

american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | May 5, 2010

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BUYERS GUIDE

American Libraries Online

[Ohioans approve 86% of library levies](#)

Voters in Ohio turned out in overwhelming support of their public libraries at primary ballot boxes May 4. Out of a total of 29 public library levy issues ([PDF file](#)), 25 were approved—18 of which were first-time requests. The overall good news follows a hard-fought battle last summer to minimize the effects of the economic downturn on funding for library services....

American Libraries news, May 5; Ohio Library Council, May 5



[Library flood damage in Tennessee](#)

Larry Romans, ALA Executive Board member and head of government information and media services for Vanderbilt University Libraries in Nashville, posted a brief report on the ALA Council's discussion list May 4 about the flood situation in middle Tennessee. All campus libraries are open after a roof leak briefly [closed parts](#) of the Central Library, but "parts of downtown are still underwater."...

AL: Inside Scoop, May 4; VUCast, May 4

[Rain barrels serve dual purpose](#)

Laura Bruzas writes: "Who wouldn't want a rain barrel? It serves as a backup source of water during times of drought, and has become an exercise in adding beauty to one's landscape (such as Wetland Whimsey, right). Libraries nationwide are helping promote their use in creative ways."...

AL: Green Your Library, Apr. 29



[Scottsdale raises the bar for meeting-room use](#)

Laura Bruzas writes: "Twelve people are gathering at their local library. Bottled water and Styrofoam cups are provided. Pizza is served on nonrecycled paper plates along with disposable napkins. The last person to leave forgets to turn the lights out. Sound familiar? Not if this meeting was being held at Scottsdale (Ariz.) Public Library, which has instituted the Meet Green program."...



American History in Video

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

—Library Journal

CLICK HERE TO
TRY IT NOW!

Newsreels &
Documentaries
Online in
Streaming Video



AL: Green Your Library, Apr. 27

[Photoessay: National Library Week](#)

With Americans turning to libraries in record numbers for employment resources and technology support, the nation's libraries marked National Library Week, April 11–17, with exhibits, programs such as Madison Heights (Mich.) Public Library's reading with Detroit Tigers mascot Paw (right), and activities celebrating libraries and community cultural centers. Libraries nationwide contributed their photos to *American Libraries*....

American Libraries photoessay, Apr. 28



[Coping with the economy](#)

Leonard Kniffel writes: "*American Libraries* has run a number of articles on how to manage your way through the economic crisis that has now trickled down to libraries big-time. Some of our profession's best managers and leaders have produced a number of significant articles that could help us all get through these tough times. They are all available free on this website."...

AL: Inside Scoop, May 4

ALA News

[Molly Raphael, James Neal win ALA election](#)

Molly Raphael (left), former director of libraries at Multnomah County Library in Portland, Oregon, has been elected president of ALA for the 2011–12 term. James Neal, vice president for information services and university librarian at Columbia University in New York City, has been elected treasurer of ALA for a three-year term beginning at the end of the 2010 ALA Annual Conference in June....

Public Information Office, Apr. 30



[Councilors; division and round table leaders](#)

Thirty-three candidates have been elected to three-year terms on ALA's governing Council. Their terms begin at the conclusion of the 2010 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Election results for the leadership of ALA's 11 divisions and 17 round tables have been posted as a [PDF file](#)...

Office of ALA Governance, Apr. 30

[ALA treasurer sees challenges ahead](#)

Rodney Hersberger writes: "This will be my last message as ALA treasurer, and I'd like to take the opportunity to talk about the current economic challenges facing libraries and the Association. The crisis that hit the economy in fall of 2008 appears to be easing slowly but unevenly. As libraries cut back, there will be less money for everything from conference travel to READ posters. This means that ALA, like libraries, will have to make further budget reductions and cuts over the next two years."...

AL: Inside Scoop, May 3

[Camila's kitchen](#)



[ALA Annual Conference](#)

Washington, D.C., June 24–29.



Register today for the [Sixth Annual Book Cart Drill Team World Championships](#), Sunday, June 27, 4– 5:30 p.m. Win trophies, accolades, and the admiration of your peers. No experience necessary (but style and chutzpah help). The deadline to register ([PDF file](#)) is May 28. Watch a [video](#) of the 2009 contest. If you have questions, contact [Alicia Babcock](#), (312) 280-3229.



In [Countdown to a New Library: Managing the](#)

The Spectrum Presidential Initiative's Dinner for Spectrum Scholars program encourages ALA members to host dinners for their friends and colleagues to raise money for Spectrum Scholarships. In this video (5:12), ALA President Camila Alire (right) prepares a meal of fish tacos, black beans, and her special guacamole, while discussing Spectrum and how these fun gatherings will support the next generation of librarians....

AL Focus, May 3



[Choose Privacy Week: The awesome video](#)

Jonathan Kelley writes: "We are thrilled to unveil a [short film](#) (23:10) that introduces some of today's most interesting and complex privacy issues. We hope libraries and others will share the video online and host events to discuss the issues it raises. In addition to man-on-the-street interviews, the film features individuals like Neil Gaiman, Cory Doctorow (above), University of Chicago Professor Geoffrey Stone, and ALA President Camila Alire discussing privacy."...

OIF Blog, May 3; Vimeo, May 3



[Barbara Jones on Choose Privacy Week](#)

May 2–8 is Choose Privacy Week, a new ALA initiative from the Office for Intellectual Freedom that invites library users into a national conversation about privacy rights in a digital age. OIF Director Barbara Jones (right) discusses the campaign, its resources, and programming ideas on what privacy is and why the public should care about it....

Visibility @ your library, May 3



[Madeline's cause: Banned books](#)

Jonathan Kelley writes: "In late April, the Office for Intellectual Freedom got a visit from 8-year-old Madeline Daniel (right), who came to make a donation—cash that she had raised from her lemonade sale. For 50 cents a cup, thirsty passersby helped raise money 'to support the ALA's fight against Banned Books.' Madeline raised over \$28 in all, which indeed will help us continue to work with librarians, parents, community members, and teachers to protect the right to read." Watch the [video](#) (3:30) of Madeline's visit....

OIF Blog, May 3



[Many Voices, One Nation 2010](#)

Benjamin Alire Sáenz (left) and R. Dwayne Betts will participate in the Many Voices, One Nation program during ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Sáenz is an artist, poet, novelist, and a writer of children's books whose latest novel is *Last Night I Sang to the*



[Building Project,](#)

Jeannette Woodward walks you through the process of overseeing the planning and construction of a new library building. Packed with helpful checklists and worksheets, this revised edition includes updated references, standards, materials, and resources, as well as evolving rules for LEED certification. **NEW!** From ALA Editions.

[New this week](#) in *American Libraries*



[Perpetual Beta](#)

[Inside Scoop](#)

[Green Your Library](#)

[Ask the ALA Librarian](#)

[Librarian's Library](#)

[AL Focus](#)

[What makes your library special?](#)

Share your story with *Woman's Day* magazine for your chance to appear in an upcoming issue!
@your library

There is still time to promote *Woman's Day* magazine's latest initiative, which asks readers to submit stories about the [importance of](#)

Monster. Betts is a poet who has been published in many national literary journals and has taught poetry in Washington, D.C., metro area public schools. The program will take place the evening of June 25....

Office for Diversity, Apr. 29

[Spectrum Professional Options Fair](#)

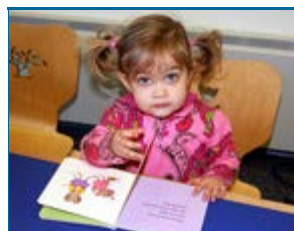
OCLC's Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives has signed on as a sponsor for the Professional Options Fair at the 2010 Spectrum Leadership Institute, June 23–25. The Professional Options Fair will offer Spectrum Scholars attending the Leadership Institute at ALA Annual Conference an opportunity to discuss careers in various areas of librarianship....

Office for Diversity, Apr. 29

[Library Snapshot Days](#)

Robyn Vittek writes: "ALA is promoting [Library Snapshot Day](#), an initiative to let elected officials, the press, and even internet trolls know just how many people use your library. On one day, libraries across your state collect data and user comments and take pictures, then publish and disseminate all of that info in a user-friendly and easy-to-understand way. What I found most intriguing while looking at the different [state websites](#) and Flickr accounts were the photos. Everyone really does use the library." [Universities](#) are participating too....

YALSA Blog, Apr. 27; Office for Library Advocacy; Western Illinois University, Apr. 30



[Using the media for library advocacy](#)

The media can be a powerful ally in promoting your library's cause. In this [webinar](#) (58:46), consultant Stephanie Vance looks at options for finding media outlets, building relationships with reporters, identifying a hook for news stories, and becoming the "go to source" on library-related issues. Also included are appropriate practices for the different media venues, including print, TV, radio, and the internet....

District Dispatch, Apr. 27; Vimeo, Apr. 27



[Stephen Abram to speak at PR Forum](#)

During the ALA PR Forum in 2007, Stephen Abram asked if new media and Library 2.0 technologies were the "sizzle or the steak." Three years later, Abram returns to the PR Forum to discuss where Library 2.0 will take public relations next. Abram is a leading library conference keynote speaker and vice president of strategic partnerships and markets for Gale Cengage. The PR Forum will take place the morning of June 27....

Public Information Office, May 4



[Nominating Committee seeks ALA candidates](#)

The ALA 2011 Nominating Committee is soliciting nominees to run on the 2011 spring ballot for the offices of ALA president and councilor-at-large. The committee will select two candidates to run for president and no fewer than 51 candidates for the 33 at-large council seats to be filled in the 2011 spring election. Nominations and [forms](#) must be

[the library](#) in their community. Stories must be [submitted](#) by 12 noon Eastern Time on May 9.

Career Leads from

ALA JobLIST

[Head Librarian / Media Specialist](#)

Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts, Hot Springs. The Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts, a residential high school for academically talented 11th- and 12th-grade students, is seeking a head librarian/media specialist for the 2010–2011 school year. This 10-month position is responsible for oversight of the school's library, media resources, and electronic databases. Responsibilities also include research support for students, interlibrary loan, and an archive of student research. The ideal candidate should have an understanding of the Library of Congress system, a working knowledge of online research and Web 2.0 tools, and an enthusiasm for young adult literature....



@ [More jobs...](#)

received no later than August 13....
Office of ALA Governance, May 4

[Annual Report highlights Rettig presidency](#)

ALA President James Rettig focused his presidential activities around "Creating Connections" and addressed three critical issues: advocacy, diversity, and member participation. These initiatives and other highlights are featured in the just released [ALA Annual Report](#) that covers 2008–09. The fiscal year began with widespread media coverage of the increase in library usage during tough economic times....

Public Information Office, May 3



[Friend Your Library poster, bookmark debut](#)

Produced in collaboration with ALTAFF, the [Friend Your Library poster and bookmark](#) recognize the important role of Friends groups, reminding patrons of simple, yet effective ways in which they can support their local library, such as signing up for a library card, borrowing items, and volunteering....

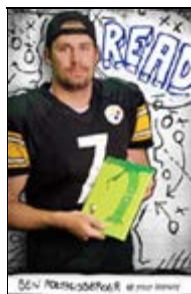
ALA Graphics, Apr. 29



[Big Ben Roethlisberger and ALA](#)

Will Manley writes: "Big Ben Roethlisberger is a football celebrity who is featured on an ALA Celebrity READ poster (right). Here are Big Ben's vital statistics: two Super Bowl rings and accusations from two different women for sexual assault. The last incident happened in March and involved a Georgia college student. Should an overwhelmingly female profession be promoting a man who is developing a reputation as a sexual predator against women?" Be sure to read the [follow-up post](#) with a response from ALA Director of Marketing and Sales Mary Mackay....

Will Unwound, Apr. 30, May 4

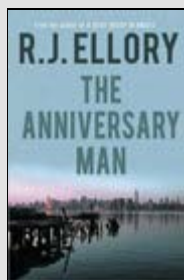


Booklist ONLINE

[Featured review: Crime fiction](#)

Ellory, R. J. *The Anniversary Man*. June 2010. 400p. Overlook, hardcover (978-1-59020-327-9).

This is one of those police-procedural gems that come along once in a blue moon. The book is entirely free of the tired formulas that drive way too many procedurals and that often seem more oriented toward securing movie rights than telling a story. And what a story this is! NYPD Detective Ray Irving—overworked, underpaid, and absolutely dedicated to his job—risks his code of ethics and, ultimately, his life to track down a serial killer who is imitating the crimes of some of the



ALA members can register for the [IFLA World Library and Information Congress](#) in Gothenburg, Sweden, August 10–15, at a discounted member rate using the ALA IFLA member code of US-0002. The advanced registration **deadline is May 7.**

Digital Library of the Week



[Lit2Go](#) is a free online collection of stories and poems in MP3 (audiobook) format developed by the Florida Educational Technology Clearinghouse.

Students and teachers can download the files to an MP3 player and listen on the go, listen to the files on a computer, view the text on a webpage and read along as the file plays, or print out the stories and poems. Selections are browsable by author or title; and searchable by title, author, keywords, or reading level. An abstract, citation, playing time, and word count are given for each of the passages. Many of the selections also have a related reading strategy identified. Each reading passage can also be

worst monsters our society has spawned....

Best crime novels of 2010

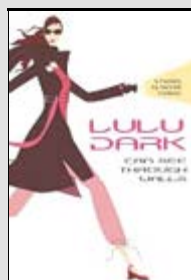
Bill Ott writes: "Picking the best crime novels of the year is fraught with its own special ambiguity. How do we factor in series books versus stand-alones? Cozies versus hard-boiled detective novels? And, if we're extending the crime-fiction umbrella, as I believe it should be extended, to cover any work with a crime at its center—whether thriller, espionage, whodunit, historical, or genre-benders of every stripe—well, what is a simple mystery fan to do?"...



The case of the overlooked books

Keir Graff writes: "As we previously announced, May is Mystery Month at *Booklist*. As part of all this mayhem, we'll be asking people who write crime fiction to give us their recommendations for books that deserved more attention than they received. Our first guest, John Green, isn't generally thought of as a mystery writer, but he is a bona fide Edgar Award winner for his third book, *Paper Towns*. So, you might say, he has a clue about mysteries."...

Likely Stories, May 3



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

downloaded as a PDF and printed for use as supplemental reading material for the classroom. Many of the selections can also be downloaded directly into an iTunes library.

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

Public Perception How the World Sees Us

"I've never read *The Chocolate War*, but complaining about nudity in a novel that contains no pictures is like complaining about there being too much sound in a sandwich."

—Amelie Gillette, writing about ALA's Top Ten Most Frequently Challenged Books list, where *The Chocolate War* ranked 10th in 2009, "[Parents Still Hate *The Catcher in the Rye*," *The Onion A.V. Club*, Apr. 15.](#)

D.C. Update

Cognotes: Preview issue

ALA Conference Services has released the preview issue of *Cognotes*, the information source for the ALA Annual Conference, in Nxtbook format. [Mobile](#) and [accessible](#) versions are also available. The issue contains information on speakers, exhibits, the Scholarship Bash, Advocacy Day, and other activities....

Conference Services



The National Postal Museum

The National Postal Museum, at 2 Massachusetts Ave., N.E., opened in 1993 through a joint agreement between the United States Postal Service and the Smithsonian Institution. The museum houses interactive displays about the history of the U.S. Postal Service, mail service around the world, and a vast collection of postage stamps. During ALA Annual Conference, the museum's Victory Mail exhibit will showcase its collection of World War II V-Mail correspondence....

National Postal Museum



Discover the Civil War at the National Archives

"Discovering the Civil War," an exhibit at the Lawrence F. O'Brien Gallery of the



TweetWatch

Follow:

Choose Privacy Week, May 2–8, at: [#chooseprivacy](#)

Oregon Virtual Reference Summit,



National Archives at 700 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., takes a fresh look at the conflict through letters, orders, maps, telegrams, broadsides, and photographs (such as this image of a U.S. Navy vessel, ca. 1864) that are preserved in the collection. Part One, "Beginnings," runs through September....

National Archives and Records Administration

[**Figuring out D.C. streets**](#)

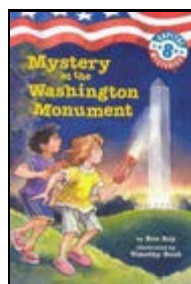
Washington was first laid out by Pierre Charles L'Enfant in 1791. When traveling around town, it will be hard to get lost if you keep these few things in mind: The lettered streets (A–W) run east/west (parallel to the Mall). The numbered streets run north/south (perpendicular to the Mall). Streets named for states (Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Connecticut) run diagonally through lettered and/or numbered streets....

ALSC Blog, May 3

[**Explore literary Washington**](#)

For the young at heart, track down criminals with K. C. and Marshall as they solve crimes at some of D.C.'s most famous landmarks, from the White House to the Washington Monument and the Treasury Building, in the *Capital Mysteries* series by Ron Roy. For adults, check out the *Capital Crimes* series by Margaret Truman, which features a wide range of Washington settings from the Smithsonian to Union Station to the Library of Congress....

ALSC @ ALA 2010 wiki



[**Is there a cure for jet lag?**](#)

Ransom Riggs writes: "It appears that there is no cure for jet lag, other than not traveling on jets. But there seem to be no end to the tips floating around on the net, like old wives' tales, about how to ameliorate the symptoms. One of the weirdest remedies I found was Viagra. Also known as sildenafil citrate, studies have shown that it can speed recovery from jet lag by as much as 50% . . . in hamsters. Here are a few suggestions from the Centers for Disease Control."...

Mental Floss Blog, Apr. 30

Division News

[**Sarah Flowers elected YALSA president**](#)

The 2011–12 president of YALSA is Sarah Flowers, a writer and editor in Morgan Hill, California, who is the retired deputy county librarian of Santa Clara County Library. Flowers is the author of the forthcoming ALA Editions title *Young Adults Deserve the Best: YALSA's Competencies in Action*. She has served on ALA Council, the YALSA board of directors, and the Michael L. Printz Award committee....

YALSA, Apr. 30



[**Joyce L. Ogburn elected ACRL president**](#)

Joyce L. Ogburn, university librarian and director of the

Troutdale, May 7, at:
[**Intetoregon**](#)

ALA Preservation Week, May 9–15, at:
[**#presweek2010**](#)

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

Calendar

June 2–4:
[**Society for Scholarly Publishing**](#). Annual Meeting, Hilton San Francisco. "A Golden Opportunity: A Shared Vision for Publishers, Librarians, and Users."

June 2–4:
[**Canadian Association for Information Science**](#). Annual Conference, Henry F. Hall Building, Concordia University, Montréal, Québec.

June 2–5:
[**Canadian Library Association**](#). 65th National Conference, Shaw Conference Centre, Edmonton, Alberta.

June 6–9:
[**Learning College Summit**](#). Arizona Biltmore Resort, Phoenix.

June 7–11:
[**Canadian Health Libraries Association**](#). Annual Conference, Four Points Sheraton,

University of Utah's Marriott Library, has been elected president of ACRL. Her activities in ACRL include serving as the scholarly communications column editor for *C&RL News*, as a member of the *Choice* Editorial Board, and as editor of *ANSS Currents*....

ACRL Insider, May 3

Marcia Warner elected PLA president

Marcia Warner, director of the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Public Library, has been elected president of PLA. Warner has been a member of PLA for 25 years, serving on numerous PLA and ALA committees and the PLA Board of Directors. Her association efforts have benefited conference programming, publications, scholarship programs, and member networking....

PLA, May 4

Carl Harvey elected AASL president

Carl A. Harvey III, school librarian for North Elementary School in Noblesville, Indiana, has been elected president of AASL. Harvey is currently a member of AASL's board of directors and serves as a board member for the Indiana Library Federation. He has authored three publications, including *The 21st Century Elementary Library Media Program*....

AASL, May 4

Mary Fellows elected ALSC president

Mary J. Fellows, manager of youth and family services at the Upper Hudson Library System in Albany, New York, has been elected president of ALSC. She currently serves on the ALSC board of directors and also has served on the Caldecott, Managing Children's Services, and Notable Children's Books Committees....

ALSC, Apr. 30

Zmuda to call school librarians to action

Allison Zmuda will be the keynote speaker at the AASL President's Program at the 2010 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., June 26. Her presentation, "Leading the Transformation of Education for the 21st Century," is a call to action for school librarians to position themselves at the forefront of the push to transform American education for the 21st century....

AASL, May 4

Francine Berman at ALCTS President's Program

ALCTS will present Francine Berman, vice president for research at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, as the featured speaker for its President's Program at the 2010 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., June 28. The title of her presentation is "Got Data? New Roles for Libraries in Shaping 21st Century Research."...

ALCTS, May 4



Kingston, Ontario.
"Honouring Heritage / Inspiring Innovation."

June 9–12:

Association of Canadian Archivists,

35th Annual Conference, Westin Nova Scotian Hotel, Halifax. "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: The Next Generation of Canadian Archivists."

June 14–15:

Heartland School Library Conference,

W. H. Thompson Alumni Center, University of Nebraska, Omaha.

June 16–18:

Canadian Learning Commons Conference,

Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. "A Journey in Progress: Been There! Done That! What's Next!"

June 20–24:

International Association of Technological University Libraries,

Annual Conference, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.

June 21–24:

7th International Conference on Conceptions of Library and Information Science,

University College London, U.K.
"Integration in the Information Sciences: Unity in Diversity."

June 24–29:

[AASL Fall Forum speakers](#)

The AASL Fall Forum, November 5–6, in Portland, Oregon, will bring together some of the greatest minds in the library field to help school librarians understand how to guide 21st-century students toward meaningful learning. Gail Dickinson, Leslie Maniotes, and Ross Todd will lead attendees of “In Focus: The Essentials for 21st-Century Learning” to a better understanding of the essential role they play in a student’s learning process....

AASL, May 4

[ACRL Immersion Program track applications due](#)

Applications for the ACRL Information Literacy Immersion Program [Assessment and Intentional Teacher Tracks](#) are due May 7.

Acceptance for both tracks is competitive to ensure an environment that fosters group interaction and active participation. The Intentional Teacher and Assessment Tracks will be offered simultaneously November 10–14 in Nashville....

ACRL Insider, May 4

[Tom Peters to oversee LBPH standards revision](#)

ASCLA has selected Tom Peters, the founder of TAP Information Services, as project director to oversee revision of the 2005 Revised Standards and Guidelines of Service for the Library of Congress Network of Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. This most recent revision will take into consideration a number of significant changes in the operation of network libraries and in the development and use of new technologies....

ASCLA, May 4



[Looking for BIGWIG Showcase presenters](#)

The 4th annual BIGWIG Showcase will be held June 28 at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. In the interests of staying as current and relevant as possible, the organizers would like you to [propose topics](#) for this year’s event. If you are interested in presenting on this topic, add your name and you will be contacted with details following the voting. The deadline for adding topics is May 14....

Your BIGWIG, May 3

[Keep your cool with the kids this summer](#)

Summer is nearly here, and with temperatures rising and kids out of school, what’s a busy librarian to do? Keep your cool with the Kids! @ your library [tool kit](#), which has some great ideas to help you with your summer program plans. Here are 10 free ideas from our online tool kit to get your summer off to a great start....

ALSC Blog, May 3



[AASL survey extended](#)

The deadline for the AASL 2010 “School Libraries Count!” [survey](#) has been extended to May 14. The study gathers basic data about the status of school library programs across the country. AASL will use this information to develop advocacy tools to support school library programs at the local, state, and national levels....

AASL, May 4

[American Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.

June 29–

July 2:

[8th International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities](#).

University of California, Los Angeles.

July 4–7:

[Association of Jewish Libraries](#).

Annual Convention, Fairmont Olympic Hotel, Seattle.

July 8–10:

[Sixth Islamic Manuscript Conference](#).

Queens’ College, University of Cambridge, U.K.

“Central Asian Islamic Manuscripts and Manuscript Collections.”

Sept. 19–24:

[CFP: 7th International Conference on Preservation of Digital Objects](#).

Austrian National Library and the Vienna University of Technology.

Nov. 8–12:

[eResearch](#)

[Australasia](#), Royal Pines Resort, Queensland, Australia.

“21st Century Research: Where Computing Meets Data.”

@ [More...](#)

Contact Us

American Libraries

Round Table News

What ails SRRT: A diagnosis

Rory Litwin writes: "The Social Responsibilities Round Table was the permanent structure formed out of progressive political organizing in ALA during the revolutionary time of the late 1960s. Since then it has served as the political conscience of the Association, taking a public stand on many issues not directly related to librarianship. SRRT is now in a period of protracted crisis based on a conflict between the activists at its core and the majority of its membership, who have grown less interested in seeing SRRT pursue activist goals."...

Library Juice, May 1

Awards

Honorary ALA member nominations open

Nominations are being accepted for ALA honorary membership, the Association's highest honor, which is bestowed on living citizens of any country whose contributions to librarianship or a closely related field are so outstanding that they are of significant and lasting importance to the whole field of library service. Members who wish to forward nominations must complete the online ALA Honorary member nomination form ([Word file](#)) by September 1....

