. Louis gets set for massive makeover](#)

Movers in charge of transporting the collection of the St. Louis Public Library's Central branch are more than two weeks into the six-week process of clearing all the materials from the downtown library's shelves. Central closed to the public June 14 for a two-year, \$79-million makeover that will restore the 98-year-old building's façade, some public spaces, and overhaul the electrical and heating systems. The books are being stored in a warehouse....



KWMU Radio, St. Louis, July 29

### [Vatican Library set to reopen in September](#)

The Vatican Library will open its doors again on September 20 after three years of intense refurbishing. The main objective of the remodeling was to improve security in the library to prevent theft or loss. Books will be registered in an electronic system and will contain an RFID identification chip. According to Director Cesare Pasini (right), the security measures were not made because of thefts: The library only wants to better preserve its nearly 1.6 million volumes and 150,000 manuscripts. Watch the [video](#) (1:50)....



Rome Reports TV News Agency, July 24; YouTube, July 23

### [Plagiarism rules blur in the digital age](#)

At Rhode Island College, a freshman copied and pasted from a website's FAQ page about homelessness—and did not think he needed to credit a source because the page did not include author information. Cases like this suggest that many students simply do not

grasp that using words they did not write is a serious misdeed. "Because you're not walking into a library, you're not physically holding the article, which takes you closer to 'this doesn't belong to me,'" said Sarah Brookover of Rutgers University Library....

*New York Times*, Aug. 1

### [Another library in a British phone booth](#)

An iconic red phone booth, snapped up from British Telephone for just £1 (\$1.59 U.S.), has been given a new lease on life as a library. The 1935-built phone booth in Blagdon, Somerset, has been reinvented as a vital village resource. It now boasts a new coat of paint, a number of well-stocked bookshelves, a host of loyal customers, and even its own volunteer librarian, Siobhan Watson....

*Weston (U.K.) Mercury*, July 29



### [Materials decaying in Dhaka](#)

Due to lack of proper preservation, century-old manuscripts, rare books, newspapers, and periodicals have been decaying at the Dhaka University Central Library in Bangladesh.

About 200 rare manuscripts and at least 500 microfilmed newspapers have already been damaged. The library has a collection of more than 30,000 such books and manuscripts written on palm and banana leaves, bark, stone slabs, and handmade papers in Sanskrit, Bangla, Arabic, Pali, Urdu, Persian, Maithili, Uriya, Hindi, and a few other dialects....

*Dhaka (Bangladesh) Daily Star*, June 18



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## Tech Talk

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### [Inching closer to the Semantic Web](#)

Jim Giles writes: "The Semantic Web was proposed over a decade ago by Tim Berners-Lee, among others. Now a triumvirate of internet heavyweights—Google, Twitter, and Facebook—are making it real. Computers would handle information in ways we find more useful because they would process the concepts within documents, rather than the documents themselves. It is a wildly attractive idea, but there have been few practical examples. That's about to change."...

*New Scientist*, Aug. 2

### [Five best personal project management tools](#)

Jason Fitzpatrick writes: "It's easy to find a project management tool for large groups, but finding one for personal use that doesn't overwhelm you with group-focused features is a challenge. Here's a look at five popular tools for personal project management."...

*Lifehacker*, Aug. 1



### [Google rolls out multiaccount sign-in](#)

Josh Lowensohn writes: "The shuffle of having to log off, then back onto your Google account to open up Google services from different accounts,



but in the same browser instance, will soon be a thing of the past. As noticed by the [Google Operating System blog](#), and later confirmed by a Google spokesperson, the company is rolling out a [new feature](#) that lets users cycle through up to three of their registered Google accounts without having to reidentify their credentials and switch from one to another with a simple dropdown menu.”...

CNET: Web Crawler, Aug. 3; Google Operating System blog, Aug. 3

### [Five things tech people should stop tweeting about](#)

Alex Wilhelm writes: “Twitter was built, populated, and promoted by the tech community. That just makes it even more ironic that so many of us techies have terrible Twitter manners. We should know better. Twitter is a lovely thing, but when we tweet certain things we make our followers cringe and twitch towards the unfollow button. Do whatever you will, but after reading literally millions of tweets I think that if we cut out the following Tweets we would all be better off.”...

TNW Social Media, Aug. 2

### [Preserving games: The legal, technical hitches](#)

Andrew Webster writes: “When it comes to preservation, video games are problematic. Hardware becomes outdated and the media that houses game code becomes obsolete, not to mention the legal issues with emulation. A new paper from the *International Journal of Digital Curation*, ‘Keeping the Game Alive: Evaluating Strategies for the Preservation of Console Video Games’ ([PDF file](#)), suggests several ways this problem can be tackled, and the pros and cons of each.”...

Ars Technica: Opposable Thumbs, July 30



### [Maximize your laptop warranty](#)

Shin-GO writes: “Since it recently happened to me, I thought I’d share how to get your laptop warranty to work for you in the event of misfortune. First, it’s important that you read the warranty. There’s no use trying to argue repair or replacement through warranty if you don’t know the terms. If your computer is acting funny, test it in a few ways to support your warranty claim. If hardware that is integral to the machine is on the fritz, it’s covered. Yes, even down to the Ethernet port and the battery.”...

Lifehacker, July 30

### [AT&T launches QR code scanning](#)

Christina Warren writes: “QR codes are poised to take off in the mainstream and AT&T [has jumped](#) on the bandwagon. Code Scanner is a free app for BlackBerry and Android devices that scans both 2D (QR and datamatrix) and 1D (UPC and EAN) barcodes. You can get it from the BlackBerry App World, the Android Market, or through your mobile device. The menu options include a direct link to [Create-a-Code](#) (via desktop or mobile), where you can create a QR code for contacts or for a web page.”...

Mashable: Mobile, Aug. 2; AT&T, Aug. 2

## Publishing

### [\\$200 textbook vs. free: You do the math](#)



Scott McNealy, the fiery cofounder and former chief executive of Sun Microsystems, shuns basic math textbooks as bloated monstrosities: Their price keeps rising while the core information inside of them stays the same. "Ten plus 10 has been 20 for a long time," McNealy said. He has been aiming his energy and some money at [Curriki](#), an online hub for free textbooks and other course material that he spearheaded six years ago....

*New York Times*, July 31

### [American Physical Society offers journals for free](#)



The American Physical Society has announced a new public access initiative that will give readers and researchers in public libraries in the United States full use of all online APS journals, from the most recent articles back to the first in 1893, a collection including over 400,000 scientific research papers. APS will provide this access at no cost to participating public libraries, as a contribution to public engagement with the ongoing development of scientific understanding. Sign up [here](#)....

American Physical Society, July 28

### [Why e-book economics don't work in public libraries](#)

Tim Spalding writes: "The public library conversation about e-books is heating up. Unfortunately, much of the conversation ignores a critical factor that makes e-book lending problematic: For libraries, e-book economics doesn't make sense. What is the cost per circulated book for libraries? It's near \$0.50. Amazon has tried to get everyone to adopt a \$9.99 price point for popular titles, so will e-book sellers accept the \$0.50 deal? Of course not." (Unless the government [makes them](#).) But a recent [report](#) ([PDF file](#)) by the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies is optimistic and well worth reading....

Thingology Blog, July 30; *Wall Street Journal*: Law Blog, Aug. 3; Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, July 23



### [E-books article drinking game](#)

Stephanie Anderson writes: "With sincere apologies if this has been done before, but I think this is the only way I can read another one of these. Maybe I might be cranky today. 'Will e-books wipe out / kill / decimate / pulverize / hulksmash / angry verb real books?'—one drink. Assertion that e-book prices are too high, and will lower soon— one drink."...

Bookavore, July 28

### [On covers](#)

James Bridle writes: "One of the many great debates around the ephemeralization of music has been the lamentation for the loss of cover art; now we are reaching the same point with books. It's not just a physical transformation we're going through, it's a cognitive one. 'Don't judge a book by its cover' has never been more true. Most of us see covers now as blurred little icons; nothing like the designer or art director or marketing department envisaged,



and no use for their intended purpose.”...

Tools of Change for Publishing, Aug. 2

### [Dutch detective covers](#)

Will Schofield writes: “Last year I featured covers from the collections of brothers Uilke and Hillebrand in the post [Dood in Ecstasy: Dutch Mystery Covers](#). Since then they’ve uploaded hundreds more, and I had a blast combing their collections again for this sequel. For example, Mickey Spillane’s *Rendez-vous met de Dood* (*The Jury*) from 1952 (right).”...



A Journey Round My Skull, Aug. 2

### [The best magazine articles ever](#)

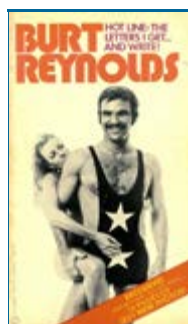
Kevin Kelly writes: “The following are suggestions for the best magazine articles (in English) ever. This is a work in progress. It is an ongoing list of suggestions collectively made by readers of this post. At this point the list has not been vetted or selected by me. In fact, other than the original five items I suggested, all of the articles mentioned here have been recommended by someone other than me.”...



Cool Tools

### [Nine of the worst library books](#)

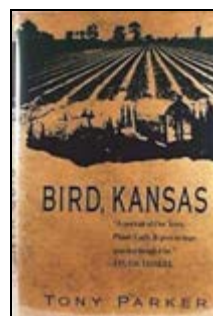
Mary Kelly and Holly Hibner write: “Every library has them: titles in the collection that we stumble upon and think, ‘What is this doing here?’ Librarians weed books that are outdated, irrelevant, or unintentionally funny. [AwfulLibraryBooks](#) is a collection of the worst of library holdings. The authors collect the discards of their colleagues around the world and post them (anonymously, of course). The point is to have fun, laugh, and celebrate the time and place when these old, obscure books were popular.”...



Huffington Post, Aug. 3

### [Bright books for hard times](#)

Jessa Crispin writes: “It’s not just that the news is bleak, it’s the powerlessness that everyone feels. When it’s a torrent of oil spilling into our oceans, deep underground, it’s not the kind of thing you can roll up your sleeves and solve yourself. So here is a reading list about humor in dark times, the strength of community, and people who, no matter how far gone things seemed, shook off apathy and got to work at tipping the scales back to something resembling balance.”...



Need to Know on PBS: Voices, July 27

### [E-readers come to rural Africa](#)

Curt Hopkins writes: “[Worldreader.org](#) has just finished a proof of concept for e-reader use in the African country of Ghana. Verdict? Yes, it helps increase literacy. So they’re going to do a lot more of it. ‘Books to All’ is the motto of this nonprofit spearheaded by David Risher, who led Amazon’s product development for five years. In March, Worldreader finished its Phase 1 trial, using 20 Kindles in the [village of](#)



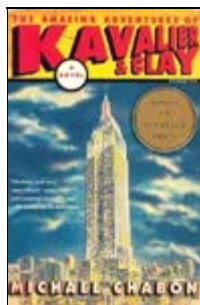
[Ayenyah.](#) "...

ReadWriteWeb, July 27; GhanaWeb, Mar. 16

## [10 books that would make geektastic movies](#)

Gabrielle Dunn writes: "One of the trends in Hollywood right now is to remake classic geeky films instead of tackling the plethora of books that are just ripe for adapting. What makes a book geeky doesn't necessarily mean strictly science fiction; it's a label that includes books whose characters and plot would appeal to those of the geek persuasion. We've picked 10 books that we think would make great films and create new legions of movie fans."...

Inside Movies, July 30



## [What's being bought where](#)

Nora Rawlinson writes: "This is a little scary—the UK-based online bookstore, BookDepository.com, features a [live map](#) of orders being placed on its site. It's curiously fascinating; ooh, look, someone in Belgium bought *The Librarian's Book of Quotes*, published by ALA. Are there interesting library applications, like 'What's Being Placed on Hold' or 'What's Just Been Returned To Which Branch'?"...

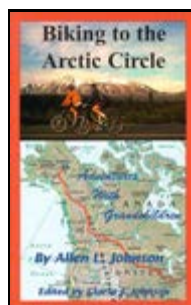
Early Word: The Publisher | Librarian Connection, July 30



## [10 bizarre travel guides](#)

Jamie Frater writes: "This list is taken from our forthcoming book *The Ultimate Book of Bizarre Lists*. Here we look at 10 of the strangest tourist guidebooks you can imagine. Next time you are stuck for a holiday idea, consider getting one of these for an experience you will never forget." Like *Biking to the Arctic Circle: Adventures with Grandchildren*, by Allen L. Johnson (right, Creative Enterprises, 2000)....

Listverse, July 30



# Actions & Answers

## [See Sally research: An environmental scan](#)

Joyce Valenza writes: "Recently, Doug Johnson and I were asked to write a chapter on how student research has evolved for an upcoming book aimed at school administrators. I thought that some of you might find our draft helpful. Digital and ubiquitous sources of information, expanded definitions of literacy and audience, and greater emphasis on creative problem-solving have dramatically changed how students do research. The following scenarios scan the evolution of the information and communication landscapes."...

*School Library Journal*: NeverEndingSearch, Aug. 2

## [Studies show summer reading keeps skills strong](#)

University of Tennessee researchers Richard Allington and Anne McGill-Franzen have completed a three-year study that shows a significantly higher level of reading achievement in students who had access to books for summer reading at home. A



study ([PDF file](#)) by the Dominican University GSLIS also showed that students who participated in public library summer reading programs scored higher on reading achievement tests at the beginning of the next school year than students who did not participate....

*Tennessee Today*, July 21; Dominican University, June 22

### **[Chicago to get \\$8.9 million for library computers](#)**

The federal National Telecommunications and Information Administration will provide Chicago with \$8.9 million in stimulus funding to upgrade public computers in the city and provide training to residents. The funds will add or upgrade more than 3,300 computer workstations at over 150 locations, including city libraries, workforce centers, public housing sites, and all seven city colleges. As a result, the centers will be able to accommodate an estimated 200,000 additional weekly users and train up to 20,000 residents over the two-year life of the project....

National Telecommunications and Information Administration, July 30

### **[The economic returns of public access policies](#)**

Delivering timely, open, online access to the results of federally funded research in the United States will significantly increase the return on the public's investment in science, according to a new study by John Houghton at the Centre for Strategic Economic Studies at Victoria University. "[The Economic and Social Returns on Investment in Open Archiving Publicly Funded Research Outputs](#)" was coauthored by Bruce Rasmussen and Peter Sheehan....

SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition), Aug. 4

### **[The future of the academic library](#)**

Tracy Mitrano writes: "In the next few blogs I will highlight some moments from the Institute for Computer Policy and Law held July 20–22 at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Five sessions were captured on video and [archived](#). Seated as if by a pool, imaginary cocktail umbrellas in their imaginary cocktails, Susan Perry and Jay Schafer had a casual conversation about the topic that in all seriousness has been their life work. The conversation revolved around a list of 'Ten Things to Keep in Mind' that Susan uses."...

*Inside Higher Ed: BlogU*, July 28

### **[LC launches National Digital Stewardship Alliance](#)**

The Library of Congress announced August 3 the formation of the [National Digital Stewardship Alliance](#), a partnership of institutions and organizations dedicated to preserving and providing access to selected databases, web pages, video, audio, and other digital content with enduring value. The alliance is an outgrowth of the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program, which the library has administered since 2000....

Library of Congress, Aug. 3

### **[ARL promotes large-scale digitization principles](#)**

The Association of Research Libraries Board of Directors unanimously voted on July 26 to endorse a set of nine principles ([PDF file](#)) to guide

vendor/publisher relations in large-scale digitization projects of special collections materials. The board's vote strongly encourages ARL member libraries to refrain from signing future agreements with publishers or vendors, either individually or through consortia, that do not adhere to the principles....

Association of Research Libraries, Aug. 4

### [When like doesn't mean like](#)

Jenny Levine writes: "If you're watching the [Target Facebook Page](#) right now, you're seeing another social media disaster on a par with Nestle's [débâcle](#) back in March. It's like watching a train wreck in slow motion, but it's another great case study for us about *what not to do* online. Hint: Don't set your page to show only your posts first and then abandon it when controversy arises. If you're not familiar with the current controversy, you can go [here](#) to read about Target's donation to a homophobic gubernatorial candidate in Minnesota."...

The Shifted Librarian, Aug. 3; techguerilla talk, Mar. 22; Chicagoist, July 28



### [Logic-defying arguments](#)

Barbara Fister writes: "In case you haven't noticed, library budgets are being gobbled up by the ever-rising cost of subscriptions to journals and databases, most of it temporary electronic access to research that gets turned off like the lights if we can no longer scrape together the rent. This increased budgeting for databases and journals means we have less money to buy things we actually own. But *don't worry about it!* According to Alan Adler of the Association of American Publishers, we have no problem ([PDF file](#))."...

Inside Higher Ed: Library Babel Fish, Aug. 2

### [Millennials do care about Facebook privacy](#)

Jacqui Cheng writes: "Student use of privacy controls has skyrocketed recently, according to two researchers. Eszter Hargittai, associate professor at Northwestern University, and Danah Boyd, research associate at Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet and Society, published their findings in the online peer-reviewed journal [First Monday](#), noting that young people are very engaged with the privacy settings on Facebook, contrary to the popular belief that their age group is reckless with public postings."...

Ars Technica: Web, July 31; First Monday, Aug. 2

### [Harvesting the grapes of literacy](#)

Adrienne Jeffries writes: "The sales of Twitter's [Fledgling](#) wine, which is set to be bottled August 25, will benefit [Room to Read](#), a San Francisco-based nonprofit that promotes literacy around the world. 'The Fledgling Initiative embodies two things that are at the core of Twitter's mission: providing access to information and highlighting the power of open communication to bring about positive change,' Twitter cofounders Biz Stone and Evan Williams said." Besides, they note, "if you can't read you can't Tweet!" Watch the [video](#) (1:50)....

ReadWriteWeb, Aug. 2; YouTube, Oct. 13, 2009



### [A blended librarian talks info literacy](#)

It's no surprise that growing up in a computer age does not make you an automatically savvy consumer of electronic resources. Students "just





tend to gravitate to what they're comfortable with," says Mark McBride, a blended librarian at Buffalo State College. With Emerging Technology Librarian Ken Fujiuchi, McBride teaches [Library 300](#). Although it's billed as an advanced course, it focuses on what are more and more recognized as the basics of 21st-century information literacy....

*Chronicle of Higher Education*, Aug. 2

### [The role of a social media librarian](#)

Steven Bell writes: "Academic libraries are leveraging social networks to increase opportunities to connect with students and faculty. But just because you tweet all day and watch lots of YouTube videos doesn't mean that you know how to turn social media into proactive tools for getting consumers excited about your organization and what it offers. Does librarianship need to provide more opportunities for LIS students to gain these skills?"...

ACRLLog, Aug. 3

### [Seven search engines for students](#)

Richard Byrne writes: "A major concern that teachers, parents, librarians, and school administrators have whenever their students search for information on the internet is having the students stumble across inappropriate materials. One way to alleviate that fear is to [create your own](#) search engine using Google Custom Search, but that could be time-consuming. Another option is to have students use search engines intended for academic and or child use. Here are seven search engines for students of all ages."...

Free Technology for Teachers, Aug. 2



### [Get crafty @ your library](#)

Arts and crafts have always been staples of children's activities at the library. Now, with the growing interest in do-it-yourself projects and crafting in popular culture, libraries are reaching out to crafty library users of all ages. Bennington (Nebr.) Public Library recently launched a new multigenerational [crochet/knit @ your library](#) program that is open to anyone interested in learning and sharing knitting and crocheting techniques....

Campaign for America's Libraries, July 31



### [LC puts jazz photos on Flickr](#)

The Library of Congress has begun uploading to Flickr a historic collection of photographs of jazz artists of the 1930s and 1940s taken by William P. Gottlieb, a columnist for the *Washington Post*. The first 200 images show the photographs alongside Gottlieb's personal recollections that were published in his book *The Golden Age of Jazz*. The photographs in LC's Gottlieb Collection entered into the public domain in February, in accordance with Gottlieb's wishes....

Library of Congress, July 30



### [Some thoughts on interlibrary loan data](#)

Constance Malpas writes: "Over the past few years, OCLC Research has done quite a bit of analytic work based on supply-side data, much of it aggregated from WorldCat. More recently, we have begun to think about how we might make better use of the demand-side data

that is generated by a variety of routine library operations, especially circulation and interlibrary loans. A considerable quantity of data is on hand as a byproduct of the millions of ILL requests handled each year by WorldCat Resource Sharing.”...

hangingtogether.org, July 30

### [The breathtaking book art of Richard Minsky](#)

Stephen J. Gertz writes: “Yale University is now celebrating an astonishing career with a wondrous and extraordinary retrospective exhibition, ‘[Material Meets Metaphor: A Half Century of Book Art by Richard Minsky.](#)’ at its Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library. The fact that Richard Minsky began his own letterpress printing business when he was 13 years old and has remained intensely focused on books and their creative possibilities as an object-medium for artistic expression may have had something to do with it. A half-century later, his influence has been incalculable.”...

BookTryst, Aug. 2



### [Henri-Cartier Bresson in Chicago](#)

Mark R. Gould writes: “An exhibit of Henri Cartier-Bresson’s moving and poetic photographs can be enjoyed at the Art Institute of Chicago through October 3, then travels to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. ‘Henri Cartier-Bresson—the Modern Century’ is the first full retrospective of his work in three decades. The Art Institute’s David Travis offers his thoughts about his friend and colleague.”...

@ your library



### [LC’s Division for Special Information](#)

Larry Nix writes: “The Division for Special Information was established in the Library of Congress in the summer of 1941 for the purpose of analyzing information and data bearing on national security. This meant obtaining and analyzing documents and publications originating in hostile nations. Neutral nations such as Ireland assisted LC in obtaining some of these publications. In 1943 the unit moved from the Library of Congress to the Office of Strategic Services. Librarian of Congress Archibald MacLeish was an active player.”...

Library History Buff Blog, Aug. 3



### [Library of Congress, 1905 and 2007](#)

Compare and contrast the Library of Congress Main Reading Room in the Thomas Jefferson Building in these two photos taken 102 years apart: The first made on analog black-and-white film by the Detroit Publishing Company, the second taken with a Phase One P45+ digital back by Carol Highsmith. View the original sizes for lush detail....

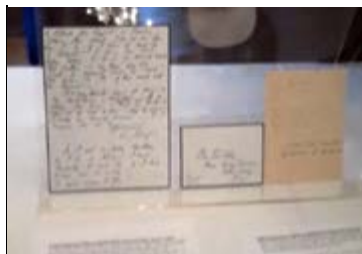
Shorpy, July 31



## [The Grace Tully Collection of FDR papers](#)

U.S. Archivist David S. Ferriero writes: "After almost 30 years of effort, the National Archives and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library have obtained the papers that Grace Tully collected and maintained during her time as FDR's primary secretary, 1941–1945. When the collection is open to scholars in a few months, it will provide a window into the inner workings of the Roosevelt White House." The collection also includes a considerable amount of material from Tully's predecessor, Missy LeHand. Watch the [video](#) (3:25)....

AOTUS: Collector in Chief, July 29; YouTube, July 27



## [British Library acquires J. G. Ballard papers](#)

The archive of J. G. Ballard, one of the most visionary British writers of the 20th century, has been acquired by the British Library. Ballard's fiction predicted the rise of terrorism against tourists, the alienation of a society obsessed by new technology, and ecological disasters such as the melting of the ice caps. His important and lasting literary legacy includes such iconic works as *Empire of the Sun* and *Crash*, both of which were turned into major films....

British Library, June 10



## [Why digital preservation is important for everyone](#)

Our personal photos, papers, music, and videos are important to us. They record the details of our lives and help define us. But increasingly, our possessions and our communications are no longer material—they are digital and dependent on technology to make them accessible. This Library of Congress video (7:44) offers simple and practical strategies for personal digital preservation....

YouTube, July 27



## [John Ary loves the Topeka Library media dispenser](#)

John Ary writes: "Why spend money at the Redbox when you can get new DVD releases, Blu-ray discs, and video games from the media dispenser at the Topeka and Shawnee County (Kans.) Public Library for free?" This is a homage (1:18) to the Libramation MediaBank media dispenser at TSCPL, which offers a selection of some 3,000 movies and video games in addition to their large regular collection....

YouTube, July 27



## [Research devil vs. angel](#)

The University of Alabama Libraries sponsored a video contest to promote library resources and services and encourage students to create collaborative teams from the student perspective. Nine



teams entered and a panel of judges selected four videos as finalists. More than 1,800 votes later, this video (4:07) emerged the winner. Team members were Josh Sahib, Jana Motes, and Sydney Prather....

YouTube, Aug. 3

### **The magic of a university library**

The wonders of the University of Bergen Library in Norway are illustrated by Head of Acquisitions Ole Gunnar Evensen in this fun promotional video (3:25, in English). Bergen may not be the largest library in the world, Evensen says, but its selection is enormous: "If you pile all the books on top of each other, it would be just as high as Mount Everest."...



YouTube, Dec. 17, 2009

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## American Libraries Online

### [Camden libraries may be rescued by the county](#)

Within four days of the Camden (N.J.) Free Public Library board voting August 5 to shutter the entire three-branch system and empty the facilities of their collections and equipment by the end of December, Camden Mayor Dana L. Redd announced that she is in talks with the county to have the city libraries absorbed into the county library system. "After learning that the library board's only solution was to close our libraries, I knew I could not let that happen," Mayor Redd said at an August 9 press conference....

*American Libraries news, Aug. 9*

### [Kathleen Imhoff files suit in Lexington](#)

Kathleen Imhoff (right), who was fired by the board of the Lexington (Ky.) Public Library last July 15 after months of squabbling over the details of her expense accounts over the previous five years, notified *American Libraries* that she has filed suit after the board failed to settle her claims for pay and to apologize publicly. Imhoff said she is determined to clear her name, saying she was never found guilty of any misuse of library funds....

