

american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | December 1, 2010

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Seeing Articles

Everywhere You Look?



American Libraries Online

[Chicago Public Library funding holds steady for 2011](#)

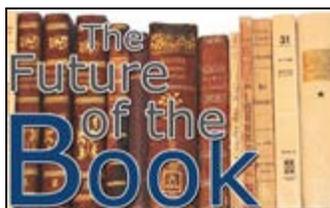
Despite the rampant budget deficits facing municipal and state government all over Illinois, the Chicago Public Library has been allocated a 2011 budget that calls for no reductions. Ruth Lednicer, CPL director of marketing, contacted *American Libraries* November 29 "to let you know how happy we are to report that the Chicago city council's 2011 budget leaves Chicago Public Library's funding with no change from 2010."...

American Libraries news, Nov. 30

[Booking to the future](#)

Jamie E. Helgren writes: "In response to a hot-button issue in the library profession nationwide, the Library Research Service, a unit of the Colorado State Library, conducted a survey to check current library professionals' predictions for the future of the paper book. It's probably no surprise that respondents thought the trend would be toward electronic formats. But for a variety of reasons, paper books refuse to die a quiet death. Overall, almost two out of three (63%) respondents claimed that paper books would never disappear."...

American Libraries feature



[Chicago vies with Hawaii for Obama presidential library](#)

Competition appears to be growing between universities hoping to become the site of Barack Obama's presidential library. A working group at the University of Hawaii's main campus in Honolulu is considering whether or not the university should make a formal bid. Meanwhile, the University of Chicago, located in the city where the president's political career began, showed signs of interest a year ago but is keeping a low profile....

American Libraries news, Nov. 30

[Poet Laureate W. S. Merwin talks with](#)

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
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librarians

Marcella Venezia writes: "Before assuming his post as U.S. Poet Laureate on October 25, two-time Pulitzer Prize-winner W. S. Merwin met with a select group of librarians at New York City's Poets House for an afternoon of reading and conversation. A nonprofit organization, Poets House hosted the event as part of 'One City, Many Poems,' a discussion series—and offshoot of its library-oriented Poetry in the Branches program—that brings librarians and poets together for discussions on verse."...

American Libraries feature



2011 Library Design Showcase: Call for submissions

American Libraries is now accepting [submissions](#) for its annual Library Design Showcase, which features new and newly renovated or expanded libraries of all types.

Like [last year](#), the showcase will be primarily published online. To be eligible, projects must have been completed after October 1, 2009. The deadline is February 1....

AL: Inside Scoop, Nov. 29



A library branch in the Water Works

Laura Bruzas writes: "In Chicago's busy [Water Works Visitor Center](#), the Chicago Public Library in 2009 introduced a tiny outpost with reference books for visitors to read while in the building, a small collection for Chicago library card holders to check out, and a pick-up location for materials ordered online by card holders. 'This has become a great resource for residents as well as visitors,' said Dorothy Coyle, director of the Chicago Office of Tourism. The 245-square-foot library 'out-circulates many branch' libraries after one year of operations."...

AL: Green Your Library, Nov. 24



ALA News

ALA asks Congress to ensure broadband implementation

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration is facing a critical funding shortfall that could jeopardize the ability of libraries to obtain high-capacity broadband through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. ALA sent letters November 30 to leaders in the House ([PDF file](#)) and Senate ([PDF file](#)), expressing how critical it is for NTIA to get the necessary appropriations....

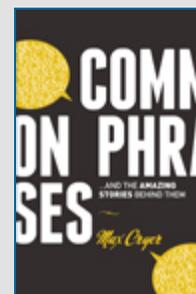
District Dispatch, Nov. 30

@ your library rejoins Money Smart Week

The Federal Reserve System partnered with ALA in 2010 to launch Money Smart Week @ your library nationally, allowing libraries to participate in free classes and activities designed to help consumers



ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Diego, California, January 7–11, 2011. The Conference Services website has [airline reservation](#) information, [airport transportation](#) information, and [train and bus](#) information.



Max Cryer's [Common Phrases: And the Amazing Stories behind Them](#) is a great gift for the holidays. This clever reference book explains the origins of "credibility gap," "my lips are sealed," "the opera's not over until the fat lady sings," "supermarket," "supermodel," "there's no accounting for taste," "thick as thieves," and hundreds more. **NEW! From ALA Editions.**



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better manage their personal finances. Even more libraries can join in next year's Money Smart Week, April 2–9. Find out which [states](#) have participated in the activities, and check out the [partner tools](#) to get started planning....
Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

[Online resources @ your library](#)

Since the launch of the Campaign for America's Libraries, libraries have used the @ your library brand to showcase the role they play in a digital age. With more of its resources available online, the Abilene (Tex.) Public Library decided that its outreach and promotional efforts needed to go digital as well. Recently, the library began hosting web tutorials about how to use new technologies, the most recent of these being "[Mobile Apps @ the library](#)" (above). This online video (7:52) features free library-specific applications for smartphone users....
Campaign for America's Libraries, Nov. 30; YouTube, Oct. 21



[CPLA program celebrates graduates' success](#)

The Certified Public Library Administrator Program congratulates those who have completed the program. The success of the 36 librarians who have completed the required seven managerial courses lends credence to the competencies public library managers need to be effective. The [courses](#), offered by PLA, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the University of North Texas LE@D Program, can also be taken by anyone, even non-CPLA candidates....
ALA–Allied Professional Association, Nov. 29



[COA accreditation action](#)

At its Fall Meeting in Chicago, the Committee on Accreditation granted conditional accreditation status to the Master of Library and Information Science program offered by Valdosta (Ga.) State University. Conditional accreditation status indicates the need for significant and immediate improvement to maintain conformity with the *Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library and Information Studies*....
Office for Accreditation, Nov. 29

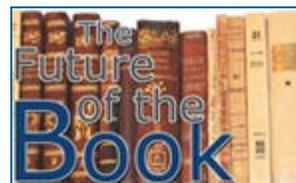
[Continuing Membership: Are you eligible?](#)

John Chrastka writes: "The Membership Committee is reminding long-time members of an important policy that affects you personally: Eligibility for free Continuing Membership in ALA. If you have completed at least 25 years of uninterrupted membership in ALA and are retired from active library work, ALA will extend free ongoing basic membership to you for life as a Continuing Member. Visit the [ALA website](#) to review the requirements."...

ALA Membership Blog, Nov. 30



New this week in American Libraries



[Booking to the Future](#)

[W. S. Merwin](#)

[Perpetual Beta](#)

[Inside Scoop](#)

[Green Your Library](#)

[Ask the ALA Librarian](#)

[Librarian's Library](#)

[AL Focus](#)

Great Libraries of the World



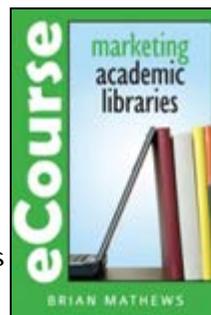
[Boston Athenæum,](#)

Massachusetts. Founded in 1807 as a membership library for a literary society, the athenæum opened the doors of its current building in 1849.
[Charles Ammi Cutter](#), librarian from 1868 to

[A tutorial for marketing academic libraries](#)

ALA Editions is making available "[Marketing Academic Libraries eCourse](#)," adapted from its bestselling book by Brian Mathews. This web-based, self-paced tutorial provides guidance on mastering social networking and other Web 2.0 technology to effectively market all aspects of the academic library's appeal. Quizzes at the end of each lesson test each participant's knowledge, while Further Reading suggestions point in the direction of additional information....

ALA Editions, Nov. 30



1893, was the first to use loan cards placed in a pocket glued to the inside of the rear book cover, home deliveries to housebound patrons, and a system of Expansive Classification (now known as Cutter numbers) that he developed as part of an effort to restructure the library's catalog. The library's holdings are primarily on Boston and New England history, biography, British and American literature, and fine and decorative arts.



[Boston Public Library.](#)

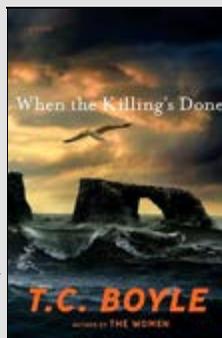
Massachusetts. The library was the first publicly supported municipal library in the United States, the first large U.S. library open to the public, and the first public circulating library. It opened its doors in 1854, and in 1895 it moved to a structure built by architect [Charles Follen McKim](#), who drew on the designs of the Bibliothèque Ste.-Geneviève in Paris for its Copley Square façade and the 16th-century Palazzo della Cancelleria in Rome for the central open-air courtyard. Murals include recently restored paintings by John Singer Sargent on the theme of [The](#)

Booklist ONLINE

[Featured review: Adult fiction](#)

Boyle, T. C. *When the Killing's Done*. 370p. Feb. 2011. Viking, hardcover (978-0-670-02232-8).

Boyle's great subject is humankind's blundering relationship with the rest of the living world. In his 13th novel, he transports us to California's Galapagos, the surprisingly wild Northern Channel Islands off the coast of Santa Barbara. There a stormy, cliff-hanging tale of foolhardy and treacherous journeys unfolds, anchored to the tough women in two indomitable matriarchal lines. Incisive and caustically witty, Boyle is fluent in evolutionary biology and island biogeography, cognizant of the shared emotions of all sentient beings, in awe over nature's crushing power, and, by turns, bemused and appalled by human perversity....



[He Reads: Brothers](#)

David Wright writes: "My bus to work goes by the local VA hospital, and a lot of the guys who get on there are going to the library for the day, more or less like me. It's impossible not to notice the steady camaraderie these vets have, sharing bonds forged in adversity that are so strong they are referred to in terms of brotherhood. The metaphor is apt, for beneath all the razzing and rivalry, the essence of brotherly love lies in those acts of sharing and sacrifice, as seen in the accounts that follow."...



[She Reads: Sisters](#)

Kaite Mediatore Stover writes: "One of the closest relationships a woman will ever have is with her sister. Whether they loathe or love each other, there's no breaking that bond of give and take, which is what makes tales of sororal thievery so shocking. A sister poaching



a sister's boyfriend, job, inheritance, shoes (!)—these are crimes that reach deep into the core of women. Yet it never comes as a surprise to women that a sister would sacrifice, without a thought, a hot date with a hotter guy, a pair of Zanotti stilettos, an entire bank account, or a kidney if asked."...

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

San Diego Update

[The Upstart Crow Bookstore and Coffeehouse](#)

This popular independent bookseller and gift shop in Seaport Village serves a selection of beverages and desserts. Located at 835C West Harbor Drive within walking distance of the Convention Center, the store is named after jealous English playwright Robert Greene's slanderous nickname for his rival William Shakespeare. On Saturday nights, the store features music by local jazz and blues artists....

Upstart Crow Bookstore



[U.S.S. Midway Museum](#)

The U.S. aircraft carrier *Midway* opened to the public as a naval museum on San Diego's Navy Pier in 2004. Admission includes a self-guided audio tour of more than 60 exhibits and 25 restored aircraft. Exhibits range from the crew's sleeping quarters to a massive galley, engine room, the ship's jail, post office, machine shops, and pilots' ready rooms, as well as primary flight control and the bridge high over the flight deck. It also has a library. The *Midway* was the first carrier commissioned after World War II and was active in the Vietnam War and Operation Desert Storm....

U.S.S. *Midway* Museum



Division News

[ALTAFF events at Midwinter](#)

In addition to its popular Gala Author Tea (featuring Next Generation Nepal founder Conor Grennan, right), ALTAFF will host a Nuts & Bolts session for Friends and Foundations, as well as a Nuts & Bolts session for trustees, at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Diego. Library Friends, trustees, volunteers, and staff are invited to share best practices and hear from experts on topics such as membership, board development, fundraising and strategic planning at these sessions....

ALTAFF, Nov. 30



[AASL opens registration for its 2011 conference](#)

Registration is now open for the AASL 15th National Conference and Exhibition. Themed "Turning the



[Triumph of Religion.](#)

The library's [research collections](#) include early editions of William Shakespeare, the George Ticknor collection of Spanish literature, records of colonial Boston, the 3,800-volume personal [library of John Adams](#), the papers of abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, and materials on the 1920 Sacco and Vanzetti murder case.



[Bibliotheca Philosophica Hermetica.](#)

Joost Ritman Library, Amsterdam, Netherlands. A private, [independent library](#) founded in 1984 by businessman and collector [Joost Ritman](#), this collection brings together the [earliest editions](#) of esoteric works in the Christian-Hermetic tradition, which includes occult philosophy, theosophy, astrology, magic, alchemy, mysticism, and Rosicrucianism ([video](#), 6:25).

Unfortunately, it's possible that the collection is in the process of [being sold](#).

This *AL Direct* feature showcases 250 libraries around the world that are notable for their exquisite architecture, historic collections, and innovative services. If you find yourself on vacation near one of them, be sure to stop by for a visit. The entire list will be available in [The Whole](#)

Page," it will be held October 27–30, 2011, in Minneapolis. Included in the scheduled programming and events is Nicholas Carr, controversial author of *The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains*, and a symposium for educators of school library students. Advance [registration](#) offers early bird AASL members a \$100 discount....

AASL, Nov. 30

[Expanded PLA gift shop opens online](#)

An assorted array of affordable new products and designs celebrating books and public libraries are now available in the updated online [PLA Gift Shop](#). Choose from items such as apparel, tote bags, stationery, and iPhone and iPad cases. Designs include Smartest Card art as well as *Public Libraries* cover art, designed by artist Jim Lange. Orders typically ship within 24 hours and proceeds help support PLA and its efforts to sustain and strengthen public libraries....

PLA, Nov. 30



[YALSA seeks member editor](#)

YALSA is seeking a [member editor](#) for its open-access, peer-reviewed, electronic research journal, the [Journal of Research on Libraries and Young Adults](#). *JRLYA* publishes high-quality research on library services to young adults quarterly. The position would begin with the Spring 2011 issue. The deadline for applications is January 31....

YALSA, Nov. 30

[Gear up for summer reading in December](#)

Librarians looking for guidance as they begin their annual summer reading program planning process won't want to miss YALSA's December 16 webinar, "Gear Up for Summer Reading," hosted by Shari Fesko, teen services librarian at the Southfield (Mich.) Public Library and *VOYA* programming columnist. The webinar will take place at 2 p.m. Eastern time. [Registration](#) is now open....

YALSA, Nov. 30

[SPARC-ACRL Forum at Midwinter](#)

At the upcoming ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Diego, SPARC and ACRL will cohost a timely panel discussion on "Marketplace: Open Access and the changing state of scholarly publishing." The forum will be held January 8. It will paint a picture of the rapidly changing (and maturing) open-access publishing sphere and illustrate the growing range of options and approaches that are emerging....

ACRL Insider, Nov. 30

Round Table News

[Connect with EMIERT at Midwinter](#)

The Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table will be hosting a Membership Tea during the ALA 2011 Midwinter Meeting in San Diego. The tea, held January 8, will provide an opportunity for Midwinter attendees to learn more about the work of this long-standing round table and its commitment to serving the profession as a source of information on ethnic collections, services, and programs. It is free and open to all Midwinter registrants....

EMIERT, Nov. 29

Awards

[Library Handbook 5](#), edited by George M. Eberhart, which is scheduled for publication in 2011 by ALA Editions.

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CONTENT

[National Postal Museum
Pays Tribute to Negro
Baseball Stars](#)



[Becoming American: The
Library Can Be an Important
Step Toward Citizenship](#)

[Classic Film for Movie Night:
Bad Day at Black Rock](#)

[Christopher Paul Curtis:
Naturally Drawn to the
Library \(video\)](#)

[Donna Seaman Interviews
Author Robert Olen Butler](#)

[The Songs of Hollywood](#)

[Understanding the Long
Term Impact of Your Social
Media Self](#)

[New Realities:
Photomontage Pioneers
Jerry Uelsmann and Maggie
Taylor](#)

[Applications due for Sara Jaffarian Award](#)

Nominations for the 2011 Sara Jaffarian School Library Programming Award are due to the ALA Public Programs Office by December 15. School libraries, public or private, that serve children in any combination of grades K–8 and conducted humanities programming during the 2009–2010 school year are eligible. Applications and award guidelines are available [online](#)....

Public Programs Office, Nov. 30

[YALSA selects 2011 Best YA Nonfiction shortlist](#)

YALSA has selected five books as finalists for its 2011 Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults, which honors the best nonfiction books written for young adults and published between November 1, 2009, and October 31, 2010. YALSA will announce the winner at the Youth Media Awards on January 10, during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Diego....

YALSA, Dec. 1

[Get ready for StoryTubes 2011](#)

School and public libraries across the United States can help kids in grades K–12 prepare videos for the StoryTubes 2011 contest. The videos must be no more than two minutes long and promote a book or a book series featuring the same character. School libraries can secure parental permission, work with students to develop their booktalks, or provide technical expertise to tape and upload the entries. Public libraries can structure the contests, provide the staff time to review entries and manage the event, or secure prizes. Entries can be submitted between January 19 and February 28....

StoryTubes



[Apply for a Big Read grant](#)

The Big Read, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts, is accepting applications from libraries for grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000 to conduct month-long, community-wide reads between September 2011 and June 2012. The grants must be matched at least one-to-one with nonfederal funds. Approximately 75 organizations will be selected to participate. Applicants must choose from a list of 28 book titles or three poets as their reading choices. The deadline is February 1....

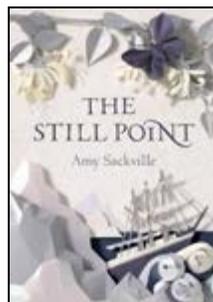
The Big Read



[2010 John Llewellyn Rhys Prize](#)

Amy Sackville has won the prestigious John Llewellyn Rhys Prize for her debut novel *The Still Point* (Portobello), part Arctic adventure and part harrowing love story. The £5,000 (\$7,780 U.S.) prize, administered by Britain's Booktrust, was established 68 years ago and named after a writer killed in action in World War II. It is open to British and Commonwealth writers, age 35 or younger, for fiction, nonfiction, or poetry....

Booktrust, Nov. 23



[Bord Gáis Energy Irish Book Awards](#)

Emma Donoghue spoke of the importance of recognition by her homeland November 25 as she

[Supporting Museum Research](#)



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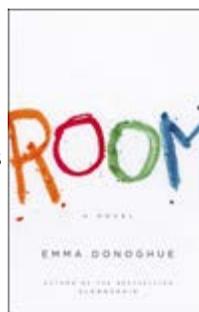


Career Leads from
ALA JobLIST

[Librarian](#), American Film Institute Conservatory, Los Angeles. This position provides operational management of the library resources and personnel to support the AFI Conservatory—an accredited MFA degree-granting institution. This includes, but is not limited to, acquisition and processing of materials, providing access to books and other collection material; organizing and maintaining the Conservatory archives and library management standards to comply with all regulatory agencies; the ability to work collaboratively and effectively with faculty, staff, and Fellows with multiple priorities in a dynamic, diverse academic environment. Candidate must hold a Master's degree in Library Science....

accepted the Hughes and Hughes Irish Novel of the Year Award at the Bord Gáis Energy Irish Book Awards ceremony in Dublin for her dark tale *Room* (Little, Brown), inspired by the Josef Fritzl case involving incest and captivity in Austria. Other winners included novelist Maeve Binchy, who was awarded a lifetime achievement award by the guest of honor, Irish President Mary McAleese....

Irish Publishing News, Nov. 26



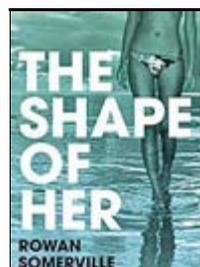
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[2010 Bad Sex in Fiction Award](#)

Rowan Somerville won the *Literary Review's* Bad Sex in Fiction Award, the U.K.'s "most dreaded literary prize," for a scene in which a nipple is likened to the upturned "nose of the loveliest nocturnal animal, sniffing in the night." The passage, from Somerville's novel *The Shape of Her*, defeated steamy encounters in novels by Jonathan Franzen and Alastair Campbell. Film director Michael Winner presented the award to Somerville during a November 28 ceremony at the Naval and Military Club in London....

Bloomberg, Nov. 29



Digital Library of the Week



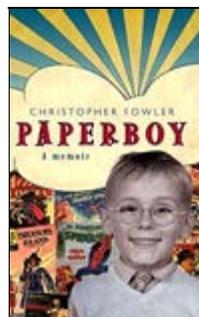
The [Oregon State University Libraries' Gerald W. Williams Collection](#), which was

acquired in 2007, consists of the collected historic photographs, personal papers, and research library of Gerald "Jerry" Williams, former national historian for the U.S. Forest Service. Williams, a native Oregonian, spent much of his Forest Service career in the Pacific Northwest prior to being appointed national historian in 1998. Many outstanding historic photographs in the Williams Collection have been digitized, including photos of the WWI-era Spruce Production Division, logging photos of northwest Oregon taken by John Fletcher Ford, photos of Celilo

[2010 Green Carnation Award](#)

The first-ever Green Carnation Award for excellence in writing by a British gay man has been given to Christopher Fowler for his memoir-novel *Paperboy*. Awards Committee Chair Paul Magrs said of the book, "*Paperboy* is about the forming of a gay sensibility; but more than that, it's about the growth of a reader and a wonderfully generous and inventive writer." The Green Carnation [was established](#) to celebrate the British literary tradition of gay men's fiction and memoirs....

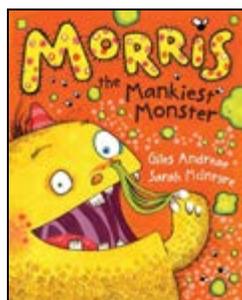
The Bookseller, Dec. 1; GreenCarnationPrize blog, Dec. 1



[2010 Sheffield Children's Book Awards](#)

The winners of the 2010 Sheffield Children's Book Awards, the oldest regional children's literature awards in the U.K., were announced November 23. The awards were given in three categories. *Morris the Mankiest Monster* (David Fickling, 2009) by Giles Andreae and Sarah McIntyre won both in the Picture Book category and as Overall Winner. *Boom!* (David Fickling, 2010) by Mark Haddon won in the Shorter Novel category, and *Gone* (Katherine Tegen Books, 2008) by Michael Grant was selected for best Longer Novel....

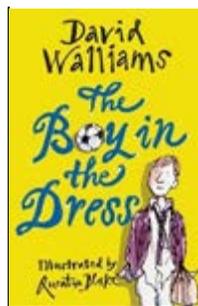
Sheffield (U.K.) City Council, Nov. 23



[2010 Tower Hamlets Book Award](#)

David Walliams's *The Boy in the Dress* (Razorbill, 2009) has been chosen as the 4th annual Tower Hamlets Book Award, aimed at children aged 9–13. Twelve primary and secondary schools from London's East End joined Schools Library Service staff and authors Pete Johnson and Sally Nicholls at the Idea

Store Whitechapel November 26 for a series of presentations from the shortlist of six books....
Tower Hamlets (U.K.) Schools Library Service, Nov. 26



Seen Online

[FCC prepares for net neutrality vote](#)

The Federal Communications Commission is set to finally vote on rules that will keep the internet open, but the fight may continue as neither side in the net neutrality debate is expected to be completely satisfied with the outcome. The FCC staff circulated an agenda for the agency's December 21 meeting, stating that it would be voting on an order that adopts "basic rules of the road to preserve the open internet as a platform for innovation, investment, competition, and free expression." Chairman Julius Genachowski (right) gave a preview of the new rules during a press briefing ([PDF file](#)) December 1....



CNet News: Signal Strength, Dec. 1

[Senate HELP Committee is on a roll](#)

Jeff Kratz writes: "It may be a lame duck Congress, but there is news from the Senate for the library community today. The Senate's Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee reported S.3984, the Museum and Library Services Act of 2010, from committee with unanimous consent on December 1. The bill includes the Library Services and Technology Act and reauthorizes the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Also, the nomination of Susan Hildreth as director of IMLS was favorably reported from committee."...

District Dispatch, Dec. 1

[Europe opens antitrust inquiry into Google](#)

Europe opened a formal antitrust investigation November 30 into accusations that Google abused its dominance in online search, exposing the company's zealously guarded technology to unwelcome scrutiny in Brussels, where other American companies have fought lengthy legal battles in the past. The investigation by the European Commission follows complaints from smaller web businesses, which claim that Google downgraded their sites in its search results in order to weaken potential competitors for advertising....

New York Times, Nov. 30

[Illinois Library Systems finally gets state funding](#)

A statewide service through which Illinois libraries share resources has received the remainder of the funding it was owed for the last fiscal year. The \$3.4 million should allow the nine parts of the Illinois Library Systems to provide services through June 30, "which is very good news," said Tom Sloan, executive director of the DuPage Library System in Geneva, Illinois. But the service has not received any payments for the current fiscal year, which began July 1 and amount to about \$15 million....

Falls taken in 1956 by Jack Williams, and photos of Great Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps camps and activities, and historic postcards arranged in several geographically based albums.

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

"To me, nothing can be more important than giving children books. It's better to be giving books to children than drug treatment to them when they're 15 years old. Did it ever occur to anyone that if you put nice libraries in public schools you wouldn't have to put them in prisons? If people don't read, you have the kind of culture, and I use the word very loosely, that we have now. I think television turned out to be exactly as bad as the most irritating and pedantic intellectuals of the 50s said it was going to be."

Chicago Tribune, Nov. 25

[Budget reprieve edges closer for Buffalo and Erie County Library](#)

The Erie County Legislature restored \$4 million to the Buffalo and Erie County (N.Y.) Public Library's 2011 budget November 30 in a surprise move. The library allocation drew unanimous legislative support, with the six-member Republican bloc breaking from County Executive Chris Collins amid a public backlash over the proposed cuts. Collins had wanted to drop the county's contribution to the libraries to \$18 million, but vowed after the vote, "Whatever I do, I will look at cutting the funding for the libraries last."...

Buffalo (N.Y.) News, Dec. 1

[Smart glass cuts energy costs at Century College](#)

When librarians open the Century College Science Library (right) in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, in the morning, one of their first decisions is whether to hit an electrical switch. Not for the lights—for the windows. The library is partly sheathed in "smart glass," manufactured by SAGE Electrochromics, with electronically controlled tinting to reduce harmful solar rays and cut energy use. "If it is a super-bright day, we dim them," said librarian Jane Young. A few minutes after pressing a button, the windows change from clear to tinted blue....

Minneapolis Star-Tribune, Nov. 28



[Texas high school makes way for the future](#)

Principal James McSwain of Lamar High School in Houston asked the school librarian to dump thousands of books to make more room for students to lounge on couches, sip coffee, and read e-books on laptops. About 11,900 books remain on the shelves after librarian Cathy Hurst (above) weeded 13,100 from the nonfiction collection this year. Hurst said she withdrew books that had not been checked out in more than a decade, those in poor condition, and those that were easily available electronically. To give students easier access to the e-books at school, McSwain bought about 120 laptops for the library. Watch the [video](#) (7:01)....

Houston Chronicle, Nov. 29; KRIV-TV, Houston, Nov. 29



[Jackson, Michigan, school librarians are dwindling](#)

Four school districts in Jackson County, Michigan, employ no professional librarians. Other districts that previously had multiple librarians now have one media specialist. Paraprofessionals and teachers without library certification, who sometimes have other duties, often fill in the gaps. Cate Robarts-Snyder, who is the one remaining librarian at Northwest Community Schools and is active in the county's association for school librarians, is concerned about the schools that have no librarians....

Jackson (Mich.) Citizen Patriot, Nov. 27

[Students, volunteers take the place of library assistants in Oregon](#)

This year, 4th- and 5th-grade students at Durham Elementary School will help fill a job that used to be done by a salaried employee of the

—Author Fran Lebowitz, interviewed by Bob Morris for his "At Lunch With" column, *New York Times*, Aug. 10, 1994.

@ [More quotes...](#)



TweetWatch

Follow:

Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa, Centennial Conference, Dunedin, Nov. 28–Dec. 1, at:

[#lianza2010](#)

Online Information 2010, London, U.K., Nov. 30–Dec. 2, at:

[#online10](#)

New Jersey Association of School Librarians, Fall Conference, Long Branch, Dec. 3–4, at:

[njasl](#)

6th International Digital Curation Conference, Chicago, Dec. 6–8, at:

[#idcc10](#)

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

[amlibraries](#)

Calendar

Dec. 9:

[I Love My Librarian Awards ceremony](#),

New York Times, 620

Tigard–Tualatin (Oreg.) School District. They'll come in before school or during recess to sharpen pencils, clean the library, organize materials—tasks the school's library assistant, Rosemary Pasteris, used to perform. The district eliminated her position this year, along with nine other elementary media assistants. The move saved \$420,000, but keeping the libraries functioning without assistants has been a challenge....

