

american libraries DIRECT

The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | December 7, 2011

Contents

[American Libraries Online](#)
[ALA News](#)
[Booklist Online](#)
[Dallas Update](#)
[Division News](#)
[Awards & Grants](#)
[Seen Online](#)
[Tech Talk](#)
[E-Content](#)
[Books & Reading](#)
[Actions & Answers](#)
[New This Week](#)
[Calendar](#)

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ALA Midwinter
Special Conference Pricing



american libraries
BUYERS GUIDE

American Libraries Online

[OCLC launches new WorldShare platform](#)

OCLC announced the release of a new platform December 5 that will let its member libraries create, configure, and share a growing number of new services and web-based library applications. The new [OCLC WorldShare Platform](#), a shared technical infrastructure, will serve as the host for [OCLC WorldShare Management Services](#), a significant expansion of the Dublin, Ohio-based nonprofit's Webscale Management Services that launched July 1 after a year of testing by early adopters. OCLC's Andrew Pace offers [some insight](#) into the new project....

American Libraries news, Dec. 5; Hectic Pace, Dec. 5



[On My Mind: RDA, food for a cataloger's soul](#)

Gabi Kupitz writes: "Like many catalogers, I have been dragged to RDA. But the other day, I had an epiphany. My mind drew a connection between RDA—at least in the way I code the beast (Jerda)—and goat cheese. Just bear with me while I explain. I first tasted goat cheese in the 1990s, while I was the guest of some fellow bibliophiles I met at a literary conference held on the campus of Trinity College Dublin in Ireland."...

American Libraries column, Jan./Feb.

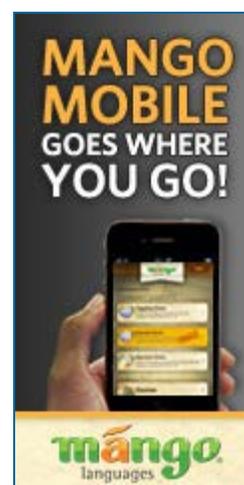


[Internet Librarian: What's in a name?](#)

Joseph Janes writes: "If you haven't googled the word 'Santorum,' now would be a good time—otherwise most of what follows won't make a lot of sense. Fair warning: What you find won't be pretty, but it will be instructive. Now that we're all on the same page, let's examine this phenomenon. Our lesson today seems to be that you are who everybody thinks you are, or ought to be, which is great if that's who you think you are too."...



The eyes of the publishing world will tune in at 7:45 a.m. Central Time on January 23 when ALA announces the winners of the [Youth Media Awards](#) as part of its Midwinter Meeting, January 20–24. ALA will host a live [webcast](#) from the Dallas Convention Center. Virtual seating will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.



American Libraries column, Jan./Feb.

[ALA members get their FIL in Guadalajara](#)

Michael Dowling writes: "More than 100 ALA members from such diverse institutions as Stanford University and the Passages Academy in New York City, which serves incarcerated youth, found new Spanish-language books and other resources for their collections at the 25th annual Guadalajara (Mexico) Book Fair, held November 24–December 3. The librarians participated thanks to the collaborative ALA-FIL Free Pass Program, now in its 15th year of providing a \$100 stipend from ALA as well as free hotel nights through fair organizers."...

AL: Inside Scoop, Dec. 6



**22,000
Audiobooks**
**225
Publishers**
1 Source

MIDWEST TAPE
LIBRARIANS' #1 MEDIA SOURCE

ALA News

[Baldwin to keynote MLK Sunrise Celebration](#)

Lewis V. Baldwin (right), professor of religious studies at Vanderbilt University, will keynote the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sunrise Celebration during the 2012 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Dallas. The celebration will be held January 23. The theme will be "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: Honoring a Legacy that Still Inspires" and will bring together leaders from the across the Association. Featured readings will include selections from the works of Dr. King....

Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, Dec. 5



[John Green to speak at Freedom to Read Foundation event](#)

Bestselling author John Green (right) will be the featured speaker at the annual Freedom to Read Foundation fundraising event on January 22 at the Dallas Public Library. Doors will open at 6 p.m., and Green's talk will begin at 7 p.m., followed by a book signing. Green's books include *Looking for Alaska*, *Paper Towns*, and *An Abundance of Katherines*....

Office for Intellectual Freedom, Dec. 6



PROJECT
MUSE

Over 14,000
digital scholarly
books, available
January 1, 2012

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beta site today.

[Midwinter Unconference and first-ever Midwinter Library Camp](#)

Following successful "Unconferences" at past ALA events, another one will take place January 20 at the Midwinter Meeting in Dallas. During the [Unconference](#), librarians share knowledge about the profession and take it back to the outside world. On January 23, there will be a first-ever ALA Midwinter [Library Camp](#), which will allow attendees to join fellow conference-goers to discuss library or Midwinter Meeting-related topics....

ALA Conference Services, Dec. 6

[Dine around Dallas](#)

Dine Around Dallas is a group of local hot-spot restaurants that are currently holding reservations for ALA Midwinter attendees. Cost and cuisine varies, allowing for an



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fits into
your life

Let
the
learning
begin





experience that fits your needs. [Sign up](#) for dinner reservations for groups of eight, January 21–22. Participating restaurants include: The Common Table, Sambuca Uptown, Dallas Fish Market, Dallas Chop House, and Wild Salsa Restaurant....

ALA Conference Services, Dec. 7

[Library Boing Boing is coming](#)

Jenny Levine writes: "I can no longer contain my happy mutant self—I can finally announce a new ALA member interest group called Library Boing Boing. On the one hand, Library Boing Boing is a collaboration between ALA and the fabulously amazing [Boing Boing](#) folks to highlight all of the new things libraries are doing. The most visible result will be regular posts on the Boing Boing website itself. On the other hand, Library Boing Boing: The Group intends to help happy mutants connect with librarians to do good, work together on our shared interests, and make the world better."...

ALA Marginalia, Dec. 7



[How to get that interview](#)

Whether you're in job-search mode, promotion mode, or opportunity-seeking mode, your goal is the same: Get that interview. Join the ALA JobLIST Placement Center for the third in a series of free online chats to learn what you need to do before the interview, materials you'll want to take with you, and questions you should be prepared to answer—as well as ask. Facilitated by career coach Caitlin Williams, the December 15 chat is scheduled for 12 noon–1 p.m. Central time. Register [here](#)....

Office for Human Resource Development and Recruitment, Dec. 6

[ALA discussion on Federal Depository Library Program](#)

ALA has created a [community](#) within ALA Connect so that ALA members from any interested unit or division can discuss the issues surrounding the Federal Depository Library Program. This is to aid the Association in reaching consensus on the future of the FDLP or, at the very least, having a better understanding of the various perspectives held by members. ALA has also created a [webpage](#) for news and information about the FDLP....

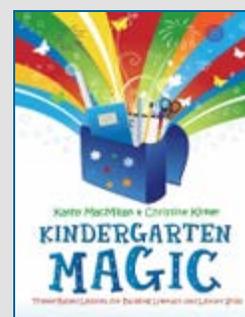
ACRL Insider, Dec. 7



[Why you should join your state library association](#)

There are many reasons to join your state library association, also known as an [ALA Chapter](#). Besides receiving discounts for attending their annual conferences, your [state library association](#) provides networking, mentoring, and all kinds of other opportunities and services! Most importantly, you have the opportunity to contribute to your state association's efforts to advocate for the library profession and your own state's libraries....

ALA Membership Blog, Dec. 12



[Kindergarten Magic](#)

by Kathy MacMillan and Christine Kirker is a time-saving program planner for librarians and classroom teachers alike includes everything you need to get started—reading lists, flannelboard patterns, poems, songs, easy crafts, even take-home activities to extend the learning process.

NEW! From ALA Editions.

New this week
in *American Libraries*

[Student-to-staff program](#)

Each annual conference, ALA provides an opportunity for 40 students engaged in ALA Student Chapters to participate in the [student-to-staff program](#). In exchange for working 16 hours for an ALA division or office during the conference, these students receive free registration, free housing, and a per diem for meals so they can attend meetings, programs, and events in their free time. Contact your [ALA Student Chapter](#) for its selection criteria....

ALA Student Membership Blog, Dec. 6

[AILA selects its Emerging Leader](#)

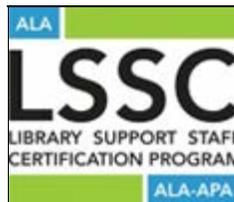
The American Indian Library Association has selected Shannon Rosenbaum (right), a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and a Circle of Learning MLIS candidate at San José State University, for the 2012 ALA Emerging Leaders program. In Spring 2011 Rosenbaum joined the Circle of Learning, an IMLS grant-funded program designed to recruit and support American Indians and Alaska Natives who are interested in earning an MLIS....



Office for Diversity, Dec. 6

[Free webinar introduction to LSSC](#)

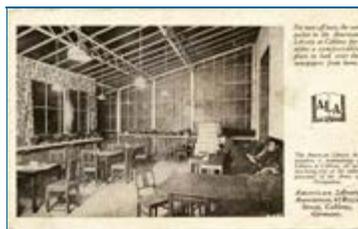
LSSC will offer a free hourlong informational [webinar](#) December 13 at 2 p.m. Central time. The presentation will explain the value of this certification to library support staff, employers, and library users. Attendees will also have the opportunity to have their questions answered by program staff members....



ALA-Allied Professional Association, Dec. 6

[The ALA Library's sun parlor in Koblenz](#)

Larry Nix writes: "One of my library postcard collecting interests is postcards that ALA produced to promote its [Library War Service](#) during the First World War. I was pleased to add a postcard of ALA's library in Koblenz, Germany (right), to my collection. One of the captions reads, 'For men off duty, the sun parlor in the American Library at Coblenz furnishes a comfortable place to look over the newspapers from home.'"...



Library History Buff Blog, Dec. 2

[How audiobooks support literacy](#)

In [Listening to Learn: Audiobooks Supporting Literacy](#), published by ALA Editions, librarians Sharon Grover and Lizette D. Hannegan show how audiobooks present excellent opportunities to engage the attention of young people while also advancing literacy. Drawing on decades of experience and research, they connect audiobooks with K-12



[On My Mind](#)

[Internet Librarian](#)

[E-Content](#)

[Censorship Watch](#)

[Currents](#)

[Perpetual Beta](#)

[Inside Scoop](#)

[Ask the ALA Librarian](#)

[Solutions and Services](#)

[AL Focus](#)

Great Libraries of the World

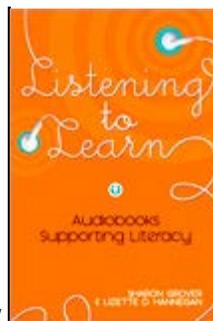


[Göttingen State and University Library.](#)

Göttingen, Germany. Founded in 1734, the library was soon considered one of the country's leading research libraries. Serving not only as the library of [Göttingen University](#), this facility is also the central library for the German State of Lower Saxony and the Göttingen Academy of Sciences and

curricula, demonstrating how the format can support national learning standards and literacy skills and how librarians can harness their library's audiobook collection and practice effective collection development....

ALA Publishing, Dec. 6



Humanities. It also houses the [Center for Retrospective Digitization](#) and the GBV regional library consortium offices.



[Herzog August Library](#), Wolfenbüttel, Germany. Founded in 1572 by Julius, duke of Brunswick-Lüneberg, the library was named for [Duke Augustus the Younger](#) who built up the original collection. It became a famous research library where scholars collaborated on various projects. Its librarians have included the philosophers [Gottfried Leibniz](#) and [Gotthold Ephraim Lessing](#). The primary building in the complex of eight opened in 1887. Its holdings include many treasures, including the 12th-century Gospels of Henry the Lion, the 7th-century Codex Carolinus, and the 12th-century encyclopedia Liber Floridus.

This AL Direct feature showcases 250 libraries around the world that are notable for their exquisite architecture, historic collections, and innovative services. If you find yourself

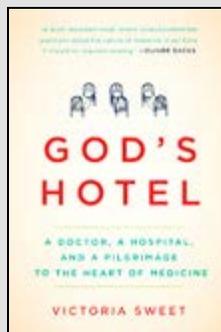
Booklist Online just got a makeover.
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Booklist ONLINE

Featured review: Health and medicine

Sweet, Victoria. *God's Hotel: A Doctor, a Hospital, and a Pilgrimage to the Heart of Medicine*. Apr. 2012. 384p. Riverhead (978-1-59448-843-6).

Medical doctor Sweet's search for a position that would allow her to practice while earning a doctorate in the history of medicine brought her to Laguna Honda Hospital in San Francisco, the last almshouse for the poor and chronically disabled in America. "Old-fashioned and plain," dilapidated and imperiled, its six spacious, many-windowed wings housing 1,178 patients were surrounded by 60 acres on a hilltop with an ocean view. Here Sweet came to profoundly appreciate and learn from resilient patients who survived poverty, addiction, abuse, and severe maladies. She also immersed herself in the writings of the brilliant 12th-century German mystic and medical practitioner Hildegard of Bingen, conducting extensive research in Europe, and making the famous medieval pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela....



The Booklist interview

Donna Seaman writes: "Victoria Sweet is a physician and an associate clinical professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco who holds a Ph.D. in history and social medicine. She is also a writer of exceptional power, poised to enter the realm of Oliver Sacks and other compelling doctor-writers who have radically altered our perception of health, illness, and medicine. Sweet's intensely affecting, enlightening first book, *God's Hotel*, both recounts her adventurous quest for understanding the body and the life force, medicine and



healing, and tells the resounding story of a unique community, the Laguna Honda Hospital in San Francisco, where Sweet has worked for more than two decades.”...

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

on vacation near one of them, be sure to stop by for a visit. The entire list will be available in [The Whole Library Handbook 5](#), edited by George M. Eberhart, which is scheduled for publication in 2013 by ALA Editions.

Dallas Update

The Southfork Ranch

No visit to Dallas is complete without a tour of the legendary Southfork Ranch near Plano. For 13 years, television sets were tuned into 356 episodes of [Dallas](#), one of the longest-running series in television history. Southfork continues to welcome visitors from around the world, who come to see [where Dallas was filmed](#). Guided tours are available year-round. A [new Dallas series](#) is in production and will appear on the TNT network in the summer of 2012. This week, the “chefestants” on the Bravo series [Top Chef: Texas](#) are cooking steaks in the kitchen at Southfork for attendees of the Cattle Baron’s Ball....

Southfork Ranch; YouTube, June 8, 2008; Ultimate Dallas; TNT, [Dallas](#); Bravo, [Top Chef: Texas](#)



The Old Red Museum

The Old Red Museum of Dallas County History and Culture is located in the West End section of downtown Dallas in the beautifully restored Old Red Courthouse built in 1892. Dedicated to inspire and educate visitors about the rich and varied cultural, economic, political, and social history of the Dallas County area, the second floor of Old Red is filled with exhibits, 41 touch-screen computers, an educational learning center, and four mini theaters. The museum has on display handcuffs worn by Lee Harvey Oswald, J. R. Ewing’s famous Stetson hat, and Clyde Barrow’s gun....

Old Red Museum



Best food and drink in Dallas

The *Dallas Observer* compiles an annual list of the best places to eat and drink in town, including both editors’ and readers’ picks. The categories are quite specific and include best soda fountain (Spiral Diner), best sushi (Yutaka Sushi Bistro), best dish name that sounds like a WWE wrestler (The Hammertime at Anvil Pub), best late-night drunk food (Serious Pizza), best place to make a sausage joke (Lockhart Smokehouse)....