*AL: Inside Scoop, Aug. 6*



### [If you Google net neutrality, what do you get?](#)

There's been no dearth of opining in the past few days about the implications of Google and Verizon banding together to "find ways to protect the future openness of the internet and encourage the rapid deployment of broadband," which is how a joint policy statement between the two firms is [being framed](#) by Alan Davidson, Google director of public policy and Tom Tauke, Verizon executive vice president of public affairs, policy, and communications....

*AL: Inside Scoop, Aug. 11*

### [National Conference of African American Librarians](#)

Black Caucus of the ALA President Jos Holman discusses the role of BCALA and ALA's other ethnic caucuses, BCALA milestones, and the



### [ALA Midwinter Meeting](#)

in San Diego, California, January 7–11, 2011.



Download Midwinter logos and buttons [here.](#)

Spectrum Presidential Initiative at this interview (4:09) during the National Conference of African American Librarians in Birmingham, Alabama, August 4–8. In it, he reveals the site of the next BCALA National Conference in 2013....

AL Focus, Aug. 10



### [Wayans and Knotts](#)

Kim Wayans (right) shared a bit of her life growing up in a family of comedians at the August 6 author luncheon during the National Conference of African American Librarians. She and her husband Kevin Knotts are authors of the Amy Hodgepodge series of books about the trials and tribulations of a multiracial 4th grader. Watch the [interview video](#) (3:21). The opening session speaker was [Terrence Roberts](#), a member of the Little Rock Nine....

AL: Inside Scoop, Aug. 7; AL Focus, Aug. 10



### [IFLA in Gothenburg: The American agenda](#)

For American delegates, the annual conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions traditionally begins with a pep talk, officially known as "Caucus: U.S.A." The August 10 meeting was an opportunity for old friends to reunite and for first-time delegates to get the lay of the land—in this case Gothenburg, Sweden—from seasoned IFLA-goers. The conference Opening Event featured Swedish diplomat [Jan Eliasson](#) and music of the pop group ABBA....

AL: Inside Scoop, Aug. 11



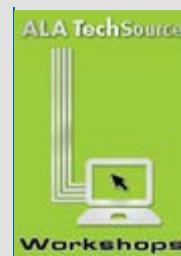
### [Reaching out to undergrads](#)

Sara D. Smith writes: "As the library profession grays, many academic libraries anticipate staff shortages as older employees retire within the next 10 years. Brigham Young University discontinued its MLS program in 1993 and cannot directly recruit from its own students. But BYU is using its library internship program as one way to cultivate a future pool of qualified employees who are dedicated to the university. This program is a good model for other university libraries as they consider reaching out to and recruiting from their own undergraduates."...

*American Libraries* feature

### [Youth Matters: It's not monkey business](#)

Jennifer Burek Pierce writes: "If by vocation or avocation you've come to cherish children's literature, you've no doubt encountered some skepticism about this particular passion. But to represent the world for children involves skillful choices based on training, research, and lived experience. Entering the lists on the side of children's literature as a reflection of larger cultural concerns is the Jewish Museum in New York City, with its summer exhibition, 'Curious



Join ALA TechSource for a two-part online workshop—"Using Technology in Library Training" with Paul Signorelli. You'll get hands-on, interactive instruction in using current web technology to enhance in-person training sessions or conduct remote training sessions. **NEW!** From ALA TechSource.



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**New this week**  
in *American Libraries*



[Reaching Out to Undergrads](#)

[Youth Matters](#)

[On My Mind](#)

[Perpetual Beta](#)

George Saves the Day: The Art of Margret and H. A. Rey."...  
*American Libraries* column, Sept.

### [On My Mind: A bookworm by any other name](#)

Jason Smalley writes: "So what do you do for a living?" she asked. I absolutely hate getting this question; I'm never sure how I want to answer it. Here's the thing. I don't work at a library. I work for a vendor that sells materials and services to school libraries across the country. In essence, I shop for books all day with other people's money. Yeah, it's a pretty sweet gig."...

*American Libraries* column, Sept.

### [Google Search Stories contest](#)

Jason Griffey writes: "The concept of Google [Search Stories](#) is that you can create your own story via search terms, in the manner of the [Google Superbowl commercial](#). It's an oddly compelling way to construct a narrative. So compelling, in fact, that I'm going to sponsor a contest using it. Use Search Stories to tell a story about libraries and post the video or a link to it here in the comments. The one chosen as the best will win a copy of my latest book. The deadline is September 30."...

AL: Perpetual Beta, Aug. 9



### [Inside Scoop](#)

### [Green Your Library](#)

### [Ask the ALA Librarian](#)

### [Librarian's Library](#)

### [AL Focus](#)



### [Make your library newsletter greener](#)

Laura Bruzas writes: "Done right, library newsletters can ignite a patron's interest in your programs, educate patrons about the remarkable depth and breadth of resources that your library holds in store for them each and every day, and can even help to bring in needed funds and donations. Until the time when all newsletters are digital, I've gathered a few simple ways that libraries can make their paper issues greener."...

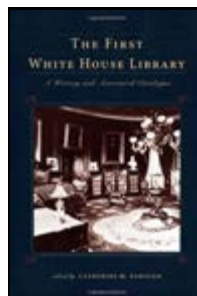
AL: Green Your Library, Aug. 5



### [Librarian's Library: The first First Library](#)

Mary Ellen Quinn writes: "The next time you find yourself in Canton, Ohio, make a stop at the National First Ladies' Library, home of the Abigail Fillmore Library Room. This room replicates the first permanent White House library, established by Millard and Abigail Fillmore in 1850. In 2004, the National First Ladies' Library began working with the Library of Congress and the Bibliographic Society of America to reconstruct the original Fillmore collection."...

*American Libraries* column, Sept.



### **Career Leads from JobLIST**

[Research Informationist](#), Emory University Libraries, Atlanta. The Woodruff Health Sciences Center Library seeks a knowledgeable, motivated, and service-oriented Research Informationist to deliver innovative research and instructional services in the areas of life sciences, specifically in biology, cell biology, biochemistry, and human genetics. This position will be responsible for assessing the information processing needs of the life sciences research community at Emory, and developing and implementing a viable model to address these needs and increase the quality and breadth of research support for life sciences and informatics. The position will provide

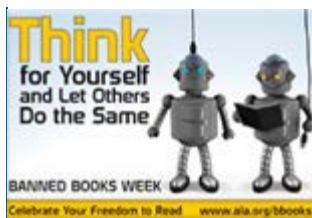


## **ALA News**

### [Are you hosting a Banned Book Week event?](#)

Banned Books Week 2010 will be held September 25 through October 2. If you plan on hosting an event during this week, please consider promoting it on the [website](#) maintained by the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression and the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom. If you would like to enter your event for this site, please fill out [this form](#)....

OIF Blog, Aug. 11



### [LSSC accepts applications for course subsidies](#)

The Library Support Staff Certification Program is accepting applications for 55 subsidies of \$200 from LSSC candidates to enroll in and complete LSSC-approved courses. Candidates who receive a subsidy award will receive a \$200 reimbursement after they pay for and complete an LSSC-approved course. Candidates must be [accepted](#) in the LSSC program by September 15, and recipients must successfully complete one of the [approved courses](#) by April 1, 2011....

ALA-Allied Professional Association, Aug. 10



### [Guadalajara Book Fair free pass program](#)

ALA and the Guadalajara International Book Fair are partnering for the ninth year to provide support for ALA members to attend the 23rd Guadalajara International Book Fair (FIL) from November 27 to December 1. The deadline for applying for the ALA/FIL free pass program is August 16. The Fair is offering an additional \$100 to the first 100 applicants who submit their airfare confirmation....

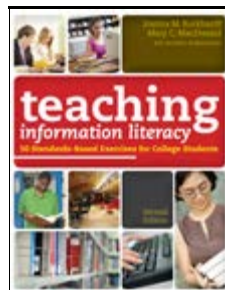
International Relations Office



### [Teaching information literacy to college students](#)

ALA Editions has released the second edition of [Teaching Information Literacy: 50 Standards-Based Exercises for College Students](#), by Joanna M. Burkhardt and Mary C. MacDonald with Andrée J. Rathemacher. Designed for use as either a full semester course or a single focused seminar or workshop, these 50 lessons show students how to engage with electronic and print information resources alike....

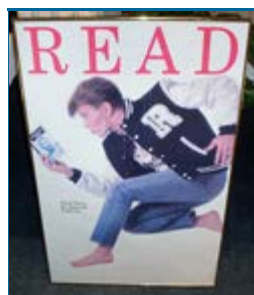
ALA Editions, Aug. 6



### [Celebrities continue the tradition of READ posters](#)

Whitney Matheson writes: "Remember those READ posters your school library had in the 1980s and 1990s? I totally remember the one with David Bowie (right). Well, ALA has released a new series of READ images, and they feature several contemporary celebrities (sorry, Kirk Cameron). Here's [an interesting list](#) of all the celebrities who have posed for READ posters over the years. And you can also [make your own poster](#). Nice."...

USA Today: Pop Candy, Aug. 4



expertise in licensing, access to digital resources and tools, and overall information processing support including literature searching, synthesis, and analysis....



@ [More jobs...](#)

### Digital Library of the Week



The [World Digital Library](#) makes available, free of charge and in multilingual format, significant primary materials from countries and cultures around the world. Launched in 2009, its principal objectives are to promote international and intercultural understanding, and expand the volume and variety of cultural content on the internet. These cultural treasures include manuscripts, maps,

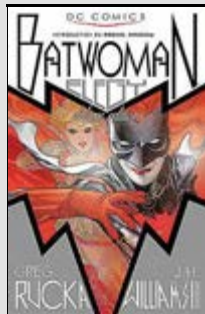


# Booklist ONLINE

## Featured review: Graphic novels

Rucka, Greg. *Batwoman: Elegy*. Illustrated by J. H. Williams. July 2010. 192p. DC Comics, hardcover (978-1-4012-2692-3).

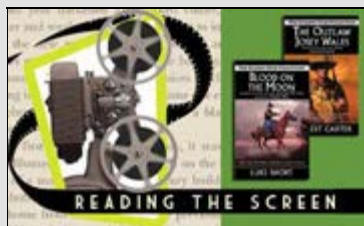
There are a number of reasons why this story arc, which appeared last year in *Detective Comics* following Batman's (for now anyway) death, is a departure from more traditional caped-crusader fare. For starters, Batwoman (aka Kate Kane) is the most prominent gay character in DC's universe, and she kicks ass with combat boots not stilettos (though her suit is still painted on). This volume deftly blends the story of her origin as a superhero with a dark thriller that pits her against Gotham's newest resident crazy, the High Madame of the Religion of Crime....



## Tough guys on horses

David Pitt writes: "Westerns may own only a tiny piece of today's publishing landscape, but patron demand in libraries remains steady, both for reprints and for new books by authors who can write

'em just as good as the old hands. Leisure Books' Classic Film Collection offers a fresh look at the books that inspired some of Hollywood's most memorable westerns—and a chance to compare both versions. In some cases, the movies we remember were markedly different from their source material; in others, they are remarkably similar. These latest two releases illustrate both phenomena."...



## Reference on the web

Carolyn Fang writes: "Thanks in part to the recession, there has been a growing trend in small business start-ups. Drastic layoffs in major industries have led to a resurgence of individuals looking to start and build their own businesses, many for the first time. Included in this listing are some of the more popular free websites designed to help the novice entrepreneur navigate the world of self-employment—like [Stopfakes.gov](http://Stopfakes.gov), part of a nationwide effort dedicated to protecting the intellectual property interests of small businesses from theft that can occur both at home and abroad."...



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rare books, musical scores, recordings, films, prints, photographs, and architectural drawings. The library was developed by a team at the U.S. Library of Congress, with contributions by partner institutions in many countries, the support of UNESCO, and the financial support of a number of companies and private foundations. The collection is browsable by place, time, topic, type of item, and institution.

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

**"We could make such a beautiful library together."**

—One of "[25 Pickup Lines to Use on a New Bookworm](#)" suggested by Judy Berman in Flavorwire, Aug. 6.

**"Accidentally spill coffee on *Choice*. Declare aloud that I am going to library hell. Speculate with colleagues whether there is a library hell, and if so, what it would be like. One librarian suggests that perhaps it is a place where the only question you hear all day long is, 'Where's the bathroom?' Hilarity ensues."**

## Division News

[ALTAFF Friends groups survey](#)

ALTAFF is conducting a [survey](#) for Friends groups through September 30. This survey will gather information about all types of Friends groups across the country. All groups who complete the survey will be entered in a drawing to win a free year as a Friends Group Affiliate with ALTAFF, as well as a copy of *Even More Great Ideas for Libraries and Friends...*

ALTAFF, Aug. 5

### [ACRL Conference proposals](#)

ACRL is now accepting Cyber Zed Shed presentation, Poster Session, Roundtable Discussion, and Virtual Conference Webcast proposal submissions for the ACRL 2011 National Conference to be held March 30–April 2, 2011, in Philadelphia. Submit proposals via the [online form](#) by November 1....

ACRL, Aug. 4

### [Deadline nears for LITA National Forum](#)

The early bird registration deadline is approaching for the 2010 LITA National Forum, "The Cloud and the Crowd," to be held September 30–October 3 at the Hilton Downtown in Atlanta. Prior to August 15, the [registration rates](#) are \$50 lower. Registration is limited to 500....

LITA, Aug. 9

## Awards

### [Create your own story during National Library Week](#)

Libraries seeking to share their stories and raise public awareness are encouraged to apply for the 2011 Scholastic Library Publishing National Library Week Grant. The library that develops the best public awareness campaign using the National Library Week theme will be awarded \$3,000 to promote its library and library services. All proposals must use the 2011 National Library Week theme, "Create your own story @ your library." [Applications](#) are due by October 1....

Campaign for America's Libraries, Aug. 10

### [Nominations sought for RUSA awards](#)

Nominations are now being accepted for the many achievement awards and conference travel grants offered by RUSA. The deadline for all nominations is December 15. Award criteria, nomination forms, and instructions for submissions are available at each of the award's webpages....

RUSA, Aug. 10

### [2010 DEMCO BCALA Award for Excellence in Librarianship](#)

Irene Owens (right), dean of the North Carolina Central University School of Library and Information Science, has been awarded the 2010 DEMCO BCALA Award for Excellence in Librarianship. Owens was recognized for the significant impact she has had on the lives of many young professionals. The award was presented at the Black Caucus of the ALA's 7th National Conference of African American Librarians, held August 4–8 in Birmingham, Alabama....

Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Aug. 10



### [ALSC funds 2010 Spectrum Scholar](#)

ALSC is supporting Sylvia Franco (right) as its 2010–2011 Spectrum Scholar. Franco is attending the

—Leigh Anne Vrabel, in "[A Week in My Library Life: Day #5.](#)" Library Alchemy blog, July 30.

@ [More quotes...](#)



### TweetWatch

#### Follow:

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, World Library and Information Congress, Gothenburg, Sweden, Aug. 10–15, at: [#ifla2010](#)

Society of American Archivists, Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., Aug. 10–15, at: [#saa10](#) and [#dc2010](#)

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

### Calendar

**Sept. 10–12:** [Library History Seminar XII](#), Pyle Center, Madison, Wisconsin. "Libraries in the History of Print Culture."

**Sept. 15:** [Women Who Tech TeleSummit](#).

**Sept. 25:**

University of Texas at Austin School of Information. ALSC is sponsoring one Spectrum Scholar interested in library service to children each year through funding from the Frederic G. Melcher Endowment....

ALSC, Aug. 5



### [NYPL announces 2010 Library Lions](#)

The New York Public Library's 2010 Library Lions gala honors five remarkable individuals for their contributions to the world of ideas at a black-tie gala on November 1. This year, the library tips its hat to author Malcolm Gladwell; actor, screenwriter, and novelist Ethan Hawke; New York Public Library President Paul LeClerc; actor and writer Steve Martin; and novelist Zadie Smith....

New York Public Library, Aug. 4

### [ADEPT wins Dalarna Library competition](#)

The Danish firm ADEPT Architects has been awarded first prize in the competition for the Dalarna Library in Sweden. The new library, placed centrally at the Dalarna university campus, is organized as a "spiral of knowledge." The sloping terrain outside continues in a ramp through the interior to create a spiral-shaped space—the heart of the building for information seeking and an easy orientation....

ArchDaily, Aug. 10



### [Mind Book of the Year 2010](#)

John O'Donoghue's *Sectioned: A Life Interrupted* (John Murray) was announced as the 2010 Mind Book of the Year on July 8. The memoir is an account of the breakdowns that have punctuated his life since the age of 16. Mind is the leading mental health charity in England and Wales, and the annual Book of the Year Award aims to promote a better understanding of mental health issues among the general public ....

Mind, July 8



## Seen Online

### [Teacher-aid package may save school librarian jobs](#)

President Barack Obama signed a federal aid bill August 10 that will provide \$16 billion for Medicaid and \$10 billion in state aid to prevent the loss of an estimated 300,000 public sector jobs across the U.S.—including some 160,000 teachers. The U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1586 by a vote of 247–161. [School librarians](#) could benefit from this funding, according to the ALA Washington Office....

Morristown (N.J.) Daily Record, Aug. 10; District Dispatch, Aug. 10

### [Legislation ensures accessible new technology](#)

On August 5, the United States Senate passed the Equal Access to 21st Century Communications Act (S. 3304), which updates U.S. communications laws to ensure new technologies are accessible to people with disabilities. Like H.R. 3101 that passed in the House of Representatives in July, it gives individuals with vision or hearing loss

[National Book Festival](#), National Mall, Washington, D.C.

**Sept. 25:**  
[Banned Books Week Read-out](#), Bughouse Square, Chicago.

**Sept. 25–  
Oct. 2:**  
[Banned Books Week](#).

**Sept. 25–26:**  
[PodCamp Boston 5](#), Microsoft New England Research and Development Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**Sept. 30–  
Oct. 3:**  
[LITA National Forum](#), Hilton Downtown, Atlanta. "The Cloud and the Crowd."

**Oct. 21:**  
[Xtreme Reference](#), Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, Kossiakoff Center, Laurel, Maryland. Sponsored by the SLA Maryland Chapter.

**Oct. 25–27:**  
[Internet Librarian 2010](#), Monterey Conference Center, Monterey, California.

**Nov. 1–3:**  
[Digital Library Federation](#), Fall Forum, Crowne Plaza Cabaña, Palo Alto, California.

**Nov. 5–7:**  
[YALSA Young Adult Literature Symposium](#).

improved access to television programming, smartphones, the internet, and menus on DVD players and cable TV....

American Foundation for the Blind, Aug. 6

### [Librarian fired for not revealing weight](#)

In the two years she worked for the Urbandale (Iowa) Public Library, Lisa Bonifas (right) got glowing reviews. But the city fired Bonifas July 26 for a reason that strains credulity: She refused to disclose her height and weight, required information for a new city ID card. Amazingly, it's legal for an employer to demand such personal information, even when it has no relevance to a job. Iowa is a right-to-work state, so employers can fire for any reason as long as its not discriminatory....



*Des Moines (Iowa) Register, July 30*

### [New Cedar Rapids library could be named for you—for \\$23 million](#)

A donor will need to contribute at least 51% of the total project cost before the Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Public Library board will be able to consider naming the city's new library for the donor under a new policy adopted by the board on August 5. That's \$23.2 million for a library expected to have a total cost of \$45.5 million. The library is expected to be built by late 2012....

*Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette, Aug. 6*

### [Bed bug problem in New York branch contained](#)

Jen Doll writes: "According to a WPIX-TV newscast, bed bugs have been found in the New York Public Library's Mid-Manhattan branch. The story goes that a coworker was bitten by a bed bug in early July, and that other bugs have been spotted since then. WPIX now says the situation has been contained. We spoke with NYPL spokesperson Gayle Snible, who clarified a few things."...



*Village Voice: Runnin' Scared, Aug. 5; WPIX-TV, New York City, Aug. 5*

### [OCLC releases statement on SkyRiver lawsuit](#)

OCLC Board of Trustees Chair Larry Alford and OCLC President Jay Jordan released a statement August 5 on the recent antitrust lawsuit filed against them by SkyRiver Technology Solutions and Innovative Interfaces Inc.: "We at OCLC believe the lawsuit is without merit, and we will vigorously defend the policies and practices of the cooperative." OCLC lawyers "will respond to this regrettable action" and the "process will likely take months or even years, not days."... OCLC, Aug. 5

### [Evanston library board to take control of funding](#)

Evanston (Ill.) Public Library board members would no longer look to city staff and aldermen for final authority on what funding library services should receive but would take over that responsibility under a dramatic decision made August 4. With some elected aldermen in attendance, members of the library board voted 6–2 to establish a Public Library Fund—in effect, assuming responsibility from the city on final budget decisions on library services....

*Evanston (Ill.) Review, Aug. 5*

Albuquerque Marriott, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

### **Nov. 12–14:** [Reimagining the Archive](#)

James Bridges Theatre, School of Theater, Film & Television, University of California, Los Angeles. "Remapping and Remixing Traditional Models in the Digital Era."

@ [More...](#)

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American Libraries Direct



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George M. Eberhart,  
Editor:  
[ggeberhart@ala.org](mailto:ggeberhart@ala.org)



Beverly Goldberg,  
Senior Editor:  
[bgoldberg@ala.org](mailto:bgoldberg@ala.org)



Greg Landgraf,  
Associate Editor:  
[glandgraf@ala.org](mailto:glandgraf@ala.org)



Leonard Kniffel,  
Publisher,  
American Libraries:  
[lkniffel@ala.org](mailto:lkniffel@ala.org)

## [Books crash to floor at Indiana State University library](#)

Except for some scratches, no one was seriously hurt August 4 when a few rows of bookshelves came tumbling down, domino-style, on the second floor of Indiana State University's Cunningham Memorial Library in Terre Haute. But the library had to close for a day and a half, and 25,000 books had to be put back in order and reshelved....

*Terre Haute (Ind.) Tribune-Star*, Aug. 5; WTHI-TV, Terre Haute, Aug. 6



## [Library in disarray: Paintings by Wendy Heldmann](#)

Michael Lieberman writes: "Wendy Heldmann lives and works in Los Angeles, a city where many exist in a constant state of earthquake awareness. She has created two striking series of works, [of course and never](#) and [barricades + libraries](#), that take the orderly world of the library and turn it upside down. Heldmann's post-disaster world is void of humanity. The books are rearranged naturally, landing and resting wherever the last tremor or collapse leave them."...

*Book Patrol*, Aug. 6



## [Maintenance problems piling up in Fairbanks library](#)

Plastic sheets cover bookcases in the Alaskana and adult fiction sections at the Noel Wien Public Library in Fairbanks, Alaska, because rainwater is leaking through clefts in the roof. The building's pipes are corroding. The trees in the lobby are diseased. Electrical outlets in the facility are scarce. In all, the library needs about \$17 million for maintenance plus a new multipurpose room and lobby. Library Director Greg Hill said state library construction grant money is by no means certain....

*Fairbanks (Alaska) News-Miner*, Aug. 9

## [Man charged with theft from Massachusetts library](#)

Police in early August arrested a man who is accused of stealing two precious-metal items from the Peabody Institute Library of Danvers, Massachusetts, and selling them at a scrapyard. Richard Provencher is accused of stealing a 19th-century decorative copper urn and large copper plaque from the library....

*Boston Globe*, Aug. 9

## [Muscovy duck adopts Wilmington library](#)

A Muscovy duck nicknamed George stationed himself in front of the door at the Northeast Regional branch of the New Hanover County (N.C.) Public Library door this spring, looking like a grumpy bouncer with red-rimmed eyes. His presence disturbed and upset some people concerned about health hazards, but he delighted children who had never seen a bird like him before. Now he has his own Friends group and has taken up residence at the nearby pond....

*Wilmington (N.C.) Star-News*, Aug. 4



## [Vancouver boosts library cards by offering e-books](#)

Nearly 60,000 new Vancouver (B.C.) Public Library cards were issued in 2008–2009, up from nearly 42,000 the previous year. Library

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Katie Bane  
[kbane@ala.org](mailto:kbane@ala.org)

Send feedback:  
[aldirect@ala.org](mailto:aldirect@ala.org)

AL Direct FAQ:  
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ISSN 1559-369X

spokeswoman Jean Kavanagh attributes the spike at least in part to the emerging popularity of e-books. The library's website usage is also up 20% for 2010....

*Vancouver (B.C.) Sun, Aug. 9*

### [Legos and libraries seem to be linked](#)

The Grand Ballroom at Weber's Inn was taken over by cars, houses, battleships, creatures, and robots as the Ann Arbor (Mich.) District Library hosted its fifth annual Lego Contest August 5. Five years ago, the library staff wanted to have an event that had something to do with Legos, and it has now become their most anticipated annual event. Open to the general public, this year the contest had 173 participants. Meanwhile, the Nacogdoches (Tex.) Public Library has a popular [Lego Club](#)....

*Ann Arbor (Mich.) Journal, Aug. 9; KTRE-TV, Lufkin, Tex., Aug. 5*



### [When H. L. Mencken stood up to the censors](#)

Tufts University Journalism Professor Neil Miller's new book *Banned in Boston* is a history of Boston's New England Watch and Ward Society, which acted as a quasi-vigilante police force and literary censor for over 80 years. In this excerpt, *American Mercury* Editor H. L. Mencken faces off with the society's Rev. J. Frank Chase, who had ordered the banning of the April 1926 issue because it contained a short story about prostitution and hypocrisy in a small Missouri town....

*Boston Globe Sunday Magazine, Aug. 8*



### [Hull approves Philip Larkin statue](#)

The city council of Hull, England, has approved a life-size bronze statue of poet Philip Larkin for the Paragon Interchange, a train and bus transport complex in the city center. Sculptor Martin Jennings has been chosen to produce the statue. Larkin, who lived in Hull for 30 years before his death in 1985, combined a celebrated writing career with his role as librarian at Hull University. The statue will be unveiled on December 2....