Office of ALA Governance, May 4

AASL Intellectual Freedom Award

Karyn Storts-Brinks, school librarian for the Knox County (Tenn.) School District, is the 2010 recipient of the AASL Intellectual Freedom Award. Nominated by the Tennessee Library Association, Storts-Brinks challenged the school district to insure that all students had access to education information on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues. In 2009, as an advisor for the school's Gay Straight Alliance Club, Storts-Brinks noticed that certain websites were being blocked due to the school's internet filtering software....

AASL, May 4



AASL Distinguished Service Award

Marcia Mardis, assistant professor in the School of Library and Information Science at Florida State University, is the recipient of the 2010 AASL Distinguished Service Award. Mardis has been the chair of the AASL Research and Statistics Committee since 2007 and was a key player in the creation of the division's *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner*....

AASL, May 4



AASL Distinguished Administrators Award

Vince Barnes, principal of North Elementary School in Noblesville, Indiana, is this year's recipient of the AASL Distinguished Administrators Award. Barnes encourages collaboration between the school librarian and teachers and "creates opportunities for the school librarian to share ideas, activities, and resources that would help teachers in their instruction."...

AASL, May 4

AASL National School Library Programs of the Year

Direct



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



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All links outside the ALA website are provided for

Two schools have been given the title of 2010 School Library Program of the Year by AASL: New Canaan (Conn.) High School and Perry Meridian Middle School in Indianapolis. The recipients were judged on their mission statement, how they implement AASL's learning standards, and how well the library program is integrated into the curriculum of the school....

AASL, May 4

AASL Collaborative School Library Media Award

The project "Listen My Children and You Shall Hear: The 18th-Century Project: Inquiry, Collaboration, and a Social Studies Year," the creation of school librarian Marilyn Rothberg and her teacher collaborator Barbara Masters, is the recipient of the AASL Collaborative School Library Media Award. The team is part of the staff at General Wayne Elementary in Malvern, Pennsylvania....

AASL, May 4

"Don't Shelve the Questions" wins RUSA award

The article, "Don't Shelve the Questions: Defining Good Customer Service for Shelters" by Luke Vilella, public services librarian at Hollins University, and Christopher C. Peters, stacks manager at the University Libraries of Virginia Tech, is the 2010 Reference Service Press Award winner. The award recognizes the most outstanding article published in RUSA's *Reference and User Services Quarterly* during the preceding two-volume year....

RUSA, May 4

AASL Innovative Reading Grant

Library Media Specialist Myra Oleynik is the recipient of the AASL Innovative Reading Grant. Oleynik and her colleagues Nancy Hobbs and Kristen Sacco created the program "Personalized Independent Enrichment: Making Reading Personal Again." The teachers and school librarians are staff members at Bower Hill Elementary School in Venetia, Pennsylvania....

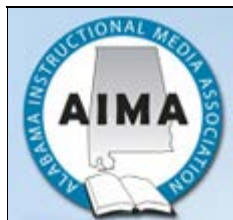
AASL, May 4



ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant

The recipient of the AASL ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant, the Alabama Instructional Media Association, has new school librarians competing to win a spot on its committees. AIMA's New Librarians Workshop gives 25 school librarians with three years or less of experience the chance to attend a free workshop designed especially for them. The grant of up to \$1,750 is given to school library associations for planning and implementing leadership programs at the state, regional, or local levels....

AASL, May 4



AASL Frances Henne Award

Melanie Gibson, school librarian at Bishop Dunne Catholic School in Dallas, is the recipient of AASL's 2010 Frances Henne Award. The \$1,250 grant, sponsored by Greenwood Publishing Group, recognizes a school librarian with five years or less experience who demonstrates leadership qualities with students, teachers, and administrators. Gibson will use the funds to travel to the 2010 ALA Annual Conference....

AASL, May 4



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American Libraries

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

ISSN 1559-369X.

[Lee County Library wins S.C. state photo contest](#)

For the third time in four years, the Lee County (S.C.) Public Library has won top honors in the State Library's annual "Day in the Life of South Carolina Libraries" photo contest ([PDF file](#)). Librarian Elizabeth Snyder-Powell's photo (right) of Head Librarian Dawn Ellen reading to 18-month-old T. J. Brown captured the award for the best overall photo. The library also won the Best Humorous Photo Award with Snyder-Powell's photo of a youngster asleep in the library....

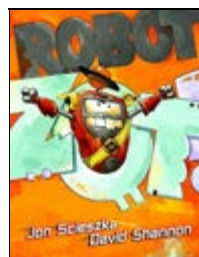
Sumter (S.C.) Item, Apr. 30; South Carolina State Library, Apr. 23



[2010 Black Award for Excellence in Children's Literature](#)

Robot Zot, by Jon Scieszka and illustrated by David Shannon, has won the 2010 Irma Simonton Black and James H. Black Award for Excellence in Children's Literature. The award is presented by the Bank Street College of Education to an outstanding book for young children—a book in which text and illustrations are inseparable, each enhancing and enlarging on the other to produce a singular whole....

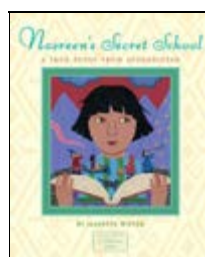
Early Word: The Publisher|Librarian Connection, May 3



[2010 Jane Addams Children's Book Awards](#)

The Jane Addams Peace Association announced the winners April 28 of the 2010 Jane Addams Children's Book Awards on topics that engage children in thinking about peace, justice, world community, and/or equality of the sexes and all races. *Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan* (Beach Lane Books), written and illustrated by Jeanette Winter, is the winner in the Books for Younger Children category. *Marching for Freedom: Walk Together, Children, and Don't You Grow Weary* (Viking), by Elizabeth Partridge, is the winner in the Books for Older Children category....

Jane Addams Peace Association, Apr. 28



[2010 Edgar Award winners](#)

The Mystery Writers of America announced the winners of their prestigious Edgar Awards for the best crime and mystery writing at a banquet in New York City on April 29. Edgars went to John Hart for *The Last Child* and Stefanie Pintoff, whose *In the Shadow of Gotham* won best first novel by an American author. Dave Cullen took the prize for best fact crime for *Columbine*, his account of the 1999 shootings at that Colorado high school....

New York Times, May 2



[2009 Agatha Award winners](#)

The 2009 Agatha Awards were presented at the Malice Domestic conference in Arlington, Virginia, May 1. The award for best mystery novel went to *A Brutal Telling* by Louise Penny, best first mystery novel to *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by Alan Bradley, and best children's or YA mystery to *The Hanging Hill*

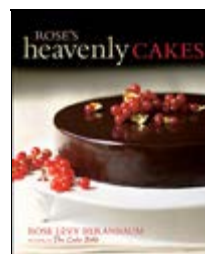
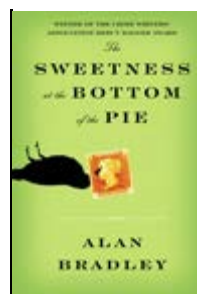
by Chris Grabenstein. The awards honor traditional mysteries first published in the United States by a living author during the calendar year 2009....

Malice Domestic

[IACP Cookbook Awards](#)

The International Association of Culinary Professionals has named *Rose's Heavenly Cakes* by Rose Levy Beranbaum its Cookbook of the Year 2010. Other winners include Jeri Quinzio's *Of Sugar and Snow: A History of Ice Cream Making*, and Eileen Yin-Fei Lo's *Mastering the Art of Chinese Cooking*....

International Association of Culinary Professionals



[2010 James Beard Awards](#)

At a May 2 ceremony, the James Beard Foundation announced the winners of its 2010 awards for books and media, the "Oscars of Food." Among the highlights: Colman Andrews won the award for Cookbook of the Year for his *Country Cooking of Ireland*, and Thomas Keller's *Ad Hoc at Home* won for general cooking. [Serious Eats](#) took home the award for top food blog, best newspaper food section went to the *Washington Post*, and [CHOW](#) won for best website....

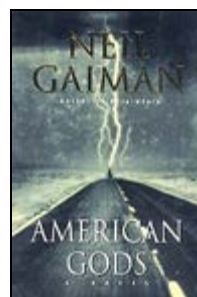
James Beard Foundation, May 3



[One Book, One Twitter winner](#)

The One Book, One Twitter program kicks off May 5 with Neil Gaiman's *American Gods* as the first summer read. *Crowdsourcing* author Jeff Howe started the project via his own Twitter [feed](#), and [wrote about it](#) for *Wired*, where he is a contributing editor. Twitterers voted on the choices at [#1b1t](#). Gaiman himself is [conflicted](#) on the choice, mainly because it "such a divisive sort of book."...

GalleyCat, May 4; *Wired*: Epicenter, Mar. 24; *The Guardian* (U.K.), May 4



Seen Online

[FCC weighs leaving broadband deregulated](#)

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski (right) is expected to respond soon to an April 6 ruling in *Comcast v. FCC* ([PDF file](#)) invalidating sanctions the agency had imposed to protect net neutrality. Telecoms favor ([PDF file](#)) maintaining the status quo. Net-neutrality supporters [want](#) the FCC to reclassify broadband services so it can safeguard consumer access to web content. Genachowski is reportedly leaning toward a middle road....

Washington Post, May 3; Save the Internet, May 3

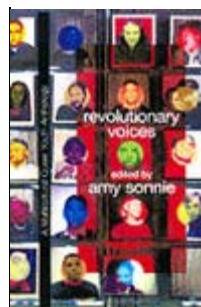


[School board bans gay youth book](#)

A Burlington County, New Jersey, school board voted

May 4 to pull a book depicting teenage homosexuality from the Rancocas Valley Regional High School library in Mount Holly following protests from a local conservative group. The board was concerned that *Revolutionary Voices: A Multicultural Queer Youth Anthology*, edited by Amy Sonnie, was too graphic for children. The decision drew criticism from the majority of parents, students, and librarians assembled at the meeting....

Philadelphia Inquirer, May 5



Fond du Lac again

A Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, school district committee has been called together to hear another citizen complaint involving a library book. The reconsideration committee will meet May 13 to consider parent Ann Brashares' request to remove the book *Forever in Blue: The Fourth Summer of the Sisterhood* by Ann Brashares from the library at Theisen Middle School. Wentworth is objecting to several books she feels contain inappropriate content that are available to middle school students....

Appleton (Wis.) Post-Crescent, May 5



Public libraries seeking private funds

The El Paso (Tex.) Public Library has joined a growing number of publicly funded libraries across the country tapping into private sources of money. Library Director Carol Brey-Casiano helped launch the El Paso Public Library Foundation in recent months. The nonprofit group of El Pasoans is dedicated to helping the system raise money on a long-term basis. More and more urban libraries are relying on nonprofit fundraising groups and aggressively diversifying their once traditional sources of money....

El Paso (Tex.) Times, May 3

Two generations, one common mission

In March, word quickly spread that the Weed Memorial and Hollander branch of Stamford, Connecticut's Ferguson Library was under threat of closure due to budget cuts. Two entirely separate campaigns were immediately launched to save it. Marilyn Trefry, the 72-year-old founder and president of the Springdale Neighborhood Association, drew up a petition. And 16-year-old Andrew Brezovsky, a student and part-time employee at the library, created a Facebook group called "Keep the Weed Memorial and Hollander Branch Open!"...

Stamford (Conn.) Advocate, Apr. 29



Morristown explosion damage worse than expected

The basement explosion that blew out doors and windows at the Morristown and Morris Township (N.J.) Library on May 3 was so severe that power company officials say they doubt that it was caused by faulty cables, adding that it was unlike anything they've seen. Someone might have been killed had library workers not evacuated the building shortly before the explosion after they saw smoke coming from manholes.



Town officials toured the library May 4 and said the damage was more than they had expected. The library will be [closed](#) at least a month....

Morristown (N.J.) Daily Record, May 3, 5; *Morristown (N.J.) Green*, May 4

[Two arrested in Kalispell during film protest](#)

Two members of a white separatist group were arrested during a protest over a pro-Nazi film shown at the Flathead County Library in Kalispell, Montana, April 29. An estimated 200 people had crowded around the library to protest the showing of *Epic: The Story of the Waffen SS*, which apparently takes an admiring view of the combat arm of the Nazis during World War II, when a scuffle broke out. Library Director Kim Crowley (above) [said](#) she had hoped the showing would bring together "diverse groups in the community hopefully to have dialogue."...



Kalispell (Mont.) *Daily Inter Lake*, Apr. 30; KECI-TV, Missoula, Apr. 29

[Go back to the Top](#)

Tech Talk

[iPad's accessibility features: White on black](#)

Jason Griffey (right) writes: "I'm going to be doing a series of videos showing off different lesser-known features of the iPad that are important for libraries and librarians. [Here's the first](#) (2:51), looking at a little-known accessibility feature called White on Black."...



AL: Perpetual Beta, May 3

[How to upgrade your computer memory](#)

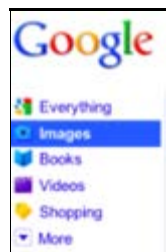
Daniel S. Evans writes: "Nothing can frustrate a computer user more than a desktop PC that takes a really loooooonng time to finish a task. But that's the reality when you've been using a system for a few years. In the interim, there have been new applications you've downloaded, maybe even a new operating system that you've installed. The most likely culprit for this loss of speed is the memory (or not enough of it). The good news is upgrading to more memory is a simple fix." Watch the [video](#) (1:50)....



PC Magazine, Apr. 29

[Google gives search results page a makeover](#)

Tom Krazit writes: "Starting May 5, Google users will see something very different on search results pages as the world's leading internet search company trots out one of its most significant redesigns in years. With the new look, Google is emphasizing the menu of search options that had previously been hidden on the left-side rail of the search results pages. Now they will be permanently affixed to the left rail, and Google will surface different search options based on



whether they are relevant to the query.”...

CNET News: Relevant Results, May 5

Mashups and mobiles: Down Under edition

Michael Stephens writes: “Last fall I was lucky to spend a couple of days at the Queensland Public Library Association Conference. Hearing Paul Hagon from the National Library speak about combining Google maps with the library’s digital collections was *amazing*: The first time that the true power of sending a mashed-up collection outside library walls for people to access via mobile devices made total sense.”...

ALA TechSource Blog, May 4

Publishing

Google to launch digital bookstore

Chris Palma, Google’s manager for strategic-partner development, announced May 4 that Google will begin selling digital books as early as late June or July as part of its new Google Editions service. The initiative, which will enable users to buy digital copies of books they discover through Google’s [book-search service](#), is separate from the ongoing [Google Books Settlement](#) case, and may be boosted by its [investment](#) in mobile-payments startup Corduro....

Wall Street Journal, May 4; American Libraries news, Feb. 22; TechCrunch, May 3

Your next book should be an app

Cody Brown writes: “Why do we have books in the first place? The challenge for authors at this point is that the iPad enables so many different types of expression. Once you start thinking of your book as an app you run into all kinds of bizarre questions. Do I need to have all of my book accessible at any given time? Why not make it like a game so that in order to get to the next ‘chapter’ you need to pass a test? At 21, I can say with a lot of confidence that the ‘books’ that come to define my generation will be impossible to print.”...

TechCrunch, Apr. 11

Funding your library degree

Looking for an LIS scholarship or grant but can’t find the right one? The answer could lie in a new publication from Reference Service Press, *How to Pay for Your Degree in Library and Information Studies, 2010–2012*, by Gail Ann Schlachter and R. David Weber. This book offers a comprehensive summary of the 833 scholarships, fellowships, grants, loans, and awards available that support study, research, and conference attendance for LIS undergraduate and graduate students in the United States and Canada. Detailed eligibility requirements are provided for each entry....

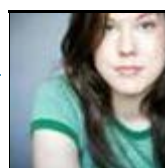
Reference Service Press



Book people to follow on Twitter

On April 9, the Huffington Post published its list of the [50 best book people to follow on Twitter](#). Of course, readers had plenty of their own suggestions to add to the list—so many, in fact, that HuffPost decided to put together a second list of the bookish twitterers that its readers love to follow, from cyberpunk novelist [William Gibson](#) to young adult author [Maureen Johnson](#) (right)....

Huffington Post, Apr. 9, 29



Actions & Answers

Top 10 reasons why you should quit Facebook

Dan Yoder writes: "After some reflection, I've decided to delete my account on Facebook. I'd like to encourage you to do the same. This is part altruism and part selfish. The altruism part is that I think Facebook, as a company, is unethical. The selfish part is that I'd like my own social network to migrate away from Facebook so that I'm not missing anything. In any event, here are my top 10 reasons why you should join me and many others and delete your account."...

rocket.ly, Apr. 26

And 10 reasons not to quit Facebook (yet)

David Lee King writes: "On May 3, I started seeing people I know tweeting the link to Dan Yoder's article (above), and saying 'I might delete my account too.' But what about your organization's Facebook Page? I'm not sure deleting your Profile or Page is the answer. To my tweet, 'Come on people, why should you *not* quit Facebook?' I got some excellent replies."...

David Lee King, May 4

Sandra Hirsh named San José SLIS director

Sandra Hirsh, an experienced LIS scholar and leader, has been named the new director of the School of Library and Information Science at San José State University. Her experience includes assignments as a faculty member at several academic institutions, as a librarian in academic and special libraries, and more than a decade in leadership positions with Microsoft and Hewlett Packard. She will replace outgoing director Ken Haycock in August....

San José State University SLIS, Apr. 28



New financial literacy center at NYPL

Financial Literacy Now—a joint effort of the New York Public Library, McGraw-Hill, and other partners—is opening a new center dedicated to financial literacy at NYPL's Science, Industry, and Business Library. Financial Literacy Central will serve as a hub for free personal finance information and resources, including computer access to business and financial databases. The library also offers classes and public programs on personal finance....

McGraw-Hill, Apr. 21; New York Public Library



Information literacy: A neglected core competency

Sharon A. Weiner writes: "Researchers at the Information School at the University of Washington released an important and thought-provoking report in late 2009 on how college students seek information. The results of the study suggest that many college students view their educational experience as finding just enough information that is 'good enough' to complete course assignments. Information literacy is a national and global concern."...

Educause Quarterly 33, no. 1

[Wide variations in agency plans for open government](#)

A [ranking](#) of U.S. agencies' Open Government Plans compiled during an [independent audit](#) reveals the strongest and weakest agency plans, with NASA at the top of the list and the Department of Justice at the bottom. Strikingly, the audit also found that several agencies that are supposed to lead by example on the government openness front failed to do so in their Open Government Plans....

OMB Watch, May 3

[Conferencing: CiL and Evergreen 2010](#)

Kate Sheehan writes: "What makes for a good conference? It's tempting to reduce it to a simple equation: C+P+L=E. Content plus people plus location equals experience. I'm just back from three consecutive conferences and in addition to my annual sense of wonder at the librarian obsession with conferencing, I've been mulling over conferences in general, and technology-oriented conferences in particular."...

ALA TechSource blog, May 3; [OpenTheGovernment.org](#)

[Anglo-Saxon manuscript collection digitized](#)

One of the most important collections of Anglo-Saxon manuscripts—for centuries kept at the University of Cambridge's Corpus Christi College—has been digitized and [made available online](#). The Parker Library was entrusted to the college in 1574 by Matthew Parker, archbishop of Canterbury under Queen Elizabeth and one of the primary architects of the English Reformation. The library holds more than 550 manuscripts, including the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, the earliest history written in English, and the 6th-century *St. Augustine Gospels*, used at the enthronement of the Archbishops at Canterbury....

University of Cambridge, Apr. 28



[Wolfram Tones: Experiment with sound](#)

WolframTones
Find your music in the computational universe™

Richard Byrne writes: "From the same people that brought us the computational search engine Wolfram Alpha comes [Wolfram Tones](#), which uses algorithms, music theory, and sound samples to generate new collections of sounds. Visitors can experiment with sounds and rhythms to make their own sounds. Once they select a genre, they can alter the rhythm, instrumentation, and pitch mapping. This might be a nice little resource for a music theory lesson."...

Free Technology for Teachers, May 3

[How our brains make memories](#)

Neuroscientist Karim Nader (right) witnessed the attack on the World Trade Center, but the inaccuracies of his subsequent recollections of the event led him to suspect that the very act of remembering can change our memories. Memories surrounding a major event like September 11 might be especially susceptible because we tend to replay them over and over in our minds and in conversation with others—with each repetition having the potential to alter them. Nader's ideas are unconventional within neuroscience, and they have caused researchers to reconsider some of their most basic assumptions about how memory works....

Smithsonian, May



[Study: DCPL's internet access gets the jobs won](#)

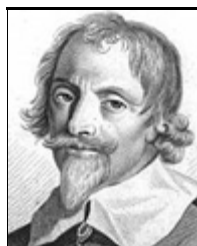
Using a [customized version](#) of the "[Opportunity for All](#)" report issued in April, District of Columbia Public Library Director Ginnie Cooper told a Congressional budget committee May 3 that DCPL had enabled at least 20% of people seeking jobs using the library's internet service to find employment, documenting an unprecedented demand....

District of Columbia Public Library, May 3

[Libraries and enlightened views](#)

Wayne Bivens-Tatum writes: "I've been reading Gabriel Naudé's *Advice on Establishing a Library* (1st ed., 1627). Naudé developed Cardinal Mazarin's personal library, the Bibliothèque Mazarine, and requested it be open to the public, thus creating the first public library in France. What's especially interesting, considering the time and place, is Naudé's enlightened views on collecting books with new ideas, unusual books, and heretical works."...

Academic Librarian, Apr. 29



[10 reasons why "professional librarian" is an oxymoron](#)

Ryan Deschamps, e-learning manager at the Halifax Public Libraries, Nova Scotia, writes: "Before you comment, yes, this is an unbalanced look at professionalism. I am trolling a little bit—but with a heart that wants to lead discussion on the topic. I often see librarians and library school students that take professionalism as a given. This is unrealistic, especially in an era of rapid change. If librarians cannot personally address the following antiprofessional assumptions as individuals, they cannot call themselves professional."...

The Other Librarian, Apr. 30

[Library slow-dating at PostSecret](#)

PostSecret is an ongoing community art project developed by Frank Warren where people mail in their secrets anonymously on one side of a postcard. Each Sunday, the PostSecret blog puts up a sampling of the postcards it receives the week before. This card appeared the week of May 2: "I leave library book receipts in the books that I liked so that someone with the same interest has my name and can find me online and we can become good friends."...

PostSecret blog



[Cartographies of time](#)

P. K. writes: "A couple of weeks ago at the release party at *Cabinet Magazine* for Dan Rosenberg and Tony Grafton's *Cartographies of Time: A History of the Timeline* (Princeton Architectural Press), Grafton offered up his reasoning for why this unusual subject matter intrigued them both. After years of hard work, he and his coauthor came to regard timelines as endlessly weird and fascinating documents." Here are some excellent examples....

BibliOdyssey, Apr. 30

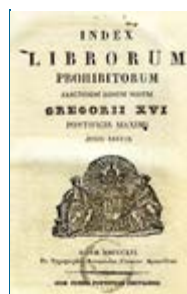


[The Index of Prohibited Books](#)

L. D. Mitchell writes: "For a little over 400 years—from 1559 to 1966—the Roman Catholic Church proscribed

what could and could not be read by the Catholic faithful in a series of lists of prohibited books, the infamous *Index Librorum Prohibitorum*. Ostensibly published to guide the faithful away from works of dubious moral value, as well as away from books containing theological errors, the index was never a *single* mammoth list, but rather a series of lists that were compiled under a variety of Popes and church councils."...

The Private Library, Apr. 28



[Missing Materials.org webinar on May 11](#)

Together with the RLG Partnership, the ACRL/RBMS Security Committee, and the ABAA, OCLC Research has developed [MissingMaterials.org](#), a free mechanism for sharing reliable information about missing rare books and other materials at the network level. In order for this solution to work, however, it is of vital importance that the special-collections community use it. Join this free demonstration webinar, held 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Eastern Time on May 11, to discuss obstacles to transparency and propose solutions....

OCLC, Apr. 30



[Are catalogs more than an inventory?](#)

Laurel Tarulli writes: "Ivy of From the Catalogs of Babes posted a [great piece](#) called 'All catalog queries are reference questions, but not all reference questions are catalog queries' that goes to the heart of what I've been exploring for the past year. If we are willing to redefine and explore the potential of catalogs through new technologies, they can enhance core library services and create remote all-in-one branches that interact with reference staff and readers' advisors."...

The Cataloguing Librarian, Apr. 30

[Bar codes in libraries](#)

Q: Is there a standard library bar code identification system? A: The short answer is "no." There are many [bar code](#) registries, including one called the "National Barcode Registry." However, this registry only contains a fraction of all library bar codes in the United States and Canada....

AL: Ask the ALA Librarian, May 3



[Six steps for handing negative feedback](#)

Celestine Chua writes: "Have you ever received negative feedback? A friend or family member complaining about you, a boss or colleague critiquing your work, a partner or a spouse unhappy with something you did. The question isn't how to avoid negative feedback, but to learn to roll and deal with it. Here are my personal six steps."...