Dallas Observer: 2011 Best Of Awards



Room 77 searches for hotel rates

Danielle Belopotosky writes: “For travelers who hop around the web to compare hotel rates or find the best value, there’s a new online tool aiming to be a one-stop shop. In November, [Room](#)



Career Leads
from
JobLIST

Rare Books Cataloging Librarian.

University of Southern California Libraries seeks an energetic, experienced librarian to oversee and participate in Special Collections’ rare books cataloging operations, including establishing and documenting practices, and managing metadata and cataloging workflows for rare books and other materials. The Rare Books Cataloging Librarian also assists with public services operations, including reference, instruction and outreach across the Libraries, and providing tours for donors and others....



[77](#) introduced a new platform that aggregates hotel rates from a variety of online travel sites like Hotels.com, Expedia, Priceline, and Orbitz, and serves up search results in one place. Those results, displayed in list, grid, or map view, can be further filtered by user preference."...

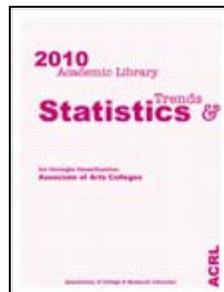
New York Times: In Transit, Nov. 10

Division News

[2010 Academic Library Trends and Statistics](#)

ACRL has published [2010 Academic Library Trends and Statistics](#), the latest in a series of annual publications that describe the collections, staffing, expenditures, and service activities of academic libraries in all Carnegie classifications. The 2010 data show that the median unit cost of monographs (per volume) increased slightly over 2009 for all types of academic libraries, while salary and wages expenditures as a percentage of total library expenditures slightly decreased for doctoral institutions and increased almost 3% for associate degree-granting institutions....

ACRL, Dec. 5



[PLA offers discount on training kits](#)

PLA is offering discounts on four digital training kits until December 31. Each kit is 40% off (or 50% off when combined with an ALA member discount). PLA training kits, authored by Sandra Nelson, tackle topics such as [stress](#) management, [time](#) management (right), customer [service](#), and library [advocacy](#). Designed to guide a half-day to daylong staff training at the library, each kit includes: learning objectives, a detailed agenda, a PowerPoint and companion script, discussion guidelines, an implementation plan, participant handouts, and an evaluation form....

PLA, Dec. 6



[AASL partners with STEM challenge](#)

AASL is lending support to the National STEM Video Game Challenge. The challenge, now in its second year, aims to motivate interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) by tapping into students' natural passion for playing and making video games. The national challenge is now accepting [submissions](#) of original video game concepts and designs from students and educators in four categories. Entries will be accepted through March 12....

AASL, Dec. 6



[AASL seeks Fall Forum hosts](#)

AASL seeks statements from school districts, universities, education service centers, or others interested in hosting a satellite site of the AASL 2012 Fall Forum. If interested, parties should submit a one-page statement of interest by December 20 to [Melissa Jacobsen](#). A satellite site would simultaneously host and facilitate the institute with the onsite institute. Sites will view a live broadcast of the AASL Fall Forum and communicate via chat with onsite attendees....

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Digital Library of the Week



The [Korean War Propaganda Leaflet Collection](#) preserved at the North Dakota State University Institute for Regional Studies provides a unique look into an aspect of the war often overlooked. Based upon what President Truman called "the campaign of truth" these leaflets became one of the primary means of winning the hearts and minds of enemy troops and Korean civilians. This collection of over 600 leaflets was amassed by NDSU alumnus Albert G. Brauer, who served in the Eighth US Army in Korea as chief of the Projects Branch, Psychological Warfare Division, G3 Section (February 1951 to January 1952). Under his direction he transformed a small nucleus of relatively untrained personnel into an integrated team of writers,

AASL, Dec. 6

[Help YALSA give books to teens](#)

Planning your end-of-year holiday giving? Consider a donation to YALSA's [Books for Teens](#) program, which raises funds to provide teens in low-income communities access to high-quality, recently published, age-appropriate books. If YALSA can raise \$500 during the month of December, a generous benefactor has agreed to donate an additional \$500. Make a donation through the Books for Teens' [Causes page](#), [Facebook](#), or the ALA [fundraising page](#)....

YALSA, Dec. 5



[Discuss serving older teens](#)

YALSA is focusing on serving older teens in its monthly YA Forum discussion, held for members this month at on its [ALA Connect page](#). Throughout the week, YALSA members are encouraged to check into the forum and ask questions and contribute to the ongoing discussion. The forum will close at 3 p.m. Eastern time on December 9....

YALSA, Dec. 5

[Webinar on screencasting tools](#)

RUSA will host a 90-minute webinar December 16 titled "Introduction to Screencasting for Online Tutorials and Reference." The webinar will cover tools and best practices for creating online videos for training, instruction, or reference. Van Houlson, William Breitbach, and Maribeth Slebodnik will present during this [session](#). The last day to [register](#) is December 14....

RUSA, Dec. 6

[Thrift Books offers \\$100 coupon to ALTAFF members](#)

ALTAFF announced that [Thrift Books](#)—an online seller of used books—has become one of its corporate sponsors and will offer ALTAFF members who use the service a \$100 coupon to Thriftbooks.com. As part of the Thrift Books Library Program, groups receive 50% commissions on books, and no prescreening is required....

ALTAFF, Dec. 6

[Go back to the Top](#)

Awards & Grants

[Youth Media Awards webcast available for first 10,000 viewers](#)

Approximately 10,000 viewers can join more than 1,300 onsite audience members January 23 at 7:45 a.m. Central time for the announcement of the ALA Youth Media Awards at Midwinter. The awards honor children's and young adult authors and illustrators, as well as producers of children's audio and video materials. The number of available connections to the [webcast](#) are on a first-come, first-served basis. Members also can view live updates via the ALA Youth Media Awards [press kit](#)....

ALA Public Information Office, Dec. 6



artists, and Asian language specialists of professional caliber who produced hundreds of propaganda leaflets and voice messages for dissemination by aircraft, artillery, and by air and ground loudspeaker units.

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



Public Perception
How the World Sees Us

"You know how Occupy Chicago is talking about the 1% versus the 99%? Well, where the library is concerned, there's only the 100%. Everyone is impacted."

—Carolyn Alessio, mother of a 9-year-old Girl Scout who joined a November 9 protest by her Troop to oppose Mayor Rahm Emanuel's budget cuts to the Chicago Public Library, "[Girl Scouts Protest Library Cuts](#)," *Gazette Chicago*, Dec. 1.

@ [More quotes...](#)

[Library Interior Design Awards 2012](#)

The Library Interior Design Awards is a biennial competition cosponsored by ALA and the International Interior Design Association. The competition honors the best in library interior design. Award winners demonstrate excellence in aesthetics, design, creativity, function, and satisfaction of the client's objectives. The competition is managed by LLAMA. The deadline for [entries](#) is March 30....

LLAMA



[Chillicothe library wins Healthy Workplace Award](#)

The Chillicothe and Ross County (Ohio) Public Library recently received the Psychologically Healthy Workplace award from the Ohio Psychological Association. Leslie Hartley (at center), adult services manager, accepted the award on behalf of the library. The award recognizes the library's ongoing wellness initiative, which includes a demonstration garden, nutrition and exercise information, participation in charity events such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowl-a-Thon, and several 5K runs....

Chillicothe (Ohio) Gazette, Nov. 30



[Bulgarian librarians honor Gates Foundation](#)

The [Bulgarian Library and Information Association](#) has presented its annual Support for Libraries Award to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Libraries Initiative for its contribution to the development of public libraries in Bulgaria, in particular for initiating the [Glob@l Libraries-Bulgaria](#) program in response to the needs of citizens for equal access to information....

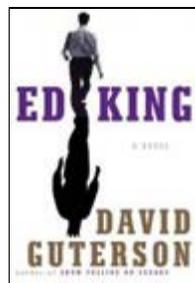
AL: Global Reach, Dec. 5



[2011 Bad Sex in Literature Award](#)

American author David Guterson on December 6 joined John Updike, Tom Wolfe, Norman Mailer, and other literary stars as the recipient of the dreaded Bad Sex in Fiction award. Guterson won the 2011 prize for sex scenes in his new novel *Ed King*, which offers a modern take on the Oedipus myth and sets it in the second half of the 20th century. The UK *Literary Review* has given out the award each year since 1993....

Associated Press, Dec. 6



[Biography of cancer wins Guardian First Book award](#)

An oncologist has won the *Guardian* First Book award for his "biography" of cancer, *The Emperor of All Maladies*, which traces the disease from the first recorded mastectomy in 500 BC to today's cutting-

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LATEST
CONTENT

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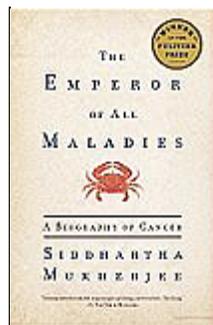


Calendar

Jan. 8–13: [Digital Preservation Management Workshop](#), University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida. "Short-Term Strategies for Long-

edge research. Siddhartha Mukherjee's book is a mix of history, memoir, biography, science, and the personal stories of cancer patients. The only nonfiction title on the shortlist, it beat four novels to win the £10,000 (\$15,600 US) award. The book also [won](#) the 2011 Pulitzer for general nonfiction....

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



[Royal Society Young People's Book Prize](#)

Pop ups, pull outs, and other paper wizardry are used to explore the science of the Earth in *How the World Works*, the winner of the 2011 Royal Society Young People's Book Prize, announced

December 1. Author Christiane Dorion and illustrator Beverley Young were selected from a shortlist of six books and awarded £10,000 (\$15,600 US). The judging panels were comprised of more than 1,000 young people from more than 100 schools and youth groups....

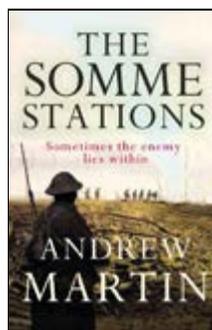
Royal Society, Dec. 1



[2011 Ellis Peters award](#)

On November 30, Andrew Martin was announced as the winner of the 2011 Crime Writers' Association Ellis Peters Historical Award for his book *The Somme Stations*, a tale of wartime intrigue. He was presented the award and £3,000 (\$4,682 US) at a ceremony at the Athenaeum in London. The award is given to the best historical crime novel by an author of any nationality, and commemorates the life and work of Ellis Peters (Edith Pargeter) (1913–1995), the creator of the Brother Cadfael character in a series of historical murder mysteries....

Crime Writers' Association, Nov. 30



Seen Online

[The new Digital Divide](#)

Susan P. Crawford writes: "Increasingly, we are a country in which only the urban and suburban well-off have truly high-speed internet access, while the rest—the poor and the working class—either cannot afford access or use restricted wireless access as their only connection to the internet. As our jobs, entertainment, politics, and even health care move online, millions are at risk of being left behind. While we still talk about 'the' internet, we increasingly have two separate access marketplaces: high-speed wired and second-class wireless."...

New York Times: Sunday Review, Dec. 3

[University of Alaska slows internet to curb illegal downloading](#)

The groan is almost audible coming from dormitory rooms at the University of Alaska Anchorage. The university is intentionally slowing

Term Problems."

Jan. 17–20:
[Association for Library and Information Science Education](#), Annual Conference, Dallas. "Expanding Horizons, Creating Opportunity."

Feb. 15–19:
[Music Library Association](#), Annual Meeting, Fairmont Dallas.

Feb. 23–26:
[Alaska Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Westmark Fairbanks Hotel and Conference Center. "Alaska's Libraries: Heart of the Community."

Mar. 13–17:
[Public Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Philadelphia.

Mar. 21–23:
[Tennessee Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Marriott Knoxville. "Libraries Transform."

Apr. 11–13:
[Catholic Library Association](#), Annual Convention, Boston. "Leadership, Direction, Service."

Apr. 17–20:
[Texas Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Houston. "Relevant, Responsive, Revolutionary, Right

the speed of internet connections—from 10 megabits per second to 2 megabits—in all on-campus dorm rooms to prevent students from infringing on copyrights when downloading movies, music, and videos. But students are organizing on Facebook to fight the dreaded drag....

Associated Press, Dec. 2

[Report calls for greater accessibility for visually impaired students](#)

A US Department of Education [report](#) released December 6 updates Congress on the state of accessibility to learning materials for college students with visual impairments such as blindness, and it recommends ways to improve their learning conditions. The Advisory Commission on Accessible Instructional Materials in Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities published the report following a 14-month study on the issue. The commission found that many students' needs are still not being met....

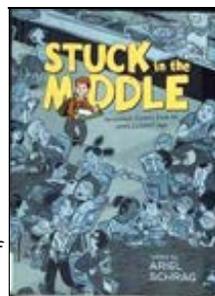
Chronicle of Higher Education: Wired Campus, Dec. 6



[Parent objects to *Stuck in the Middle*](#)

A parent is objecting to language, drug, alcohol, and sex references in a book at the Buckfield Junior-Senior High School library in Maine. *Stuck in the Middle: 17 Comics from an Unpleasant Age*, by Ariel Schrag, was published in 2007 and has been in the library for a couple of years, according to Regional School Unit 10 Superintendent Tom Ward. A parent of a junior high school student challenged having the book in the library, he said, and will present their case to the school board in public session December 12. The board will decide whether to retain or remove the book at a January meeting....

Lewiston (Maine) Sun Journal, Nov. 29



[Many public-sector workers are retiring sooner](#)

As states and cities struggle to resolve paralyzing budget shortfalls by sending workers on unpaid furloughs, freezing salaries, and extracting larger contributions for health benefits and pensions, a growing number of public-sector workers are finding fewer reasons to stay. Increasingly, workers fear a permanent shift away from the traditional security of government jobs, and they are making plans to get out now, before salaries and retirement benefits retreat further....

New York Times, Dec. 5

[UC-San Diego students reclaim closed library](#)

Students forced open the doors of a shuttered University of California, San Diego library December 5 and rushed inside, vowing to stay around the clock until the end of final exams December 9. University police, who were on hand when students arrived at the library before 7 a.m., were pulled out of the area by administrators keen to avoid the kind of campus confrontations that have occurred recently. The Center for Library and Instructional Computing Services (above) was one of the UCSD libraries closed over the summer in response to steep cuts in state funding....

San Diego (Calif.) Union-Tribune, Dec. 5



[Charleston library to restore](#)

Now."

Apr. 18–20:
[Washington Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Tulalip Resort Casino. "One Tribe: Bringing Washington's Libraries Together."

Apr. 18–20:
[Florida Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Wyndham Orlando Resort. "Vibrant and Vital Florida Libraries."

Apr. 24–27:
[Alabama Library Association](#), Annual Convention, Wynfrey Hotel, Hoover.

May 1–4:
[Association of Research Libraries](#), Membership Meeting, Chicago. Open to ARL member representatives and invited guests only.

May 18–23:
[Medical Library Association](#), Annual Meeting and Exhibition, Seattle. "Growing Opportunities: Changing Our Game."