Portland *Oregonian*, Nov. 24

[Law firm wins round one in fire-alarm lawsuit](#)

The Parker McCay law firm in Marlton, New Jersey, continues to face a lawsuit by a former librarian discharged after being wrongly accused of pulling a fire alarm, but it will not be held liable to the local municipality that is a codefendant. Sheila Ciemniecki is suing the firm for defamation, false imprisonment, invasion of privacy, and infliction of emotional distress, all stemming from her arrest on accusations that she activated a fire alarm on June 2, 2009....

Law.com, Nov. 24



[Nonagenarian librarian has a car buff's dream job](#)

Herb Jorgensen, 91, loves the shiny, red 1931 Packard—a stereotypical gangster car built when he was 12 years old. Gazing across the car collection, the archivist for the [Blackhawk Museum](#) in Danville, California, knows he's enjoying a car buff's dream job. Now affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution, the museum boasts 100,000 square feet of exhibition space that features a rotating display of nearly 100 automobiles. For the past 22 years, Jorgensen has overseen the museum's modest-size research library, a collection that currently stands at approximately 100,000 publications....

Contra Costa (Calif.) Times, Nov. 28



[Librarian's photos of strippers on break raise privacy questions](#)

A group of strippers at the Zanzibar Tavern in Toronto who took breaks on the rooftop found out that their hideaway wasn't as private as they thought. In August and September, Brian Cameron, digital services librarian at Ryerson University Library, took some photos of the women from his office across the street. Their publication (and subsequent removal) on Flickr and in [The Torontoist](#) prompted some of the women, who try to keep their occupation under wraps, to say their [privacy](#) had been violated....

Canadian Press, Nov. 25; *The Torontoist*, Nov. 24; *National Post*, Nov. 25

[University of Arizona books defaced with hate speech](#)

Hate speech written in ink has damaged at least 53 library books at the University of Arizona Main Library in Tucson. The vandalism was reported to the police November 17 after library staffer Deborah Smith found the books while conducting a routine inventory. The writing makes offensive remarks toward religion, race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, and gender, according to Smith. Associate Dean of Libraries Robert



Eighth Avenue, 15th Floor, New York City. RSVP [required](#) by December 3 to attend.

Dec. 13:

[PLA webinar](#), "Nancy Pearl Presents: Books That Make Great Gifts." Register by December 9.

Jan. 19–22:

[Special Libraries Association](#)

Leadership Summit, Renaissance Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C. "Future Ready: Building Community."

Jan. 26–28:

[Atmospheric Science Librarians](#)

[International](#), 14th Annual Conference, Washington Convention Center, Seattle. "Communicating Weather and Climate: Making the Most of the Information."

Jan. 26–

Feb. 6:

[Cairo International Book Fair](#)

Cairo International Conference Centre, Nasr City, Egypt.

Feb. 25:

[Bridging the Spectrum](#)

Symposium, Great Room, Pryzbyla Student Center, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. Sponsored by CUA School of Library and Information Science.

Apr. 14–16:

[Innovative Users Group Conference](#)

Hilton San Francisco

Mitchell said it would cost between \$3,000 and \$8,000 to [replace](#) the books. Vandalism was also reported at Indiana University in Bloomington, where some Hebrew texts were found [defaced](#) in a restroom....

University of Arizona *Daily Wildcat*, Nov. 29; KMSB-TV, Tucson, Nov. 30; *Indiana Daily Student*, Dec. 1

[Wilton library is location for state lottery ad shoot](#)

One day in late November, the front lawn of the Wilton (N.H.) Public and Gregg Free Library was covered with people carrying signs, waving them around and yelling. They weren't protesting anything, however, even though a big sign over the front door read "Americans for Fairness to Fruitcakes." They were there filming a new promotion for the New Hampshire State Lottery, and it was a big production with lots of cameras, equipment, and officials. Actors Joseph Tudisco and Jack Luceno played a union boss and a union worker in the fruitcake business....

Nashua (N.H.) Telegraph, Nov. 28

[Box City rises at Salt Lake City Public Library](#)

A 99-block "box city" designed and built by 350 3rd–5th graders was unveiled November 29 inside the Salt Lake City (Utah) Main Library as part of the American Institute of Architects' Educating Elementary Children Through Architecture program. The model city contains schools, houses, town halls, churches, and businesses constructed from such materials as cereal boxes, cardboard, tinfoil, and construction paper. Connecting their blocks with roads, trails, and train tracks, they built around streams, hills, trees, and an American Indian burial ground....

Salt Lake Tribune, Nov. 29



[Toronto Public Library rejects mayor's austerity budget](#)

The Toronto Public Library Board adopted a 2010 budget request November 22 that seeks a 3.3%, or \$5.51-million, increase over last year—a far cry from the fiscal austerity that Mayor-elect Rob Ford promised during his election campaign. The alternative would be to buy fewer books, close some branches on Sundays, and impose shorter opening hours across the system. The library board is the first city agency to pass a budget request since Ford was elected mayor October 25....

Toronto Globe and Mail, Nov. 25

[Massive cutbacks to library services in England](#)

Librarians in the U.K. say they are "angry and depressed" at the wave of library cutbacks announced since a comprehensive government spending review in October, but feel powerless because they cannot speak openly about them. Miranda McKearney, director of the nonprofit Reading Agency, has called the scale of library job losses involved "scary." At least 25 local authorities have announced new proposals for cost-cutting to their library services since the review, with fresh details emerging almost every day. *The Observer* estimates that nearly 250 libraries are [earmarked](#) for closure....

The Bookseller, Nov. 29; *The Observer* (U.K.), Nov. 28

[Major antiquarian library may](#)

Union Square, San Francisco.

Apr. 22: [Theatre Library Association Symposium III](#)

Bruno Walter Auditorium, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center, New York City. "Holding Up the Mirror: Authenticity and Adaptation in Shakespeare Today."

June 19–21: [Next Library Un-Conference](#), Aarhus Public Library, Denmark.

June 19–22: [Association of Jewish Libraries](#), Annual Convention, Marriott Montréal Château Champlain, Montréal, Québec.

June 29–July 2: [LIBER 40th Annual Conference](#), Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain. "Getting Europe Ready for 2020: The Library's Role in Research, Education, and Society."

@ [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

sell its collection

The upcoming sale of a medieval manuscript has raised speculation that a major special library will sell its collection in order to pay off its owner's debts. The Bibliotheca Philosophica Hermetica in Amsterdam has closed to the public, and one of its major manuscripts, *The Rochefoucauld Grail* (right), is set to be auctioned off by Sotheby's on December 7. The library was founded as a private library in 1984 by Joost Ritman and specializes in the Christian-Hermetic tradition, with works by Augustine, Lactantius, and other medieval and Renaissance writers. Watch an introductory [video](#) (6:25)....

Medievalists.net, Nov. 26; *Het Parool* (Amsterdam), Nov. 12; YouTube, Apr. 13, 2009



French National Library opens Bastille exhibit

Nancy Mattoon writes: "On November 9, the National Library of France opened a major new [exhibit](#) on the most notorious prison in Paris, the Bastille. A jail may not be the first subject that springs to mind as the basis for a national library exhibit, but if any slammer can be called 'the writer's prison,' it is the Bastille. By chance and by design, the French kings who had the power to imprison anyone, for any reason—or for no reason at all—wound up jailing some of France's most famous, and most infamous, 18th-century writers."...

Booktryst, Nov. 29; National Library of France



Bodleian displays handwritten Frankenstein draft

The handwritten draft of the novel that launched a thousand horror films is going on display at Oxford University's Bodleian Library beginning December 3 as part of a new exhibit about the life of its author, Mary Shelley (right), and her husband, poet Percy Bysshe Shelley. Part of a collection bought for £3.9 million in 2004, the draft shows as many as 5,000 changes suggested in the margins by Percy Shelley; in 2008 the Bodleian [published](#) *The Original Frankenstein*, which omitted his edits....

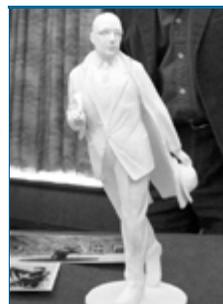
Oxford (U.K.) Mail, Nov. 30; Bodleian Library, Oct. 3, 2008



The world-famous poet that Belfast forgot

No major events are being held in Belfast December 2 to mark the 25th anniversary of the death of Philip Larkin—despite the fact that the poet wrote many of his most famous works while living in the city. One of the 20th century's greatest poets, Larkin wrote most of his famous collection of poems, *The Less Deceived*, while working as a librarian at Queen's University in Belfast. While the city of Hull is putting on a 25-week "[Larkin25](#)" festival that will culminate in the unveiling of a new bronze statue of the poet (right), the university's McClay Library has only created a small exhibit to mark the anniversary....

Belfast (U.K.) Telegraph, Nov. 27; Larkin25



Buggy software bedevils Japanese library patrons

subscribers.



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



Beverly Goldberg,
Senior Editor:
bgoldberg@ala.org



Greg Landgraf,
Associate Editor:
glandgraf@ala.org



Leonard Kniffel,
Publisher,
American Libraries:
kniffel@ala.org

Jennifer Henderson,
Contributing Researcher

To advertise in American Libraries Direct, contact:



Brian Searles:
bsearles@ala.org



Katie Bane:
kbane@ala.org

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A computer system that Mitsubishi Electric Information Systems developed and sold to public libraries in Japan has caused serious problems, including the exposure of private data and even a mistaken arrest. In one case, personal information on more than 100 library users was released on the internet. In another, a fault in the system led to the arrest of a man for allegedly conducting a cyberattack on the system after he simply searched for books online....

Daily Yomiuri (Tokyo), Nov. 30

[Go back to the Top](#)

Tech Talk

[Crucial trends in 2011](#)

Sean Fitzpatrick writes: "Early this morning, an e-newsletter from Trendwatching.com hit my inbox, touting the '[11 Crucial Consumer Trends for 2011](#).' These are clearly consumer trends, but as I scanned through them, I quickly realized that nearly every one is either a perfect fit for libraries or a great opportunity to pursue something new for 2011. I'm excerpting a handful of them with some thoughts on how libraries could get in on some of the action."...

AL: Perpetual Beta, Dec. 1



[Add your nonprofit to Jumo \(and why you should\)](#)

Heather Mansfield writes: "[Jumo](#), the new social network for causes and nonprofits created by Facebook cofounder Chris Hughes, went live November 30. It has launched with a small number of nonprofits, but you can easily add your organization in just a couple of clicks, if you are a 501(c)(3) as defined by the IRS. You might want to do it yourself before someone else does it for you, since anyone can add an organization to Jumo. That said, it's too early to tell whether Jumo will take off and benefit nonprofits, but the chances look good."...

Nonprofit Tech 2.0, Nov. 30



[Hate PowerPoint? Here are 5 web-based alternatives](#)

John Paul Titlow writes: "For years, Microsoft PowerPoint has been the standard bearer of slide presentation applications, but several web-based alternatives have emerged. For the most part, the alternatives offer similar functionality to PowerPoint, sometimes more, sometimes less. One obvious advantage to web-based presentations is that they're stored in the cloud, eliminating the potential for nightmare scenarios involving lost or corrupted thumb drives."...

ReadWriteBiz, Nov. 27



[Making sense of many options](#)

Marshall Breeding writes: "When it comes to creating a library automation infrastructure in 2010, there are many models in play. Should libraries continue to rely on integrated library systems installed locally in libraries or consortia? Will some shift to relying on a globally distributed infrastructure through OCLC's Web-scale Management Services? Might some libraries rely on vendor-hosted arrangements through software-as-a-service? The same kinds of questions arise in the way that libraries deal with the bibliographic records that describe their collections."...

American Libraries

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Chicago, IL 60611

[Website](#)

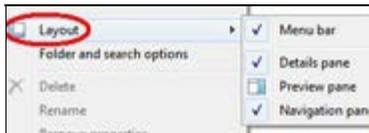
800-545-2433,
ext. 4216

ISSN 1559-369X

[Windows 7 Explorer explained: Changing the layout](#)

Rick Broida writes: "Windows Explorer is Microsoft's built-in file and folder manager. It's a useful tool, but confusing in places and not very intuitive for novice users. For example, if you're a Windows 7 user, you may be wondering why Explorer lacks the pull-down menus (File, Edit, View, etc.) found in previous versions. Answer: Sometimes Microsoft makes changes merely for the sake of making changes. Let's take a look at ways to change the layout of Windows Explorer—including restoring those pull-down menus."...

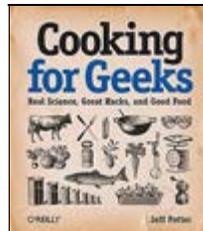
PC World, Nov. 29



[Holiday gift guide: Geeky books](#)

Casey Fiesler writes: "When it comes to the holidays, books are my go-to gift. Of course, it can sometimes be difficult to know exactly what someone's tastes are, or what they've already read if they're a serious bibliophile. But still, there are always the off-the-beaten-path choices for the geeky reader in your life, and here are a few suggestions."...

Geeks Are Sexy, Nov. 28



Publishing

[Google set to launch e-book venture](#)

Google is in the final stages of launching its long-awaited e-book retailing venture, Google Editions, a move that could shake up the way digital books are sold. The long-delayed venture—Google executives had said they hoped to launch this summer—recently has cleared several technical and legal hurdles, people close to the company say. It is set to debut in the U.S. by the end of the year and internationally in the first quarter of next year, said Scott Dougall, a Google product management director. Watch the [video](#) (4:04)....

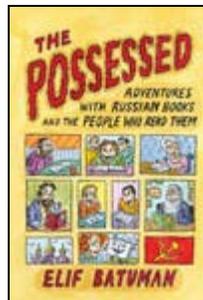
Wall Street Journal, Dec. 1



[The New York Times 100 notable books of 2010](#)

The *New York Times Book Review* editors write: "On November 24, we published our [100 Notable Books of the Year](#) online. The task of choosing them—or rather of excluding other superb books—grows harder each time. Consider it in terms of arithmetic: If we limited ourselves to a single work of fiction and nonfiction chosen from each of the issues published since December 6, 2009, when the [previous Notables list](#) appeared, we would exceed our self-imposed limit. Not that our decisions are determined arithmetically."...

New York Times: Paper Cuts, Nov. 24



[Authors pick best LGBT books of 2010](#)

Stephen Bortum writes: "Unquestionably, it's been a banner year for queer biography/memoir, with many

novelists crossing over to nominate nonfiction. The mainstream media missed many, or even most, of these titles, so this list is your best chance to discover the year's greatest LGBT writing. Readers might consider a parallel question about who decides what is literature. Here's a thrilling start, from 80 writers I invited to participate."...

Band of Thebes, Nov. 30



[The Gale NewsVault](#)

Sue Polanka writes: "Gale announced on December 1 the release of its *Gale NewsVault*, a specially designed online platform that enables cross-searching of Gale's enormous range of historical newspaper and periodical collections from a single interface. Providing access to more than 2,000 titles and 10 million digitized pages, *Gale NewsVault* provides an exceptional window to the past for researchers and students. To request a trial, visit the [Gale website](#)."...

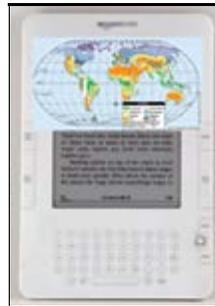
Booklist Online: Points of Reference, Dec. 1



[Paper wins over e-books for travel guides](#)

Anick Jesdanun writes: "It sounded like a better, lighter way to pack for a trip to Germany: a Kindle with a Lonely Planet travel guide in lieu of an 844-page brick of a book. Yet to my surprise, the 10-day visit to Munich, Dresden, and Berlin turned into a lesson about the pitfalls of cramming an old medium—the book—into a new one—the electronic reading device. It's a good thing that I had the foresight to bring a paper copy of Lonely Planet's *Germany*, borrowed from the public library."...

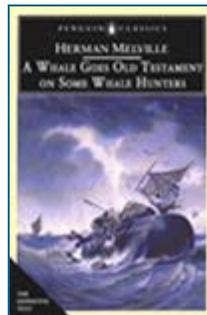
Associated Press: Tech Wire, Nov. 24



[Better book titles](#)

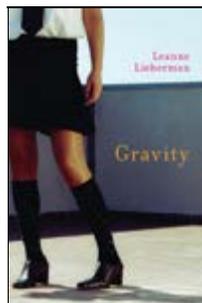
Dan Wilbur writes: "The Better Book Titles blog is for people who have trouble slogging through the information on book jackets or feel intimidated by the title and cover itself. How many times have you perused the cover of a novel only to rub your sore eyes and realize you've learned *nothing* from the book's title? A new Better Book Title is posted every weekday, and every Friday a reader's submission is posted." It boasts a visual [monthly archive](#)....

Better Book Titles



[The twisty history of Jewish kid lit](#)

Devra Ferst writes: "Bullying, suicide, abuse. In recent years, Jewish teen literature has tackled subjects once considered so taboo not even the most progressive authors would touch them. These 'problem novels,' as they are called—exemplified recently by books like *Gravity* (Orca, 2008), by Leanne Lieberman, in which a teenage girl from an Orthodox family realizes she is a lesbian, and *Hush* (Walker, 2010), which, written



under the pseudonym Eishes Chayil, takes on the problem of sexual abuse and suicide in a religious community—have been published since the early 1970s and have shattered the classic idea of Jewish children’s literature, which presented an idealized American Jewish family.”...

The Forward, Nov. 24

[Marbled paper designs](#)

Paul K. writes: “Marbled paper refers to a variety of decorative appearances that resemble the vein-like texture of marble. The technique of marbling entails floating colors on a liquid and mixing them by chemical and physical means to achieve a pattern. A sheet of paper is placed on the pattern and is then removed, essentially forming a monotype print. It’s a complex process involving delicate interactions and manipulations of buoyancy, surface tension, capillarity, and viscosity, with even the ambient temperature and humidity affecting the outcome.”...



BibliOdyssey, Nov. 26

[Wee folk in books](#)

Scott Laming writes: “Fairies, sprites, brownies, pixies, and other tiny mythical creatures have featured in the folklore of many nations over the years. Publishers, writers, anthologists, and illustrators have also embraced the tales of the wee people and have retold them again and again. A particularly famous collection from this intriguing genre was [Andrew Lang’s Fairy Books](#) series. They contained many of the classic fairy stories Lang grew up reading in the rural Scottish Borders. This genre is highly collectible, thanks to beautiful illustrations and memorable tales.”...



AbeBooks, Nov. 29

Actions & Answers

[Crunch Time at Perry-Castañeda](#)

In November, when University of Texas at Austin students are working on papers and studying for finals, the staff at the UT Perry-Castañeda Library are heavily promoting their personal reference assistance, subject librarian consultations, and the Ask a Librarian IM and email services. During Crunch Time, students are provided with Ask a Librarian contact cards attached to mini-Nestle Crunch bars and a series of time-saving handouts. Statistics indicate that students took advantage of the program and more of them were connected with the information (and the candy) they wanted....



Tex Libris, Nov. 23

[Training? Now more than ever](#)

Betha Gutsche writes: “As trainers, we don’t question the value of staff development, even—or especially—in tough times when the wolf is at the door (right). But our managers, directors, and funding agencies may not be quite so firmly in step with our thinking. In fact, as budgets get cut to the bone, the training department may look like a ‘nice



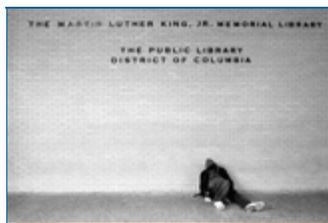
to have' that can be dispensed with until we return to a healthier economy. Here are two reasons why training is essential and three key efforts for moving it forward."...

ALA Learning, Nov. 30

[Welcoming the homeless into libraries](#)

Kim Leeder writes: "Even in my university library we see individuals on a regular basis who appear to fit the homeless profile. Have I ever helped them, or has my library been doing anything to help? Not beyond the definitions of what we do for any other community user, and in fact perhaps less. I'd like to dedicate this blog post to some of the libraries that have met the call for help in their communities and share their stories from my research and reading on this topic. Perhaps these stories can remind us of our ability—and responsibility—to work with local organizations to create programs and services to assist the needy in our own towns and cities."...

In the Library with the Lead Pipe, Dec. 1



[Is she crazy to want to work in libraries?](#)

Bobbi L. Newman writes: "Yesterday I received this email through my Facebook contact form. I thought I'd post a response publicly so others can see this advice to a potential librarian and to tap the wisdom of the web. What do you think: Is Crystal crazy to want to work in libraries?"...

Librarian by Day, Nov. 30

[The academic librarian's identity conflict](#)

Stephen Bell writes: "Just exactly what role do we play in higher education? Where do we fit into the structure of colleges and universities? On a day-to-day basis I suspect that most of us don't think about this question. We identify ourselves within the structure of our own academic library organizations: cataloger, reference librarian, bibliographer. Our identification may also be shaped institutionally: professional staff, administrator, faculty. But when we attempt to identify ourselves on the industry level, where we sit becomes less concrete."...

ACRLog, Dec. 1

[Cal State Los Angeles to archive Chicano history](#)

An archival program to document and preserve the rich history of Chicanos has been started in the heart of where it all took place, East Los Angeles. The California State University, Los Angeles, Library has established an East Los Angeles Archive that will preserve documents and artifacts that show the social, political, and cultural history of the Chicano/Latino community in East L.A. and the United States. Long-time community activist Gloria Arellanes (on the right) made the first donation to the new archive and was recognized for her contribution during a November 18 reception....

EGP News, Nov. 25



[Preserving the Maid of Cotton collection](#)

Shana Oltmans writes: "During my

internship with the Archives Center of the National Museum of American History, I've had the opportunity to work on the [Maid of Cotton Collection](#). Running for more than 50 years (1939–1993), the Maid of Cotton program was a beauty contest sponsored by the National Cotton Council. It was created to promote the cotton-growing businesses in the Southern states. The Archives Center has the complete collection of records from the Maid of Cotton program, including administrative files, photographs, scrapbooks, and videotapes."...

O Say Can You See?, Nov. 29



[The American Library in Paris is 90](#)

Larry Nix writes: "The American Library in Paris is celebrating its 90th anniversary with a [special display](#) featuring images, books, and archives from its long history. The display will run through January 30. This 1934 envelope (right) is one of two that I have that were mailed by the library, which is one of the [legacies](#) of the American Library Association's [Library War Service](#) during World War I."...

Library History Buff Blog, Dec. 1; American Library in Paris



[Welcome to a sea of blawgs](#)

Matt Braun writes: "Over the last five years, legal blogs (or 'blawgs' = law + blogs) have increasingly become vehicles for legal scholars, practitioners, and observers from across the globe to share information on developments in various areas of law. The Law Library of Congress has been working since 2007 to archive monthly entries for blawgs such as these, so that the legal events addressed in the blawgs of today may be studied many years from now. This collection is called the [Legal Blawg Archive](#), which provides the actual captured images for 130 blawgs across 19 subjects."...

In Custodia Legis, Nov. 24



[Ofelia Zepeda to give Lawrence Clark Powell lecture](#)

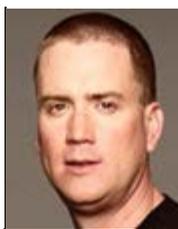
Ofelia Zepeda—poet, essayist, editor, and University of Arizona Regents professor of linguistics—will open a window on her distinctive desert world when she delivers the 10th annual [Lawrence Clark Powell Memorial Lecture](#). The lecture will take place December 2 at Temple Emanu-El in Tucson. Each year, the lecture is presented by a notable author whose body of work reflects the values, landscape, history, and culture of the Southwest. It honors the late Lawrence Clark Powell, librarian, author, and long-time Tucsonan....

Pima County (Ariz.) Public Library, Nov. 29



[Answering the "Libraries are Dead" critics](#)

U.K. library student Ian Clark writes: "There was a lot of indignation thrown at Tony Horne (right), a radio broadcaster and writer for the Newcastle *Evening*



Chronicle, whose November 26 [column](#) provided very real proof of the danger inherent in not challenging out-of-date notions about the public library. Not only does he rely upon these notions as the basis for his argument, but he also exhibits a fundamental misunderstanding of technology and how it is used. But what of this vision of the future? It is a rather weird and interesting statement on many levels.”...

Thoughts of a [wannabe] librarian, Nov. 27; Newcastle (U.K.) *Evening Chronicle*, Nov. 26

[Lauren's list of predictable anti-library comments](#)

Lauren Smith writes: “One of the most important parts of library advocacy seems to be explaining to people where they've gotten the wrong impression of libraries (whether they've had a bad and unrepresentative experience or because they haven't used a library in many years). It happens often in news articles discussing library cuts. You can guarantee that a number of naysayers will comment with something from the following List of Predictable Anti-Library Comments (catchy, I know).”...

Walk You Home, Nov. 29

[What librarians make: A response to Marc Bernstein](#)

Joyce Valenza writes: “In his November 24 [Newsday article](#) (available to subscribers only), Marc Bernstein, superintendent for the Valley Stream (N.Y.) Central High School District, suggests ‘eliminating the antiquated requirement that all high schools have at least one full-time librarian and a minimum number of books.’ This got me thinking about Taylor Mali’s poem, ‘What Teachers Make,’ his response to a dinner party question. Here then is ‘What Librarians Make.’” Watch the [video](#) (7:31)....



School Library Journal: NeverEndingSearch, Nov. 27; *Newsday*, Nov. 24

[Library directors and the Stupidity Index](#)

Will Manley writes: “In this blog over the past month we’ve talked about the Pain Index, with 1 being a pin prick on your pinkie and 10 being a nail hammered into your forehead. But how about the Stupidity Index? How does that work? How about 1, when you forget where you put your reading glasses when they’re propped up on the top of your head, and 10, locking the bookdrop in the middle of a snowstorm in Wisconsin? Okay, that puts me solidly in the very stupid category. The worst part of the Wisconsin winter was getting the books from the bookdrop.”...

Will Unwound, Nov. 30

[10 things you won't find on your LIS class syllabus](#)

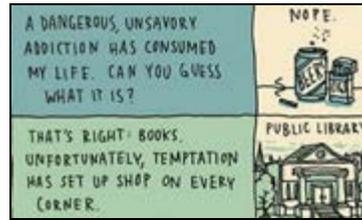
Andy Woodworth writes: “I generally try to avoid posts comprised of a list but every now and again I get inspiration to put one together. I give credit to Jill Hurst-Wahl for providing a catalyst with her blog post ‘[What I want LIS students to know](#).’ In doing my own reflection of the last couple of years, I’d like to offer my own advice on this avenue. Number 1: Don’t buy into the ‘Old vs. New’ librarian generation meme.”...

Agnostic, Maybe, Nov. 27; Digitization 101, Nov. 23

[Confessions of a book fiend](#)

Grant Snider, an artist from Kansas City, Missouri, and 2008 winner of the College Cartoonist Charles M. Schulz Award, created this short comic about the travails of a confirmed biblioholic. He has 11x17-inch posters of the full strip available for sale....

Incidental Comics, Sept. 19



[Go back to the Top](#)

american. libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | December 8, 2010

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Seeing Articles

Everywhere You Look?



american
libraries
BUYERS GUIDE

American Libraries Online

[California: Standard-bearer for strong school libraries](#)

It seems only fitting that a blueprint for putting strong school library programs back on the to-do lists of education leaders should emerge from California, which hasn't significantly increased its fiscal support for school libraries in at least two decades. Approved in September by the state board of education thanks to the California School Library Association's undaunted boosterism, California's [Model School Library Standards](#) might prove to be a focal point around which beleaguered school librarians elsewhere can regroup....

American Libraries news, Dec. 7



[When small is all](#)

Jane Pearlmutter and Paul Nelson write: "The majority of public libraries (88%) are located in small cities and villages with a service population of less than 50,000, and more than half have a population service area of fewer than 10,000 people. These libraries' directors wear many hats: liaison to the board of trustees, policy maker, staff supervisor, budget director, collection and program manager. When those hats sit smartly on the chosen head, library operations run more smoothly."...

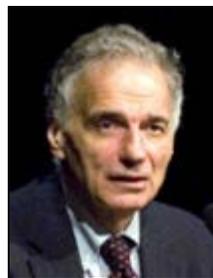
American Libraries feature



[Ralph Nader: Become a "bookshaker"](#)

Leonard Kniffel writes: "Consumer activist Ralph Nader (right) is a longtime library and literacy champion. I had a long telephone chat with Nader December 7 about his latest idea for getting Americans to read books. 'Let's call it [Books by the Box](#),' he said. Nader has purchased large numbers of remaindered books that are among his favorites. He'll sell you 100 copies of any one of these books for \$100—shipping included—so you can give them away to friends and strangers."...