LifeOptimizer, Apr. 29



[Dealing with difficult patrons](#)

Brian Herzog summarizes a talk by consultant Warren Graham at the Massachusetts Library Association annual conference on the essential elements of library security. His tips on how to safely approach a

stranger and get them to comply with policy are excellent....

Swiss Army Librarian, Apr. 28

[Helping patrons research views you disagree with](#)

Steven Francoeur writes: "There is an interesting exchange on the Library Praxis blog in response to a [post](#) by Maria Accardi about her experience assisting a student who wanted 'to find scholarly articles about why it is a bad thing that homosexuality is portrayed positively in the media.' Helping people research points of view or opinions that diverge widely from your own is indeed a dicey proposition. The ALA [Code of Ethics](#) touches here and there on the topic."...

Digital Reference, Apr. 20; Library Praxis, Apr. 20

[Delhi's not-so-public libraries](#)

Cordelia Jenkins writes: "I sauntered out of my apartment in Delhi a couple of Sundays ago in pursuit of a good book when two thoughts struck me: Surely there are libraries in Delhi, and how much nicer it would be to borrow a book than to buy one. A quick stop in an internet café confirmed my suspicions. There are indeed public libraries in Delhi." But the user experience there is quite different than what we are used to here....

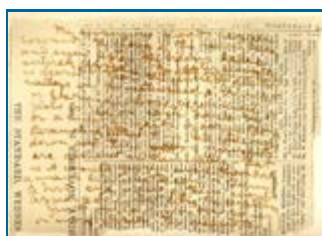
LiveLounge, May 4



[Dr. Livingstone's diary, I presume?](#)

Jennifer Howard writes: "1871 was not an easy year for David Livingstone. Stuck in an eastern Congo village called Nyangwe, he ran out of the notebooks and ink with which he had been keeping a record of his travels. So he wrote on books and pages of old newspapers with the juice of a local berry. 140 years later, much of what Livingstone wrote in that diary is almost impossible to read. But Adrian S. Wisnicki, a Victorianist with a special interest in travel literature, has found a way to make the illegible legible again: spectral imaging."...

Wired Campus, May 3



[Catalog cards on the catwalk](#)

Amber Gibbs, interlibrary loan librarian at the University of South Carolina's Thomas Cooper Library, won top prize April 23 at the Runaway Runway recycled fashion show with a dress made entirely of cards from the library's card catalog. The dress was modeled by Aime Dillard (right), ILL assistant and SLIS student. Watch the [video](#) (Amber and Aime are at 3:12). The show is sponsored by the Columbia Museum of Art. The USC libraries are saying goodbye to their card catalog with a yearlong series of events called "[It's All in the Cards](#)."...

University of South Carolina Libraries, May 3; Columbia *The State*, Apr. 24



[Librarian, lawyer: What's the difference?](#)

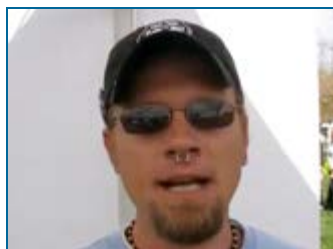
The Merry Librarian writes: "Patrons can be a *teensy* bit demanding at times. They demand their fines be forgiven, they insist we deliver the goods, and they expect us to know everything. As it turns out, however, public and academic librarians just might have it easier than prison librarians when it comes to the demands of their patron populations."...

The Merry Librarian, May 3

[Why prison libraries matter](#)

Diana Reese writes: "We rarely hear how prison library services impacted offenders after they leave prison. At a recent Earth Day Fair, Denver Public Library recorded videos of people sharing stories about why they love their libraries. One [video](#) (0:59) featured this ex-offender. This is one of the reasons I love my job. So here is a love story to all of you who work in libraries behind the walls."...

ASCLA Blog, May 4; YouTube, Apr. 27



[Please plant this book](#)

Michael Lieberman writes: "It's taken 42 years, but it looks like we have come full circle. In the spring of 1968 Richard Brautigan published *Please Plant This Book*, a collection of eight seed packets, each bearing an original poem. Now the folks at the Italian company [Gartenkultur](#) have come up with a line of books turned into pots."...

Book Patrol, Apr. 29



[Information can help you survive a zombie attack](#)

To prepare students for an impending zombie apocalypse, the University of Florida Libraries held a "Feed Your Brains" workshop at the Marston Science Library on April 6 to supplement the campus "[Zombie Attack Disaster Preparedness Simulation Exercise](#)." The point of the exercise was to emphasize the availability of library resources and course materials [off-campus](#) (if the university was closed because of zombie attack). The [video](#) (2:18) explains it, sort of....

YouTube, Apr. 16



[Go back to the Top](#)

american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | May 12, 2010

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Tomorrow's Libraries. Today.



American Libraries Online

[Ruling: Washington libraries can deny adults unfiltered internet](#)

The Washington Supreme Court issued a 6–3 decision May 6 that affirmed a rural library system's policy of refusing to temporarily disable an internet filter at an adult's request. Filed with the U.S. District Court in Spokane in 2006, *Bradburn v. North Central Regional Library* had been remanded to the Washington Supreme Court to determine whether NCRL's [internet public use policy](#) violated the state constitution....

American Libraries news, May 10

[SirsiDynix streamlines customer service](#)

SirsiDynix [announced](#) May 12 that the company is undertaking a massive overhaul that will include consolidating its customer support staff under one roof, launching a new website, unveiling a new brand, revamping its Customer Support Center, and expanding the firm's team of library-relations managers around the world. "By bringing our staff closer together, we bring our customers closer to the teams who develop and support their products," SirsiDynix CEO Gary Rautenstrauch explained....

American Libraries news, May 12; SirsiDynix, May 12



SirsiDynix®
Tomorrow's Libraries. Today.

[Build your own instructional literacy](#)

Char Booth writes: "Now more than ever, librarianship has an instructional slant: From school library media specialists to academic librarians, we increasingly embed ourselves in curricula and classrooms, lead workshops and training, and create digital learning materials as a matter of course. How can librarians shoulder the growing teaching load we face and the range of skills and abilities it requires? The answer: by building our instructional literacy."...

American Libraries feature



[10 tips for tracking trends](#)

Elisabeth Doucett writes: "As a public library director, I spend a great deal of time searching

American History in Video

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

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Newsreels & Documentaries Online in Streaming Video



out ways to keep my library relevant in today's fast-changing environment. I've found that one way to do this is to keep myself current about societal trends and to strategize regularly about how my library might ride the wave of those trends. It doesn't take long, it is invariably interesting, and I've consistently found that it produces results."...

American Libraries feature



[Will's World: Winning the budget wars](#)

Will Manley writes: "Library publications and blogs are filled with two types of articles these days: horror stories and fantasies. First, the horror stories. These are the news reports of budget cuts, most of which *are* in fact quite horrible. Public Library Z is closing seven of its 10 branch libraries. There's a budget war out there, and we're not winning. That's where the fantasies come in. Any number of experts indulge us in fairy tales about how we can start winning the budget wars. So, what *can* we do?"...

American Libraries column, June/July

[Zero Waste: Teton County Library's goal](#)

Laura Bruzas writes: "Just a few days ago I wrote about Teton County (Wyo.) Library's No Idling Campaign. I would be remiss if I didn't tell you more about what they're doing on the green front, as it is pretty impressive. They are so serious about being green that they put together a Zero Waste guide ([PDF file](#)). The guide includes 12 helpful hints for planning an event; seven keys to setting up and managing an event; 13 waste-saving, energy-saving food ideas; and nine post-event recommendations. What I especially like about the guide is its use of gentle persuasion coupled with reality."...

AL: Green Your Library, May 6



[Boys and reading](#)

The subject of boys and reading has been a major one in the last few years. Boys will read if the books are on subjects that interest them. "[Why Aren't Little Boys Reading?](#)" in *Library Administrator's Digest* (December 2006, p. 74) reports research at the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library and recommends ways to get boys into the library. The ALA Library has collected many resources for getting boys interested in reading, and YALSA offers two lists: [Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers](#) and [Great Graphic Novels for Teens](#)....

Ask the ALA Librarian, May 12

ALA News

[\\$2-million shortfall forces more ALA staff reductions](#)

ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels announced May 11 in an all-staff memo that a projected \$2-million budget shortfall has forced the Association to reduce staff by eight positions. The memo to staff: "Because of the decline in 2010 revenues, and the resultant lower 2011 revenue projections, we have no choice but to make further reductions in our general fund expenditures, including staffing. This



[ALA Annual Conference](#),

Washington, D.C., June 24-29.



[Natalie Merchant](#) will share and discuss selections from her newly released *Leave Your Sleep* CD set at the Exhibits Closing Program, June 28.



Her Majesty [Queen Rania Al Abdullah](#) of Jordan is a renowned advocate, both at home and globally, for access to quality education for all children. With author Kelly DiPucchio and illustrator Tricia Tusa, she has penned a

means that we will need to eliminate or eliminate funding for an additional eight positions.”...

AL: Inside Scoop, May 11

ALA 2009 Legislative Scorecards

The Washington Office has compiled ALA's [2009 Legislative Scorecards](#) for the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives. The scorecards outline votes and support of legislation that is important to and has an impact on the library community. ALA provides the scorecard as a tool for members to gauge their elected officials' support of library-related legislation....
District Dispatch, May 11

State	Member	Party	USTA FY10	SENES 118
AK	Beigich	D	X	
AK	Murkowski	R		
AL	Sessions	R		
AL	Shelby	R		
AR	Lincoln	D	X	
AR	Pryor	D		
AZ	Kyl	R		
AZ	McCan	R		X

Sacramento director to testify in House broadband hearing

Rivkah Sass (right), director of the Sacramento (Calif.) Public Library System, will testify before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet at 10 a.m., May 13, in 2123 Rayburn House Office Building. The hearing is the fourth in a series addressing issues raised in the National Broadband Plan. If provided by the committee, a live [webcast](#) of the hearing will be available....

District Dispatch, May 12



CPLA program graduates six, adds five candidates

The Certified Public Library Administrator Program Certification Review Committee has granted certification to six new CPLA candidates and approved five new candidates in its spring review. CPLA now has 18 graduates and 132 candidates representing public libraries of all sizes across the nation. CPLA is a voluntary post-MLS certification program for public librarians with three years or more of supervisory experience....

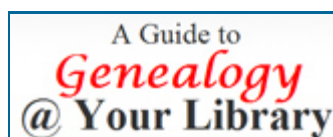
ALA-Allied Professional Association, May 11



Your history @ your library

This week marks the first annual [Preservation Week @ your library](#), highlighting what we can do, individually and together, to preserve our personal and shared collections. Recognizing the critical role libraries play in preservation, ALCTS developed Preservation Week as the first national awareness campaign targeting collection preservation awareness for the general public. Here are a few stories of how libraries are working to preserve the local history and heritage of their communities....

Campaign for America's Libraries, May 11



2010 Freedom to Read Foundation election

Five individuals were elected to two-year terms on the Freedom to Read Foundation board of trustees, beginning in June: Carol Brey-Casiano, Mary Minow, James G. Neal, Kent Oliver, and Judith Platt. Also joining the 2010-2011 board will be incoming ALA President-Elect Molly Raphael and incoming ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair Julius Jefferson....

Freedom to Read Foundation, May 11

picture book, *The Sandwich Swap*, inspired by her own experience with cultural differences. In this Celebrity READ poster, she is holding Kahlil Gibran's *The Prophet*. **NEW! From ALA Graphics.**

New this week in American Libraries



10 Tips for Tracking Trends

Your Instructional Literacy

Will's World

Perpetual Beta

Inside Scoop

Green Your Library

Ask the ALA Librarian

Librarian's Library

AL Focus

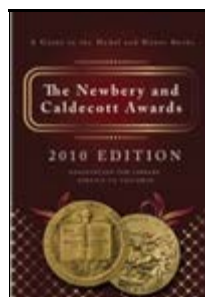
Career Leads from JobLIST

[City Librarian](#). New Haven (Conn.) Free Public Library. Are you a visionary, dynamic, and inclusive team leader?

[Newbery and Caldecott award winners](#)

ALA Editions has released [The Newbery and Caldecott Awards: A Guide to the Medal and Honor Books, 2010 Edition](#). Published in association with ALSC, this latest edition covers awards for the most distinguished American children's literature and illustration. Updated with the 2010 award winners, the book also includes a new preface from ALSC Executive Director Aimee Strittmatter; revised eligibility criteria; a new essay, "The Times They Are a-Changin'," by former ALSC Executive Director Diane Foote; and updated bibliographic citations and index for the award winners....

ALA Editions, May 11



[Save a spot for Bookmobile Sunday](#)

Interested in learning about new trends, advocacy, and best practices for mobile delivery outreach? There's still time to save your spot at the fifth annual Bookmobile Sunday, June 27, during the ALA 2010 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. The deadline to register online is May 14. The event features a keynote by W. Ralph Eubanks, director of publishing at the Library of Congress, and an author luncheon with Andrew Smith. Five of the leading bookmobile builders in the United States are [sponsoring](#) the event....

OLOS Columns, May 7

[Hong Kong Book Fair free pass program for ALA members](#)

The [Hong Kong Book Fair](#) offers a Free Pass Program for Librarians for its 21st Annual Fair, at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, July 21–27. The fair will provide selected librarians from the U.S. and Canada who collect Chinese-language materials four nights of hotel accommodation and free book fair registration. Those eligible to participate in the program must be personal members of ALA who work in the area of Chinese-language acquisitions....

International Relations Office



Booklist ONLINE

[Featured review: Youth fantasy](#)

Riordan, Rick. *The Red Pyramid*. May 2010. 528p. Hyperion, hardcover (978-1-4231-1338-6).

The first volume in the *Kane Chronicles*, this fantasy adventure delivers what fans loved about the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series: young protagonists with previously unsuspected magical powers, a riveting story marked by headlong adventure, a complex background rooted in ancient mythology, and wry, witty 21st-century narration. In London on Christmas Eve for a rare evening together, 14-year-old Carter and his 12-year-old sister Sadie accompany their dad to the British Museum, where he blows up the Rosetta Stone



Can you enhance a successful tradition of high level service that is responsive to a vibrantly diverse community? Do you have the talent required to guide a system that celebrates traditional services and embraces emerging new technology? Do you have a demonstrated record of community engagement and creative fundraising?...



@ [More jobs...](#)

Digital Library of the Week



[Remember Haiti](#) is a selection of resources on the John Carter Brown Library website showcasing books at Brown University relating to Haiti. Created with the support of partners from around the world, the intent of this digital library is to provide access to the remarkable history of Haiti, a nation with an

in summoning an Egyptian god. Sadie and Carter escape. Initially determined to rescue their father, their mission expands....

[Top youth titles for 2010: SF/fantasy](#)

Ian Chipman writes: "Many of the titles found in this year's crop of the best science fiction and fantasy books, all reviewed in *Booklist* in the past 12 months, return to familiar worlds, while a strong number of newcomers help prove that this always-popular set of genres remains one of the most vital in youth literature."...



[Book discussion questions: Characters](#)

Neil Hollands writes: "This is part two in an ongoing series about discussion questions. In the [first post](#), I staked out the position that book groups will often succeed best when they write discussion questions for themselves instead of trying to use questions written by others. But which questions, then, are the most likely to result in a lively meeting? Characters are always a good starting point."...

Book Group Buzz, May 8

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

extraordinarily rich heritage, despite its well-known challenges. The project was made possible through the generosity of David Rumsey, a board member of the John Carter Brown Library. The recent earthquake of January 12, 2010, has only deepened the need to raise awareness of Haiti's story, and to increase access to the rare books and maps that tell it. The books have been digitized through the Internet Archive and cover topics on race and slavery, revolution, government, economy, environment, culture, people, and places.

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

D.C. Update

[ALSC-recommended restaurants](#)

Many restaurants in Washington are part of the online reservation service [OpenTable](#). ALSC recommends making your reservations online ahead of time with your laptop or cell phone. The local arrangements folks list four restaurants with "known Obama sightings," in case you are trying for a glimpse of the Prez or First Lady....

ALSC 2010 Annual Conference wiki



[The Newseum](#)

One of Washington D.C.'s newest museums is the [Newseum](#) at 555 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., devoted to the history of news. The front of the building includes a stone wall engraved with the beginning section of the First Amendment of the U.S.

Constitution. This overlooks Pennsylvania Avenue, making it something every president will see on his or her Inauguration Day parade route. The lobby of the museum displays the daily front page of 80 newspapers from around the world....

YALSA Blog, May 7



Public Perception

How the World Sees Us

"The public library has become a wonderful kind of authority and refuge, a filter through which the harsh realities of life are softened by explanation and help. And it has also become the public square, where people can gather, hear lectures, learn English, learn to read and talk about books. . . . Doctors pledge to care for the sick. Librarians' work

Division News

[Donna K. McDonald elected ALTAFF](#)

President

Donna K. McDonald, director of the Arkansas River Valley Regional Library System in Dardanelle, Arkansas, has been elected president of ALTAFF. McDonald provides overall professional library management of a four-county, seven-library system. She has been a member of ALTAFF since 2007 and served as chair of the Publications Committee in 2008–2009....

ALTAFF, May 11



Paige Johnson to headline AASL Fall Forum

Paige Johnson, global manager of K–12 education for Intel's Corporate Affairs Group, will give the keynote at the AASL Fall Forum, November 5–6, in Portland, Oregon. Johnson will discuss the challenge of 21st-century reform from the perspective of the workforce and students and help attendees understand why corporations are interested in 21st-century education....

AASL, May 10



AASL summer tour of online courses

School librarians are encouraged to sign up for the AASL 2010 summer online courses. Designed to isolate and strengthen problem areas, the four four-week courses will help develop the skills and techniques school librarians need to bring their programs into the 21st century. The courses are on read-alouds and collaboration....

AASL, May 10

Last chance for Geneology 101

May 12 is the registration deadline for the next offering of "[Geneology 101](#)," an online course designed to provide librarians and library staff with confidence and skill in assisting family history researchers. The course, May 17–June 18, sponsored by RUSA and taught by Jack Simpson, is a five-week online course aimed at librarians, students, and general reference desk staff with little or no experience in genealogy....

RUSA, May 11

2010 Literary Tastes Breakfast

Two outstanding authors have been added to the lineup at the 2010 Literary Tastes Breakfast: David Small, author of the graphic novel *Stitches: A Memoir*, and Melvin Konner, author of *The Jewish Body*. The Literary Tastes Breakfast is a conference tradition where attendees enjoy a breakfast while authors read from their works, ruminate on writing, and sign books. The breakfast will be held 8–10 a.m. on June 27 at the 2010 ALA Annual Conference....

RUSA, May 11

L4L webinars available in AASL archives

The 2010 [Learning4Life webinars](#) hosted by AASL are now available for purchase in archived format. The webinars are part of the L4L initiative to nationally implement Standards for the 21st-Century Learner and Empowering Learners: Guidelines for School Library Media Programs....

AASL, May 11



is to care for the mind, which means enlarging a person's field of learning. These cuts would force libraries to drastically narrow that field and take away benefits for the common good."

—Editorial on New Jersey Gov. Christie's funding cuts, "[Libraries Matter](#)," in *Bergen (N.J.) Record*, May 8.



TweetWatch

Follow:

ALA Preservation Week, May 9–15, at: [#presweek2010](#)

Workshop for Instruction in Library Use, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, May 12–14, at: [#wilu2010](#)

American Society for Indexing, Annual Conference, Minneapolis, May 13–15, at: [#asiconference](#)

OpenSciNY, New York University, May 14, at: [opensciNY](#)

Texas Conference on Digital Libraries, Austin, May 17–18, at: [#tcdl2010](#)

American Libraries news stories, videos,

Awards

[ALA awards, grants, and scholarships: All in one spot](#)

The [ALA Awards, Grants, and Scholarships resource](#) is now available to the public for searching or browsing the many ways that ALA offers recognition. Included are all of the book awards, professional recognition awards, grants, scholarships, and "best of" lists that ALA and its divisions, offices, and round tables offer throughout the year....

ALA Library, May 11

[PLA Leadership Fellows](#)

PLA has awarded Leadership Fellows scholarships for programs at the Evans School of Public Affairs of the University of Washington and the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan. Denise Lyons, a library development consultant with the South Carolina State Library, and Stephanie Chase, director of the Stowe (Vt.) Free Library, are the recipients. The scholarships offer public library managers a chance to attend executive leadership training at some of the best universities in the United States....

PLA, May 11

[2010 White House Conference award](#)

Greer Fry of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is the winner of the 2010 White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce Award. The award, given to a nonlibrarian advocate participating in a federal library advocacy event for the first time, is a \$300 stipend granted to a recipient toward the expense of attending Library Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C., June 29....

District Dispatch, May 6

[Innovations in Reading prize](#)

Each year, the National Book Foundation awards a number of prizes of up to \$2,500 each to individuals and institutions that have developed innovative means of creating and sustaining a lifelong love of reading. One of this year's five winners is the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Hopkins, South Carolina, which created its own children's library in a rural area where the nearest public library branch was 10 miles away....

National Book Foundation, May 6



[Randy Riley receives Filby Award](#)

Library of Michigan Special Collections Manager Randy Riley was awarded the prestigious P. William Filby Award for Genealogical Librarianship for his contributions to the study of genealogy and local history April 30 at the National Genealogical Society Conference in Salt Lake City. The award carries a \$1,000 prize from sponsor ProQuest....

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, May 11



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

The Children's Book Council has announced the winners of its third annual Children's Choice Book Awards at a gala in New York City May 11. Children across the country voted for their favorite books, authors, and

tweets, and blog posts at:

[amlibraries](#)

Calendar

May 21–22:

[Philadelphia Book and Ephemera Fair](#), Philadelphia Expo Center.

May 22–23:

[Seattle Book and Paper Show](#), Seattle Center Exhibition Hall.

May 28:

[Book Blogger Con.](#) New York City Seminar and Conference Center.

June 6:

[New England Antiquarian Book Fair](#), Everett Arena, Concord, New Hampshire.

June 14–15:

[Heartland School Library Conference](#), W. H. Thompson Alumni Center, University of Nebraska, Omaha.

June 20–24:

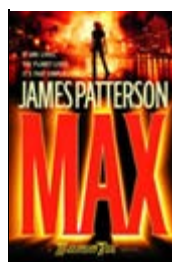
[International Association of Technological University Libraries](#), Annual Conference, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.

June 21–24:

[7th International Conference on Conceptions of Library and Information Science](#), University College London, U.K.

illustrators at bookstores, school libraries, and online, casting more than 115,000 votes. James Patterson was selected Author of the Year for his book *Max*....

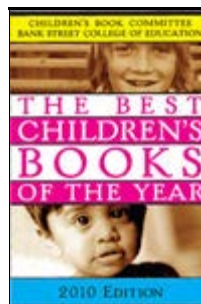
Children's Book Council, May 12



Bank Street's Best Children's Books of 2010

To celebrate its 100th anniversary, the Children's Book Committee at Bank Street College has released its annual list of the best books for children online for free for the first time. The committee reviews over 6,000 titles each year for accuracy and literary quality, considers their emotional impact on children, and chooses the best 600, both fiction and nonfiction. The list is grouped by age group and category....

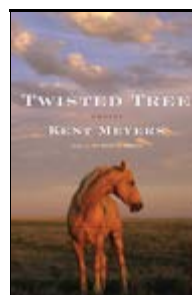
Children's Book Committee



2010 Society of Midland Authors Awards

The Society of Midland Authors has presented its awards for excellence to books published in 2009 by authors and poets who reside in, were born in, or have strong ties to the 12-state Midwestern Heartland. The winner in the Adult Fiction category is Kent Meyers for *Twisted Tree* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt), and in the Adult Nonfiction category it's James McManus for *Cowboys Full: The Story of Poker* (Farrar Straus Giroux)....

Society of Midland Authors



Department of Education offers planning grants

The U.S. Department of Education has \$10 million for planning grants for the Promise Neighborhoods program as part of the Fund for the Improvement of Education. These grants for \$400,000 to \$500,000 each are for planning a program to significantly improve the education and development outcomes of children in distressed communities. This is definitely a partnering opportunity for libraries. The deadline to show [intent to apply](#) is May 21....

District Dispatch, May 11

Seen Online

NYPL faces harshest budget cut in history

New York Public Library President and CEO Paul LeClerc writes: "The free services offered by the New York Public Library in 90 libraries across the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island—including job search assistance—are needed now more than ever. Yet the proposed cut just announced by Mayor Bloomberg is the largest in the library's history: a devastating \$37 million for the upcoming fiscal year. Clearly, the economy is still recovering. And that's exactly why the city must clearly [restore funding](#) to save libraries."...

Huffington Post, May 6; New York Public Library



"Integration in the Information Sciences: Unity in Diversity."

June 22–24: CIP Symposium.

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

June 24–29: American Library Association. Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.

June 29–July 2: 8th International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities. University of California, Los Angeles.