**May 30–
June 2:**
[Canadian Library Association](#), National Conference and Trade Show, Ottawa Convention Centre.

@ [More...](#)

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American Libraries
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[rare nature titles](#)

The Charleston (S.C.) Library Society announced on December 2 a new effort to catalog and restore nearly 18,000 rare books in its natural history collections. "These books have been in the library's collection, some of them since the very beginning. The library was founded in 1748," said Archivist and Librarian Trisha Kometer (right). The library is thought to have about 100,000 volumes, but most are recorded in an old card catalog that may or may not have accurate information. Now, grants and donations are enabling the library to hire archivists to go through its extensive collections in a \$70,000 multiyear project....

Associated Press, Dec. 2; WCIV-TV, Charleston, S.C., Dec. 2



[Everything must go—from closed law library](#)

Scott D. Yost writes: "It's not fair to say that area law schools, libraries, historical preservation societies, and other groups interested in North Carolina law and Guilford County history are circling like vultures around the remains of the law library at the Guilford County Courthouse in Greensboro, which recently closed its doors due to funding cuts and other considerations. However, it is fair to say there's a great deal of interest among those groups as to who ends up with the library's contents."...

Greensboro (N.C.) *Rhinoceros Times*, Dec. 1



[Upheaval at New York Public Library](#)

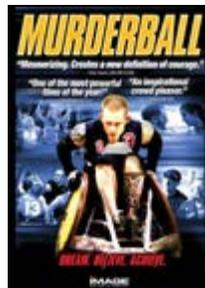
Scott Sherman writes: "Despite austerity measures at New York Public Library since 2008 (the workforce has been reduced by 27% and the acquisitions budget by 26%), NYPL executives are pushing ahead with a \$250–\$350 million renovation of the 42nd Street Library, the crown jewel of the system. The centerpiece of the Central Library Plan is the construction of a state-of-the-art computer-oriented library within a library. To make space, the seven levels of original stacks beneath the third-floor Rose Reading Room, which hold 3 million books and tens of thousands of adjustable and fixed shelves, will be demolished."...

The Nation, Nov. 30

[Should libraries be in the video business?](#)

Allan Tong has a more particular reason than most for availing himself of DVDs distributed through the Toronto Public Library. The Toronto documentary filmmaker is leaving for Sierra Leone next week to make a film about amputee soccer players. As background, he recently borrowed a copy of *Murderball*, a 2005 documentary about wheelchair rugby. Vested interest aside, Tong is nonplussed by recent comments from Toronto budget chief Mike Del Grande that the public library system should not be in the business of duplicating services available at video stores....

Toronto Star, Dec. 4



[Occupy Bangor moves from library grounds](#)

ALA American Library Association

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



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Katie Bane:

Occupy Bangor agreed to pull up the stakes in front of Bangor (Maine) Public Library on December 5, as library trustees had requested in late November. Nine members of the group agreed that there was nothing to gain by defying the library's request to move off its property because of insurance liability issues. Occupy member Lawrence Reichard said the library and Director Barbara McDade, whom he [described](#) as "an ardent supporter of the First Amendment," had been wonderful during the encampment, which began October 27....

Bangor (Maine) Daily News, Dec. 2, 4



[Howard University faces lawsuit over library staffer](#)

Five Howard University students filed suit in federal court November 28 alleging that school officials did not do enough to protect them from an employee later convicted of sexual harassment and assault. The students, all women, say that George Bright-Abu, their work-study supervisor at Founders Library, verbally and physically assaulted them from September 2010 to April 2011. The suit alleges that even though students complained about the conduct, nothing was done until D.C. police were notified....

Washington Post: TheRootDC, Dec. 2

[Axe-wielding men rob small English library](#)

Four men wearing ski masks and wielding an axe and a crowbar raided a post office inside the Bar Hill Library near Cambridge, UK, on December 5, attacking a librarian and a postal worker.

Subpostmaster Haresh Parek said the men came into the building, attacked the postal worker, and demanded cash. The men threatened the librarian and knocked her to the floor, then jumped over the counter and stole an unspecified amount of money before making their escape....

Cambridge (U.K.) News, Dec. 7



[Burned high school library reopens after five years](#)

San Lorenzo Valley High School in Felton, California, unveiled its new \$7.3-million library December 5. The high school's library was destroyed by an arson fire lit by students on September 16, 2006. The new library is inside a 13,500-square-foot building designed by Beverly Prior Architects of San Francisco. It's equipped with 100 new computers and 23,000 books, and is a vast improvement from the old, cramped library....

KSBW-TV, Salinas, Calif., Dec. 5

[Welsh library criticized for accepting Nazi collaborator's money](#)

The Welsh government is leading the attack on its national library for taking £300,000 (\$468,673 US) along with papers and tapes left to it by Louis Feutren (right). Feutren was a member of the Breton movement [Bezen Perrot](#), which worked with the Nazis during the occupation of France in World War II. After the war he fled and traveled through Wales before settling in Ireland. Feutren died in 2010 and left money and other material to the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth. After researching his



kbane@ala.org

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activities, the library's board decided to accept the bequest despite concerns about the benefactor's past....

Guardian, Dec. 2

[Library relocates Nazi archive to new premises](#)

The Wiener Library, the world's oldest Holocaust archive, recently moved into a new home in London's Russell Square and reopened on December 1. As well as archiving documents from Jewish victims of repression, the museum holds examples of how the Nazis used board games and books (above) to indoctrinate Germany's youth with anti-Semitic values....



BBC News, Nov. 30

[Retired school librarian wins sports car](#)

A retired librarian from Sparta Township, New Jersey, won a sleek black convertible sports car, a 2011 Infiniti G37 with a list price of \$53,900, through a raffle at St. Clare's Health System. Ellen Mayne, who started out as a librarian at Harvard University's Widener Library, then became a school librarian and ultimately retired from the Englewood (N.J.) Public School District....

Morristown (N.J.) Daily Record, Dec. 5

[Metairie branch to reopen](#)

On December 27, the Lakeshore branch of the Jefferson Parish (La.) Library will have a new building in Metairie, reopening a branch that had been squeezed into a trailer since Hurricane Katrina in 2005. But when patrons stop by, their experience will be a bit different. Drawing on the example of chain bookstores, the library will display its 28,000 books, digital video discs, and reference materials face-out to catch the eyes of readers, Library Director Lon Dickerson said. And books will be arranged in a system similar to the BISAC Subject Headings used by booksellers, using general categories such as travel or history....

New Orleans Times-Picayune, Dec. 4

[British library group sticks with academic publishers](#)

Research Libraries UK, a major British library group, announced December 1 that it has struck new deals with Elsevier and Wiley-Blackwell, two of the largest publishers of academic journals. RLUK had threatened to discontinue so-called Big Deal subscription arrangements with the publishers because of what it called unsustainable price increases. US libraries have also been reexamining whether Big Deals are worth the cost. RLUK offered few details about the new deals but estimated they will save UK institutions more than £20 million (\$31.2 million US)....

Chronicle of Higher Education: Wired Campus, Dec. 1

[Israeli National Library puts collection online](#)

The National Library of Israel has launched a [website](#) offering public access to a huge collection of materials, including books, periodicals, maps, photos, and musical selections from the library collection. The website, which took two years to develop, is the most comprehensive content-based website in Israel. One section of the site provides access to the personal archives of former Israeli



leaders as well as public figures such as the writer Shmuel Yosef Agnon and the philosopher Martin Buber....

Haaretz (Tel Aviv), Dec. 4

[Japan returns ancient books to Korea](#)

Some 1,200 books looted by Japan during the colonial era were returned to Korea on December 6. Korean Vice Foreign Minister Park Suk-hwan and the Japanese ambassador to Seoul, Masatoshi Muto, held a simple ceremony at the airport to mark the return of the books. The ancient books include *Uigwe*, or royal protocols of the Joseon Dynasty (1392–1897)....

Korea Herald (Seoul), Dec. 5

[Go back to the Top](#)

Tech Talk

[The personal computer is dead](#)

Jonathan Zittrain writes: "The PC is dead. Rising numbers of mobile, lightweight, cloud-centric devices don't merely represent a change in form factor. Rather, we're seeing an unprecedented shift of power from end users and software developers on the one hand, to operating system vendors on the other—and even those who keep their PCs are being swept along. This is a little for the better, and much for the worse. The transformation is one from product to service."...

Technology Review, Nov. 30

[Will Windows 8 be irrelevant to regular PC users?](#)

Lance Whitney writes: "The next version of Windows will be Microsoft's first attempt to offer the same operating system for both PCs and mobile devices. Research firm IDC expects Windows 8 products to hit the market by August 2012. But since the release of the Windows 8 Developer Preview in September, Microsoft has been battered by criticism from desktop users over the new Metro interface. In addition to those who just don't like the new look and feel, many have complained that the touch-based UI simply doesn't work well with a mouse and keyboard."...

CNET News, Dec. 6



[Algorithms as information gatekeepers](#)

Mathew Ingram writes: "The promise of the internet age is one of unparalleled access to information of all kinds, but it has also seen the rise of some powerful gatekeepers that control our access to that information: gatekeepers like Google, Facebook, Apple, and even Twitter. These new information overlords have been in the news recently because of their perceived control over certain information, and the reaction from users has reinforced the tension between the freedom these companies provide and the hoops through which we have to go in order to achieve it."...

GigaOM, Dec. 1

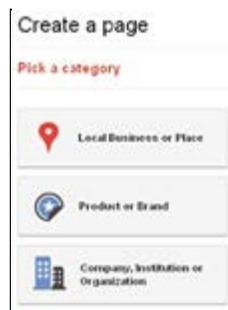


[How to set up a Google+ Page](#)

Jill Duffy writes: "Google+ Pages are not just for businesses, but all kinds of organizations and public figures, from community-focused groups and

nonprofit institutions to politicians and candidates, celebrities, bloggers, sports teams, and social causes. Here's everything you need to know, from how to create a Google+ Page, to an analysis of what makes Google+ different from other social networks, to tips to making a useful and eye-catching Google+ Page, and even a checklist of things you'll need before you get started."...

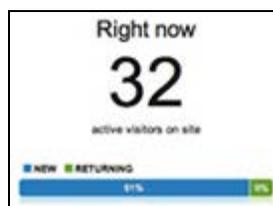
PC Magazine, Dec. 7



10 new Google Analytics features

Rachael Gerson writes: "Over the past eight months, Google has steadily released one revolutionary new feature after another. On March 17, the company announced a new version of Google Analytics. Up until this point, users could decide whether they preferred to stick with the old interface or switch to the new one. But Google recently announced that the old version of GA will be turned off in January. Let's review the top 10 features of the new Google Analytics."...

Mashable, Nov. 30



Cloud computing traffic to soar

Cisco has issued its first [Global Cloud Index](#), an estimate of global data center and cloud-based internet protocol traffic growth and trends. In 2010, cloud computing traffic totaled 130 exabytes, 11% of data center traffic, but Cisco estimated it will reach a total of 1.6 zettabytes, more than 33% of all data center traffic, by 2015. For perspective, 1.6 zettabytes is the equivalent of 1.6 trillion hours of online high-definition video streaming....

Campus Technology, Nov. 30

3G vs. Wi-Fi, and write access denied

Rick Broida writes: "In my travels I continue to encounter folks who don't understand the basics of internet connectivity—namely, the differences between Wi-Fi and 3G. This can cause problems, especially for buyers of devices like the Kindle Fire and Nook Color, which rely heavily on internet access. I reckon no small number of these devices get returned because users think they're broken—when what's really happening is a lack of Wi-Fi. So let's talk internet."...

PC World, Dec. 6

Five alternatives to PayPal

Michael Harrison writes: "When you want to transfer money via the internet, there's usually one name that comes to mind: PayPal. With its troubled past of seemingly unnecessary account freezes and cagey communication with its members, there are a lot of folks seeking an alternative way to send money. Read on for some great US-based PayPal alternatives."...

Wired: GeekDad, Dec. 6



New app identifies Photoshopped images

Scientists at Dartmouth College have created a new software program that will automatically detect any image that has been modified in Photoshop. The software is now tuned to faces, but it will be able to

flag any type of image. It uses eight statistical parameters to detect real changes on the model, not general modifications such as cropping or color adjustments. It can sniff geometric modifications like reshaped face features or body parts used to make models appear thinner. It will also detect texture changes, like smoothed skin....

Gizmodo, Nov. 29

[Software that listens for lies](#)

Julia Hirschberg, a professor of computer science at Columbia University, is teaching computers how to spot deception—cues involving loudness, changes in pitch, pauses between words, ums and ahs, nervous laughs, and dozens of other tiny signs that can suggest a lie. Algorithms developed by Hirschberg and colleagues have been able to spot a liar 70% of the time in test situations, while people confronted with the same evidence had only 57% accuracy....

New York Times, Dec. 3

[Finding good apps for children with autism](#)

Bradnya Joshi writes: "The Apple iPad has been hailed as a savior for assisting children with autism spectrum disorder or other special needs. It was portrayed as a minor miracle in a [recent segment](#) on *60 Minutes* and has been found to help even the very young quickly learn. But as is the case with so many categories of apps, it's daunting to know where to begin when sorting through the thousands of programs available. To that end, several good websites have been created to review special-needs apps."...

New York Times: Gadgetwise, Nov. 29; CBS, *60 Minutes*, Oct. 23



[Is email entering its twilight at 40?](#)

Miguel Valdes Faura writes: "The rise of social networking platforms like Facebook and Twitter have taken a lot of the conversations that once occurred on email to other channels. While email is still a central repository for tracking updates from various networking sites, it has become less useful for interacting with friends and colleagues on a daily basis compared with IM and streaming content feeds. Here are three other noteworthy technologies emerging in place of email."...

GigaOM, Dec. 3

[The 7 absolute worst tech gifts to give this holiday](#)

Sam Biddle writes: "The Non-Denominational Secular Thing Buying Period is upon us! Now is the time to start thinking about which shiny, sorta-expensive gadget gift you're going to bestow upon friends and lovers. Make sure you don't pick these. They're worse than coal."...

Gizmodo, Dec. 6

E-Content

[European Commission investigates ebook pricing conspiracy](#)

The European Commission announced December 6 that it has formally begun an investigation into claims that publishers colluded with Apple to keep ebook prices high, in violation of European Union anticompetition rules. The announcement comes after the EC raided European offices of five international publishers (Hachette Livre, HarperCollins, Simon and Schuster, Penguin, and Macmillan) in March in conjunction with the UK Office of Fair Trading. The opening of

[proceedings](#) means that the commission will treat the case as a matter of priority....

Ars Technica, Dec. 6; European Commission, Dec. 6

[HathiTrust defendants respond to lawsuit](#)



The HathiTrust digital repository and the five universities [sued](#) by the Authors Guild and others over mass book digitization and alleged copyright infringement have [filed a response](#) to the lawsuit. In September the plaintiffs sued the trust and its home institution, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, as well as several other universities, in federal district court. At stake is the control of millions of digitized works held by the trust and the universities. In a December 2 filing, the defendants asked that the HathiTrust case be dismissed....

Chronicle of Higher Education, Sept. 14, Dec. 5

[Kansas Virtual Library has left OverDrive](#)

OverDrive [announced](#) December 6 that its contract with Kansas Digital Library Consortium had officially ended. In June the Kansas state librarian said Kansas had signed a deal with 3M and was planning to take its ebooks with them. OverDrive had increased its fees far more than the state was willing or able to pay. The total fees would have jumped by almost 700% by 2014....