AL: Inside Scoop, Dec. 8



[Libraries are sustainability partners](#)

Libraries are and will remain critical partners in ensuring sustainable local development, according to a research report released November 8 by the Urban Libraries Council. *Partners for the Future: Public Libraries and Local Governments Creating Sustainable Communities* ([ZIP file](#)) offers numerous examples of how public libraries are partnering with local governments to achieve the “triple bottom line” of sustainable development: economic vitality, environmental quality, and social equity....

American Libraries news, Dec. 7



[Youth Matters: Screening your reads](#)

Jennifer Burek Pierce writes: “YALSA sponsored a [book-trailer contest](#) for teens in 2010, embracing a concept that existed for almost a decade before gathering steam in recent years. A *Wall Street Journal* Speakeasy media blog entry (May 21, 2010) dates the term ‘book trailer’ to 2002. Elsewhere, publicity and marketing gurus have observed that book trailers became all but *de rigueur* around 2007. Their effects, however, are debated. Yet some book trailers are [more popular](#) (2:47) than others.”...

American Libraries column, Jan./Feb.; YouTube, Sept. 1



ALA News

[Senate passes MLSA Reauthorization](#)

The U.S. Senate passed the Museum and Library Services Act Reauthorization (S. 3984) late December 7 under unanimous consent, bringing the bill one step closer to reauthorization before the end of the session. ALA Washington Office Executive Director Emily Sheketoff said the passage of this bill is the result of strong Senate leadership and persistent lobbying and grassroots efforts by ALA, the library community, and the public they serve, adding, “we now call on the House to demonstrate that same commitment to our nation’s libraries and take up a vote on this bill before the end of the year.”...

District Dispatch, Dec. 8

[Advocating in a Tough Economy workshop](#)

Reserve a spot for “[Advocating in a Tough Economy: An Advocacy Institute Workshop](#)” during the ALA 2011 Midwinter Meeting in San Diego. The program will take place on January 7. Attendees will learn how to advocate through positioning or branding their libraries to meet the needs of patrons. Kerry Bierman, director of community relations and development for the Columbus (Ohio) Metropolitan Library, will lead the workshop....

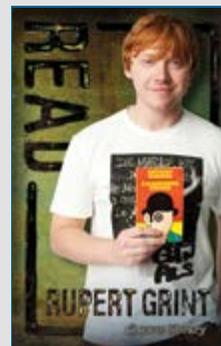
Office for Library Advocacy, Dec. 7

[Win a DEMCO gaming gear shopping spree](#)

If your library registered to participate in National Gaming Day 2010, you are still eligible to submit an entry to win DEMCO’s



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



[Rupert Grint](#), who stars as Ron Weasley in all the Harry Potter films, chose *A Clockwork Orange* as his book for this Celebrity READ poster. **NEW! From ALA Graphics.**



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New this week
in *American Libraries*



[When Small Is All](#)



awesome Gamer Gear Shopping Spree. If you win, you will get \$5,000 to spend with them to enhance your game programs. Find more information and the [application](#) on the DEMCO site. Entries are due by December 15.... National Gaming Day @ your library, Nov. 30

[ALA Connect chats disabled](#)

Jenny Levine writes: "The chat module is causing problems on the ALA Connect server again, to the point where it can crash the site. We have decided to disable the creation of new chat rooms in order to maintain the stability of Connect itself. As of December 7, groups can no longer create new chats, although all past chats and archives will remain available."...

ALA Connect, Dec. 6

[E-rate changes take effect January 3](#)

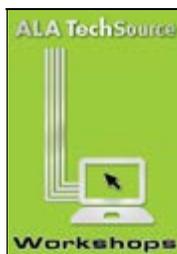
The Sixth Report and Order ([PDF file](#)) on the e-rate program was published in the December 3 *Federal Register*. The publication of the order means that the changes to the e-rate program that were voted on by the FCC in September will be effective one month later, or January 3. ALA continues to work with the FCC to ensure that clear guidance be developed so that library applicants will clearly understand their options and obligations under the program....

District Dispatch, Dec. 3

[Workshop on web analytics](#)

ALA TechSource is offering the latest in its series of online workshops: "Library Analytics: Inspiring Positive Action through Web User Data," hosted by Char Booth and Paul Signorelli. In two 90-minute sessions on January 20 and 27, Booth and Signorelli will help participants define, demystify, and explore web analytics in ways that lead to a stronger, more efficient, and more accountable web presence for libraries. Registration is at the [ALA Store](#)....

ALA TechSource, Dec. 7



[RDA print snapshot now available](#)

ALA has released the full-text print version of [RDA: Resource Description and Access](#). This snapshot serves as an offline access point to help solo and part-time catalogers evaluate RDA, as well as to support training and classroom use in any size institution. An index is included. The online [RDA Toolkit](#) includes PDFs, but purchasing the print version offers a convenient, time-saving option....

ALA Publishing, Dec. 3



[Sink your fangs into paranormal lit](#)

ALA Editions has released [Fang-tastic Fiction: Twenty-First Century Paranormal Reads](#), by Patricia O'Brien Mathews. Designed to keep librarians and readers up-to-date with the hottest contemporary supernatural beings in adult literature, Mathews's book helps answer frequently asked questions such as "What's good

[Youth Matters](#)

[Perpetual Beta](#)

[Inside Scoop](#)

[Green Your Library](#)

[Ask the ALA Librarian](#)

[Librarian's Library](#)

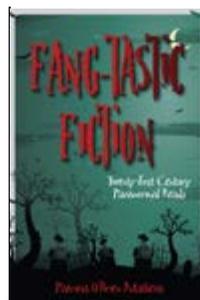
[AL Focus](#)

Great Libraries of the World



[Provincetown Public Library](#)

Provincetown, Massachusetts. In 2005, the town library moved into the former Heritage Museum building, bringing new life to the 1861 wooden structure. During Boston's Old Home Week Celebration in August 1907, tea merchant and sporting enthusiast Thomas Lipton offered a cup for a [fishermen's race](#) in Massachusetts Bay. The schooner *Rose Dorothea* swept to victory in the race and brought the [Lipton Cup](#) back to Provincetown with great fanfare. Not only does the library



besides *Twilight*?" Readers can search read-alike lists for series featuring their favorite creatures with chronological lists of series titles and summaries, including a multitude of adventures starring angst-ridden heartthrobs, superheroes, and champions....

ALA Editions, Dec. 6

Booklist ONLINE

Featured review: Media

LennoNYC. 115min. Nov. 2010. PBS, DVD (978-1-4229-9897-7).

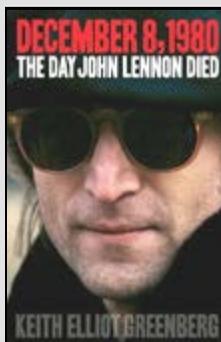
The 30th anniversary of John Lennon's death has spawned a proliferation of tributes to the late Beatle, who was gunned down outside his Manhattan home on December 8, 1980. This fascinating documentary zeros in on Lennon's post-Beatle years, concentrating on his life in New York City, where he and wife Yoko Ono were able to walk through Central Park, shop, and dine without being mobbed. Including rare home movies, studio and concert footage, this must-see glimpse into Lennon's later years and the music that shaped his life (and ours too) is undeniably compelling....



Featured review: Adult nonfiction

Greenberg, Keith Elliot. *December 8, 1980: The Day John Lennon Died*. 256p. Nov. 2010. Backbeat, hardcover (978-0-87930-963-3).

Greenberg unfolds a wealth of fresh biographical facts and penetrating insights into this richly dimensional and riveting account of the death of John Lennon. This page-turner begins with the release of the album *Double Fantasy*, a ravishing collaboration between Lennon and his wife, Yoko Ono—an achievement that ended a sweet period of seclusion with their then-5-year-old son, Sean. Drawing on a wealth of primary sources, Greenberg emphasizes Lennon's happiness, noting, with no small irony, how safe he and Yoko felt in the Dakota, a fanciful old Manhattan apartment building, and how friendly Lennon was to the fans who gathered there, including his killer, Mark David Chapman. Greenberg circles deftly between Lennon's past and his last months in 1980, and the chilling story of Chapman's obsession with Lennon and history of concealing his mental illness, and how close he came to not pulling the trigger....



possess the original Lipton Cup, which was never again contested, it also boasts a half-scale (66.5 feet) [model](#) of the schooner built by Capt. Francis "Flyer" Santos in 1977–1988 that is ensconced in the second-floor children's room.



Thomas Crane Public

[Library](#). Quincy, Massachusetts. The town's library was built in four stages: the [original](#) 1882 Romanesque building by architect [Henry Hobson Richardson](#); [additional stack space](#) and stained glass in 1908 by William Martin Aiken; a major 1939 [expansion](#) by architects Paul A. and Carroll D. Coletti, with stone carvings by sculptor Joseph A. Coletti; and a 2001 [addition](#) by Boston architects Childs Bertman and Tseckares, which doubled its size. Richardson considered [this library](#) one of his most successful civic buildings, and *Harper's*

[The books in Salinger's vault](#)

Bill Ott writes: "When J. D. Salinger died last January, he was arguably as famous for his reclusive lifestyle as he was for the book (*Catcher in the Rye*) that drove him into hiding, which makes the publication of Kenneth Slawenski's *Salinger: A Life* a literary event of a magnitude that far outstrips any question of its merit or even its accuracy. So many of us are so hungry for knowledge of Salinger's life that we're eager to take whatever table scraps are on offer. What a delight it is, then, when Slawenski—creator of DeadCaulfields.com—lays a full meal before us, albeit a largely speculative one."...



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

San Diego Update

[A crayon heir's cache](#)

Lee Lawrence writes: "In designing the layout of a museum, curators sometimes must act like cartographers: They have to figure out which countries and cultures to place front and center and which to tuck into the corners. Their decisions hinge on what the museum owns—which, in the case of the San Diego Museum of Art, includes a walloping 1,453 folios sporting Indian paintings and calligraphy that Edwin Binney III (heir to the Crayola crayons fortune) bequeathed to the museum in 1986. The final stage of a two-year reconfiguration has rescued the Binney collection from an upstairs corner room to become the cornerstone of 'Temple, Palace, Mosque,' an installation that ingeniously groups works by architectural setting."...

Wall Street Journal, Dec. 7



[San Diego CityBeat's Fine Dining Authority](#)

The city's progressive weekly newspaper offers these restaurant suggestions in the San Diego area: best teashop on a quaint urban street, best Greek and South American food, best new restaurant that's not like another, best place to enjoy coffee and dessert while lounging comfortably, best old-school Italian joint, and so on. Some of these will not be particularly close to downtown....

San Diego CityBeat, Nov. 10



Division News

[AASL launches video contest for students](#)

AASL, in collaboration with SchoolTube and Cisco, is launching a [Learning4Life in My School Library Student Video Contest](#). Beginning January 4, video submissions will be

Weekly called it "the best village library in the United States." It also features two stained glass windows by American artist John LaFarge, [The Old Philosopher](#) and [Angel at the Tomb](#). The grounds were designed by Frederick Law Olmsted.

This AL Direct feature showcases 250 libraries around the world that are notable for their exquisite architecture, historic collections, and innovative services. If you find yourself on vacation near one of them, be sure to stop by for a visit. The entire list will be available in [The Whole Library Handbook 5](#), edited by George M. Eberhart, which is scheduled for publication in 2011 by ALA Editions.

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LATEST
CONTENT

[The Kennedys: Portrait of a Family](#)



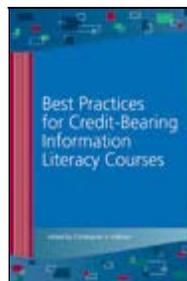
accepted that demonstrate how school libraries and the technology used within the school library program empower students to be Learners4Life. Submissions will be accepted until March 18, and winners will be announced April 1....

AASL, Dec. 7

[Best practices for information literacy courses](#)

ACRL has published [Best Practices for Credit-Bearing Information Literacy Courses](#), edited by Christopher Hollister. The work is a collection of previously unpublished papers in which contributing authors describe and recommend best practices for creating, developing, and teaching credit-bearing information literacy courses at the college and university level. Contributors discuss useful and effective methods for developing, teaching, assessing, and marketing courses....

ACRL, Dec. 2



[Gala Author Tea is brewing](#)

Enjoy tea, finger sandwiches, and a variety of sweet treats while listening to bestselling authors Elizabeth Adler, Conor Grennan, Paula McLain, Richard Louv, and Luanne Rice discuss their writing life and forthcoming books. The Tea will be hosted by Marilyn Johnson (right), author of *This Book is Overdue! How Librarians and Cybrarians Can Save Us All*. Tickets [are available](#) in advance or at the door....

ALTAFF



[Socialize with RUSA members in San Diego](#)

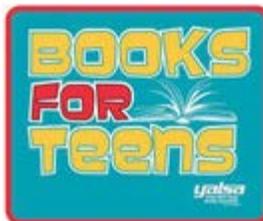
Liven up your ALA Midwinter Meeting experience with the RUSA Membership Social—an opportunity to eat, drink, network, and learn more about the division. The social, held January 8 at the Hilton Bayfront, is open to all current members, friends of RUSA, and those meeting attendees interested in learning more about the division and networking with peers....

RUSA, Dec. 7

[Books for Teens: A Facebook Cause](#)

YALSA has started a new fundraising initiative, powered by Facebook and its Causes application, called [Books for Teens](#). Funds will be distributed to libraries in communities with a high level of poverty, where teen services librarians will purchase and distribute new books, encourage teens to get library cards, and provide teens with reading-focused events and activities....

YALSA, Dec. 6



[Webinar on free tech tools for teens](#)



[The Green Workplace: Tips from Wanda Urbanska to Make Your Office a Greener Place](#)

[Online Exhibit Highlights Horror on the Air](#)

[Ellen Gordon Reeves: Librarians and the Job Search \(video\)](#)

[Becoming American: The Library Can Be an Important Step Toward Citizenship](#)

[Donna Seaman Interviews Author Vickram Chandra](#)

[National Postal Museum Pays Tribute to Negro Baseball Stars](#)

[Classic Film for Movie Night: Bad Day at Black Rock](#)

[The Songs of Hollywood](#)

[Understanding the Long Term Impact of Your Social Media Self](#)



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[Humanities Design Architect](#), Scholars' Lab, University of

You don't need to be a tech guru with a huge budget to successfully incorporate technology into your library's teen services. Learn how to easily use technology at almost no cost to enhance teen library services in YALSA's webinar, "Tech4U: Technology Programs for Every User," hosted by Megan Fink, middle school librarian and advisor at Charlotte (N.C.) Country Day School. The webinar will take place January 20 at 2 p.m. Eastern time. [Registration](#) is now open....

YALSA, Dec. 6

Awards

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

Ten librarians are being recognized for service to their communities, schools, and campuses as winners of the Carnegie Corporation of New York/*New York Times* I Love My Librarian Award. More than 2,000 library users nationwide nominated a librarian. Each of the 10 award winners will receive a \$5,000 cash award and be honored at a ceremony and reception in New York, hosted by the *New York Times*, on December 9....

Public Information Office, Dec. 7

I Love My Librarian!
2010 Award

[Award-winning booklists for adults](#)

Need a gift for a book lover? Check out the annual lists of outstanding fiction, nonfiction, poetry, genre fiction, and Jewish literature compiled by the readers' advisory experts from RUSA. Each year, committees from RUSA's Collection Development and Evaluation Section prepare a [Notable Books List](#), a [Reading List](#), and an [Outstanding Reference Sources](#) list; they also choose winners of the [Sophie Brody Award](#) and the [Dartmouth Medal](#)....

RUSA, Dec. 7

[William C. Morris Award shortlist](#)

YALSA has selected five books as finalists for the 2011 William C. Morris Award, which honors a book written for young adults by a previously unpublished author. The division will name the award winner at the Youth Media Awards on January 10, during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Diego....

YALSA, Dec. 6

[Five EBSCO scholarships for Midwinter travel](#)

EBSCO, in cooperation with ALA, awarded five librarians \$1,500 scholarships to attend the ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Diego, January 7–11. EBSCO asked applicants to write an essay on the topic "Thinking outside the box: Using technology to help in challenging times." The winners are David A. Brackus, Laura O'Neill Hibbler, Cheryl Lee, Sara Pope, and Frances Veit....

Office of ALA Governance, Dec. 7

[BRASS Gale Cengage Student Travel grant](#)

Applications for the 2011 BRASS Gale Cengage Student Travel Award are being accepted until January 31. The award provides \$1,000 for travel to and attendance at the ALA Annual Conference for a student enrolled in an ALA-accredited LIS program, as well as a one-year membership in the Business Reference and Services Section of RUSA. [Applicants](#) should have demonstrated interest in a career as a business reference librarian....

RUSA Blog, Dec. 8

Virginia Library, Charlottesville. The Scholars' Lab at the University of Virginia Library seeks a Humanities Design Architect who can create and guide exciting, professional user experiences, who possesses broad, synthetic knowledge of humanities and social science scholarship, who is passionate about the quality of his or her code and stylesheets, and who wants to be part of a team that does great work in the rapidly expanding digital humanities. You will be responsible for the design and implementation of effective and inspiring digital resources for teaching and scholarship. We are looking for someone who is highly technically skilled and a talented designer, and who has a deep background in humanities or social science scholarship. This position is for a true "hybrid" or "alternative academic"—someone who can communicate effectively with faculty and graduate students, and focus intently on the presentation and interaction layer for next-generation digital scholarship....



@ [More jobs...](#)

[2010 Downs Intellectual Freedom Award](#)

For their dedication to the preservation of First Amendment rights for members of the comics community, the [Comic Book Legal Defense Fund](#) has been selected to receive the 2010 Robert B. Downs Intellectual Freedom Award, given by the faculty of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The award will be presented January 8 at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Diego....
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign GSLIS, Nov. 30



[2011 National Leadership Grant guidelines available](#)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is accepting grant applications for the agency's 2011 National Leadership Grant program. Applications, guidelines, and examples of successful proposals can be found on the agency's [website](#). The deadline for submitting applications is February 1....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Dec. 2

[American poet wins Dylan Thomas Prize](#)

U.S. poet Elyse Fenton has been awarded the University of Wales [Dylan Thomas Prize](#), set up to honor the Welsh poet and encourage young writers. Fenton's collection *Clamor* is the first book of poetry to win the £30,000 (\$47,139 U.S.) prize. *Clamor* was inspired by Fenton's husband, a medic deployed to Iraq, and the fragments of IM conversations they shared over the internet. Stefan Mohamed won the debut £5,000 (\$7,850 U.S.) Sony Reader Award for unpublished writers with his novel *Bitter Sixteen*....

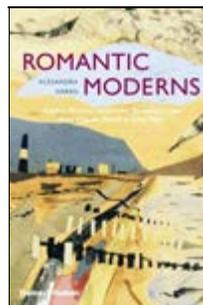
BBC News, Dec. 1



[2010 Guardian First Book Award](#)

The 2010 *Guardian* First Book Award was presented December 1 to a cultural history arguing that modernism has just as much to do with English teashops and churchyards as exotic Europeanisms and abstractions. Alexandra Harris's elegant reevaluation of the arts in Britain during the interwar period, *Romantic Moderns: English Writers, Artists and the Imagination from Virginia Woolf to John Piper*, was awarded the £10,000 (\$15,718 U.S.) prize in a ceremony at London's Victoria and Albert Museum....

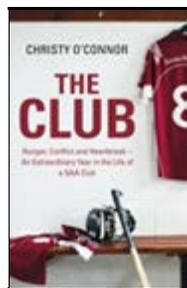
The Guardian (U.K.), Dec. 1



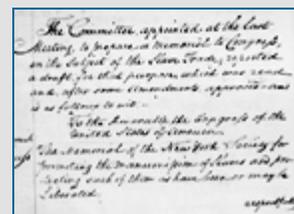
[William Hill Sports Books of the Year](#)

Christy O'Connor's *The Club* (Penguin Ireland), which details the triumphs and tragedies of a County Clare hurling club over the course of a year, was announced as the winner of the 2010 William Hill Irish Sports Book of the Year in Dublin on December 2. This prize was established in 2006 by U.K. gambling company William Hill to celebrate the quality of Irish sports writing. Another prize, the 22-year-old [William Hill Sports Book of the Year](#) for sports writing in the U.K., went to Brian Moore's *Beware of the Dog: Rugby's Hardman Reveals All* (Simon & Schuster UK)....

William Hill, Dec. 3; *The Guardian* (U.K.), Nov. 30



Digital Library of the Week



The [New-York Historical Society Library](#) holds among its many resources a substantial collection of manuscript materials documenting American slavery and the slave trade in the Atlantic world. The 14 collections on this website are among the most important of these manuscript collections. They consist of diaries, account books, letter books, ships' logs, indentures, bills of sale, personal papers, and records of institutions. Some of the highlights include the records of the New York Manumission Society and the African Free School, the diaries and correspondence of English abolitionists Granville Sharp and John Clarkson, the papers of the Boston antislavery activist Lysander Spooner, the records of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, the draft of Charles Sumner's famous 1855 speech *The Anti-Slavery Enterprise*, and an account book kept by the slave-trading firm Bolton, Dickens & Co.

Seen Online

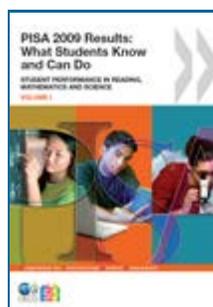
[LC's WikiLeaks block could harm CRS](#)

Steven Aftergood writes: "The Library of Congress [confirmed](#) December 3 that it had blocked access from all LC computers to the [WikiLeaks](#) website in order to prevent unauthorized downloading of classified records. Since the Congressional Research Service is a component of the library, CRS researchers will be unable to access or cite the leaked materials in their research reports to Congress. Several CRS analysts expressed dismay about the move." One CRS employee was [fired by LC](#) in 2009 for criticizing the Obama administration. Other agencies have similarly [blocked access](#). The Progressive Librarians Guild issued a [statement](#) December 4 calling the action "an unacceptable acquiescence to the government's abusive attempt to put the genie back in the bottle."... Secrecy News, Dec. 6; Library of Congress Blog, Dec. 3; *Los Angeles Times*, Dec. 6; *New York Times*, Dec. 5; Progressive Librarians Guild, Dec. 4



[Top test scores from Shanghai stun educators](#)

Students in Shanghai have surprised experts by outscoring their counterparts in dozens of other countries, in reading as well as in math and science, according to the results of an international standardized test, the [2009 Program for International Student Assessment](#). The results appeared to reflect the culture of education there, including greater emphasis on teacher training and more time spent on studying rather than extracurricular activities. The United States ranked 16th in reading, 22nd in science, and 31st in math. "We have just flatlined. We haven't moved. Other countries have passed us by," Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said in a December 7 [interview](#) on *PBS NewsHour*...



New York Times, Dec. 7; *PBS NewsHour*, Dec. 7

[New rules could shape the internet's future](#)

Troy Wolverton writes: "The future of the internet—at least how it's used and structured in the United States—could be determined by a small group of federal officials this month. That may sound overblown, but some consumer and industry groups insist the stakes are that high in a vote the Federal Communications Commission will take December 21 to decide what rules it should enact to govern openness on the internet and to ensure so-called net neutrality."...

San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News, Dec. 6

[Cherokee Nation developing virtual library](#)

The Cherokee Nation is in the beginning stages of developing a Virtual Library of Cherokee Knowledge, a web-based system designed to provide Cherokee citizens and the general public access to a comprehensive digital space filled with authentic Cherokee knowledge related to the tribe's history, language, traditions, culture, and leaders. The Cherokee Nation Education Services group recently received an IMLS grant that will help fund the project...



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

"Please, please get into the habit of visiting the library. I know lots of you have shelves heaving with books at home, but if you want to keep the library in the village, you need to support us."

—Ros Fernley, librarian at the library in Wargrave, Berkshire, who is worried about U.K.-wide cutbacks in library funding, in the *Henley Standard*, Dec. 6.

"I guess I don't quite understand why the public needs so many libraries. We have libraries in most public schools, colleges, and universities. . . . Most every American has a desktop or laptop computer that can access websites to find the information needed in today's complex world. . . . I even know poor people who have computers. In this day and age, anyone who needs to use the library to access a computer is simply too cheap to buy their own."

—Rob Daugherty, of Ollala, Washington, in a [letter to the editor](#) of the *Port Orchard (Wash.) Independent*, Dec. 2.

Indian Country Today, Dec. 7

[L.A. County library system in financial trouble](#)

The Los Angeles County library system is in financial trouble and cannot sustain its level of services over the next decade, according to a report delivered November 30 to the board of supervisors. But the library commission's chief recommendation—asking voters served by the county library system to increase an existing special tax—appeared to leave the supervisors unenthusiastic. Supervisors received the report ([PDF file](#)) but did not discuss the recommendation. Library officials have [declined](#) to be specific about what will be eliminated if a new tax isn't passed....

Los Angeles Times, Dec. 1, 6

[Da Vinci manuscript unearthed in French city library](#)

A coded fragment of writing by Italian artist and scientist Leonardo da Vinci has been discovered in the Nantes city library in western France among manuscripts donated in 1872 by collector Pierre-Antoine Labouchère. Experts have yet to decipher the few lines of text because it is written from right to left in Leonardo's trademark mirror-writing style and the words are in arcane 15th-century Italian as well as other languages. Library Director Agnes Marceteau [deferred](#) to da Vinci scholars as to "whether this fragment is of interest." French-speakers can watch the [video](#) (3:12)....

Daily Telegraph (U.K.), Dec. 6; *Rennes Ouest-France*, Dec. 6



[Birds of America fetches record \\$11.5 million](#)

A copy of John James Audubon's early-19th-century double-elephant folio of [Birds of America](#) sold in London at a Sotheby's auction December 7 for £7.3 million (\$11.5 million U.S.), a record for any printed work. The work was bought by London-based art dealer Michael Tollemache, who said, "I think it's priceless, don't you?" The Arthurian [Rochefoucauld Grail](#) illuminated manuscript, on sale for Amsterdam's Bibliotheca Philosophica Hermetica, was bought for £2.4 million (\$3.8 million U.S.) by the London-based dealer Sam Fogg....

Bloomberg BusinessWeek, Dec. 7



[Digital image helped retrieve stolen artifact](#)

A Native American artifact stolen in the 1990s by a disgraced Wisconsin Historical Society museum curator has wended its way back to the institution's collection, thanks to a photo on the museum's website. The Plains Indian knife sheath is the first to be returned of 116 items listed as still missing and stolen by David Wooley, a former curator who was convicted for theft in 2001. In January, an artifacts dealer in Montana called the museum to report he recognized the sheath "in a transaction that occurred several years ago in New Mexico."...

Superior (Wis.) Telegram, Dec. 7

[Police catch Anniston library thief](#)

Police arrested a local woman December 1 on a felony theft charge of stealing books from the Public Library of Anniston and Calhoun County, Alabama. Their investigation revealed that over the past couple of years, Regina Smith had stolen 222 books totaling \$5,431.

@ [More quotes...](#)



TweetWatch

Follow:

6th International Digital Curation Conference, Chicago, Dec. 6–8, at: [#idcc10](#)

Coalition for Networked Information, Fall Membership Meeting, Arlington, Virginia, Dec. 13–14, at: [#cni10f](#)

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

Calendar

Jan. 29: [American Printing History Association](#), Annual Meeting, South Court Auditorium, New York Public Library.

Feb. 8–11: [iConference 2011](#), Renaissance Hotel, Seattle. Sponsored by the iSchools organization.

Feb. 14–16: [O'Reilly Tools of Change for Publishing Conference](#), Sheraton New York Hotel and

Acting Director Teresa Kiser said she and her staff knew many books had systematically gone missing. Police said Smith managed to steal so many books for so long because she wore an assortment of wigs and knew how to thwart the measures already in place that trigger the library security system....

Anniston (Ala.) Star, Dec. 2

[Man murdered with crossbow in Toronto library](#)

Toronto Public Library staff and some patrons spent the weekend in counseling after a man was killed by a crossbow right in front of them in the Main Street branch on the afternoon of December 2. According to police, Si Cheng, 52, was shot in the back by his son, 24-year-old Zhou Fang, who was [charged](#) with first-degree murder. Toronto libraries spokeswoman Anne Marie Aikins said that after the murder, staff guided patrons out of the library and then gathered in a nearby café. The branch [reopened](#) December 7 after it was cleaned up, with replacement computers and keyboards and the furniture in a different arrangement....

National Post, Dec. 3; CFTO-TV, Toronto, Dec. 4; Inside Toronto, Dec. 8

[Two now held in Brookfield librarian's murder](#)

An Arlington Heights, Illinois, woman is being held without bond for her part in the June 14 murder of Marilyn Fay, who worked part-time at the Brookfield (Ill.) Public Library, and police say they have the murder weapons in their possession. Bonnie Shelesny and Steven Kellmann are both charged with first-degree murder....