July 4–7: Association of Jewish Libraries. Annual Convention, Fairmont Olympic Hotel, Seattle.

July 8–10: Sixth Islamic Manuscript Conference. Queens' College, University of Cambridge, U.K. "Central Asian Islamic Manuscripts and Manuscript Collections."

July 17–18: Tennessee Antiquarian Book Fair. Monterey Station, Cowan.

July 21–27: Hong Kong Book Fair. Hong Kong

[New Jersey librarians protest state budget cuts](#)

Hundreds of librarians [rallied against](#) Gov. Chris Christie's \$10.4-million proposed [budget cut](#) at the Statehouse Annex in Trenton May 6, telling story after story about the value of book sharing. The state's libraries would lose 74% of their funding with cuts from \$14 million to \$3.6 million. In addition, a bill in the state Assembly ([A2555](#)) would eliminate minimum funding requirements for local libraries and instead allow towns to decide how much money to give. Christie also [unveiled](#) a plan that would limit local tax hikes and raises for public employees to 2.5%; critics said the caps could diminish the high-quality education and services residents have come to expect....

Newark (N.J.) Star-Ledger, May 6; New Jersey Library Association; *Morristown (N.J.) Daily Record*, May 11



[Orange Public Library closes, director suspended](#)

The Orange (N.J.) Public Library board has suspended Director Doris Walker and plans to fire her after the historic building was closed indefinitely due to hazardous lead paint and asbestos conditions. The library was shut down by the city health department April 30 after it failed to meet a deadline to remove the hazards. At a May 6 meeting, the board voted unanimously to suspend Walker with pay and to proceed with hearings for her termination. Mayor Eldridge Hawkins Jr. blamed Walker, saying she had known about the problems for years and failed to remediate them....

Newark (N.J.) Star-Ledger, May 9



[Illinois funding delays hit North Suburban Library System](#)

The North Suburban Library System in Wheeling, Illinois, will be forced to cut back its staff and services, effective May 30, because of continued delays in funding from the Illinois General Assembly. Executive Director Sarah Ann Long writes: "Cash flow is going to be a continuing and growing problem for NSLS, as well as many other state funded agencies and organizations. Many NSLS staffers will be laid off. I will be one of the people leaving. We are still working out the details but quick action is needed."...

Thoughts from a Library Administrator, May 12

[Pittsburgh limits library pledge](#)

The city of Pittsburgh has no plans to give the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh more than \$600,000 this year, and that news could blow a hole of around the same size in the system's \$24.2 million budget. Mayor Luke Ravenstah's confirmation May 11 that the city plans to make one \$600,000 grant—rather than two—to the library system does not, however, imminently threaten branches. A library spokeswoman said administrators still pledge to shelve, for this year, a plan to close four branches, merge two, and move another due to budget problems....

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, May 12

[LAPL supporters protest during rush hour](#)

Convention and Exhibition Centre, China.

Aug. 2–13:
[California Rare Book School](#), UCLA.

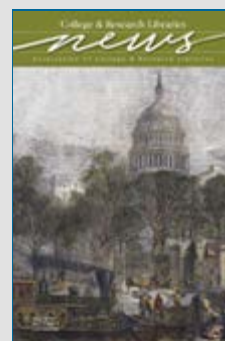
Sept. 5–6:
[Georgia Antiquarian Book Fair](#), Decatur Conference Center, Decatur.

Sept. 19–24:
[CFP: 7th International Conference on Preservation of Digital Objects](#), Austrian National Library and the Vienna University of Technology.

Nov. 8–12:
[eResearch Australasia](#), Royal Pines Resort, Queensland, Australia. "21st Century Research: Where Computing Meets Data."

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

@ [More...](#)



The May issue of *College & Research Libraries News* has an article by René Tanner on [Making the Most](#)

About 50 librarians and book supporters from [Save L.A. Libraries!](#) gathered on all four corners of the intersection at Highland Avenue and Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood during rush hour May 7, earning honks in support of saving the threatened Los Angeles library system. This year, it faces heavy cuts from Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's proposed budget, scheduled to take effect July 1, when libraries could go from six to five days of open doors. In an April 22 letter ([PDF file](#)) detailing how the proposed budget would affect the library, City Librarian Martín Gómez said the workforce would be reduced by 328 positions....

LAist, May 10



[Fire devastates South Carolina academic library](#)

A fire early in the morning of May 8 caused \$1.5 million in damage to the G. Allen Fleece Library at Columbia International University in South Carolina. Investigators determined the blaze was caused by an electrical problem around a fluorescent light fixture in the 42-year-old building. The fire took place the week before finals. As many as 15,000 books, many of them scarce theological volumes, were [affected](#) by heat, smoke, or fire damage....

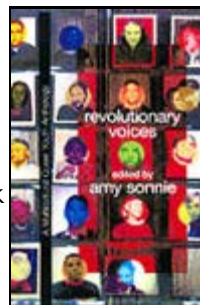
The State (Columbia, S.C.), May 9; WLTX-TV, Columbia, May 10



[ACLU explores school's ban of LGBT book](#)

The American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey sent an Open Public Records Act request May 7 to the Rancocas Valley School District for documents that will shed light on the district's decision to remove the book *Revolutionary Voices: A Multicultural Queer Youth Anthology* from the Rancocas Valley High School library in Mount Holly. The district made its decision following a campaign by the local chapter of radio host Glenn Beck's conservative 9.12 project, which was [planning](#) a petition to remove the same book from the Lenape Regional High School District in Shamong....

ACLU of New Jersey, May 10; *Philadelphia Inquirer*, May 6



[Nashua parent challenges ghost book](#)

The parent of a student in Pennichuck Middle School in Nashua, New Hampshire, is challenging whether *Wait Till Helen Comes: A Ghost Story* by Mary Downing Hahn should be available to students in middle school libraries. The parent objects to the book's themes of talking to the dead, spiritualism, and "the belief that a part of the body survives after death and that you can communicate with it," according to the school district....

Nashua (N.H.) Telegraph, May 10



[Florida mom finally returns Gossip, It Girl books](#)

A Longwood, Florida, mother who refused to return four books in the *Gossip Girl* and *It Girl* series by

[of Your Career: Advice for New Academic Librarians.](#)

Contact Us

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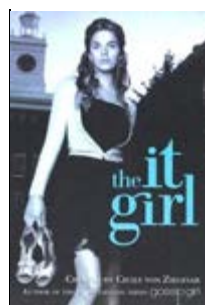


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Cecily von Ziegesar because she objected to their content took them back to the Northwest branch of the Seminole County Public Library May 6. Tina Harden, who had withheld the books since the fall of 2008 to keep young readers from seeing them, said she returned them not because of criticism she received but because she had made people aware of the issue through the media. Harden owes \$85 in fines but hasn't paid them....

Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel, May 7



Children's books stolen from Washington library

A steady stream of children's picture books have disappeared from the Kitsap (Wash.) Regional Library's Port Orchard branch in recent months, prompting an investigation by police. More than 1,300 children's picture books are missing, apparently taken a few at a time. Library officials believe that whoever took the books was aware of which ones were the most valuable. A local Borders bookstore has [teamed up](#) with the library to help replace the books....

Kitsap (Wash.) Sun, May 4; *Seattle Times*, May 10

Ten maps that changed the world

From the Soviet "Be On Guard!" map of 1921 (right) to Google Earth, a new exhibition at the British Library charts the extraordinary documents that transformed the way we view the globe. British Library Head of Map Collections Peter Barber describes 10 that are on display at the "Magnificent Maps: Power, Propaganda and Art" exhibition: "Using a map of European Russia and its neighbors, Dmitri Moor's image of a heroic Bolshevik guard defeating the invading 'Whites' helped define the Soviet Union in the Russian popular imagination." Watch a [video](#) (5:13) describing the Psalter world map....

The Daily Mail (U.K.), May 8; British Library



Milwaukee Public Library's grass roots

The roof of Milwaukee's Central Library sprang to life and went to work in the rain May 7. Thousands of sedum, a ground-covering plant, and clumps of chive and ornamental grasses—all perennials—were planted in a six-inch layer of small gravel and soil spread across 30,000 square feet to create a green roof atop the historic building. The living roof will collect and store thousands of gallons of rainwater during a downpour, rather than allowing the clean water to drain immediately to a street sewer. Watch the [green roof webcam](#)....

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, May 10



Library cat budget threatened

Maggie isn't as famous as some other library cats and is drawing the ire of at least one Salem (Wis.) Community Library board member. She has called the library home for about 15 years, but Sharon Bower, a Twin Lakes trustee, is unhappy with the idea of a cat residing in the library and being cared for at public expense. "As a taxpayer," Bower said, "I don't want to pay for a cat." The consensus of the board is to allow Maggie to live out her days....



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

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800-545-2433,
ext. 4216

ISSN 1559-369X.

Kenosha (Wis.) News, May 8

[First URL debuts with no Latin characters](#)

Arab nations are leading a historic charge to make the World Wide Web live up to its name: Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates are the first countries to have so-called "country codes" written in Arabic script after internet regulator ICANN [switched on](#) a system that allows full web addresses with no Latin characters. One of the first URLs in Arabic script is the address for Egypt's Ministry of Communications (above)....

BBC News, May 6; ICANN, May 5



[Spain's top librarian quits in protest](#)

Spain's National Library Director Milagros del Corral Beltrán has resigned after the government slashed her institution's budget by nearly 15% and downgraded her role. The Socialist government, in the context of a new set of cost-cutting measures, cut 7.5-million euros (\$9.5 million) from institution's 52-million euro budget and demoted Corral from managing director to simple director. Disagreements with Culture Minister Angeles Gonzales-Sinde could also be at the root of Corral's departure....

Agence France Presse, May 11



[Go back to the Top](#)

Tech Talk

[Finding the tech enthusiasts of tomorrow](#)

Matthew Murray writes: "Two months ago, I wrote a [column](#) musing about the current state of children and technology, and asking to what degree it was possible for kids today to get inside tech in the same way their parents did—back when they *had* to just in order to use it. I was surprised to find out how passionate many of you are about the subject, often in ways I never would have expected."...

ExtremeTech, May 5

[The best laser printers for offices](#)

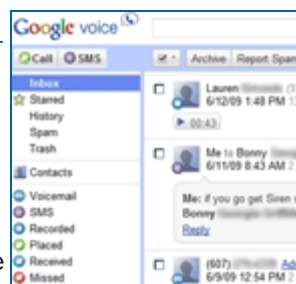
M. David Stone writes: "The day will no doubt come when monochrome lasers go the way of mono inkjets. But it hasn't happened yet. Until it does, monochrome lasers will be the workhorse printers of choice for any office of any size that prints only letters and other black-and-white documents. And for now, there are plenty of printers to choose from. All of these printers are among the best monochrome lasers we've seen, and most are Editors' Choices...."

PC Magazine, May 3



[How to make free \(or super-cheap\) phone calls](#)

Eric Griffith writes: "No one should be paying for long-distance calls anymore. There are a variety of ways to make and receive free, or at the very least, super-cheap calls—nationally and, in some cases, internationally. Here is a look at our favorite tools, new and old, to make



the call without stressing the wallet. We've included everything from the popular Skype service to Google Voice and the Bing 411 directory assistance."...

PC Magazine, May 6

[How to best utilize your external hard drives](#)

Matt Braga writes: "When it comes to storage, laptops have been second-rate citizens. Minuscule hard drives and slow transfer technology often plagued road warriors of old in comparison to their faster desktop counterparts. With the rise of desktop replacements, that's begun to change, but many users are still left counting their gigabytes. The solution for many lies with the purchase of an external drive, or even a spacious flash stick; the question is, how do you use all that extra space effectively? Here are a few simple ways."...

Tested, May 11

[15 geek-inspired USB hard-drive modifications](#)

The following 15 DIY USB hard drives should be at the top of every self-respecting geek's to-do list. The French novel hard drive (right) is the most library-related. This modification was created by "taking the book *Seven French Novels* and cutting and gluing only the corners of the pages in order to create a snug little pocket for a hard drive to snuggle into while providing sufficient ventilation to ensure the drive doesn't overheat, leaving the final story, 'The Count of Monte Cristo,' completely intact."...

Blogbits: The Memorybits Blog, May 4



Publishing

[Oxford launches Oxford Bibliographies Online](#)

Oxford University Press celebrated its recent launch of [Oxford Bibliographies Online](#) May 5 with a reception in New York City attended by academics, publishers, librarians, and other guests. This new resource, which officially went live April 19, is a series of reading lists in [various disciplines](#) designed to help busy researchers find reliable sources of information by directing them to exactly the right chapter, book, website, archive, or data set they need. More information is available on the [About](#), [For Librarians](#), and [Sample Entry](#) pages. Listen to a podcast [interview](#) by Sue Polanka with OUP's Colleen Scollans about the service....

Oxford University Press; No Shelf Required, May 11



[Bowker and Google collaborate on ISBNs](#)

Bowker has reached an agreement with Google to provision and facilitate the assignment of ISBN numbers to Google Editions, Google's digital book offering that will launch later in 2010. The agreement sets an important publishing industry precedent, helping to ensure a standards-driven framework for the identification of digital and print-on-demand book products made available and sold through Google Books. Bowker operates the U.S. ISBN Agency....

Bowker, May 10



[Opposition to FRPAA: A closer look](#)

Barbara Fister writes: "Some of the members of the Professional and Scholarly Publishing Division of the Association of American Publishers have sent a letter to Congress ([PDF file](#)) protesting the [Federal Research Public Access Act](#) and making the following claims: FRPAA will undermine copyright, harm peer review, burden government agencies, and wreak havoc. Does this group think anyone will fall for these scare tactics again?"...

Library Journal, May 6

[Puffin author crowned Irish children's laureate](#)

Puffin author Siobhán Parkinson (right) has been announced as Ireland's first laureate for children's fiction. Irish president Mary McAleese announced Parkinson as Laureate na nÓg at a May 10 event at the Irish Arts Council in Dublin, where she was presented with the Laureate na nÓg medal. She will hold the title for two years. The position was established by the Arts Council "to engage young people with high-quality children's literature."...

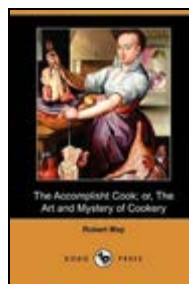
The Bookseller, May 10



[A soupçon of books](#)

Linda Hedrick writes: "For sustenance to aid my reading, hot, tasty soups are a joy to make and an even bigger joy to consume. To combine both pleasures, I have been thinking of collecting books on soup. Cookbooks with soup recipes appeared in medieval England. *The Forme of Cury* was compiled by Richard II's chefs some time in the late 14th century. In English, the most extensive collection of soups (and broths and potages) was published in 1660 in Robert May's *The Accomplisht Cook or, the Art and Mystery of Cookery*, of which 20% of the recipes are for soups."...

The Private Library, May 7



[Micro-magazines and the future of media](#)

Seth Godin writes: "Does anyone read *Time* or *Newsweek* any more? And when they disappear, who will really miss them? The problem is that they are both slow and general. The world, on the other hand, is fast and specific. Is there a business here? There's room in the market for 100,000 profitable micro-magazines. Why not have one about Aruba, for example? Take a look at Clay and Ishita's new magazine, [Fear.less](#)."...

Seth Godin's Blog, May 6



[What college students who still read are reading](#)

(satire)

Based on data gathered in Facebook's new privacy-free intellectual environment, *CronkNews* has identified the most popular tomes in college bookstores this week: *The World Is Elliptical*, by Thomas Friedman. Using an exercise machine as a brilliant and accessible metaphor for globalization, the famed *columnist* explains how the world is going to hell but why, just when you're ready to soil yourself out of fear for civilization, our neoliberal good intentions will make it all work out OK in the end....

The Cronk of Higher Education, May 10

Actions & Answers

Why internet filters don't work

Sarah Houghton-Jan writes: "A Washington State Supreme Court [decided](#) May 6 in a 6–3 decision that public library internet filtering is not censorship, because filtering is collection development. My reaction is simple, as someone who has fought, and won, an internet filtering challenge in my own library. Our communities' intellectual freedom is at risk. Filters are not collection development, and filters don't work." Here are the facts....

Librarian in Black, May 7



Facebook's gone rogue

Ryan Singel writes: "Facebook has gone rogue, drunk on founder Mark Zuckerberg's dreams of world domination. It's time the rest of the web ecosystem recognizes this and works to replace it with something open and distributed. Facebook used to be a useful way to connect with your friends, long-lost friends, and family members. Soon everybody had a profile, and Facebook realized it owned the network."...

Wired: Epicenter, May 7

Top 10 favorite privacy quotes

Bobbi Newman writes: "As part of [National Privacy Week](#) I thought I would share some of my favorite quotes about privacy. Hopefully they will get you thinking about privacy, if you weren't before, and spark some conversation. #10: 'Our work to improve privacy continues today.'—Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Facebook. I don't think I really have to comment on this one; it's just amusing."...

Librarian by Day, May 4



Rules for rookies

Will Manley writes: "Thanks for the great job-hunting advice you gave yesterday to the three new MLS graduates who emailed me last week. Today the challenge is a tad different. Let's assume your advice has paid dividends and these newbies have gotten their first library jobs. What advice would you now give them for how they should conduct themselves in their six-month probationary period? I'll go first: Things to do and things not to do in your first job."...

Will Unwound, May 12

Digital-rights restrictions on e-books vex users

As more and more e-reading devices flood the market, users are beginning to feel the restrictions imposed by copyright and digital rights management—restrictions that some fear could hold back the use of e-books in education. Researching exactly what you can and can't do with certain devices can be daunting, but really the rules are simple: If you buy an e-reader other than Apple's iPad, you're locked in—at least for now....

eSchool News, May 11

[Social network users post risky information](#)

Fifty-two percent of adult users of social networks such as Facebook and MySpace have posted risky personal information online, according to the 2010 *Consumer Reports* State of the Net survey. And many haven't used their service's privacy controls to protect themselves. According to findings from the [survey](#), 23% of Facebook users either didn't know the site offered privacy controls or chose not to use them....

Consumer Reports: Electronics Blog, May 4

[Digital information seeker behaviors](#)

OCLC Research scientists, in partnership with JISC, have analyzed and synthesized 12 separate studies to make it easier for information professionals to better understand information-seeking behaviors of library users and to review the information services and systems that will best meet these users' needs.

The Digital Information Seeker: Report of Findings From Selected OCLC, RIN, and JISC User Behaviour Projects ([PDF file](#)) is an attempt to review major, funded studies that were published within the last five years....

OCLC, May 6



[Traditional measures of quality](#)

Kent Anderson writes: "A few weeks ago, the *Columbia Journalism Review* released a [study](#) comparing print magazine editing and online magazine editing, contrasting print and online copy editing, fact-checking, and error correction practices. The bottom-line finding? Online editors treasure speed and audience first and foremost. Ultimately, print and online seem to have different ways of measuring quality."...

The Scholarly Kitchen, May 5; *Columbia Journalism Review*, Mar. 1

[Why people continue to work in libraries](#)

Sarah Houghton-Jan writes: "A week ago, I did [a poll on Twitter](#) for library staff. I asked one simple question: 'Why do you continue to work in libraries?' Here are the results. We had 92 respondents as of May 10 and the poll is still open, so it may go up and the results may change. But here's what it looks like today."...

Librarian in Black, May 10

[Seven genealogical lessons from *Who Do You Think You Are?*](#)

Jeanie Croasmun writes: "Beyond just being entertaining, there were valuable family history lessons to be learned in the first season of NBC's *Who Do You Think You Are?* Here are seven of my favorites. Lesson #2: Look for hidden clues. It's rare you'll find mention of a slave ancestor in a census record prior to 1870—but you may find clues in that record that lead to answers. Such was the case for Emmitt Smith (above)."...

Ancestry.com Blog, May 4



[Internet Archive books for the visually impaired](#)

The Internet Archive launched a new [Open Library service](#) May 6 that brings free



access to more than 1 million books to support those who are blind, dyslexic, or are otherwise visually impaired. United States residents with print disabilities must first [register](#) with the National Library Service for the Blind and Visually Handicapped. The books are digitized into DAISY, a specialized format used by blind or other persons with disabilities, for easy navigation. The files can be downloaded to devices that translate the text and read the books aloud for the user to enjoy. Watch a [video](#) (4:08) about DAISY....

Internet Archive, May 6; YouTube, May 6, 2008

[15 firsts in video game history](#)

Nathaaan90 writes: "Most people have only experienced fully functioning 3D games with decent graphics, but games had beginnings rooted in the very basics of electronics and computing. Here are 15 past advancements in video game technology that have made the industry what it is today: They gave birth to it, shaped it, and are steering it towards a future. In 1979, Microvision (right) was the first hand-held LCD-based game console commercially released."...

Listverse, May 11



[Why Neil Gaiman costs so much](#)

Neil Gaiman writes: "About a month ago I was asked if I'd go and talk at Stillwater (Minn.) Library on a Sunday afternoon. The request came in from Greater Talent Agency, which books my speaking engagements. As anyone who reads this blog knows, if you want to hire me to come and talk somewhere, and people do, I'm expensive. Not Tony Blair high, or Sarah Palin high. But I'm at the top end of what it costs to bring an author who should be home writing."...

Neil Gaiman's Journal, May 11

[Compare the oil spill size to your town](#)

Richard Byrne writes: "I've just learned about a Google Earth-based resource that allows you to compare the current size of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill with the size of major cities or your hometown. The [Gulf Coast Oil Spill Map](#) was developed by Google engineer Paul Rademacher. It uses the Google Earth browser plugin to enable users to compare the size of the oil slick in the Gulf of Mexico with anywhere else." Check out other oil-spill map mashups [here](#)....

Free Technology for Teachers, May 10; Google Maps Mania, May 11



[Six websites for teaching and learning science](#)



From robotics to space research, from physics to computer science, the internet is a vast trove of information. Resources such as Wikipedia (and its easy-on-younger-minds counterpart, Simple English Wikipedia) and online video make the process of learning about and teaching science subjects much easier than ever before. Next time you're hard up for understanding or inspiration, check out one of these six websites that offer information on the sciences....

Mashable, May 11

[David Rubenstein gives \\$5 million to Library of Congress](#)

David M. Rubenstein, cofounder and managing director of the Carlyle Group, announced today his donation of \$5 million (\$1 million per year for the next five years) to support the Library of Congress's National Book Festival, which this year is celebrating its 10th anniversary with the theme "A Decade of Words and Wonder." With assurance of longer-term funding, LC will now be able to expand the one-day festival into a fully integrated program that emphasizes books, reading, and the library as a place of discovery and learning....

Library of Congress, May 6



[Digital ephemera](#)

Chuck Whiting writes: "Is there such a thing as digital ephemera and is it viable as a collectible? Libraries around the world are creating digital archives of not only books, but historical documents and ephemera as well. As ephemera (that which is transitory and short-lived) has come to be synonymous with collectible paper, can a digital representation, a copy of the original, even be squeezed into the definition? Or will the definition expand enough with time to include digital copies?"...

Bibliophemera, May 5

[Videomaking tips for libraries](#)

John J. Roe writes: "'Show, don't tell' is advice from which any writer can profit, and in the age of digital video and YouTube, that advice can be applied to showing off your library's programs with ease. With the right software, you can add polish to your productions with minimal impact to your library's budget. Here are the lessons we learned while making our first [YouTube video](#) (4:36), which featured the Montgomery County-Norristown (Pa.) Public Library children's bookmobile program."...

OLOS Columns, May 4; YouTube, Mar. 29



[10 ways to promote your e-newsletters](#)

Kathy Dempsey writes: "At the New Jersey Library Association annual conference, I had the pleasure of co-presenting a program about promoting electronic newsletters with NJLA President Susan Briant and outgoing Newsletter Editor Jane Crocker. I chimed in about ways to promote electronic newsletters, so I thought I'd share my list of 10 tips here."...

The "M" Word: Marketing Libraries, May 5

[Project Compass state library summits](#)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is funding a yearlong project to share strategies for helping unemployed patrons find work. Project Compass, launched by OCLC WebJunction and the State Library of North Carolina, features four regional summits where state library officers discuss best practices on meeting community workforce needs. Project Compass staff will adapt the discussions from the in-person summits into live, online sessions and self-directed work that will be offered free in June....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, May 6

[Hot Guys Reading Books blog](#)

Web designer and former English major Alli Rense

has launched a blog called Hot Guys Reading Books. As she explains it, "There are plenty of attractive men in the world, but unfortunately few of them who are avid readers. Welcome to Hot Guys Reading Books, the blog that scours the internet for examples of luscious literary men and gathers the evidence in one place." Submissions are welcome....

Hot Guys Reading Books



[Video dominos at Tea Tree Gully Library](#)

To celebrate the demise of its video collection and the now unchallenged reign of the DVD, the staff of the City of Tea Tree Gully Library in South Australia felt that the remaining videos must go out with a bang. One weekend, staff came in on their own time to film the final stand of the video in a giant domino train throughout the library space as a fitting homage to their service. This [video](#) (4:17) was directed by Benjamin Wheal, Symon Williamson, and Carly Reimann....