The Digital Reader, Dec. 6; OverDrive Digital Library Blog, Dec. 6

[Buying an e-reader: A checklist](#)

Piotr Kowalczyk writes: "Are you interested in buying an e-reader? There is more to it than just comparing screen resolution or memory space. Ask yourself these questions and you'll be better prepared to choose the right e-reading device."...

TeleRead, Dec. 3

[Finding the positive and saying thanks](#)

Christopher Harris writes: "The past couple weeks have taken us on a wild ebook roller coaster ride. Penguin pulled Kindle access and then it was restored, but libraries still aren't getting new Penguin titles for lending in a digital format. Despite the e-whiplash that seems to come from following the changes in ebook news, I am feeling very positive this week. Perhaps it is the general spirit of Thanksgiving that has been in the air, but from my perspective things aren't as bad for libraries as it may seem if you only read the headlines."...

AL: E-Content, Dec. 1



[Portico to preserve Cambridge University Press ebooks](#)



Cambridge University Press [announced](#) December 6 that it will preserve its [Cambridge Books Online](#) content using Portico's ebook preservation [service](#). As part of the agreement, Cambridge will make an annual contribution to Portico to support its preservation service....

No Shelf Required Blog, Dec. 6

[New publisher embraces ebooks and authors, not DRM](#)



Dylan Tweney writes: "Ebooks are increasingly popular, but they're usually not produced until after the print edition is already complete.

That makes about as much sense as posting Instagram photos of yesterday's paper. A new company, [Fair Trade Digital Exchange](#), aims to fix the problem by going straight to digital and publishing ebooks on technical topics. The company launched November 30 with four titles and will sell the ebooks for \$10, splitting its revenues 50-50 with authors. The books will not include copy protection (digital rights management), so customers will be free to use the books on any of their devices without restriction."...

VentureBeat, Nov. 30

[Amazon will pay you \\$5 to not shop in stores](#)

Nate Hoffelder writes: "Amazon will be running a little promotion on December 10. If you use its new price comparison app to check a price and then buy the item, Amazon will knock 5% (up to \$5) off the price. The offer is only good December 10. Amazon's price check app lets shoppers check a price by scanning a barcode, taking a picture of an item, or typing in a text search."...

eBookNewser, Dec. 6



[One-third of libraries are behind in providing ebooks](#) (PDF file)

The Chief Officers of State Library Agencies recently surveyed their memberships to determine the extent to which US public libraries are offering downloadable ebooks, audiobooks, and videos for use on portable devices like e-readers and smartphones. The results showed that 39% had not yet begun to offer downloadable media service to their communities. The COSLA E-Book Task Force believes that most are small and rural public libraries with tight budgets....

Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, Nov. 30

[An ebook search engine](#)

Richard Byrne writes: "The web is full of ebooks, but finding them isn't always easy. You can search by file type on Google or visit any number of document hosting services like Issuu, but even then you might be missing something good. [Search EBooks](#) is a service dedicated to helping you find free ebooks. When you find an ebook on Search EBooks you can view a preview of it, download, or grab an embed code without ever leaving the search results page."...

Free Technology for Teachers, Dec. 5



[The elephantine Google Books settlement](#) (PDF file)

James Grimmelman writes: "The genius—some would say the evil genius—of the proposed Google Books settlement was the way it fused legal categories. The settlement raised important class action, copyright, and antitrust issues, among others. But just as an elephant is not merely a trunk plus legs plus a tail, the settlement was more than the sum of the individual issues it raised. These issues were really just a new way to concentrate an intellectual property industry."...

Journal of the Copyright Society of the U.S.A.

[Financial Times opts out of iTunes](#)

Mercy Pillington writes: "In a daring step that takes a stab at some mainstays in the digital business, *Financial Times* pulled its app from iTunes in order to protest the 30% cut and

retention of customers' private information. Now, thanks to greater opportunities from the Android market and the development of its own iOS-compatible app that can be accessed through the devices' web browsers, *Financial Times* is back as an app and is apparently sleeker than ever. One of the greatest features of the new app version is its offline capability."...

Good E-Reader, Dec. 5



[Pennsylvania now going after Amazon for sales tax](#)



The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue announced December 1 that it believes its current regulations require Amazon and other internet-based retailers to collect state sales tax in Pennsylvania. Because Amazon does business with an affiliate in Pennsylvania, the state expects Amazon to collect sales tax. In the past, Amazon has cut ties with partners whenever a similar tax law has been passed, but as of December 6, the company had not yet responded....

eBookNewser, Dec. 2

[Ebooks face up to 25% tax in Europe](#)



Across most of Europe, ebooks are taxed at full national value-added rates, which reach 25% in Sweden, Denmark, Hungary, and other countries. Printed books, benefiting from an industry lobby, are taxed at a fraction of the full rates—and not at all in Britain. The Federation of European Publishers, an industry group based in Brussels, estimated that ebook sales would rise 20% or more this year from an estimated €350 million (\$462 million US) in 2010. Sales of printed books, which account for more than 98% of all book purchases, are stagnating....

New York Times, Dec. 1

[The battle over Spain's ebook buyers](#)

Adam Critchley writes: "Spain's ebook market got off to a slow start as consumers bemoaned the limited catalog available, the complexity of purchasing ebooks, and the higher tax levied on them than on print editions—18% compared with 4%. But the panorama has changed radically in a matter of weeks after a volley of e-reader launches. Amazon.es opened its Kindle bookstore December 1, with 22,000 Spanish-language titles, as well as books in Catalan, Galician, and Basque. The question remains whether Spanish ebook buyers will patronize the stores of overseas multinationals or gravitate toward indigenous offerings."...

Publishing Perspectives, Dec. 5



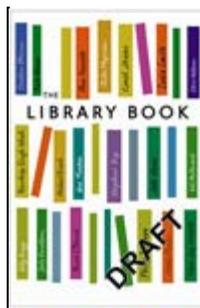
[Go back to the Top](#)

Books & Reading

[A new book on why libraries matter](#)

Alan Bennett, Julian Barnes, and Stephen Fry are among the stellar contributors to *The Library Book*, to be published by Profile for [National Libraries Day](#) (the new UK celebration sponsored by CILIP) on February 4. The book is a compilation of famous writers' thoughts on why libraries matter and is edited by Profile publicist Rebecca Gray. Tom Holland will write about libraries in the ancient world, Seth Godin describes what a library will look like in 2020, and Lionel Shriver explains why books are the best investment....

The Bookseller, Sept. 9, Dec. 6



[Survey: Internet book sales rely on brick-and-mortar bookstores](#)

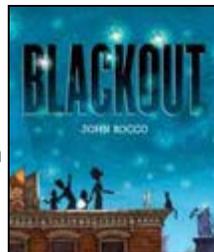
Dennis Johnson writes: "The demise of Borders was treated as a trend story—that ebooks are cooler than print books and people were thus losing interest in print books—instead of as a business story, whereby Borders had simply been poorly managed and that giant corporations didn't want to sell print books anymore. But in going for the sexy [trend story](#) (that is, Amazon is killing old-fashioned brick-and-mortar bookstores) every report missed something important: For 39% of Amazon's users polled, a bookstore is still a crucial part of their book-buying experience."...

MobyLives Blog, Dec. 6; *New York Times* Media Decoder Blog, Dec. 4

[Picture book revenge](#)

Lisa von Drasek writes: "In 2010, the *New York Times* [infuriated](#) many of us by claiming that parents were pushing their early elementary children into chapter books, causing new picture books to 'languish on the shelves' and publishers to release fewer titles. This year's many exciting new picture books stand as proof that is not true. Here are my favorites, perfect for gift giving."...

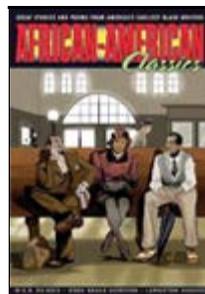
EarlyWord: The Publisher | Librarian Connection, Oct. 12, Dec. 5



[African Americans in graphic novels](#)

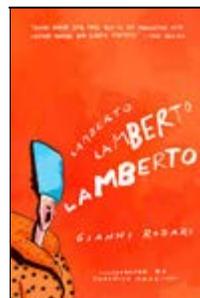
Sharon Rawlins writes: "If I had a choice between reading a classic in text format versus a comics format, I'd choose the graphics format. That's just what you can do right after Christmas when *African-American Classics: Graphic Classics Volume 22* comes out, featuring some of America's best works by Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, W. E. B. Du Bois, Paul Laurence Dunbar, and others. And that made me curious about the representation of African Americans in comics."...

YALSA The Hub, Dec. 7



[10 spectacular modern fabulists](#)

Emily Temple writes: "There's something about winter, and particularly the holidays, that makes us crave fables and fairy tales. Though it's by no means a new trend, we feel that we've been seeing the advent of more and more fabulists following in the tradition of Aesop and La Fontaine—or maybe just writers who incorporate fables into their oeuvre. Indeed, December 6 marks the release of the first English translation of Gianni Rodari's wonderful *Lamberto, Lamberto*, *Lamberto* (Melville House). Here is our list of 10 modern fabulists



guaranteed to whisk you away.”...

Flavorwire, Dec. 6

[Secrets from my shelves: Madonna's Sex](#)

Daniel Kraus writes: “Way over on my lowest, leftmost shelves (right next to the cookbooks, for some unsanitary reason), rests *Sex*, the coffee-table book (? ?) that pop singer Madonna released in 1992. Try though I might to hide it, it’s pretty unmissable: The thing is freaking huge, has metal covers, and is mercilessly bound in sharp spiral. This big hunk o’ junk was \$49.95 when it came out, so it wasn’t exactly something a kid like me bought on a whim. So why do I have this thing? Was I an incurable Madonna fanatic in high school?”...

Booklist Online: Likely Stories, Dec. 2



[Time for vintage book clocks this season](#)

Stephen J. Gertz writes: “The good folks at [Vintage Book Clocks](#) have created a series of timepieces fashioned from old books, from pulp fiction to an exposé of the beauty industry and from there to, of all things, a history of the Jewish labor movement. If they want to get into conceptual art with a surreal, existential twist, the best title they could adapt into a clock would surely be Carson McCullers’s last novel, *The Clock With No Hands* (1961).”...

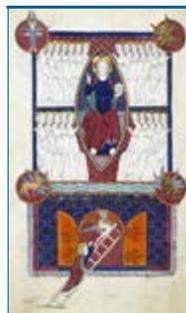
Booktryst, Dec. 2



[Apocalypse then](#)

Sarah J. Biggs writes: “In medieval England, illustrated copies of the Apocalypse (the book of Revelation) were among the most popular books. The manuscripts in question are richly illustrated, with the text supplying captions to the images. Most of the surviving copies are in French (the language of the English aristocracy of the time), which suggests that they were intended for a wider audience than if they had been written in Latin. [Royal 15 D. ii](#) (right) is one such illustrated Apocalypse, made in England during the 14th century.”...

British Library: Medieval and Earlier Manuscripts Blog, Dec. 6



[How to build a hidden-door bookshelf](#)

Do you have a door to a storage area or a secret room? What better way to hide it than to build a bookshelf that not only holds your books and decorations, but also swings open to provide access to your little hideaway? It not only indulges your inner mystery-lover, but it also makes extra use of an otherwise unusable and perhaps not esthetically pleasing space. All you need is basic welding and carpentry skills....

wikiHow



Actions & Answers

[Academic libraries on Facebook](#)

Michalis Gerolimos examines users’ comments on the Facebook pages of 20 American academic libraries to determine the extent of user

commenting and participation. The most significant findings are that approximately 91% of the posts do not include any comments, over 82% of user participation is expressed via the "Like" functionality and most comments on academic libraries' Facebook pages are not uploaded by faculty and students but rather by library staff, employees affiliated with the same institution as the library, and alumni....

D-Lib Magazine 17, no. 11/12 (Nov./Dec.)

[12 things you didn't know Facebook could do](#)



Facing constant threat from competitors, Facebook has been adding features to make it more useful and convenient. As the number of features grows, though, so does a corresponding problem: Most of Facebook's 750 million users don't know these features exist. A few minutes of exploration can uncover functions that make Facebook not just an addiction but a pleasure to use....

New York Times, Nov. 30

[Occupy periodicals](#)

Karen Gisonny writes: "New York Public Library's alternative press collection covers a broad range of content from the 20th century and comes in many formats, including chapbooks, underground newspapers, little magazines, political broadsides, newsletters, periodicals, and zines. This collecting tradition remains alive today; I recently made several field trips to Zuccotti Park to get copies of the recent flourish of publications generated by the Occupy Wall Street movement."...



New York Public Library Blogs, Dec. 6

[How to make your scholarly resources more accessible to undergrads](#)

Adriana Parker writes: "Research tells us that the open web is the go-to scholarly resource for undergraduates seeking information. Commercial search engines round off the list of online resources that undergraduates use when seeking information, whether it's for course-related research or personal research. So, what does that mean for us—the librarians, publishers, and vendors—who are in the business of promoting scholarly resources? Here are some ideas that are worth considering."...

Against the Grain 23, no. 5 (Nov.): 88–89

[BiblioBouts: The information literacy game](#)



Karen Markey, Christopher Leeder, and Amy R. Hofer write: "IMLS has enabled a University of Michigan research team to design, develop, deploy, and evaluate the BiblioBouts online social game. BiblioBouts is an online tournament made up of a series of bouts, each of which introduces students to a specific subset of information literacy skills within the overall research process. Instructors use the game's setup interface to schedule the game's starting and ending dates for its four bouts, set caps and quotas, and invite their students to the game."...

College and Research Libraries News 72, no. 11 (Dec.): 632+

[Library science ranks #4 in highest unemployment](#)

According to a *Wall Street Journal* [post](#), "Choosing the right college

major can make a big difference in students' career prospects, in terms of employment and pay. Here's a look at how various college majors fare in the job market, based on 2010 Census data." *WSJ* gleaned the study data from a [report](#) by Georgetown University called "What's It Worth?" When you select the unemployment percentage category—from highest to lowest—the library science major ranks #4, at 15%....

21st Century Library Blog, Dec. 2; *Wall Street Journal*; Center on Education and the Workforce

[Why SnapTags are replacing QR codes](#)



Jeff Hayzlett writes: "*Glamour* magazine posted a SnapTag alongside a sequined Rihanna on its September cover. Users accessed the code either by scanning it with a proprietary SnapTag app, or by snapping a pic and sending it to the number printed in the image. The resulting response included more than 500,000 interactions. SnapTags are 2-D barcodes that include a brand's logo (or a Facebook logo) in a notched circle design. Contrasted with the familiar QR code, the result seems minimalist and polished. But it's not just a new design. The interactivity and analytics are updated, as well."...

iMediaConnection, Nov. 28

[Neutrality and research help](#)

Wayne Bivens-Tatum writes: "A [blog post](#) in *Letters to a Young Librarian* proposes ways to handle questions where students are 'looking for sources to support a position for which there is a lack of academic support.' It's not necessarily what I would do myself, but reference is an art, not a science. However, a couple of statements in the post have been nagging at me since I first read them, possibly because, as happens often enough, they sound like solid librarian orthodoxy and I completely disagree with them. Let's take them in turn."...