Brookfield (Ill.) Suburban Life, Dec. 3

[Mrs. Nevada International is school librarian](#)

Kari Deike, Mrs. Nevada International for 2011, admits she has been a little shy about enjoying her reign, which began after she won the state pageant in July. Once in a while, a friend at Desert Oasis High School in Las Vegas, where she works as the librarian, asks Deike to wave and she obliges. Starting on December 8, Deike is throwing the weight of her crown behind the American Cancer Society and its Relay for Life fundraiser....

Las Vegas (Nev.) Sun, Dec. 2



[Your life in six little words](#)

Define your life in six words. State University of New York at Canton students, faculty, and staff did just that during National Novel Writing Month in November at the prompting of a few librarians at the college. One of the mini-memoirs said, "The toilet content once was dinner." Another read, "So busy. Hope I dream tonight." Assistant Librarian Michelle L. Currier said, "It's much less frightening than a 50,000-word novel; it is more challenging than it seems. I have not done one because it is intimidating."...

Watertown (N.Y.) Daily Times, Dec. 6

[Delta College Library's bookish Christmas tree](#)

Jennean Kabat, reference librarian at Delta College in University Center, Michigan, spent six hours with a couple of coworkers carefully assembling a Christmas tree made out of books the day before Thanksgiving. The literary structure is buttressed from within by a

Towers, New York City.

Feb. 18–20:

[Alaska Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Centennial Hall, Juneau. "Information Illuminated."

Feb. 22–24:

[Educause West / Southwest Regional Conference](#), Austin, Texas. "Leading IT into the Future in Transformative Times."

Mar. 16–17:

[Library Technology Conference](#), Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Mar. 23–25:

[Tennessee Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Embassy Suites and Convention Center, Murfreesboro. "Partnerships: It Takes Two to Tango."

Mar. 30–

Apr. 2: [Association of College and Research Libraries](#), National Conference, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia.

May 26–29:

[American Literature Association](#), 22nd Annual Conference, Westin Copley Place, Boston.

June 1–3:

[Workshop for Instruction in Library Use](#), 40th Annual Conference, Regina, Saskatchewan. "Learning under Living Skies."

wastebasket and made up of more than 100 books (many *CQ Almanacs* and *Readers' Guides*). At the bottom, red books simulate a tree skirt. Green books fill out the body of the tree, while gold ones round out the top to mimic a star....

Bay City (Mich.) Times, Dec. 3



[Go back to the Top](#)

Tech Talk

[Five tools to maximize your Twitter lists usage](#)

Sridhar Ramunajam writes: "Twitter lists are underestimated most of the time. The fact is, if used effectively they can prove very productive tools. Success with Twitter lists is all about how well you manage them. The following Twitter tools let you get the maximum benefits out of your lists and save you time as well."...
Smedio, Dec. 3



[Data tracking made easy](#)

During the summer of 2010, Pikes Peak (Colo.) Library District looked at five different security vendors before choosing software from [mk Sorting Systems](#). The library installed the Plexiglas Radio Frequency Identification security gates and mk GateTracker software in six of its 13 branches. According to Carolyn Coulter, information technology officer, the software provided data that could better determine staffing levels and best times to schedule programming....
AL: Solutions and Services, Dec. 7



[App of the week: Momento](#)

Linda Braun writes: "I'm not sure why it wasn't until I read a review of Momento on [TechCrunch](#) that I hadn't thought about diary apps before. But, I hadn't. Now that I have it's clear in my mind that for teens that use an iPhone (or iPad) and like to write, or are interested in writing, or have to write a journal for school that Momento is a useful tool. Some features of the app that make it worth paying attention to are: Momento makes it easy to keep the diary under lock and key; entries can be added or edited at any time; photos can be added to the entries; and information can be exported."...
YALSA Blog, Dec. 1; *TechCrunch*, Nov. 28



[How to make Ethernet cables](#)

Samara Lynn and P. J. Jacobowitz write: "Need a 5-inch straight-through Ethernet cable? A 37-foot crossover cable? Tired of miles of extra cable coiled around your desk?"

June 4–12: [Crimea 2011](#),

International Conference, Sudak, Ukraine. "Libraries and Information Resources in the Modern World of Science, Culture, Education, and Business."

July 11–13:
[Sixth International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences](#), University of New Orleans.

@ [More...](#)

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Direct



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



Beverly Goldberg,
Senior Editor:
bgoldberg@ala.org



Sure, you could probably buy custom cables online, but with a spool of Cat5 and a \$10 crimper you can make your own, for less. Ethernet cables (also known as RJ-45, patch, and network cables) are easy to make with a little practice and the right tools."...

PC Magazine, Nov. 30

[Let YouTube Custom Player embed videos for you](#)

Ryan Dube writes: "YouTube is an amazing resource, filled with content that covers just about any topic you could imagine. Wouldn't it be nice to let your visitors watch that video content from the comfort of *your* website, without the need to visit YouTube? That's where the [YouTube Custom Player](#) comes in. It helps you embed YouTube videos on your website or blog with very little effort and without the need to mess around with embed codes and correctly sizing the video."...

MakeUseOf, Dec. 7



[Feather: An HTML5-based photo editor](#)

Jeffry Thurana writes: "I think many people would agree that one of the most controversial turning points in the tech world is Apple's decision not to support Flash technology in its iDevices and go with HTML5 instead. However, a new online photo editor from Aviary called [Feather](#) shows us that we can definitely expect great things from HTML5. Feather is the simplified version (with HTML5 twist) of Phoenix, Aviary's Flash-based online photo editor. But being the simplified version doesn't mean that Feather is less powerful."...

MakeUseOf, Dec. 7



[12 ways to create videos without software or camera](#)

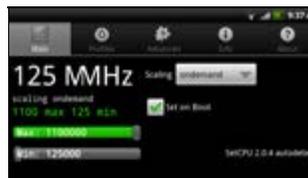
Richard Byrne writes: "It wasn't that long ago that creating videos in your library meant that you had to have access to cameras and editing software. That is no longer the case. Now, with nothing more than a reliable internet connection, you and your students can create all kinds of documentary, entertainment, and how-to videos. For more information, see my [Making videos on the web](#)."...

Free Technology for Teachers, Dec. 7



[How to speed up your Android device](#)

Whitson Gordon writes: "Whether you're resisting the temptation to upgrade to newer, faster hardware, or a year's worth of use has made your Android phone feel slow and laggy, here are some ways to make your older phone run a bit smoother. Whether you've rooted your phone, overclocked, flashed a new ROM, or none of the above, you'll be able to take advantage of a number of



Greg Landgraf,
Associate Editor:
glandgraf@ala.org



Leonard Kniffel,
Publisher,
American Libraries:
lniffel@ala.org

Jennifer Henderson,
Contributing Researcher

To advertise in American Libraries Direct, contact:



Brian Searles:
bsearles@ala.org



Katie Bane:
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the tweaks here to get your phone from sluggish and glitchy to quick and smooth.”...

Lifehacker, Dec. 8

[50 years of running COBOL](#)

Peggy A. Kidwell writes: “COBOL, a COmmon Business-Oriented Language, was proposed by a committee of programmers from business and government in 1959 and successfully demonstrated in 1960, 50 years ago. The National Museum of American History has just launched a website relating to the [early days of COBOL](#), and a related exhibit case opens this spring. The reason for paying attention to COBOL is that it was one of the first computer programming languages to run on more than one brand of computer.”...



O Say Can You See?, Dec. 6

Publishing

[Test-driving Google eBooks](#)

Linda Holmes writes: “Google launched its online bookstore, Google eBooks, on December 6—a long-awaited and much-discussed entrant into electronic bookselling. Google is advertising the store as compatible with computers, iPads and iPhones, Android devices, standalone e-readers including Sony and Nook devices, as well as others that run Adobe Digital Editions. (But not your Kindle, there, buddy.) We thought we’d give it a try by buying a recent book—David Sedaris’s *Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk: A Modest Bestiary*, which cost us \$9.99—and test-driving it on a few different devices.” Watch Google’s promotional [video](#) (2:13)....



NPR: Monkey See, Dec. 6

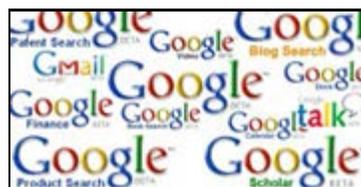
[2010 Guide to E-book Privacy](#)

The Electronic Frontier Foundation has updated its *E-Book Buyer’s Guide to E-Book Privacy*, which summarizes and comments on the privacy-related policies of several e-readers. For this edition, EFF has added in the iPad and also the software used by many libraries and devices for e-book access, called Adobe Content Server....

Electronic Frontier Foundation, Dec. 6

[The illusion of Google’s limitless library](#)

Barbara Fister writes: “Google would like us to think that any book ever published that you may want to read can be plucked from the cloud and read anywhere. But books potentially under copyright that Google scanned in libraries are not part of the deal. Those books are still tied up in a lawsuit ([PDF file](#)) and the settlement is kind of complicated ([PDF file](#)) and likely to take years. And I hate to break it to you, but not every library involved in the project let Google scan in-copyright books, nor do academic libraries buy every book published every year.”...



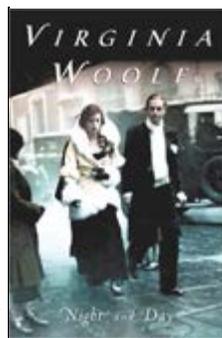
Inside Higher Ed: Library Babel Fish, Dec. 6

[10 of the best free audiobooks](#)

Angela Alcorn writes: “The internet is full of free

audiobooks; all you need to do is find them. Thanks to public-domain archives like [Project Gutenberg](#) and [LibriVox](#), there are plenty of great audiobooks available free to download. I'm personally a big fan of browsing for free audiobooks using [Books Should Be Free](#) because I like the interface, extra links, genre search, top 100 list, and related book suggestions. A quick look at the main page will show you all the obvious popular classics. Here's a selection of not-so-obvious audiobooks that are widely regarded as great books and are available free via Books Should Be Free."...

MakeUseOf, Dec. 7



[Nobel Laureate extols political power of fiction](#)

Peruvian Nobel Laureate Mario Vargas Llosa delivered a resounding tribute December 7 to fiction's power to inspire readers to greater ambition, dissent, and political action in his Nobel lecture, "In Praise of Reading and Fiction." "We would be worse than we are without the good books we have read, more conformist, not as restless, more submissive, and the critical spirit, the engine of progress, would not even exist," Mario Vargas Llosa said. "Like writing, reading is a protest against the insufficiencies of life."...

The Guardian (U.K.), Dec. 8



[The best and worst book trailers](#)

The *Huffington Post* editors write: "Beyond the standard book trailers, we have seen some amazing video content about books this year. From Electric Literature's [one-sentence animations](#) to *Washington Post* critic Ron Charles's awesome [video reviews](#), from Richard Hine's crowdsourced [video campaign](#) to a satirical [animation](#) with talking bears, 2010 had plenty of great video content about books." Here are some more that readers recommended....



Huffington Post, Dec. 6

[The number of children's books published](#)

Q. Can you tell me the number of children's books that were published last year? **A.** There is an annual publication, the [Library and Book Trade Almanac](#) (formerly known as the *Bowker Annual Library and Book Trade Almanac*) put out by Information Today, which includes a report on book production. This year's report is historic. For the first time, the numbers for the report from Baker & Taylor are based on the BISAC categories of the Book Industry Study Group, nearly doubling the number of categories of books....

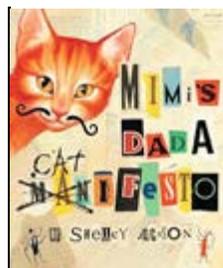
AL: Ask the ALA Librarian, Dec. 8



[NYPL recommends 100 children's books from 2010](#)

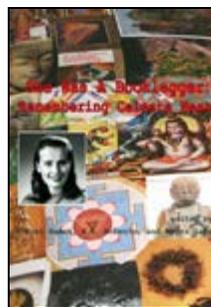
Jeanne Lamb writes: "Librarians have been

recommending books to children for well over 100 years, and children have been just as eager to pass on their favorites. The New York Public Library's *Children's Books 2010* ([PDF file](#)) provides a snapshot of some of the outstanding books published this year. Over [20 librarians](#) read several hundred books, often sharing advance copies with the children in their branch libraries. Their choices range from books to share with toddlers to books that will keep the most sophisticated readers on the edge of their seats."...
New York Public Library Blog, Dec. 2



[Remembering Celeste West](#)

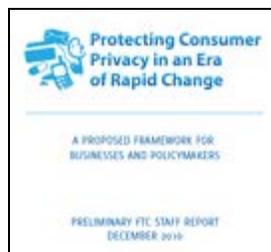
Ashley McAllister writes: "*She Was A Booklegger: Remembering Celeste West* (Library Juice Press) is a collection of essays, excerpts, and photos that attempt to capture the spirit of Celeste West, a woman whose influence on feminist librarianship, publishing, journalism, and activism was monumental. After West passed away in 2008, a few friends and admirers (Toni Samek, Moyra Lang, and K. R. Roberto) decided to embark on a project that would honor West's work and life. This book, which acts as a comprehensive and compassionate obituary, was the result."...
Bitch Magazine, Dec. 4



Actions & Answers

[FTC report on online privacy](#)

The Federal Trade Commission issued a preliminary staff report ([PDF file](#)) December 1 that proposes a framework to balance the privacy interests of consumers with innovation that relies on consumer information to develop beneficial new products and services. The report also suggests implementing a "Do Not Track" mechanism—a persistent setting on browsers—so consumers can choose whether to allow the collection of data about their online searching and browsing activities. The FTC will probably need the [help of Congress](#) to enact some of its recommendations....
Federal Trade Commission, Dec. 1; *New York Times*, Dec. 1



[No privacy here: Find out what George Washington read](#)

The New York Society Library's earliest surviving charging ledger, which records borrowing activity during the period from July 1789 to April 1792, is a window into the reading habits of more than 500 members of the Society Library, many of whom were prominent New Yorkers during the early years of our nation. During the time when the library shared a roof with the early government in Federal Hall, borrowing privileges were also extended to the President, Vice President, and Congress. For a brief time, their borrowing activity was also recorded in this volume, now viewable online. You can also find out [who checked out](#) each book....
New York Society Library



[Maintain your privacy online](#)

Cindi Trainor writes: "Facebook's attitude toward privacy and the recent release of Firesheep have led me to take a serious look at the unencrypted traffic I send over the various networks I use, as well as the data that I put out there for public consumption. Here are some tools for you to do the same. They are not infallible; they are not security measures per se, like a firewall or virus scanner would be. What they do is provide you with the more private space that you might assume when sitting alone pouring your heart out to a friend."...

ALA TechSource Blog, Dec. 6

[The Japanese view on privacy](#)

Michael Hoffman writes: "Here's a prediction: Two words that will be incomprehensible a generation from now are 'secret' and 'private.' They will no longer describe anything in our world. For better and/or worse, human beings are outgrowing their privacy and secrecy. There were no words in Japanese for 'private' and 'privacy.' Even today the English words fill the void. An *Asahi Shimbun* series called 'Children Today' shows how perfectly at ease 11- and 12-year-olds are online, where the whole world can see and hear them."...

Japan Times, Dec. 5



[The library: Three jeremiads](#)

Robert Darnton writes: "When I look back at the plight of American research libraries in 2010, I feel inclined to break into a jeremiad. In fact, I want to deliver three jeremiads, because research libraries are facing crises on three fronts; but instead of prophesying doom, I hope to arrive at a happy ending. I can even begin happily, at least in describing the state of the university library at Harvard."...

New York Review of Books, Dec. 23

[Renewing Harvard's library system](#)

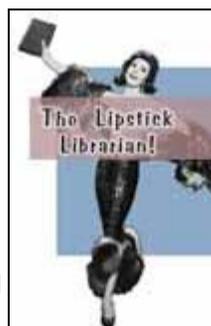
Setting a fresh course for the future of the Harvard library system, university leaders have embraced a series of recommendations from the Library Implementation Work Group to establish a coordinated management structure and increasingly focus resources on the opportunities presented by new information technology. Provost Steven E. Hyman (left) and Philosophy Professor David Lamberth, who led the implementation group, discuss the 21st-century vision for the libraries....

Harvard Gazette, Dec. 6



[The hipster librarian](#)

Linda Ueki Absher (the Lipstick Librarian) writes: "It's finally happened: everyone wants to be me. Well, they don't want to be *me*, me. After all, who wants student loans, an undervalued house, and a sweater that looks like I've just mugged a red Heffalump? But everyone under 30 with skinny black jeans and artistic facial hair, or Bettie Page bangs and winsome skirts with felted bird appliqué (and some wearing all of the above) want to be what I am: a librarian. This



is a surprise, to put it mildly.”...

CounterPunch, Dec. 7

[How to fail in grant writing](#)

Six biology professors provide a list of techniques to guarantee that your grant proposal will be rejected. They gathered them in the course of serving on grant panels or as program officers, and, in some cases, through firsthand experimentation. Although they are biologists, many of their suggestions will be useful to grant writers in all disciplines....

Chronicle of Higher Education, Dec. 5

[Michigan to help renovate historic public library](#)

Michigan Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm announced two grants totaling \$342,000 that will be used to help restore Highland Park’s landmark McGregor Public Library (right). Designed and built in 1926, the McGregor Library was a centerpiece for the community until hard times in the auto industry resulted in Highland Park suffering job losses, depopulation, and reduced tax revenue. The library closed in 2002 but is currently undergoing a \$9.3-million restoration....



Gov Monitor, Dec. 7

[Study of New Jersey school libraries](#) (Word file)

Today’s poor economic climate creates both challenges and opportunities for schools. The Center for International Scholarship in School Libraries has published findings from Phase 1 of its study *One Common Goal: Student Learning* ([PDF file](#)), which shows that New Jersey school library programs staffed by certified school librarians are cost-effective in helping students achieve higher standards and critical for the intellectual, social, and cultural development of students....

New Jersey Association of School Librarians, Dec. 3

[Join the Polish American Librarians Association](#)

The newly formed Polish American Librarians Association is launching a membership recruitment campaign ([PDF file](#)) in support of its mission to have a positive impact on services provided to library patrons of Polish descent and individuals interested in Polish history and culture. PALA is planning its first annual meeting for February 20 at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago. Proszę przystąpić!...



Polish American Librarians Association

[Tweet the First Amendment on December 15](#)

Rob Crotty writes: “It’s time the Bill of Rights got a hip new upgrade. Through December 15—the 219th anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights—the National Archives would like you to condense each amendment into a bite-sized tweet. On the appropriate day, shorten the assigned amendment down to as few words (or letters) as possible while retaining the amendment’s meaning, then tweet your response using the hashtag [#BillOfRights](#). Archivist of the United States David Ferriero will pick a winner (see [@archivesnews](#)) the following day.” Amendment I will be December 15....

Prologue: Pieces of History, Dec. 3

[Library contracts and journals 101](#)

Beth Brown writes: "Libraries sign a lot of contracts to get access to content. The American Chemical Society recently sent out information on next year's journal subscription costs to libraries. In our case, the price increase was manageable (maybe 5%). I have seen so many confusing pricing deals from the ACS that after this renewal was settled I moved on. I didn't realize until later that some libraries are seeing very large increases, 20% or more." George Duimovich sees [consolidated purchasing](#) as a lost library opportunity....

Book of Trogoon, Dec. 1, 3

[On rants and RDA](#)

Melissa Cookson writes: "RDA seems to be all anyone ever talks about in the cataloging world anymore. Many complaints about RDA are being voiced on the OCLC-CAT discussion list, of all places, where the uproar seems to be about the way RDA information is added to authority records. But one of the things that consistently frustrates me is that there seems to be an assumption on the part of those who are most in favor of RDA that most of our cataloging problems reside in our cataloging rules. I would argue that this is not the case."...

Melissa in Stephenville, Dec. 6

[What's wrong with Facebook's new profiles?](#)

Aliza Sherman writes: "Facebook has released a new [Facebook Profile](#). As usual, the changes seem pretty arbitrary, but Facebook appears to have moved in the direction of having a profile page that blends your professional life and your personal life, and I feel pretty strongly that this is a mistake. Many of us are struggling to find the right balance of personal and professional in our profiles. Here are some problems with the new Facebook Profile."...



GigaOM, Dec. 7; Facebook, Dec. 5

[Social media can help with long-distance job search](#)

Dan Klamm writes: "If you're a long-distance job seeker, you face several disadvantages. First, some companies anticipate that bringing you in for an interview will be a hassle and that you will expect them to pay for travel expenses. Second, they don't know whether you're serious about relocating to their city. Third, you're an unknown entity. The good news is that social media can help, whether you're looking for a job 300 or 3,000 miles from home."...

Mashable: Business, Dec. 6

[Create an effective job ad](#)

It's hiring time in academia. Job postings are going up, applications are going out, the waiting begins for everyone involved. The *Chronicle's* ProfHacker team is starting up a series on good hiring and application practices. And writing an effective job ad is the first step in securing a good hire for all parties. Here are a few best practices....

Chronicle of Higher Education: ProfHacker, Dec. 3

[How online news reading habits have changed](#)

Richard MacManus writes: "One of the more subtle trends of 2010 has been the way that our reading habits have changed, due to a convergence of other web trends: mobile apps, real-time web (mostly Twitter), and social networking as a way to track news (mostly Facebook). In the previous era of the so-called Web 2.0, RSS readers and start pages were all the rage. Over 2010, though, more people used tools like Twitter, Facebook, Instapaper, Flipboard, LazyWeb,

Feedly, and TweetDeck to track news.”...

ReadWriteWeb, Dec. 6

[The man who put the hole in catalog cards](#)

Larry Nix writes: “December 3 is the 175th anniversary of the birth of Otis Hall Robinson (right), who was library director at the University of Rochester from 1868 to 1889. He is noted more for his advocacy of library instruction than for his idea for dealing with the annoying tendency of library users to remove catalog cards and put them back in the wrong order (or to keep them for later reference). Robinson’s plan called for punching a hole in the lower-left corner of each catalog card and running a rod through all the holes.”...

Library History Buff Blog, Dec. 3



[Turning the pages of *Historia Animalium*](#)

The Communications Engineering Branch of the U.S. National Library of Medicine developed the original [Turning the Pages Information System](#) in 2001 and converted some of the library’s rare holdings into the format. It offers an online version using Macromedia Flash MX with [turn-the-page versions](#) of Conrad Gesner’s *Historia Animalium*, Ambroise Paré’s *Oeuvres*, and other books and manuscripts....

National Library of Medicine



[Library lovers celebrate Jewish Library Snapshot Day](#)

During Jewish Book Month in November, 30 Jewish libraries participated in Library Snapshot Day. The event, sponsored by the Association of Jewish Libraries, was created to let all types of Judaic libraries record what happens in a day in the life of a library. Across North America, libraries in synagogues, day schools, community centers, and universities picked one day during the first two weeks of November to hold the event. Collectively, participating libraries served 3,548 patrons on Library Snapshot Day. View some of the snapshots [here](#) (2:38)....

Association of Jewish Libraries Blog, Nov. 30; YouTube, Nov. 30



[Raging Grannies sell cookies for Seattle Public Library](#)

A gaggle of [Raging Grannies](#) appeared in front of the Greenwood branch of the Seattle Public Library December 2, singing and dancing to show their support for world peace and keeping the library open. In less than two hours they sold nearly \$80 worth of cookies and will donate the proceeds to the Friends of the Library. Yes, there is a [video](#) (1:08)....

Seattle Times, Dec. 2; Foxy Art Studio, Dec. 2



[Toronto rap group immortalizes Robarts Library](#)

Lia Granger writes: “It was only a matter of

time before a trio of bored University of Toronto students put down their textbooks, ignored their midterms, sat down to write a hip-hop ode to UT's Robarts Library, and posted a low-budget music video on YouTube. Well folks, that time is now, that trio is local rap group Geak, and that YouTube video is [Robarts Mansion](#) (4:11)."...

Toronto Life: The Hype, Dec. 7; YouTube, Nov. 3



[The Undergraduate Library rap](#)

This rap video (2:28) was developed to provide a quick orientation to the University of Illinois Undergraduate Library and the research process. It was the mastermind of UIUC Instruction Librarian Susan Avery for use in the library's instruction classes. With music by MC Footnote....

YouTube, Dec. 1



[Ranganathan and Dewey in holiday hip-hop](#)

Baruch University Information Services Librarian Steven Francoeur utilized OfficeMax's [ElfYourself](#) website (powered by JibJab) to create a short video (0:58) showing famed Indian librarian S. R. Ranganathan (who developed the *Five Laws of Library Science* in 1931) and pioneer library science educator Melvil Dewey as elves busting a move....

Beating the Bounds, Dec. 6



[Sherilyn the Librarian](#)

Sherilyn Fenn (right) played an enigmatic librarian, [Maudette Hornsby](#) (3:11), in the December 1 airing of "Dual Spires," an episode of the fun-loving USA Network series *Psych*. The episode was a tribute to David Lynch's classic 1990–1991 TV series *Twin Peaks*, in which Fenn starred as the cherry stem-twisting temptress Audrey Horne. A close look at the Dual Spires Public Library shelves reveals a mix of Dewey and LC class numbers as well as extremely poor volume arrangement....

TV Squad, Nov. 29; AOL Video, Dec. 1



[Go back to the Top](#)

american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | December 15, 2010

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Seeing Articles

Everywhere You Look?



american libraries
BUYERS GUIDE

American Libraries Online

[Federal ban of WikiLeaks website embroils librarians](#)

Reaction continues to pour in from all over the world since the Library of Congress confirmed December 3 that it was blocking access from all LC computers to the WikiLeaks website in order to prevent unauthorized downloading of classified records, as ordered by the Office of Management and Budget. LC's action raised red flags in libraries all over the country as librarians struggled with the implications of the nation's library barring staff and visitors' access to the classified diplomatic cables WikiLeaks released in November. The topic has been added to the ALA Council's [Midwinter agenda](#). *PC Magazine* has a [timeline](#) of the WikiLeaks events, and columnist John C. Dvorak offers [additional insight](#). If you haven't been keeping up, Gawker offers this excellent [field guide](#)...

American Libraries news, Dec. 10; *AL: Inside Scoop*, Dec. 8; *PC Magazine*, Dec. 7, 10; Gawker, Dec. 14



[Bipartisanship in the news](#)

Beverly Goldberg writes: "There was a bit of a holiday-season miracle over the past week: the [bipartisan passage](#) of the Museum and Library Services Act in both the House and Senate. This demonstrates that the library is the one institution that exists to serve *everyone*. Simple as that. But keep your eyes open for savvy allies to join the fray as the importance of libraries becomes personal for them. For example, the November launch of the [School Library Exchange](#), a free online clearinghouse where individuals can post their school libraries' collection-development wish lists for potential donors to see—and act upon, hopefully."...

AL: Inside Scoop, Dec. 15; ALA Washington Office, Dec. 14



[Internet Librarian: Norelax, a search metaphor for modern life](#)

Joseph Janes writes: "At the Internet Librarian conference, I was particularly attracted to an entire day of sessions on search. Several

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connoisseurs were on the menu, so with appropriate thanks to Chris Sherman, Mary Ellen Bates, and Gary Price, from whom I lifted these tidbits, I thought I'd share some of what I found most appealing and striking from the day. First of all, Bing. Not yet a verb, but an increasingly interesting and viable search tool."...

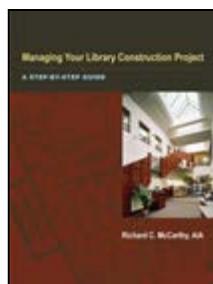
American Libraries column, Jan./Feb.



[Budgeting for a library building](#)

Q. *Our town's library is bursting its seams, so we're beginning the exploration for a new one. Is there any place we can look for the cost factors we need to consider?* **A.** Basic information on planning library buildings may be found on the ALA Library Fact Sheet 11, [Building Libraries and Library Additions: A Selected Annotated Bibliography](#). Of the books referenced on the fact sheet, the one closest to what you need is architect Richard C. McCarthy's [Managing Your Library Construction Project: A Step-by-Step Guide](#) (ALA, 2007)....