YouTube, May 5



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american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | May 19, 2010

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American Libraries Online

[Historians await access to the Library of Congress Twitter Archive](#)

The microblogging service Twitter has gifted its entire archive of tweets, totalling billions of 140-character posts dating back to March 2006, to the Library of Congress. "The Twitter digital archive has extraordinary potential for research into our contemporary way of life," [said](#) Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. Highlights of the collection include the [first-ever tweet](#) from Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey; [President Obama's tweet](#) after winning the 2008 presidential election; [two tweets](#) by photojournalist James Buck, who was arrested in Egypt in 2008 and whose use of Twitter set off events that contributed to his being freed the next day; and [Green Revolution tweets](#) related to protests of the 2009 Iranian presidential elections....

American Libraries news, May 17



[Facing cuts, NYPL turns to improv group for viral video](#)

Fearing severe budget cuts more than ghosts, New York Public Library teamed up with public pranksters [Improv Everywhere](#) to host one of IE's missions at the library—and produce a [viral video](#) (3:36) supporting NYPL's "[Don't Close the Book on Libraries](#)" advocacy campaign in the process. "We are facing a \$37-million budget cut from the city of New York," NYPL spokeswoman Angela Montefinise told *American Libraries*. As a result, she said, the library is trying to reach out to new audiences, and Improv Everywhere offers audience in abundance....

American Libraries news, May 18



[Executive Director's message: Planning and budgeting](#)

Keith Michael Fiels writes: "At the ALA Executive Board's spring meeting, April 23–25 at ALA headquarters in Chicago, the board spent a significant amount of time discussing the draft [ALA 2015 Strategic Plan](#) and the latest revisions made to the plan based on comments



[ALA Annual Conference.](#)

Washington, D.C., June 24–29.



The [2010 Annual Conference Preshow issue](#) of Cognotes is available. Cognotes is the daily newspaper of the ALA Annual Conference, and is distributed to attendees Friday through

provided by over 750 ALA members. The ALA Council agenda includes discussion and, hopefully, adoption of the plan at Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Work on the plan has included an environmental analysis, a member survey, joint ALA/division and round table planning retreats, chapter and affiliate forums throughout the country, Council and membership planning sessions at the Midwinter Meeting in January, a review by committees and affiliates, and member comments."...

American Libraries column, June/July

In Practice: A library in your pocket

Meredith Farkas writes: "In Vermont, it was easy to ignore the mobile computing craze until 2009. Before then, AT&T didn't have a presence here, so we couldn't purchase iPhones in the state. That all changed last year, and now, barely a day goes by that I don't see someone checking email, texting, or browsing the web on their iPhone. Mobile devices are becoming difficult for libraries to ignore. The first thing libraries looking to provide content and services for mobile users should do is assess their population, since each community is unique."...

American Libraries column, June/July



The myth of browsing

Pressed by economic realities, hurting for space, and seeing the opportunities offered by existing and emerging information technologies, the director of an academic library announces plans to move some percentage of the library collection—specifically low-use books and bound journals—offsite. The space gained from the move will be used to create areas in which students can study and collaborate. The reaction from faculty and, in some cases, alumni and students? Fury! Although today's academic library users may feel that browsing is an ancient scholarly right, the practice is in fact no older than the baby-boomer faculty who so often lead the charge to keep books on campus....

American Libraries feature, June/July



On My Mind: A passion for copyright

Sharon M. Britton writes: "Copyright is a subject with which I believe most librarians have a love-hate relationship. I am mostly in the love-it camp, but not necessarily in the love-all-the-regulations-and-guidelines one. I enjoy immensely the detective-work aspect of finding the copyright owner and then requesting permission for use of a copyrighted work. Nothing makes my day more than having a faculty member talk to me about a publication for which permission is needed. Finding the copyright owner and writing for permission, then waiting for a response, is like waiting to see if I've won the lottery."...

American Libraries column, June/July

Green library renovation worth noting

Laura Bruzas writes: "Some days it seems as if the whole country is going green. I know it's

Tuesday of the conference. A Highlights issue is mailed to conference attendees and an interactive issue is emailed to all ALA members after the conference.



eCourses are a convenient way to enrich the professional development of all library staff. Train new employees or update general office skills you use every day. Enroll today for 3 hours of self-paced, online training! **NEW!** From ALA Editions .

New this week in *American Libraries*



The myth of browsing

On My Mind: A passion for copyright

In Practice: A library in your pocket

Perpetual Beta

Inside Scoop

not true, but I keep my fingers crossed that the progress we are making on this front will not only continue but pick up speed. The other day, I learned of another library going green in a big way—[Ferndale \(Mich.\) Public Library](#). The library, which formally opened in November 1930 with an initial budget of \$5,000, recently underwent a \$4.5-million addition and facelift that the library's director, Doug Raber, calls 'pretty cool.' Originally 11,000 square feet, the library will now take up a full 21,000 square feet and include a geothermal heating and cooling system, a vegetative roof section, and a gray-water recycling system."...

AL: Green Your Library blog, May 14

[Banners to bags—oh boy!](#)

Laura Bruzas writes: "I love hearing about people like Melissa Records who have been on the green path recycling and reusing materials for years—way before it became the 'in thing' that it is today. 'I like the challenge of figuring out how to make do with the materials that I have on hand,' says Records, adult services librarian at the Champaign (Ill.) Public Library. Inspired by the bold graphics on the [Big Read](#) banner, Melissa thought making bags would be a great way to reuse the banners while creating a useful, visually appealing item that would help promote libraries and reading."...

AL: Green Your Library blog, May 12



ALA News

[Website offers one-stop shopping for ALA Online Learning Opportunities](#)

ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels today announced the official launch of [ALA Online Learning](#), a new section of the ALA website showcasing all web-based professional development opportunities across the Association. "This new section will allow website visitors to easily find all ALA online training in one place for the first time ever," Fiels said. The new collaborative catalog is organized into five categories. Delving into the categories leads to more than 20 topics that cover the gamut of practice, trends, and services in librarianship....

AL: Inside Scoop, May 18

[Syracuse student to serve as Google Policy Fellow for ALA OITP](#)

Gwen Glazer, a graduate student at Syracuse University pursuing her master's in library and information studies, was recently selected as the [2010 Google Policy Fellow](#) for ALA's Office for Information Technology Policy. Google Policy Fellows work for 10 weeks during the summer at other public interest organizations involved in debates on broadband and access policy, copyright reform, online privacy, and open government. Glazer is currently a staff writer and editor for Cornell University Library in Ithaca, N.Y., and has



[Green Your Library](#)

[Ask the ALA Librarian](#)

[Librarian's Library](#)

[AL Focus](#)

Career Leads from JobLIST

[Library Applications Programmer](#)

Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania. This position works in a team-oriented environment to administer, support and enhance the library technology infrastructure of the Tri-College Libraries Consortium (Bryn Mawr, Haverford, and Swarthmore Colleges). The incumbent will be responsible for designing, implementing and testing the Tri-College Libraries' digital services, including integration of information search and retrieval across multiple applications; developing tools for digital content creation, access, and delivery; and administrative tools for library staff. The incumbent will supervise a systems-oriented intern position. Along with the intern, the incumbent will support core information systems for the Tri-College

previously served as managing editor for NationalJournal.com....
Washington Office, May 19

ALA advises against bias in Texas curriculum

On May 13, ALA President Camila Alire sent a letter ([PDF file](#)) to the Texas State Board of Education expressing "deep concern" over proposed changes to the state's social studies and history curriculum standards—changes that "appear to emphasize particular viewpoints while de-emphasizing or deleting competing viewpoints, at the expense of balance and accuracy." Among the concerns that Alire cites is the fact that these standards could directly affect curriculum decisions in other states....

Office of Intellectual Freedom blog, May 19

ALA comments on National Education Technology Plan

ALA says the Department of Education's National Education Technology Plan presents significant challenges that will take the coordinated effort of many stakeholders to overcome, and libraries are a resource that should be leveraged as the plan's recommendations are carried out on the state and local levels. ALA filed comments ([PDF file](#)) with the Department of Education in response to its call for public comment on the NETP to inform the agency of the ways school libraries integrate innovative technology into our nation's schools and prepare students to thrive in the 21st century. ALA's comments focus on the NETP's sections on learning, teaching, infrastructure, and productivity....

Washington Office, May 19

23 acclaimed poets and authors LIVE! at ALA Annual Conference

The ALA Public Programs Office will present 23 critically acclaimed and bestselling authors and poets on the LIVE! @ your library Reading Stage from noon–4 p.m. June 25 and 26, and from 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m. June 27 in the Exhibits Hall at the upcoming ALA Annual Conference. Attendees can listen to readings from some of their favorite authors and get autographed copies of the authors' books. Additional information, including live reading times and author biographies, is listed at the [LIVE! Stage schedule](#)....

Public Programs Office, May 18

Joyce Valenza imagines Library Advocacy Day

Imagine watching the first entry (3:00) in a [video contest](#) to promote libraries and celebrate Library Advocacy Day on June 29 in Washington, D.C., as part of ALA's Annual Conference. Imagine that the video features students inspired by Springfield Township (Pa.) High School librarian Joyce Valenza to sing "Imagine Strong School Libraries" to the melody of John Lennon's "Imagine" as inspiring images pass before your eyes. Now, imagine that you still have until noon Eastern time, May 26, to upload your own entry. Just follow these [rules](#)....

Washington Office, May 17

How Web 2.0 should ALA go?

ALA is planning a web redevelopment in the coming year. To ensure the changes satisfy members' needs, ALA stakeholders should tell us: Just how Web 2.0 should ALA go? When you visit the [ALA website](#).

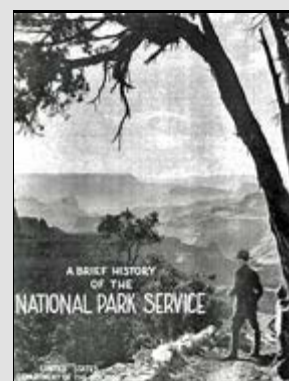


Libraries, including the integrated library system, inter-library loan/document delivery software and systems, digital asset management systems, institutional repositories, and other centrally-served technologies. The position will also actively explore new library technologies and tools for possible use by the Consortium....



@ [More jobs...](#)

Digital Library of the Week



The 1940 booklet [A Brief History of the National Park Service](#), one of almost 4,000 books, reports, scientific monographs, and articles that comprise [The National Park Service E-Library](#), begins with the legend of Montana lawyer Cornelius Hedges sharing his vision of a "national park" with

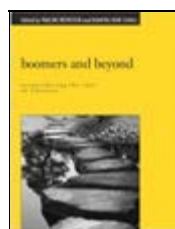
does it meet your expectations? Would you prefer to be able to customize, personalize, share, comment, and rank? Team J of Emerging Leaders needs to know what you want out of your ala.org experience. Please take 15–30 minutes to fill out this [survey](#)....

Information Technology and Telecommunications Services, May 13

Boomers and beyond in today's libraries

ALA Editions has released *Boomers and Beyond: Reconsidering the Role of Libraries*, edited by Pauline Rothstein and Diantha Dow Schull. Supporting the growing population of baby boomers is a concern of many librarians. *Boomers and Beyond* offers ways to be creative and take the initiative in better serving this demographic. The book, divided into three sections, provides a roadmap to a better service model for older patrons....

ALA Editions, May 17

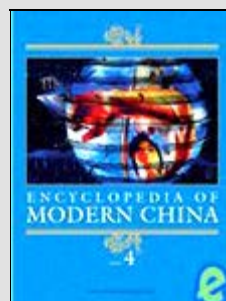


Booklist ONLINE

Featured review: Reference

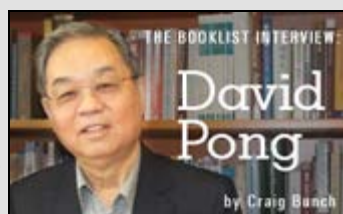
Pong, David (editor). *Encyclopedia of Modern China*. July 2009. 2,000p. Gale, hardcover (978-0-684-31566-9).

Covering the period 1800 to the present, this attractive and authoritative four-volume set includes 936 entries and sidebars by nearly 500 authors, representing (mostly) universities in the U.S., United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Germany, Netherlands, Japan, and China (mainland as well as Hong Kong). Each province has a main entry (including a map and a box containing key data), as do major cities, important people, Chinese relations with countries from Australia to Vietnam, and hundreds of miscellaneous subjects. Larger subjects (for example, *Architecture, history of; Chinese overseas; Energy; River systems; Social welfare*) are subdivided into articles by multiple contributors. Each entry is followed by *see also* references and a bibliography, mostly of books. With hundreds of high-quality photographs, maps, charts, graphs, and other illustrations, many in color, as well as primary-source documents, this encyclopedia is strongly recommended for academic, public, and high school libraries...



Booklist interview: David Pong

Reviewer Craig Bunch asks the editor of the *Encyclopedia of Modern China*: "How did you come to include Ma Yinchu's important 1957 essay, 'A New Population Theory,' which is published here in English for the first time?" David Pong answers: "This important piece has become iconic. Ma, president of Peking University and a high-profile public intellectual, made a nuanced and well-founded statement on population and industrialization policy and was ultimately



fellow Yellowstone explorers one autumn night in 1870 from the shadows of a wilderness campfire. (A web edition note goes on to discredit as myth the campfire part.) The collection houses information on all aspects of the NPS mission since its August 25, 1916, founding. Subject matter includes archeological and anthropological research, history and natural history, urban ecology, wildlife, and geology.

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

"That's a funny thought—that I might never have time to read all the books in my own house. I'll think about that on my way to the library to check out a book to read."

—"Gimme a Smile" columnist Peggy McKee Barnhill, on her overflowing private library, "Surround Yourself with Books," *Juneau Empire*, May 9.

sacked, as his speech was in conflict with party policy. Translation allows readers to more fully understand the context and argument, and to judge for themselves whether Ma or Mao was right."...

[Inside the 2010 Dartmouth Medal Winner](#)

Christine Whittington writes:

"Although the content of

[Encyclopedia of Human Rights](#) is

harrowing, Editor-in-Chief David P.

Forsythe says it was 'satisfying to

produce a reference work that notes the development of human rights and humanitarian law, and the efforts to see that law implemented.' When asked about memorable articles, Forsythe cited 'pieces that could stand alone as major contributions to the subject—for example, the entry on the Armenian genocide in the Ottoman Empire. I was also struck by how some authors could take a standard subject and do something new and insightful with it—for example, the entries on the Holocaust, on Hitler, on Martin Luther King Jr.'"...



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

D.C. Update

[Runway delays terminated under new flight rules](#)

The federal government is taking a stronger hand in regulating how airlines treat passengers, and [new rules limiting long tarmac delays](#) are just the first step. Even before the latest rules went into effect April 29, the government had fined airlines for violations of existing regulations that cover baggage-reimbursement policies, fare advertising, and compensation when passengers on over-booked flights are denied boarding. It seems carriers may be getting the message....

New York Times, May 16

[A library tour for medicinal purposes](#)

Join ACRL's newly formed Health Sciences Interest Group June 28 from 1:30–5 p.m. for a free two-hour tour of the [National Library of Medicine](#) in Bethesda, Maryland. Transportation will be by Metro, with meet-up details to come. [RSVP](#) by May 30....

ALA 2010 Conference Wiki

[Smithsonian opens its art libraries to ALA](#)

Attendees of ALA's Annual Conference are invited to attend an informal open house of the Smithsonian's resources for American art research June 28, from 2–4 p.m. Four units of the Smithsonian American Art Museum will be opening their doors: The [National Portrait Gallery Library](#), the [Research and Scholars Center](#), the [Center for Electronic Research and Outreach Services](#), and the [Archives of](#)



TweetWatch

Follow:

Medical Library Association annual meeting, Washington, D.C., May 21–26 at: [#mla10](#)

BookExpo America, New York City, May 25–27, at: [#bea2010](#)

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

Calendar

June 7:

[Uncommon Commons 2.0](#), Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut.

June 13–16:

[Special Libraries Association](#), Ernest N. Memorial Convention Center, New Orleans.

June 15–18:

[International Conference on Mobile Systems, Applications, and Services](#), JW Marriott San Francisco Union Square.

June 25:

[National Information Standards Organization / Book](#)

[American Art](#). The centers are located just two blocks away from the Washington Convention Center in the Victor Building (750 9th St. NW). RSVP by June 25 to [Christine Hennessey](#)....
Smithsonian Institution

[Party at the Folklife Festival](#)

From June 24 to 28 (and July 1–5 for those lingering in D.C. post-conference), the National Mall will play host to the annual outdoor Folklife Festival extravaganza, [presented since 1967](#) by the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. Stroll into the free celebration of worldwide diversity that includes daily and evening programs of music, song, dance, celebratory performance, crafts and cooking demonstrations, storytelling, illustrations of workers' culture, and narrative sessions for discussing cultural issues....
Smithsonian Institution



[Think globally at the National Geographic Museum](#)

Two free, thought-provoking exhibits coincide with ALA's Annual Conference, June 24–29, at the Smithsonian's National Geographic Museum. "[Design for the Other 90%](#)" explores design-based low-cost solutions for the 5.8 billion people in the world who often lack access to basic necessities. "[Rare: Photographs by Joel Sartore](#)" features images of endangered North American species. Located at 1145 17th Street NW (17th and M Streets NW), the museum is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily....
National Geographic Museum

Division News

[ACRL 2011 National Conference registration opens](#)

ACRL has opened registration for the ACRL 2011 National Conference, "A Declaration of Interdependence," to be held March 30–April 2, 2011, in Philadelphia. The ACRL 2011 National Conference will feature more than 300 peer-reviewed sessions specific to the needs of academic and research librarians and staff. Registration materials are now available [online](#). Register by the early-bird deadline of February 4, 2011, and save more than 20% on conference registration. Special group registration prices, reduced airfares, hotel discounts, and scholarships are also available....

ACRL, May 18

[ALTAFF to launch "Authors for Libraries"](#)

ALTAFF is launching "Authors for Libraries," a unique partnership to connect authors with libraries, Friends of the Library groups, and library Foundations and keep authors informed about issues and concerns affecting libraries on a national level. "Authors for Libraries" grew from an idea presented by Marilyn Johnson, author of *This Book Is Overdue! How Librarians and Cybrarians Can Save Us All*. Authors who join "Authors for Libraries" for \$39 will receive a subscription to "The Voice for America's Libraries," ALTAFF's bi-monthly newsletter. In addition, a hyperlink to the authors' websites will be placed on ALTAFF's website....

ALTAFF, May 18

[Capstone supports Learning4Life](#)

Beginning this summer, AASL and Capstone are

[Industry Study](#)

[Group](#). Annual Forum, Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C. "The Changing Standards Landscape."

June 25–26:

[Urban Libraries](#)

[Council](#). Cosmos Club and Mandarin Hotel, Washington, D.C. "Public Libraries / Public Education: The Role of Public Libraries in Education."

July 6–7:

[Emerging Technologies for Library Managers](#)

online. Hosted by Lyrasis.

July 10–13:

[American Association of Law Libraries](#)

Denver.

Sept. 23–26:

[ALSC National Institute](#)

Emory Conference Center Hotel, Atlanta.

Sept. 30–

Oct. 3:

[LITA National Forum](#)

Hilton Downtown, Atlanta. "The Cloud and the Crowd."

@ [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.

teaming up to [offer](#) "Empowering 21st Century Learners: P21 Framework and AASL Learning Standards" licensed institutes. Through the generous support of Capstone, funding will be given to 14 groups chosen by AASL to cover 50% of the cost per institute....

AASL, May 13



Rally with AASL for Library Advocacy Day

AASL encourages all school librarians and supporters of school libraries to join together on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on June 29 to show their support for school libraries. At 10 a.m., AASL members, supporters, and staff will meet on the Hill to raise their voices. Find out more about [AASL's plans for Library Advocacy Day](#) on the AASL website....

AASL, May 13



LLAMA adopts new bylaws

With nearly 100% approval, LLAMA members adopted a new set of bylaws for the organization. The new, less-prescriptive bylaws help create a more nimble organization by eliminating structural legacies that impede the work of members, and will encourage the integration of sections and committees into ongoing strategy development. Key changes include the creation of a smaller board and a larger, more representative executive committee. The new bylaws are [online](#)....

LEADS from LLAMA, May 12

Gary White elected RUSA vice president/president-elect

Gary White, acting head of the department of reference collections and research at Pennsylvania State University in University Park, has won election as vice president/president-elect of RUSA. White joined the PSU Libraries faculty in August 1992 and became head of the Schreyer Business Library in April 2000. He holds an MLS from Kent State University, an MBA from the University of Akron, and is currently pursuing a PhD in higher education at Penn State. He has become a prominent leader within RUSA, including service on its Board of Directors (2006–09)....

RUSA, May 17



ALSC names Great Interactive Software for Kids

ALSC has selected its spring 2010 list of Great Interactive Software for Kids (formerly Notable Computer Software for Children), which recognizes high-quality computer programs and digital media for children age 14 and younger. The products selected are Disney Online Kerpoof Studios, from Disney Online; Generation Cures: Caduceus, from FableVision; and Zoodles 3.4.4, from Inquisitive Minds. The annotated list, which includes recommended age ratings, is posted at the [ALSC website](#)....

ALSC, May 17

ASCLA seeks editor for online membership journal

The deadline for applications for ASCLA's newsletter editor position has been extended to June 11. [Interface](#), ASCLA's quarterly online membership journal, serves as the primary



George M. Eberhart,
Editor:

geberhart@ala.org



Beverly Goldberg,
Senior Editor:

bgoldberg@ala.org



Sean Fitzpatrick,
Associate Editor:

sfitzpatrick@ala.org



Greg Landgraf,
Associate Editor:

glandgraf@ala.org



Leonard Kniffel,
Editor and Publisher,
American Libraries:

lkniffel@ala.org

To advertise in American Libraries Direct, contact:



Brian Searles,

bsearles@ala.org



Katie Bane

kbane@ala.org

Send feedback:

aldirect@ala.org

AL Direct FAQ:

www.ala.org/aldirect/

All links outside the ALA website are provided for informational purposes only. Questions about the content of any external site should

source of information and communication between ASCLA and the library and user community. The editor is responsible for the content, format, and timely online publication of *Interface*. Compensation of up to \$1,000 annually will be provided to cover travel to conferences, and the editor receives complimentary registration for both conferences, VIP early registration for hotels, and a one-year membership to ASCLA. More information is [posted](#) on the ASCLA blog....

ASCLA, May 17

[Call for LITA bloggers at Annual](#)

Cindi Trainor writes: "LITA is seeking volunteers to blog about sessions, speakers, and general conference atmosphere. We would like coverage for as many of the sessions as possible. Visit the [BIGWIG LITA Events calendar](#) and pick one (or more) and join the LITA blogging community. Interested? Sign up [using this form](#), and you'll be added to the schedule. No experience is required, though we would love to see some of our experienced volunteers back again. If you have any questions, email [Cindi Trainor](#)....

LITA Blog, May 14

Awards

[Five receive Library Advocacy Day stipends](#)

YALSA has named the recipients of stipends to attend Library Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C., June 29, in conjunction with ALA Annual Conference. The five YALSA members who each received \$1,000 to participate are: Heather Gruenthal, school librarian, Western High School and Orangeview Junior High School, Anaheim, California; Suzanne Larson, school librarian, Bartlett Junior-Senior High School, Webster, Massachusetts; Angie Manfredi, head of youth services, Los Alamos County (N.M.) Library System; Susan Ridgeway, school librarian, Streetsboro (Ohio) City Schools; and Andrea Sowers, young adult librarian, Joliet (Ill.) Public Library....

YALSA, May 17

[SLA names Diversity Leadership Development awardee](#)

Nancy Snell, a hearing-impaired information professional at Kurt Salmon Associates in Atlanta, is the recipient of the 2010 Special Libraries Association's Diversity Leadership Development Program Award. Sponsored by EBSCO, the award includes a \$1,000 travel grant and complimentary registration to attend the 2010 SLA Annual Conference and INFO-EXPO, June 13–16, in New Orleans....

Special Libraries Association, May 14



[British Library wins Oscar of museum world](#)

The British Library has been awarded the Innovation Award for [Timelines: Sources from History](#) by the 2010 Museums and Heritage Awards. The honor recognizes the most innovative use of technology within a museum, gallery, or heritage attraction, including the use of social media and the web, as well as technologies such as AV, multimedia, lighting, and audio guides. Timelines, which launched in January, enables visitors to explore British Library collection items



be addressed to the administrator of that site.

American Libraries

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Chicago, IL 60611
www.ala.org/alonline/
800-545-2433,
ext. 4216

ISSN 1559-369X.

chronologically, as [shown here](#) (2:33)....

British Library, May 13

[Third Dallas school library wins makeover](#)

The Target School Library Makeover Project and the Heart of America Foundation's [READesign project](#) have selected Dallas (Tex.)