Academic Librarian, Dec. 5; *Letters to a Young Librarian*, Nov. 28

[Tips for using Glogster](#)

Heather Moorefield-Lang and Deb Logan write: "[Glogster](#) is a great collaboration tool. For teacher librarians it allows us to further position ourselves as the tech leaders of not only our schools but also of our districts. The site is exciting and hip and the students love it. The best way to use Glogster is to start with good solid research techniques (as librarians always should), expand into the multimedia, and then focus on the intellectual property that will be used from other areas. Glogster allows students to work individually or in groups."...



AASL Blog, Nov. 30

[Single-purpose websites that do exactly what they say they do](#)

Whitson Gordon writes: "Kids these days have the most convoluted website names. Facebook? Twitter? eBay? I'm sorry, but I like my coffee black and my websites self-explanatory. Here's a handful of actually useful websites that do exactly what they sound like."...

Lifehacker, Nov. 18



[Kids climb their family trees @ the library](#)

Joan Miller writes: "I had great fun this weekend coordinating a kids' program for 8–10 year olds at the Calgary (Alberta) Public Library titled 'Build a Family Tree Booklet.' This program was run under the auspices of the Alberta Family Histories Society. The library provided the room at one of its branches and a selection of books appropriate to the age group and activity. It also handled advertising and took registrations."...

Luxegen Genealogy and Family History, Nov. 28



[Treating the Jefferson Bible](#)

In a fifth blog post in a [series](#) about the Jefferson Bible conservation project, Laura Bedford and Emily Rainwater write: "After careful analysis, it was determined that the most significant damage to the Jefferson Bible was being caused by the original binding. Authorization was granted to temporarily separate the pages so they could be repaired and the binding modified. The book was disassembled into individual folios, and even though the folios were opened flat, the crease at the center remained hidden beneath long narrow paper stubs that the original bookbinder, Frederick Mayo, had glued to the inside of every page."...

O Say Can You See?, Dec. 1



[Work/life balance in library school](#)

Laura Sanders writes: "I came to library school after several years in the work force, in a position that I adored but that also demanded my every waking moment. After three years of 70-hour workweeks and a personal life that was in complete limbo, I finally admitted that my lifestyle was not sustainable. When I started at library school in the fall, I wondered what changes I could make that would allow me to downshift. I still wanted to work hard, but I also wanted to enjoy my life. So I decided to be systematic about how I spent my time."...

Hack Library School, Dec. 5

[Courses I wish they had offered in library school](#)

Andy Burkhardt writes: "I've been a librarian now for about three and a half years. I learned a lot while at SLIS at UW-Madison, and there were some awesome professors there. Looking back, I wish that there were a few more skills that I could have acquired in library school. If they had offered these courses, I definitely would have taken them and likely would have been even better prepared for a career in today's libraries."...

Information Tyrannosaur, Dec. 6

[Baltimore school library project launches](#)

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation on December 5 celebrated the launch of a multimillion-dollar, multiyear Baltimore elementary and middle school library project. The initiative, involving more than 15 community and government partners, will work with Baltimore City Public Schools to design, build, equip, and staff new or renovated libraries in selected schools. Each library will feature [\(PDF file\)](#) new equipment, reading materials, and furniture including e-readers (Nooks), a bank of computers, and a parenting corner....



Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Dec. 5

[Beall's 2012 list of predatory, open-access publishers](#)

Jeffrey Beall writes: "Predatory, open-access publishers are those who exploit the author-pays model of open-access publishing for their own profit. Typically, these publishers spam professional email lists, broadly soliciting article submissions for the clear purpose of gaining additional income. Operating essentially as vanity presses, they typically have a low article-acceptance threshold, with a false-front or nonexistent peer review process."...

Metadata, Dec. 1

[Wake Forest library turns old books into holiday decorations](#)

Wake Forest University's Professional Center Library decided to turn several old books they no longer needed into decorations for the holidays. The books were used to make a more than five-foot-tall Christmas tree as well as some furniture. The library staff hopes the displays will encourage students to think creatively about recycling. Watch the [video](#) (1:00)...

WGHP-TV, Winston-Salem, N.C., Dec. 1



[Tasks for burned-out librarians](#)

Will Manley writes: "There is a ton of stress in our libraries with all the budget cutting and understaffing going on. As much as our librarian survivors think they can hang on and do the work of three people, burnout is a reality. The smart director knows it's important to pull burned-out librarians from their regular posts and give them different duties for a week or two just to mitigate the stress. Here are some suggestions."...

Will Unwound, Dec. 2

[Banned Books video calendar](#)

The Entresse Library in Espoo, Finland, and FAIFE (IFLA's Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression) have together created the world's first [Banned Books video calendar](#).



Following the tradition of the Advent calendar, each day from December 1 to December 24 a new window will open and a new book will be presented on several sites throughout the world. The purpose of the project is to promote public debate. Viewers can have their say on whether the books were banned for a sensible reason....

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, Dec. 1

[University library enlists collaborative cheerleaders](#) (satire)

When Sam Spivender, CEO of Temporarium University Library, noticed that no students collaborated in the new \$10 million Collaborative Learning Center, he did what any rational library CEO would do: He hired 20 collaborative cheerleaders, one for each collaborative pod, at a rate of \$1,500 per cheerleader per day. On the first day of the initiative, the 20 cheerleaders began with a rousing: "Two-four-six-eight! Time to—collaborate!"...

The Cronk of Higher Education, Nov. 30



[Library gang sign](#)

Tiffany Whitehead (right) demonstrates how to signal your status within the Library Geek Tribe using gang signs. It began at the AASL National Conference in October. First, you need to wear a hoodie in your signature color, and sunglasses. Then comes your "serious face."

Watch this [tutorial](#) (2:51) for more details....

YouTube, Dec. 6



[Go back to the Top](#)

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The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | December 14, 2011

Contents

[American Libraries Online](#)
[ALA News](#)
[Booklist Online](#)
[Dallas Update](#)
[Division News](#)
[Awards & Grants](#)
[Seen Online](#)
[Tech Talk](#)
[E-Content](#)
[Books & Reading](#)
[Actions & Answers](#)
[New This Week](#)
[Calendar](#)

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Special Conference Pricing



american
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BUYERS GUIDE

American Libraries Online

[David Lee King and Michael Porter join American Libraries](#)

American Libraries welcomes David Lee King and Michael Porter to its stable of columnists. The two librarians will coauthor a new column called Outside/In, which will debut in print beginning with the January/February 2012 issue but will be available online this month. King is digital branch and services manager for Topeka and Shawnee County (Kans.) Public Library. Porter has worked for more than 20 years as a librarian, presenter, and consultant for libraries and is currently leading the effort of the nonprofit [Library Renewal](#)....

American Libraries news, Dec. 13



[Will's World: Taking care of business](#)

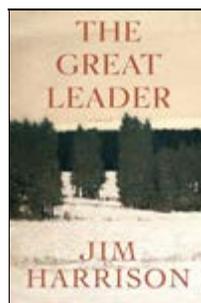
Will Manley writes: "Public librarians have come up with all kinds of reasons why their communities should support them. Some of these reasons are even realistic. During my 35-year career, I had high hopes for the role public libraries could play in creating a business-friendly community. As a result, I spent a lot of time developing and publicizing business collections and services. One of the quirks I discovered is that we are vitally important to a certain type of business owner—those who can't afford an office."...

American Libraries column, Jan./Feb.



[Rousing Reads: Hard-boiled mysteries and soft-boiled poets](#)

Bill Ott writes: "The world needs more hard-boiled mysteries written by soft-boiled poets. This admittedly peculiar insight occurred to me as I was reading poet and novelist Jim Harrison's first crime novel, *The Great Leader*. The book immediately reminded me of another mystery written by poet Richard Hugo. The interesting thing about these two books—both of which are thoroughly gritty and definitely not cozy—is



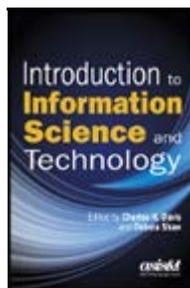
"The Conversation Starts Here" is the Midwinter Meeting theme. Centerpiece events will be **"Empowering Voices, Transforming Communities,"** two afternoons of deep conversation about the evolving roles of libraries, led by visionary professor David Lankes, as well as the **President's Program** with Rich Harwood, described as "one of the great thinkers in American public life."

that their protagonists are given to weeping.”...
American Libraries column, Nov./Dec.

Librarian’s Library: Occupying technology

Karen Muller writes: “A few years ago an earnest-sounding college student called the ALA Library to gather information about librarianship as a career, adding that she didn’t want to work with computers. We all have days we’d be happy to see our technology replaced with pen and paper that doesn’t crash. But that is not our world, and it behooves us to understand not only the technology we use but the power it gives us. (And yes, I did advise the student that most library jobs involve some use of computers.)”...

American Libraries column, Nov./Dec.



’Tis the season for . . . a tree of books

Santa Claus is no doubt pleased with the giant Christmas tree at the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland, constructed for the holiday season by the staff entirely from books. The tree stands at approximately five feet wide at the base and about eight feet high, and is made of 1,600 mostly hardcover volumes. Duplicate and extra copies of books were used in the tree’s construction. More [photographs](#) of the book tree are available....

AL: Global Reach, Dec. 13; pulowerek.pl



Currents

On January 1, **Deanna Marcum** (right) will become managing director of Ithaka S+R. On November 21, **Charles Brown** became executive director of New Orleans Public Library. **William Williamson**, 91, professor of library science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1966 until his retirement in 1987, died November 19. In December **Sharon Zuiderveld** retires as director of Jacksonville (Ill.) Public Library....

American Libraries column



ALA News

Washington Office: Ask reps to vote no on SOPA

On December 15 at 10 a.m. Eastern time,

**22,000
Audiobooks**

**225
Publishers**

1 Source

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the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary will meet to markup and potentially vote in committee on H.R. 3261, the [Stop Online Piracy Act](#) (SOPA). This bill, introduced in October by Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Tex.), not only threatens the future of the internet as we know it, but it also jeopardizes protections currently enjoyed by individual citizens, as well as libraries. Eric Hellman [explains why](#). [Contact](#) your representative....

District Dispatch, Dec. 13; Go to Hellman, Dec. 12

[Chapters, affiliates display their strengths](#)

ALA President Molly Raphael writes: "ALA provides a strong, unified voice for our libraries. Much of the Association's strength comes not just from our divisions, round tables, and other ALA units, but also from our [chapters and affiliates](#). Each year, many chapters and affiliates invite the ALA president to participate in their conferences, providing a wonderful opportunity for both ALA's leadership and chapters to learn ways we can contribute to each other's successes."...

AL: President's Message, Dec. 14



[Transforming libraries, transforming ALA](#)

Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels writes: "The digital revolution has been a major topic of public attention and discussion among librarians in 2011, as we are confronted by daily developments, announcements, and headlines related to ebooks. The [transformation](#) brought about by digital media has been a strong emphasis of ALA as well. During its [fall meeting](#) October 21–23 in Chicago, ALA's Executive Board focused on how the Association can best help libraries adapt to this changing, increasingly digital world."...

AL: Executive Director's Message, Dec. 14



[Take a new survey on librarians and privacy](#)

OIF is inviting librarians and library workers across the country to participate in a [survey](#) that will measure librarians' attitudes about privacy rights and protecting library users' privacy. The survey is online and takes only 15 minutes to complete. All responses are anonymous and confidential. The survey builds on an earlier 2008 survey ([PDF file](#)) assessing librarians' attitudes about privacy both within and outside of the library. It will be available until March 1....

Office for Intellectual Freedom, Dec. 13

[The largest National Gaming Day ever](#)

More than 27,700 people of all ages came together in their local communities to participate in gaming events at more than 760 US libraries and 21 other libraries in 14 countries for National Gaming Day @ your library, November 12, sponsored by ALA. An estimated 39 libraries competed with one another in a National "Epic Super Smash Bros. Brawl" tournament. The Ann Arbor (Mich.) District Library came in first place, beating out

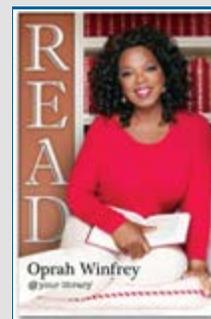


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SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE



This is [Oprah's third READ poster](#). She has said that libraries were her path to personal freedom, and she strongly encourages young people to read every day. **NEW!** From ALA Graphics.

New this week
in American
Libraries

the Phoenix (Ariz.) Public Library....
Public Information Office, Dec. 8

[Advocacy preconferences at Midwinter](#)

Sign up for two January 20 Midwinter Meeting preconferences—"Nuts & Bolts for Trustees, Friends, and Foundations" and "Mobilizing Community Support for Your Library: An Advocacy Institute Workshop"—and receive \$25 off the combined [registration](#). The offer is good for the first 50 registrants. "Nuts & Bolts" will feature keynote speaker Ron Heezen, executive director of the Shreve Memorial Library in Shreveport, Louisiana. "Mobilizing Community Support" will focus on engaging and mobilizing Friends and trustee groups, opinion-makers, and civic organizations to support all types of libraries....
ALTAFF, Office for Library Advocacy, Dec. 13

[Learn how to set up a Library Snapshot Day](#)

Sign up for a [free webinar](#) on how to organize your own [Library Snapshot Day](#), an initiative that provides staff with a way to show the value of their library by capturing all the wonderful things that happen there in a single day. The webinar is scheduled for December 19, 2–3 p.m. Central time. Participants will learn how to implement Library Snapshot Day on a statewide level....
ALA Membership Blog, Dec. 13



[ALA seeks candidates for Google Policy Fellowship](#)

ALA is again participating in the Google Policy Fellows [program](#). For summer 2012, the selected fellow will spend 10 weeks in residence at the ALA Washington Office to learn about national policy and complete a major project. Google provides the stipend for the summer, but the work agenda is under the full control of ALA and the fellow. The Google Washington office provides an educational program for all of the fellows, such as lunchtime talks. Jessie Mannisto from the School of Information at the University of Michigan served as our [2011 fellow](#)....



District Dispatch, Dec. 14

[Go high tech on a tight budget](#)

ALA TechSource has announced a new two-part workshop, "[How to Go High Tech on a Tight Budget](#)" with Maurice Coleman and Robin Hastings. Learn best practices for using technology to keep your library connected and up to date. The workshop takes place in two 90-minute parts on February 1 and 8. Coleman is the technical trainer at Harford County (Md.) Public Library, and Hastings is the information technology manager at the Missouri River Regional Library in Jefferson City, Missouri....
ALA TechSource, Dec. 13



[Standards for using social media in reference services](#)

ALA Editions has developed a new facilitated eCourse on "[Reference Through Social Media: Developing Standards, Guidelines, and Policies](#)." Sarah Steiner will serve as instructor for a six-week facilitated eCourse starting February 6. This eCourse will guide



[Will's World](#)

[Rousing Reads](#)

[Librarian's Library](#)

[E-Content](#)

[Censorship Watch](#)

[Currents](#)

[Perpetual Beta](#)

[Inside Scoop](#)

[Ask the ALA Librarian](#)

[Solutions and Services](#)

[AL Focus](#)

Great Libraries of the World



[German National Library](#), Leipzig.

Formerly known as the Deutsche Bücherei, this branch of the National Library system is the largest library in Germany. Established in 1913 to

you in writing useful, concise, legally sound standards and guidelines for providing reference through social media. Simply establishing basic greeting, closing, and tone standards that reflect user expectations will significantly improve user satisfaction....