*BBC News, Aug. 5*

### [Building literacy around the world](#)

[Room to Read](#) founder and Executive Chairman John Wood talks (4:51) with CNN Money about his organization, which has built more than 10,000 libraries around the world using big-business practices and social networking. "We opened our 10,000th library in Nepal a couple of months ago," Wood said. "We were very psyched about that milestone and celebrated for about a nanosecond, then went right back to thinking about how we get to 20,000 libraries."...

*CNN Money, Aug. 6*



### [Toronto to try out train-station library kiosk](#)

The Toronto Public Library is studying the idea of installing an automated kiosk at Union Station, where patrons could borrow a book with a swipe

of their library cards at any time of day. Similar kiosks are in use in Ottawa, Contra Costa County in California (right), and Europe. Library officials hope installing kiosks throughout the city will bring expanded services without the huge capital costs associated with building a branch....

*Toronto Star*, Aug. 9



### **Allen Lane's Penguinincubator, 1937**

Chris Higgins writes: "Sir Allen Lane is the creator of Penguin Books, which is credited with popularizing high-quality mass-market paperbacks. But he didn't stop there. He also invented the Penguinincubator, a vending machine for his paperbacks, in 1937." It was first installed at 66 Charing Cross Road in London, which "signaled his intention to take the book beyond the library and the traditional bookstore, into railway stations, chain stores, and onto the streets," according to [James Bridle](#). It is worth noting that this really annoyed booksellers....



*Mental Floss*, Aug. 9; *Publishing Perspectives*, Apr. 28

### **Pope Benedict wanted to be a librarian**

Pope Benedict XVI wanted to become a librarian in 1997, but his request to quit a high office in the Vatican was rejected. His predecessor, Pope John Paul II, declined Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger's request to spend his last years as the archivist of the Vatican Secret Archives and as librarian of the Vatican Library, according to the incumbent librarian and archivist Cardinal Raffaele Farina....

*The Telegraph* (U.K.), Aug. 5

### **Rare naval document given to National Library of Ireland**

An extremely rare 17th-century shipping document signed by King James II and English diarist Samuel Pepys was presented to the National Library of Ireland on August 5 by the Dublin Port Company. The ship's pass dating from 1687 is one of only four known examples of such 17th-century passes in the world. The vellum parchment was intended to provide safe passage for the merchant ship *Mary of Cork*, which was bound for the Canary Islands....



*Irish Times*, Aug. 6

### **U.S. judge orders Russian State Library to return religious books**

A federal judge in Washington sided against Russia July 30 ([PDF file](#)) in a dispute over the return of thousands of religious books, manuscripts, and rabbinical teachings that are held by the Russian State Library and the Russian State Military Archive. The Chabad-Lubavitch sect sued the Russian Federation to recover some 12,000 books and manuscripts seized during the Bolshevik Revolution and Russian Civil War, and 25,000 pages of handwritten teachings and writings of Chabad religious leaders that Nazi Germany seized during the 1939 invasion of Poland....

The BLT: *The Blog of Legal Times*, Aug. 4

[Go back to the Top](#)

## Tech Talk

### [Google Wave is washed up](#)

Google has announced it is ending development on Wave, the cross-platform communication tool it launched with much fanfare at its developer conference in May 2009. The company announced in an [August 4 post](#) that “Wave has not seen the adoption we would have liked.” Like most people, you’ve probably heard of it but not actually tried it, which sums up the problem. Clint Boulton offers [10 reasons](#) why Google Wave failed....



*The Guardian* (U.K.), Aug. 5; Official Google Blog, Aug. 4; *eWeek: Cloud Computing*, Aug. 5

### [Google: Brace yourselves for the data explosion](#)

Dan Tynan writes: “Google CEO Eric Schmidt had some scary things to say about privacy on August 5. In a nutshell, he said there is an almost incomprehensible amount of data out there about all of us—much of which we’ve generated ourselves via social networks, blogs, and so on—and we are totally unprepared to deal with the implications of that fact. The good side of all this data: instant information about virtually anything. The dark side? Vast potential for personal profiling by your employer, your insurer, and The Man.”...

*PC World*, Aug. 6

### [Is there a future for campus computer labs?](#)

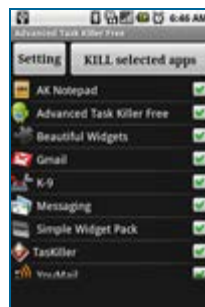
Michael David Leiboff writes: “Though centralized PC labs have been an important part of both campus space planning and IT infrastructure for the last two decades, this may be changing. With the advent of laptop computers, it is becoming increasingly common for students to own personal computers. While the days of computer labs may be numbered, other kinds of student-centered academic computing support will certainly be required.”...

*Campus Technology*, Aug. 4

### [Improve your Android phone's battery life](#)

Jamie Lendino writes: “Android-powered cell phones may be powerful devices, but devices like the Motorola Droid X and Samsung Vibrant don’t have endless battery life. In fact, many owners would be happy to make it through a single day, hoping that a nightly recharge is sufficient. Fortunately, there’s plenty you can do to stem the flow of juice from your Android device. Try these tips to extend your handset’s battery life.”...

*PC Magazine*, Aug. 10



### [Make an outlet-mounted device-charging pocket](#)

Sean Michael Ragan writes: “Most cell phones are provided with a very basic AC adapter, and you usually have to pay extra for a proper charging dock. The bundled charger is often unsightly in use, being just a transformer with a cord strung out to an end table or





something where the cell phone rests. The nice thing about this DIY version is that it requires no tools to mount or demount, being suspended by the plug on the charger itself. Plus it costs all of nothing to build.”...

*Make: Projects*, July 3, 2009

## Publishing

### The shock of exclusion

Barbara Fister writes: “Ever since I read an essay, “[The Shock of Inclusion](#)” by Clay Shirky in *Edge*, I’ve been pondering the implications of one of the stickiest concepts in the essay: He argues that publishing is the new literacy. He doesn’t mean that we need to add yet one more ‘literacy’ to the list of things we’re supposed to teach, but rather that the internet’s ability to lower the boundaries between the published and the unpublished, between the mediated and the impulsive, between the specialized and the everyday, has made publishing a very different cultural event.”...

*Inside Higher Ed*: Library Babel Fish, Aug. 9

### Dual-screen e-book reader: Kinda like a book

While the Kindle has largely failed with students as a replacement for printed textbooks, some colleges plan to test new e-reader devices whose promoters argue that two screens are better than one. One of the new e-readers is called [Kno](#), which was announced in June and will be given to about 100 students at three colleges. The Kno sports two 14-inch screens, allowing users to read on one screen while writing notes on the other....



*Chronicle of Higher Education*: Wired Campus, Aug. 9

### Project Gutenberg titles available on OverDrive

On August 6, Boston Public Library became the first OverDrive library partner to add more than 15,000 public domain e-books from [Project Gutenberg](#) to its Virtual Branch website—at no cost to the library. This featured collection, currently in beta, enables users to discover and download thousands of DRM-free EPUB e-books without holds, waitlists, or authentication....

Digital Library Blog, Aug. 10

### A smattering of frontispieces

L. D. Mitchell writes: “Folks who collect something other than hypermodern fiction frequently encounter the term ‘frontispiece’ in booksellers’ catalogs. Often abbreviated in catalogs as *frontis*, the frontispiece is infrequently encountered in modern books. This is unfortunate, since the frontispiece often



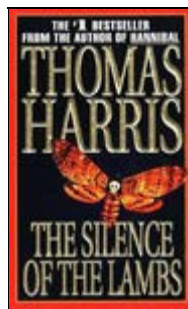
is the one place in a book where a particular illustrative technique (mezzotint, wood engraving, chromolithography), can be seen to best effect."...

The Private Library, Aug. 5

### [NPR's top 100 killer thrillers](#)

Joe Matazzoni writes: "The NPR audience nominated some 600 novels to our Killer Thrillers poll and cast more than 17,000 ballots. The final roster of winners is a diverse one to say the least, ranging in style and period from *Dracula* to *The Da Vinci Code*, and *Presumed Innocent* to *Pet Sematary*. What these top 100 titles share, however, is that all of them are fast-moving tales of suspense and adventure. And *menace*."...

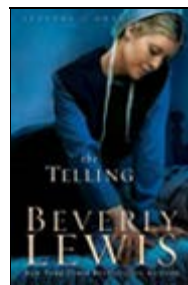
NPR, Aug. 4



### [Amish romances pick up the pace](#)

It's plain and simple: The Amish inspirational is one of the fastest-growing genres in romance publishing. In such popular series as Beverly Lewis's *Seasons of Grace*, Wanda Brunstetter's *Indiana Cousins*, and Cindy Woodsmall's *Sisters of the Quilt*, the Amish fall in love while grappling with religious taboos and forbidden temptations. And it all happens in über-quaint settings brimming with hand-sewn quilts, horse-drawn buggies, and made-from-scratch Pennsylvania Dutch specialties such as shoofly pie....

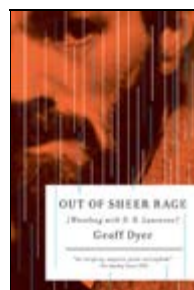
USA Today, Aug. 9



### [Summer school](#)

The *Slate* editors write: "As part of an ongoing assault on leisure, many American universities assign summer reading to incoming freshmen who have yet to set foot in a college classroom. While we have no doubt that these are worthy picks, we thought we'd offer incoming freshmen an alternative list, one better suited to helping 18-year-olds navigate university life. Herewith, a bit of homework—but pleasurable homework, we promise—courtesy of *Slate*."...

Slate, Aug. 2



## Actions & Answers

### [Florida libraries: Return on investment](#)

The State Library and Archives of Florida has published an updated research study assessing the worth of Florida's public libraries to citizens. Some key findings in [Taxpayer Return on Investment in Florida Public Libraries](#): For every \$3,491 spent on public libraries by the state, one job (not necessarily in a library) is created; and Florida's libraries return \$8.32 for every \$1.00 invested....

State Library and Archives of Florida, Aug. 6



### [The mismeasurement of public libraries](#)

Kent Anderson writes: "In March, OCLC released [How Libraries Stack Up: 2010](#), an infographic montage that is intended to illustrate the economic, social, and cultural impact of libraries in the United States.

It's slick, nicely illustrated, and some of the comparisons are pleasantly surprising (public libraries distribute as many DVDs as Netflix). But does distributing a used DVD of *Fight Club* really contribute to the U.S. economy? In fact, should the premise be economic at all?"...

The Scholarly Kitchen, Aug. 5

### [Advocacy group pushes for school librarians](#)

Debra Lau Whelan writes: "There's a new school library advocacy group in town—and it's called [Act4SL](#). Its aim? To convince legislators that the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act should require a certified media specialist in every K–12 school. To get started, the group recently unveiled a foldable wallet-sized printable card called 'Ready, Set, Contact,' which offers a one-stop shop of important phone numbers and websites for any librarian who wants to advocate on behalf of the profession."...

*School Library Journal*, Aug. 10



### [Plain-language facts on 21st-century skills](#)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has released a [podcast](#) (4:30) on 21st-century skills by IMLS Acting Director Marsha L. Semmel (right), who explains what 21st-century skills are, where the movement came from, and where libraries and museums fit in. She also describes [Making the Learning Connection](#), a national campaign to better understand the opportunities, challenges, and key issues facing museums and libraries in their efforts to meet their communities' 21st-century learning needs....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Aug. 11



### [21st-Century America Project](#)

The cities, towns, and countryside of 21st-century America and the life of its people are being documented by distinguished photographer Carol M. Highsmith, who is donating her photographs copyright-free to the Library of Congress to ensure worldwide access and preservation. Highsmith will photograph the country, state by state, completing the project in approximately 16 years. Her first state, Alabama, was photographed earlier this year, and those photos can be viewed in the library's Prints and Photographs Online Catalog....

Library of Congress, Aug. 11



### [Collecting American science](#)

Steven Turner writes: "Since I work in the Smithsonian Physical Sciences collection, my job is to find objects that speak to America's scientific heritage. Often this means collecting important scientific instruments—like the beautiful [Vassar telescope](#) now on display on the museum's first floor. But we also try to collect things that tell us about how Americans have historically experienced and understood science—and these are often completely different kinds of objects."...

O Say Can You See, Aug. 6



## [University library funding linked to more grant awards](#)

Science publisher Elsevier announced the results August 9 of an [international study](#) that correlates the value of the academic library to the amount of grant income. Of the eight institutions participating, six demonstrated a greater than one-to-one return in grant funding. Two showed a significant positive correlation between an increase in library investment over time and an increase in grant funding to the university. Carol Tenopir, director of the Center for Information and Communication Studies at the University of Tennessee, led the team....

Elsevier, Aug. 9

## [Top 10 sites to debunk internet hoaxes](#)

Tim Malone writes: "When your patrons turn into Chicken Little over the latest hoax, scam, rumor, or urban legend, point them to the sites



on this list to ease their minds. Actually, you really need only the top three sites on the list, but I've found the others to be useful on occasion. Sometimes these sites can be entertaining reading, but who has time for that?"...

TechRepublic, Aug. 6

## [Becoming more visible: A three-point plan](#)

Erin writes: "Technical services librarians often end up sequestered in back rooms, removed from both library users and colleagues. When we do get face time with our front-line colleagues, the burden is on us to show them the impact of our work. It's hard to do if, when we have the chance, we bore our colleagues to death with jargon. We need to take away the smoke and mirrors and show the substance of what we do in a way that anyone can understand. To that end, I offer you a three-point plan."...

User-Centered Cataloger, Aug. 6

## [Million-dollar idea: The cardigan T-shirt](#)

Travis Jonker writes: "Recently, as librarians are wont to do, I was engaged in an absorbing cardigan-sweater conversation with Julie Jurgens and Elizabeth Burns on Twitter. Suddenly, Julie came up with a genius idea. The cardigan T-shirt, inspired by the tuxedo shirt. There should be, nay, *needs* to be a T-shirt with a cardigan printed on it. Imagine the librarian humor possibilities."...



100 Scope Notes, Aug. 5

## [You know you're a 21st-century librarian when...](#)

Doug Johnson writes: "You've probably seen some version of the popular list, 'You know you're living in 200x when: 1. You accidentally enter your password on the microwave,' and so on. So how do you know you're a 21st-century librarian? When: 1. You have to remind kindergarteners to turn off their cell phones before the story starts." And 19 more indicators....

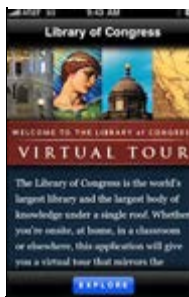
The Blue Skunk Blog, Aug. 8

## [Library of Congress gets a mobile app](#)

In late July, an application that gives mobile users access to the United States [Library of Congress Experience](#) went live in the iTunes App Store. The app

is compatible with iOS 3.1 on up and will run on the iPhone, iPod Touch, or iPad. Three LC staffers designed the app working part-time, said Matt Raymond, director of communications for the Library of Congress. When users download the free app, they can take a virtual tour of the library and its collections....

ReadWriteWeb, Aug. 3



### [Listen to free music online with Grooveshark](#)

Steven Campbell writes: "Could Grooveshark be the best service for streaming music? A lot of people have taken to online music. It's a great way to listen to your favorite tunes on demand and save your playlists or stations. There are many services that allow you to stream music, including [Pandora](#) and [Last.fm](#), but my personal favorite is [Grooveshark](#)."...

MakeUseOf, Aug. 10



### [Google Street View in 20 German cities by end of 2010](#)

After months of legal wrangling, Google expects to make its controversial Street View image captures available for Germany's 20 largest cities by the end of the year. This will include Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Köln, and Bonn. Germany has been particularly critical of Google's image capture program. The company now plans to let users block pictures of their property before the German site's launch, but criticism remains. If you can't wait until December, try out the German-language [Sightwalk](#) (above), which offers street views in seven cities....

Deutsche Welle, Aug. 10



### [University of Chicago microfilmed its catalog in 1969](#)

Neil A. C. Radford writes: "The academic year 1968–69 was a turbulent one on many American university campuses. The University of Chicago Library administration decided that, with student protests already disrupting some university activities, security measures must be taken to safeguard the card catalog. In March 1969, a secret project began to microfilm the entire catalog late at night so that if any cards were lost, they could be replaced with relative ease."...

*The Core*, Summer



### [Why the church library is still relevant](#)

Luanne Radecki Blackburn writes: "While some pastors see libraries as old school, choosing to discontinue them or to replace them with bookstores, church libraries can still be vital and relevant ministries: Bible study materials, family-friendly movies, the latest and greatest Christian fiction, and VeggieTales for the kids, all free and available for checkout any time the building is open. In fact, the tough economic times of the past couple of years have made this more evident than ever."...

Your Church, Aug. 9

### [Author urges British Education Secretary to save school libraries](#)

Children's author and campaigner Alan Gibbons is hoping to save school libraries amid fears that U.K. government spending cuts are leading to closures. In this message (2:31) to Secretary of State for Education Michael Gove, Gibbons says that schools are laying off librarians and library assistants, downgrading book acquisitions, and moving libraries to smaller rooms that have less space and fewer resources, which in turn reduces their importance in many schools. "Just getting rid of the library is cryingly stupid."...

Teachers.tv, Aug. 10



### [I Love My Library postcard swap](#)

Swap-bot is an online site that organizes group swaps of letters, postcards, and mail art for its members. A staff member at the Aurora Memorial branch of the Portage County (Ohio) District Library is coordinating an I Love My Library swap where members send two postcards explaining why they love their library, one to a swap partner and the other to the Aurora library. The deadline to sign up is August 16....

Swap-bot



### [Help your teens become stars with SchoolJam USA](#)

Jennifer Paisley-Schuch writes: "Teen bands across the country are invited to step onto the stage to compete in SchoolJam USA. This national, one-of-a-kind, teen battle-of-the-bands competition is accepting applications from middle and high school students aiming to showcase their talent and bolster support for school music programs. Entries can be submitted online until October 15 at the SchoolJam USA [website](#)."...

Programming Librarian, Aug. 5



### [A Peace Corps library volunteer in Ukraine](#)

Laureen Maloney writes: "An American Peace Corps volunteer named Debbie Garofalo made contact with us on behalf of the director of the Kherson Regional Library for Children (right) in southern Ukraine. Ms. Bardashevskaya was interested in sharing information and ideas between her library and the Lackawanna County (Pa.) Children's Library by establishing a Sister Library relationship. The communication with Debbie laid the groundwork for a face-to-face Skype conference."...

PaLA Bulletin, May/June



### [Play Social Media Monopoly](#)

Jennifer Van Grove writes: "Over the years, Monopoly has been reimagined in a plethora of different ways. Crystal Gibson just one-upped them all with her own ingenious version, the Social Media Monopoly board game. The game,



which Gibson posted to [Bite](#), is an elaborate version of Monopoly that includes direct and indirect references to our favorite and not-so-favorite social media entities. The game even comes with a complete set of Chance and Community Chest cards that play upon Technorati's and Mashable's themes."...

Mashable, Aug. 9; Bite, July 28

### [Information-seeking behavior in \*The Big Lebowski\*](#)

Karen L. Janke and Emily A. Dill write: "Any notion of information as intrinsically linked to reality is particularly interesting when applied to *The Big Lebowski*, a film that often requires the viewer to watch several times before understanding the fantastically contrived plot, let alone before appreciating the central message of the film, if one actually exists. Despite this tenuous connection to reality, it is knowledge and facts that play a central role in the film: 'Where's the money, Lebowski?' (*Big Lebowski* 3:57)."...

IUPUI Scholar Works, forthcoming article in *Journal of Popular Culture*

### [Librarians abandon DDC for Netflix categories](#) (satire)

Citing shifts in student needs and ever-decreasing student satisfaction scores, librarians at the College of Eastern Nevada have elected to abandon the Dewey Decimal system for categorizing books. All books in the college's library will now be categorized using familiar Netflix categories. Library Director Janet Poleman recounted a particularly heated debate about whether Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* belonged in the "Romantic Comedy" or "Cerebral Drama" section....

*Cronk of Higher Education*: CronkNews, Aug. 11



### [Michigan State's special collections](#)

Peter Berg and Randy Scott describe (4:47) for *MSU Today* the treasures of the Michigan State University Special Collections department, especially the world-class [Comic Art Collection](#) that holds more than 200,000 comic books, books of collected newspaper strips, and books and periodicals about comics....

YouTube, June 30, 2009



### [The Old Guys visit a library](#)

*The Old Guys* is a BBC comedy television series revolving around two aging housemates, Tom Finnan (left, Roger Lloyd-Pack) and Roy Bowden (Clive Swift). In "The Quiz" episode, which aired July 9, Tom and Roy are determined to win a pub quiz to prove that their minds are still agile. They visit a library (2:40) where Tom tries to impress Barbara the librarian (Cherie Lunghi) with his knowledge of literature....

YouTube, July 9



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# american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | August 11, 2010

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## American Libraries Online

### [Camden libraries may be rescued by the county](#)

Within four days of the Camden (N.J.) Free Public Library board voting August 5 to shutter the entire three-branch system and empty the facilities of their collections and equipment by the end of December, Camden Mayor Dana L. Redd announced that she is in talks with the county to have the city libraries absorbed into the county library system. "After learning that the library board's only solution was to close our libraries, I knew I could not let that happen," Mayor Redd said at an August 9 press conference....

*American Libraries news, Aug. 9*

### [Kathleen Imhoff files suit in Lexington](#)

Kathleen Imhoff (right), who was fired by the board of the Lexington (Ky.) Public Library last July 15 after months of squabbling over the details of her expense accounts over the previous five years, notified *American Libraries* that she has filed suit after the board failed to settle her claims for pay and to apologize publicly. Imhoff said she is determined to clear her name, saying she was never found guilty of any misuse of library funds....

*AL: Inside Scoop, Aug. 6*



### [If you Google net neutrality, what do you get?](#)

There's been no dearth of opining in the past few days about the implications of Google and Verizon banding together to "find ways to protect the future openness of the internet and encourage the rapid deployment of broadband," which is how a joint policy statement between the two firms is [being framed](#) by Alan Davidson, Google director of public policy and Tom Tauke, Verizon executive vice president of public affairs, policy, and communications....

*AL: Inside Scoop, Aug. 11*

### [National Conference of African American Librarians](#)

Black Caucus of the ALA President Jos Holman discusses the role of BCALA and ALA's other ethnic caucuses, BCALA milestones, and the Spectrum Presidential Initiative at this



[ALA Midwinter Meeting](#) in San Diego, California, January 7–11, 2011.



Download Midwinter logos and buttons [here](#).

interview (4:09) during the National Conference of African American Librarians in Birmingham, Alabama, August 4–8. In it, he reveals the site of the next BCALA National Conference in 2013....

AL Focus, Aug. 10



### [Wayans and Knotts](#)

Kim Wayans (right) shared a bit of her life growing up in a family of comedians at the August 6 author luncheon during the National Conference of African American Librarians. She and her husband Kevin Knotts are authors of the Amy Hodgepodge series of books about the trials and tribulations of a multiracial 4th grader. Watch the [interview video](#) (3:21). The opening session speaker was [Terrence Roberts](#), a member of the Little Rock Nine....

AL: Inside Scoop, Aug. 7; AL Focus, Aug. 10



### [IFLA in Gothenburg: The American agenda](#)

For American delegates, the annual conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions traditionally begins with a pep talk, officially known as "Caucus: U.S.A." The August 10 meeting was an opportunity for old friends to reunite and for first-time delegates to get the lay of the land—in this case Gothenburg, Sweden—from seasoned IFLA-goers. The conference Opening Event featured Swedish diplomat [Jan Eliasson](#) and music of the pop group ABBA....

AL: Inside Scoop, Aug. 11



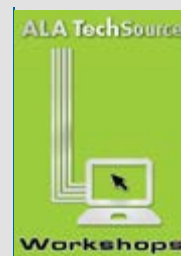
### [Reaching out to undergrads](#)

Sara D. Smith writes: "As the library profession grays, many academic libraries anticipate staff shortages as older employees retire within the next 10 years. Brigham Young University discontinued its MLS program in 1993 and cannot directly recruit from its own students. But BYU is using its library internship program as one way to cultivate a future pool of qualified employees who are dedicated to the university. This program is a good model for other university libraries as they consider reaching out to and recruiting from their own undergraduates."...

*American Libraries* feature

### [Youth Matters: It's not monkey business](#)

Jennifer Burek Pierce writes: "If by vocation or avocation you've come to cherish children's literature, you've no doubt encountered some skepticism about this particular passion. But to represent the world for children involves skillful choices based on training, research, and lived experience. Entering the lists on the side of children's literature as a reflection of larger cultural concerns is the Jewish Museum in New York City, with its summer exhibition, 'Curious



Join ALA TechSource for a two-part online workshop—"Using Technology in Library Training" with Paul Signorelli. You'll get hands-on, interactive instruction in using current web technology to enhance in-person training sessions or conduct remote training sessions. **NEW!** From ALA TechSource.



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**New this week**  
in *American Libraries*



[Reaching Out to Undergrads](#)

[Youth Matters](#)

[On My Mind](#)

[Perpetual Beta](#)

George Saves the Day: The Art of Margret and H. A. Rey."...  
*American Libraries* column, Sept.

### [On My Mind: A bookworm by any other name](#)

Jason Smalley writes: "So what do you do for a living?" she asked. I absolutely hate getting this question; I'm never sure how I want to answer it. Here's the thing. I don't work at a library. I work for a vendor that sells materials and services to school libraries across the country. In essence, I shop for books all day with other people's money. Yeah, it's a pretty sweet gig."...

*American Libraries* column, Sept.

### [Google Search Stories contest](#)

Jason Griffey writes: "The concept of Google [Search Stories](#) is that you can create your own story via search terms, in the manner of the [Google Superbowl commercial](#). It's an oddly compelling way to construct a narrative. So compelling, in fact, that I'm going to sponsor a contest using it. Use Search Stories to tell a story about libraries and post the video or a link to it here in the comments. The one chosen as the best will win a copy of my latest book. The deadline is September 30."...