Independent School District's Casa View Elementary School library for a complete makeover this summer. September 21 is scheduled as Opening Day for the redesigned and expanded space, which was originally carved out of two old classrooms....

Dallas Morning News, May 14; Heart of America Foundation

[Nominees sought for federal librarianship awards](#)

To honor the many innovative ways in which federal libraries, librarians, and library technicians fulfill the information demands of government, business, research, scholarly communities, and the American public, the Federal Library and Information Center Committee is soliciting nominations for its national awards for federal librarianship for fiscal year 2009. Forms are available [here](#)....

Government Video; Federal Library and Information Center Committee



[Apply for 2011 National Library Week Grant](#)

Libraries nationwide are invited to apply for the \$3,000 Scholastic Library Publishing National Library Week Grant, which will be awarded to a single library for the best public awareness campaign incorporating the 2011 National Library Week theme, "Create your own story @ your library." The grant is sponsored by Scholastic Library Publishing, and is administered by the Public Awareness Committee of ALA. The deadline is October 1. An application form and guidelines are available on the Scholastic Library Publishing National Library Week Grant [website](#)....

Public Information Office, May 18

Seen Online

[Reciprocity will end when Michigan library closes](#)

Troy (Mich.) Public Library is likely to be closed by July 1, 2001, and residents are poised to lose privileges at other area libraries, too. "If they have nothing to reciprocate with, we're not giving them access," said Christine Lind Hage, director of the Rochester Hills Public Library. In February, Troy voters defeated a millage increase that city officials said would have helped save the library and other facilities. TPL was just [ranked](#) the 10th best library in its population size for 2009 by the HAPLR Index...

Detroit Free Press, May 17; Troy Public Library, May 7



[Does Jay Leno hate LAPL?](#)

Matthew Fleischer writes: "Wow. Jay Leno has given us yet another reason to hate him. In a painfully, painfully unfunny monologue May 11, Leno [ripped](#) (at 3:00 of 4:35) on L.A.'s plans to drastically cut the city's library budget. 'People here in Los Angeles are upset at the mayor's proposed plan to cut the budget of



libraries. This could affect as many as nine people.' Leno got no laughs with the crowd and he definitely got no laughs with L.A. City Librarian Martín Gómez, who [penned an angry letter](#) to *The Tonight Show*. The joke is especially unfunny as [news broke](#) that library hours will be reduced to save the city cash." Los Angeles library workers continue to [fight](#) the reduction plan....

Fishbowl LA, May 18; *The Tonight Show*, May 11; *Los Angeles Times*, May 18

[Community works to rebuild flooded school library](#)

Cheatam County Schools' Kingston Springs (Tenn.) Elementary School was devastated by [flooding](#) (1:44) May 2–3, and its library is a total loss, including its collection of more than 8,500 books and 1,000 other items such as DVDs,

American Libraries has learned from area resident Jen Brackman. She is helping school officials [reach out](#) to rebuild....

WKRN-TV, Nashville, May 10; Kingston Springs (Tenn.) Elementary School



[Witnesses say cost, access are largest barriers to broadband adoption](#)

At a [hearing](#) in front of the House Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet May 13, witnesses told lawmakers that cost and access are the main factors preventing more people from taking advantage of broadband connections. Rivkah Sass (right), director of the Sacramento (Calif.) Public Library System, testified ([PDF file](#)) that visits to her library have increased by 50% over the last year as more individuals use library computers to try to find work. She said the library system does not have enough computers or bandwidth to accommodate the rapid increase in demand....

The Hill, May 17; Committee on Energy and Commerce, May 13



[Studs Terkel interviews to go online](#)

If someone was an important figure in American culture in the 20th century, chances are he or she was interviewed by Studs Terkel, who died in 2008 at age 96. Under a [deal](#) signed May 10 between the Chicago History Museum and the Library of Congress, more than 50 years of Terkel's interviews will be digitally preserved by LC, which will catalog and house a copy of as many as 7,000 interviews in the Studs Terkel Oral History Archive. The Chicago History Museum will retain ownership and the copyrights to the content. Project officials expect digitizing the collection to take more than two years....

Chicago News Cooperative, May 13; Library of Congress, May 14



[Elena Kagan's theses going online, again](#)

Garance Franke-Ruta writes: "The White House announced May 17 that it would make Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan's Princeton senior thesis and Oxford graduate thesis available online as 'a demonstration of our commitment to transparency.' Princeton had sent news organizations and blogs copies of the thesis for research and personal use purposes but objected when a conservative blog posted the full document online May 15." The White House also [asked](#) Bill Clinton's presidential library to expedite release of more than 160,000 pages from Kagan's tenure as a Clinton adviser for the Senate Judiciary



Committee's review. The papers' release is expected this summer."...
44 blog, May 17; Associated Press, May 15

Pittsburgh mayor balks at giving library more funds

The City Council in Pittsburgh is preparing to direct \$1.24 million to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, but Mayor Luke Ravenstahl said May 17 that the city was on the hook for only \$600,000 and that he wants more information about the system's financial plans before considering anything more. Council members say that the funds were contingent on CLP keeping all branches open through 2010, and that the mayor's office had deleted \$1 million from the library's capital budget. Ravenstahl maintains the \$1 million was a "typographical error" mistakenly retained after a 1% college-tuition tax proposal was abandoned....

Pittsburgh (Pa.) Post-Gazette, May 18; *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, May 18

Stanford readies bookless library

Decades of past scholarship are being packed up and emptied from the Physics and Engineering libraries at Stanford (Calif.) University to make way for a smaller but more efficient and largely electronic library that can accommodate the vast, expanding, and interrelated literature of physics, computer science, and engineering. The future Engineering Library—on the second floor of the university's new science and engineering quad that [opens](#) later this year—will offer a stark contrast. At only half the size, it saves its space for people, not things. It features soft seating, "brainstorm islands," a digital bulletin board, and group event space....

San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News, May 18; *Speaking of Computers*, Apr.



Nylink to wind down operations

Nylink, a nonprofit library cooperative that serves most of New York State's libraries, colleges and universities, and cultural institutions, will phase itself out over the next year, the group announced May 17, citing "steep declines" in revenue. "Unfortunately, the revenue just isn't there any longer, and we have no choice but to wind down operations," W. David Penniman, Nylink's executive director, said in a [written statement](#)....

The Chronicle of Higher Education, May 17



Quincy library advocates: Budget cuts are inequitable

While proposed cuts in school spending have attracted the attention of Quincy, Massachusetts, residents, advocates for city's libraries say the department is taking a disproportionately big hit, and the city's most vulnerable could suffer as a result. The libraries, which take up roughly 1% of the city's nearly \$230-million budget, are slated to take a 9% cut in fiscal 2011, compared with the 3.6% cut taken for the schools, which have 37% of the budget, and 3.7% in cuts for the police and fire departments, which together with the other public safety units account for about 17%....

Boston Globe, May 15

Louisville rolls out the red carpet, literally

The front steps of Louisville (Ky.) Free Public Library's Main Library were covered with a scarlet rug May 15 for its grand reopening nine months after flooding heavily damaged the building. Comments such as "awesome" and "gorgeous" were heard as patrons stepped into the marble-and-brass entryway of the original 1908 Carnegie section, restored with private donations as part of a \$12-million project....

Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal, May 15



Tarpon Springs library worker attacked

Bystanders chased a transient and held him until police arrived May 12 after he beat up a librarian at Tarpon Springs (Fla.) Public Library, authorities said. According to police, 39-year-old Paul H. Poekert went into the library and started hitting Salvatore Miranda in the face with a closed fist. Miranda, who was taken to Helen Ellis Memorial Hospital, suffered facial fractures and had several lacerations to the right side of his face. The injuries were so severe that Miranda's right eye was swollen shut....

St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, May 12

California budget drought threatens water archives

A treasure trove of California's water history kept at UC Berkeley for more than a half-century could be moved or broken up because of budget cuts. The specialized water-documents archive is the only such collection in the country, supporters say. Founded in 1958 by a special act of the California Legislature, the [Water Resources Center Archive](#) consists of a library that houses 120 years of material in a variety of formats, including a strong web-based component that is continuously expanding....

Contra Costa (Calif.) Times, May 17; Book Patrol blog, May 18



British Library to digitize 40 million newspaper pages

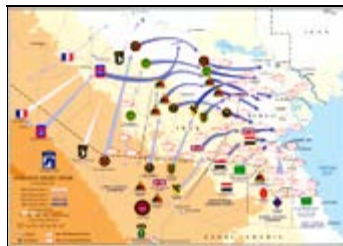
The record of over 300 years of journalism, including coverage of the Crimean and Boer Wars, will be going online in a 10-year digitization project, the British Library [announced](#). The digital material will be made free to users at the main library site and be available for a fee to offsite searchers. The British Library's archive contains about 750 million newspaper pages, including 52,000 local, regional, national, and international titles....

BBC News, May 18; British Library, May 19

Army library gets command of Desert Storm documentation

The Army Logistics University Library in Fort Lee, Virginia, has officially accepted one of the most comprehensive collections of logistical documentation ever donated to an Army professional development school.

Retired Lt. Gen. William "Gus" Pagonis donated a collection he has had in his possession since the end of the Persian Gulf War. The documents, reports, and videos detail the logistics behind Operation Desert Storm in 1991. "Every briefing,



every interview was taped," Pagonis said during the May 17 ceremony. "I was hoping that by doing that, we wouldn't make the same mistakes twice."...

Petersburg (Va.) Progress-Index, May 18

[Dad's challenge of ghost story gives up the ghost](#)

The Pennichuck Middle School parent who challenged whether *Wait Till Helen Comes: A Ghost Story* should be in the Nashua, New Hampshire, school library collection has withdrawn his request for reconsideration after learning that the book was not required reading. "I don't see a need for my son to read a book that talks about people talking to the dead," Robert McCarthy said, adding, "I'm not going to force my viewpoints on people in the future who want to read that book."...

Nashua (N.H.) Telegraph, May 13



[Go back to the Top](#)

Tech Talk

[Wordpress 3 to launch soon](#)

Jason Griffey writes: "Lots of libraries are using Wordpress as a blog engine or even as a full-fledged CMS to run their website. There's a new version of Wordpress launching soon, [Wordpress 3.0](#), and it brings with it the largest set of changes and updates in the history of the platform. I've been using WP since before it was WP—I think I moved [Pattern Recognition](#) over to Wordpress in the 0.6 or 0.7 release. It's a phenomenal platform for the web, and the 3.0 release brings a slew of new tools and easier implementations."...

AL: Perpetual Beta, May 17



[Five examples of lame DMCA takedowns](#)

Jacqui Cheng writes: "The Digital Millennium Copyright Act serves many purposes, some of which are good, but certain parts of it are ripe for abuse. The infamous DMCA takedown notice is at the top of anyone's list of most-abused parts of the act. These notices are meant to make it easy for content owners to have violations removed, and they do. But the notices also make it easy for anyone to try and silence criticism or stifle angles they simply don't like, even if the party in question is working perfectly within the confines of fair use. We've seen a number of DMCA takedown cases that were just plain lame. We thought we would highlight some of our 'favorite' ones."...

Ars Technica, May 17

[How to get the best of both Google Docs and Microsoft Office](#)

Lowell Heddings writes: "Microsoft Office 2010 is about to be released. Not sure if you should upgrade or switch to Google Docs? Have you considered using the best features of both, together? Below we detail when Google Docs is a better tool for a task than Office (and vice versa). If you want to use Google Docs to collaborate and share documents, but prefer using Microsoft Office to actually put the documents together, your best



solution at the moment is to use the [OffiSync plug-in](#)."...

Lifehacker, May 13

[Google to offer encrypted search](#)

Google plans to offer encrypted search, it announced May 14. Google's Marissa Mayer, vice president of search products and user experience, hinted that such a feature was coming May 20 during a question-and-answer session at the company's annual stockholder meeting. Google began encrypting Gmail traffic using HTTPS (Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure) by default in January after offering it as an option since mid-2008. It's likely Google will now do the same thing with traffic to Google.com....

Cnet News, May 14

[Five best bookmark management tools](#)



Jason Fitzpatrick writes: "The web—and web browsers—evolve extremely quickly, but if there's one web browsing feature that's stood the test of time, it's browser bookmarks. If the only bookmarking you're doing is simply bookmarking websites in your default browser using the default bookmarking tool, it's only a matter of time before you either end up with an overwhelming and incomprehensible pile of bookmarks, you lose your bookmarks file through some unforeseen problem, or both. The following tools will help you organize your bookmarks and avoid losing them to the long digital goodnight."...

Lifehacker, May 16

Publishing

[Put the book in their hands \(however we can\)](#)

Chris Freeman writes: "This morning, I read the introduction to a novel I'm going to read and came across the mention of an old horror story I'd never heard of, *The Wendigo* by Algernon Blackwood. Within minutes of first encountering the title, I'd downloaded a complete version of the story completely for free using the Kindle for iPhone app, still in my pajamas on a Saturday morning. So, is this just evidence from a librarian of the impending doom of libraries, then? I'd argue against that conclusion."...

The Civil Librarian, May 15



[HarperCollins CEO: Future lies in hands of consumers](#)

The book trade's future lies with consumers, not the technology companies driving digital change, the (U.K.) Publishers Association president has claimed. Victoria Barnsley, CEO and publisher at HarperCollins, told delegates at the Book Industry Conference May 17 that consumers "are now just one click away from finding all the content they can consume, anywhere, in whatever form and—frighteningly—for whatever price they're prepared to pay. As an industry, we ignore the increased power of the consumer at our peril." Barnsley argued publishers should stop talking about the "digital future," suggesting instead the industry was living in the digital present....

theBookseller.com, May 17

ABA, ABC eye merger proposal

The boards of directors of the Association of Booksellers for Children and the American Booksellers Association released a [letter of agreement](#) May 13 detailing the principles under which the two organizations will pursue further development of a merger proposal. In spring 2009, ABC [began exploring](#) a merger with ABA as an option to keep the organization viable in the face of unprecedented change in the industry....

American Booksellers Association, May 13



Seeing the big picture

Gwenda Bond writes: "As baby boomers continue to age, the makeup of the audience for books with larger, easier-to-read type is diversifying, and so are its tastes. You might even need to start picturing a new reader of large print who can be described in an unexpected word: hip. 'As our readership gets younger and younger, their taste does, too,' says Jamie Knobloch, publisher at Thorndike Press, which does its own large-print editions as well as distributing those from such publishers as HarperLuxe, Simon and Schuster, and Harlequin....

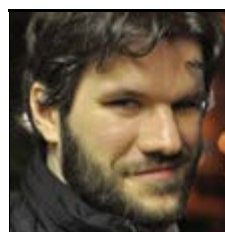
Publisher's Weekly, May 10



Short story composed and edited live online

Jason Boog writes: "At [Everyday Genius](#), writer [Matt Bell](#) is trying an experiment we've never seen before—writing and editing a short story [live on the internet](#). Using the text-editing platform [Meeting Words](#), readers can follow along with Bell as he writes and edits the story. When Bell isn't writing, you can use the blue sliding bar at the top of the page to go back in time and watch his editing process. On May 20, Bell invites readers to participate in this week-long project by taking over the writing duties for the day. He'll leave the story open for 12 hours....

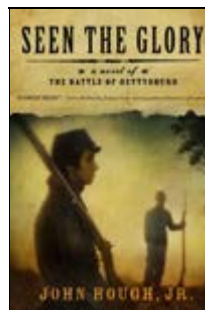
Galleycat, May 18; Everyday Genius, May 16



W. Y. Boyd Literary Award recipient named

Seen the Glory: A Novel of the Battle of Gettysburg, by John Hough Jr., is the winner of the 2010 W. Y. Boyd Literary Award for Excellence in Military Fiction. The award honors the best fiction set in a period when the United States was at war. The \$5,000 award and citation, donated by author W. Y. Boyd II, recognizes the service of American veterans and encourages the writing and publishing of outstanding war-related fiction. Hough chronicles the lives of two brothers from Martha's Vineyard as they grow into their teens and enlist in the Union Army...

Office of ALA Governance, May 18

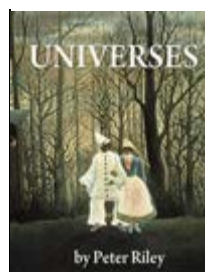


Sci-Fi author offers readers \$3,000 in prizes

The search for a new publishing model that takes advantage of the internet continues. Author Peter Riley is giving out \$3,000 in prizes to people who'll read his book, *Universes*, and answer some questions about it.

Riley, a former editor with the *London (Ont.) Free Press*, has posted his novel online for free and hopes that running contests with cash prizes will "stir up interest on the internet." He's been looking for a publisher since he finished the novel in 1999. The contest starts July 4, with prizes ranging from \$50 to \$100 each....

io9, May 17



[School librarian's poetry recalls Bosnian War](#)

On the library shelves at Virgie Robinson Elementary School in Pasco, Washington, there is one book written by the school librarian. *I Was Almost Five* is a collection of poems that tell how Vida Zuljevic and her family were forced to flee their home in the former Yugoslavia during the country's bloody civil war in the 1990s. The book was written from the perspective of Zuljevic's youngest daughter, Nina, who was just a little girl when the family left their hometown of Mostar. In one passage, Zuljevic tells of a bombing in Sarajevo on Nina's 5th birthday....

Kennewick (Wash.) *Tri-City Herald*, May 16



[Philippe Claudel wins Independent Foreign Fiction Prize](#)

The winner of the 2010 Independent Foreign Fiction Prize is *Brodeck's Report*. French novelist Philippe Claudel shares the award with translator John Cullen for the English edition. The award makes Claudel the second French-language author to take Britain's leading honor for contemporary literature in translation. As director of the 2009 film *I've Loved You So Long*, Claudel completes a surely unique cross-media double....

The Independent (U.K.), May 14



[B.C. libraries, publishers produce free local e-books](#)

British Columbia public and school libraries are making books published in the province available online in an experiment that began May 12. [BC Books Online](#) will test consumers' taste for online reading by making some 650 titles available digitally for free. Nothing is downloadable and the entire collection is searchable through ebrary. Twelve libraries and 18 publishers are participating in what is [being reported](#) as an unprecedented library/publisher partnership at an important juncture in the development of new models....

CBC News, May 13; BC Books Online; *Library Journal*, May 17



Actions & Answers

[Single-link library advocacy sites](#)

Jessamyn West writes: "I am collecting a list of single-link 'save the library' sites or other library value advocacy sites. The [Save Libraries](#) umbrella site is a good go-to place for general information on funding crises hitting libraries, and [ALA has a page](#) with links to some Facebook examples."...

librarian.net, May 18



[21 rules for social media engagement](#)

Brian Solis writes: "Social media is reinventing marketing, communications, and the dissemination of information. Many organizations approach this with the establishment of [social media guidelines and policies](#). This is indeed an important step, and not one worth economizing. But it's also not enough. I highly recommend establishing official procedures that remind representatives of the importance and privilege of engagement."...

Mashable, May 18

[Share equine tales for Horses in Culture Project](#)

Do you know of a published fiction book for young adults of 11–15, written in or translated into English, in which one or more horses is essential to the plot and the story represents different cultures and ethnicities, such as (but not limited to) Native American, Spanish, Mexican, Chinese, African American, or German? Gail M. Staines, assistant vice president for university libraries at Saint Louis (Mo.) University and a long-time equestrienne, established the Horses in Culture Project with a Carnegie-Whitney Grant from ALA and seeks to build a searchable database of such stories. She [welcomes your suggestions](#)...

Saint Louis University; Horses in Culture Project



[How to raise your internal profile as an academic liaison librarian](#)

In the current financial climate where every penny counts, raising our internal profile has never been more vital. There are people making decisions on what jobs are vital to the institution's goals and they are not necessarily aware of what librarians contribute, making our posts vulnerable. It has therefore never been more essential to make non-library colleagues sit up and take notice of the excellent work we do. Here is a summary of various activities librarians engage in to raise their profile....

Research Information Network, May 13

[Ning remains free to educators, with restrictions](#)

The social networking website Ning, which many educators have used to establish online groups with similar professional interests, will remain free for K–12 teachers despite moving to a [fee-based model](#) this summer. But some education technology experts believe Ning could see dwindling interest in the education community because of new limitations on group sizes and video and chat capabilities....

eSchool News, May 12; Ning blog, May 4



[Facebook and privacy: Is this REALLY a big deal?](#)

David Lee King writes: "I've seen lots on Facebook privacy issues the last couple of days, some talking about sharing, some about privacy, some just confused about the whole thing. Me? I'm of two minds. So

I ask: Is the privacy you (think you) have on Facebook *really* that big of a deal? On the one hand, of course it is. They should at least tell you they're going to do something before doing it. And they should let you opt in, rather than forcing you to opt out. On the other hand, what are you trying to keep private? If you really want to know more about me, you can—with or without Facebook."...

David Lee King, May 17

[Is MySpace the new Facebook?](#)

Jennifer Van Grove writes: "Facebook is under fire of late as members threaten a mass [exodus](#) and NYU students attempt to build an [alternative Facebook](#). Today MySpace is taking its own jab at Facebook by [announcing](#) that the social networking site will soon make the default setting for updates 'friends only.' This default privacy change will affect all users who 'previously had any granular page setting to friends only,' but can easily be changed as part of MySpace's new public commitment to privacy."...

Mashable, May 17; Myspace, May 17

[Flip this library](#)

Steven Bell writes: "A few months ago, we were brainstorming to find an engaging, productive activity for our upcoming library student advisory board meeting at Georgia Tech. Dottie Hunt of the Library User Experience Department came up with the idea of using Flip cameras as an interactive tool for assessment. We thought it would be an interesting experiment to ask advisory board members to walk around the library filming the experience from their perspective. We learned that one of the first things that users see when they walk into our building are the backs of the reference staff."...

Designing Better Libraries, May 18



[Old-school collaboration tools that rock](#)

Dawn Foster writes: "For many of us who live and work on the web, playing with the latest and greatest new tools just comes with the territory. I find this constant tool jumping fun and exhilarating; however, not everyone that we need to work with wants to have to learn a new tool in order to collaborate with us online. Sometimes simple 'old school' tools, like IRC (above) and mailing lists, can work just as well as, if not better than, the new tools. In coming back to these established tools, I'm rediscovering why they are so useful for collaboration."...

WebWorkerDaily, May 14



[Tips for library job applicants in a tight market](#)

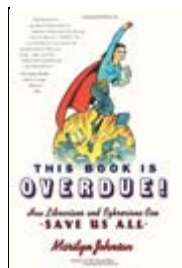
Meredith Farkas writes: "It wasn't an easy job market when I was applying more than five years ago (took me nine months of looking to get my first job), and it's only gotten worse in the past couple years. In a tight market like this, having a good cover letter and résumé can mean the difference between getting a phone interview and ending up in the round file. I've written out these tips in the hopes that others can avoid my mistakes. Keep in mind that these tips are just from my point of view, but they were definitely things that made me and my fellow committee members more or less likely to give the applicant further consideration."...

Information Wants to be Free, May 18

[Interview with Marilyn Johnson](#)

In this Longshots podcast (16:56), Sarah Ann Long talks with Marilyn Johnson, author of *This Book Is Overdue: How Librarians and Cybrarians Can Save Us All*. Johnson describes what motivated her to write this tribute to the new librarians that have guided her into the digital age. The book features librarians who are taking the profession out into the virtual and real communities they serve, including the Connecticut librarians who challenged the Patriot Act, the librarian who created Radical Reference, and the creators of Second Life....

Library Beat, May 17



[Webcasts posted of 2010 WebWise Conference](#)

Sessions are now online from the 2010 WebWise Conference on Libraries and Museums in the Digital World on leading-edge digital technologies that libraries and museums use to share their collections and engage the public. The [webcasts](#) focus on the sustainability of digital content, engaging users, new tools and services, essential skills for practitioners, and funding....

Institute of Museum and Library Services, May 10

[A treasure chest of author interviews](#)

Gary Price writes: "It's likely that some of you remember the C-SPAN series, *Booknotes*, which aired from 1988–2004. For one hour each Sunday C-SPAN Founder Brian Lamm would sit down for a one-on-one interview with an author of a new nonfiction title. While some archived programs have been available for years, the [C-SPAN Video Library](#) now [provides access](#) to every program in the series. There are 799 programs available."...

Resource Shelf, May 18



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american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | May 26, 2010

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American Libraries Online

Charlotte axes three branches, eyes a dozen more

The board of the Charlotte Mecklenburg (N.C.) Library voted May 20 to close three branches in a month's time in anticipation of an FY2011 operating budget that will be 45% smaller than FY2010. But even as trustees lamented having to establish the June 19 closing dates, they made it painfully clear that a dozen more libraries would also be in jeopardy, as were the jobs of some 200 library workers. "We're going to go down fighting to preserve as much of the system as we can," Library Director Charles Brown said....

American Libraries news, May 24



Illinois cooperatives lay off dozens

Illinois's nine library cooperatives are reeling from what Prairie Area Library System Executive Director Michael Piper says may be the worst financial crisis in the state's history, "a game-changer." Already six months long, the wait for the state's overdue payments to libraries "will likely grow longer," Piper announced May 19, and "will probably persist over the next several years." PALS has received only 57% of its 2010 state funding, and the administration is still working out details of what the necessary cuts will entail....