ALA Editions, Dec. 13



Effective security plans

The Black Belt Librarian: Real-World Safety and Security, published by ALA Editions, arms librarians with the confidence and know-how they need to maintain a comfortable, productive, and safe environment for everyone in the library. Sharing expertise gleaned from more than two decades as a library security manager, author Warren Graham demonstrates that libraries can maintain their best traditions of openness and public access by creating an unobtrusive yet effective security plan....

ALA Editions, Dec. 9



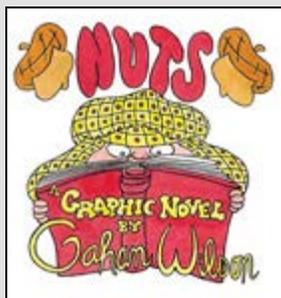
Sometimes you feel like print. Sometimes online.
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Booklist ONLINE

Featured review: Graphic novels

Wilson, Gahan (author and illustrator). *Nuts*. Oct. 2011. 144p. Fantagraphics, hardcover (978-1-60699-454-2).

One of the greatest gag cartoonists, whose monthly contributions to *Playboy* may prove that magazine's most durable legacy, Wilson gave *National Lampoon* something to be remembered for, too—his only comic strip, collected here. Titled to echo Charles Schulz's great newspaper feature full of kids who think and talk like adults, the six-paneled *Nuts* develops a realistic situation from out of memory (the strips typically begin with the word "remember"). All the fully visible characters are children, mostly boys, but, contra *Peanuts*, what they say expresses kids' enthusiasms, fears, and frustrations in the words grown-up memory gives them (the slightly precocious language is Wilson's primary departure from naturalism, except for his loopy drawing, of course)....



Time marches—well,

collect all German-language imprints, the library was designed by architect Oskar Pusch in 1914–1916 and features the portraits of Otto von Bismarck, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, and Johannes Gutenberg on the facade. It merged with the German Library in Frankfurt in 1990 to form a reunified National Library. The building underwent a major expansion and renovation in 2007–2011 by Stuttgart architect Gabriele Glöckler to accommodate the collections of the German Music Archive housed in Berlin.



St. Nikolaus-Hospital Library.

Bernkastel-Kues, Germany. Philosopher and scientist Nicholas of Cusa built this hospital in the 1450s. Its library was established upon his death in 1464 and contains 314 manuscripts in all fields of knowledge dating from the 9th to the 15th century, as well as Nicholas's entire works, drafts of his sermons, and

you know . . .

Michael Cart writes: "That darned *tempus*. It just keeps *fugiting*. Here it is December already and me in a retrospective mood. After all, what better time to reflect on what's been happening in young adult literature than the end of the year, when December 31 brings such a nice sense of closure. So what did happen in 2011? In a word: *lots*, starting with the continued growth of the field. When I first became involved with young-adult literature a quarter of a century ago, the genre was on the ropes; even in a good year, no more than 250 or so YA titles were being published. This all began to change in the mid-1990s. But the upshot was the almost exponential expansion of the field until, today, we routinely see some 2,500 to 3,000 YA titles published each year and new YA imprints continuing to appear like mushrooms after a spring rain."...



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

Dallas Update

The flying red horse

The [Magnolia Hotel](#) is a 29-story, Beaux-Arts style hotel in the Main Street District of downtown Dallas that for many years was the tallest building in the state of Texas. Even after taller buildings were constructed, it continued to stand out, mainly due to its "flying red horse," more accurately known as Pegasus, which stands 450 feet above street level and which, for many years, could be seen for miles. Today the horse is only visible at a distance from the south, where there are fewer new skyscrapers to block the view....
A Guide to Dallas History, Jan. 13



Neiman Marcus

The flagship Neiman Marcus has set the standard for fashion and elegance since its grand opening in 1907. The store has featured exclusive designer lines offered nowhere else in the South and helped put Dallas on the international retail map. The Zodiac is the elegant restaurant on the 7th floor. This venerable dining destination, which has been serving fine cuisine for more than 50 years, features an exquisite, classic menu selection....

Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau



Division News

Choice editors preview favorite books, websites of 2011

Honoring the best in scholarly publishing, *Choice's* annual "Outstanding Academic Titles 2011" list will appear in its January 2012 issue, featuring 629 titles

astronomical equipment.

This *AL Direct* feature showcases 250 libraries around the world that are notable for their exquisite architecture, historic collections, and innovative services. If you find yourself on vacation near one of them, be sure to stop by for a visit. The entire list will be available in [The Whole Library Handbook 5](#), edited by George M. Eberhart, which is scheduled for publication in 2013 by ALA Editions.



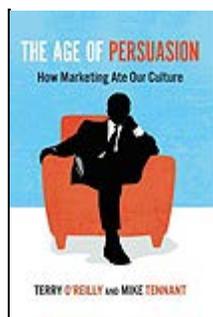
Career Leads
from
JobLIST

Librarian III - Wine Librarian.

Sonoma County Library, Healdsburg, California. Under general direction, manages the Wine Library, a special collection of resources about the wine industry, for 60% of the time; serves as adult reference librarian 40% of the time. The position supervises a contract employee and serves as the person in charge in the absence of the Branch Manager. Reports to the Healdsburg Branch

spanning 54 disciplines. The list comprises less than 9% of the titles reviewed by *Choice* during 2011 and 2.5% of those submitted during the same time span. It may be viewed online at [Choice Reviews Online](#) (nonsubscribers can register for a free trial to access this feature)....

ACRL, Dec. 13



[New Preservation Week Facebook page](#)

Preservation Week, the annual celebration of the role of libraries in preserving our personal cultural heritage, found a new look with the launch of a [Facebook page](#).

Visit the page and follow all the activities for the 2012 Preservation Week, April 22–28....

ALCTS, Dec. 12



[Building digital media labs in public libraries](#)

PLA will host a live hourlong webinar January 25 called "[Creating a Digital Media Lab at Your Library](#)," as part of its Public Libraries at Work monthly webinar series. Digital media labs for teens and adults offer a range of hardware and software tools for video, audio, and graphic design. During the [webinar](#), presenters Toby Greenwalt and Mick Jacobsen from Skokie (Ill.) Public Library will share how to sell the concept of a digital media lab to library administration, set up and staff a space that fits any budget, and offer programs and services that bring the public in....

PLA, Dec. 13

[Eat, drink, and network with reference colleagues](#)

Kick off the 2012 ALA Midwinter Meeting with RUSA's Membership Social—an opportunity to eat, drink, network, win door prizes, and learn more about RUSA. The social, which will be held 6–8 p.m. January 21, is open to all current RUSA members, friends of RUSA, and those meeting attendees interested in learning more about the association and networking with peers....

RUSA, Dec. 13



[Upcoming AASL online courses](#)

AASL is launching three winter [courses](#) for its AASL e-Academy starting in January 2012. Designed to isolate and strengthen problem areas, the four-week courses will assist school librarians in developing the skills and techniques needed to bring their programs into the 21st century. Led by experts in the field, the courses will arm attendees with the tools and resources necessary to get results in their programs. Detailed descriptions of each course and [registration](#) information are available on the AASL e-Academy pages....

AASL, Dec. 13

[Timely topics from ALCTS interest groups](#)

A wide array of timely and informative topics awaits Midwinter

Manager....



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twitter

@ [More jobs...](#)

Digital Library of the Week



The Theodore Roosevelt Center unveiled the [Theodore Roosevelt Digital Collection](#) December 8. Unlike modern presidents, Theodore Roosevelt does not have a presidential library. Instead, his personal and presidential papers are scattered in libraries and other sites across the United States. The mission of the TR Center, based at Dickinson State University in North Dakota, has been to gather and digitize copies of all Roosevelt-related items to make his legacy more readily accessible to scholars and schoolchildren,

Meeting attendees from ALCTS interest groups. From library exhibits to the future of MARC to the "big deal," these presentations will enlighten and stimulate discussion. Here is a sampling. Check the Midwinter event scheduler for more interest group topics by searching ALCTS....

ALCTS, Dec. 12

[It's Teen Tech Week and I work in a school: Now what?](#)

For many school librarians, celebrating Teen Tech Week (March 4–10) can present some steep challenges. Not every librarian teaches classes, or has a designated time with their students to demonstrate and create, leaving tech programming a little up in the air. Many may not even see the point in celebrating. Here are some easy ways to integrate technology into your library for the week without disrupting classes or running yourself ragged....

YALSA Blog, Dec. 12

[Go back to the Top](#)

Awards & Grants

[I Love My Librarian Award winners](#)

Ten librarians were recognized December 8 for service to their communities, schools, and campuses as winners of the Carnegie Corporation of New York/*New York Times* I Love My Librarian Award. More than 1,700 library patrons nationwide nominated a librarian. Each received a \$5,000 cash award and was honored at a ceremony and reception in New York, hosted by the *New York Times*, on December 8. [Caroline Kennedy](#) (above), in the keynote speech, saluted librarians for their courage, dedication, and vision. Her [remarks appear in full](#) on the At Your Library website....



ALA Public Information Office, Dec. 9, 13; At Your Library

[2012 YA Nonfiction finalists](#)

YALSA has selected [five books as finalists](#) for the 2012 YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults, which honors the best nonfiction books for young adults written between November 2010 and October 2011. The division will name the winner at the Youth Media Awards on January 23 at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Dallas....

YALSA, Dec. 7

[William C. Morris Award finalists](#)

YALSA has selected [five books as finalists](#) for the 2012 William C. Morris Award, which honors a book written for young adults by a previously unpublished author. The division will name the winner at the Youth Media Awards on January 23 at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Dallas....

YALSA, Dec. 8

[Foundation honored with Major Benefactor Award](#)

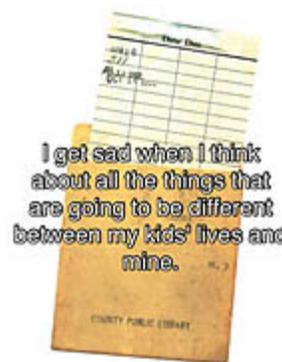
ALTAFF, in conjunction with the New Jersey State Library, honored the Public Service Enterprise Group Foundation with a Major Benefactor Award for its outstanding contribution of \$812,500 to the

enthusiasts and interested citizens. Items in the digital library include correspondence to and from Roosevelt, diary entries, notes, political cartoons, scrapbooks, newspaper columns, and magazine articles by and about Roosevelt, speeches, and photographs. Users can also view film clips and listen to audio recordings.

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



—[PostSecret](#), an ongoing community art project where people mail in their secrets anonymously on one side of a homemade postcard, Dec. 10.

@ [More quotes...](#)

Live Homework Help New Jersey program, an online, real-time tutoring service for students of all ages that supported more than 67,000 children and teens in their academic endeavors. The gift is the largest amount of money received by the New Jersey State Library (outside of Gates Foundation grants)....

ALTAFF, Dec. 13

[ALTAFF award applications due soon](#)

ALTAFF is accepting [applications](#) for the ALA Trustee Citation and the ALTAFF/Gale Outstanding Trustee Grant. Applications for both awards are due December 30. The ALA Trustee Citation symbolizes and honors the best contributions and efforts of the estimated 60,000 American citizens who serve on library boards. The ALTAFF/Gale Outstanding Trustee Conference Grant enables a public library trustee to attend the ALA Annual Conference....

ALTAFF, Dec. 13

[Five librarians awarded scholarships to Midwinter](#)

In cosponsorship with ALA, EBSCO awarded five librarians \$1,500 scholarships to attend the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Dallas, January 20–24. As part of the application process, librarians were asked to write an essay on the topic: "If you could change anything about your current workplace or job responsibilities, how would you position them to meet future needs?" The winners outlined creative approaches for change unique to their libraries....

Office of ALA Governance, Dec. 13

[Librarian wins National Punctuation Day contest](#)

Ann Heinrichs (right), a part-time staffer at the Poetry Foundation library in Chicago, was one of 10 winners of the [National Punctuation Day](#) annual paragraph contest, in which competitors were tasked with writing one three-sentence paragraph that included 13 separate punctuation marks. She also happens to be the author of a 2010 book on punctuation published by Child's World....

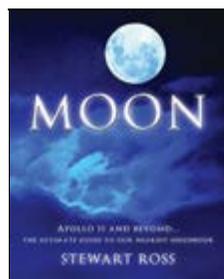
Chicago Reader: Bleader, Dec. 7



[2011 ALCS Award for Educational Writers](#)

Stewart Ross was named the winner of the 2011 Award for Educational Writers for his fact-filled *Moon: Apollo 11 and Beyond* (Oxford University, 2009). The £2,000 (\$3,117 US) award, sponsored by the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society and the Society of Authors, showcases an outstanding example of traditionally published nonfiction that enhances teaching and learning....

Society of Authors, Dec. 6



Seen Online

[Director shakeup at Oregon State Library](#)

Faced with the abrupt resignation of the incoming state librarian, the Oregon State Library board of trustees reopened the search on December 9. The action came on the heels of the December 6 resignation of Robert Hulshof-Schmidt (right), a state library division

ENJOY OUR LATEST CONTENT

[Caroline Kennedy to Librarians: "Your work is truly life changing."](#)



[Counterfeit Goods: Fabulous Fakes or Sinister Stuff? by Wanda Urbanska](#)

[New Photography 2011 at MOMA](#)

[Win a Copy of Brian Selznick's 'The Invention of Hugo Cabret'](#)

[Anger Management: Great Sports Tirades Remembered](#)

[Momentum: A National Juried Exhibit for Emerging Artists with Disabilities](#)

[Library of Congress Preserving Our Social Media Legacy](#)

[J.A. Jance: 'Libraries are places to find respite.'](#)



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Calendar

Jan. 21–22:
[Association of Research Libraries, Leadership Symposium](#), Aloft Hotel, Dallas.



manager unanimously selected by the board in October to succeed long-time state librarian Jim Schepcke, who is retiring at the end of the year. Officials are not revealing why Hulshof-Schmidt resigned....

Salem (Oreg.) Statesman Journal, Dec. 10

[Osceola County votes to privatize libraries](#)

Commissioners in Osceola County, Florida, decided December 12 to turn over management of libraries to a private company to save money. The 3–2 vote to have Maryland-based Library Systems and Services run the six branches starting the first week of January makes Osceola the first county in central Florida to outsource its libraries. The county will pay the company \$4.71 million during the first year of a five-year contract, which commissioners said would not result in reductions in operating hours or services....

Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel, Dec. 12

[Private libraries on the rise in California](#)

California is facing a \$13 billion budget shortfall over the next year and a half, and it's safe to say that the pain will be felt across public services. In some parts of the Bay Area, incoming tax dollars won't be enough to buy even books for libraries.

What's to be done when the economy makes books unaffordable, but public libraries can't fill their shelves? KALW's Holly J. McDede found a fairly simple answer: Start your own library....

KALW-FM, San Francisco, Dec. 7



[Libraries make room for high-tech "hackerspaces"](#)

As information becomes more digital, public libraries are striving to redefine their roles. A small number are working to create "hackerspaces," where do-it-yourselfers share sophisticated tools and their expertise. The Allen County Public Library, which serves the city of Fort Wayne, Indiana, has a modest hackerspace inside a 50-foot trailer in its parking lot. Library director Jeff Krull says hosting it is consistent with the library's mission....