AL: Perpetual Beta, Aug. 9



### [Inside Scoop](#)

### [Green Your Library](#)

### [Ask the ALA Librarian](#)

### [Librarian's Library](#)

### [AL Focus](#)



### [Make your library newsletter greener](#)

Laura Bruzas writes: "Done right, library newsletters can ignite a patron's interest in your programs, educate patrons about the remarkable depth and breadth of resources that your library holds in store for them each and every day, and can even help to bring in needed funds and donations. Until the time when all newsletters are digital, I've gathered a few simple ways that libraries can make their paper issues greener."...

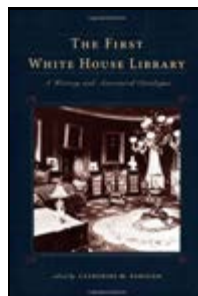
AL: Green Your Library, Aug. 5



### [Librarian's Library: The first First Library](#)

Mary Ellen Quinn writes: "The next time you find yourself in Canton, Ohio, make a stop at the National First Ladies' Library, home of the Abigail Fillmore Library Room. This room replicates the first permanent White House library, established by Millard and Abigail Fillmore in 1850. In 2004, the National First Ladies' Library began working with the Library of Congress and the Bibliographic Society of America to reconstruct the original Fillmore collection."...

*American Libraries* column, Sept.



### Career Leads from JobLIST

[Research Informationist](#), Emory University Libraries, Atlanta. The Woodruff Health Sciences Center Library seeks a knowledgeable, motivated, and service-oriented Research Informationist to deliver innovative research and instructional services in the areas of life sciences, specifically in biology, cell biology, biochemistry, and human genetics. This position will be responsible for assessing the information processing needs of the life sciences research community at Emory, and developing and implementing a viable model to address these needs and increase the quality and breadth of research support for life sciences and informatics. The position will provide

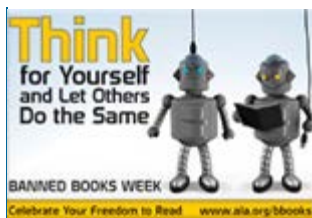


## ALA News

### [Are you hosting a Banned Book Week event?](#)

Banned Books Week 2010 will be held September 25 through October 2. If you plan on hosting an event during this week, please consider promoting it on the [website](#) maintained by the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression and the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom. If you would like to enter your event for this site, please fill out [this form](#)....

OIF Blog, Aug. 11



### [LSSC accepts applications for course subsidies](#)

The Library Support Staff Certification Program is accepting applications for 55 subsidies of \$200 from LSSC candidates to enroll in and complete LSSC-approved courses. Candidates who receive a subsidy award will receive a \$200 reimbursement after they pay for and complete an LSSC-approved course. Candidates must be [accepted](#) in the LSSC program by September 15, and recipients must successfully complete one of the [approved courses](#) by April 1, 2011....

ALA-Allied Professional Association, Aug. 10



### [Guadalajara Book Fair free pass program](#)

ALA and the Guadalajara International Book Fair are partnering for the ninth year to provide support for ALA members to attend the 23rd Guadalajara International Book Fair (FIL) from November 27 to December 1. The deadline for applying for the ALA/FIL free pass program is August 16. The Fair is offering an additional \$100 to the first 100 applicants who submit their airfare confirmation....

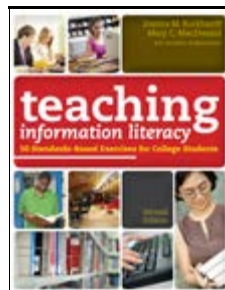
International Relations Office



### [Teaching information literacy to college students](#)

ALA Editions has released the second edition of [Teaching Information Literacy: 50 Standards-Based Exercises for College Students](#), by Joanna M. Burkhardt and Mary C. MacDonald with Andrée J. Rathemacher. Designed for use as either a full semester course or a single focused seminar or workshop, these 50 lessons show students how to engage with electronic and print information resources alike....

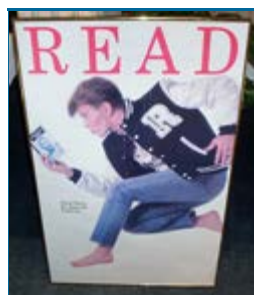
ALA Editions, Aug. 6



### [Celebrities continue the tradition of READ posters](#)

Whitney Matheson writes: "Remember those READ posters your school library had in the 1980s and 1990s? I totally remember the one with David Bowie (right). Well, ALA has released a new series of READ images, and they feature several contemporary celebrities (sorry, Kirk Cameron). Here's [an interesting list](#) of all the celebrities who have posed for READ posters over the years. And you can also [make your own poster](#). Nice."...

USA Today: Pop Candy, Aug. 4

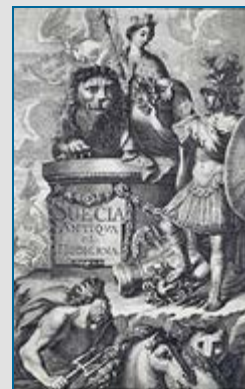


expertise in licensing, access to digital resources and tools, and overall information processing support including literature searching, synthesis, and analysis....



@ [More jobs...](#)

### Digital Library of the Week



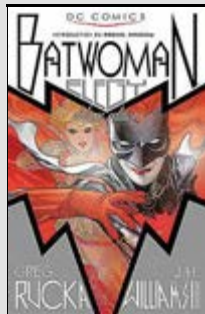
The [World Digital Library](#) makes available, free of charge and in multilingual format, significant primary materials from countries and cultures around the world. Launched in 2009, its principal objectives are to promote international and intercultural understanding, and expand the volume and variety of cultural content on the internet. These cultural treasures include manuscripts, maps,

# Booklist ONLINE

## Featured review: Graphic novels

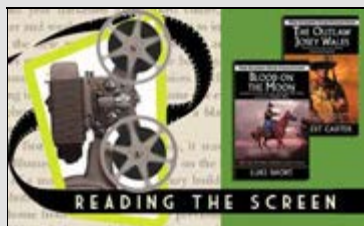
Rucka, Greg. *Batwoman: Elegy*. Illustrated by J. H. Williams. July 2010. 192p. DC Comics, hardcover (978-1-4012-2692-3).

There are a number of reasons why this story arc, which appeared last year in *Detective Comics* following Batman's (for now anyway) death, is a departure from more traditional caped-crusader fare. For starters, Batwoman (aka Kate Kane) is the most prominent gay character in DC's universe, and she kicks ass with combat boots not stilettos (though her suit is still painted on). This volume deftly blends the story of her origin as a superhero with a dark thriller that pits her against Gotham's newest resident crazy, the High Madame of the Religion of Crime....



## Tough guys on horses

David Pitt writes: "Westerns may own only a tiny piece of today's publishing landscape, but patron demand in libraries remains steady, both for reprints and for new books by authors who can write 'em just as good as the old hands. Leisure Books' Classic Film Collection offers a fresh look at the books that inspired some of Hollywood's most memorable westerns—and a chance to compare both versions. In some cases, the movies we remember were markedly different from their source material; in others, they are remarkably similar. These latest two releases illustrate both phenomena."...



## Reference on the web

Carolyn Fang writes: "Thanks in part to the recession, there has been a growing trend in small business start-ups. Drastic layoffs in major industries have led to a resurgence of individuals looking to start and build their own businesses, many for the first time. Included in this listing are some of the more popular free websites designed to help the novice entrepreneur navigate the world of self-employment—like [Stopfakes.gov](http://Stopfakes.gov), part of a nationwide effort dedicated to protecting the intellectual property interests of small businesses from theft that can occur both at home and abroad."...



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

rare books, musical scores, recordings, films, prints, photographs, and architectural drawings. The library was developed by a team at the U.S. Library of Congress, with contributions by partner institutions in many countries, the support of UNESCO, and the financial support of a number of companies and private foundations. The collection is browsable by place, time, topic, type of item, and institution.

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

**"We could make such a beautiful library together."**

—One of "[25 Pickup Lines to Use on a New Bookworm](#)" suggested by Judy Berman in Flavorwire, Aug. 6.

**"Accidentally spill coffee on *Choice*. Declare aloud that I am going to library hell. Speculate with colleagues whether there is a library hell, and if so, what it would be like. One librarian suggests that perhaps it is a place where the only question you hear all day long is, 'Where's the bathroom?' Hilarity ensues."**

## Division News

[ALTAFF Friends groups survey](#)

ALTAFF is conducting a [survey](#) for Friends groups through September 30. This survey will gather information about all types of Friends groups across the country. All groups who complete the survey will be entered in a drawing to win a free year as a Friends Group Affiliate with ALTAFF, as well as a copy of *Even More Great Ideas for Libraries and Friends...*

ALTAFF, Aug. 5

### [ACRL Conference proposals](#)

ACRL is now accepting Cyber Zed Shed presentation, Poster Session, Roundtable Discussion, and Virtual Conference Webcast proposal submissions for the ACRL 2011 National Conference to be held March 30–April 2, 2011, in Philadelphia. Submit proposals via the [online form](#) by November 1....

ACRL, Aug. 4

### [Deadline nears for LITA National Forum](#)

The early bird registration deadline is approaching for the 2010 LITA National Forum, "The Cloud and the Crowd," to be held September 30–October 3 at the Hilton Downtown in Atlanta. Prior to August 15, the [registration rates](#) are \$50 lower. Registration is limited to 500....

LITA, Aug. 9

## Awards

### [Create your own story during National Library Week](#)

Libraries seeking to share their stories and raise public awareness are encouraged to apply for the 2011 Scholastic Library Publishing National Library Week Grant. The library that develops the best public awareness campaign using the National Library Week theme will be awarded \$3,000 to promote its library and library services. All proposals must use the 2011 National Library Week theme, "Create your own story @ your library." [Applications](#) are due by October 1....

Campaign for America's Libraries, Aug. 10

### [Nominations sought for RUSA awards](#)

Nominations are now being accepted for the many achievement awards and conference travel grants offered by RUSA. The deadline for all nominations is December 15. Award criteria, nomination forms, and instructions for submissions are available at each of the award's webpages....

RUSA, Aug. 10

### [2010 DEMCO BCALA Award for Excellence in Librarianship](#)

Irene Owens (right), dean of the North Carolina Central University School of Library and Information Science, has been awarded the 2010 DEMCO BCALA Award for Excellence in Librarianship. Owens was recognized for the significant impact she has had on the lives of many young professionals. The award was presented at the Black Caucus of the ALA's 7th National Conference of African American Librarians, held August 4–8 in Birmingham, Alabama....

Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Aug. 10



### [ALSC funds 2010 Spectrum Scholar](#)

ALSC is supporting Sylvia Franco (right) as its 2010–2011 Spectrum Scholar. Franco is attending the

—Leigh Anne Vrabel, in "[A Week in My Library Life: Day #5.](#)" Library Alchemy blog, July 30.

@ [More quotes...](#)



### TweetWatch

#### Follow:

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, World Library and Information Congress, Gothenburg, Sweden, Aug. 10–15, at: [#ifla2010](#)

Society of American Archivists, Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., Aug. 10–15, at: [#saa10](#) and [#dc2010](#)

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

### Calendar

**Sept. 10–12:** [Library History Seminar XII](#), Pyle Center, Madison, Wisconsin. "Libraries in the History of Print Culture."

**Sept. 15:** [Women Who Tech TeleSummit](#).

**Sept. 25:**

University of Texas at Austin School of Information. ALSC is sponsoring one Spectrum Scholar interested in library service to children each year through funding from the Frederic G. Melcher Endowment....

ALSC, Aug. 5



### [NYPL announces 2010 Library Lions](#)

The New York Public Library's 2010 Library Lions gala honors five remarkable individuals for their contributions to the world of ideas at a black-tie gala on November 1. This year, the library tips its hat to author Malcolm Gladwell; actor, screenwriter, and novelist Ethan Hawke; New York Public Library President Paul LeClerc; actor and writer Steve Martin; and novelist Zadie Smith....

New York Public Library, Aug. 4

### [ADEPT wins Dalarna Library competition](#)

The Danish firm ADEPT Architects has been awarded first prize in the competition for the Dalarna Library in Sweden. The new library, placed centrally at the Dalarna university campus, is organized as a "spiral of knowledge." The sloping terrain outside continues in a ramp through the interior to create a spiral-shaped space—the heart of the building for information seeking and an easy orientation....

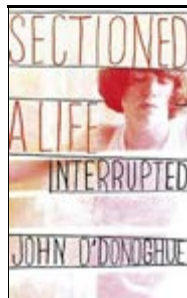
ArchDaily, Aug. 10



### [Mind Book of the Year 2010](#)

John O'Donoghue's *Sectioned: A Life Interrupted* (John Murray) was announced as the 2010 Mind Book of the Year on July 8. The memoir is an account of the breakdowns that have punctuated his life since the age of 16. Mind is the leading mental health charity in England and Wales, and the annual Book of the Year Award aims to promote a better understanding of mental health issues among the general public ....

Mind, July 8



## Seen Online

### [Teacher-aid package may save school librarian jobs](#)

President Barack Obama signed a federal aid bill August 10 that will provide \$16 billion for Medicaid and \$10 billion in state aid to prevent the loss of an estimated 300,000 public sector jobs across the U.S.—including some 160,000 teachers. The U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1586 by a vote of 247–161. [School librarians](#) could benefit from this funding, according to the ALA Washington Office....

Morristown (N.J.) Daily Record, Aug. 10; District Dispatch, Aug. 10

### [Legislation ensures accessible new technology](#)

On August 5, the United States Senate passed the Equal Access to 21st Century Communications Act (S. 3304), which updates U.S. communications laws to ensure new technologies are accessible to people with disabilities. Like H.R. 3101 that passed in the House of Representatives in July, it gives individuals with vision or hearing loss

[National Book Festival](#), National Mall, Washington, D.C.

**Sept. 25:**  
[Banned Books Week Read-out](#), Bughouse Square, Chicago.

**Sept. 25–  
Oct. 2:**  
[Banned Books Week](#).

**Sept. 25–26:**  
[PodCamp Boston 5](#), Microsoft New England Research and Development Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**Sept. 30–  
Oct. 3:**  
[LITA National Forum](#), Hilton Downtown, Atlanta. "The Cloud and the Crowd."

**Oct. 21:**  
[Xtreme Reference](#), Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, Kossiakoff Center, Laurel, Maryland. Sponsored by the SLA Maryland Chapter.

**Oct. 25–27:**  
[Internet Librarian 2010](#), Monterey Conference Center, Monterey, California.

**Nov. 1–3:**  
[Digital Library Federation](#), Fall Forum, Crowne Plaza Cabaña, Palo Alto, California.

**Nov. 5–7:**  
[YALSA Young Adult Literature Symposium](#).

improved access to television programming, smartphones, the internet, and menus on DVD players and cable TV....

American Foundation for the Blind, Aug. 6

### [Librarian fired for not revealing weight](#)

In the two years she worked for the Urbandale (Iowa) Public Library, Lisa Bonifas (right) got glowing reviews. But the city fired Bonifas July 26 for a reason that strains credulity: She refused to disclose her height and weight, required information for a new city ID card. Amazingly, it's legal for an employer to demand such personal information, even when it has no relevance to a job. Iowa is a right-to-work state, so employers can fire for any reason as long as its not discriminatory....



*Des Moines (Iowa) Register, July 30*

### [New Cedar Rapids library could be named for you— for \\$23 million](#)

A donor will need to contribute at least 51% of the total project cost before the Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Public Library board will be able to consider naming the city's new library for the donor under a new policy adopted by the board on August 5. That's \$23.2 million for a library expected to have a total cost of \$45.5 million. The library is expected to be built by late 2012....

*Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette, Aug. 6*

### [Bed bug problem in New York branch contained](#)

Jen Doll writes: "According to a WPIX-TV newscast, bed bugs have been found in the New York Public Library's Mid-Manhattan branch. The story goes that a coworker was bitten by a bed bug in early July, and that other bugs have been spotted since then. WPIX now says the situation has been contained. We spoke with NYPL spokesperson Gayle Snible, who clarified a few things."...



*Village Voice: Runnin' Scared, Aug. 5; WPIX-TV, New York City, Aug. 5*

### [OCLC releases statement on SkyRiver lawsuit](#)

OCLC Board of Trustees Chair Larry Alford and OCLC President Jay Jordan released a statement August 5 on the recent antitrust lawsuit filed against them by SkyRiver Technology Solutions and Innovative Interfaces Inc.: "We at OCLC believe the lawsuit is without merit, and we will vigorously defend the policies and practices of the cooperative." OCLC lawyers "will respond to this regrettable action" and the "process will likely take months or even years, not days."...

*OCLC, Aug. 5*

### [Evanston library board to take control of funding](#)

Evanston (Ill.) Public Library board members would no longer look to city staff and aldermen for final authority on what funding library services should receive but would take over that responsibility under a dramatic decision made August 4. With some elected aldermen in attendance, members of the library board voted 6–2 to establish a a Public Library Fund—in effect, assuming responsibility from the city on final budget decisions on library services....

*Evanston (Ill.) Review, Aug. 5*

Albuquerque Marriott, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

### **Nov. 12–14:** [Reimagining the Archive](#)

James Bridges Theatre, School of Theater, Film & Television, University of California, Los Angeles. "Remapping and Remixing Traditional Models in the Digital Era."

@ [More...](#)

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American Libraries Direct



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George M. Eberhart,  
Editor:  
[geberhart@ala.org](mailto:geberhart@ala.org)



Beverly Goldberg,  
Senior Editor:  
[bgoldberg@ala.org](mailto:bgoldberg@ala.org)



Greg Landgraf,  
Associate Editor:  
[glandgraf@ala.org](mailto:glandgraf@ala.org)



Leonard Kniffel,  
Publisher,  
American Libraries:  
[lkniffel@ala.org](mailto:lkniffel@ala.org)



## [Books crash to floor at Indiana State University library](#)

Except for some scratches, no one was seriously hurt August 4 when a few rows of bookshelves came tumbling down, domino-style, on the second floor of Indiana State University's Cunningham Memorial Library in Terre Haute. But the library had to close for a day and a half, and 25,000 books had to be put back in order and reshelved....

*Terre Haute (Ind.) Tribune-Star*, Aug. 5; *WTHI-TV*, Terre Haute, Aug. 6



## [Library in disarray: Paintings by Wendy Heldmann](#)

Michael Lieberman writes: "Wendy Heldmann lives and works in Los Angeles, a city where many exist in a constant state of earthquake awareness. She has created two striking series of works, [of course and never](#) and [barricades + libraries](#), that take the orderly world of the library and turn it upside down. Heldmann's post-disaster world is void of humanity. The books are rearranged naturally, landing and resting wherever the last tremor or collapse leave them."...

*Book Patrol*, Aug. 6



## [Maintenance problems piling up in Fairbanks library](#)

Plastic sheets cover bookcases in the Alaskana and adult fiction sections at the Noel Wien Public Library in Fairbanks, Alaska, because rainwater is leaking through clefts in the roof. The building's pipes are corroding. The trees in the lobby are diseased. Electrical outlets in the facility are scarce. In all, the library needs about \$17 million for maintenance plus a new multipurpose room and lobby. Library Director Greg Hill said state library construction grant money is by no means certain....

*Fairbanks (Alaska) News-Miner*, Aug. 9

## [Man charged with theft from Massachusetts library](#)

Police in early August arrested a man who is accused of stealing two precious-metal items from the Peabody Institute Library of Danvers, Massachusetts, and selling them at a scrapyard. Richard Provencher is accused of stealing a 19th-century decorative copper urn and large copper plaque from the library....

*Boston Globe*, Aug. 9

## [Muscovy duck adopts Wilmington library](#)

A Muscovy duck nicknamed George stationed himself in front of the door at the Northeast Regional branch of the New Hanover County (N.C.) Public Library door this spring, looking like a grumpy bouncer with red-rimmed eyes. His presence disturbed and upset some people concerned about health hazards, but he delighted children who had never seen a bird like him before. Now he has his own Friends group and has taken up residence at the nearby pond....

*Wilmington (N.C.) Star-News*, Aug. 4



## [Vancouver boosts library cards by offering e-books](#)

Nearly 60,000 new Vancouver (B.C.) Public Library cards were issued in 2008–2009, up from nearly 42,000 the previous year. Library

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Katie Bane  
[kbane@ala.org](mailto:kbane@ala.org)

Send feedback:  
[aldirect@ala.org](mailto:aldirect@ala.org)

AL Direct FAQ:  
[www.ala.org/aldirect/](http://www.ala.org/aldirect/)

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800-545-2433,  
ext. 4216

ISSN 1559-369X

spokeswoman Jean Kavanagh attributes the spike at least in part to the emerging popularity of e-books. The library's website usage is also up 20% for 2010....

*Vancouver (B.C.) Sun, Aug. 9*

### [Legos and libraries seem to be linked](#)

The Grand Ballroom at Weber's Inn was taken over by cars, houses, battleships, creatures, and robots as the Ann Arbor (Mich.) District Library hosted its fifth annual Lego Contest August 5. Five years ago, the library staff wanted to have an event that had something to do with Legos, and it has now become their most anticipated annual event. Open to the general public, this year the contest had 173 participants. Meanwhile, the Nacogdoches (Tex.) Public Library has a popular [Lego Club](#)....

*Ann Arbor (Mich.) Journal, Aug. 9; KTRE-TV, Lufkin, Tex., Aug. 5*



### [When H. L. Mencken stood up to the censors](#)

Tufts University Journalism Professor Neil Miller's new book *Banned in Boston* is a history of Boston's New England Watch and Ward Society, which acted as a quasi-vigilante police force and literary censor for over 80 years. In this excerpt, *American Mercury* Editor H. L. Mencken faces off with the society's Rev. J. Frank Chase, who had ordered the banning of the April 1926 issue because it contained a short story about prostitution and hypocrisy in a small Missouri town....

*Boston Globe Sunday Magazine, Aug. 8*



### [Hull approves Philip Larkin statue](#)

The city council of Hull, England, has approved a life-size bronze statue of poet Philip Larkin for the Paragon Interchange, a train and bus transport complex in the city center. Sculptor Martin Jennings has been chosen to produce the statue. Larkin, who lived in Hull for 30 years before his death in 1985, combined a celebrated writing career with his role as librarian at Hull University. The statue will be unveiled on December 2....

*BBC News, Aug. 5*

### [Building literacy around the world](#)

[Room to Read](#) founder and Executive Chairman John Wood talks (4:51) with CNN Money about his organization, which has built more than 10,000 libraries around the world using big-business practices and social networking. "We opened our 10,000th library in Nepal a couple of months ago," Wood said. "We were very psyched about that milestone and celebrated for about a nanosecond, then went right back to thinking about how we get to 20,000 libraries."...

*CNN Money, Aug. 6*



### [Toronto to try out train-station library kiosk](#)

The Toronto Public Library is studying the idea of installing an automated kiosk at Union Station, where patrons could borrow a book with a swipe

of their library cards at any time of day. Similar kiosks are in use in Ottawa, Contra Costa County in California (right), and Europe. Library officials hope installing kiosks throughout the city will bring expanded services without the huge capital costs associated with building a branch....



*Toronto Star*, Aug. 9

### **Allen Lane's Penguinincubator, 1937**

Chris Higgins writes: "Sir Allen Lane is the creator of Penguin Books, which is credited with popularizing high-quality mass-market paperbacks. But he didn't stop there. He also invented the Penguinincubator, a vending machine for his paperbacks, in 1937." It was first installed at 66 Charing Cross Road in London, which "signaled his intention to take the book beyond the library and the traditional bookstore, into railway stations, chain stores, and onto the streets," according to [James Bridle](#). It is worth noting that this really annoyed booksellers....



*Mental Floss*, Aug. 9; *Publishing Perspectives*, Apr. 28

### **Pope Benedict wanted to be a librarian**

Pope Benedict XVI wanted to become a librarian in 1997, but his request to quit a high office in the Vatican was rejected. His predecessor, Pope John Paul II, declined Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger's request to spend his last years as the archivist of the Vatican Secret Archives and as librarian of the Vatican Library, according to the incumbent librarian and archivist Cardinal Raffaele Farina....

*The Telegraph* (U.K.), Aug. 5

### **Rare naval document given to National Library of Ireland**

An extremely rare 17th-century shipping document signed by King James II and English diarist Samuel Pepys was presented to the National Library of Ireland on August 5 by the Dublin Port Company. The ship's pass dating from 1687 is one of only four known examples of such 17th-century passes in the world. The vellum parchment was intended to provide safe passage for the merchant ship *Mary of Cork*, which was bound for the Canary Islands....



*Irish Times*, Aug. 6

### **U.S. judge orders Russian State Library to return religious books**

A federal judge in Washington sided against Russia July 30 ([PDF file](#)) in a dispute over the return of thousands of religious books, manuscripts, and rabbinical teachings that are held by the Russian State Library and the Russian State Military Archive. The Chabad-Lubavitch sect sued the Russian Federation to recover some 12,000 books and manuscripts seized during the Bolshevik Revolution and Russian Civil War, and 25,000 pages of handwritten teachings and writings of Chabad religious leaders that Nazi Germany seized during the 1939 invasion of Poland....

The BLT: *The Blog of Legal Times*, Aug. 4

[Go back to the Top](#)

## Tech Talk

### [Google Wave is washed up](#)

Google has announced it is ending development on Wave, the cross-platform communication tool it launched with much fanfare at its developer conference in May 2009. The company announced in an [August 4 post](#) that "Wave has not seen the adoption we would have liked." Like most people, you've probably heard of it but not actually tried it, which sums up the problem. Clint Boulton offers [10 reasons](#) why Google Wave failed....