American Libraries news, May 19



Frontline advocacy is everybody's job

Patty Wong and Julie Todaro write: "ALA President Camila Alire's presidential initiative on frontline advocacy offers a systematic approach to staff participation. It focuses on advocating at points of service and engagement and encourages staff and administrators in all types of libraries to work together to tell our stories about the value of libraries and the value of library staff as part of a larger theme, 'Libraries: The Heart of All Communities,' which focuses both on advocacy and literacy."...



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American Libraries feature

[The June/July issue online](#)

The digital edition of the June/July 2010 *American Libraries* is now available online in the Zmags page-flip format. Features in this issue include building your own instructional literacy, 10 tips on tracking trends, how to be an effective moderator, the myth of browsing, academic library space in the age of Facebook, frontline advocacy, a sneak peek at *The Librarian's Book of Lists*, and a preview of the 2010 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C....

American Libraries, June/July



[Make a green suggestion box](#)

Laura Bruzas writes: "Long ago, I lost the know-it-all attitude of my youth in favor of an appreciation for backseat drivers—individuals who, while not controlling a vehicle, want to tutor the driver. And in many ways, I equate backseat drivers with suggestion-box contributors. I say bring them on. Here are some suggested steps for creating a green suggestion-box system at your library."...

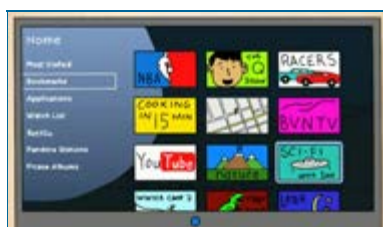
AL: Green Your Library, May 21



[Perpetual Beta: Google TV](#)

Jason Griffey writes: "Not a lot of details quite yet out of Google I/O as far as this is concerned, but Google just announced a TV product ([Google TV](#)) that interacts with your existing TV and gives you web on TV. I'm really unsure how this is going to go over; remember, Microsoft tried for years and years to get people to browse the web on their TV and mostly failed. Apple as well, with AppleTV. I already use a piece of software that does pretty much all of this, an open source project called [Boxee](#) that runs on just about any computer." Watch the [video](#) (2:05)....

AL: Perpetual Beta, May 20; YouTube, May 18



ALA News

[What to know before you go to Library Advocacy Day](#)

ALA members and supporters from around the country will convene in Washington, D.C., in June to discuss the latest and greatest of what the library community has to offer. An important part of this event will be the [Library Advocacy Day](#) rally on June 29. The event, held at Upper Senate Park, will be an opportunity to have our message heard by those who need to hear it most—members of Congress. This hour-long [webinar](#) by consultant Stephanie Vance explains more about what the rally is all about....

District Dispatch, May 26; Vimeo, May 26

[2011 Emerging Leaders applications now open](#)

ALA is accepting [applications](#) for its 2011 class of Emerging Leaders. The program is designed to enable a group of library workers to get on the fast track to ALA and professional leadership. Participants are



At the [ALA Annual Conference](#), Washington, D.C., June 24–29, [The Stacks](#) in the Washington Convention Center Exhibit Hall will feature more than 1,500 booths ([PDF file](#)) showcasing products and services for 21st-century libraries and the people who manage them. Special events in The Stacks will include author signings ([PDF file](#)) as well as presentations at the Cooking Stage, which will showcase delicious demonstrations by cookbook authors, and the PopUp Stage, where mystery, romance, and travel authors will talk about their work.



After years spent editing *American Libraries Direct* and the many editions of *The Whole Library Handbook*, George Eberhart has collected a raft of arcane librarians and amusing trivia for the endlessly

given the opportunity to work on a variety of projects, network with peers, and get an inside look into the ALA structure and activities. The deadline to apply is July 30....

Human Resource Development and Recruitment, May 25

[2010 Many Voices, One Nation](#)

Marina Budhos and Kekla Magoon will be participating in Many Voices, One Nation during the 2010 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Marina Budhos (left) is the author of *Ask Me No Questions* and *Tell Us We're Home*, and Kekla Magoon (right) is the author of *The Rock and the River*. This year's event will take place June 25 and will highlight ALA President Camila Alire's Family Literacy Focus, an initiative to encourage families in ethnically diverse communities to read and learn together....

Office for Diversity, May 25



[Town Hall meeting on diversity](#)

The ALA Committee on Diversity will host a Town Hall meeting on diversity during the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. The meeting will take place the morning of June 25 in the Washington Plaza Hotel. Ismail Abdullahi (right), chair of the Committee on Diversity, will facilitate the discussion. The meeting will focus on education, recruitment, and Association involvement....

Office for Diversity, May 20



[A variation on the National Library Symbol](#)

Gary Price writes: "Since posting May 19 about a new symbol (some might call it a logo) showing the outline of a person sitting in front of a computer (right), we have noticed that people are referring to it as a new or updated version of the ALA logo. ALA also noticed the discussion and posted an update to [Fact Sheet #30](#) to clarify the situation. The 2009 Laptop Version of the National Library Symbol first appeared in the [press kit](#) for the 2008–2009 *Public Library Funding and Technology Access Report*. The 1982 'official symbol' is [often seen](#) near roadways."...

ResourceShelf, May 24; ALA Library; U.S. Department of Transportation



Booklist ONLINE

[Featured review: Audiobook](#)

Fforde, Jasper. *The Eyre Affair*. Read by Susan Duerden. February 2010. 12hr. Books on Tape, CD (978-1-4159-6664-8).

Duerden does everything right in her reading of the tale, which falls into the mystery genre but has enough fantastical elements to appeal to fantasy fans as well. Her sweet, clear British

browsable [Librarian's Book of Lists](#). Equally suitable for the reference shelf or the staff lounge, the dozens of wide-ranging lists in this book include 14 ways libraries are good for the country, how to say "Where is the library?" in 50 different languages, 10 intriguing paper defects, 6 library-related birdsongs, and the top 12 silly reasons to ban a book. **NEW! From ALA Editions.**

New this week in *American Libraries*



[Frontline Advocacy](#)

[Perpetual Beta](#)

[Inside Scoop](#)

[Green Your Library](#)

[Ask the ALA Librarian](#)

[Librarian's Library](#)

[AL Focus](#)

YALSA applications due

Applications are due on June 1 for YALSA's [YA Galley project](#), in which 15 YA book groups across the



accent makes Special Operative Thursday Next sound both plucky and vulnerable. Set approximately in 1985 England, the story depicts Thursday's daily life: enjoying quick visits from her time-traveling father, taking her pet dodo to the vet, and chasing villains through pages of classic books. Characters are either good or bad in the story, and Duerden makes vocal distinctions between the snippy docent at the Brontë museum and the gentle, soft-toned Japanese tourist who eases Thursday as a child into the pages of *Jane Eyre*....

[Listen-alikes: An alternate reality](#)

Candace Smith writes: "In these seven listen-alike titles, all of which blend multiple genres, the line between reality and fantasy is blurred, and exceptional readers make the unbelievable seem believable through understated tones and tongue-in-cheek wit. These audios reflect stories that are both great adventure and lots of fun."...



[Rousing Reads: Hidden treasures](#)

Bill Ott writes: "When I listen in on one of our *Booklist* webinars, it's hard for me to concentrate on what's being said—not because there isn't always something interesting to hear but because, as a *Booklist*er, I'm mainly just hoping that nothing goes wrong (sound problems, panelists dropping the baton as they pass controls to one another, etc.). What I'm really worried about, though, is bad Karma."...

American Libraries column, May 17

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

D.C. Update

[Baltimore County's Storyville](#)

Take advantage of your ALA Annual Conference attendance to see Baltimore County (Md.) Public Library's newest [Storyville](#) at the Woodlawn branch. Storyville is an interactive learning center for children birth to 5 to promote school readiness with parents and caregivers. A bus will leave the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library (901 G Street, N.W.) on June 25 at noon and will return at 4 p.m. Reserve your space by emailing [Cecily Pilzer](#). There is room for only 35 participants. A fee of \$21.50 is due by June 11....

ALSC Blog, May 12



country receive free galleys from publishers and choose nominations for the Teens' Top Ten. Also, applications are due June 1 for [Teen Read Week Mini Grants](#). YALSA members can apply for \$450 cash and \$50 in Teen Read Week products.

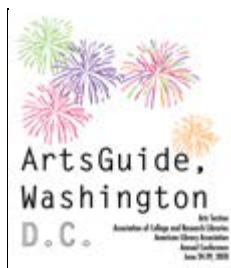
Career Leads from JobLIST

[Director of Development](#), Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson. Envisions and implements a comprehensive fundraising program able to sustain and strengthen the Center for Creative Photography's relationship with existing individuals and donors, and creates initiatives that will attract significant new prospects to help reach the Center's goals. Plays a critical role in providing CCP Director with the guidance necessary to develop (or solicit) major gift donors and strengthens and engages the CCP Board in a significant way....

[Arts activities in Washington](#) (PDF file)

The ACRL Arts Section has released its ArtsGuide for the 2010 ALA Annual Conference. This selective guide to cultural attractions and events will help you maximize your time outside of the convention center. The guide is arranged by sections on museums, galleries, architecture, film, theaters, music, dance, and public memorials. Use the [Google Maps mashup](#) to locate art sites near you....

ACRL Arts Section



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Division News

[ACRL guide to emergency preparedness](#)

ACRL has published a [Comprehensive Guide to Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Recovery](#), an essential toolkit for libraries of all types and sizes. Authors Frances Wilkinson, Linda Lewis, and Nancy Dennis provide practical and experience-based approaches on preparing for a disaster by creating a plan, responding to an emergency, and dealing with the intricacies of disaster recovery....

ACRL, May 21



[ALCTS forum to discuss Ithaca report](#)

ALCTS will offer a presentation and discussion of the recently released Ithaca S+R faculty survey at the ALCTS Forum on June 28 at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Moderated by ALCTS President Mary Case, the presentation will raise a number of provocative hypotheses about the future of library services and collections....

ALCTS, May 25

[AASL seeks proposals for preconferences](#)

AASL is seeking preconference proposals for its 15th National Conference to be held October 27–30, 2011, in Minneapolis. The deadline to [submit](#) a preconference proposal is June 21. Submissions will be evaluated for clarity, originality, and timeliness....

AASL, May 25

[Literary Landmarks](#)

Q. We were in Hannibal, Missouri, on a recent spring driving trip and visited the [Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum](#). I noted that it is a "Literary Landmark." What is this designation? A. The museum [received](#) the designation on April 24 from ALA's ALTAFF division, in conjunction with ReadMOre Missouri and the Missouri Humanities Council....

AL: Ask the ALA Librarian, May 21; ALTAFF, May 24



[Become a long-distance job shadow](#)

M. K. Eagle writes: "Are you willing to grab a video camera and get one of your kids/coworkers/significant others to film you showing us what your job is 'really' like in a way that would appeal to teens and bust those bun-cat-shushing myths? Team U of ALA's Emerging Leaders is working on a video for teens that will be about a half-hour long and be a busting-myths-about-librarians-look at the activities of librarians who work with teens in school or other public settings. Send

Digital Library of the Week



Utilizing the historical and literary resources of the Jones Library of Amherst, Massachusetts, in collaboration with area residents and scholars, [Digital Amherst](#)

celebrates the town through images, multimedia, and documents that reflect the independent spirit of its people, creative works, and culture. Digital Amherst is a pilot project to develop a small but rich online collection of the historic and cultural stories about the town of Amherst and its influence in the Connecticut Valley and beyond. The project was initiated in celebration of Amherst's 250th anniversary in 2009. The site uses the software system Omeka, a project of the Center for History and New Media at George Mason

footage of any length by June 10 to [Lizz Zitron](#), Hedberg Library, Carthage College, Kenosha, WI 53140."...
YALSA Blog, May 23

Awards

[Louisa May Alcott programming grants](#)

The ALA Public Programs Office and the National Endowment for the Humanities are offering a new cultural programming grant opportunity for libraries. All types of libraries may apply to receive a \$2,500 grant to support five reading, viewing, and discussion programs featuring the documentary "Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind *Little Women*" and the companion biography of the same name. Online [applications](#) will be accepted through July 30....

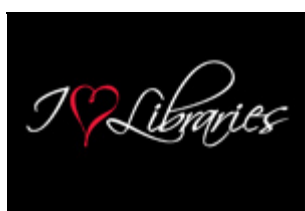
ALA Public Programs Office, May 25



[ALTAFF's Best Friends awards](#)

ALTAFF has recognized 14 Friends of the Library groups with Best Friends Awards. The awards are given to groups for outstanding publicity and marketing materials that promote the group and its programs and projects. Winning materials are posted on the [ALTAFF website](#)....

ALTAFF, May 25



[AASL stipends for Spectrum scholars](#)

AASL will sponsor the attendance of up to two Spectrum scholars at its 2010 Fall Forum, held November 5–6 in Portland, Oregon. The scholars must be pursuing a library degree concentrating in school library media or working as school library media specialists. To obtain a copy of the application, contact [Gwendolyn Prellwitz](#) in the ALA Office of Diversity. Applications are due on July 26....

ALA Office of Diversity, May 25

[Gebregeorgis receives honorary degree](#)

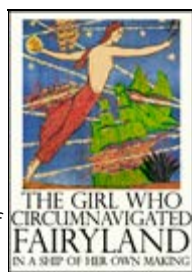
Yohannes Gebregeorgis, the founder of Ethiopia Reads, received an honorary degree in public service from Regis University in Denver during the university's May 9 spring commencement ceremony. Gebregeorgis addressed the graduating seniors from two of Regis University's three colleges. On rare occasions, the Regis University board of trustees authorizes the awarding of honorary degrees to individuals who have led lives of distinguished service and professional achievement....

Regis University, May 17



[Indies find success at the Nebula Awards](#)

From the independently produced, Oscar-nominated movie *District 9* to Catherynne M. Valente's self-published YA novel *The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making*, independent works were well rewarded at the [2009 Nebula Awards](#). Organized by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America and voted on by its membership, the annual Nebula Awards were announced at a banquet in Cocoa



University. Access is by theme, century, format, or collection.

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

Public Perception

How the World Sees Us

"Try depending on a fellow professor to respond to an urgent email message within a week, and you'll begin to understand my appreciation for librarians as colleagues. As highly professional guides who can lead us through an increasingly tangled bank of information, librarians provide a voice of caution in a period when drastic, irreversible change seems like an easy fix for a concatenation of expensive institutional ailments."

—William Pannapacker, associate professor of English at Hope College, in Holland, Michigan, in "[Marian the Cybrarian](#)." *Chronicle of Higher Education*, May 20.



TweetWatch

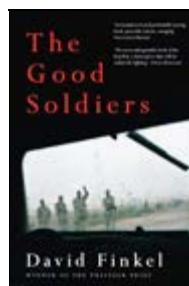
Beach, Florida, on May 15....

Los Angeles Times: Jacket Copy, May 18

[2010 Helen Bernstein Award](#)

David Finkel's *The Good Soldiers* (Sarah Crichton Books/FSG), a first-hand account of the 2007 Iraq War troop surge, has won the 2010 New York Public Library's Helen Bernstein Award for Excellence in Journalism. Finkel received the award May 16 at a reception in the Trustees Room at the library's Stephen A. Schwarzman Building. The award is given annually to a journalist whose work has brought public attention to important issues; it includes a \$15,000 cash prize....

New York Public Library, May 17



[2010 Empire State Award](#)

Cynthia DeFelice is the 2010 recipient of the Empire State Award for Excellence in Literature for Young People presented by the Youth Services Section of the New York Library Association. She has written numerous books, including 17 novels and 12 picture books. The Empire State award honors a New York State author who has produced a body of work that represents excellence in children's or young adult literature....

New York Library Association



[Beeman wins George Washington Book Prize](#)

The sixth annual George Washington Book Prize, which honors the most important new book about America's founding era, has been awarded to Richard Beeman for *Plain, Honest Men: The Making of the American Constitution* (Random House, 2009). Beeman, author of five previous books on the history of revolutionary America, received the \$50,000 prize on May 20. The prize is sponsored by Washington College, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, and George Washington's Mount Vernon....

Washington College News, May 20



[Audies Awards 2010](#)

Mary Burkey writes: "What a great night of festivities celebrating the best in the audiobook industry! The complete list of winners includes: the Audiobook of the Year going to *Nelson Mandela's Favorite African Folktales* (Hatchette Audio), which was narrated by a full cast including Samuel L. Jackson, Helen Mirren, Don Cheadle, and Alan Rickman." The Audies are sponsored by the Audio Publishers Association....

Booklist Online: Audiobooker, May 26



[2010 Ken Book Awards](#) (PDF file)

The Ken Book Awards are given annually by the Kenneth Johnson Memorial Research Library in New York City for outstanding books of literary merit published during the prior year that have substantially contributed to the public's awareness and better understanding of mental disorders. The six winners were honored at an awards breakfast at the Yale Club on May 19....



Follow:

AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media, George Washington University, May 23–26, at:
[#icwsm2010](#)

BookExpo America, New York City, May 25–27, at:
[#bea2010](#)

Inforum 2010, Prague, May 25–27, at:
[#inforum10](#)

Rhode Island Library Association, Annual Conference, Smithfield, May 27–28, at:
[#rila10](#)

Book Blogger Con, New York City, May 28, at:
[bookbloggercon](#)

Society for Scholarly Publishing, Annual Meeting, San Francisco, June 2–4, at:
[#ssp2010](#)

Canadian Library Association, Annual Conference, Edmonton, June 2–5, at:
[#cla2010](#)

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

Calendar

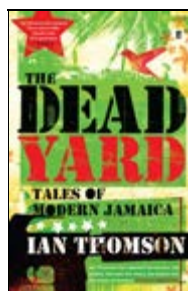
June 7–8:
[Academic Librarians 2010](#), Holiday Inn Downtown, Ithaca, New York. Sponsored by the Academic and

National Alliance on Mental Illness, Apr. 6

2010 Ondaatje Prize

Ian Thomson's investigation into the gritty underside of Jamaica has won him the Ondaatje Prize, which goes to the book that has best evoked the spirit of a place. *The Dead Yard* sees the author walking the streets of Jamaica, describing its poverty, gang rule, and police brutality, meeting its people, and exploring how the country has changed since its independence in 1962. The £10,000 (\$14,412 U.S.) prize is given by the Royal Society of Literature....

The Guardian (U.K.), May 25



Wodehouse Prize for Comic Fiction

Ian McEwan has won the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize for Comic Fiction with his novel on climate change, *Solar* (Jonathan Cape). The prize celebrates the novel of the last 12 months that has best captured the comic spirit of P. G. Wodehouse. At the Guardian Hay Festival on May 28, McEwan will receive a jeroboam of Bollinger Special Cuvée, a case of Bollinger La Grande Année, a set of the Everyman Wodehouse collection, and a locally-bred Gloucestershire Old Spot pig named "Solar" after the novel....

The Bookseller, May 25



Red House Children's Book Awards

The winners of the 2010 Red House Children's Book Award were announced May 22 at an awards luncheon at the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham, England. Young readers vote from a shortlist drawn up by children's book groups across the U.K. The awards are widely recognized by authors, parents, and librarians as a key indicator of which books are popular with children. The 2010 overall winner was *The Hunger Games* by American author Suzanne Collins....

Federation of Children's Book Groups



Seen Online

Brooklyn receives \$3.25-million grant for an information commons

The Brooklyn Public Library has received a \$3.25-million grant from the Leon Levy Foundation to establish an information commons, a technology-based learning and research hub at its Central Library. It will be the first resource of its kind in any of New York City's three library systems. The [gift](#), which comes at a time when the library faces a \$20.6-million [cut in city funding](#), will provide for a 30-seat wireless information-literacy training center, seven private study rooms equipped with electronic whiteboards, bar-style seating for 60 laptops, two dozen computers with graphic design and video-editing programs, and a new reference desk....

Wall Street Journal, May 22; Brooklyn Public Library, May 24

Dallas layoffs likely

Dallas will probably have to lay off up to 400 employees and cut the salaries of those who remain by as much as 5% to help close the projected \$130-million gap in next year's budget. One of the major

Special Libraries Section of the New York Library Association and the New York 3R's Association. "Faster than the Speed of Bytes: Technology, Cognition, and the Academic Librarian."

June 12:

Memorial service for Edward G. Holley

hosted by his children, Gerrard Hall, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

June 16–18:

13th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations

AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center, University of Texas, Austin.

June 21:

Beyond the Book Summit, Columbus (Ohio) Metropolitan Library.

June 25–26:

Urban Libraries Council, Annual Conference, Cosmos Club and Mandarin Hotel, Washington, D.C. "Public Libraries / Public Education: The Role of Public Libraries in Education."

July 22–25:

International Conference on the Arts in Society

College of the Arts, University of Sydney, Australia.

July 24:

Managing Successful Volunteer Programs, GSLIS, Simmons

cuts will likely be at the Dallas Public Library. The city council's Quality of Life Committee discussed May 24 a possible scenario of reducing hours at the downtown central library from 44 to 24 per week and eliminating 96 FTE positions. Branch library hours could be cut from 40 to 20 hours per week with another 88 positions lost....

Dallas Morning News: City Hall Blog, May 24

[LSU library school targeted](#)

Louisiana State University is proposing to eliminate several academic degree programs and institutes ranging from the School of Library and Information Sciences to bachelor's degrees in German and Latin. SLIS Dean Beth Paskoff says she plans to fight the plans, specifically the phased-out elimination of the MLS over two or three years. One of LSU's more popular master's programs, it graduates close to 70 students a year and is the only such program in the state....

Baton Rouge (La.) Advocate, May 26

[Hood River County libraries are closing](#)

On May 18, residents of Hood River County, Oregon, voted not to support the formation of a new library district. Measure 14-37 was defeated 46%–54%. As a result, there is no funding to continue library operations, and Hood River County Library, a system in continuous operation for 98 years, will close its doors to the public on July 1....

Hood River (Oreg.) News, May 25



[Harvard's acquisitions cuts](#)

The days of accumulating every important title and artifact under the scholarly sun are over for Harvard's labyrinthine system of 73 libraries. Facing an unprecedented budget crunch, the university cancelled print copies of more than 1,000 journal titles in 2009 in favor of online subscriptions. And Harvard is turning toward other universities to collaborate and share acquisitions, all while trying to maintain its libraries' stature in an increasingly digital world....

Boston Globe, May 24

[Portland's cash woes catalyze portable-branch idea](#)

Faced with three years of flat funding and the closure of two out of five branches, Portland (Maine) Public Library will shift its focus to provide more off-site "Portable Library" services in various locations and increase PPL's digital presence. A Portable Library would include rolling display carts and bookcases, with specific carts devoted to niches such as children's picture books, YA, adult fiction, and audiobooks. "I like to see interesting experiments, but dislike replacing valuable services," LibraryThing founder and Portland, Maine, resident Tim Spalding [reacted](#)....

Library Journal, May 20; Thingology blog, May 25

[Library tarantula thief arrested](#)

Staff and patrons of the Westminster branch of the Carroll County (Md.) Public Library were relieved May 19 when the library's pet tarantula was safely returned after a brief abduction in the afternoon. Branch Manager Christina Kuntz said Chili Rose (right), a Chilean Rose tarantula that the branch adopted from the Humane Society of Carroll County two years ago, was abducted in the late afternoon. Both the tarantula and a flowerpot it



College, Boston.

July 27:

[FRBR, FRAD, and FRSD: A New Model for Cataloging.](#)

online. Hosted by Lyrasis.

Aug. 3–4:

[Digital Preservation for Digital Collaboratives Workshop.](#)

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, San Jose, California.

Aug. 4–6:

[Annual Conference on Distance Teaching and Learning.](#)

Monona Terrace Convention Center, Madison, Wisconsin. "Innovation in Distance Education."

Aug. 8–10:

[A Reference Renaissance 2010: Inventing the Future.](#)

Denver Marriott Tech Center.

Sept. 10–12:

[Library History Seminar XII: Libraries in the History of Print Culture.](#)

Pyle Center, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Sept. 20–25:

[West Texas Book and Music Festival.](#)

Abilene Public Library, Country Club, and Civic Center.

@ [More...](#)

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used as a cozy hangout were stolen from its cage near the library's information desk. A suspect was [held](#) on \$10,000 bail....

Carroll County (Md.) Times, May 20–21

[Penn senators push for state library code changes](#)

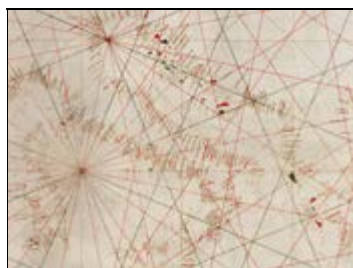
Senate leaders in Harrisburg are pushing for a study to look at modernizing public library services. Nancy Smink, director of the Pottsville (Pa.) Free Public Library, said it's about time: The state library code, which dates back to 1961, needs to be updated. Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi (R-Chester), has sponsored a resolution authorizing the Joint State Government Commission to complete a study on library use, organization, and funding by November 30. The Pennsylvania Library Association supports the study....