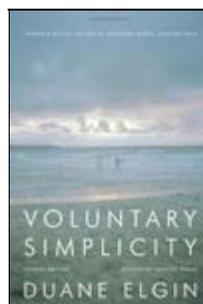
AL: Ask the ALA Librarian, Dec. 15



[La Grange offers green holiday season alternative](#)

Laura Bruzas writes: "According to [RecycleWorks](#), Americans produce 25% more garbage from Thanksgiving to New Year's than at any other time of the year. Thankfully, the La Grange (Ill.) Public Library has offered ecoconscious patrons a healthier alternative in the form of a Voluntary Simplicity support group which has met throughout 2010 to share stories, suggestions, struggles, and goals for living a simpler, less wasteful, more ecofriendly life."...

AL: Green Your Library, Dec. 10



ALA News

[Locke Morrisey, 1957–2010](#)

Locke J. Morrisey, head of collections, reference, and research at the University of San Francisco's [Gleeson Library](#), died of cancer in December. He served on the ALA Council as ACRL representative from 2007 to 2010 and was active in the California chapter, California Academic and Research Libraries. Prior to coming to USF, he was engineering librarian at the University of California, Irvine, in 1990–1997....

ACRL Insider, Dec. 15; Gleeson Gleanings, Dec. 14

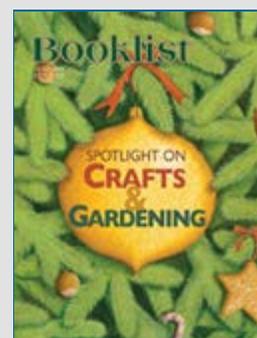


[Make your mark on ALA](#)

Polls open March 16 for the 2011 ALA election, in which members will choose their new president-elect, Council members, and divisional and round table officers. In order to be eligible to vote, you



ALA Midwinter Meeting
in San Diego, California,
January 7–11, 2011. See
the *American Libraries*
[Midwinter preview](#).



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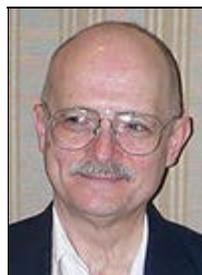
must have your membership dues paid by January 31. The election will be held exclusively online, except for members with disabilities or without internet access. Polls will close April 22....

Public Information Office, Dec. 14

[Midwinter Meeting preview](#)

Business meetings, celebrity authors—including Ted Danson, Kathy Reichs, Andre Dubus III, Neil Gaiman, and Vernor Vinge (right)—visits with vendors, and an abundance of discussion opportunities will highlight the ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Diego, January 7–11, at the San Diego Convention Center and area hotels. Here is a summary of all the major events, including the Youth Media Awards, hot topics, exhibit hall happenings, and career counseling....

American Libraries feature



[Midwinter Meeting scheduler](#)

ALA has integrated its Conference Scheduler (formerly known as the “Event Planner”) into ALA Connect so that it can match sessions against your ALA groups and profile interests to help you easily find the most relevant programs and meetings you should attend. A [Quick Start Guide](#) is available as well as an [FAQ](#). New features include up-to-date, real-time data; recommendations for sessions of interest to you; and the ability to add multiple sessions in the same time slot and prioritize them....

ALA Connect, Dec. 14



[A call to action at the Sunrise Celebration](#)

Jenifer Grady (right), director of the ALA–Allied Professional Association, will be the call-to-action speaker at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sunrise Celebration held during the Midwinter Meeting in San Diego. The celebration will be held 6:30–7:30 a.m., January 10, in the San Diego Convention Center. Grady joins keynote speaker Michael K. Honey from the University of Washington....

Office for Literacy and Outreach, Dec. 13



[Attend a DiversiTEA at Midwinter](#)

The ALA Council Committee on Diversity, the Diversity Research Grants Advisory Committee, and the Office for Diversity will host a DiversiTEA on January 9 during the 2011 ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Diego. The event launches the 2011 Diversity Research Grants call for applications and provides a forum for attendees to discuss current work in diversity research....

Office for Diversity, Dec. 14

[ALA expresses net neutrality concerns to FCC](#)

ALA, the Association of Research Libraries, and Educause have sent a



[Internet Librarian](#)

[Perpetual Beta](#)

[Inside Scoop](#)

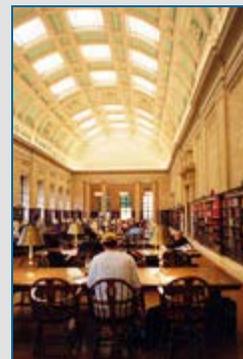
[Green Your Library](#)

[Ask the ALA Librarian](#)

[Librarian’s Library](#)

[AL Focus](#)

Great Libraries of the World



[Widener Library](#), Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. The centerpiece of the largest university library system in the world, Widener commemorates [Harry Elkins Widener](#), a 1907 Harvard graduate who was a book collector and victim of the *Titanic* disaster in 1912. The Beaux-Arts facility was designed by Horace Trumbauer and houses some 50 miles of bookshelves.

letter ([PDF file](#)) to the Federal Communications Commission stressing the importance of ensuring that the upcoming network neutrality order contains sufficient protections for library and higher education services. The groups ask the FCC to address specific concerns prior to the scheduled vote on the net neutrality order set for December 21....
District Dispatch, Dec. 14

[Libraries: An endangered species](#)

What do the giant panda, the mountain gorilla, the black rhinoceros, and your library have in common? They all face extinction if their existence continues to be taken for granted. To raise awareness of this, ALA Graphics debuts the



[Endangered Libraries T-shirt](#), adapted from New Jersey librarian Andy Woodworth's inspiring concept. (Along with the T-shirt, ALA Graphics has issued [Love My Library Buttons](#)). To try for a free T-shirt, enter [Andy's Giveaway Contest](#) by December 20....

ALA Graphics, Dec. 10; Agnostic, Maybe, Nov. 30

[Workshop on e-books and e-readers](#)

ALA TechSource announces the latest in its series of Online Workshops: "Integrating E-Books and E-Readers into Your Library," with Sue Polanka. In two 90-minute sessions on January 25 and February 1, Polanka will provide practical guidance on how to begin purchasing e-books for your library to lend electronically and how to purchase e-reader devices for patron use. Register at the [ALA Store](#)....



ALA TechSource, Dec. 14

[Panelists needed for program on second jobs](#)

By choice or by necessity, some library staff members work additional jobs to supplement their incomes. The ALA-Allied Professional Association is proposing an Annual Conference program tentatively titled "The Side Gig: How to Supplement Your Income in Tough Economic Times." Anyone with expertise who can appear as a panelist can contact [Jenifer Grady](#)....

ALA-Allied Professional Association, Dec. 14

[How much is enough?](#)

Amy Fry writes: "I've been hearing more and more recently about people dropping out of service and professional development opportunities because they cannot secure funding from their institutions to attend. I find conferences energizing. At them I get great ideas, stay on top of what's going on in the field, and always meet interesting people. I learn lots, sleep little, and talk talk talk. But what are our institutions' obligations to pay for this kind of professional development? What's the payoff to them when we attend?"...

ACRLog, Dec. 13

[Free FTRF memberships to new LIS grads](#)

The Freedom to Read Foundation is offering free one-year memberships to students graduating from ALA-accredited programs and from school library media programs recognized by the American Association of School Librarians. Students can, within three months of their graduation, download a membership form ([PDF file](#)) and mail, fax, or email it to the Freedom to Read Foundation....

ALA Student Membership Blog, Dec. 15



[Woburn Public Library](#)

Woburn, Massachusetts. The library was built in 1876-1879 following the death of Charles Bowers Winn, who bequeathed \$140,000 to the town. The first of architect Henry Hobson Richardson's series of library designs, the building's front façade of rough-dressed stone conceals a long, single-story stack area with high, column-separated windows forming a strip below its peaked roof; a projecting, three-story set of reading rooms with entryway and Gothic Revival tower; and a picture gallery and octagonal museum.

This AL Direct feature

showcases 250 libraries around the world that are notable for their exquisite architecture, historic collections, and innovative services. If you find yourself on vacation near one of them, be sure to stop by for a visit. The entire list will be available in [The Whole Library Handbook 5](#), edited by George M. Eberhart, which is scheduled for publication in 2011 by ALA Editions.

[Health information and advocacy @ your library](#)

In response to the demand for accurate and reliable health information, Virginia Commonwealth University's Massey Cancer Center created [Health Information and Advocacy @ your library](#), using the Campaign for America's Libraries' brand. It is an information literacy program that encourages Virginians to use the resources at the library and trained librarians to help them access reliable health information....
Campaign for America's Libraries, Dec. 14



[Call for an ALA representative to UNESCO](#)

The ALA representative to the U.S. National Commission of UNESCO will serve a two-year term (eligible for one term reappointment). The service term will be from February 1, 2011 to January 30, 2013. The commission is a federal advisory committee to the Department of State that supports worldwide humanitarian development and values by coordinating efforts and delivering expert advice on education, science, communications, and culture. Send a letter of interest and résumé to [Michael Dowling](#) by January 9....
International Relations Office, Dec. 15

[Privacy and freedom of information](#)

The latest issue of *Library Technology Reports* from ALA TechSource examines privacy and freedom of information in 21st-century libraries. This special issue was produced in collaboration with the Office for Intellectual Freedom and includes contributions from Jason Griffey, Sarah Houghton-Jan, and Eli Neiburger. Read the introduction by Angela Maycock for free [here](#)....
TechSource, Dec. 13



[A game plan for winning library grants](#)

ALA Editions has published [Winning Library Grants: A Game Plan](#) by Herbert B. Landau. Tightening budgets and ever-shrinking sources for funding have made winning grants more important than ever before. For both newbies taking on the process for the first time and experienced administrators looking to shore up finances, this book will help readers find the dollars every library needs....
ALA Editions, Dec. 9



[ALA Editions on Google eBookstore](#)

After several years of planning, Google has launched its eBookstore and hundreds of ALA Editions titles are [now available](#), from recent bestsellers such as [No Shelf Required: E-Books in Libraries](#) to 1968's [ALA Rules for Filing Catalog Cards](#). Unlike many other e-book platforms, Google lets you use nearly any device you own to read any book, anywhere. You can read e-



[Discover Special Needs Services At the Library](#)



[Family Travel Destinations: Celebrity Museums](#)

[Guitar Legend Les Paul Honored on PBS Special with Jeff Beck](#)

[Rafael Lopez: Libraries are Important to Our Children \(video\)](#)

[The Green Workplace: Tips from Wanda Urbanska to Make Your Office a Greener Place](#)

[Donna Seaman Interviews Author Vikram Chandra](#)

[The Kennedys: Portrait of a Family](#)

[Online Exhibit Highlights Horror on the Air](#)

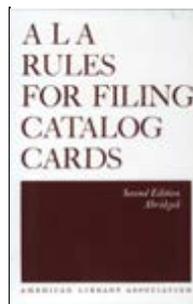
[Becoming American: The Library Can Be an Important Step Toward Citizenship](#)

[National Postal Museum Pays Tribute to Negro Baseball Stars](#)

[Classic Film for Movie Night: Bad Day at Black Rock](#)

books purchased from Google on the web, Android phones, iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, and several supported e-readers....

ALA Editions, Dec. 14

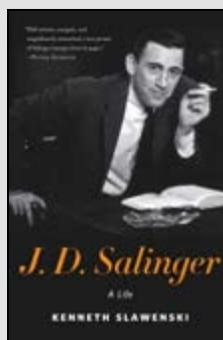


Booklist ONLINE

Featured review: Literature

Slawenski, Kenneth. *J. D. Salinger: A Life*. 464p. Jan. 2011. Random, hardcover (978-1-4000-6951-4).

Slawenski, creator of DeadCaulfields.com, has been working on this biography of the famously reclusive J. D. Salinger for eight years. He is more fan than scholar, but his research is remarkable, given the paucity of material on the author available to the public. Still, Slawenski has read everything that can be read and has constructed a surprisingly coherent version of a life that is likely to remain clouded with uncertainty for decades to come. What emerges from Slawenski's reading is two different lives divided by one cataclysmic event: World War II. Slawenski's life of Salinger makes at least speculative sense of a seemingly unknowable story, one that has beguiled readers for more than 50 years....



Evolve or die

Michael Cart writes: "'Evolve or die,' declares cartoonist Eric Shanower of his recent decision to produce a digital version of *Age of Bronze*, his Eisner Award-winning retelling of the Trojan War. 'I've had a digital version in mind for at least the last five years,' he recently told me, 'but I haven't had time to produce it myself. Companies that present digital editions have approached me, but none has ever presented me with a proposal I thought was ideal.' Until *Throwaway Horse* came a-knocking, that is."...



2010 Top of the List selections

Booklist has announced its Top of the List winners for 2010. The eight winning titles were chosen from the annual Editors' Choice selections as the best books and media of 2010.



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Urban and Public Affairs Librarian,

Portland State University, Portland, Oregon. Provides reference and information services for the university's students and faculty as well as members of the general public, participates in a dynamic instructional program, consults and collaborates with scholars in specific academic units, including classroom and online instruction, and possibly for-credit courses, and selects information resources to support the instructional and research needs of a diverse institution....



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The winners are: Adult Fiction, *A Visit from the Goon Squad*, by Jennifer Egan (Knopf); Adult Nonfiction, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot (Crown); Youth Fiction, *The Adventures of Nanny Piggins*, by R. A. Spratt (Little, Brown); Youth Nonfiction, *They Called Themselves the K.K.K.: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group*, by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Houghton); Youth Picture Book, *Nini Lost and Found*, by Anita Lobel (Knopf); Video, *Appalachia: A History of Mountains and People* (Agee); Audio, *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*, by Stieg Larsson and read by Simon Vance (Books on Tape); and Reference Source, Oxford Dictionaries Online (Oxford). The Top of the List picks are featured in the special combined January 1 and 15 issue of *Booklist*...

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Digital Library of the Week



The University of Texas Libraries established the [Human Rights Documentation Initiative](#) in 2008, thanks in large part to funding from the Bridgeway Foundation in Houston. Its initial charge was to digitally preserve the records of human rights abuses in the Rwandan Genocide of 1994. The project to collect, preserve, and make accessible the Rwandan records has continued with itinerant staff constantly moving between Austin and Kigali, the site of the [Kigali Memorial Centre](#) where the fragile and sometimes anachronistic materials were being held. On December 10, the project reached a milestone with the inauguration of the [Genocide Archive Rwanda](#), a new and comprehensive repository for information related to the genocide. The physical archive

San Diego Update

Movies filmed in San Diego

With year-round summers and an intoxicating ocean breeze, it's no wonder a vast array of movies and TV shows have been and continue to be filmed in San Diego. From 1898 to now, hundreds of TV shows and movies have taken place in America's Finest City (its official nickname). For action, drama, romance, and thrillers, San Diego is one hot movie set for the film industry....

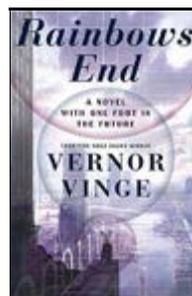
San Diego Wiki



San Diego in 2025?

Vernor Vinge's novel *Rainbows End* (Tor, 2006) is set in San Diego 15 years in the future. A recovering Alzheimer's patient and Chinese-American poet, Robert Gu, is involved in a [quixotic scheme](#) by elderly former University of California–San Diego faculty members to protest the destruction of the university library, now rendered superfluous by ubiquitous online databases. But he gets caught in an evil plot for technological world domination....

Wikipedia; Booklist Online; Amazon.com



Division News

Preservation Week comes to Midwinter

[Preservation Week](#), April 24–30, the national effort to increase public awareness about the importance of preserving our personal cultural heritage, brings two programs to the Midwinter Meeting in San Diego specifically for library staff. The programs include a panel led by Preservation Week Chair Jeanne Drewes and a discussion by Jackie Dooley of OCLC Research....

ALCTS, Dec. 13



[ALCTS events at Midwinter](#)

ALCTS will present a wealth of events on important topics at the Midwinter Meeting in San Diego. Topics include how to create a webinar, RDA, outsourcing technical services, collection development, and web technology....

ALCTS, Dec. 14

[ACRL 2011 video contest](#)

ACRL is looking for videos about why people should come to [ACRL 2011](#) in Philadelphia, March 30–April 2. After all, no one can convince people like their colleagues. It's easy to enter; send us a video up to 3 minutes long using any format. We're not looking for professional production, just you being clever and convincing. Be inspired by the Xtranormal ACRL 2011 [promotional video](#) (2:03). The deadline for [submissions](#) is January 21....

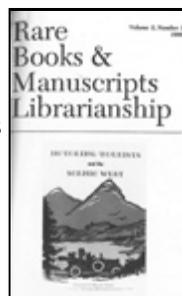
ACRL Insider, Dec. 14; YouTube, Dec. 14



[ACRL receives grant to digitize RBML](#)

ACRL has received a grant from the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation to provide digitized archives of *Rare Books and Manuscripts Librarianship*. The grant provides \$3,000 in funding to assist in making volumes 1–12 of *RBML*, the predecessor of *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage*, discoverable and available online through the HighWire Press platform, completing the publication's online archive....

ACRL, Dec. 14



[PLA webinar on financial literacy](#)

On January 19, PLA will host a live, hour-long webinar titled "Right on the Money: Financial Literacy @ your library," as part of the division's "Public Libraries at Work" monthly webinar series. It will be led by Fernando Cordova, Holly Fulghum-Nutters, and Pat Jarvis. [Register](#) by January 17....

PLA, Dec. 14

[AASL issues position statement on ESEA](#)

AASL has issued a [position statement](#) on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The statement recommends that the ESEA reauthorization include school librarians in the four key education assurances....

AASL, Dec. 14

[Sign up for genealogy workshop by December 29](#)

Registration will close December 29 for "Genealogy Happens! At the Genealogy Reference Desk," a 2011 Midwinter Institute offered by the RUSA History Section. The event will be held January 7 at the Valencia Park / Malcolm X Branch of the San Diego Library....

RUSA, Dec. 14

[Price lowered for ASCLA consulting workshop](#)

Prices have been significantly reduced for the upcoming Midwinter Institute "Assembling a Consulting Toolkit: What You Need to Know to Become a Successful Library Consultant," hosted by ASCLA in San Diego January 7. The lowered rates will be available until registration closes on December 29....

ASCLA, Dec. 14

housed on-site at the Kigali Genocide Memorial facility in Kigali will contain the original audiovisual, documentary, and photographic materials in a secure, controlled environment. The digital archive will eventually house copies of all audiovisual recordings, and scans of all known documents and photographs will be accessible to researchers through a cross-referenced system that allows keyword searches, first on-site and ultimately online. HRDI's mission has also expanded in scope, establishing projects with the [Free Burma Rangers](#) and the [Texas After Violence Project](#), and it is currently negotiating new plans in Latin America.

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

Public Perception
How the World Sees Us

"The best thing about my library is the branch I have in my house. The library branch in my home is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and the librarian never has to ask me to be quiet. It's not just me that has one. The San Diego County Library

Round Table News

[Résumé reviewers and greeters needed](#)

The New Members Round Table Résumé Review Service Committee is looking for volunteers to greet participants and review résumés at the Résumé Review Service Booth for the ALA 2011 Midwinter Meeting in San Diego. To volunteer, fill out the [volunteer form](#)....

NMRT Notes, Dec. 14

Awards

[Nominations for 2011 Madison Awards](#)

The ALA Washington Office is calling for nominations for two awards to honor individuals or groups who have championed, protected, and promoted public access to government information and the public's right to know. The James Madison Award celebrates an individual or group who has brought awareness to these issues at the national level. The Eileen Cooke State and Local Madison Award honors an extraordinary leader who has built local grassroots awareness. [Submit nominations](#) by January 26....

Office of Government Relations, Dec. 9

[ALA President's Award for Advocacy](#)

[Applications](#) are due by March 15 for the ALA President's Award for Advocacy, sponsored by ALTAFF. The award honors statewide advocacy for libraries with a \$1,000 grant for the development of a program or programs for Friends and trustees at the state library association conference....

ALTAFF, Dec. 14

[New websites for kids](#)

ALSC has added 19 more recommended websites to [Great Web Sites for Kids](#), its online resource containing hundreds of links to outstanding websites for children. Members of the ALSC Great Web Sites for Kids Committee review and evaluate potential sites for inclusion and vote on the sites to be included. The site features topical links to websites of interest to children 14 years of age and younger....

ALSC, Dec. 13



[Beyond the Call of Duty Award](#)

South Pasadena (Calif.) Public Library Director Steve Fjeldsted has received a "Beyond the Call of Duty Award by Mayor Mike Ten for creating compelling programming at the library. The award was created this year as a special honor for Fjeldsted, who also gave credit to other staff and supporters. "Libraries can't afford to wait for people to think of us. We need to do things to make ourselves prominent in people's minds," he said. Fjeldsted will receive the award at a Rose Parade float fundraiser December 29....

South Pasadena (Calif.) Patch, Dec. 10



[Robert Doyle, Illinois Library Luminary](#)

Robert P. Doyle, executive director of the Illinois Library Association, has been named an Illinois Library

opened a branch in every home with an internet connection when they went online back in 1997. Since then the library has provided a level of service that previously a librarian could only imagine."

—Tom Petersen, resident of Ramona, California, who won \$100 from the Library Friends of San Diego County in an [essay contest](#) on the theme "The Best Thing About My Library Is....," *Ramona (Calif.) Sentinel*, Dec. 10.

@ [More quotes...](#)



TweetWatch

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

Calendar

Jan. 24–26:

[Digital Book World](#),

Conference and Exposition, Sheraton Hotel and Towers, New York City.

Feb. 1:

[Society for Scholarly Publishing](#), 7th

Annual Librarian Focus Group, American Geophysical Union, Washington, D.C.

Feb. 6–7:

Luminary. Luminaries are individuals who have made a significant contribution to Illinois libraries. Doyle, the author of the ALA *Banned Books Week Resource Guides*, has been executive director of the Illinois Library Association since 1996 and formerly worked for the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom. He joins six other ILA luminaries inducted in 2010....

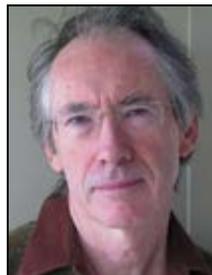
Illinois Library Association, Dec. 14



[2010 Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award](#)

English novelist Ian McEwan is the winner of the 2010 Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award, sponsored by the Tulsa (Okla.) Library Trust. McEwan has written numerous novels, including *Amsterdam*, *Enduring Love*, and *Atonement*. McEwan was presented with the award December 3 at a sold-out black-tie dinner at the library. The award consists of a \$40,000 cash prize and an engraved crystal book....

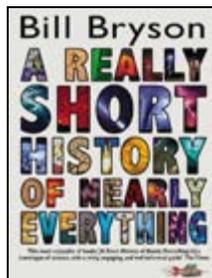
Tulsa City-County (Okla.) Library



[2010 Educational Writers' Award](#)

Bill Bryson has been awarded the 2010 Educational Writers' Award for *A Really Short History of Nearly Everything*, abridged and edited by Felicia Law (Corgi Children's Books, 2010). Sponsored by the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society and the Society of Authors, this is the only U.K. award for educational nonfiction focusing on young adults. Bryson shared the £2,000 (\$3,126 U.S.) award with Law, who worked with him to style his 2009 book for a younger audience....

Society of Authors, Dec. 7



Seen Online

[MLSA ready for Obama's signature](#)

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Museum and Library Services Act by a voice vote December 14, clearing the last legislative hurdle in its reauthorization process. The bill will now be sent to the president, who is expected to sign it into law. The passage of MLSA ensures that the Institute of Museum and Library Services can continue its federal leadership role by administering the numerous programs in the Library Services and Technology Act portion....

District Dispatch, Dec. 14

[Air Force blocks media sites to halt WikiLeaks info](#)

The U.S. Air Force is blocking its personnel from using work computers to view the websites of the *New York Times* and other major publications that have posted classified diplomatic cables. Air Force personnel who try to view the websites of the *New York Times*, Britain's *Guardian*, Spain's *El País*, France's *Le Monde*, or Germany's *Der Spiegel* get a page that says, "Access Denied. Internet Usage Is Logged and Monitored." The Air Force admits it has blocked more



[International Council for Scientific and Technical Information](#)

Winter Meeting, Microsoft, Redmond, Washington.

Feb. 8-11:

[iSchools iConference](#)

Renaissance Hotel, Seattle.

Feb. 28-

Mar. 2:

[Electronic Resources and Libraries](#)

AT&T Conference Center, University of Texas, Austin.

Mar. 21-23:

[Computers in Libraries 2011](#)

Hilton Washington, D.C.

Apr. 6-8:

[Washington Library Association](#)

Yakima. "Libraries Take Flight."

@ [More...](#)

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American Libraries Direct



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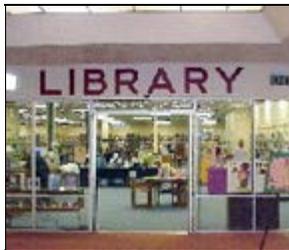
George M. Eberhart, Editor: geberhart@ala.org

than 25 websites that posted the WikiLeaks cables....

New York Times, Dec. 14

[Anchorage closes its oldest branch library](#)

The city's oldest library branch closed its doors to the public December 11, the victim of a tight 2011 city operating budget. Thirty-three years and one day after the Samson-Diamond branch (right) opened in the Dimond Center mall, it now sits shuttered. Books, movies, and music will be moved to the Z. J. Loussac Library in the coming weeks. The library served 300–400 people a day, Branch Manager Elizabeth Haskett said. The library staff will transfer to another branch, but patrons say they're not ready to see the branch go. Hear some of their comments on the KTUU-TV [newscast](#) (2:38)....



Anchorage (Alaska) Daily News, Dec. 12; KTUU-TV, Anchorage, Dec. 11

[Westchester cuts youth services](#)

A handful of staff cuts at the headquarters of Westchester (N.Y.) Library System will shut down popular literacy programs for children and teens throughout the county's 38 public libraries. On the block are the system-funded bookmobile, summer reading programs, and access to movies. The system announced in early December that four staffers were let go—a YA librarian, a youth services librarian, the director of the Office of Professional Development, and a bookmobile driver....

White Plains (N.Y.) Journal News, Dec. 13

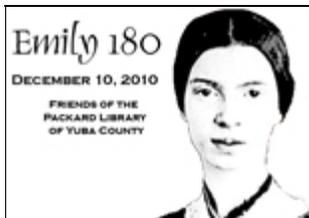
[Pittsburgh branches to remain open](#) (PDF file)

At its December meeting, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's trustees voted unanimously to keep all library branches open, officially repealing the portion of a 2009 Action Plan that would have reduced the number of branches in the system by the end of 2010. The board also approved a \$23.9-million operating budget for 2011, cautioning that next year is another critical funding year for the library. The library was able to balance its projected budget due to prudent spending and additional financial support from private donors and public funders....

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Dec. 13

[Emily Dickinson raises money for Yuba County Library](#)

While Sacramento libraries take a modern approach to drawing new patrons—speed dating events, Black Ops video game tournaments, book groups held in bars—library buffs in Marysville, California, are headed in the opposite direction: to the 19th century. For the 180th anniversary of Emily Dickinson's birthday December 10, volunteers read 180 of the poet's almost 1,800 poems. The Friends of the Packard Library of Yuba County made about \$1,000 from [readings](#) in a bar, a diner, a gas station, a hardware store, a shoe repair shop, a bank, a laundromat, and on a commuter bus carrying state workers to Sacramento....



Sacramento (Calif.) Bee, Dec. 11; *Marysville (Calif.) Appeal-Democrat*, Dec. 11

[Seattle reaches goal of matching \\$500,000 donation](#)



Beverly Goldberg,
Senior Editor:
bgoldberg@ala.org



Greg Landgraf,
Associate Editor:
glandgraf@ala.org



Leonard Kniffel,
Publisher,
American Libraries:
lkniffel@ala.org

Jennifer Henderson,
Contributing Researcher

To advertise in American Libraries Direct, contact:



Brian Searles:
bsearles@ala.org



Katie Bane:
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ISSN 1559-369X

When an anonymous donor pledged to give the Seattle Public Library Foundation \$500,000 if the pledge could be matched, other donors gave, and then some. The foundation has raised more than \$675,600 in its "Help Us Make \$1 Million for the Library" campaign, according to foundation executive director Jonna Ward. The largest donation was \$50,000 from a longtime library supporter....

Seattle Times, Dec. 9



[How academic libraries ease stress of finals](#)

College students still pull all-nighters and ingest prodigious amounts of caffeine during finals week, but at least two academic libraries in Ohio are there to help ease the pain: Oberlin College students are allowed to dance for five minutes in the campus library twice a night during finals. John Carroll University students sip hot chocolate and roast s'mores over a fire pit outside Grasselli Library the night before exams begin. Universities are always seeking new activities for finals week, officials said....