*The Guardian* (U.K.), Aug. 5; Official Google Blog, Aug. 4; *eWeek: Cloud Computing*, Aug. 5

### [Google: Brace yourselves for the data explosion](#)

Dan Tynan writes: "Google CEO Eric Schmidt had some scary things to say about privacy on August 5. In a nutshell, he said there is an almost incomprehensible amount of data out there about all of us—much of which we've generated ourselves via social networks, blogs, and so on—and we are totally unprepared to deal with the implications of that fact. The good side of all this data: instant information about virtually anything. The dark side? Vast potential for personal profiling by your employer, your insurer, and The Man."...

*PC World*, Aug. 6

### [Is there a future for campus computer labs?](#)

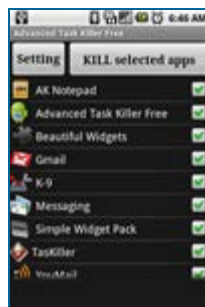
Michael David Leiboff writes: "Though centralized PC labs have been an important part of both campus space planning and IT infrastructure for the last two decades, this may be changing. With the advent of laptop computers, it is becoming increasingly common for students to own personal computers. While the days of computer labs may be numbered, other kinds of student-centered academic computing support will certainly be required."...

*Campus Technology*, Aug. 4

### [Improve your Android phone's battery life](#)

Jamie Lendino writes: "Android-powered cell phones may be powerful devices, but devices like the Motorola Droid X and Samsung Vibrant don't have endless battery life. In fact, many owners would be happy to make it through a single day, hoping that a nightly recharge is sufficient. Fortunately, there's plenty you can do to stem the flow of juice from your Android device. Try these tips to extend your handset's battery life."...

*PC Magazine*, Aug. 10



### [Make an outlet-mounted device-charging pocket](#)

Sean Michael Ragan writes: "Most cell phones are provided with a very basic AC adapter, and you usually have to pay extra for a proper charging dock. The bundled charger is often unsightly in use, being just a transformer with a cord strung out to an end table or



something where the cell phone rests. The nice thing about this DIY version is that it requires no tools to mount or demount, being suspended by the plug on the charger itself. Plus it costs all of nothing to build.”...

*Make: Projects*, July 3, 2009

## Publishing

### The shock of exclusion

Barbara Fister writes: “Ever since I read an essay, “[The Shock of Inclusion](#)” by Clay Shirky in *Edge*, I’ve been pondering the implications of one of the stickiest concepts in the essay: He argues that publishing is the new literacy. He doesn’t mean that we need to add yet one more ‘literacy’ to the list of things we’re supposed to teach, but rather that the internet’s ability to lower the boundaries between the published and the unpublished, between the mediated and the impulsive, between the specialized and the everyday, has made publishing a very different cultural event.”...

*Inside Higher Ed*: Library Babel Fish, Aug. 9

### Dual-screen e-book reader: Kinda like a book

While the Kindle has largely failed with students as a replacement for printed textbooks, some colleges plan to test new e-reader devices whose promoters argue that two screens are better than one. One of the new e-readers is called [Kno](#), which was announced in June and will be given to about 100 students at three colleges. The Kno sports two 14-inch screens, allowing users to read on one screen while writing notes on the other....



*Chronicle of Higher Education*: Wired Campus, Aug. 9

### Project Gutenberg titles available on OverDrive

On August 6, Boston Public Library became the first OverDrive library partner to add more than 15,000 public domain e-books from [Project Gutenberg](#) to its Virtual Branch website—at no cost to the library. This featured collection, currently in beta, enables users to discover and download thousands of DRM-free EPUB e-books without holds, waitlists, or authentication....

Digital Library Blog, Aug. 10

### A smattering of frontispieces

L. D. Mitchell writes: “Folks who collect something other than hypermodern fiction frequently encounter the term ‘frontispiece’ in booksellers’ catalogs. Often abbreviated in catalogs as *frontis*, the frontispiece is infrequently encountered in modern books. This is unfortunate, since the frontispiece often



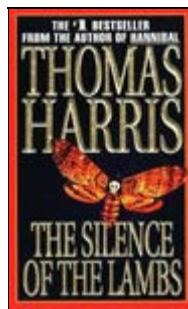
is the one place in a book where a particular illustrative technique (mezzotint, wood engraving, chromolithography), can be seen to best effect."...

The Private Library, Aug. 5

### [NPR's top 100 killer thrillers](#)

Joe Matazzoni writes: "The NPR audience nominated some 600 novels to our Killer Thrillers poll and cast more than 17,000 ballots. The final roster of winners is a diverse one to say the least, ranging in style and period from *Dracula* to *The Da Vinci Code*, and *Presumed Innocent* to *Pet Semetary*. What these top 100 titles share, however, is that all of them are fast-moving tales of suspense and adventure. And *menace*."...

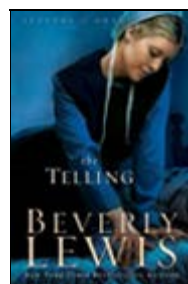
NPR, Aug. 4



### [Amish romances pick up the pace](#)

It's plain and simple: The Amish inspirational is one of the fastest-growing genres in romance publishing. In such popular series as Beverly Lewis's *Seasons of Grace*, Wanda Brunstetter's *Indiana Cousins*, and Cindy Woodsmall's *Sisters of the Quilt*, the Amish fall in love while grappling with religious taboos and forbidden temptations. And it all happens in über-quaint settings brimming with hand-sewn quilts, horse-drawn buggies, and made-from-scratch Pennsylvania Dutch specialties such as shoofly pie....

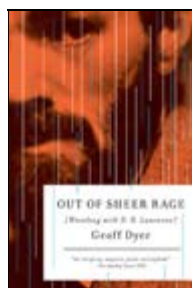
USA Today, Aug. 9



### [Summer school](#)

The *Slate* editors write: "As part of an ongoing assault on leisure, many American universities assign summer reading to incoming freshmen who have yet to set foot in a college classroom. While we have no doubt that these are worthy picks, we thought we'd offer incoming freshmen an alternative list, one better suited to helping 18-year-olds navigate university life. Herewith, a bit of homework—but pleasurable homework, we promise—courtesy of *Slate*."...

Slate, Aug. 2



## Actions & Answers

### [Florida libraries: Return on investment](#)

The State Library and Archives of Florida has published an updated research study assessing the worth of Florida's public libraries to citizens. Some key findings in [Taxpayer Return on Investment in Florida Public Libraries](#): For every \$3,491 spent on public libraries by the state, one job (not necessarily in a library) is created; and Florida's libraries return \$8.32 for every \$1.00 invested....

State Library and Archives of Florida, Aug. 6



### [The mismeasurement of public libraries](#)

Kent Anderson writes: "In March, OCLC released [How Libraries Stack Up: 2010](#), an infographic montage that is intended to illustrate the economic, social, and cultural impact of libraries in the United States.

It's slick, nicely illustrated, and some of the comparisons are pleasantly surprising (public libraries distribute as many DVDs as Netflix). But does distributing a used DVD of *Fight Club* really contribute to the U.S. economy? In fact, should the premise be economic at all?"...

The Scholarly Kitchen, Aug. 5

### [Advocacy group pushes for school librarians](#)

Debra Lau Whelan writes: "There's a new school library advocacy group in town—and it's called [Act4SL](#). Its aim? To convince legislators that the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act should require a certified media specialist in every K–12 school. To get started, the group recently unveiled a foldable wallet-sized printable card called 'Ready, Set, Contact,' which offers a one-stop shop of important phone numbers and websites for any librarian who wants to advocate on behalf of the profession."...

*School Library Journal*, Aug. 10



### [Plain-language facts on 21st-century skills](#)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has released a [podcast](#) (4:30) on 21st-century skills by IMLS Acting Director Marsha L. Semmel (right), who explains what 21st-century skills are, where the movement came from, and where libraries and museums fit in. She also describes [Making the Learning Connection](#), a national campaign to better understand the opportunities, challenges, and key issues facing museums and libraries in their efforts to meet their communities' 21st-century learning needs....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Aug. 11



### [21st-Century America Project](#)

The cities, towns, and countryside of 21st-century America and the life of its people are being documented by distinguished photographer Carol M. Highsmith, who is donating her photographs copyright-free to the Library of Congress to ensure worldwide access and preservation. Highsmith will photograph the country, state by state, completing the project in approximately 16 years. Her first state, Alabama, was photographed earlier this year, and those photos can be viewed in the library's Prints and Photographs Online Catalog....

Library of Congress, Aug. 11



### [Collecting American science](#)

Steven Turner writes: "Since I work in the Smithsonian Physical Sciences collection, my job is to find objects that speak to America's scientific heritage. Often this means collecting important scientific instruments—like the beautiful [Vassar telescope](#) now on display on the museum's first floor. But we also try to collect things that tell us about how Americans have historically experienced and understood science—and these are often completely different kinds of objects."...

O Say Can You See, Aug. 6



## [University library funding linked to more grant awards](#)

Science publisher Elsevier announced the results August 9 of an [international study](#) that correlates the value of the academic library to the amount of grant income. Of the eight institutions participating, six demonstrated a greater than one-to-one return in grant funding. Two showed a significant positive correlation between an increase in library investment over time and an increase in grant funding to the university. Carol Tenopir, director of the Center for Information and Communication Studies at the University of Tennessee, led the team....

Elsevier, Aug. 9

## [Top 10 sites to debunk internet hoaxes](#)

Tim Malone writes: "When your patrons turn into Chicken Little over the latest hoax, scam, rumor, or urban legend, point them to the sites



on this list to ease their minds. Actually, you really need only the top three sites on the list, but I've found the others to be useful on occasion. Sometimes these sites can be entertaining reading, but who has time for that?"...

TechRepublic, Aug. 6

## [Becoming more visible: A three-point plan](#)

Erin writes: "Technical services librarians often end up sequestered in back rooms, removed from both library users and colleagues. When we do get face time with our front-line colleagues, the burden is on us to show them the impact of our work. It's hard to do if, when we have the chance, we bore our colleagues to death with jargon. We need to take away the smoke and mirrors and show the substance of what we do in a way that anyone can understand. To that end, I offer you a three-point plan."...

User-Centered Cataloger, Aug. 6

## [Million-dollar idea: The cardigan T-shirt](#)

Travis Jonker writes: "Recently, as librarians are wont to do, I was engaged in an absorbing cardigan-sweater conversation with Julie Jurgens and Elizabeth Burns on Twitter. Suddenly, Julie came up with a genius idea. The cardigan T-shirt, inspired by the tuxedo shirt. There should be, nay, *needs* to be a T-shirt with a cardigan printed on it. Imagine the librarian humor possibilities."...



100 Scope Notes, Aug. 5

## [You know you're a 21st-century librarian when...](#)

Doug Johnson writes: "You've probably seen some version of the popular list, 'You know you're living in 200x when: 1. You accidentally enter your password on the microwave,' and so on. So how do you know you're a 21st-century librarian? When: 1. You have to remind kindergarteners to turn off their cell phones before the story starts." And 19 more indicators....

The Blue Skunk Blog, Aug. 8

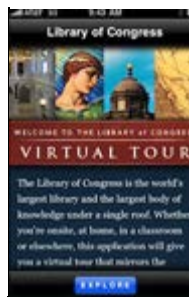
## [Library of Congress gets a mobile app](#)

In late July, an application that gives mobile users access to the United States [Library of Congress Experience](#) went live in the iTunes App Store. The app



is compatible with iOS 3.1 on up and will run on the iPhone, iPod Touch, or iPad. Three LC staffers designed the app working part-time, said Matt Raymond, director of communications for the Library of Congress. When users download the free app, they can take a virtual tour of the library and its collections....

ReadWriteWeb, Aug. 3



### [Listen to free music online with Grooveshark](#)

Steven Campbell writes: "Could Grooveshark be the best service for streaming music? A lot of people have taken to online music. It's a great way to listen to your favorite tunes on demand and save your playlists or stations. There are many services that allow you to stream music, including [Pandora](#) and [Last.fm](#), but my personal favorite is [Grooveshark](#)."...

MakeUseOf, Aug. 10



### [Google Street View in 20 German cities by end of 2010](#)

After months of legal wrangling, Google expects to make its controversial Street View image captures available for Germany's 20 largest cities by the end of the year. This will include Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Köln, and Bonn. Germany has been particularly critical of Google's image capture program. The company now plans to let users block pictures of their property before the German site's launch, but criticism remains. If you can't wait until December, try out the German-language [Sightwalk](#) (above), which offers street views in seven cities....

Deutsche Welle, Aug. 10



### [University of Chicago microfilmed its catalog in 1969](#)

Neil A. C. Radford writes: "The academic year 1968–69 was a turbulent one on many American university campuses. The University of Chicago Library administration decided that, with student protests already disrupting some university activities, security measures must be taken to safeguard the card catalog. In March 1969, a secret project began to microfilm the entire catalog late at night so that if any cards were lost, they could be replaced with relative ease."...

*The Core*, Summer



### [Why the church library is still relevant](#)

Luanne Radecki Blackburn writes: "While some pastors see libraries as old school, choosing to discontinue them or to replace them with bookstores, church libraries can still be vital and relevant ministries: Bible study materials, family-friendly movies, the latest and greatest Christian fiction, and VeggieTales for the kids, all free and available for checkout any time the building is open. In fact, the tough economic times of the past couple of years have made this more evident than ever."...

Your Church, Aug. 9

### [Author urges British Education Secretary to save school libraries](#)

Children's author and campaigner Alan Gibbons is hoping to save school libraries amid fears that U.K. government spending cuts are leading to closures. In this message (2:31) to Secretary of State for Education Michael Gove, Gibbons says that schools are laying off librarians and library assistants, downgrading book acquisitions, and moving libraries to smaller rooms that have less space and fewer resources, which in turn reduces their importance in many schools. "Just getting rid of the library is cryingly stupid."...



Teachers.tv, Aug. 10

### [I Love My Library postcard swap](#)

Swap-bot is an online site that organizes group swaps of letters, postcards, and mail art for its members. A staff member at the Aurora Memorial branch of the Portage County (Ohio) District Library is coordinating an I Love My Library swap where members send two postcards explaining why they love their library, one to a swap partner and the other to the Aurora library. The deadline to sign up is August 16....



Swap-bot

### [Help your teens become stars with SchoolJam USA](#)

Jennifer Paisley-Schuch writes: "Teen bands across the country are invited to step onto the stage to compete in SchoolJam USA. This national, one-of-a-kind, teen battle-of-the-bands competition is accepting applications from middle and high school students aiming to showcase their talent and bolster support for school music programs. Entries can be submitted online until October 15 at the SchoolJam USA [website](#)."...



Programming Librarian, Aug. 5

### [A Peace Corps library volunteer in Ukraine](#)

Laureen Maloney writes: "An American Peace Corps volunteer named Debbie Garofalo made contact with us on behalf of the director of the Kherson Regional Library for Children (right) in southern Ukraine. Ms. Bardashevskaya was interested in sharing information and ideas between her library and the Lackawanna County (Pa.) Children's Library by establishing a Sister Library relationship. The communication with Debbie laid the groundwork for a face-to-face Skype conference."...



PaLA Bulletin, May/June

### [Play Social Media Monopoly](#)

Jennifer Van Grove writes: "Over the years, Monopoly has been reimagined in a plethora of different ways. Crystal Gibson just one-upped them all with her own ingenious version, the Social Media Monopoly board game. The game,



which Gibson posted to [Bite](#), is an elaborate version of Monopoly that includes direct and indirect references to our favorite and not-so-favorite social media entities. The game even comes with a complete set of Chance and Community Chest cards that play upon Technorati's and Mashable's themes."...

Mashable, Aug. 9; Bite, July 28

### [Information-seeking behavior in \*The Big Lebowski\*](#)

Karen L. Janke and Emily A. Dill write: "Any notion of information as intrinsically linked to reality is particularly interesting when applied to *The Big Lebowski*, a film that often requires the viewer to watch several times before understanding the fantastically contrived plot, let alone before appreciating the central message of the film, if one actually exists. Despite this tenuous connection to reality, it is knowledge and facts that play a central role in the film: 'Where's the money, Lebowski?' (*Big Lebowski* 3:57)."...

IUPUI Scholar Works, forthcoming article in *Journal of Popular Culture*

### [Librarians abandon DDC for Netflix categories](#) (satire)

Citing shifts in student needs and ever-decreasing student satisfaction scores, librarians at the College of Eastern Nevada have elected to abandon the Dewey Decimal system for categorizing books. All books in the college's library will now be categorized using familiar Netflix categories. Library Director Janet Poleman recounted a particularly heated debate about whether Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* belonged in the "Romantic Comedy" or "Cerebral Drama" section....

*Cronk of Higher Education*: CronkNews, Aug. 11



### [Michigan State's special collections](#)

Peter Berg and Randy Scott describe (4:47) for *MSU Today* the treasures of the Michigan State University Special Collections department, especially the world-class [Comic Art Collection](#) that holds more than 200,000 comic books, books of collected newspaper strips, and books and periodicals about comics....

YouTube, June 30, 2009



### [The Old Guys visit a library](#)

*The Old Guys* is a BBC comedy television series revolving around two aging housemates, Tom Finnan (left, Roger Lloyd-Pack) and Roy Bowden (Clive Swift). In "The Quiz" episode, which aired July 9, Tom and Roy are determined to win a pub quiz to prove that their minds are still agile. They visit a library (2:40) where Tom tries to impress Barbara the librarian (Cherie Lunghi) with his knowledge of literature....

YouTube, July 9



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# american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | August 18, 2010

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## American Libraries Online

### [Library funding battles in Trenton, Wheaton, and Evanston](#)

With library budget woes continuing unabated this summer, three public library systems found themselves in role-reversing showdowns with municipal officials. Ironically, two libraries—those in Trenton, New Jersey, and Wheaton, Illinois—were forced to fight in favor of sharply reduced services in order to balance their budgets while city leaders ordered the libraries to maintain the status quo. In the case of Evanston (Ill.) Public Library, the library board has seized control of its budget from the mayor and city council after Friends fought a months-long battle to keep the library's only two branches open....

*American Libraries news, Aug. 18*

### [IFLA in Gothenburg: It's all about language](#)

One of the tricks to really appreciating an International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions conference is to recognize what a daunting task it is to sustain six days of communication with every major piece of it done in seven languages at once. Often you will see moderators passing little messages to speakers; in almost every case, it's a plea from the translation team to "please slow down." English dominates on the exhibit floor, as it is impossible to find exhibitors who don't speak English—even those from Thailand, Korea, and Saudi Arabia. For more IFLA coverage, see the [AL website](#)....

*AL: Inside Scoop, Aug. 10–15*



### [Haitian librarians describe earthquake destruction](#)

On January 12, 2010, a devastating earthquake turned an ordinary day into a day of horror and destruction for Haiti. At the IFLA Congress, two Haitian librarians came forward to tell their stories and communicate face-to-face with various international organizations and individuals who want to help with the recovery. During the presentation, the librarians ran this [video](#) (4:03), which shows the earthquake actually taking place from



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### [ALA Midwinter Meeting](#)

in San Diego, California, January 7–11, 2011. The Midwinter Meeting [institutes and optional events](#) are not included with a meeting registration and usually require an additional fee. When you register for bundled (beginning **September 1**), advance, or regular registration you may also sign up for these events. The

security cameras around the library....

AL: Inside Scoop, Aug. 13; YouTube, Aug. 1

### [LC unlocks doors with DMCA exceptions](#)

Mashup artists, smartphone users, academics, and people who are visually impaired are all winners, thanks to the July 26 exceptions made by Librarian of Congress James Billington to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. Since its enactment in 1998, the impact of the DMCA on fair use of digitized materials has been subject to review every three years by the Librarian of Congress. Here's a rundown of the new DMCA exemptions put into place....

*American Libraries news*, Aug. 16

### [OCLC's Web-scale Management Services released](#)

The much-hyped OCLC [Web-scale Management Services](#) moved from pilot phase to production in July with the release of acquisitions and circulation components to around 30 early adopters. The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga has posted an [ambitious timeline](#) that would make it the first institution to go live with the product on August 30; Pepperdine University Libraries is slated to come in second with a projected go-live date of October 11....

*American Libraries news*, Aug. 12



### [When crisis calls](#)

Matthew J. Boylan writes: "I recently answered a call on ASK NYPL (New York Public Library's telephonic and electronic reference line) from the New York City Police Department. A 16-year-old girl was threatening to throw herself off the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, and the only identification that she had in her effects was an NYPL library card.

Fortunately, this child survived. After I notified supervisors of what had happened, I was given the job of researching and formulating a suicide response policy for approximately 2,500 NYPL employees."...

*American Libraries feature*



### [Early literacy: A sustainable statewide approach](#)

Bonnie McCune writes: "Public libraries have maintained that they are significant in boosting children's literacy ever since the first children's section was established in the late 1800s. But in times of economic uncertainty, decision-makers find it easy to levy budget cuts against discrete, relatively powerless entities such as libraries. Regional approaches create an entrée for libraries to gain greater visibility and positioning within the educational and political communities."...

*American Libraries feature*



### [Next Steps: The customer is always right](#)

Brian Mathews writes: "We strive to provide great customer service, yet few of us actually use the 'C' word. We have many names—patron, borrower, user, reader—but 'customer' remains controversial and typically we avoid it. Not so at Howard County Library, located in the Baltimore suburbs. At HCL, they embrace the term, feeling that it accurately conveys the relationships they are building with their community."...



events may be chosen on the online or paper registration form.



Author Kathryn Miller has written the first book to focus strictly on [Public Libraries Going Green](#).

Environmental issues are now in the national consciousness, and patrons expect their library to respond as many ecofriendly corporations have. Miller offers advice on the greener side of such issues as collection development, disposal, and recycling; green equipment, technology, and facilities; and ways to get the community to pitch in. **NEW! From ALA Editions.**



"Like" [American Libraries](#) on Facebook.

**New this week**  
in *American Libraries*

American Libraries column, Sept.

## [Book donations](#)

Q. Several patrons have come in wanting to donate books and magazines to our library. Most are not appropriate for our library collection, and even our Friends cannot accept all of them to sell. Do you have any other resources we can direct them to? A. The best we can do for a "switching station" is the ALA Library fact sheet, [Sending Books to Needy Libraries: Book Donation Programs](#). This is a list of resources for finding the various groups and organizations that accept book donations for distribution in the United States as well as to other countries....

AL: Ask the ALA Librarian, Aug. 18

## [Raise funds, raise awareness](#)

Laura Bruzas writes: "If your library holds fundraisers, you may want to consider having your next one be a green fundraiser. Initially marketed to schools, churches, charities, and sport teams, there is no reason libraries can't join the bandwagon. What differentiates a green fundraiser from a conventional one? Right off the bat, I can think of three ways."...

AL: Green Your Library, Aug. 13



## [That Girl on libraries](#)

At the 2010 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., actor Marlo Thomas (right) discusses (1:46) how libraries and teachers made her *Free to Be . . . You and Me* book, recording, and television specials successful, how a library card can instill pride in a child, and how to learn well....

AL Focus, Aug. 16



## [BCALA conference videos](#)

At the National Conference of African American Librarians in Birmingham, Alabama, August 4–8, cookbook author [Bryant Terry](#) talked (4:10) to *American Libraries* about his book *Vegan Soul Kitchen*, soul food's healthful roots, how libraries relate to his work, and how a librarian helped him become a vegetarian. Watch other interviews with CNN Correspondent [Roland Martin](#) (2:42) and singer Ray Charles's son [Ray Charles Robinson Jr.](#) (2:43)....

AL Focus, Aug. 13, 16



# ALA News



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**Career Leads from**  
**ALA JobLIST**

## [Director of Development](#)

Pennsylvania State University, University Park. As the chief fundraiser for the Libraries at Penn State, the director of development will be a high-profile job within the University and requires a candidate with extraordinary experience and vision. This senior major gifts officer will report

## President's Message: In their own words

ALA President Roberta Stevens writes: "Our Authors, Our Advocates' was launched at my Inaugural Banquet during Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., in June. I was deeply honored to have as my special guests four wonderful authors who spoke so eloquently. They illustrated how authors can partner with us to advocate for the essential role libraries play in this nation's economic and educational success. Here are some excerpts from their presentations."...

*American Libraries* column, Sept.



## Students: Join a chapter and ALA for one low price

If you're a library school student, join your state chapter and ALA for one low price of \$35, anytime from now through August 31, 2011. To apply for joint membership, visit the [website](#) to find out if your chapter participates in the program, find the appropriate application to print out, and mail or fax it to the Chapter Relations Office....

ALA Student Membership Blog, Aug. 17

## Dollar General invests in the American Dream

Through community partnerships, Wauconda (Ill.) Area Public Library developed Spanish- and English-language brochures, as well as a [video](#) (6:06) that was posted to YouTube. Housed in a brand-new doublewide trailer (right), the tiny Pinewoods branch of the Athens (Ga.) Regional Library System developed an [ESL volunteer training manual](#); the Bentonville (Ark.) Public Library hosted a [U.S. Naturalization Ceremony](#) May 14 in which 30 adults from 14 countries took the Oath of Citizenship. These are among the dozens of projects undertaken with grants from [The American Dream Starts @ your library](#), a literacy initiative funded by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation....

AL: Inside Scoop, Aug. 18; Office for Literacy and Outreach, Aug. 16

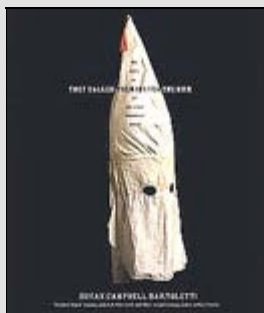


# Booklist ONLINE

## Featured review: Youth nonfiction

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. *They Called Themselves the K.K.K.: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group*. Aug. 2010. 176p. Grades 7-12. Houghton, hardcover (978-0-618-44033-7).