NPR: Weekend Edition, Dec. 10

[YouTube creates separate site for schools](#)

With many schools blocking access to YouTube as a way to protect students from content that is inappropriate—or worse—the online video site opened a new network December 12 that allows access only to content that can be used in the classroom. By signing up, schools automatically disable certain features, including the ability to make comments on posted videos, and other distractions to student learning, YouTube [announced](#). Watch the [video](#) (1:26)....

New York Times: SchoolBook, Dec. 12; YouTube Blog, Dec. 11; YouTube, Dec. 6



[LC plays back 1880s Alexander Graham Bell](#)

Jan. 23–27:
[Promise Winter School](#), Zinal, Switzerland.

"Information Retrieval Meets Information Visualization."

Jan. 24–25:
[Software Information Industry Summit](#), Pier Sixty, New York City.

**Jan. 24–
Feb. 6:**
[Cairo International Book Fair](#), Egypt.

Jan. 25–28:
[Special Libraries Association](#), Leadership Summit, InterContinental Buckhead Hotel, Atlanta. "Future Now: Operation Agility."

Jan. 28–30:
[Association for Computing Machinery Special Interest Group on Health Informatics](#), International Health Informatics Symposium, Miami Beach Resort and Spa.

Feb. 1–2:
[Handheld Librarian](#), Online Conference. "Mobile Solutions for Libraries that Work."

Feb. 11–15:
[Association for Computing Machinery Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work](#), Bellevue, Washington.

[recordings](#)

The Library of Congress partnered with the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory to offer the first listen December 13 of some early sound-recording experiments by inventor Alexander Graham Bell. A speaker from the 1880s recites a portion of Hamlet's Soliloquy as a green wax disc crackled to life from computer speakers. A \$600,000 three-year grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences funded the pilot project....

Associated Press, Dec. 14

[Former librarian leaves Lincoln Library \\$340K](#)

A \$340,000 bequest from a former librarian will help the Lincoln Library in Springfield, Illinois, expand its collection of electronic and print reference materials. Lucille Fritz, who died in the Chicago area in March, named the library's foundation as a beneficiary of her estate. Fritz worked at the library from 1937 until 1980, when she retired as head of reference....

Springfield (Ill.) State Journal-Register, Dec. 6

[Library janitor finds silver coin cache](#)

Janitor Tanja Höls had often passed by an unassuming wooden box stowed away in an archive in the historic state library in the southern German city of Passau, but it wasn't until late November that curiosity got the best of her and she decided take a look inside. What she found were dozens of coins, most of them made of silver and dating back from the years between the Roman Empire and Napoleon's rule. The library believes the collection of 172 well-preserved coins likely belonged to Passau's prince-bishops....

Der Spiegel, Dec. 7



[Annual library baking blitz in Fargo](#)

For the 19th year, Liz Mason of Fort Collins, Colorado, teamed up with her friend Lori West of Fargo, North Dakota, to bake Christmas cookies. More than a thousand cookies, in fact. The tasty tradition started innocently enough when the Fargo Public Library coworkers decided to spend a day off doing some Christmas baking in West's tiny downtown apartment. They had so much fun that they took turns hosting, even when Mason moved to Colorado in 2003....

Fargo (N.Dak.) Forum, Dec. 11

[Huntington Library assesses wind damage](#)

A ferocious November 30 windstorm battered trees on the grounds of the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California. The gardens suffered hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of damage that will take time to repair. In all, it may have to remove as many as 100 damaged trees. Large areas were closed to visitors pending [safety assessments](#) for weak and broken limbs....

Associated Press, Dec. 9; Huntington Library, Dec. 9



[Jury convicts Sacramento library official in kickback case](#)

A Sacramento (Calif.) Superior Court jury has convicted former Sacramento Public Library Facilities Director Dennis Nilsson of 16

Feb. 23–26:

[Alaska Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Westmark Fairbanks Hotel and Conference Center. "Alaska's Libraries: Heart of the Community."

Mar. 3–4:

[Society of American Archivists, Indiana University Chapter](#),

Conference for Students and Beginning Professionals, Bloomington. "Back to the Future: Reconciling the Past, Present, and Future in Archives and Special Collections."

Mar. 11–13:

[Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition](#),

Open Access Meeting, Kansas City Intercontinental Hotel, Missouri. "Back to the Future: Reconciling the Past, Present, and Future in Archives and Special Collections."

Mar. 14–15:

[Library Technology Conference](#),

Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Mar. 14–16:

[Information Fluency Conference](#),

University of Central Florida, Orlando. "Information Fluency and the Digital Divides."

Mar. 16:

[North Carolina Serials Conference](#),

William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education, Chapel Hill.

counts of grand theft, conflict of interest, bribery, and embezzlement. According to prosecutors, Nilsson was at the center of the scheme in which an estimated 1,400 billing orders had been fraudulently inflated. Contractors billed a cumulative total of around \$560,000 on projects completed in 2004–2007 for which Nilsson charged the library \$1.3 million....

Sacramento (Calif.) Bee, Dec. 10

[Ex-Saugus library worker indicted](#)

A former Saugus (Mass.) Public Library worker was indicted by a federal grand jury December 7 on charges of siphoning \$800,000, money she allegedly used to cover bills, pay for work on her home, and splurge on jewelry, flowers, and hotel stays. Former Administrative Assistant Linda E. Duffy was indicted on four counts of mail fraud, 10 counts of money laundering, and one count of aggravated identity theft....

Boston Globe, Dec. 8

[Librarian helps identify Pearl Harbor female firefighter photo](#)

Bill Dedman writes: "In the 70 years since the attack on Pearl Harbor, a dramatic photo of female firefighters has been published many times in magazines, books, and online as a depiction of action on December 7, 1941. Now, with the help of our readers (one of them author and former librarian Dorothea Buckingham), we've located one of the women, who says the photo was definitely not taken on that day."...

MSNBC: Open Channel, Dec. 12



[Kinsey Institute gets Masters and Johnson archives](#)

The Kinsey Institute at Indiana University said its [library](#) has been given the [archives](#) of pioneering sex researchers William Masters and Virginia Johnson. The collection includes letters, records, correspondence, research papers, media coverage, and other materials chronicling Masters and Johnson's groundbreaking work beginning in 1957 at Washington University in St. Louis and stretching into the 1990s....

South Bend (Ind.) Tribune, Dec. 12



[Artistic bookbinder thrives at Government Printing Office](#)

Kate Tummarello writes: "Deep within the warehouse-like building that is home to the Government Printing Office lies an artist. His medium is paper; his task both poetic and prosaic. Bookbinder Peter James practices the ancient task of marbling paper, which beautifies book edges while helping to preserve the pages. In proper Dickensian or Hardyesque fashion, James began his bookbinding apprenticeship at 15, when he went to work in a loose-leaf and library bindery."...

Roll Call, Dec. 12

[London set to commemorate Charles Dickens](#)

Charles Dickens, considered by many to be the first great novelist of the modern city and the age

Mar. 22–23:
[Atlas Systems](#), ILLiad International Conference, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

June 15–16:
[2nd Milwaukee Conference on the Ethics of Information Organization](#), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

@ [More...](#)

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American Libraries Direct



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of mass culture, will be widely celebrated throughout Great Britain in 2012, the 200th anniversary of his birth. If you can't visit the Museum of London's six-month-long exhibition, then you can download [Dickens: Dark London](#), an [interactive app](#) for iPhones and iPads that the museum launched December 9 that brings Dickensian London to life....

New York Times: InTransit, Dec. 8; Reuters, Dec. 8

[New interactive maps reveal London's social history](#)

[Locating London's Past](#) is a new website that lets users delve deep into London's past, looking into such records as crime and punishment, the distribution of wealth and poverty, the ownership of consumer goods, mortality, archaeological finds, voting records, and other historically relevant material. The website is the result of a collaborative project between the University of Sheffield, the University of Hertfordshire, and the University of London....

Joint Information Systems Committee, Dec. 12



[Dublin's libraries get the last word](#)

Davin O'Dwyer writes: "For me, Dublin's long and storied relationship with the book—formally recognized in 2010 when the Irish capital was named a UNESCO City of Literature—is most clearly defined by a group of libraries dotted around the city center. It's in these remarkable buildings, with their miles of shelves and volumes and vast catalogs and air of concentration, that Dublin most shines as a mecca of the written word."...

Toronto Star, Dec. 13



[Go back to the Top](#)

Tech Talk

[Kindle Fire remedies promised](#)

The Kindle Fire, Amazon's heavily promoted tablet, is less than a blazing success with many of its early users. A few of their many complaints: There is no external volume control. The off switch is easy to hit by accident. Web pages take a long time to load. There is no privacy on the device. The touch screen is frequently hesitant and sometimes downright balky. Company spokesman Drew Herdener said an over-the-air update would roll out in late December....

New York Times, Dec. 11

[Goodbye textbooks, hello iPad](#)

David Worthington writes: "A technology shift is underway. The PC's promise to transform how learning happens in the classroom is being realized by Apple's iPad. Students and teachers



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ISSN 1559-369X



in grade school through higher education are using the iPad to augment their lessons or to replace textbooks. The iPad is especially helpful for students with special needs. Its simplified touch interface and accessibility features help these children learn more independently; aftermarket accessories assist in making the iPad more classroom-friendly.”...

PC World, Dec. 10

[Twitter, Facebook, Google+: What's with all the change?](#)

Jill Duffy writes: “I’m not going to be the hater who hates on Twitter’s new [redesign](#) (watch the [video](#), 1:49); just like I didn’t have negative things to say about the Facebook [ticker](#) that lets you ‘Facebook while you Facebook,’ or any other bizarre and new features added to social networks this year. I will continue to use the big three—Twitter, Google+, and Facebook—regardless of the constant tinkering that causes those service to get a new look or otherwise change drastically every few weeks. But I will say I am getting tired of it.”...

PC Magazine, Dec. 13



[LS2 Mobile for Android](#)

The Library Corporation’s [LS2 Mobile application](#) is now available for Android, offering millions of additional smartphone users the ability to access their local library’s catalog. LS2 Mobile allows people to connect with their public or school libraries 24 hours a day from any place with mobile or Wi-Fi internet services. It can search a library’s entire catalog and reserve titles.

Additionally, users can check their account balances and cancel holds on previously reserved titles....

AL: Solutions and Services, Dec. 14



[How to buy a photo printer](#)

M. David Stone and Tony Hoffman write: “True photo printers—in contrast to standard inkjets that manufacturers merely call photo printers—fall into two broad categories at the consumer level: dedicated and near-dedicated photo printers. As the name indicates, dedicated (also known as small-format) photo printers can print nothing but photos, and they are relatively small and portable. Near-dedicated photo printers are aimed at serious amateur photographers.”...

PC Magazine, Dec. 8

[12 tips for printing great photos](#)

M. David Stone writes: “If you’ve tried your hand at printing your own photos and been disappointed in the results, you may be making some mistakes that are easy to correct. Most inkjet and thermal dye printers today can print photos at drugstore quality or better with little or no work on your part. However, it sometimes helps to follow the 80-20 rule, although in this case it’s more of a 90-10 rule: You can get 90% of the best possible photo for 10% of the effort.”...

PC Magazine, Dec. 8

[One million apps and counting](#)

Somewhere at a computer on December 7, a developer pushed a button and the one-millionth mobile app went to market. The pace of new app development dwarfs the release of other kinds of media. "Every week about 100 movies get released worldwide, along with about 250 books," said Anindya Datta, the founder and chairman of [Mobilewalla](#), which helps users navigate the mobile app market. "That compares to the release of around 15,000 apps per week."...

New York Times, Dec. 11



E-Content

[Last week in e-content](#)

Christopher Harris writes: "Last week was a busy one for e-content, so here is your quick catch-up on three trending topics: OverDrive was bad, Kindle was jailbroken, and iBooks was fontified (I think that is the correct word for when you add fonts to a device). Rumbings continue to plague OverDrive." OverDrive has [posted a response](#) on outlining the limitations of availability of certain titles to certain libraries, as well as differing terms of use for certain publishers or titles....

AL: E-Content, Dec. 12; OverDrive Digital Library Blog, Dec. 12

[Justice Department confirms ebook pricing probe](#)

The US Justice Department confirmed on December 7 that it is investigating the pricing of ebooks, the latest antitrust watchdog to probe whether there was improper collusion by Apple and publishers to prevent discounting. Some media have been reporting that the Justice Department has been investigating the matter since last year. State attorneys general in Texas and Connecticut also are investigating the matter....

Wall Street Journal, Dec. 8

[How to pick an e-reader this holiday season](#)

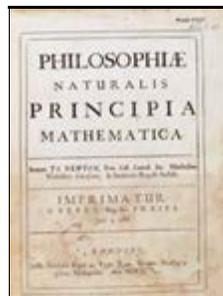
Mario Armstrong writes: "If you plan to give someone you love a great tech gift this holiday season, you can't go wrong with an e-reader. Yes, they have been around for awhile, but the technology has changed along with the selection. The great news is that e-readers are still relatively inexpensive, and they're bound to get a ton of use. The choices this holiday season can be overwhelming, but that's why we're here to help you pick the perfect e-reader."...

Mashable, Dec. 13



[Digitized Isaac Newton goes online](#)

The UK's Cambridge University Library has put 4,000 pages of Sir Isaac Newton's scientific papers online and plans to upload thousands more over the next few months until almost all of its Newton collection is available to view and download for free to the public. Among the items being made available online are Newton's annotated copy of *Principia Mathematica* (right) and his "waste book"—a large notebook he inherited from his stepfather and filled with notes and calculations when he was forced to leave his studies in Cambridge during the Great Plague in 1665....



Cambridge University Library, Dec. 12

[The bloom is off the digital rose](#)

Michael Poston writes: "Online collections just aren't as sexy as they once were. Increasingly ubiquitous plans to put digital images online excite an increasingly smaller crowd. Instead it is fashionable to point out the shortcomings of digitization, the bits that get lost in translation, the bytes that are left behind. At the DigiPal conference September 5, Elaine Treharne offered this bit of advice for project managers: Stop! Stop all digitization efforts for a year or more, and carefully reassess what you are digitizing, for what use, for which audience."...

The Collation, Dec. 5

[Wisconsin libraries join ebook buying pool](#)

Wisconsin's public libraries plan to participate in a statewide ebook buying pool to purchase \$1 million in new content in 2012 for a Digital Download Center sponsored by the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium. The purchase will dramatically expand the center's offerings—including ebooks, audiobooks, videos, and music—to all Wisconsin residents....

Appleton (Wis.) Post Crescent, Dec. 8

[Crayola to create coloring ebooks](#)

Crayola is partnering with interactive storybook app publisher Ruckus Media on a series of ebooks and apps for iOS and Android. The first three titles in the Crayola series are *Color-Me Early Concepts: Caterpillar's Colors*, *Color-Me Adventures: Find That Dragon*, and *Color-Me Stories: Picture Day*. They will be available on iTunes in January, with Android releases later in the year. Crayola partnered on iPad apps and a digital stylus earlier this year, but this is the company's first entry into ebooks....

PaidContent, Dec. 13

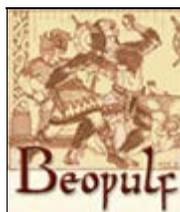


[How to format poetry on your smartphone](#)

Here is how you can format poetry in XHTML format so that it looks nice on smartphone screens where many or even all of the lines do not fit the screen width. In other words, the concern is how to break poetry lines nicely.