Pottsville (Pa.) Republican and Herald, May 22

[LC conference on portolan charts](#)

John Hessler, senior cartographic librarian at the Library of Congress and one of the world's leading experts on portolan charts, presented some of his dazzlingly intricate research at a May 21 conference at the library, "Re-Examining the Portolan Chart: History, Navigation, and Science." Sponsored by the Philip Lee Phillips Society, the fundraising arm of LC's Geography and Map Division, it drew about 200 academics, donors, and collectors to a day-long session that examined the mysteries of Renaissance navigational maps....

Washington Post, May 22



[Miss Manners on nosy librarians](#)

Gentle Reader writes: "Dear Miss Manners: I am at a loss about what to say to our very nosy librarian. No matter what books you are checking out, she reads the titles (often out loud and at a high volume so everyone else in the library can hear) and then comments on your selections." Miss Manners suggests "giving the librarian one of those sweetly vague, nearsighted looks and a regretful smile, and putting the forefinger vertically across your lips. Repeat as often as necessary."...

United Features Syndicate, May 19

[Rowdy seniors enjoy video games at the library](#)

Screams, cheers, laughs, and high fives can be heard coming from the multipurpose room as a group of seniors and library employees play video games at the Clymer Library in Pocono Pines, Pennsylvania. This is not your parents' library "and these aren't the same grandparents," Library Director Wendy Franklin said after she demonstrated how to play some of the games the library has for its new Nintendo Wii video game system....

Stroudsburg (Pa.) *Pocono Record*, May 24

[Irish president sits in on Brooklyn librarian's Irish Famine program](#)

Alan Singer writes: "Cecelia Goodman, the librarian at P.S. 197 in the Midwood section of Brooklyn, was part of a group of elementary school teachers who field-tested the award-winning New York State Great Irish Famine Curriculum. This year something special happened.

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



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AL Direct FAQ:

President Mary McAleese of Ireland was visiting New York and asked if she could visit a school where children were using the famine curriculum to learn about Ireland."...

Huffington Post, May 24

[James Murdoch attacks the British Library](#)

News Corporation Chairman James Murdoch attacked a [plan](#) by the British Library to digitize its U.K. newspaper collection, warning that public bodies should not decide how copyrighted material is exploited for commercial gain. In a May 20 speech to mark the launch of University College London's center for digital humanities, Murdoch criticized the library's plan because it would be charging the public for access to material that was provided by newspaper publishers as a legal requirement to maintain a national copyright depository....

The Guardian (U.K.), May 21; British Library, May 19

[Cory Doctorow: Publish books free online](#)

Author Cory Doctorow: "As a practical matter, we live in the 21st century and anything anybody wants to copy they will be able to copy. If you are building a business model which says that people can only copy things with your permission, your business is going to fail because whether or not you like it, people will be able to copy your product without your permission. The question is: What are you going to do about that? Are you going call them thieves or are you going to find a way to make money from them?"...

The Observer (U.K.), May 23



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ext. 4216

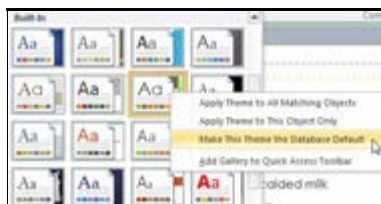
ISSN 1559-369X.

Tech Talk

[Office 2010: Not your only choice](#)

Edward Mendelson writes: "Microsoft Office 2010 is an impressive, monumental suite of applications. But, let's face it, with every new version Microsoft's juggernaut gets bigger and pricier. And with every new release the question comes up again: Do you really need all this? Is it time to jettison Office altogether, and go to one of four alternatives? What about Google Docs, OpenOffice.org, Zoho, or Corel WordPerfect Office?"...

PC Magazine, May 20



[Google Chrome fixes web annoyances](#)

Kevin Purdy writes: "Google's [Chrome browser](#) already takes care of some of the web's biggest annoyances—like browser slowness (Chrome is impressively snappy) and entire-browser-crashing plug-ins (if Flash crashes in one tab, for example, it won't take down your entire browser session). Throw in some great extensions, and you can block annoying ads, browser-jacking scripts, and other bad behavior."...

Lifehacker, May 25

[Google Wave goes public](#)

Jill Laster writes: "[Google Wave](#) has switched from



an invitation-only offering to one open to all interested users. Google also [announced](#) a batch of special features and tweaks to Google Wave, which allows real-time communication online. Gregory D'Alesandre, product manager at Google, said one of the biggest changes is more user-friendliness, so that new users can adapt quickly to the service. Google Wave plans more changes meant to cater to new users in coming months."...

Wired Campus, May 19; Google Wave blog, May 18

[Deep Web Wiki](#)

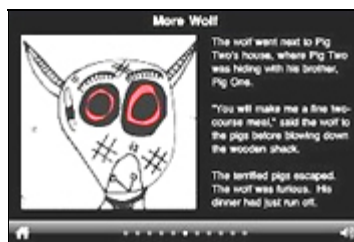
Phil Bradley writes: "Direct from the site of [Search beyond the Search Engine](#): 'The Deep Web Wiki is a volunteer-led search organization that maintains a database containing detailed descriptions of deep websites that are either ignored or poorly indexed by the major search engines; it is estimated that some 95%–99% of web-accessible content cannot be reached using conventional web crawling methods.' It certainly found content and databases that I wasn't aware of, so if you're really stuck and/or want to explore the hidden/invisible/deep web, this is worth a try."...

Phil Bradley's Blog, May 16

[1st-grader creates iPhone app of *Three Little Pigs*](#)

Henry Dewey is a typical 8-year-old who loves to build with Legos and annoy his little sister. The first-grader is also doing some nontraditional things: Henry just released his first iPhone application, an e-book version of *The Three Little Pigs*. His father, Mark Dewey—himself an iPhone application developer—helped, rewriting the story and having Henry narrate it after the boy created the illustrations using pen and ink during an after-school art program. "I just wanted to do it so other (kids) could watch it at dinner, waiting (at) the table," Henry said....

Austin (Tex.) American-Statesman, May 23



[Change how you read online](#)

Jason Griffey writes: "I wanted to share a couple of very specific tools that I find invaluable for dealing with information online. These two tools make reading long form text online so much easier and more convenient that I can't recommend them enough. The two tools are the [Readability](#) bookmark from the arc90 Labs, and the [Instapaper](#) service."...

ALA TechSource, May 20

[Quick and dirty remote user testing](#)

Nate Bolt writes: "Although more web people have basic design training nowadays, many are still unfamiliar with how to conduct user research, an important part of the design process. Fortunately, the internet makes it easy to get direct feedback from real users with quick, cheap, guerrilla-style usability testing. Using some of the new web applications popping up, you can effectively do remote user research—that is, user research conducted over the phone and your computer."...

A List Apart, May 25



[Facebook privacy scanner](#)

Matt Pizzimenti has created a free open-source [application](#) that will scan your Facebook privacy settings and warn you about any settings which might be “unexpectedly public.” This is part of his ReclaimPrivacy project which strives to promote privacy awareness on the web....

iLibrarian, May 21



Publishing

No reviews = no respect

Jennifer Howard writes: “An editor at a traditional scholarly journal knows what to do with a print monograph in the humanities or social sciences: Find a qualified reviewer to read it and write about the contribution it makes—or doesn’t. Yet create an online interactive archive or digital scholarly edition, and the same editor probably won’t know what to do with it. This issue may be compounding another worry I keep hearing about: how to get academe’s gatekeepers to take digital work seriously.”...

Chronicle of Higher Education, May 23

Kids’ books said to be eco-unfriendly

Despite efforts by the book publishing industry to take a greener approach to production, four-color children’s books are still being produced using paper fiber linked to the destruction of endangered rainforests, according to a report ([PDF file](#)) released May 24 by Rainforest Action Network. The organization tested a random sampling of 30 books from the top 10 U.S. children’s publishers, and found that 18 of them contained fibers linked either to tropical hardwoods or acacia pulp wood plantations in Indonesia....

Crain’s New York Business, May 24; Rainforest Action Network, May 24



A mathematical classic arrives online

More than a decade in the making, the National Institute of Standards and Technology has updated its 1964 classic, *Handbook of Mathematical Functions*, and made it available online as the [National Digital Library of Mathematical Functions](#). The original *Handbook* is the world’s foremost math handbook for scholars, researchers, and engineers and the most-cited of all NIST’s publications. Watch the [video](#) (2:58)....

NIST, May 11; YouTube, May 11



Blogging software as a book publishing tool

Kent Anderson writes: “In the time it takes an infant to become a kindergartner, blogging software has grown from backwater platforms for shame-ridden indulgences to some of today’s most vibrant publishing infrastructures purveying some of our society’s most compelling content. It has begun to encroach on other platforms and practices in some surprising ways. Now, an academic group building a platform called Book Oven [says](#) that WordPress can serve as an ideal book publishing platform.”...

The Scholarly Kitchen, May 24; O’Reilly Tools of Change blog, May 19

Jugendstil: The youth style of Viennese

book art

Helen Chang writes: "Turn-of-the-century Vienna was a magical, infectious brew. The extreme right-wing and anti-Semitic forces—though quietly fomenting—would lie dormant a few years longer, leaving the intelligentsia and creatives to indulge in their artistic monomania. Viennese children's book illustrations at the time were no exception. They flaunted the same overripe aestheticism."...

Design Observer Group: Observatory, May 19



When did print become an input?

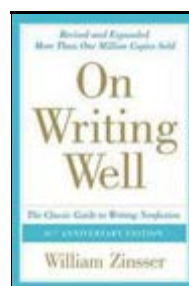
Ann Michael writes: "If you're familiar with publishing, then you're familiar with the challenges facing traditional publishers to move from being print-focused to content-focused. Print-focused staff, and the processes that have evolved over centuries to support print, focus on print's immutable nature. The culture of correction and discussion, and the ability to change content even after it has been distributed, all contribute to a different definition of quality in nonprint modes."...

The Scholarly Kitchen, May 24

The write collection

Linda Hedrick writes: "I have a theory that book collectors, accumulators, and readers are all closet writers. At least I admit it in my case. I must confess that in desperation I try weird things that I haven't found in a book. The other day I was at a Starbucks and saw little packages of madeleines, so thinking how greatly they inspired Proust, I bought one. They were tasty but did nothing for my writing. Oreos don't work either. Since I read a lot of books on writing, I find I have a nice little collection to that end."...

The Private Library, May 24



The best year of science fiction ever: 1912

Joshua Glenn writes: "Today, we look at the year that gave us works by Edgar Rice Burroughs, Arthur Conan Doyle, and Hugo Gernsback—does 1912 deserve to be crowned the Best Year of Science Fiction



Ever? From February through July 1912, *All-Story Magazine* serialized *Under the Moons of Mars*, an epic pulp adventure loosely inspired by the Mars-is-dying speculations of astronomer Percival Lowell. It was Edgar Rice Burroughs's first attempt at fiction, written under the pseudonym of Norman Bean."...

io9, May 25

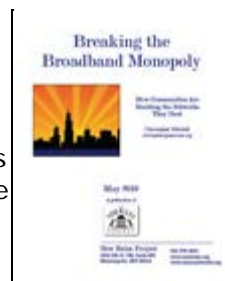


Actions & Answers

Breaking the broadband monopoly

Christopher Mitchell of the nonprofit Institute for

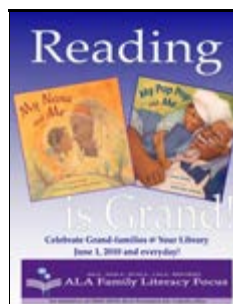
Local Self-Reliance has released a report ([PDF file](#)) on the practices and philosophy of publicly owned networks. *Breaking the Broadband Monopoly* explains how public ownership of networks differs from private and evaluates existing publicly owned networks. Cities like Lafayette, Louisiana, and Monticello, Minnesota, offer the fastest speeds at the lowest rates in the entire country. Kutztown's network in Pennsylvania has saved its community millions of dollars....
Municipal Networks and Community Broadband, May 5



BCALA to launch "Reading Is Grand!" initiative

On June 1, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association will kick off "[Reading is Grand!](#)" to promote intergenerational literacy for grandparents raising grandchildren. The inaugural event will be held at the Whitney Young branch of the Chicago Public Library. Renowned author, storyteller, and historian Irene Smalls will read from her books....

ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach, May 24



10th National Book Festival

Internationally known authors Isabel Allende, Brad Meltzer, Katherine Paterson, Jane Smiley, Scott Turow, David Remnick, and Nobel Prize-winner Orhan Pamuk will be among more than 70 writers headlining the 10th annual [National Book Festival](#), organized and sponsored by the Library of Congress, September 25, on the National Mall. The theme will be "A Decade of Words and Wonder." Watch the 10-year retrospective [video](#) (3:45)....

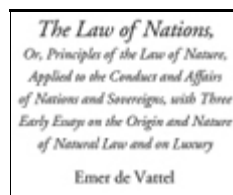
Library of Congress, May 25



Mount Vernon restores George Washington's overdue book

A small missing piece of American history came home on May 19 after 221 years: A copy of a book borrowed by the first President of the United States was returned to the library from which he borrowed it in New York City. According to the New York Society Library's meticulous borrowing records, President Washington took out *The Law of Nations* by Emer de Vattel on October 5, 1789. Staff at Washington's Mount Vernon home offered to replace the book with another copy of the same edition. (A good timeline is [here](#).)...

Mount Vernon, May 19; *The Week*, May 21



Get into Sync for free YA audiobooks

Mary Burkey writes: "Looking for a great way to promote your library's collection of YA audiobooks? How about promoting two free downloads a week from July 1 to September 1 of popular YA titles and classics through Sync, an initiative of the newly formed [Audiobook Community](#), where you [can connect](#) with other fans as well as publishers, authors, and narrators? Public and school librarians can also download promotional materials and bookmarks by joining the [Sync: YA Listening group](#)."...

YALSA blog, May 18; Audiobook Community



[Making short work of YouTube shortcuts](#)

Brian Herzog writes: "Do you ever want to link right to a specific spot in a YouTube video? Say a video is five minutes long, but the part you want to highlight starts at 3:14. I knew there must be a way to start the video right at 3:14 so people didn't have to sit through the beginning portion. After a bit of web searching, I found two ways to do this—one for a link, and one for an embedded video."...

Swiss Army Librarian, May 18

[Gale releases iPhone app for school libraries](#)

Gale Cengage Learning has launched the free iPhone application AccessMyLibrary School Edition, enabling K–12 students to access remotely Gale resources their school library has purchased....

Gale Cengage, May 18

[Genealogy: It's a rare book thing](#)

Cokie G. Anderson writes: "Who are their people? That was my ancestry-obsessed Southern grandmother's first question about any new acquaintance. Breeding and background are a Southern thing; an obsession with bloodlines—of our neighbors, our horses, or our hunting dogs—a value deeply woven into its culture. Perhaps that is why provenance, the rare book equivalent of genealogy, is such a fascination of mine; I am keen to know just who the people were who once owned and handled the books I come across in my work."...

BookTryst, May 25



[Bricks and mortar](#)

Tom Peters writes: "We librarians love to talk about bricks and mortar libraries, more than HVAC systems, load-bearing walls, and even shelving. Recently, I had an up-close-and-personal encounter with bricks and mortar that got me thinking again about the past, present, and future of bricks and mortar libraries: The old high school in Fontana, Kansas, was being razed."...

ALA TechSource Blog, May 25

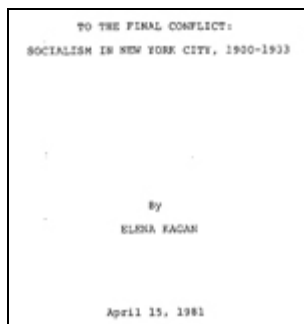


[Copyright case study: Elena Kagan's thesis](#)

Mary Minow writes: "A conservative website, RedState.com, secured a copy of Elena Kagan's senior thesis written while she was at Princeton and posted it. The Princeton University Archives then wrote to them requesting that it be taken down. The case is interesting because it illustrates many of the complexities associated with reproducing student papers.

And it is a good example of the confusion that can result when libraries and archives commingle copyright and ownership issues."...

LibraryLaw Blog, May 18



[Data.gov and democratizing information](#)

Alix Vance writes: "The one-year anniversary of the Obama administration's Open Government Initiative was honored with a cupcake and candle at the



newly redesigned Data.gov site and an [announcement](#) from the White House. The message from the Obama administration is that the OGI signals a sea change for government information that will spawn a global movement to democratize access and foster innovation and transparency via community-developed applications.”...

The Scholarly Kitchen, May 25; White House.gov blog, May 21

[Preserving our digital genome](#)

Standing in the shadow of an ultrasecure storage facility underneath a mountain in the Swiss Alps in Saanen, Switzerland, Adam Farquhar, head of digital library technology at the British Library, and Andreas Rauber, a professor at the Vienna University of Technology, hold in their hands the [Planets time capsule](#) that contains the bits of our digital heritage. It's not just lots of zeros and ones, but also the documentation they think will be necessary to preserve those zeros and ones in the years to come....

Discovery News, May 20



[The benefits of bicycling to work](#)

Louis and Candice Lee Jones write: “Cyclists cite lots of reasons for trading in the car, bus, or train for a two-wheel commute: a good workout, a minuscule carbon footprint, fewer worries about finding a parking space—but one of the most enticing benefits is the cost savings. To see how much you can save by biking to work, use our [calculator](#).”...

Kiplinger's Personal Finance, June

[Google Forms for assessment and evaluation](#)

Buffy Hamilton writes: “When I think about teaching and learning, assessment is probably the messiest area of the process for me. One tool that I have found helpful in creating formative and summative assessments this academic school year is [Google Forms](#), a free tool in the Google Docs suite. Google Forms allows you to create assessments that can be open-ended or objective in nature; you also can create survey style assessments in which learners respond to questions by ranking or rating their responses.”...

ALA Learning, May 17



[Five questions to get you through any job interview](#)

Amy Armstrong writes: “Job interviews are scary. Sure, it's great to land them, but once the initial glee over getting the interview passes, you're left with the anxiety over what they're going to ask and how they will feel about your answers. According to Richard Nelson Bolles, author of *What Color is Your Parachute?*, all job interview questions boil down to five basic questions hiring authorities want answered.”...

New York Public Library Blogs, May 24

[A reading from the Book of Job \(Hunting\)](#)

Leigh Anne Vrabel writes: “And, lo, it came to pass that the Time of the Library School Graduations did come round again. And at first, there was much rejoicing. And in many cases did that rejoicing consist of quaffing the fruit of the vine, but also, for those not so inclined, there was indeed punch and pie. But as the glow of accomplishment faded, and unpleasant aftermath of the fruit of the vine did descend upon the revelers, so too did the realization that they still did not have jobs.”...

Library Alchemy, May 24

[It's National Military Appreciation Month](#)

May is National Military Appreciation Month, first designated by Congress in 1999 and encompassing both the history and recognition of U.S. armed services with an in-depth look at the diversity of its individuals and achievements. Some [ideas for libraries](#): Highlight American military history with suggested reading materials, display book jackets, or invite veterans to speak about their experiences....

National Military Appreciation Month

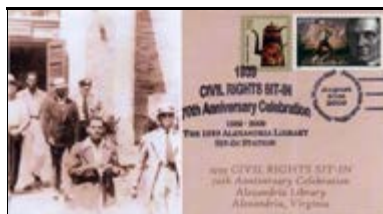


[Alexandria Library civil rights sit-in, 1939](#)

Larry Nix writes: "On August 21, 1939, five young black men between the ages of 18 and 22 walked individually into the 'whites only' Alexandria (Va.) Public Library and asked for a library card.

When they were refused, they walked to the stacks, selected a book, and sat down quietly at a table and began to read. The police were called and they were arrested for disorderly conduct. This was the first civil rights sit-in involving a public facility in America."...

Library History Buff Blog, May 25



[A Bohemian rose by any other name](#)

Frank Jacobs writes: "'With Justice and Piety' reads the Latin emblazoning this 17th-century map that shows Bohemia as a stylized rose. If that region is in bloom, the map suggests, it is precisely by the application of *Iustitia et Pietate*—the personal motto of Leopold I (1640–1705), who sought to consolidate his Austrian, Hungarian, and Bohemian dynastic territories. The map was first drawn up by the Silesian cartographer Christoph Vetter (1575–1650), copper-engraved by Wolfgang Kilian in 1668, and included in Bohuslav Balbin's *Epitome historica rerum Bohemicarum*, a history and geography of Bohemia from antiquity to 1677."...

Strange Maps, May 18



[Danish scanner uncovers hidden words](#)

Linguist Michael Lerche and his colleagues at the University of Copenhagen have spent years trying to decipher hidden and illegible texts in damaged medieval manuscripts. Now a foundation has donated a multispectral scanner that enables the scholars to make words, which have not seen the light of day in as much as 700 years, appear on a computer screen in a matter of minutes. The scanner works by recording, enhancing, and comparing images of the manuscript in 19 different wavelengths....

University of Copenhagen, Apr. 21



[Digital curation and preservation bibliography](#)

Charles W. Bailey Jr. has put together a bibliography of selected English-language articles, books, and technical reports that are useful in understanding digital curation and preservation. Most sources were published between 2000 and the present; however, a limited number of key sources published prior to 2000 are also included. Where

possible, links are provided to sources that are freely available on the internet....

Digital Scholarship, May 17

[Another day, another demon](#)

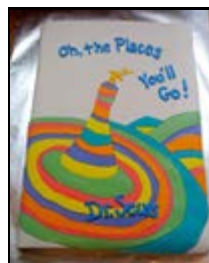
The Merry Librarian writes: "We've all encountered at least one patron looking to learn more about demons, witchcraft, or exorcism. It seems like every encounter is a story worthy of The Merry Librarian. The attitude of this particular librarian made us smile, however. Perhaps she should write the first book on the subject—it's bound to be stolen from library shelves across the country in no time."...

The Merry Librarian, May 18

[Let them read cakes](#)

Jen Yates writes: "Today's Sweets are in honor of National Children's Book Week. They're also for all of us out there who like to complain when a movie ruins the book. I am so impressed by those circle stripes on this Dr. Seuss title (right). They're not fondant; they are a combination of royal and run-in icing. Cool, huh?"...

Cake Wrecks, May 16



[The growth of social media](#)

Did you know that if Facebook was a country, it would now be the third largest in the world? It passed the U.S. population earlier this year and is now eclipsed only by China and India. That mind-boggling statistic—along with a few dozen more—are showcased in a new [video](#) (4:25), produced by *Socialnomics* author Erik Qualman as a follow-up piece to his original [social media stats video](#) from July 2009....

Mashable, May 7; YouTube, May 5



[Am I the only odd duck who loved library school?](#)

Will Manley writes: "It is a pastime of librarians to disparage their library school days and to devalue the importance of library school, and I certainly agree with the adage that working in a library is 90% experience-based and 10% theory-based. But I also believe that formula holds true for most jobs. The way I see it in retrospect, my library school did not intend to graduate polished librarians. It strove instead to graduate students who were filled with a love of learning, a passion to serve, and a commitment to defend the basic principles of intellectual freedom."...

Will Unwound, May 19

[The annual report as digital pop-up book](#)

No trees were killed in making the 2009 annual report of the Topeka and Shawnee County (Kans.) Public Library. This year's report is an audiovisual extravaganza laid out whimsically as a pop-up book. One of the first pages shows Library Director Gina Millsap (right) giving a welcome statement as if she were only inches tall, standing on a page of the book. It contains basic financial information about where the money comes from and where it goes. But it also contains elements never possible on paper: for example, a video of teens participating in open mike night....



Topeka (Kans.) Capital-Journal, May 20; Topeka-Shawnee County Public Library

[Librarian stereotypes, alive and well](#)

Marie L. Radford writes: "If any of us ever did doubt that the traditional stereotype of the librarian is alive and well, here in 2010, right here in New Jersey, doubt it no more. Convincing evidence to confirm this is easily found. Librarians, usually female, are consistently portrayed as bespectacled, mousy, unassuming, sexually repressed introverts who primarily engage in three behaviors—shushing, stamping, and shelving books. The male librarian stereotype, although less prominent, is also unflattering to the profession."...

Library Garden, May 21



[Betty White plays the stereotype](#)

In the May 19 episode of *The Middle*, veteran actress Betty White plays a stereotypical school librarian (Mrs. Nethercott, complete with pink cardigan, I Heart Books pin, and reading glasses on a necklace) who threatens to hold back Brick (played by Atticus Shaffer), an intelligent but absent-minded boy who loves to read, from the 3rd grade because he has 31 books overdue. This [clip](#) (1:55) shows her delivering an ultimatum: "No fractions, no cursive, no field trip to an Amish farm."...

ABC-TV



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