Bartoletti follows multi-award-winning titles such as *Hitler Youth* (2005) with another standout contribution to youth history shelves. Here, she examines how the Ku Klux Klan formed and grew out of the ashes of the Civil War. An 8th-grade teacher for 18 years, Bartoletti writes in admirably clear, accessible language, deftly placing powerfully unsettling events into cultural and political context without oversimplifying. It's



directly to the associate vice president of university development and will have a close working relationship with the dean of the Penn State Libraries. The director of development will be responsible for the oversight and management of all of the fundraising efforts and will direct the frontline fundraising staff for the libraries....



@ [More jobs...](#)

## Digital Library of the Week



[Windows on Maine](#) is a pilot project to develop an online service offering streaming video programs and clips, still images, texts, and other primary and secondary digital resources via broadband and wireless connections. It features a [searchable database](#) of complete programs and video clips from Maine Public Broadcasting Network's award-winning historical series, *HOME: The Story of*



the numerous first-person quotes, though, that give the book its beating heart. Like the individual stories, the powerful archival images on every page will leave an indelible impression on young readers, who will want to move on to the extensive annotated resources. This lucid, important title should be required reading for young people as well as the adults in their lives....

### [A history of hate](#)

Gillian Engberg writes: "Susan Campbell Bartoletti is fascinated by history's untold stories. Her latest book once again fills a gap in youth literature with a harrowing account of how our nation's most notorious white supremacist organization was founded. For Bartoletti, the story began with a statue of Nathan Bedford Forrest, a Confederate general and a former slaveholder who was repeatedly asked to become the Grand Wizard of the KKK, during a trip to Tennessee. I thought, 'What about the people whose lives he affected, the tens of thousands of people who were beaten and murdered? Where are their statues?'"...



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

*Maine*, and its science series, *Quest: Investigating Our World*. Multimedia resources have also been selected from the collections of the Fogler Library and the Maine Folklife Center at the University of Maine, Northeast Historic Films, Maine State Museum, Maine State Archives, and the Maine Historical Society that portray Maine's history and the ecology of the Gulf of Maine: forestry and lumbering, fishing and fishermen, hunting and fur trading, and shipping and ship building.

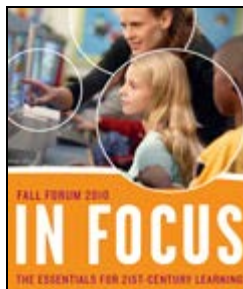
**Do you know** of a digital library collection that we can mention in this *AL Direct* feature? [Tell us about it.](#) Browse previous Digital Libraries of the Week at the [Love Libraries](#) site.

## Division News

### [AASL hosts Fall Forum coffee chats](#)

AASL held its first coffee chat session ([PDF file](#)) on August 11 designed to help school librarians learn more about the division's [Fall Forum](#). Other chats are scheduled for August 18 and 27. The chats are also geared to help the presenters design their sessions based on feedback from school librarians. "In Focus: The Essentials for 21st-Century Learning" will be held November 5–6 in Portland, Oregon....

AASL, Aug. 13



### [Readalikes for Mockingjay](#)

As Suzanne Collins's Hunger Games trilogy ends with the release of *Mockingjay* on August 24, YALSA can help parents, librarians, and educators keep the attention of teens hooked on Katniss and Peeta with a list of similarly themed teen books. Teens can find similar titles in the 2011 nominations for YALSA's Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults booklist, particularly the [What If](#) themed list, which highlights titles featuring alternative history and worlds, steampunk, apocalyptic fiction, and cyberpunk....

YALSA, Aug. 12



### [YALSA responds to Time's "Summer Vacation" article](#)

YALSA President Kim Patton delivered a statement to *Time* in response to its article, "[The Case Against Summer Vacation](#)," which appeared in the August 2 print issue. In the article, author David Von Drehle brings to light some serious concerns about student learning

### Public Perception How the World Sees Us

**"If television's a babysitter, the internet's a drunk librarian who won't shut up."**

—Cartoonist Dorothy Gambrell, *Cat and Girl* strip, "[Large Mediums](#)," Aug. 26, 2005.

**"Librarians possess a synoptic view of mostly trivial and anecdotal data, interspersed with histories, accepted truths, slogans, catchphrases, clichés, and platitudes. They are good at composing bibliographies,**

losses that can occur during a long summer break. But he left out libraries....

YALSA, Aug. 12

## Awards

### Teen Read Week mini grant winners

YALSA has announced the winners of its 10 [Teen Read Week mini grants](#), which give each winning library \$450 cash and \$50 worth of official Teen Read Week products from ALA Graphics to offer inventive activities, resources, and services to celebrate [Teen Read Week](#), October 17–23, with the theme “Books with Beat @ your library.” The 2010 Teen Read Week mini grants are funded by Team Teen Read Week....

YALSA, Aug. 12



### CLA supports Spectrum Initiative

The California Library Association has announced its support of the Spectrum Presidential Initiative with a contribution of \$500. CLA's contribution will allow ALA to continue to support master's-level Spectrum Scholarships and build the Spectrum Endowment....

Office for Diversity, Aug. 12

### 2010 Access to Learning Award

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation presented its 2010 Access to Learning Award of \$1 million to the Veria Central Public Library in Greece for its creative use of information and technology services to meet the economic, educational, and cultural needs of more than 180,000 people. The library has emerged as a leader by offering a range of services and programs for children and adults, and helping other libraries replicate its success. Veria Library Director Ioannis Trohopoulos (above) [accepted the award](#) August 12 at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Sweden. Watch a [slideshow](#) (5:59) about the library....

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Aug. 12; AL: Inside Scoop, Aug. 12



### OCLC Early Career Development Fellowships

OCLC, along with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions and the American Theological Library Association, named six librarians August 12 who will participate in the Jay Jordan IFLA/OCLC Early Career Development Fellowship Program for 2011. The six are from Botswana, Nepal, the Philippines, Malawi, China, and Serbia....

OCLC, Aug. 12

### 2010 LIANZA Children's Book Awards

The Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa launched the start of Library Week in Wellington August 16 with announcement of the winners of the 2010 LIANZA Children's Book Awards. Gavin Bishop's *There was a Crooked Man* (Gecko Press) was named the winner of the LIANZA Russell Clark Award, which celebrates a distinguished contribution to illustrated children's books. *Dear Alison*, edited by Simon Pollard (Penguin Group NZ), won the award for nonfiction....

Scoop (N.Z.), Aug. 16



regurgitating knowledge, and cross-referencing information. Though always fanatically biased and orthodox, they are often meticulous, conscientious, and erudite. The best of them are great and entertaining historiographers. Daniel Boorstein and Paul Johnson are prime examples of modern-day librarians, as are many popularizers of science, such as Carl Sagan.”

—Journalist, financial adviser, and healthcare consultant Sam Vaknin, “[Public Intellectuals: The Rise of the Librarian and Decline of the Author.](#)” Global Politician, Aug. 14.

@ [More quotes...](#)



### TweetWatch

#### Follow:

Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing, Helsinki, Finland, Aug. 17–21, at: [#sharp10](#)

Information Interaction in Context Symposium, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, at: [#iix2010](#)

*American Libraries* news stories, videos,

## Seen Online

### [CILIP's Bob McKee dies in Gothenburg](#)

Bob McKee, chief executive of the U.K.'s Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, passed away in Gothenburg, Sweden, this past weekend. He was attending the IFLA World Library and Information Congress. McKee had planned to retire at the end of October and would have been 60 on August 16. Colleagues are posting tributes on his [blog](#)....  
Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, Aug. 16



### [Gail Borden Public Library welcomes solo kayaker home](#)

Elgin, Illinois, resident Will Lytle, 20, recently kayaked 2,350 miles from Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico over 54 days, June 15–August 5. He is possibly the youngest person to solo kayak the river's entire length. The Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin sponsored his high-speed laptop card so that he could continually upload new entries to his [blog](#), which became part of its "Be a Hero—Read" Summer Reading program where participants could count blog-reading time in their totals toward completion. The library threw a welcome-home event August 11....

Elgin (Ill.) Courier-News, Aug. 12



### [Meeting-room challenge in Tennessee](#)

A Christian author filed a lawsuit August 12 against the Putnam County Public Library in Cookeville, Tennessee, after she was [denied access](#) to a meeting room for a discussion about her book. Ilene Vick, who professes to be an evangelical Christian, wanted to have small-group discussions around her self-published book, *Personality Based Evangelism*. Vick, who is represented by the Alliance Defense Fund, says the library told her three times in 2009–2010 that library meeting rooms could not be used for religious purposes....

Christian Post, Aug. 13; Cookeville (Tenn.) Herald-Citizen, Aug. 17



### [Jacksonville consultants criticize reduced hours](#)

A team of consultants unveiled its early assessment of the Jacksonville (Fla.) Public Library on August 13. The consultants, who are being paid \$190,000, were critical of the board's decision in June to reduce hours at five branches to 20 hours per week—a move that saved \$434,907—because the branches were in neighborhoods that depend on libraries most. They also found fault with insufficient computers at branches in low-income areas....

Jacksonville Florida Times-Union, Aug. 13

### [Greensboro chooses less restrictive filters](#)

The Greensboro (N.C.) Public Library board of trustees voted August 16 to ask the city council to consider adding software to filter inappropriate material from internet searches. The filter would be limited to computers designated for use by children, as well as for users ages 17 and younger, and for adults who want filtered searches. Councilors asked the trustees to address the issue in early August after discussing reports of "inappropriate behavior" at the

tweets, and blog posts at:  
[amlibraries](#)

## Calendar

### Sept. 25:

[Media Law in the Digital Age](#), Center for Sustainable Journalism, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, Georgia. "The Rules Have Changed—Have You?" Cosponsored by Harvard University's Berkman Center for Internet and Society.

### Oct. 1–2:

[Open Video Conference](#), Fashion Institute of Technology, New York City. Sponsored by Open Video Alliance.

### Oct. 2–3:

[PodCamp Philly 2010](#), Unconference, Temple University, Philadelphia.

### Oct. 4:

[CrowdConf](#), St. Regis Hotel, San Francisco. First annual conference on the future of distributed work.

### Oct. 10–13:

[HighEdWeb](#) Conference, Hilton Netherland Plaza, Cincinnati. Also known as the National Conference for Higher Education Web Professionals.

### Oct. 14–16:

[BlogWorld and New Media Expo 2010](#), Mandalay Bay Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Central Library...

*Greensboro (N.C.) News and Record, Aug. 17*

### [Mississippi libraries taking budget hits](#)

Already underfunded by the state, Mississippi's public libraries now face more bad news, this time from the local governments that typically supply their budgetary bread and butter. Counties and cities, which themselves are struggling to make ends meet, can't afford the additional dollars libraries want to recoup the state funding losses. And in some cases, their annual allocations could be less than in years past—a further blow to an already dire situation....

*Tupelo Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal, Aug. 17*

### [Canadian librarian challenges database aggregators](#)

A bearded, 52-year-old university librarian is leading a digital revolt that is starting to go global. It began when an academic database proposed increasing the fee it charges the University of Prince Edward Island by 120%. University Librarian Mark Leggott snapped. He announced in a campus-wide letter that he had cancelled UPEI's subscription to Web of Science and was launching "an effort to create a free and open index to the world's scholarly literature called 'Knowledge For All.'" ...

*Toronto Star, Aug. 10*



### [Raynham Middle School library on borrowed time](#)

The librarian position at the Raynham (Mass.) Middle School is not being funded this year. As a result, the sun-filled, modern facility will likely close for the second time in its nine-year history, and the elimination of librarian Janice Zawada's full-time job will end a tenure under which the library flourished. Teachers say the news came as a shock, especially after voters approved a \$950,000 override for the schools and the union passed on raises for the coming year....

*Raynham (Mass.) Call, Aug. 13*

### [Chinatown branch suffers water damage](#)

Thousands of books, CDs, and DVDs in the Chinatown branch of the San Francisco Public Library were drenched after a ceiling sprinkler burst August 15. Water sopped the floors on the main level, leaked onto shelves on the floor below, and dripped down the front steps of the historic 1921 library. More than 1,000 books and in excess of 5,000 DVDs and CDs were affected....

*San Francisco Examiner, Aug. 16*

### [Olmsted County sued over law library funds](#)

An attorney in Rochester, Minnesota, has filed suit seeking \$123,000 that he says Olmsted County owes the state-funded county law library. Steve Fuller claims the county altered bills to appear as if the money was spent on the library. Fuller filed the suit in Olmsted District Court on August 10 on behalf of the law library board, seeking repayment of the debt and damages in excess of \$50,000....

*Rochester (Minn.) Post-Bulletin, Aug. 12*

### [School librarian pleads not guilty to embezzlement charge](#)

A Redding (Calif.) School District librarian accused of embezzlement and theft from a parent club and school pleaded not guilty August 16 at an arraignment. Wanell Stolz, who had been working as an information

**Oct. 17–23:**  
[National Friends of Libraries Week.](#)

**Oct. 22–27:**  
[American Society for Information Science and Technology.](#)

Annual Conference, Pittsburgh (Pa.) Hilton. "Navigating Streams in an Information Ecosystem."

**Oct. 25–27:**  
[2010 Library Assessment Conference.](#)

Renaissance Harborplace Hotel, Baltimore. Cosponsored by Association of Research Libraries, University of Virginia Library, and University of Washington Libraries. "Building Effective, Sustainable, Practical Assessment."

**Nov. 8–9:**  
[SPARC Digital Repositories Meeting.](#) Renaissance Harborplace Hotel, Baltimore.

@ [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.





specialist for Cypress and Juniper elementary schools, was arrested August 4 and faces charges that she embezzled \$13,500 worth of cash and property from Sycamore Elementary School and its Parent Faculty Club from 2004 to September 2009....

*Redding (Calif.) Record-Searchlight, Aug. 16*

### [Man lived in library for two weeks](#)

A 26-year-old man who told police he is homeless was discovered living in the basement of the Ocean Township branch of the Monmouth County (N.J.) Library after a custodian saw him peeking out a basement window after hours. Charles Jones Jr. told police he was living there unnoticed for almost two weeks. Police also discovered Jones took several books to the basement and food items from the employee break room....

*Asbury Park (N.J.) Press, Aug. 17*



### [Library turtles relocate](#)

For four years, the two red-eared slider turtles Overdue and Renewed have been an attraction in the Belmont (Mass.) Public Library's children's room, drawing visitors of all ages. The turtles arrived at the library with children's librarian Naomi Schmidt when the library hired her four years ago. After an August 13 bon voyage party, they relocated with Schmidt and her husband, who are moving to Pennsylvania....

*Boston Globe, Aug. 12*



### [Kill A Watt meters a hit in Santa Clara County](#)

Libraries throughout Santa Clara County, California, are loaning out new Kill A Watt EZ Meters for free to residents, which can be taken home and plugged in to any household appliance to find out exactly how much energy the appliance uses and what that costs the homeowner. The program has been a hit with the public, especially in Sunnyvale, where the meters have been checked out 64 times since July 1. The meters plug into a wall socket, and the appliance plugs directly into the meter....

*San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News, Aug. 12*



### [Russia refuses to turn over Chabad collection](#)

The Russian Foreign Ministry said that a July 30 decision by a U.S. district court judge that Hasidic historical books and documents, known as the Schneerson collection, should be returned to the U.S.-based Chabad-Lubavitch movement is illegal. The ministry claims the collection, gathered by Lubavitch Rabbi Joseph I. Schneerson, was nationalized in 1918 because there were no legal heirs in the Schneerson family....

*Interfax, Aug. 12*

### [New Indian library to be named after Ranganathan](#)

The public library in Sirkazhi, India, is slated to get a new building

George M. Eberhart,  
Editor:

[geberhart@ala.org](mailto:geberhart@ala.org)



Beverly Goldberg,  
Senior Editor:

[bgoldberg@ala.org](mailto:bgoldberg@ala.org)



Greg Landgraf,  
Associate Editor:

[glandgraf@ala.org](mailto:glandgraf@ala.org)



Leonard Kniffel,  
Publisher,  
*American Libraries*:

[lkniffel@ala.org](mailto:lkniffel@ala.org)

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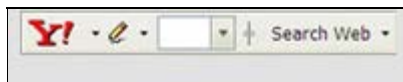
that will be named after S. R. Ranganathan, author of the well-known *Five Laws of Library Science* (1931), who was born in a village near the city in 1892. Ranganathan's birthday of August 9 is observed as Librarians' Day in all 98 of the public libraries in the surrounding district....

Press Trust of India, Aug. 12

[Go back to the Top](#)

## Tech Talk

### [15 things every PC user should know](#)



Patrick Miller writes: "Think you know tech? If you don't have a handle on every single one of these 15 tech facts, habits, and efficiency tricks, you're not living up to your potential. For example: Don't double-click everything, uncheck the boxes before you install an unwanted toolbar, record the exact error message, and be skeptical of 'cleaning' apps."...

PC World, Aug. 16

### [The top 10 most dangerous things you can do online](#)

Researchers at internet security service provider CyberDefender looked at some of the most dangerous things you can do online and explained how to protect yourself if you're not quite ready to give up on certain things completely. Bad things include: Checking the "Keep me signed in" box on public PCs; failing to update Microsoft Windows OS, Java, Adobe Reader, or Adobe Flash; and using BitTorrent to download copyrighted software, films, or TV shows....

Gizmodo, Aug. 16

### [Getting started with Photoshop](#)

Jacob Gube writes: "Adobe Photoshop, the graphics software for photographers, designers, digital artists, and casual enthusiasts, can be a baffling application to understand the first time you fire it up. Luckily, littered across the web are tutorials that will help you get up and running in no time. In this post, I've pieced together 12 excellent Photoshop tutorials geared toward beginners."...

Mashable, Aug. 12



### [Becoming a squinter nation](#)

Melinda Beck writes: "More people are showing up at eye appointments complaining of headaches, fatigue, blurred vision, and neck pain—all symptoms of computer-vision syndrome (CVS), which affects some 90% of the people who spend three hours or more at day at a computer. But vision prescriptions mainly focus on nearsightedness or difficulty in focusing. Since there are no standards for measuring mid-range vision, ophthalmologists and optometrists typically just cut any reading prescription they give patients in half for computer distance."...

Wall Street Journal, Aug. 17



### [Voice action for Android phones](#)

Tom Simonite writes: "I've just spent 15 minutes talking

800-545-2433,  
ext. 4216

ISSN 1559-369X

to myself, and if Google's latest addition to its Android mobile operating system becomes popular, it's a habit that will become much more common. Without a button press, you can command the phone to compose an email or text message to a contact and dictate its contents. It's also possible to request music from an artist or album and to ask for directions or a map of a location." Watch the [video](#) (2:38)....

*Technology Review* Editors' Blog, Aug. 12; YouTube, Aug. 11



### [A force field for your phone](#)

Christopher Bednarz writes: "After finally buying a smartphone, I obsessed about scratching the screen of my favorite new toy or finding it smeared with my 3-year-old's fingerprints. If only there were some sort of protection without sacrificing clarity. Presto,



the [invisibleSHIELD from ZAGG](#). This tough-as-nails, crystal-clear cover is available for all your favorite devices, from smartphones and PDAs to laptops, tablet PCs, and digital cameras. Go ahead: [Scratch it](#) (0:32), scrape it, drop stuff on it. Your device is protected."...

Daily Grommet, Aug. 18

### [Mandatory FM radio on cell phones?](#)

Nate Anderson writes: "Music labels and radio broadcasters can't agree on much, but they do agree that Congress should mandate that FM radio receivers be built into cell phones, PDAs, and other portable electronics. The Consumer Electronics Association, whose members build the devices that would be affected by such a directive, is incandescent with rage."...

Ars Technica, Aug. 16

### [Future interfaces? Mobile, screenless, and invisible](#)

Christopher Mims writes: "Reto Meier, an Android developer and advocate for Google, recently laid out a fairly science-fiction account of where computer (or at least mobile) interfaces are headed. In the spirit of the best futurism, all of his predictions—from Augmented Reality eyeglasses to advanced batteries—have parallels in the real world. What follows is a walk-through of the future, expressed in terms of the not-quite-ready-for-prime-time discoveries coming out of labs today."...



*Technology Review*: Mims's Bits, Aug. 17

### [Sensory hijack: Rewiring the brain to see with sound](#)

Bijal Trivedi writes: "Using a device called [vOICe](#), which translates visual images into soundscapes, the visually challenged Claire Cheskin has trained her brain to 'see through her ears.' When traveling, the device helps her identify points of interest; at home, she uses it to find things she has put down, like coffee cups. Some long-term users of the device eventually report complete images somewhat akin to normal sight, thanks to a long-term rewiring of their brains." Watch the [video](#) (0:42)....



*New Scientist*, Aug. 17

## [Filtering software remains controversial](#)

David F. Carr writes: "From a technological standpoint, one question is whether internet filtering and categorization software has improved. One newspaper quoted a library director arguing that 'someone who has breast cancer who wants to research treatment can't get it because the filter prevents it.' That's a classic argument, but it only applies to the most rudimentary keyword-based filters. Also, the extent of the pornography-on-library-computers problem is often exaggerated by excitable politicians, said ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom Deputy Director Deborah Caldwell-Stone."...

*Baseline*, Aug. 14

# Publishing

## [Struggling with e-books](#)

Rich Adin writes: "Don't get me wrong—I love my Sony 505 and read on it every day for at least a couple of hours. But what I read on it are novels, fiction that goes in one brain cell and out the other, rarely making a lasting impression. Yet I keep trying to read nonfiction biography and history in e-book form and I inevitably stop and return to the print version. I have been trying to analyze why and have yet to come up with a satisfactory answer."...

TeleRead: Bring the E-Books Home, Aug. 17

## [Collectible motor car books](#)

Richard Davies writes: "Remember Studebakers, the Model T, the ill-fated Edsel? Automobile design and technology have evolved over the last century, leaving behind legions of ardent fans who lovingly restore and show their vintage vehicles with pride, often collecting any related memorabilia. We've found 25 of the [most beautiful pieces](#) about classic cars available on AbeBooks."...

Reading Copy Book Blog, Aug. 17



## [Comics to film: Who boosts whom?](#)

Robin Brenner writes: "The just-wrapped San Diego Comic-Con was awash in new announcements for films based on comics, demonstrating once again the power of geek fandom as well as the ease with which Hollywood gobbles up potential source material. But how much good does media exposure, via films or TV, do for a comic book series or graphic novel? Librarians need to know which titles are worth our investment."...

EarlyWord: The Publisher | Librarian Connection, Aug. 12



## [A Bookfuturist Manifesto](#)

Tim Carmody writes: "A futurist (in Filippo Tommaso Marinetti's original 1909 sense) wants to burn down libraries. A bookfuturist wants to put video games in them. A bookfuturist, in other words, isn't someone who purely embraces the new and consigns the old to the rubbish heap. She's always looking for things that blend her appreciation of the two. The bookfuturist is profoundly different from the two people he might otherwise easily be mistaken for at first glance—the technofuturist and the bookservative."...

*The Atlantic*, Aug. 11

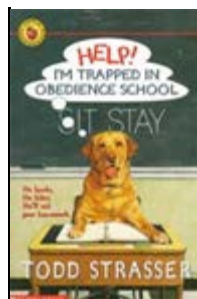
## [A year of reading weirdly](#)

Richard Davies writes: "Happy birthday to weirdness in



literature. AbeBooks' [Weird Book Room](#) is a year old. We thought it would raise a smile or two but you actually bought the books and lots of them. Did you purchase *Cheese Rolling in Gloucestershire*, *Natural Bust Enlargement with Total Mind Power*, *the International Book of Beer Can Collecting*, or the *Dictionary of Pipe Organ Stops*? There are more than 150 odd but strangely addictive books in there, many suggested by you."...

Reading Copy Book Blog, Aug. 17

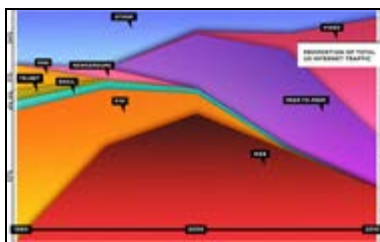


## Actions & Answers

### The web is dead; long live the internet

Two decades after its birth, the World Wide Web is in decline, as simpler, sleeker services—think apps—are less about the searching and more about the getting. Chris Anderson explains how this new paradigm reflects the inevitable course of capitalism. And Michael Wolff explains why the new breed of media titan is forsaking the web for more promising (and profitable) pastures. But Rob Beschizza [questions](#) the article's info-chart (above)....

Wired, Aug. 17; BoingBoing, Aug. 17



### IFLA World Report 2010

For the first time, the *IFLA World Report* (formerly the printed *IFLA/FAIFE World Report*) is being made available online in a fully searchable database, complete with graphical map interface. The new report, which has been developed by a team at the University of Pretoria led by Theo Bothma, contains details of freedom of access to information, freedom of expression, and censorship in 122 countries. Access is provided by country or by topic....

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions



### Compare your country

Keir Clarke writes: "Recently there has been a spate of Google Maps that allow you to compare places you know with other countries, buildings, or objects. [Ifitweremyhome.com](#) has a great comparison tool that allows you to place an overlay in the shape of one country over another. [BBC Dimensions](#) takes a larger number of places—the Twin Towers, Burning Man, the moon, the Battle of Stalingrad—and overlays them on a map of where you are."...

Google Maps Mania, Aug. 17



### Our niche and how to get back into it

Rory Litwin writes: "More and more, I find that the library profession's efforts to stay relevant in the age of information technology are in fact eroding our relevance. As a result of these efforts, it is becoming less and less clear what we offer that is different from what everybody else offers in the information economy."

What we can claim is librarianship, yet most people—not only outside but within the profession—have forgotten what that consists of other than ‘books.’”...

Library Juice, Aug. 18

## [11 great movies starring librarians](#)

While writers might seem more glamorous, librarians are the quiet heroes of the literary world. They stand up against censorship, they uncover ancient mysteries, they laugh in the face of computerization, and they stop the corporate world dead in its tracks. From Katharine Hepburn to Rachel Weisz, *Huffington Post* editors have rounded up films that give librarians the center stage....