Cleveland (Ohio) Plain Dealer, Dec. 8

[Library unveils 100 years of news archives](#)

More than 100 years of *Gaylord Herald Times* archives and history became available online December 8, courtesy of the Otsego County (Mich.) Library and the local newspaper. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held during an open house at the library with staff from both the library and newspaper. In a unique collaboration between the library and the *Herald Times*, and with a \$14,000 library grant, editions of the newspaper dating back to 1903 have now been digitized and are [available online](#) for free....

Gaylord (Mich.) Herald Times, Dec. 10



[Recession gives New Jersey libraries a new mission](#)

Residents used to walk into the Piscataway (N.J.) Public Library and ask Reference Librarian Kate Baker where they could find a particular book. Now, they are more likely to ask her how to format a résumé and fill out a job application. In early December, the New Jersey State Library launched a free job search program on computers at 450 public libraries across the state. The program, which the state purchased from LearningExpress, helps guide users in building résumés and cover letters around internet-searchable keywords....

Newark (N.J.) Star-Ledger, Dec. 8

[Failing report for Oregon school libraries](#)

A new study by the Oregon State Library shows that most school libraries in the state don't make the grade. The 2010 QEM School Libraries Report ([PDF file](#)), released December 6, said only 10 school libraries in Oregon met state quality standards. The other 1,308 schools did not measure up. State Librarian Jim Scheppke said "this report is very disappointing, but not surprising." Fir Grove Elementary School in Beaverton was one of the top-rated 10, and librarian Casey Sundermann (right) credits parent fundraising, school district support, and federal dollars....



KGW-TV, Portland, Oreg., Dec. 8

[Township gives library \\$200K in rainy-day funds](#)

Members of the Wayne Township board on December 9 approved a plan by an outgoing trustee to give \$200,000 to help restore longer hours at four branches of the Indianapolis–Marion County Public Library.



David King Baird (right), who has weeks left on the job, had proposed tapping into the township's rainy-day fund to restore hours cut by city-county officials this fall to save money. He said the plan fits within its duty of poor relief because libraries on the west side provide computers and other resources for job seekers and safe places for children....

WRTV-TV, Indianapolis, Dec. 8–9

[Former employee files lawsuit against Oklahoma City](#)

A former associate librarian has filed a discrimination lawsuit against the Metropolitan Library System in Oklahoma City. Joanie Porter, who worked primarily with children's programming at the Ralph Ellison branch, says she was discriminated against and fired because of her race, gender, age, and a physical disability. Porter worked for the library system from June 2007 to March 2010. She contends that she was fired for requesting "reasonable" work accommodations for a permanent physical disability and for complaining about racial discrimination....

Oklahoma City *Oklahoman*, Dec. 10

[Gay books damaged at Harvard library](#)

Approximately 36 books dealing with LGBT issues were [discovered](#) apparently covered in urine in Harvard College's Lamont undergraduate library on November 24, according to a report filed December 10 by the library security staff. The library initially responded to the incident as a health hazard and waited to assess the value of the books before reporting it. The university determined early on December 13 that the incident appeared to involve a library staffer who [accidentally spilled](#) a bottle, containing what seemed to be urine, that was found on the shelf. The LGBT community has expressed concern with the way the library handled the matter....

Harvard Crimson, Dec. 12–13, 15

[Librarian closes chapter on a sad note](#)

When Regina Sutton was unexpectedly appointed State Librarian of New South Wales, Australia, in 2006, eyebrows were raised. The petite, fashionable American had an impressive career record except for one glaring absence. She had never worked in a library. But a few months before her initial five-year contract expires, Sutton is returning to the United States to help her family cope with a personal tragedy....

Sydney (N.S.W.) Morning Herald, Dec. 14

[Go back to the Top](#)

Tech Talk

[Top iPhone and iPad apps of the year](#)

Jennifer Van Grove writes: "With more than 300,000

applications for iOS devices, Apple's iTunes App Store is a marketplace of enormous proportion. Apple has released its annual iTunes Rewind feature and named its apps of the year, which makes this the perfect time to reflect on the apps that have managed to best the competition and rise to the top of the charts this year."...



Mashable: Mobile, Dec. 10

[The most popular free Windows downloads of 2010](#)

Jason Fitzpatrick writes: "We've featured quite a few Windows downloads throughout 2010. Here's a look back at the most popular free applications to help you tweak, customize, and enhance your Windows experience. The following applications are selected by the amount of traffic each article gathered over the course of the year. Some of the applications are brand new, some are reincarnations of older tools, and some are updates and enhancements to existing applications."...



Lifehacker, Dec. 14

[Filter your Google search by reading level](#)

J. Nundu writes: "A new advanced search tool that Google has launched categorizes and filters results by the reading level complexity of the content. Try it out by going to advanced search and selecting an option from the 'reading level' dropdown. Selecting the 'annotation' option will annotate each result with what Google thinks the reading level is, and puts a distribution graph at the top of the results page that allows you to pivot between the levels."...

Google Web Search, Dec. 9

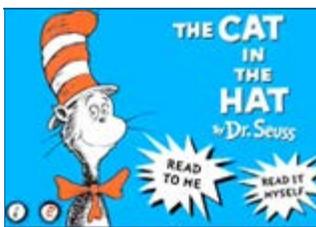
[Quick tips for speeding up Firefox](#)

Rick Broida writes: "Work more efficiently in Firefox by clearing the downloads list, removing old Java Consoles, and switching to newly opened tabs. Downloads list: Recently I noticed that whenever I downloaded a file in Firefox, the program turned into molasses—especially just after the download finished. The browser would literally freeze up for seconds at a time for about a minute after. On a whim, I opened up the Downloads list (accessible by pressing Ctrl-J)."...

PC World, Dec. 14

[Does the Cat in the Hat like apps?](#)

Jolie O'Dell writes: "Whether you have a little one to entertain or whether the little one within you is still going strong, you'll be pleased to know that two Dr. Seuss apps for the Android (*The Cat in the Hat* and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*) have arrived from Orchard House Media. If you choose to have the book read to you, the apps highlight individual words as a professional narrator reads the story. You can also choose to read the book yourself or auto-play. When you touch the image on your screen, the words zoom up." Watch the [demo video](#) (1:06)....



Mashable: Mobile, Dec. 12; YouTube, Feb. 4

[The Achilles' heel of Chrome OS beta](#)

Galen Gruman writes: "Google announced Chrome OS in July 2009, formally introduced it 13 months



ago, and then went silent. Last week, [it reintroduced Chrome OS](#) and this time gave an ETA for the real thing: mid-2011. It also distributed prototype Cr-48 laptops to people like me to test what Google CEO Eric Schmidt said would be an alternative to both Windows and Mac OS X. At this stage, the web apps available for browsers such as Chrome OS are rudimentary at best. And they don't play well with each other." Watch the [video](#) (3:40) of *Technology Review* IT Editor Erica Naone taking a test-drive....

InfoWorld, Dec. 7, 13; *Technology Review*, Dec. 9

[How to buy a gaming PC](#)

Joel Santo Domingo writes: "When many people think of gaming, they automatically think of gaming consoles. But for a truly connected and immersive gaming experience, desktop PCs reign supreme. The new 120Hz monitors have heralded a new chapter in 3D gaming, and you simply can't get all the new gaming bells and whistles unless you have a high-powered gaming PC. That said, you don't necessarily have to buy the most expensive desktop to play the most popular games."...

PC Magazine, Dec. 9

[Microsoft fixes dozens of vulnerabilities](#)

Larry Seltzer writes: "On December 14, Microsoft released [17 updates](#) that fix 40 separate vulnerabilities, several of which are being exploited in the wild. Only two of the updates fix vulnerabilities rated critical. The two critical updates include MS10-090, which fixes seven bugs in Internet Explorer. The second critical vulnerability is MS10-091, which includes three bugs in the OpenType font driver that could allow for remote code execution."...

PC Magazine, Dec. 14

[This month's 10 toughest tech questions \(so far\)](#)

Tina Sieber writes: "Since its launch in late January, MakeUseOf Answers has published over 2,000 questions. We would like to reach another milestone before the end of the year: publishing 10,000 answers from our readers. Every answer is an entry into our Best Answer of the Week contest. Among our toughest tech questions so far in December: How can I view [PowerPoint presentations](#) in Google Docs? and How do I [decode hidden information](#) in a .jpg file?"...

MakeUseOf, Dec. 14



[2010 electronics workbench gift guide](#)

Matt Mets writes: "Whether total beginner or seasoned pro, there's one thing that all electronics enthusiasts need to do their work—the right tools. Here are some of my favorites for the circuit tinkerers on your gift list, including Extech Instruments' EX330 Mini Digital Multimeters Voltage Detector, Sparkfun's Banana to IC Hook Cables, and Maker Shed's Multimeter Kit."...

Make: *Technology on Your Time*, Dec. 14

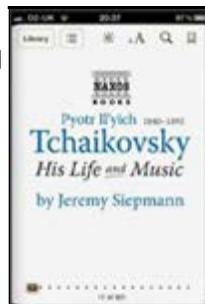


Publishing

[Tchaikovsky goes transmedia](#)

Mary Burkey writes: "Here's another example of sound integrated into electronic print: the [Naxos iBook](#), *Tchaikovsky: His Life and Music* by Jeremy Siepmann. Musical biographies are an ideal genre for combining sound clips of compositions into the appropriate section of a book. Naxos also provides the music in *Handel's Messiah: Comfort for God's People*, currently available as a [free download](#) from Christian Audio through the month of December."...

Booklist Online: Audiobooker, Dec. 10



[Kindle and Nook comparison](#)

Blogger Switch11 writes: "I have the Kindle 3 and the Nook, with software upgrade 1.5, in front of me and it's time for a Kindle/Nook comparison to wind up 2010. Keep in mind that Kindle 3 is a third-generation e-reader and Nook, even with its 1.5 upgrade, is second generation. While each has its strengths and weaknesses, the Kindle does have advantages that come with newer technology, more polished software, and better resale value. But if you prefer the Nook's strengths and don't mind reading on a LCD screen, it's well worth taking a look at Nook Color."...

Kindle Review, Dec. 11



[Amazon removes incest-related erotica titles](#)

Chris Meadows writes: "A [discussion thread](#) on Amazon's Kindle Community forum notes that Amazon has begun removing some previously published books or stories from its store, and from the Kindle archives. Readers who have previously downloaded them to their Kindles can keep them there, but cannot re-download them. The book whose removal sparked the discussion was an erotica title called *Wicked Lovely* by author Jess C. Scott." Public outcry about the bookseller's censorship continues on Twitter at [#amazonfail](#) and [#amazoncensors](#)....

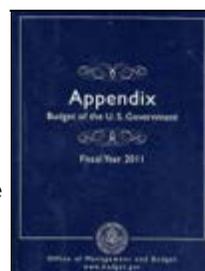
TeleRead, Dec. 12



[Google, GPO strike an e-book deal](#)

Looking for new titles to stock your mobile reading device? How about a copy of the 2011 federal budget? Or a history of the space race? Hundreds of federal publications are now available for download and purchase through the new [Google eBookstore](#), the search engine giant and Government Printing Office announced December 14. Ultimately about 1,800 government publications will be available for download and purchase. Potential e-readers can purchase government titles online at prices lower than the print versions....

Washington Post: Federal Eye, Dec. 14



[Free Tales2Go for libraries](#)

Mary Burkey writes: "Here's a great holiday gift to cash-strapped schools and other educational programs from [Tales2Go](#) (2:55),



a children's audiobook and story service/app. Educators can sign up for a free Tales2Go account up until January 15. Each subscription will remain valid through June 30, and up to five Apple mobile devices can be used on each account."...

Audiobooker, Dec. 13

[New Internet Archive BookReader](#)

The Internet Archive has released a freshly revised version of its BookReader. Among other things, it has a redesigned user interface, a navigation bar, a Read Aloud feature, automatically generated tables of contents, improved full-text search, and sharing options. You can embed any of their publicly accessible books on your blog by getting the embed code from the Share dialogue....

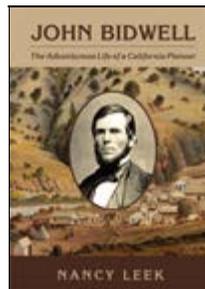


Open Library Blog, Dec. 9

[Librarian's book on California pioneer John Bidwell](#)

The legend of pioneer and soldier John Bidwell (1819–1900) comes alive for schoolchildren in a new book by Orland (Calif.) Free Library Youth Librarian Nancy Leek. When she worked at the Chico branch of the Butte County Library, people came in asking for books on Bidwell for youngsters, but there was nothing on him there—except for a scholarly work or two. When she got laid off, she decided to write *John Bidwell: The Adventurous Life of a California Pioneer*....

Orland (Calif.) Press Register, Nov. 30



[100 years of the Loeb Classical Library](#)

Linda Hedrick writes: "James Loeb (right) wanted to share his love of the classics by making the works of ancient authors available to anyone interested in them, regardless of whether or not they had knowledge of Greek or Latin. In 1911, he arranged to publish these great works in collaboration with some of the most outstanding classicists of the time. The books were published in Greek or Latin with the facing pages in English translations. They were small in size so that they could fit in a gentleman's coat pocket."...

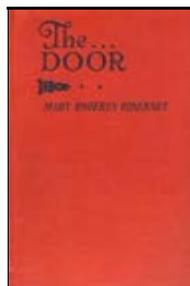
Booktryst, Dec. 9



[Why do we think the butler did it?](#)

Nate Pederson writes: "It's the biggest cliché in mystery writing. But where did the cliché originate? Were any fictional butlers ever actually revealed as murderers? Judging from the phrase's cultural resonance, you'd think the early mystery scene was seething with hatchet-wielding manservants. An investigation of the evidence, however, reveals another story entirely. The butler was framed. The concept is commonly attributed to Mary Roberts Rinehart's *The Door* (1930)."...

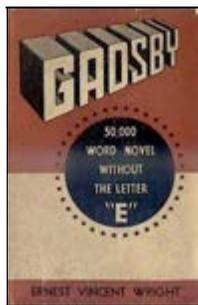
The Guardian (U.K.), Dec. 9



[10 works of literature that were really hard to write](#)

Mark Juddery writes: "Instead of judging works of literature based on their artistic merit, we've decided to rank them by degree of difficulty. These 10 authors may not be Shakespeare, but they sure had vaulting ambitions." For example, a 50,000-word novel without the letter "e," a collection of tongue-twisting nursery rhymes, and a book of 843 poems written in 24 hours....

Mental Floss, Dec. 11



Actions & Answers

[Harvard calls for a Digital Public Library of America](#)

Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet and Society announced December 13 that it will host a research and planning initiative for a Digital Public Library of America. With funding from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Berkman will convene a diverse group of stakeholders in a planning program to define the scope, architecture, costs, and administration for the proposed repository. Planning activities will be guided by a Steering Committee of library and foundation leaders, which includes Harvard's Robert Darnton, Michigan's Paul Courant, and the Internet Archive's Brewster Kahle....

Berkman Center for Internet and Society, Dec. 13

[Why cutting school librarians is a mistake](#)

Carole Ashbridge writes: "Penny wise and pound foolish. That's the best way to describe the recent move among schools to save money by cutting school librarians and/or reducing funding for school libraries. The [actions](#) of school boards and administrators across the country shortchange our students and our society as well. A school library in each and every school, staffed by a professional and certified librarian, is critical to the education of our students." But that does not seem to be the philosophy in [Minnesota](#), which has reduced the number of its school librarians by 25% in the past decade....

Scholastic: Practical Leadership, Dec. 13; *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, Dec. 11

[Trends in the PLDS 2010 Statistical Report](#)

Virgil E. Varvel Jr. writes: "The annual Public Library Data Service (PLDS) *Statistical Report* has been providing data to the library community since 1988. This article presents trends and insights across the data and across population groups. One highlight: Per \$1,000 of expenditures, libraries tended to experience slightly greater output in all measures than last year, reversing last year's trend."...

Public Libraries 49, no. 6 (Nov./Dec.)

[A thought experiment](#)

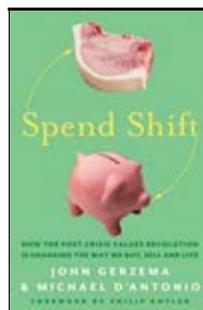
Phil Bradley writes: "Let's try a brief thought experiment. Imagine for a moment that every librarian was a member of the same professional body. What would that get us? In the first instance, that body would have a good income derived from membership fees. The organization could provide good recruitment facilities, it would be able to represent librarians in their organizations, it would be the voice that librarians scared for their jobs could hear speaking on their behalf. Now look at the other extreme. Imagine a situation where we don't have a professional body at all. Zip, zilch, zero, gone."...

Phil Bradley's Weblog, Dec. 12

[Dallas Central Library featured in *Spend Shift*](#)

Miriam Rodriguez, multicultural services coordinator at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library in Dallas, is featured in a recent book by John Gerzema and Michael D'Antonio, *Spend Shift: How the Post-Crisis Values Revolution Is Changing the Way We Buy, Sell, and Live* (Jossey-Bass). Rodriguez discusses the library's busy Job Resources Center, which has seen a surge in visitors since the recession started....

PSFK, Dec. 13



[Rethinking the library to improve information literacy](#)

Andrew Marcinek writes: "In January 2007, I was hired by Springfield Township (Pa.) School District to teach English. One of the first pieces of advice I received was, 'Seek out Joyce Valenza.' I took this advice and sought out Joyce, the STSD librarian, immediately. She was ahead of the curve and understood the necessity of information literacy. As many schools acquire and integrate more technology, the case for integrating lessons in information literacy is becoming a necessary skill all students must learn and develop."...

Edutopia, Dec. 8

[Levels of patron engagement](#)

Brian Mathews writes: "What I am really interested in is the evolution of patrons' relationships to their libraries over the course of time. In theory, as they accumulate different blocks of experience using our services, their sophistication and commitment should increase. Perhaps during their first visit they use it as a study space, then the next time they use a computer, and then next they browse the popular fiction section. I put this concept into a pyramid to create a better visual."...

The Ubiquitous Librarian, Dec. 6



[What do students really need?](#)

Meredith Farkas writes: "I'm not sure if I've become more cynical or just more observant, but lately I feel like I've been seeing things through new eyes. We make so many assumptions in this profession, often based on the idea that we know what students need and want. I have to wonder if moving to [WorldCat Local](#) will make it easier or more difficult for students to find what they're looking for. Another thing I'm having a crisis of faith about is screencasting. And don't get me started on e-books or patron-driven acquisitions!"...

Information Wants to Be Free, Dec. 13

[OCLC motion to dismiss SkyRiver lawsuit](#)

Karen Coyle writes: "OCLC has filed a motion to dismiss ([PDF file](#)) in the antitrust lawsuit brought by SkyRiver Technology Solutions. I will comment on some interesting text and subtext of the motion. Since this will get long, here is a quick summary: The motion states that SkyRiver has so far offered little proof of harm due to OCLC's business practices. The motion may play on the court's ignorance of the library world and of OCLC's definitions. The motion undermines some previous OCLC claims as to the force of the Record Use policy." Be sure to read [Part 2](#)....

Coyle's InFormation, Dec. 14

[QR codes in the classroom and library](#)

Gwyneth Jones writes: "QR codes are popping up everywhere: on the back of my Sephora catalog, the windows of shops, and in my library. They're already big in Japan, and now in New York and Los Angeles. A Quick Response (QR) code is a two-dimensional or 2D barcode that can be interpreted by any mobile phone with camera capabilities. Unlike traditional barcodes, which feature a series of straight lines, QR codes are laid out in a matrix and can hold much more information." Need a QR code video tutorial? Here is a [good one](#) (3:47) from Rocketboom....
The Daring Librarian, Dec. 11; YouTube, Dec. 9



[The latest Facebook privacy violation](#)

Bobbi Newman writes: "Last week Facebook started rolling out its latest and greatest profile update. Tonight I noticed something new: Instead of saying 'Bobbi Newman wrote on John Doe's wall,' it actually tells you exactly what I wrote. Even if you are not friends with John Doe. Even if his account is set to private. Although this conversation may have taken place in a quasi-public sphere there is *no* indication that I wanted this conversation broadcast."...
Librarian by Day, Dec. 13

[Fonts make a difference](#)

Dan Reed writes: "Last week, we talked about the [new design](#) of the Silver Spring branch of the Montgomery County (Md.) Public Libraries, set to open in 2014. While I wrote about the proposed building's aesthetics and changes to the layout, some of the commenters here [took issue](#) with the font of the sign at the corner, which spells out 'Silver Spring Library' vertically. For instance, sans serif fonts can make something appear fresh and modern, while serif fonts can create a historic or refined air."...
Greater Greater Washington, Dec. 3, 10



[Signs, making readable](#) (satire)

The Polite Librarian writes: "When creating signs for patrons, librarians should be mindful to avoid library jargon. You can also make a more deliberate attempt to speak your patrons' language by intentionally inserting grammatical mistakes, spelling errors, and unnecessary punctuation on your BROKE printers or out-of-order ELEVATOR'S."...
A Librarian's Guide to Etiquette, Dec. 10

[Some favorite Texas genealogical resources](#)

Greta Koehl writes: "Going through my extensive list of links for Texas genealogy in my efforts to add links to this blog was instructive. These links include websites that are about Texas research in general, and others that are specific to the main counties that I research: Dallas and the Four Corners area (Collin, Fannin, Grayson, and Hunt counties)."...
Greta's Genealogy Bog, Dec. 5



[DEMCO disaster relief featured on School Pride](#)

Following a devastating summer flood

that demolished Kingston Springs (Tenn.) Elementary School, the DEMCO Company provided services and solutions to [replace](#) what was lost as part of an overhaul orchestrated by NBC's reality TV series *School Pride*. When flood waters receded, DEMCO worked with school staff to determine their needs, ultimately laying out a new library, and replacing furniture and many materials critical to lesson plans. The rebuilding of the school was featured on the [October 29 episode](#)....
DEMCO, Dec. 14; WSMV-TV, Nashville, June 8; *School Pride*, Oct. 29



[Why I write](#)

Andy Woodworth writes: "For me, writing reminds me of the bleeding techniques of early Western medicine; it was a school of thought regarding the draining of excessive humors from the body in order to reach a better state of health. In applying this principle to my blog, it is a matter of giving voice to ideas, thoughts, opinions, and commentary that would otherwise be rattling around my brain pan, demanding to be let out or returned for use by some other higher brain function. For me, writing is life. An expression of myself that is both pure and raw. It is myself on display for all who care to gaze."...
Agnostic, Maybe, Dec. 9

[Seven things I learned about being a librarian in 2010](#)

Justin Hoenke writes: "6. Embrace the icky stuff. That line was the first thing I wrote in my article '[Have Degree. Will Travel](#)' for the October issue of *Library Journal*. I stand by it 100%. Get messy and do stuff that might make you feel weird. In the end, everything works out and you come out as a stronger person. The other good thing? When you try something new and unique, the people you're doing this stuff for appreciate what you're doing."...
Justin the Librarian, Dec. 10; *Library Journal*, Oct. 15

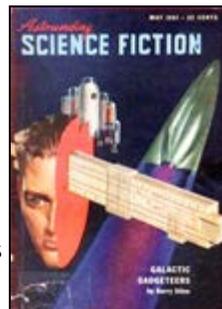
[Keith Richards killed my orchid](#)

Legendary Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards can add one more item to his list of rock-star excesses: killing a library plant. A delicate Moon Orchid, *Phalaenopsis amabilis*, at the New York Public Library's Cullman Center died a few days after its October 29 encounter with Richards, who was waiting there before his talk. Apparently the plant could not handle his smoking, opening a window, and using its clay saucer as an ashtray (which he [signed](#) impulsively)....
New York Daily News, Dec. 9; NYPL Wire, Dec. 8



[A medical library in science fiction](#)

Rachel Walden writes: "I'm reading Isaac Asimov's *Robot Dreams*, and found this description of a medical library in the short story, 'Hostess,' first published in the May 1951 issue of *Astounding Science Fiction*. In the relevant excerpt below, our protagonist, Rose, is doing a bit of surreptitious research. Certain aspects will be familiar to librarians now. Our print volumes go back 35 years, but we'd never tell your creepy husband what you were



looking up.”...

Women's Health News, Dec. 11

[Eisenhower's Farewell Address: New documents](#)

Recently discovered memos, letters, and drafts documenting the intellectual evolution and writing of the most famous farewell address in modern American

history are now open to researchers at the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum in Abilene, Kansas. The library received the [material](#) from Grant Moos, son of Malcolm Moos, a special assistant to Eisenhower and his chief speechwriter at the time of the January 17, 1961, speech. The addition of the Moos papers fills a gap in the records....

Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, Dec. 10

of civil authority over the military estab
careful to avoid ~~any~~ measures which would
military-industrial complex to ~~also~~ sharpen
expense of the sound balance which now pre
abuse of power in this area is great. Let

[New exhibit displays treasures from the JFK inauguration](#)

On December 10, the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston unveiled "Passing the Torch," a new exhibit celebrating the 50th anniversary of the swearing in of John F. Kennedy on January 20, 1961. Highlights of the exhibit are the reading copy of Kennedy's January 9 farewell address to the state of Massachusetts, never-before-published photographs by American photographer Phil Stern showing spectators lining the inaugural parade route, and the top hat and brown suede gloves worn by Kennedy to his inauguration....

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Dec. 2



[The sweetest words to a librarian's ears](#)

Nashville State Community College Dean of Learning Resources Margaret Faye Jones writes: "Today, one of our students said, 'You know, I think you guys might be the most underused and underappreciated resource on this campus.' I thanked him and asked him to spread the word about our services. It was a nice moment. But the truth is we enjoy doing this. More than once, I've said to myself I can't believe that I'm paid to help students do research when I love to do research anyway."...

JollyLibrarian, Dec. 10

[A time to reflect](#)

Stephanie Wilkes writes: "The holiday season has arrived and with that comes the end of 2010 and the dawn of a fresh start in 2011. For me, 2010 has been a year of some serious growth in the Young Adult Department of my library system and a year that has taught me so much about programming and what I should and shouldn't do. So I've decided to pen a list of New Year's Library Resolutions for 2011."...

YALSA Blog, Dec. 14

[Revising Ranganathan](#)

Joyce Valenza writes: "Well-respected Indian librarian S. R. Ranganathan (1892–1972, right) contributed his *Five Laws of Library Science* to our profession in 1931. Most of us learned about these as ideologies in library school and they live in the back of our minds. Lately, I've been wondering how and if Ranganathan's laws apply to today's school libraries. And public and



academic libraries too. So I decided to try my own revision. I welcome your feedback and ideas.”...

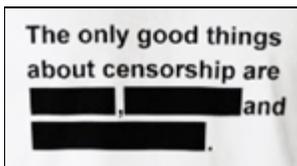
School Library Journal: NeverEndingSearch, Dec. 12

[Librarian holiday gift guide](#)

Brian Herzog writes: “Do you know what I enjoy more than telling people where the bathroom is? Shopping. In case anyone is pestering you for gift ideas, they could read

[How To Get Good Gifts for Librarians](#), or use the links here to find something for the librarian in their life—such as the Barbarian Librarian’s [Booty Shop](#), with gifts for book people with attitude.”...

Swiss Army Librarian, Dec. 9; [HowToDoThings.com](#)



[Little Rare Book Room: Merry Cthulhu!](#)

A Very Scary Solstice (and its CD and songbook sequels) merges the wonderful tradition of merry holiday caroling with the cosmic horror of the Cthulhu Mythos. The H. P. Lovecraft Historical Society offers a tentacle-full of yuletide Yog-Sothothery for the season, including this tribute (3:16) to Miskatonic University’s Special Collections Department....

YouTube, Apr. 21



[The digital story of the Nativity](#)

How social media, the web, and mobile phones tell the story of the Nativity (2:58) through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Google, Wikipedia, Google Maps, Gmail, Foursquare, and Amazon. From a digital media company in Lisbon, Portugal. Avoid Romans!...

YouTube, Dec. 13



[Kickass librarian](#)

Using her mad librarian skills (and a Jedi mind trick), a kickass small-town librarian defends all that is just, well-organized, and true. This video (11:11) features [The Escapists](#), a comedy troupe from Portland, Maine. Shot and edited by Robert Fiske, written by Jason Wilkins, directed by R. J. McComish, and starring Tara McDonough as the Kickass Librarian....

YouTube, Nov. 26



[Library Girl: An original song](#)

Singer/songwriter Reina Del Cid (right) sings about a bookish girl (3:48) who

works as a library shelver at night and wonders about a guy she likes who is more into AC/DC than Puccini. See Reina's [YouTube channel](#) for more of her compositions....