*Huffington Post*, Aug. 16



## [Storm Center](#)

Q. By any chance, can ALA tell me anything about *Storm Center* (1956) starring Bette Davis? I'm hoping to add it to my list of requested films. A. I also first found out about *Storm Center* in an article in an issue of the precursor to *American Libraries*, the *ALA Bulletin*. The July/August 1956 issue had a two-page article (above) that featured still photographs from the film. The character played by Bette Davis was based on Ruth Brown, librarian of the Bartlesville (Okla.) Public Library, who was fired in 1950 on suspicion of being a Communist....

AL: Ask the ALA Librarian, Aug. 18



## [School librarians and educational technology](#)

The International Society for Technology in Education's Media Specialists Special Interest Group has released an important advocacy statement: *The Role of School Librarians in Promoting the Use of Educational Technologies* ([PDF file](#)). The document can be used to provide information on the important role that school librarians play in promoting the use of educational technologies in their schools and the need for libraries to have adequate available technologies....

International Society for Technology in Education SIGMS, Aug. 16

## [Atlas of printing techniques](#)

The Image Permanence Institute has created an online Graphics Atlas that offers sophisticated print identification and exploration tools to archivists, curators, historians, collectors, conservators, educators, and the general public. The site has three sections: a guided tour of various printing techniques; a tool that compares each and provides variable light sources, edge views, magnified images, and front and back comparisons; and step-by-step instructions to identify specific processes....

Image Permanence Institute



## [A night-club map of the Harlem Renaissance](#)

Frank Jacobs writes: "This 'Night-Club Map of Harlem' documents the fun to be had in the cultural capital of black America, circa 1932. At that time, this vibrant community on the



northern tip of Manhattan was experiencing a flowering of African-American literature, theatre, and jazz. This map is focused on the area of Harlem just north of Central Park, where much of that flowering took place. It is bounded by 110th Street and concentrates on Lenox Avenue and Seventh Avenue ('or heaven')."

Strange Maps, Aug. 16

### [Every day is a holiday somewhere](#)



Richard Byrne writes: "[Earth Calendar](#) is a small demonstration of cultures and traditions from around the world. It has three simple search options: holidays by date, holidays by country, or holidays by religion. I used the holidays by country option to find out that May 1 is Labor Day in Macedonia. Earth Calendar is a simple-to-use resource for students to use to get a little flavor of cultures and traditions from around the world."

Free Technology for Teachers, Aug. 17

### [Twitter search engines](#)



David Lee King writes: "Tweets pretty much disappear after about a week and a half. Technically the tweets are still there—they're just not found by most search engines, Twitter's included. I did some furious searching for some tweets from 22 days ago, and actually found a few. Here's a list of Twitter search engines and what they found."

David Lee King, Aug. 17

### [Five tips for dealing with complaints on Twitter](#)

Megan Berry writes: "Every business, blogger, and the rest of us on social media have experienced it: Someone just called you out on Twitter or in a blog. It's all too easy to get frustrated and respond with something that will just make the situation worse or to take it personally and get upset. While there is no magic formula for dealing with complaints in social media, I do have a few tips that have helped me."

Mashable, Aug. 13

### [What is Congress sending the President?](#)

Andrew Weber writes: "Want to know what Congress has just passed and sent down Pennsylvania Avenue? You can keep track through [THOMAS](#). There is a Bills Presented to the President [RSS feed](#) and [email alert](#) listing bills that have passed both the House of Representatives and Senate and have been sent to the White House for the President's decision on whether or not to sign the legislation."

In Custodia Legis, Aug. 13



### [Beloit Mindset List for the Class of 2014](#)

Born in 1992 when Ross Perot was warning about a giant sucking sound and Bill Clinton was apologizing for pain in his marriage, members of this fall's entering college class of 2014 have emerged as

a post-email generation for whom the digital world is routine and technology is just too slow. For these students, Benny Hill, Sam Kinison, Sam Walton, Bert Parks, and Tony Perkins have always been dead. Each August since 1998, Beloit College has released this list as a reminder that a generation comes and goes in the blink of our eyes...

Beloit College

### [Librarians spur new ideas](#)

Linda W. Braun writes: "Over the past couple of weeks I've had a couple of conversations that got my brain going about ways to integrate some new, and newish, technologies into teen library services. I started to think about the skills librarians need to successfully evaluate apps of interest to teens. These evaluation skills have to include consideration of what teens look for in apps, what teens don't see in apps but would like to see, and how teens are, or might, use apps for informational and recreational purposes."...

YALSA Blog, Aug. 18

### [A new quick-reference tool powered by robots](#)

Josh Lowensohn writes: "[Swingly](#) is a machine-generated answer engine that contains somewhere around 100 billion to 150 billion question-and-answer pairs. Users can search for answers to their questions, not from existing user-answered questions as found on places like Facebook or Yahoo Answers, but from sites where the answers can be extracted. That includes news stories and blog posts, as well as the comments that come with them."...

CNET News: Web Crawler, Aug. 16



### [Advice for beginning genealogists](#)

Greta Koehl writes: "Treat genealogy as a quest for information, not as a collectors' hobby. You are a detective-researcher, not someone who collects ancestors only to get bored with them and let them collect dust on a shelf. If you dig for that information to learn who your ancestors really were, there will always be mysteries that won't let you abandon the quest. You will learn so much about history, culture, sociology, demographics, and many other subjects. It's like getting another degree, only more fun and you have control of the curriculum."...

Greta's Genealogy Blog, Aug. 10



### [Patron constructive criticism contest](#)

Brian Herzog writes: "The words we use with a problem patron or when we must correct a patron for violating a policy can go a long way to either help defuse or inflame the situation. Is it better to give a patron a neutral third-party 'they' or anonymous 'someone' to focus their displeasure upon, or to dissipate the anger by working on a solution rather than assigning blame? I posted this as a [question](#) on Unshelved Answers, and whichever answer gets the most votes will win a prize."...

Swiss Army Librarian, Aug. 12

### [Museum people scramble to keep up with librarians](#)

Lauren Silberman writes: "I'm annoyed with librarians. It's not that librarians have done anything wrong. In fact, the reason that I'm annoyed is because of what they're doing right. Librarians have gone viral. So, it leaves me wondering, 'Where are the museums?' You

have to help us museum lovers out. So I challenge you—no matter your museum specialty or work expertise—to help me show up those trendy librarians.”...

Center for the Future of Museums, Aug. 13

### [Educational video: An animated history of Poland](#)

R. J. Evans writes: “The Polish Pavilion at Expo 2010 in Shanghai this summer quickly drew crowds to see this amazing eight-minute animation of the entire history of Poland. This [video](#) (8:28) traces Poland’s history from feudal times to the present day. You



will see the world wars, the partition of the country, Chopin, the rise and fall of Communism, Solidarity, and much more. This is quite simply one of the most astounding pieces of animation I have ever seen.” Supplement the video with Wikipedia’s [History of Poland](#)....

Kuriositas, Aug. 16

### [If not, ask why](#)

The Michigan Association for Media in Education created its first Public Service Announcement (0:30) to raise awareness among parents and school administrators of the need for certified school librarians in public schools. Joe Staley (right) of the San Francisco 49ers, the son of a Michigan school librarian and MAME member (Jan Staley, Jenison Public Schools elementary library media specialist), is the spokesperson....



Michigan Association for Media in Education, Aug. 16

### [When I become a librarian](#)

Inspired by Marco Torres’s 2001 *Teacher Movie* (itself a parody of the Monster.com Super Bowl commercial), this video (2:27) was created by different-thinking librarians in Mid-Del Public Schools in Midwest City, Oklahoma, on August 9, in about two hours during a [workshop](#) on “Teaching 21st-Century Skills in School Libraries” led by Wesley Fryer. They used iEtherpad.com to collaboratively brainstorm and script it, shot the clips using an iPhone 3GS, edited it in iMovie ’09, and published it to YouTube using a Macbook Pro laptop....



YouTube, Aug. 9; Moving at the Speed of Creativity, Aug. 9

[Go back to the Top](#)

# american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | August 25, 2010

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## American Libraries Online

### [Filming Flipped: An interview with director Rob Reiner](#)

The feature film *Flipped*, directed by Rob Reiner and distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures, opens in six cities on August 27. Based on the 2001 YA novel by Wendelin Van Draanen, the film flips back and forth in showing the thoughts and feelings of two protagonists, 8th graders Bryce and Juli, as they develop crushes on each other, though not exactly at the same time. In this interview, Reiner shares his insights on books, writing film adaptations, and reading. *American Libraries* Senior Editor George Eberhart had an opportunity to view the film and talk to Reiner by phone August 23....



AL: Inside Scoop, Aug. 25

### [New youth library in Ethiopia](#)

Leonard Kniffel writes: "The need in Ethiopia is great but the vision and perseverance of Yohannes Gebregeorgis is greater, which helps explain why a new library worthy of any developed country opened August 20 in Mekele, the first of its kind in this small and grindingly poor city. The Segenat Children and Youth Library in the region of Tigray is located in a sturdy, free-standing building donated by the municipal authorities. It's fully loaded with some 10,000 books and a computer room with 10 stations; two e-book readers and 8,000 more books are on the way. A companion donkeymobile regularly transports some 2,000 additional books to more distant parts of Tigray, powered by two beasts of burden named Sege and Nat."...



*American Libraries* news, Aug. 24

### [Newsmaker: Charles Ogletree](#)

Harvard Law School Professor Charles Ogletree (right), founder of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, serves as one of several celebrity

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### [ALA Midwinter Meeting](#)

in San Diego, California, January 7–11, 2011. [Bundled registration](#) opens September 1. Save up to 20% when you register for both the Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference before September 30.

honorary cochairs of ALA's Spectrum Presidential Initiative, an effort to raise \$1 million in scholarships for minority students pursuing an MLS. Ogletree talked with Associate Editor Pamela A. Goodes on June 25, at the start of the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Watch the full [interview](#) (9:03)....

*American Libraries* column, Sept.; AL Focus, July 22



## [Technology in Practice: Your reality, augmented](#)

Meredith Farkas writes: "Last time, I discussed QR codes and how they can link you to content. But what if you didn't have to put barcodes all over everything you wanted people to scan? What if all it took to get that content was to walk up to an item or location holding your phone? What if you could see additional data through your phone's video camera about what you're looking at in real life, or see your location on a map in relation to restaurants, buildings, or even a specific bookshelf? It sounds futuristic, but it's actually something available right now to many smartphone users."...

*American Libraries* column, Sept.



## [Dispatches from the Field: Measuring e-resource use](#)

Rachel A. Flemming-May and Jill E. Grogg write:

"In 2002, there arose an international, nonprofit organization dedicated to facilitating 'consistent, credible, and comparable' library usage data: Counting Online Usage of Networked Electronic Resources, or [Project COUNTER](#), which focused on journals and databases and included definitions for such variables as full-text articles, turnaways, searches, and sessions. COUNTER is now involved in initiatives such as [PIRUS2](#) (Publisher and Institutional Repository Usage Statistics), which facilitates the sharing and collection of usage statistics at a more granular level."...

*American Libraries* column, Sept.



## [Longevity record?](#)

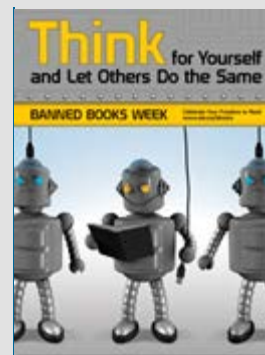
Q. *I was just reading Theodore Jones's Carnegie Libraries Across America (Wiley, 1997) and saw a reference to Gladys Powers, who served as the librarian in the Shelbina (Mo.) Carnegie Public Library for 67 years (from 1921 to 1988). Is that a record?* A. I don't know, but it looks like it might be. Such records simply are not kept. Inez Ratekin Herrig served as librarian at the Lincoln County Libraries in Libby, Montana, for 62 years....

AL: Ask the ALA Librarian, Aug. 24

## [Promotions take a toll on the environment](#)

Laura Bruzas writes: "Many promotional items available today are downright bad for the environment. Consider the commonly purchased cotton T-shirts, visors, bags, and aprons. Despite cotton's image as being a natural and pure fiber, conventional cotton farming takes an enormous toll on the air, water, soil, and people who live in cotton-growing areas. Think about how your patrons will feel about these items in 10 minutes, 10 days, and 10 months."...

AL: Green Your Library, Aug. 18



Celebrate your freedom to read September 25–October 2 with a [Banned Books Week 2010 poster](#). Banned Books Week highlights the benefits of free and open access to information, while drawing attention to the harms of censorship by spotlighting actual or attempted bannings of books across the United States. **NEW!** From ALA Graphics.



"Like" [American Libraries](#) on Facebook.

**New this week**  
in *American Libraries*



[Technology in](#)

## [The value of international activity](#)

At the 2010 IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Gothenburg, Sweden, Mexican Library Association President Jesus Lau (right) talked (2:50) about how his library has benefited from his international activities and how librarians can help international relations. He extended a special invitation to American librarians....

AL Focus, Aug. 24



## ALA News

### [Apply for Discovering Librarianship program](#)

The Office for Diversity is offering an opportunity for early-career librarians to participate in a recruitment initiative focused on bringing ethnically diverse high school and college students to careers in libraries. "Discovering Librarianship: The Future is Overdue," a project funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, will support the training of 35 early-career librarians to serve as recruiters in national, regional, and local career recruitment events. Completed [applications](#) are due by October 1....

Office for Diversity, Aug. 19

### [Banned Books Week Machinima Contest](#)

Calling all filmmakers! As part of its celebration of [Banned Books Week](#) in Second Life, the Office for Intellectual Freedom is inviting everyone to take part in a Banned Books Week Machinima Contest. Machinima is filmmaking within a real-time, 3-D virtual environment like Second Life. The inspiration for your machinima entry should be "Think For Yourself and Let Others Do the Same," this year's BBW theme. [Submissions](#) will be accepted through September 25. Get a free robot (right) from the ALA Island [Main Stage](#) while you are there....

OIF Blog, Aug. 19



### [How to get policymakers to listen](#)

The ALA Washington Office reveals the secrets to getting policymakers at all levels—whether your local city councilperson, a state legislator, or a member of the U.S. Congress—to take libraries seriously. If you're looking for more funding, a better policy environment, or just a little positive attention, this [webinar](#) (58:03) is for you. Featuring consultant Stephanie Vance....

District Dispatch, Aug. 24; Vimeo, Aug. 23



## [Practice](#)

[Dispatches from the Field](#)

[Newsmaker](#)

[Perpetual Beta](#)

[Inside Scoop](#)

[Green Your Library](#)

[Ask the ALA Librarian](#)

[Librarian's Library](#)

[AL Focus](#)



## Career Leads from JobLIST

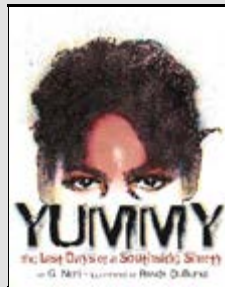
[Library Director](#), Fort Dodge (Iowa) Public Library. The City of Fort Dodge is seeking an enthusiastic, creative, service-oriented library director with public library experience to build on our library's past successes and lead it to new levels of excellence. The library director will be responsible for staff supervision, budget management, and the planning, direction, development, and evaluation of library policies, services, and procedures. The director will also represent the library through public contact,



# Booklist ONLINE

## Featured review: Youth graphic novel

Neri, G. *Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty*. Illustrated by Randy DuBurke. Aug. 2010. 96p. Grades 8–12. Lee and Low, paperback (978-0-618-44033-7). Robert Sandifer—called “Yummy” thanks to his sweet tooth—was born in 1984 on the South Side of Chicago. By age 11 he had become a hardened gangbanger, a killer, and, finally, a corpse. In 1994, he became a poster child for the hopeless existence of kids who grow up on urban streets, both victims and victimizers, shaped by the gang life that gives them a sense of power. Neri’s graphic-novel account, taken from several sources and embellished with the narration of a fictional classmate of Yummy’s, is a harrowing portrait that is no less effective given its tragic familiarity. The facts are laid out, the suppositions plausible, and Yummy will earn both the reader’s livid rage and deep sympathy...



## Weighing in: Three bombs, two lips, and a martini glass

Pat Scales writes: “If you had asked me a year ago what bombs, lips, and martini glasses have in common, I would have answered, ‘A fraternity party.’ Now I have a different answer. It’s called [Common Sense Media](#). This not-for-profit web-based organization is in the business of using a ‘rating’ system to review all types of media that target children: bombs for violence, lips for sex, #! for language, \$ for consumerism, and martini glasses for drinking, drugs, and smoking. The group claims it wants to keep parents informed and that it is about ‘media sanity, not censorship,’ but after a long meeting with their editor in chief, I remain puzzled.”...



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

## Division News

### Academic librarian lightning round

ACRL’s University Libraries and College Libraries sections are inviting proposals for a joint program at the 2011 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans. The program will showcase new and innovative roles and responsibilities that academic librarians have taken on. The format will be Pecha Kucha (lightning round) presentations limited to five minutes and 20 slides at 15 seconds per slide. The deadline for proposals is September 15. For more information, contact [Catherine Doyle](#)....

ACRL University Libraries Section

### Terry Trueman Skype visit: Bid on it at

including regularly working at a public service desk....



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## Digital Library of the Week



The [Local History Collection](#) at Bloomingdale (Ill.) Public Library ranges from images of the Midwest town’s former [Adventureland Amusement Park](#), located in nearby Addison, which, according to library Director Timothy Jarzemsky, “really captures the mood of the American family during the booming growth of suburbs in the 1960s and 1970s” to photos and clippings that document highlights of the town’s 177-year [history](#). Included is a 21st-century photo of the 1832 [home](#) of Bloomingdale founder

## Midwinter

YALSA is sponsoring a Not So Silent Auction on Friday night of the 2011 Midwinter Meeting in San Diego, January 7–11—that alone is a good reason to attend. The donations are coming in, and the [list](#) is already pretty amazing. And now this: Author Terry Trueman (right), who offers Skype visits to schools and libraries for a standard fee, is offering a Skype visit to YALSA as an auction prize. His visit will be on whatever topic and covering whatever areas the winning bidder desires....



YALSA Blog, Aug. 24

## Voting is open for Teens' Top Ten

YALSA invites all teens to get out the vote for the 2010 Teens' Top Ten. Teens can vote for their favorite books from the last year in the annual poll. Voting is open now through September 17. The 26 nominees for this year's Teens' Top Ten are available [online](#), along with a toolkit for librarians to promote the Teens' Top Ten to the young adults visiting their libraries....

YALSA, Aug. 23

# Round Table News

## Put on your hard hats

Do you have an activity that works well for a customer service class? Have you created a humorous video that learners in your classes always enjoy? Maybe you've done a detailed study of webinar platforms and would like to share that information with others who could use it. With the Learning Round Table's new [ALA Learning Wiki](#), you now have a platform to share your knowledge....

ALA Learning, Aug. 24

# Awards

## Applications open for John Cotton Dana Award

LLAMA is accepting entries for the 64th John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award now through December 4. The John Cotton Dana Award honors outstanding library public relations programs that support a specific project, goal, or activity, or a sustained, ongoing program. For an entry form, checklist, guidelines, and tips, visit the H. W. Wilson [website](#)....

LLAMA, Aug. 24

## Tell patrons to participate in I Love My Librarian Award

Nominations are now open for the 2010 Carnegie Corporation of New York / *New York Times* I Love My Librarian Award. The award invites library users nationwide to recognize the accomplishments of librarians in public, school, college, community college, and university libraries for their efforts to improve the lives of people in their community. [Nominations](#) run through September 20 and are being accepted online. Up to 10 librarians will be selected, each of whom will receive a \$5,000 cash award....

Public Information Office, Aug. 24



George Washington Meacham; a 1900 photo of the [Charles Hollenbach mansion](#), the stately summer home of the sausage maker from Chicago; and a 1933 [barn-raising](#).

**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

**"I would rather give up my driver's license than my library card."**

—Lauretta Day, 72, in a news story on the reopening of the Arbutus branch of the Baltimore County (Md.) Public Library, *Baltimore Sun*, Aug. 24.

@ [More quotes...](#)



## TweetWatch

Follow:

Australian Library and Information Association, Annual Conference, Brisbane, Queensland, at: [#aliaaccess](#)

*American Libraries* news stories, videos,

## [Banned Books Week grants](#)

The first project of the Judith Krug Fund is to disburse two grants to organizations (one for \$2,500, one for \$1,000) to assist them in staging read-outs or other events during [Banned Books Week](#). A Banned Books Week read-out is an event at which people gather to read from books that have been banned or challenged over the years, in order to celebrate the freedom to read. Banned Books Week 2010 will take place September 25–October 2. [Applications](#) must be received by August 27....

Freedom to Read Foundation

## [A new Great Stories CLUB theme and titles](#)



YALSA and the ALA Public Programs Office have announced the theme and book titles for the fourth round of Great Stories CLUB grants. Electronic [applications](#) for the reading and discussion series will be accepted from September 13 through November 19. YALSA selected "Second Chances" as the theme, along with the following titles: *Hate List* by Jennifer Brown (Little, Brown, 2009); *Dope Sick* by Walter Dean Myers (Amistad, 2009); and *The Brothers Torres* by Coert Voorhees (Hyperion, 2009)....

Public Programs Office, Aug. 23

## [OHIONET supports Spectrum](#)

OHIONET, on behalf of libraries in Ohio, West Virginia, and western Pennsylvania, has announced its support of the Spectrum Presidential Initiative with a contribution of \$1,500. A library cooperative organization headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, OHIONET's contribution will allow ALA to continue to support master's-level Spectrum Scholarships and build the Spectrum Endowment....

Office for Diversity, Aug. 19

## [BCALA presents five awards](#)

The Black Caucus of the American Library Association, an ALA affiliate, presented five awards during its 7th National Conference, held August 4–8 in Birmingham, Alabama. The BCALA Library Advocacy Award, recognizing dedicated commitment in support of library and information services to African American and other ethnic communities, was presented to Rudolph Clay, head of library outreach at Washington University....



Office for Diversity, Aug. 19

## [James Tait Black Memorial Prizes](#)

Novelist A. S. Byatt and literary critic John Carey are the winners of James Tait Black Memorial Prizes, Britain's oldest literary awards. The prizes are for the best work of fiction and the best biography published during the previous year and are the only major British book awards judged by scholars and students. Byatt won for *The Children's Book*, and Carey won for *William Golding: The Man Who Wrote Lord of the Flies*....

*The Telegraph* (U.K.), Aug. 20



## Seen Online

### [Humble Teen Lit Fest cancelled over disinvitation fracas](#)

tweets, and blog posts at: [amlibraries](#)

## Calendar

**Aug. 28:**  
[International Read Comics in Public Day.](#)  
Download a library-related instructional [poster.](#)

**Sept. 12:**  
[Brooklyn Book Festival.](#) Brooklyn (N.Y.) Borough Hall.

**Sept. 23–24:**  
[Art Museum Libraries Symposium.](#) Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts.

**Oct. 1–3:**  
[Association of Mental Health Librarians.](#) Annual Conference, Hotel Adagio, San Francisco. "Your Library: Still the Same, Completely Different."

**Oct. 6–8:**  
[Minnesota Library Association.](#) Annual Conference, Mayo Civic Center, Rochester. "Serious Play."

**Oct. 6–8:**  
[Missouri Library Association.](#) Annual Conference, Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake Ozark.

**Oct. 6–9:**  
[Idaho Library Association.](#) Annual Conference, Red Lion Templin's, Post Falls. "Libraries: Bridging the Divide."

**Oct. 7–8:**

The Humble (Tex.) Independent School District has called off its Teen Lit Fest, which was scheduled for January 2011, after four authors ([Pete Hautman](#), [Melissa de la Cruz](#), [Tera Lynn Childs](#), and Matt de la Peña) withdrew their appearances. The cancellations came in response to the district's decision to not welcome a teen author who had expected she would attend. Author Ellen Hopkins (right) said she was [disinvited](#) by Superintendent Guy Sconzo amid concerns about the content of some of her work, which includes the novels *Crank* and *Glass*. The letter stated that a middle school librarian had expressed concerns with some parents in the district...



*Humble (Tex.) Observer*, Aug. 24; *Pete Hautman Says*, Aug. 16; *Melissa de la Cruz*, Aug. 16; *Tera Lynn Childs*, Aug. 17; *Ellen Hopkins*, Aug. 10

### [Measuring libraries' impact](#)

Siobhan A. Reardon writes: "We all know that libraries are nice to have. But as it turns out, we *need* to have them. The Free Library of Philadelphia has partnered with economists at the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government to conduct an economic impact study, which we expect to complete this fall. As part of the study, we're asking all Philadelphians to go to our website and fill out a [brief survey](#) on how and why they use the library and how it affects their lives."...

*Philadelphia Inquirer*, Aug. 19

### [Public libraries: Enablers of dreams](#)

Neal Peirce writes: "America's public libraries, fast turning themselves into one-stop shops for digital job searches, appear to be staging one of their great historic transformations. Responding to a rush of recession-time visitors, 88% of our libraries now offer access to job databases. What's amazing is that many libraries are able to maintain the bulk of their services and adapt to growing needs, even in the face of snowballing funding cuts by their local governments. But they're not taking it quietly."...

*Seattle Times*, Aug. 22

### [Public libraries: Victims of the recession](#)

A majority of the country's library systems are having to make cuts, according to the American Library Association, and many of those cutbacks are quite devastating, even if the headline numbers aren't as large. As cities and counties deal with the slow recovery, the budgets—many of them adopted this summer for the 2011 fiscal year—have placed large chunks of library funding on the block. For desperate officials, it's a soft target, but librarians warn that cutting hours and positions might actually slow down the pace of recovery...

*Newsweek*, Aug. 23

### [No new library books for Boise schools](#)

When students in the Boise (Idaho) School District return to school next week there will be something missing: new books in the library. Because of unprecedented cuts in the state education budget, library funding was chopped. Hillside Junior High Librarian Gregory Taylor (above) and other school librarians are worried that students may be losing the fundamentals of reading...