YouTube, July 10



[Go back to the Top](#)

american. libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | December 22, 2010

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Seeing Articles

Everywhere You Look?



american
libraries
BUYERS GUIDE

American Libraries Online

[12 ways libraries are good for the country](#)

Leonard Kniffel writes: "*American Libraries* magazine offers this gift of 12 ideals toward which librarians strive as they provide comprehensive access to the record of human existence. This list was originally published as a cover story in *American Libraries* in December 1995 and has been adapted and updated."...

American Libraries feature

[When there is no frigate but a book](#)

Sara Zettervall writes: "The ALA Code of Ethics specifies that libraries are responsible for delivering the highest level of service to all library users. In the spirit of that code, Outreach Services staff at Hennepin County (Minn.) Library eagerly deploy beyond its walls to meet the needs of customers who can't make it to the library on their own. Outreach librarians find and serve a diverse clientele, from a young man awaiting trial at the Juvenile Detention Center to an elderly woman in assisted living."...

American Libraries feature



[AASL road trip](#)

AASL President Nancy Everhart (right) is a third of the way through her "Vision Tour" of outstanding school libraries throughout the United States. Everhart says the tour is garnering attention that has already produced major changes for the good. The Vision Tour is aligned with [Learning4Life](#), an AASL initiative. At each Vision Tour stop, Everhart says, the school librarians plan some sort of event to celebrate their selection....

AL: Inside Scoop, Dec. 20



[DEMCO acquires Highsmith](#)

DEMCO President Mark Grasee announced December 20 that his firm had acquired the assets of Highsmith from W. W. Grainger Inc. for an undisclosed amount. Highsmith will become a division of DEMCO, but Grasee told



SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

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American Libraries that the two iconic library vendors would maintain their present toll-free phone numbers and websites. The businesses will operate from DEMCO's headquarters in Madison and Deforest, Wisconsin; DEMCO will add up to 75 employees to its current workforce of 245, most of whom are now Highsmith staff members....

American Libraries news, Dec. 21

[Next Steps: Forward, compared to what?](#)

Brian Mathews writes: "As a forward-looking library faces the future, one of the most vital steps it can take is to determine where it stands right now. You might have a destination in mind, but without knowing your current location, the journey ahead will be difficult. Measuring patron perceptions is tricky, and no one tool will tell you everything that you need to know. An approach that I have found valuable is to attempt to decode the *personality* of the library."...

American Libraries column, Jan./Feb.

[Dispatches from the Field: Web-scale discovery](#)

Jason Vaughan writes: "Connecting users with the information they seek is one of the central pillars of our profession. Web-scale discovery services for libraries are those services capable of searching quickly and seamlessly across a vast range of local and remote preharvested and indexed content, providing relevancy-ranked results in an intuitive interface expected by today's information seekers."...

American Libraries column, Jan./Feb.

[Recommended websites for librarians](#)

Q. I know that ALA has the [Great Web Sites for Kids](#), but is there a list of websites that ALA points to for librarians to use? **A.** There is a section of the [ALA Recommended Websites](#) page by the ALA Library called [For Librarians, Trustees, and Educators](#). Here are some other resources....

AL: Ask the ALA Librarian, Dec. 22

[What's your New Year's resolution?](#)



Laura Bruzas writes: "One of my professional resolutions for 2011 is to become more techno-savvy. Though I use technology every day, I often feel as if I'm falling behind. So many new things to discover, so little time. One of the best resources that I plan on tapping into more is [TechSoup](#). Spend a little time checking out all they have to offer for free or at deep discounted prices, and sign up to receive their e-newsletter, [By the Cup](#)."...

AL: Green Your Library, Dec. 17

No AL Direct next week

AL Direct is taking a week off for the holidays. Look for a new edition on Wednesday, January 5. Have a Happy New Year!

ALA News

[The FCC net neutrality order](#)

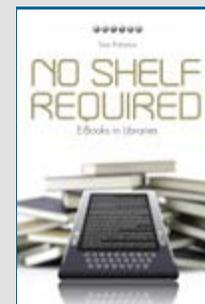
ALA, the Association of Research Libraries, and Educause say the Federal Communications Commission's [passage](#) of its net neutrality order by a 3–2 vote December 21 is a first step toward restoring an open internet, but does not go far enough to ensure that community anchor institutions' content and services can be equally accessed by



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



Start reading the **[Cognotes Preview issue](#)** online.



E-books have been around for more than 10 years but are still a relatively new phenomenon to many librarians and publishers. With the introduction of e-book readers, the e-book has become mainstream, with recent triple-digit annual increases in sales. But what place do they have in the library? In **[No Shelf Required](#)**, Sue Polanka brings together a variety of professionals to share their expertise about e-books with librarians

the public. While clarification of the word "consumer" guarantees the rule will apply to libraries, the groups say that additional provisions ([PDF file](#)) are needed to achieve true net neutrality. GigaOM offers a [net neutrality timeline](#)....

District Dispatch, Dec. 21; CNET News: Signal Strength, Dec. 21; GigaOM, Dec. 21

[Seven steps to get your career moving](#)

Join the ALA JobLIST Placement Center January 11, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Central time, for a free, idea-packed webinar that will clearly lay out the key strategies for choosing your next career move and the best ways for getting there. Caitlin Williams, a career development consultant and coach, will present the session. [Register online](#). Williams will also provide free one-on-one career counseling sessions at the Midwinter Meeting.... Office for Human Resource Development and Recruitment, Dec. 21



[Council and Executive Board meetings at Midwinter](#)

John Chrastka writes: "Here are brief agendas (tentative) for ALA Council and the ALA Executive Board at the Midwinter Meeting. The Council agenda will build during the course of the meeting as other groups bring forward reports and as resolutions are introduced by councilors."...

ALA Membership Blog, Dec. 22

[ALA chapters: FAQ](#)

Each state library association is a chapter of ALA. Chapters are established by ALA's governing body, the ALA Council. This FAQ explains how the ALA chapters partnership works and provides easy access to ALA resources for chapters. It also shows some ways you can get involved....

Chapter Relations Office

[LSSC webinar](#)

Wondering about the benefits and the requirements of the Library Support Staff Certification Program? On January 4 at 11 a.m. Central time, the ALA-Allied Professional Association is offering an hour-long webinar designed to give you an introduction to the LSSC Program and offer you an opportunity to ask questions. [Register](#) for the webinar online....

ALA-Allied Professional Association, Dec. 21



[New eCourse on YA readers' advisory](#)

ALA Editions is offering a new facilitated eCourse on Young Adult Readers' Advisory Services.

Jessica Moyer, an experienced online instructor and a doctoral candidate researching teen reading habits, will serve as the instructor starting on January 17. Registration can be purchased at the [ALA Store](#)....

ALA Editions, Dec. 21



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New this week in *American Libraries*



[12 Ways Libraries Are Good](#)

[Outreach Services](#)

[Next Steps](#)

[Dispatches from the Field](#)

[Perpetual Beta](#)

[Inside Scoop](#)

[Green Your Library](#)

[Ask the ALA Librarian](#)

[Librarian's Library](#)

[AL Focus](#)

Great Libraries of the World

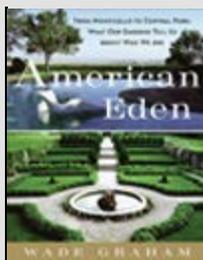


[Law Library.](#)

[Featured review: Gardening](#)

Graham, Wade. *American Eden: From Monticello to Central Park: What Our Gardens Tell Us about Who We Are*. 480p. Illustrated Apr. 2011. Harper, hardcover (978-0-06-158342-1).

Garden designer and historian Graham takes a panoramic perspective in his bold interpretation of the form, function, and meaning of American gardens. Thomas Jefferson is the first, and most complex, of the many pioneering gardeners Graham incisively profiles, and Graham's frank dissection of the profound paradoxes implicit in Jefferson's landscape vision for Monticello in a time of slavery and genocide against Native Americans sets the groundwork for his central insight, the fact that wilderness was a catalyst for the American imagination even as we rapidly destroyed it. Other intriguing garden designers include the 19th-century advocates for middle-class gardens as "emblems of virtue" A. J. Downing and Charles Platt, and their heir, the ever-ambitious Martha Stewart. As Graham unwinds the DNA of American garden design from grandiose to utilitarian, he matches garden aesthetics with the social mores of each era to surprising effect....



[Top 10 crafts and gardening books](#)

Brad Hooper writes: "This year we bring the garden into the home and mix our recommendations for the best craft books of the past year (of those reviewed in *Booklist*) with recommendations for the best gardening books during the same 12-month period. After all, gardeners and crafters belong to similar species."...



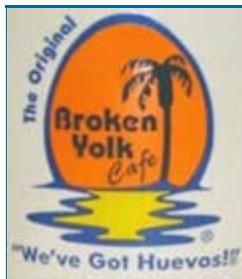
@ Visit [Booklist Online](#) for other reviews and much more....

San Diego Update

[Where to eat at Midwinter](#)

Linda Salem writes: "Everyone needs to eat, and San Diego offers plenty of terrific options. Highlighted here are mostly restaurants in and near the Gaslamp Quarter, convenient to the San Diego Convention Center and most ALA hotels, with a few farther-flung possibilities. The Gaslamp Quarter is a major entertainment and dining district, with options ranging from good take-out food up through fancy restaurants. Some locations host live music. Reservations are always a good idea at Gaslamp restaurants."...

American Libraries feature



[Try a harbor cruise](#)

San Diego Harbor Excursion offers super sightseeing on the San Diego Bay with one- and two-hour narrated cruises. Indoor and outdoor seating and snacks are available. The

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Completed in 1931 and designed to seat just over 500 students, the library's grandiose [reading room](#) in the Gothic Legal Research Building is graced with 50-foot vaulted cathedral ceilings, tracery stained glass windows, oak wainscoting, and cork floors for quiet passage. The 1981 [Allan F. and Alene Smith Law Library Addition](#) was built below ground to avoid clashing with the distinctive historic architecture of the [Law Quadrangle](#). The Joseph and Edythe Jackier Rare Book Room, opened in 1996, is wrapped in custom makore woodwork trimmed with Honduran mahogany and bathed in specially designed incandescent ambient and task lighting.



[Hill Museum and Manuscript Library](#)

St. John's Abbey and University, Collegeville, Minnesota. Founded in 1965, this Benedictine monastery library houses the world's largest [collection](#) of digital and microfilm images of [religious manuscripts](#) from both the Western and Ethiopian Christian traditions. In 2003, it broadened its focus to include Armenian,



Full Bay deluxe tour covers Harbor and Shelter Islands, Point Loma, Cabrillo National Monument, North Island Naval Air Station, the Submarine Base, and the Coronado Bridge. Watch for those adorable harbor seals....
San Diego Harbor Excursion

[Airport apps put you first in line](#)

Airport travel doesn't have to be totally miserable. While the usual groundwork—showing up early with boarding passes in hand and packing as lightly as possible—still applies, an array of travel applications for smartphones can help you tackle just about any problem that might arise at or on your way to the airport. So before you leave home, take a moment to download a few of these to help you navigate the terminal crush....

New York Times: Practical Traveler, Dec. 14



Division News

[Edward Swanson, 1941–2010](#)

Edward Swanson, lifetime ALA member and cataloger at the Minnesota Historical Society for 31 years, died December 10 in St. Paul, Minnesota, after a brief illness. Swanson was book review editor of the ALCTS journal *Library Resources and Technical Services* from 2004, served on the ALCTS Board of Directors and several of its committees, and indexed *LRTS* for decades. He was also active in the Minnesota Library Association and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions....

ALCTS Newsletter Online, Dec.



[Midwinter seminar on unexpected leadership](#)

Midwinter Meeting attendees are invited to attend an exciting and inspiring professional development seminar. As part of its ongoing commitment to enriching its membership, LLAMA takes time during one of its key business meetings to present crucial and timely leadership development strategies. "Unexpected Leadership" will take place January 9, 1:30–3:30 p.m....

LLAMA, Dec. 21

[ASCLA/COSLA reception at Midwinter](#)

ASCLA and the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies invite all Midwinter Meeting attendees to enjoy dessert in the company of colleagues at their joint reception, January 9, 8–10 p.m., at the Manchester Grand Hyatt....

ASCLA, Dec. 21

[Take an ALSC online course this winter](#)

Bring something new to your library by taking an online course this winter from ALSC. Starting on February 7, ALSC is offering four timely courses on information literacy, the Newbery Medal, graphic novels, and youth programming. Registration information is available on the [ALSC website](#)....

Syriac, Christian Arabic, and Slavonic manuscripts. The library is also the home of the seven-volume [Saint John's Bible](#), one of the few handwritten and illuminated bibles produced since the invention of the printing press, commissioned in 1998 and scheduled for completion in 2011 by British calligrapher Donald Jackson.

This AL Direct feature showcases 250 libraries around the world that are notable for their exquisite architecture, historic collections, and innovative services. If you find yourself on vacation near one of them, be sure to stop by for a visit. The entire list will be available in [The Whole Library Handbook 5](#), edited by George M. Eberhart, which is scheduled for publication in 2011 by ALA Editions.

ALSC, Dec. 21

Kosturski and Mair selected as Emerging Leaders

[Catherine Kosturski](#), circulation and reference intern at the Middlesex (N.J.) Public Library, and [Tiffany Mair](#), student assistant at the California State University Braille and Talking Book Library, have been selected as 2011 ALA Emerging Leaders. Kosturski was chosen by RUSA, and Mair is ASCLA's pick....

RUSA, Dec. 21; ASCLA, Dec. 21

[ASCLA seeks course and webinar developers](#)

ASCLA is inviting interested instructors and presenters to submit proposals for online professional development courses and webinars. Courses are typically 4–6 weeks in length; webinars last 60–90 minutes and may be proposed as single offerings or a series of sessions. Proposals should be submitted by [email](#) as Word or PDF attachments....

ASCLA, Dec. 21

Awards

[RUSA book and media awards at Midwinter](#)

Midwinter Meeting attendees are invited to celebrate the winners of numerous awards and build their 2011 to-be-read lists at the RUSA Book and Media Awards Reception, January 9, 5–6:30 p.m., in the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego. The literary winners announced at this event will shape the author lineup for the Literary Tastes Breakfast at the ALA 2011 Annual Conference in New Orleans....

RUSA, Dec. 21

[Trustee awards deadline extended](#)

ALTAFF is accepting applications for the ALA Trustee Citation and the ALTAFF Gale Outstanding Trustee Grant. The deadline for applications for both awards has been extended to January 5. For more information, visit the ALTAFF [website](#)....

ALTAFF, Dec. 15

[El día de los niños/El día de los libros minigrant winners](#)

ALSC has announced 15 winners of the El día de los niños/El día de los libros minigrants. Eight libraries serving a population of 75,000 or less have won minigrants worth \$4,000 each; and seven libraries serving a population of more than 75,000 have won minigrants worth \$6,000 each. The grants are part of ALSC's Everyone Reads @ your library grant, funded by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation....

ALSC, Dec. 21

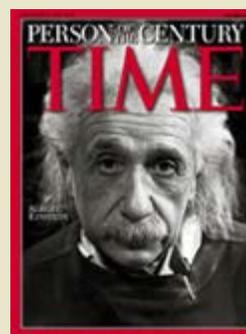
[Michelle Obama lauds IMLS medalists](#)

First Lady Michelle Obama presented the 2010 National Medal for Museum and Library Service to a total of 10 library and museum honorees at a White House ceremony December 17. Among them were Nashville Public Library Director Donna Nicely (center) and Nashville-area preschool literacy teacher Nancy McClellan, who adapted her methods after learning NPL's approach to reading readiness. Watch the [video](#) (16:44)....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Dec. 17; White House, Dec. 17



[History of the World: Featured in Online Exhibit](#)



[Express Yourself: A National Competition Gives All Young Playwrights an Opportunity to be Heard](#)

[North Texas Libraries Promote Literacy](#)

[Be Heard in Congress](#)

[R. Dwayne Betts: A Question of Libraries \(video\)](#)

[Donna Seaman Interviews Author Vikram Chandra](#)

[Family Travel Destinations: Celebrity Museums](#)

[Guitar Legend Les Paul Honored on PBS Special with Jeff Beck](#)

[Discover Special Needs Services At the Library](#)

[The Great Debates Revisited at the Kansas City Public Library](#)



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[LC's Memento Project wins preservation award](#)

The [Memento Project](#), led by researchers at Los Alamos National Laboratory and Old Dominion University and funded by the Library of Congress, has won the Digital Preservation Award 2010 from the Institute for Conservation and the Digital Preservation Coalition. The award, which celebrates the highest standards worldwide in the field of digital preservation, honors the Memento Project for proposing a technical framework that enables web surfers to find content that is date-and-time specific through a "time-travel" mode....

Library of Congress, Dec. 16



[2010 Cataloging Hidden Special Collections grants](#)

The Council on Library and Information Resources announced December 21 the 17 recipients of its 2010 Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives grants. Created in 2008, the awards program supports the identification and cataloging of special collections and archives of high scholarly value that are difficult or impossible to locate. Grant recipients create web-accessible records according to standards that enable the federation of their local cataloging entries into larger groups of related records....

Council on Library and Information Resources, Dec. 21

[Best library edublogs 2010](#)

The winners of the 2010 Edublog Awards were announced December 16. Winners were chosen from educational blogs nominated by other bloggers in November and December. The [website](#) and [blog](#) of the Castilleja School Library in Palo Alto, California, was the winner in the Best Librarian or Library Blog category. Runners-up were Julie Greller's [A Media Specialist's Guide to the Internet](#) and [Bright Ideas](#) by the School Library Association of Victoria, Australia....

Edublog Awards, Dec. 16



[Santa Barbara Friends group wins Verizon literacy grant](#)

After more than 7,000 text-message votes for Verizon's [Vote for Literacy campaign](#) were counted, the Friends of the Santa Barbara (Calif.) Public Library received enough text message votes to earn a \$9,700 grant funded by Verizon customers through the company's Check Into Literacy program. Four other literacy organizations also received grant funds. The Verizon Foundation presented the group with their check December 10....

Santa Barbara (Calif.) Independent, Dec. 15



[IMLS grant to UC-Santa Cruz makes this year's "Wastebook"](#)

In his annual "Wastebook" report ([PDF file](#)), released December 20, Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) accused the government of wasting \$11.5 billion in 2010. One of the projects he highlights is a \$615,000 IMLS grant to the University of



[Director of Library and Media Services](#)

Arcadia, California. Plans, directs, manages, and oversees the activities and operations of the Library and the Ruth and Charles Gilb Arcadia Historical Museum. This position serves as secretary and staff advisor to the Library Board of Trustees, an administrative board, and the Historical Museum Commission, an advisory commission to the City Council; collaborates with library and museum volunteer support organizations; and coordinates assigned activities with other city departments and outside agencies....



Digital Library of the Week

California at Santa Cruz to help its library digitize its [archive of Grateful Dead](#) materials....

The Hill, Dec. 20

[Tutor.com seeks schools for professional development project](#)

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced December 7 that it has awarded a \$1.8-million grant to Tutor.com for the creation of a new professional development model that offers ongoing online and on-demand professional development opportunities. Tutor.com is [looking for school districts](#) that want to be considered as candidates for participation in the middle- and high school math-teacher program in the first quarter of 2011....

American Libraries news, Dec. 21

[Biomed librarian attends Nobel Peace Prize ceremony](#)

As friends of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Liu Xiaobo, Jie Li of the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library and her husband Cai Chu were invited by the Norwegian Nobel Committee to attend the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony in Oslo, Norway, on December 10. Liu is serving an 11-year sentence in China for "inciting subversion to state power." Li and Chu started working with Liu in 2001 when they and a group of Chinese writers formed the Independent Chinese PEN Center, an affiliate of the International PEN....

Med School Watercooler, Dec. 17



[Apply for Native American library services grants](#)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is accepting applications for the 2011 Native American Library Services Basic Grant program. Federally recognized Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages and corporations may [apply](#) for these grants in two categories. The deadline is March 1....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Dec. 17

[2010 INSPY winners](#)

The INSPY Advisory Board has announced eight winners of the inaugural INSPY awards in selected categories. The INSPYs were created by bloggers to discover and highlight the very best in literature that grapples with expressions of the Christian faith. The winner in general fiction was Gina Holmes's *Crossing Oceans* (Tyndale House) and in Amish fiction the winner was Beth Wiseman's *Plain Paradise* (Thomas Nelson)....

INSPYs, Dec. 13



[2010 Nelson Algren Short Story Awards](#)

The *Chicago Tribune* announced Baird Harper (right) as the winner of its Nelson Algren Award December 17 for his short story, "[My Thoughts While Cooling Down on](#)



The [National Library of Wales Digital Mirror](#)

has added five medieval manuscripts to its online collection of rare materials in its holdings. Among its newest online treasures is the Latin text of *Historia de preliis Alexandri Magni* (*The History of Alexander's Battles*), based on a 10th-century translation into Latin by Leo of Naples of a Greek text. The manuscript is one of the most elaborately decorated medieval manuscripts in the library. It is also one of only a few medieval manuscripts at the National Library of Wales to retain its original binding—wooden boards, covered with crimson velvet—and retains brass bosses, corner pieces and pins, and fastenings for thongs. It was probably bound in England in the late 15th century.

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

Public Perception
How the World Sees Us



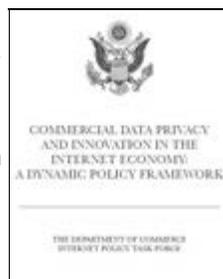
[the Veranda.](#)” The award honors the best unpublished fiction under 10,000 words submitted to the editors. Harper and three finalists will be honored at the Printers Row Lit Fest, June 10–11, in Chicago....

Chicago Tribune, Dec. 17

Seen Online

[Call for a Privacy Bill of Rights](#)

The Obama administration on December 16 called for internet businesses to develop a set of practices to protect consumer data that would be akin to a Privacy Bill of Rights and for a Privacy Policy Office in the Commerce Department to oversee that effort. The recommendations come in a long-awaited report titled *Commercial Data Privacy and Innovation in the Internet Economy: A Dynamic Policy Framework* ([PDF file](#)). The Commerce Department is seeking public comments through January 28. Some consumer groups have [blasted the report](#) for not calling for privacy legislation and being too friendly to industry....



Los Angeles Times, Dec. 16; Digital Destiny, Dec. 16

[Pell grant funding in jeopardy](#)

With the lame-duck Congress winding down and a \$5.7-billion gap in financing looming for next year’s Pell grants—and a further \$8-billion gap for the following year—there is growing uncertainty about the future of the grants, the nation’s most significant financial-aid program for college students. Stopgap measures to keep the government running will probably extend into mid-February, but will most likely continue the current budget without providing extra Pell money....

New York Times, Dec. 17

[Day of protest planned in U.K. over library closures](#)

Campaigners in England are proposing a coordinated day of protest in February over the mass library closures announced since the U.K. government’s comprehensive spending review. More than 360 libraries are currently threatened with closure, according to an [online survey](#), with 26 mobile library services also slated for the axe. The number is rising weekly as more councils come forward with cost-cutting proposals, with estimates that 800–1,000 libraries will soon be at risk. [Protesters](#) will hold read-ins at selected branches in February....



The Guardian (U.K.), Dec. 21; Public Libraries News, Dec. 21; Alan Gibbons’ Blog, Dec. 21; Ryedale (U.K.) *Gazette & Herald*, Dec. 22

[Brooklyn school librarians on borrowed time](#)

Almost a third of secondary school students in New York City have no access to school libraries, even though a New York State regulation mandates they do. It’s a growing trend. Since a peak of 792 school librarians in 1998–1999, New York City schools have cut library staff

“With too much unmediated information to choose from, people select what they wish to believe. These days a wild rumor in an email from your distant cousin can trump the *New York Times*.”

—Evan Thomas, editor-at-large of *Newsweek*, on the effects of runaway partisanship on political and cultural commentary, [“Why It’s Time to Worry,”](#) *Newsweek*, Dec. 4.

@ [More quotes...](#)



TweetWatch

Follow:

ALA Midwinter Meeting, San Diego, California, Jan. 7–11, at: [#alamw11](#)

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

Calendar

Jan. 19–22: [Special Libraries Association](#), Leadership Summit, Renaissance

by almost 40%, to 485. The decline of libraries in the city is much more drastic than in the rest of New York, where only 2% of high school and middle school students lack access to school libraries and librarians....

The Brooklyn (N.Y.) Ink, Dec. 15

[Montclair residents strive to save Bellevue Avenue branch](#)

A group of residents determined to keep the Bellevue Avenue branch of the Montclair (N.J.) Public Library open may have to raise nearly \$50,000 (the branch's FY2010 budget) by March to do so. A December 20 meeting of "Save Our Bellevue Avenue Branch" attracted former Montclair Mayor Bob Russo and library foundation director Liz Campbell, who offered encouragement. The group also discussed a [task force report](#) ordered by the board on what to do with the building if it closed. Budget cuts have reduced hours at the branch to one day a week...

Montclair (N.J.) Times, Dec. 20; *Baristanet (Montclair)*, Dec. 20-21



[Stars rock NYPL programming](#)

A lecture series at New York Public Library has become so popular that it often sells out in minutes. Reflecting the library's new approach to draw in 20-40 year-olds, "Live from the New York Public Library" has featured appearances by music icons (Patti Smith, Keith Richards, and Jay-Z), Hollywood notables (John Waters), and celebrated authors (Toni Morrison, Cornel West). "Find out what the people are interested in and give them much more," series programmer Paul Holdengräber advises...

Voice of America, Dec. 17



[Judge throws out privacy suit in LSSI takeover](#)

A Los Angeles County Superior Court judge on December 21 threw out a privacy-rights lawsuit brought against the city of Santa Clarita regarding its outsourcing of local libraries. Judge Barbara Scheper effectively squelched the lawsuit brought by the Save Our Libraries group, which argued that turning patron records over to a private company (LSSI) would violate state privacy laws. LSSI is scheduled to take over the management of Santa Clarita's three libraries in July....

Santa Clarita Valley (Calif.) Signal, Dec. 21

[Lexington delighted with new library director](#)

Four months after becoming executive director of the Lexington (Ky.) Public Library, Ann Hammond (right) believes she's found the perfect job: running the public library in an educated city that loves to read. Library trustees are equally delighted: "Ann just had the perfect combination of personality and skills," board Chair Buzz Carmichael [remarked](#) when her appointment was announced. However, the board is still fighting a lawsuit [filed](#) by former director Kathleen Imhoff, who is seeking the two years' salary and benefits she lost when she was fired in 2009....

Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader, Aug. 13, Dec. 15; *AL: Inside Scoop*, Aug. 6



[Canadian trustees bare controversial sculpture](#)

The Tillsonburg (Ontario) Public Library board voted unanimously

Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C. "Future Ready: Building Community."

Feb. 2-5:

[Ontario Library Association](#), Super Conference, Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

Feb. 9-12:

[Music Library Association](#), Annual Meeting, Philadelphia. "Born Digital: A New Frontier for Music Libraries."

Feb. 11-13:

[44th Annual California International Antiquarian Book Fair](#), Concourse Exhibition Center, San Francisco. Features a special exhibit of rare musical books and manuscripts from the Jean Gray Hargrove Music Library of the University of California at Berkeley.

Feb. 23-24:

[Handheld Librarian Conference IV](#), online.

Mar. 10-11:

[Conference for Entrepreneurial Librarians](#), Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Mar. 24-28:

[Visual Resources Association and the Art Libraries Society of North America](#), Joint Conference, Hilton Minneapolis. "Collaboration: Building Bridges in the 21st Century."

December 14 to uncover a display of artist R. Bruce Flowers's sculptures in the library foyer and keep them on exhibit until February 28 as originally planned. The art was shrouded after complaints that one of the sculptures showing one man hugging another from behind depicted homosexual activity. Board Chair Linda White wrote in a letter to the editor that challenged items are removed or covered until trustees can meet to discuss the situation....

Tillsonburg (Ont.) News, Dec. 17

[Tacoma to close two branches, cut hours](#)

During an emotional but unanimous decision, the Tacoma (Wash.) Public Library board voted December 16 to shutter two small branches and cut service hours from the city's Main Library beginning in 2011. The trustees' reluctant move—aimed at partially filling a nearly \$1.9 million budget gap facing the city's library system for the next two years—will close the Swan Creek and Martin Luther King Jr. (above) branches as of January 31....



Tacoma (Wash.) News Tribune, Dec. 16

[Author of pedophile book arrested in Colorado](#)

Phillip Greaves was arrested in Pueblo, Colorado, on obscenity charges out of Florida after he sold and mailed his book *The Pedophile's Guide to Love and Pleasure: A Child-lover's Code of Conduct* to sheriff's deputies in Polk County, Florida. He is being charged with distribution of obscene material depicting minors engaged in conduct harmful to minors. The Polk County Sheriff is seeking extradition of Greaves to Florida. The book raised censorship issues in November when Amazon.com pulled it from its website....