[Maine Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Samoset Resort, Rockport. "Hard Times and Great Expectations."

**Oct. 7–9:**  
[Colorado Association of Libraries](#), Annual Conference, Embassy Suites, Loveland. "Illumination and Transformation."

**Oct. 8–9:**  
[A is for Anansi: Literature for Children of African Descent](#), New York University Kimmel Center, New York City.

**Oct. 8–10:**  
[Southern Festival of Books](#), War Memorial Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee.

**Oct. 13–15:**  
[West Virginia Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Stonewall Jackson Resort, Roanoke.

**Oct. 13–15:**  
[Iowa Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Marriott Coralville Hotel and Conference Center, Coralville. "Hard Times, Hard Decisions."

**Oct. 13–15:**  
[Georgia Council of Media Organizations](#), GaCOMO XXII, Classic Center, Athens. "Celebrate with One Voice."

**Oct. 13–15:**  
[Nebraska Library Association / Nebraska Educational Media](#)

KTVB-TV, Boise, Idaho, Aug. 18

### [No new books for Fullerton Public Library](#)

The Fullerton (Calif.) Public Library is asking patrons to buy it books for circulation this year in the face of a 98% cut to its materials budget. The city has set up a [wish list](#) on Amazon.com that anyone can search for hundreds of titles the library is requesting. The decision to reduce the acquisitions budget was made by the library in order to reach its goal of a 20% reduction overall....

*Orange County (Calif.) Register, Aug. 22*



### [LA's librarians demand noise](#)

Jodi Lampert writes: "For something to reach out and grab me, it has to have the effect of Changing My Life, and right away. Just say: The Public Library is closing on Mondays. I went to the North Hollywood branch last Monday to pick something up I had reserved online with Los Angeles Public Library's *EZ LogIn* and was very much looking forward to reading. CLOSED on Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays, the sign said."...

*Huffington Post, Aug. 24*

### [CyberNavigators help Chicago job seekers](#)

The number of active Chicago Public Library card holders jumped 8% to 1.82 million as of December 2009. CPL Marketing Director Ruth Lednicer estimates that about 60% of internet use there is related to job hunting, and the library has a program to help. CyberNavigators was started in 2008 and provides part-time staffers to help job seekers apply for unemployment insurance, write résumés, or set up new email accounts....

*Chicago Journal, Aug. 18*



### [More than 300 apply for Tacoma library assistant position](#)

Posted for only a week, an entry-level opening for a library assistant drew 309 job seekers to a crowded meeting hall August 23 in South Tacoma, Washington, to take a test for a coveted city job with benefits during a difficult economy. In their ranks was a laid-off Weyerhaeuser information technology professional, an out-of-work paralegal, and a struggling single mother of three in the midst of a career change....

*Tacoma (Wash.) News Tribune, Aug. 24*

### [Houston's book doctor](#)

A goateed septuagenarian who resembles a slim Col. Sanders, Charlie Arbore is the Houston Metropolitan Research Center's volunteer book doctor. He's on duty six hours a day, five days a week—excepting the two summer months he tours Europe—mending broken pages and healing wounded bindings. For Arbore, a retired Shell Oil Company engineer, working with damaged old books is both an intellectual challenge and a labor of love. Even a routine repair job often sends him on a quest to learn more about the author, publisher, and printer....

*Houston Chronicle, Aug. 24*

### [Bricks for books](#)

The Davidson branch of the Charlotte Mecklenburg

[Association](#), Annual Conference, Grand Island. "Nebraska Libraries: Celebrating the Past, Creating the Future."

**Oct. 14–16:** [Association for Rural and Small Libraries / Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services](#),

Joint Conference, Crowne Plaza Denver–Airport. "Magic in the Mile-High City."

**Oct. 16–17:** [West Virginia Book Festival](#), Charleston Civic Center.

**Nov. 3–6:** [Charleston Conference](#), Holiday Inn Charleston Historic District, Charleston, South Carolina.

**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](mailto:geberhart@ala.org)

(N.C.) Library has hit the \$60,000 mark in its fundraising effort to stay open for another year. The campaign is hoping to raise \$175,000 to meet a pledge by town officials to contribute to the library budget, which took a drastic cut in county funding. The Library Task Force is selling engraved bricks that eventually will be installed in a renovated patio area in front of the library...

*Davidson (N.C.) News, Aug. 24*



### [Libraries struggle with bedbugs](#)

This summer, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County encountered its first unwanted pest. And, they're not alone. Libraries on both sides of the river are struggling with bedbugs. The Boone County (Ky.) Library brings in a bug-sniffing dog four times a year. The insects have cropped up in the Norwood branch, but the department hit hardest is Outreach Services, a program that distributes books to schools and senior citizens' homes. Cincinnati is at the [top of the list](#) of U.S. cities infested with bedbugs...

*Cincinnati Enquirer, Aug. 19; New York, Aug. 24*

### [Fond du Lac school libraries to allow parental monitoring](#)

Parents of students in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, schools will be notified during the first week of school that they can monitor what their children are reading. During a work session held August 9, the board of education got an overview of the new Alexandria library automation software. Blocks can be placed on authors, book titles, and subjects to a certain extent. Parental supervision came up as a discussion item earlier this year when parent Ann Wentworth wanted several books removed from the library at Theisen Middle School...

*Fond du Lac (Wis.) Reporter, Aug. 11*

### [LC will pay \\$250,000 to settle sexual harassment suit](#)

The Library of Congress agreed to pay \$250,000 August 19 to settle a [sexual harassment lawsuit](#) brought by an employee in August 2009 against its top law librarian. Theresa Papademetriou, a senior foreign law specialist in the Western Law Division, alleged that the now-retired chief of the Law Library of Congress, Rubens Medina (right), sexually harassed female employees for more than 20 years through inappropriate touching and sexual comments. The agreement says it is not an admission of guilt...

*Washington Examiner, Aug. 19*



### [Even experts get fooled by web hoaxes](#)

Sara Scribner has blogged about the importance of school librarians in the digital age, especially when it comes to training students about reliable and unreliable sources of information. So you'd think she wouldn't have been thrown August 10 by [Jenny the Dry-Erase Girl](#)—a young woman who told the story about quitting her job as a broker's assistant in a photo essay of messages written on a dry-erase board. "I've had training and have had many false facts and crazy hoaxes revealed to me, and yet I bought it. Ridiculous," Scribner said...

*Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal, Aug. 23; The Chive, Aug. 10*



Beverly Goldberg,  
Senior Editor:  
[bgoldberg@ala.org](mailto:bgoldberg@ala.org)



Greg Landgraf,  
Associate Editor:  
[glandgraf@ala.org](mailto:glandgraf@ala.org)



Leonard Kniffel,  
Publisher,  
*American Libraries*:  
[lkniffel@ala.org](mailto:lkniffel@ala.org)

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### [The brains at Yale's medical library](#)

Two floors below the main level of Yale's Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Library is a room full of brains. No, not the students. These brains, more than 500 of them, are in glass jars. They are part of an extraordinary collection that might never have come to light if not for a curious medical student and an encouraging and persistent doctor.



The cancerous brains were collected by Dr. Harvey Cushing, who was one of America's first neurosurgeons....

*New York Times*, Aug. 23

### [Public art to mark Salinas's literary history](#)

Salinas, California, residents may soon see large literature-inspired granite sculptures and historical markers placed throughout the city's parks, libraries, and sidewalks. Officials are hopeful the project, in support of the "Salinas, City of Letters" campaign, continues to increase the city's viability as a literary tourism destination. The project is spearheaded by the Salinas Public Library and the National Steinbeck Center. It is paid for by a two-year National Leadership Grant awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services in 2008....

*Salinas Californian*, Aug. 23

### [Pennsylvania librarian campaigns for Keith Richards visit](#)

Library Director Sheila Redcay (right), and at least 621 others on [Facebook](#), would like to have Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards visit the Matthews branch of the Lebanon County (Pa.) Library System in



Fredericksburg. Redcay, a lifelong Rolling Stones fan, decided to invite Richards to her library after reading a preview of his autobiography, *Life*, coming out in October, in which he says he considered becoming a librarian. But Richards's publicist has said he is adamant that he will do only one book signing, in New York City. Redcay created a [video](#) (4:36) to encourage people to join the Facebook group....

*Harrisburg (Pa.) Patriot-News*, Aug. 20; YouTube, July 23

### [UH-Manoa: Six years after the flood](#)

The University of Hawaii at Manoa's Hamilton Library was deluged in 2004, but six years of hard work made the ground floor ready for an open house August 22. During the evening of October 30, 2004, a torrential downpour caused Manoa Stream to jump its banks and a wall of water slammed into the library. Now the ground floor has reopened, with rebuilt Government Documents and Maps collections, a geographic information system (GIS) lab, and the Department of Information and Computer Science's Library and Information Sciences areas....



*Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, Aug. 22

### [The new book batterers](#)

Jess Decourcy Hinds writes: "For me, a school librarian, back to school means only one thing: handing out 3,500 textbooks and begging students to treat them kindly. Since the recession, library use and book abuse have skyrocketed. I've found younger generations to be avid readers, but as products of the digital age, they don't always

respect the physicality of books. They dog-ear pages with the impulsiveness of clicking a mouse, not realizing that their actions have permanent consequences. Kindle-reading parents may have also forgotten the basics of book care.”...

*New York Times: City Room Blog, Aug. 20*

### [Suffolk library teaches teens graffiti art](#)

Youngsters in Suffolk, England, are being taught how to improve their graffiti skills by an established artist. The workshop takes place at Gainsborough Community Library in Ipswich and is organized by Club 4 Teenz, run by the youngsters who are designing and spraying boards in the parking lot. The project has been overseen by Ipswich graffiti artist Scott King (right)....



*BBC News, Aug. 24*

### [U.K. library visits decline](#)

The proportion of adults visiting a public library has steadily decreased over the past few years, from 48.2% in 2005–2006 to 39.4% in 2009–2010, according to new government statistics. The decrease in library users has continued over the last year with a drop of 1.7%. The figures were published without fanfare by the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport in a [report](#) called *Taking Part: The National Survey of Culture, Leisure, and Sport*....

*The Bookseller, Aug. 20; Department for Culture, Media, and Sports, Aug. 19*

### [A British pub library](#)

A pub in Hudswell, in the U.K.’s Yorkshire Dales, that doubles as a library may be a glimpse of the future for some communities. Villagers purchased a pub to save it from closing and set up a five-shelf library outlet inside, organized by a volunteer but kept supplied with books from the nearby Richmond library. Residents sign a register to check out a book....



*BBC News, Aug. 23*

### [Fiji mothers rally for library](#)

Some women in the Fiji Islands got together recently to form a group to improve facilities at the Namuka District School on Vanua Levu. The Visoqo Women’s Club in Namuka acquired new books and two computers for the school library and painted it because it was “no longer attractive,” as they put it. The women have also [arranged](#) for some of their group to be trained on the computers....

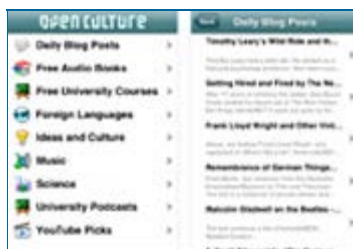
*Fiji Times, Aug. 17–18*

[Go back to the Top](#)

## Tech Talk

### [10 iPhone apps to get you back to school](#)

Stephanie Marcus writes: “Even though a new notebook can go a long way in preparing you for the new year, the iPhone also has a ton of apps that will help to get you organized and in the right mind-space to focus and learn. From the college-bound





to those who are still lucky enough to enjoy recess, here is a list of the best back-to-school apps.”...

Mashable: Mobile, Aug. 24

### [Three stages of library websites](#)

Lorcan Dempsey writes: “While writing about subject pages and library websites the other day, it occurred to me that we might think of library websites in three stages that emerged successively and continue to exist together. Always mindful of the rule of three, we might clumsily call these stages: (1) fragmentary, (2) integrated supply, and (3) demand-influenced.”...

Lorcan Dempsey's Weblog, Aug. 22

### [Top 10 Facebook fixes](#)

Kevin Purdy writes: “Facebook may be the de facto social network of, frankly, almost everyone, but that doesn't mean you have to use Facebook exactly the way its creators, or your Farmville-addicted friends, want you to.



Here are 10 tweaks to make Facebook better, including getting back the basic privacy you signed up for and stripping out annoying games and quizzes.”...

Lifehacker, Aug. 21


### [Nine great uses for private web browsing](#)

Adam Pash writes: “Many just consider private browsing to be a feature used for adult website viewing. But your private browsing feature is useful for a whole lot more: for example, logging into your stuff on others' computers, testing and debugging websites, or managing multiple Google apps accounts.”...

Lifehacker, Aug. 25

### [Make CloudMagic with your Gmail searches](#)



Robin Wauters writes: “While Google  is testing search results that [update themselves as you type](#) in the search box, startup [CloudMagic](#) is bringing that functionality to Gmail and Google Apps—and other cloud-based services in the near future—by means of Firefox and Chrome. Installing the extension results in an extra search box in your Gmail interface that allows you to rapidly search for anything in your inbox, with results updating as you type and the ability to preview messages from a thread in a tab or open entire conversations with a single click.” See the [demonstration video](#) (2:23) of the free plugin for Windows and Mac....

TechCrunch, Aug. 21, 23; YouTube, Aug. 18

### [Tracking cookie opt-out](#)

Rory Litwin writes: “If you're at all concerned about online privacy, you will want to know about the Network Advertising Initiative's [Behavioral Advertising Opt Out Tool](#). Go to it, and it will show you which advertising networks have installed tracking cookies on your computer. You can check the boxes and click through at the bottom to instruct all of those networks to opt you out of their spying, which they are legally obligated to do. This tool also lets you opt out of networks that have not found you yet.”...

Library Juice, Aug. 22

### [Chop up audio files with Online MP3 Cutter](#)

Kevin Hodgson writes: “Let's say you have an audio file but you only want a piece of it, not the

whole thing. How do you extract just a few seconds of audio from a larger file? [Online MP3 Cutter](#) does exactly that, and does it well. The entire process takes about 10 seconds, and best of all, you don't lose an iota of sound quality in the process."...

Instructify, Aug. 24



## Publishing

### [Scholars test web alternative to peer review](#)

Some humanities scholars have begun to challenge the monopoly that peer review has on admission to career-making journals and, as a consequence, to the charmed circle of tenured academe. They argue that in an era of digital media there is a better way to assess the quality of work. Instead of relying on a few experts selected by leading publications, they advocate using the internet to expose scholarly thinking to the swift collective judgment of a much broader interested audience....

*New York Times*, Aug. 23

### [Science fiction books that will stand the test of time](#)

John DeNardo writes: "Did you ever read an old science fiction book that felt dated? Maybe the predictions were way off base, or maybe they were a reflection of the times in which they were written. Yet some are considered timeless classics, which makes one wonder which of today's books will fall into that category. So we turned to this week's panel of writers and readers and asked them which science fiction books first published in the last 10 years will be considered classics." Another panel shared their thoughts on [classic fantasy novels](#)....

SF Signal: Mind Meld, Aug. 4, 18



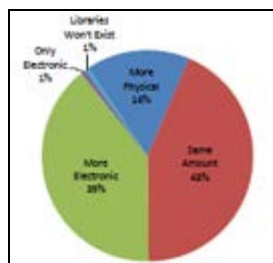
### [Audiobooks as medicine?](#)

Mary Burkey writes: "Scientific [research](#) on recovery after a stroke showed that audiobooks significantly improved sensory memory and resulted in higher cognitive function. The findings mirror much of the research done on the positive impact of audiobooks in literacy development of students. I'd also like to see more research on this concept of *focused attention*—how audiobooks train the reader to 'stay in the now'—no skimming, speed reading, or flipping ahead."...

*Booklist*: Audiobooker, Aug. 24; *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience* 22 (2010): 2716–27

### [The future of the book](#)

Jamie Helgren writes: "Last winter, the Colorado Library Research Service posted a survey on the future of the book. More than 1,300 people responded, with nearly 950 leaving additional comments. With all that information, we were able to write two Fast Facts providing analysis of both the results and the comments. The first ([PDF file](#)) addresses cost and the technological advantages of paper versus electronic formats, while the second ([PDF file](#)) discusses the



types of libraries in which respondents work and whether they owned an e-reader.”...

Library Research Service News, Aug. 18

### [The ABCs of e-reading](#)

People who buy e-readers tend to spend more time than ever with their nose in a book, preliminary research shows. A study of 1,200 e-reader owners by Marketing and Research Resources found that 40% said they now read more than they did with print books. 58% said they read about the same as before while 2% said they read less than before. And 55% of the respondents in the May study, paid for by e-reader maker Sony Corp., thought they'd use the device to read even more books in the future....

Wall Street Journal, Aug. 25

### [The environmental credentials of e-readers](#)

Brian Palmer writes: “There will be no Sophie’s choice when it comes to e-books. As long as you consume a healthy number of titles, you read at a normal pace, and you don’t trade in your gadget every year, perusing electronically will lighten your environmental impact. Think of an e-reader as the cloth diaper of books. Sure, producing one Kindle is tougher on the environment than printing a single copy of *Pride and Prejudice*. But every time you download and read an electronic book, rather than another pile of paper, you’re paying back a little bit of the carbon dioxide and water deficit.”...

Slate: The Green Lantern, Aug. 24

### [10 greatest works of Christian fiction](#)

Christianity was the founding religion of both the Western and Eastern empires and, as is to be expected, enormous amounts of literature have been produced based on the tenets and ideals of Christianity. This list looks at 10 of the greatest masterpieces in writing that come from a Christian perspective, from Prudentius to Madeleine L’Engle....

Listverse, Aug. 21



## **Actions & Answers**

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### [Geek the Library campaign opens up to all libraries](#)

[Geek the Library](#), OCLC’s community-based public awareness campaign, is now available for adoption by any U.S. public library. The campaign is designed to highlight the vital role of public libraries in today’s challenging economic environment and to increase local library support. Geek the Library has proven ability to improve public perception about local library funding needs in test communities. Details about how libraries can use the campaign to increase local support are available [online](#)....

OCLC, Aug. 23



### [Fayetteville goes solar](#)

On June 25, the Fayetteville (Ark.) Public Library became something more than a traditional library. As the solar panel array on its roof ramped up for the first time, the library became a test bed for new technology in an effort to support local



economic development. After six months of providing solar power and collecting production data, the library will test a highly efficient, state-of-the-art silicon carbide inverter developed by Arkansas Power Electronics International....

International City/County Management Association, July 22

### [What's the deal, JSTOR?](#)

Meredith Farkas writes: "I'm sure anyone working in an academic library has already heard that the JSTOR interface was changing this summer. But the thing that's a really big deal is that JSTOR is now going to display everything in its collection by default. That probably doesn't matter to a large university that subscribes to every JSTOR collection known to man, but for libraries of small or medium size that subscribe to four or fewer collections, your students will suddenly be seeing a lot of results that they can't access."...

Information Wants To Be Free, Aug. 24

### [200 million more genealogical records go online](#)

As the nation's genealogical societies gathered in Knoxville, Tennessee, at the Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference, [FamilySearch](#), a world leader in historic records preservation and access, announced the addition of over 200 million new searchable historic records representing 18 countries to its online database. The latest deluge of records includes 53 new or updated collections from the United States and over 100 million new records from Europe, Scandinavia, and Mexico....

KCSG-TV, Cedar City, Utah, Aug. 20



### [Find a disaster](#)

GenDisasters is a genealogy website that compiles information on historic disasters, events, and tragic accidents in the United States and Canada. The site is browsable by type of disaster, state, and year; searches can be performed on surnames or other text strings. Genealogists wanting to add new information or post messages must register first (for free) and log in....

GenDisasters



### [Print collections in math](#)

Christina K. Pikas writes: "Specialized math librarians are a dying breed, as branch libraries close to save money and math collections migrate to general science libraries. In most research collections, there's a huge push to go electronic only and move the print collections off site (or to weed them) to provide more space for group work and studying. So how do you balance the needs of math faculty and students with the push from administration?"...

Christina's LIS Rant, Aug. 22

### [SFSU library robots are operational](#)

San Francisco State University's J. Paul Leonard Library staff gave a preview of the computerized crane system that will retrieve books stored in the expanded and renovated library when it reopens in early 2012. The retrieval system consists of huge



cranes that glide horizontally and vertically to access a vast system of storage bins. An online request for a book cues the crane to retrieve the bin holding it and delivers the bin to a crew of trained student assistants who put the book on the distribution desk—all within 5–10 minutes. Watch the [video](#) (1:16)....

San Francisco State University, Aug. 20

### [19 things teacher librarians should unlearn](#)

Joyce Valenza writes: "Scott McLeod recently shared [whatedsaid's list](#) of the 10 things he believed teachers should unlearn. Scott and whatedsaid got me thinking about what ideas or beliefs our own subset of educators might also want to lose. (I got carried away and I will probably continue to add to this list.) Here are 19 things I think teacher librarians should unlearn. Want to meme this one?"...

*School Library Journal*: NeverEndingSearch, Aug. 24

### [Does your library have a Rescue Plan?](#)

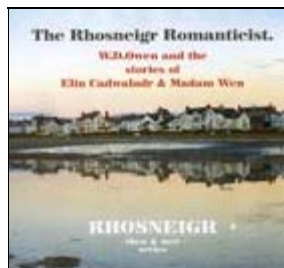
Steven Bell writes: "Nearly everyone who has worked at a public service desk has experienced a difficult patron. I don't think you'll see the Rescue Plan mentioned much in the library literature. The goal of the Rescue Plan is to extricate yourself from a situation involving a difficult patron by prearranging a diversionary or escape tactic with your colleagues. What surprises me is how many librarians think this is a good practice for dealing with this situation."...

ACRLLog, Aug. 23

### [A pirate queen sets sail to save a Welsh library](#)

Nancy Mattoon writes: "The village of Rhosneigr on the Welsh island of Anglesey is hoping the legend of its pirate queen, Madam Wen, can somehow keep the town library from drowning in a sea of red ink. The romantic tale of a squire's demure wife turned cutthroat corsair has been a part of Anglesey folklore for at least 300 years. Mandi Abrahams, a member of the Friends of the Rhosneigr Library, saw W. D. Owen's book about Madam Wen as a golden opportunity to create a library exhibit highlighting a well-loved local author."...

BookTryst, Aug. 20



### [Facebook Places privacy settings](#)

Nick O'Neill writes: "When Facebook launched its Places product August 18, it also released a new set of privacy settings. One feature that has attracted a fair amount of buzz is the ability for your friends to tag you in different places. That means you may not actually be somewhere, yet your friends will tag you as a joke and now you're showing up at a random strip club. Read on to learn how to configure your settings properly." Michael Zimmer has a good [overview](#) of Places privacy problems....

All Facebook, Aug. 19; Michael Zimmer.org, Aug. 20

### [Facebook throws a lawbook at Teachbook](#)

David Kravets writes: "Facebook has sued a little-known website for educators called [Teachbook](#), claiming the company literally owns the 'book' when it comes to naming social networking sites. Facebook filed the suit ([PDF file](#)) August 18 in federal district court in San Jose, California, in a bid to prevent others from capitalizing on its famous name or diluting its value. The filing seeks unspecified damages and demands a judge



order Teachbook, of Northbrook, Illinois, to immediately cease using 'book' in its name."...

*Wired*: Threat Level, Aug. 24

### [LC photos put a new face on the Great Depression](#)

The Library of Congress recently [released](#) to Flickr Commons more than 1,600 color photos taken during the final years of the Great Depression. Funded by the Farm Security Administration and the Office of War Information, the pictures were taken by several famous photographers, including Jack Delano, Russell Lee, and Marjory Collins. With their unique, vibrant look at the past, they offer a fresh perspective on one of the darkest periods in American history....

Daily Finance, Aug. 21



### [Library scripophily](#)

Larry Nix writes: "Before there were free public libraries, there were membership libraries that required the purchase of stock or payment of a subscription fee. Library stock certificates for these libraries are very collectible items. Collecting stock certificates is part of a hobby called [scripophily](#). The Mercantile Library Company of Philadelphia started issuing stock in 1826. This stock certificate is dated May 21, 1864, and has a revenue stamp affixed."...

Library History Buff Blog, Aug. 18



### [British Library to share MARC records](#)

The British Library will make its extensive collections of bibliographic records [available for free](#) to researchers and other libraries. The new free service will operate in parallel to the British Library's priced bulk MARC data supply activity, which is used extensively by large commercial customers. The U.K. national library has some 14 million catalog records comprising a wealth of bibliographic data going back centuries and relating to every conceivable subject area....

British Library, Aug. 23

### [What's up with vacation-phobic employees?](#)

Will Manley writes: "In my long career as an administrator, I noticed that we always had many workaholics throughout our library work force. I fear that this phenomenon is now increasing with the personnel reductions that are happening in libraries all over the country. It's a little-known fact that organizations give vacation benefits for a selfish, ulterior motive. The deep, dark secret is that vacation time is good for productivity. I was always positive that when I took a vacation, the people around me at work were as happy about it as I was."...

Will Unwound, Aug. 24

### [DIY library tote bag tutorial](#)

Anna Graham writes: "Here's a fun tote bag project. Of course, there are tons of ways to make a tote bag, but I thought this one was fun and gives you a lot of options. Take it to the library or to the park, it's big enough for all the essentials." And it might be a fun craft project for library-loving teens....



Noodlehead, Aug. 24

### [Genealogy Night: The spiked punch caper](#)

The Craighead County Jonesboro (Ark.) Public Library put together this video (5:15) advertising their July 15 Genealogy Night with a reenactment of what allegedly happened at the event the previous year. It stars Director Phyllis G. Burkett and other staffers. Someone else made a ["remix" video](#) (1:14) as a tribute....



YouTube, July 6, 18

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