KOAA-TV, Pueblo, Colo., Dec. 20

[Graffiti artists paint underground mural at Houston Public Library](#)

Houston's leading graffiti artists landed their first city-sponsored project this month—a 20,000-square-foot, \$30,000 mural in the downtown Central Library parking garage. Spray masters Gonzo247 and MERGE360 are employing a palette of custom-designed paints to interpret the library's theme, "Linking You to the World." The painting will be completed in January. Watch the [video](#) (0:52)....



Houston (Tex.) Chronicle, Dec. 18

[Soaked historic books may save Carnegie library](#)

The local history room at the Rockingham Free Public Library in Bellows Falls, Vermont, [flooded](#) the night of December 12. It appears as though a pipe directly overhead broke, leaving more than an inch of water by the time staff came in the next morning. "Unfortunately sometimes it takes something like this for the community to realize just how important this is to our local history and to the history of the library," Public Services Librarian Wendy O'Connell said. After putting renovation to the 100-year-old Carnegie building off last year, trustees are now working with architects....



Brattleboro (Vt.) Reformer, Dec. 16; Rockingham Free Public Library, Dec. 16

Mar. 30–

Apr. 2:

[Association of College and Research Libraries](#),

National Conference, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia. "A Declaration of Interdependence."

Apr. 7–11:

[Association of Independent Information Professionals](#),

Annual Conference, Hilton Vancouver, Vancouver, Washington. "Go for the Green."

Apr. 30:

[El día de los niños / El día de los libros](#)

[\(Children's Day / Book Day\)](#). Sponsored by ALSC.

May 24–27:

[3rd Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries](#)

[International Conference](#), Athens, Greece.

July 13:

[LeakyCon LitDay](#),

Universal Orlando Resort, Florida.

@ [More...](#)

Contact Us

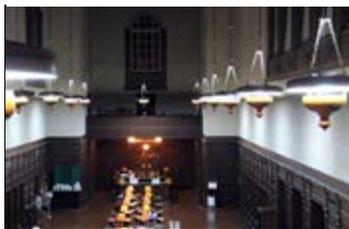
American Libraries Direct



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

[Pasadena gets classy LED makeover](#)

The Pasadena (Calif.) Central Library is a classic, with its expansive hall, wood-paneling, tall book cases, long desks, and beautiful old pendant lighting fixtures hanging high above. There was a problem with the lights in those fixtures, however. They were energy-inefficient, burning at an extraordinary 900 watts apiece. But manufacturer LEDtronics gave the library a [lighting makeover](#) with LED (light-emitting diode) lamps and trimmed the power use by 788 watts in weekly operations, saving thousands of dollars....
EarthTechling, Dec. 21; *LEDtronics*, Dec. 14

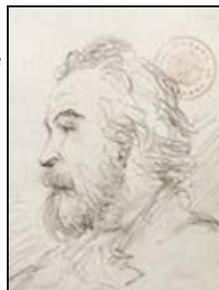


[Oklahoma students engage in not-really-silent rave](#)

Some 500 students gathered in the University of Oklahoma's Bizzell Memorial Library in Norman December 15 to dance. Student Ben Birdwell began planning the [silent rave](#) (2:05) through a Facebook invite as a stress-relief event during finals week months prior. Students crowded on the first two floors at 10:30 p.m. with their music players, cell phones, and laptops synced to one playlist....
Norman (Okla.) Transcript, Dec. 17; *YouTube*, Dec. 16

[In Walt Whitman's pocket](#)

Adam Goodheart writes: "The librarian wheels out the box on a little wooden trolley. Inside it is Walt Whitman's notebook, dismembered with surgical care by a long-ago conservator. As I sit in the manuscript room at the Library of Congress, turning those pages, it soon becomes easy to imagine them traveling inside the poet's coat pocket. In this little book, sometime during the late fall or winter of 1860–1861, the writer began an imaginary conversation that would continue for decades to come, inspiring several of the most [famous poems](#) in American literature." View the [interactive exhibit](#)....
New York Times: Opinionator, Dec. 15



[Library a big perk on Swan Hellenic cruise ship](#)

It's not every day that a cruise line proudly claims that the most popular public room on its ship is the library. But when the library has been assembled over 50 years and helps its on-board explorers to discover everything they need to know about the places they are visiting, then you can see why Swan Hellenic does just that. Swan Hellenic's only ship, the 12,500-ton expedition vessel *Minerva* (above), has one of the most comprehensive libraries afloat, with an extensive collection of nonfiction, fiction, and reference books....
Daily Mail (U.K.), Dec. 19



[Air National Guard helps Guam school library](#)

Machananao Elementary School's library is growing, thanks to the resourcefulness of school librarian Yvonne Rado and a partnership with visiting Air Force squadrons. Men and women with the Iowa Air National Guard on Guam as part of the 506 Expeditionary Aerial Refueling Squadron brought an area rug and some bean bag chairs to help make the library a little cozier. They also spent time reading with students....
Pacific Daily News (Guam), Dec. 16



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



Beverly Goldberg,
Senior Editor:
bgoldberg@ala.org



Greg Landgraf,
Associate Editor:
glandgraf@ala.org



Leonard Kniffel,
Publisher,
American Libraries:
lkniffel@ala.org

Jennifer Henderson,
Contributing Researcher

To advertise in American Libraries Direct, contact:



Brian Searles:
bsearles@ala.org



Katie Bane:
kbane@ala.org

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ISSN 1559-369X

[Google ChromeOS Notebook](#)

Jason Griffey writes: "On December 7, Google held a [press conference](#) to talk about Chrome, both the browser and about the nascent operating system of the same name, ChromeOS. Google has given out the first hardware designed specifically to run ChromeOS, notebooks codenamed Cr-48 that can be thought of as a sort of reference platform for the new operating system. I currently have a Cr-48, and have been putting it through a variety of tests. Over the next few days I'll be posting about my thoughts and a review of this new computing platform." Here is the official [overview](#) (3:45). Check out parts [two](#) and [three](#)....



AL: Perpetual Beta, Dec. 20–22; YouTube, Dec. 6

[My server got run over by a cloud app](#)

OCLC's Andrew Pace offers us some holiday cheer with his annual Christmas song parody. This one is to the tune of "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer."...

Hectic Pace, Dec. 22

[How to watch streaming video anywhere in the world](#)

Bryan Gardiner writes: "So you're jetting off to a tropical island in uncharted waters. But how are you supposed to enjoy paradise when copyright laws put the international hammer down on Netflix? Winter travelers, meet your new best friends: Proxy and VPN services. Both of these options reroute your computer's network connection and change your IP address to make it look like it's coming from somewhere else—like, say, the United States. They work in slightly different ways."...



Gizmodo, Dec. 15

[Encoding data on atomic nuclei](#)

Scientists at the University of Utah have taken an important step toward the day when digital information can be stored in the spin of an atom's nucleus, rather than as an electrical charge in a semiconductor. The setup requires powerful magnets and can only be operated at -454° Fahrenheit, so don't expect to see spin memory on the shelf at a computer store anytime soon. Here's how they did it....

NPR: *Morning Edition*, Dec. 17

[How to back up your blog and why you should](#)

Richard Byrne writes: "If we rely on a free web-based service, we should be aware of the possibility that it could shut down or move to a fee model at some point. To that end, we should be in the habit of periodically creating offline back-ups of our data. This is especially true if you're using a hosted blog as an online portfolio of your writings or your students' work. Here you will find directions for creating offline back-ups of Blogger blogs, Edublogs blogs, and WordPress blogs."...

Free Technology for Teachers, Dec. 19

[Favorite tool of 2010: Jing](#)

Richard Mott writes: "The free screenshot application [Jing](#) does two things that are useful to a trainer. First, it takes pictures of your computer screen (or any portion of your screen), and lets you add the most basic of annotations (colored arrows, highlighting, boxes, words). Second, it records up to five minutes of the activity on a computer screen (or any part of the screen), with narration—every mouse movement, every button click, every text entry."...

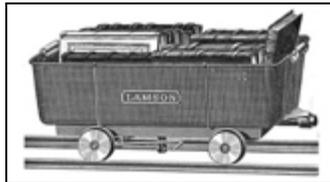
ALA Learning, Dec. 20



Book retrieval systems

Larry Nix writes: "When Boston Public Library's magnificent [central library](#) building [opened](#) at its Copley Square location in 1895, it contained beautiful artwork and some unusual technological innovations. One was a book railway system (right) that allowed books to be transported mechanically from stack areas to the library's Book Delivery Room where they could be picked up by those requesting them. It was adapted from a system used by retail department stores to transport cash from multiple sales points to a centralized cash receipt office."...

Library History Buff Blog, Dec. 17

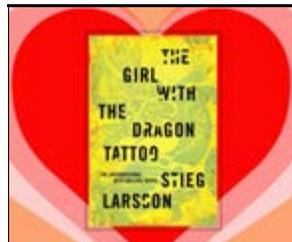


Publishing

Why we love bad writing

Laura Miller writes: "Stieg Larsson and Dan Brown novels are riddled with clichés, but for many readers, that's a feature, not a bug. Certainly, these writers are far from the best their genres have to offer. Even the most vehement of genre champions will not argue that either man is a good, or even adequate, stylist. Rather, they are both, in many respects and apart from the whole genre question, fairly bad writers. So why do so many people devour their books?"...

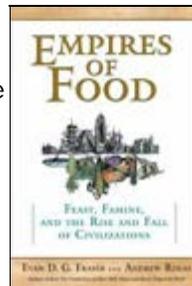
Salon, Dec. 14



Best of 2010 Kirkus reviews

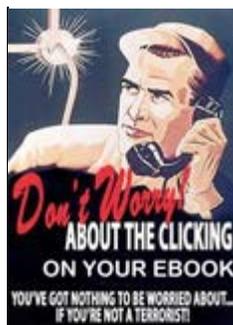
The *Kirkus Reviews* editors have culled through thousands of reviews from the past year to select those they consider outstanding. This year's Best Books list coincides with many other improvements they are making to the new *Kirkus*, including its redesigned website, so all the coverage is now available for everyone online. The categories include best zombie and vampire books, pleasant surprises, and books for foodies....

Kirkus Reviews



Is your e-book spying on you?

Martin Kaste writes: "Most e-readers, like Amazon's Kindle, have an antenna that lets users instantly download new books. But the technology also makes it possible for the device to transmit information back to the manufacturer. Cindy Cohn,



Electronic Frontier Foundation legal director, says that page-view tracking may seem innocuous, but if the company keeps the data long-term, the information could be subpoenaed to check someone's alibi or as evidence in a lawsuit. And it's not just what pages you read; it may also monitor *where* you read them."...

NPR: *All Things Considered*, Dec. 15

[NetGalley: The web's best-kept e-book secret](#)



Michelle Boule writes: "[NetGalley](#) is a community where publishers can connect with reviewers, librarians, and the media and exchange eAdvanced Reader's Copies. I like ARCs but I adore eARCs even more. NetGalley is not new, but it has gotten a lot of support from publishers, book reviewers, and librarians in the past year. While what they do is amazing enough, it is how they do it and the content that really makes NetGalley a wonderful resource for new books. With 32 genres to choose from and 66 publishers, there is literally something for everyone."...

ALA TechSource, Dec. 16

[Judging books by their covers](#)

Sometimes book covers can be as memorable as the pages they protect. *CBS Sunday Morning* reporter Erin Moriarty reports on the design process in creating the art for literature's most famous novels, what the digital age promises, and where it all originated. New York Public Library's Curator for Rare Books Michael Inman shows Moriarty (right) a strictly utilitarian pigskin-over-wood antiquarian book cover that, he says, "is nearly bulletproof at this point." Watch the [video](#) (7:54)....



CBS News, Dec. 19

Actions & Answers

[10 ways social media will change in 2011](#)

Ravit Lichtenberg writes: "For the past two years, I have been forecasting the evolution social media will undergo. 2011 will be marked by new developments that will shape the very fabric of our behavior, culture, and identity. They will challenge us to consider important questions about the future of our experience as connected people and consumers. Here are key trends to watch in the coming year."...

ReadWriteWeb, Dec. 15

[7 lessons that WikiLeaks teaches us](#)

Mitch Joel writes: "Too much has been written about WikiLeaks. Most of the debate is about the legalities and moralities of what [WikiLeaks](#) is (and what it means). If you take a step back, and look at it (without prejudice



and without passing legal judgment), there are many lessons about how the new media acts and reacts that are excellent business lessons as well. Consider this a cautionary tale."...

Six Pixels of Separation, Dec. 9

[A one-stop shop for all WikiLeaks coverage](#)

wikiriver.org

The WikiLeaks story has just begun, with just over 0.5% of all the diplomatic cables in the organization's possession having been posted online. Where can we find the best coverage from the journalists that are focusing on summarizing all this information? In late December, blogging and syndication trailblazer Dave Winer launched [Wikiriver](#), an RSS feed that centralizes all the coverage....

ReadWriteWeb, Dec. 22

[ARL releases 2009–2010 salary data](#)

The Association of Research Libraries has published its [Annual Salary Survey 2009–2010](#), which analyzes salary data for all professional staff working in the 124 ARL member libraries during 2009–2010. The data show that ARL librarians' salaries remained stable. The combined median professional salary in U.S. and Canadian ARL university libraries was \$64,560—basically no increase from the previous year....



Association of Research Libraries, Dec. 17

[Excellent prognosis for biomedical librarians](#)

A study funded by the Special Libraries Association finds that librarians in the biomedical industry are becoming more involved in analyzing research and are also increasingly acting as authors and grant-writers. The findings are the result of interviews with 14 professionals working in nontraditional biomedical research jobs, and is available online ([PDF file](#)). The October/November *Information Outlook* offers a feature by researchers Betsy Rolland and Emily Glenn summarizing the results....

Special Libraries Association, Dec. 20

[An Arabic literary salon in Louisville](#)

M. Lynx Qualey writes: "Sophie Maier (right), immigrant services librarian at the Louisville (Ky.) Public Library's Iroquois branch, recently emailed me about an Arabic literary salon being started up in her local library. Literary salons have a long history in the Arabic-speaking world and, needless to say, I was delighted and fascinated. I emailed Sophie a few questions, to which she graciously responded." Maier told Qualey her motivation stemmed from realizing "there were few if any opportunities for a neutral, secular meeting place where Arabic speakers could join to discuss literature, the arts, and history."...



Arabic Literature (in English), Dec. 1

[Lights! Camera! Data-driven collaboration!](#)

Buffy Hamilton writes: "My colleague,

friend, and fellow Georgia school librarian Susan Grigsby (right), of the Elkins Pointe Middle School in Roswell, graciously agreed to produce a [short video clip](#) (5:31) to share how she engages in data-driven collaboration and invites student participation for learning. The [October issue](#) of *School Library Journal* also features Susan's efforts."...



The Unquiet Librarian, Dec. 16; YouTube, Dec. 16

[Oldest library worker](#)

Roger Owen Green writes: "In 2005, a KMBC-TV [story](#) aired about 99-year-old Martha Smith (right), who had been working at the Coal Creek Library in Vinland, Kansas, since 1926. In 2008, reporter James A. Fussell penned a [follow-up article](#) in the *Kansas City (Mo.) Star* about Smith, then 102 and still working at the library—which by then functioned more as a museum. Fussell recently told a librarian making inquiries, 'Martha Smith is still alive at 105! From what I could glean she still goes to the library most days, although mostly just to sleep. She is still mobile, but has lost most of her hearing and her sight. Understandably communication is difficult.'" Watch the 2008 [video](#) (2:50) of Smith....



Friends of Albany (N.Y.) Public Library, Dec. 16; KMBC-TV, Kansas City, May 20, 2005; *Kansas City (Mo.) Star*, Aug. 30, 2008

[Teens as library advocates](#)

Mary Olive Thompson writes: "I have found that teens can be far more persuasive to library boards, administration, or community entities than any individual adult can. I have some personal theories regarding Teen Super-Human Powers of Persuasion. Our teens have a voice. It is part of our responsibility as young adult librarians to help them utilize their voice and change the world. With your encouragement and support they can start the change process."...

YALSA Blog, Dec. 21

[Fair use challenges in academic libraries](#)

The Association of Research Libraries has released *Fair Use Challenges in Academic and Research Libraries* ([PDF file](#)), a report that summarizes research into the current application of fair use and other copyright exemptions to meet the missions of U.S. academic and research libraries. In dozens of interviews with veteran research and academic librarians, the researchers learned how copyright law comes into play as interviewees performed core library functions....

Association of Research Libraries, Dec. 20

[British government wants to block all porn](#)

Phil Bradley writes: "Claire Perry, a British Conservative Party Member of Parliament, wants to block all U.K. access to pornography. She is [reported](#) to have said to the *Sunday Times*: 'We are not coming at this from an anti-porn perspective. We just want to make sure our children aren't stumbling across things we don't want them to see.' So once again, we're back to the we-must-



protect-children approach. She has also proposed that all ISPs should block porn universally—and adults should ask for blocks to be lifted if they want to look at it.”...

Phil Bradley's Weblog, Dec. 20; Mashable, Dec. 19

[Delicious to get shopped, not chopped](#)



After a leaked [screenshot](#) revealed that Yahoo would be ‘sunsetting’ popular bookmarking site Delicious, the struggling company is clarifying that decision. User feedback on Delicious’ fate specifically has not been kind to Yahoo, which recently [laid off](#) 600 employees. In a [blog post](#), users are being reassured that the site is being shopped around and that no account information or data will be lost. But some are saying it’s simply too late for Delicious, and that the fault is Yahoo’s....

Digital Trends, Dec. 14, 16, 20; Delicious Blog, Dec. 17

[For the Deliciously nervous](#)

Richard Byrne writes: “Before looking at alternatives to Delicious, get your bookmarks out of Delicious (right) so that you can use them somewhere else. If your school is a Google Apps for Education school, the first alternative to Delicious that I would consider is Google Bookmarks.” Other options are Yawas, Diigo, and Memonic. Phil Bradley has [more suggestions](#)....



Free Technology for Teachers, Dec. 17; Phil Bradley's Weblog, Dec. 17

[One perspective on transliteracy](#)

Meredith Farkas writes: “A colleague of mine and I have been talking about transliteracy for some time and came to very similar conclusions as [David Rothman](#). I’ve been following the blog [Libraries and Transliteracy](#) since it started, but I still don’t feel like I have a handle on what transliteracy means. Lane Wilkinson [describes](#) it as recognizing both academic and popular research tools as all part of a big information ecosystem. The issue is, that’s how I and my colleagues have always seen information literacy.” Bobbi Newman [responds](#)....

Information Wants to Be Free, Dec. 21; davidrothman.net, Dec. 19; Libraries and Transliteracy, Dec. 20, 22

[Incorporating failure into library instruction](#)

Steven Bell writes: “I’m hearing and reading more about the importance of allowing students to learn through authentic practice, what some call experiential learning, that puts them into situations where they can succeed or fail—and learn by doing so themselves or from the experiences of their fellow students. One good example that promotes the value of failure for learning is a [TED Talk](#) by Diana Laufenberg.”...

ACRLLog, Dec. 22; TED, Dec.

[The library space as learning space](#)

Keith Webster writes: “In a recent University of Queensland study of library use, what was striking was the extent to which the library was a prominent feature in students’ lives: Almost 60% visit a library each day, with almost a quarter spending more than two hours in the library. The consistent message from space studies is that place is important. Students are heavy consumers of online information resources—electronic journals, databases, and e-books—but they value the library as a flexible space that meets their shifting needs

during the semester cycle.”...

Educause Review 45, no. 6 (Nov./Dec.)

[My guide to job hunting](#)

Elizabeth L. writes: “Even before my five-month stint as an unemployed librarian, I was a serious job hunter. I started job hunting the September before I graduated library school. So I easily clocked in at eight months of serious job hunting before I lucked out with my current job in May. Somewhere along the line I developed a daily routine for job hunting. There are five parts in my process, and beginning today, I will share this guide with you.”...

The Adventures of a Newly Employed Librarian, Dec. 16

[Thank you notes: A job search essential](#)

Amy Armstrong writes: “Writing thank you notes after a job interview can feel a lot like kissing your dentist’s feet after a root canal. For most of us, the interview is a necessary but uncomfortable experience that we want to just get over with and run screaming to the nearest pub to forget about. Still, skipping the thank you note could cost you! Read on for thank you note tips.”...

New York Public Library Blog, Dec. 21



[How to organize a retreat](#)

Seth Godin writes: “Retreats should be called *advances*, according to Alan Webber and William C. Taylor, because *retreat* is too negative. They are a tremendous opportunity for independent thinkers to come together to energize, inspire, and connect. Unfortunately, it’s also easy to turn these events into school-like conferences, not the emotional connections that are desired. I’ve been to a bunch and here’s what I’ve learned, in no particular order.”...

Seth’s Blog, Dec. 15

[Top 10 places to find better answers online \(beyond Google\)](#)

Adam Dachis writes: “You can Google just about anything, but it’s not always your best resource for finding the exact answer to what you want. Here’s a look at our top 10 tools for finding better answers online.” The shortlist: Yahoo! Answers, Ask Reddit, Duck Duck Go, Wolfram Alpha, Wikipedia, Blekko, Quora, Ask MetaFilter, Twitter, and Aardvark....

Lifehacker, Dec. 18



[What if we threw a data curation party and nobody came?](#)

Dorothea Salo writes: “Libraries and campus IT shops in the States are gearing up to deal with this whole National Science Foundation data-management plan. What if we build it and they don’t come? Have we thought about this possibility? We know pretty well from surveys and qualitative investigations that the average researcher hasn’t a clue that librarians can help her look after her research data.”...

The Book of Trogoal, Dec. 21

[What’s wrong with librarians?](#)

Sarah Glassmeyer writes: “I am here to answer that question. As a librarian who spends a significant amount of time discussing legal information issues with non-librarians, I am



often asked this. Many times with some colorful adjectives thrown in for good measure. Here's the short answer: There's nothing *wrong* with librarians, but that does not mean that libraries and librarians couldn't do some things better. Librarians, like the prosimian Slow Loris (genus *Nycticebus*), are very risk-averse."...

Vox PopuLII, Dec. 15

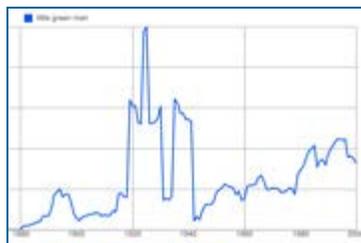
[A new way to manage collections](#)



Nora Rawlinson writes: "Many librarians have spent hours gathering information from their ILS, but the work is labor-intensive. At the 2010 ALA Midwinter Meeting, I learned about a collection development toolkit developed by a Scottish librarian and now used by 50% of public libraries in the U.K. [CollectionHQ](#) is now being introduced into the North American market. In a few minutes, it puts together information from a library's ILS, showing what subject areas and genres are circulating well, which ones are dated, which ones are declining, and which books are likely to be worn out."...

Early Word: The Publisher | Librarian Connection, Dec. 21

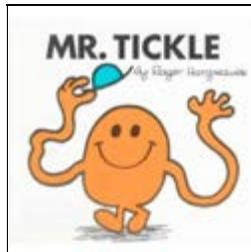
[Google Books tool tracks words over time](#)



Google has made a mammoth database culled from nearly 5.2-million digitized books available for free downloads and online searches, opening new possibilities for research. It consists of the 500 billion words contained in books published between 1500 and 2008 in English, French, Spanish, German, Chinese, and Russian. The [Google Books Ngram Viewer](#) lets you plug in a string of up to five words and see a graph that charts the phrase's use over time. However, LIS student Natalie Binder has pointed out [serious flaws](#) in this method, including the quality of OCR scans, errors resulting from poor metadata, [making assumptions](#) about word frequency and culture, and multiple word meanings. In texts prior to 1820 there's the use of the "[long s](#)," which scans as an "f." Which isn't to say the Ngram might not be [useful for some things](#)....

New York Times, Dec. 16; The Binder Blog, Dec. 17-18, 21; Language Log, Dec. 17

[Contribute your accent by reading Mr. Tickle](#)



The British Library wants to map different words and accents and chart the changing pronunciation of the English language. As part of its [Evolving English](#) exhibit, the library is adding to its already sizable collection of 20th-century recordings of the English voice, and it's asking any English speaker worldwide to record their voice reading Roger Hargreaves's children's book *Mr. Tickle* aloud. Map your voice on the [British Library website](#) by downloading the Audioboo app. Curator Jonnie Robinson [explains why Mr. Tickle](#) was chosen....

ReadWriteWeb, Dec. 19; Evolving English Blog, Nov. 12

[Compare European maps for the past 2,000 years](#)

Euratlas-Nüssli, a Swiss company specializing in historical digital cartography, is offering educators the online-only use of 21 low-resolution historical maps of Europe, each one depicting political boundaries at the end of each century from 1 A.D. to 2000. The maps also feature close-ups of each quadrant, as well as the ability to outline sovereign and dependent states and populations. Earlier maps of the [Middle East](#) from 3300–300 B.C. are also viewable, but the annotations are in German....

Euratlas-Nüssli



[The rare book that turned Elizabeth I into Queen of Heaven](#)

Stephen J. Gertz writes: "In 1578 an astonishing book was published in England, astonishing particularly if you were a Catholic. The volume, *A Booke of Christian Prayers* by printer Richard Day, contained a frontispiece portrait of Queen Elizabeth I, Britain's reigning monarch, as the new Queen of Heaven, knocking Mary off the throne. With its elaborate historiated borders, their anti-papist content, as well as the portrait of Elizabeth I at prayer, the 1578 book is a magnificent and dramatically iconoclastic volume."...

Booktryst, Dec. 21



[New incunabula resources](#)

Jeremy Dibbell writes: "Some very useful new resources are now available from the Consortium of European Research Libraries: Paul Needham's [Index Possessorum Incunabulorum](#) (containing 'some 32,000 entries relating to the ownership of incunabula, including personal names, institutional names, monograms, and arms') and [Material Evidence in Incunabula](#) (a new database specifically designed to record and search copy-specific provenance information of 15th-century printed books—ownership, decoration, binding, manuscript annotations, stamps, and prices)."...

PhiloBiblos, Dec. 19

[Great War Archive rolled out](#)

The German National Library, Oxford University, and Europeana have signed an agreement to digitize family papers and memorabilia from the First World War. The collaboration will bring German soldiers' stories online alongside their British counterparts in a 1914–1918 archive.

JISC planted the seed in 2008 when it funded the [The Great War Archive](#), which is run by Oxford University Computing Services. The success of the idea has encouraged Europeana, Europe's digital archive, to contribute soldiers' stories and artifacts from the German National Library....

JISC, Dec. 16



[100 people I hate on Facebook](#) (satire)

Dave Pell writes: "The friending, the liking, the status updating: Sooner or later we all grow to hate it, but we can't stop. Facebook is made up of those dinner party guests who just won't leave even

though it's late and everyone else left two hours ago. After a while, everything anyone does on Facebook becomes irritating. With that in mind, here are 100 people I hate on Facebook (edited down from my original list of 500 million).”...

NPR: *All Tech Considered*, Dec. 17

[Detained in the library](#)

Inspired by the 2004 Steven Spielberg film *The Terminal*, this [trailer](#) (3:07) for an imaginary film titled *The Library* depicts an unfortunate student who loses his ID card and is not permitted to leave an academic library. It was filmed at Monash University's Caulfield Campus library near Melbourne, Australia. Apparently it is a student production, starring Ryan DeRemer....

Vimeo, Oct.



[Like father, like son](#)

The Finnish Library Association celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2010 and created this short [video](#) (0:30) for Finnish television. Produced with the help of a grant from the Jane and Aatos Erkko Foundation in order to promote the importance of libraries in culture, the English-language version of the video can be downloaded for use on your own website....

Finnish Library Association, Sept. 27



[Music video inspires students to read](#)

Mike Moylan and Jim Pomis, teachers at North Elementary School in Crystal Lake, Illinois, rewrote the lyrics to the popular Miley Cyrus song "Party in the USA" for a semester-long, school-wide video project aimed at encouraging reading. About 700 students spent months rehearsing their video version, called "[Reading in the USA](#)" (5:17). It even includes some aerial footage. The school put together a [documentary](#) about their efforts (4:56), also now on YouTube....

WBBM-TV, Chicago, Dec. 20; YouTube, Nov. 22, Dec. 14



[Puttin' on the writs](#)

This year's Christmas party at the National Library of Australia featured a satirical top-hat-and-tails examination of copyright law titled "[Puttin' on the Writs](#)" (3:04). The staff's previous productions have included the [Can-can't dancers](#), a [Thriller spoof](#), and [Surfin' NLA](#)....

YouTube, Dec. 14



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