The examples used in this tutorial are from Shakespeare, Horace, and, for a more specific formatting convention, *Beowulf*....

epubBooks, Dec. 12



[Amy Tan says writing for digital medium is "liberating"](#)

Dianna Dilworth writes: "Author Amy Tan published her first e-xclusive story this week as part of digital imprint publisher Byliner.com's new fiction series. The author [talked](#) to the *Sacramento Bee* about writing the short story 'Rules for Virgins' for the digital medium. She said: 'This is the first story I've directly written for e-publication, and I found the form liberating because there was no word-length limitation. I likely will do more.'"...

eBookNewser, Dec. 13; *Sacramento (Calif.) Bee*, Dec. 12

[Go back to the Top](#)

Books & Reading

[Save scholarly ideas, not the publishing industry](#)

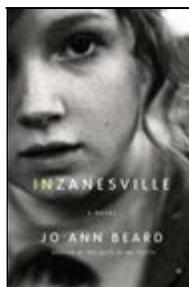
danah boyd writes: "The scholarly publishing industry used to be about making sure that knowledge was shared as broadly as possible to those who would find it valuable. These days, the industry operates as a gatekeeper, driven more by profits than by the desire to share information. It stopped innovating and started resting on its laurels. And the worst part about it? Scholars have bent over and let that industry continuously violate them and the university libraries that support them."...

Social Media Collective, Dec. 11

[7 books with personality: Nancy Pearl's 2011 picks](#)

Nancy Pearl writes: "Although all works of fiction and narrative nonfiction have characters—be they animals, hobbits, dragons, humans, werewolves, or whatever—I've found that there are some books in which these characters are three-dimensional and awfully interesting. (Whether or not they're likable is another question.) I'm always on the lookout for this kind of book, but they're not always easy to find. Here are six novels and a work of history that have marvelously evoked characters."...

NPR: *Morning Edition*, Dec. 13



[The Vogue Archive launches](#) (PDF file)

Condé Nast Publications launched the full-color [Vogue Archive](#) December 8, a database that includes all pages of every issue of the magazine from 1892 to the present, including covers and advertisements. Available to libraries through [ProQuest](#), the archive should prove a valuable resource for students of fashion and the visual arts and for researchers in cultural and gender studies. New issues will be added each month and users can search full text, captions, titles, ads, covers, and fold-outs....

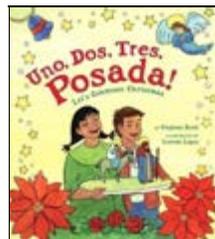
WGSN, Dec. 8; ProQuest



[Celebrating Las Posadas](#)

Jeanette Larson writes: "When we talk about winter holiday celebrations we usually think about Christmas and Hanukkah and maybe Kwanzaa. Often library programs and storytimes center around one or more of these festivities. Libraries that support El día de los niños/El día de los libros may want to add another celebration that is becoming popular in school and public libraries: Las Posadas (December 16–24), celebrated throughout Latin America and in the Philippines, reenacts Joseph and Mary's journey to Bethlehem and their search for shelter."...

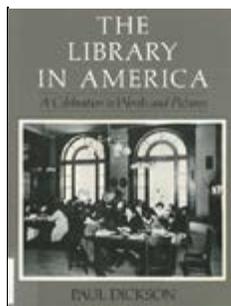
ALSC Blog, Dec. 14



[My 10 favorite library history books](#)

Larry Nix writes: "Over the years I've put together a basic collection of books on library history. I've identified 10 of my favorites from this collection. Please note that I'm not saying these books are necessarily the best library history books—just my favorites. Unfortunately, several are out of print.

The Library in America: A Celebration in Words and



Pictures by Paul Dickson (Facts On File, 1986) is a great introduction to American library history for the nonscholar.”...

Library History Buff Blog, Dec. 8

[Arizona State’s Israeli pulp fiction collection](#)

Bright, lively illustrations splash across the covers of small, aged booklets that comprise the IsraPulp collection at Arizona State University’s Hayden Library. The collection is the sole compilation of Israeli pulp fiction in the United States and contains a wide variety of works. Many of these booklets, known as chapbooks and about the size of a DVD case, are several decades old and representative of popular magazine-style publications....

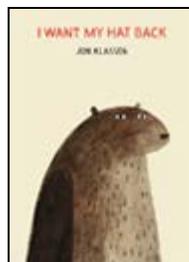
ASU News, Dec. 9



[15 children’s books that make great gifts](#)

Jane Henderson writes: “For this year’s roundup of top children’s books, I asked three experts for advice: St. Louis Public Library Director of Youth Services Patty Carleton (who serves on the ALSC Notable Books Committee), book blogger Melissa Posten, and bookseller Vicki Erwin. Here are 15 of their top picks, presented alphabetically by title.”...

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Dec. 10



[10 satirical novels that could teach you to survive the future](#)

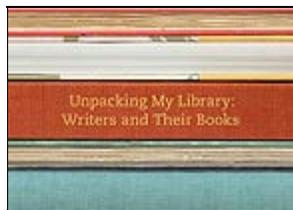
Charlie Jane Anders writes: “There’s only one thing we know for sure about the future: It’ll be weird, and you can’t really prepare for it. Just imagine trying to tell someone in 2000 how to prepare for life in 2011. But luckily, there’s one sure-fire way to brace yourself for another round of future shock: by reading a slew of great satires about people trapped in weird and incomprehensible worlds.” Here are 10 possibilities....

io9, Dec. 13



[Writers and their home libraries](#)

Taking her cue from Walter Benjamin’s famous essay about book collecting (and arranging), Harvard English professor Leah Price has assembled a book-length tour of writers’ libraries. Thirteen writers opened their homes and libraries to Price for *Unpacking My Library: Writers and Their Books*.



The list of writers includes Alison Bechdel, Stephen Carter, Junot Díaz, Claire Messud (and her partner, James Wood), among others. The best thing about this book is the way it lingers, at length, over each author’s actual bookshelves, with results that fall midway between autobiography and intellectual EKG....

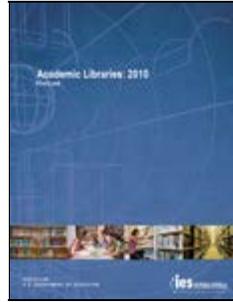
Very Short List, Dec. 13

Actions & Answers

[2010 NCES academic library statistics](#)

[Academic Libraries: 2010 First Look](#), compiled by the National Center for Education Statistics, summarizes services, staff, collections, and expenditures of academic libraries in two- and four-year degree-granting, postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Steve Kolowich [writes](#): "Some campus libraries might be under pressure to cut costs, but as of 2010 academic libraries were spending more money than they were before the financial downturn that started in 2008."...

INFOdocket, Dec. 13; National Center for Education Statistics, Dec. 13; Inside Higher Ed, Dec. 14



[Building the Harvard Library](#)

Katie Koch writes: "In December 2010, Harvard University announced plans to better align its library's structure with the university's evolving academic priorities. The Harvard Library's leadership team, however, has only recently taken shape. Led by Helen Shenton and Mary Lee Kennedy, the group has an ambitious aim: to take a diverse network of libraries that have grown organically over the course of 375 years and bring them together under a single mission and structure."...

Harvard Gazette, Dec. 8

[Wikipedia ponders blackout to oppose SOPA](#)

Jolie O'Dell writes: "Wikipedia might see a blackout to protest the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA), which goes before the US House Judiciary Committee on December 15. Wikimedia chief Jimmy Wales (right) started a [poll](#) to determine whether Wikipedia's vast community thought SOPA was worth protesting. A similar protest conducted on the Italian Wikipedia site had a profound impact and asked users to weigh in on a blackout for the English-language version. So far, 87% of Wikipedians support a blackout."...

VentureBeat, Dec. 13



[Making pre-1978 Copyright Office records accessible](#)

Mike Burke writes: "From 1870 to 1977 there were 16.4 million works registered in the Copyright Office. During that same time, the assignment or transfer of rights was recorded for more than 1.7 million works. So how do you determine if a particular work is still under copyright and who the owner is? The answers are in the paper and microfilm records in the Copyright Office. The goal of the copyright digitization and public access project is to convert these records and to make them widely available online."...

Copyright Matters: Digitization and Public Access, Dec. 8

[Why don't librarians collaborate more?](#)

Steve Matthews writes: "After reading a lot of literature on libraries in this 21st century, it finally struck me that one area in which I



have read virtually nothing is collaboration among librarians. Having consulted with numerous libraries, I find more that do not share ideas and information than do. Naturally, that led me to investigate, and guess what I found—virtually nothing.”...

21st Century Library Blog, Dec. 14

[Ryan Gosling sure loves librarians](#)

Kathleen Massara writes: “We just came across the Tumblr blog [Hey girl. I like the library too.](#) and the earnest text accompanying a series of photos of heartthrob actor Ryan Gosling are making us cry tears of joy. Tears, we say! A December 5 entry reads, ‘Hey girl. You know how sometimes you would rather read books than be around actual people? I feel the same way sometimes. Never about you, though, girl.’ Librarians, is this what you dream of during your downtime? We suspect so.”...

Melville House Books, Dec. 8



[Library science without the library](#)

Jane Greenstein writes: “Library schools keep churning out graduates, but it’s the private sector that is laying out the welcome mat to MLIS graduates. Library schools should become more aggressive about preparing students for positions outside the library. Why? Studies point to the fact that library jobs are being cut due to a perfect storm of decreased funding and technological advancement. And it’s safe to say that library students are beginning to branch out—by force or by choice.”...

Library Journal: Backtalk, Dec. 9

[How to turn your library into an ideas factory](#)

Hugh Rundle writes: “Throughout history libraries have been highly effective as idea storehouses. Universities and schools have been highly effective as idea communicators. But, particularly at a time when many are questioning the relevance of libraries, might we develop them further as idea factories? These are the essential ingredients of an idea-generating environment: liquid networks, slow hunches, serendipity, error, exaptation and recycling, and platforms. Let’s explore what these mean in practice.”...

It’s Not About the Books, Dec. 13



[Library lockdown at Virginia Tech](#)

Brian Mathews writes: “December 8 was a wild, scary, sad day at Virginia Tech. The campus buildings went on lockdown shortly after a police officer was shot. Our staff responded efficiently and professionally, securing the library building. There were (falsely) reported shots and suspect sightings in various places around campus. This resulted in a lot of action just outside the library. Several of our neighboring buildings had to be searched and/or evacuated. I saw numerous officers in combat gear with assault rifles—that was a wake-up call.”...

The Ubiquitous Librarian, Dec. 9

[UNC library rules, 1799](#)

Jennie Rose Halperin writes: “Ever wonder what library rules were like in 1799, soon



after the founding of the University of North Carolina library? In this gem of an entry from the General Faculty and Faculty Council Records, the Board of Trustees write the rules for the library. Notice that some things never change—reference books remain in the library for the most part, call slips go out with books, and fees are paid for 'defaced' books."...

For the Record, Dec. 13

[Old-school search engines: Where are they now?](#)

James Weinheimer writes: "I read an [article](#) in WebProNews where the author discusses the old search engines (all launched in 1995–1996), and it gave me a chance to reflect on some of the historical developments I have seen and studied. The article doesn't discuss pre-web search engines that were at least semipopular. I am thinking of the old gopher networks. I find it interesting that parts of Gopher still function and that there seems to be a [small community](#) trying to keep it going."...

First Thus, Dec. 11; WebProNews, Nov. 16

[Interview red flags](#)

Joe Hardenbrook writes: "Much has been written on the topic of interview red flags, but it's mostly from the employer perspective: what to watch out for when interviewing candidates. But what about the view from the interviewee? Here are few red flags—along with a couple anecdotes—that should make you run and scream from a library interview."...

Letters to a Young Librarian, Dec. 12

[Assessing kindergarten readiness](#)

On December 12, the National Association for the Education of Young Children released a report to help states and other stakeholders with a growing trend in early childhood education: statewide kindergarten readiness assessments. [Developing Kindergarten Readiness and Other Large-Scale Assessment Systems](#) presents a framework for developing and implementing large-scale kindergarten readiness assessments....



National Association for the Education of Young Children, Dec. 12

[Engage young artists with a bookmark contest](#)

Susan Baier writes: "Looking for a fun school outreach opportunity that promotes your library while allowing students to express their creativity? Try a bookmark contest. My former employer, the County of Los Angeles Public Library, has held a highly successful [bookmark contest](#) for many years. I decided to replicate it at the Santa Clara (Calif.) City Library for the first time this year."...

ALSC Blog, Dec. 13

[Explore the Japanese tsunami through Google Street View](#)

Kei Kawai writes: "In July, we announced an initiative to digitally archive the areas of northeastern Japan affected by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. Now we are making good on that promise.



After driving more than 44,000 kilometers through the affected regions, 360-degree panoramic imagery of those areas is now available through the Street View feature in Google Maps. The images can also be viewed via a special website called [Memories for the Future](#), where you can view before-and-after shots of the towns changed by these events.”...

Google Lat Long Blog, Dec. 12

[50 Open Access resources for librarians](#)

Ellyssa Kroski writes: “As part of my Intro to Reference course I try to introduce Open Access resources and directories to my students. Since many of them have found these resources useful, I thought I’d share them here.” Don’t miss [Part 2](#)....

iLibrarian, Dec. 9, 11



[Furious at Facebook again](#)

Elizabeth Weingarten writes: “On December 9, a colleague sent an email around about the messages [Facebook hides](#) in an obscure folder labeled ‘Other.’ Haven’t heard of it? Click the Messages tab on the left side of your Facebook screen. ‘Other’ will then appear beneath it. Click on Other and you will unearth months of messages you probably missed.” Slate readers soon discovered they had [missed messages](#) from friends, employers, and others....

Slate, Dec. 9, 12; Erika Napoletano Is Redhead Writing, Dec. 7



[LC to receive entire Twitter archive](#)

The Library of Congress and Twitter have signed an agreement that will see an archive of every public Tweet ever sent handed over to the library’s repository of historical documents. The Library of Congress has long been the repository of historical documents and the Twitter library, as a whole, is something historic in itself. Researchers will be able to look at the Twitter archive as a complete set of data, which they could then data-mine for interesting information....

Federal News Radio, Dec. 7

[New stamp commemorates Spain’s national library](#)

On November 4, Correos, the national postal service of Spain, issued an 0.80€ stamp that celebrates the 300th anniversary of the National Library of Spain in Madrid. The library was founded by the first king of the Bourbon dynasty, Philip V, in late 1711 and opened in 1712 as the royal library. The library is [hosting](#) conferences, exhibitions, concerts, and performances throughout its tricentennial year. The festivities continue through 2012....

Correos, Nov. 4; Biblioteca Nacional de España



[Bookwheels keep on turning](#)

Italian engineer Agostino Ramelli (1531–1600) designed an intriguing answer to the problem of a 16th-century researcher’s cluttered desk space—the bookwheel. Based on the design of a waterwheel, the bookwheel would hold more than a dozen separate titles, all sitting open at the same angle. Using either hand or foot controls, the reader could easily sort through the books he collected at



ease without the fear of losing track of his place.
Published in Ramelli's 1588 book, *Le diverse et artificiose machine del capitano Agostino Ramelli*, the design and idea spread around the world....

There, I Fixed It, Dec. 8

[UNESCO endorses IFLA digital library manifesto](#)

UNESCO has endorsed the *IFLA Manifesto for Digital Libraries* ([PDF file](#)) at its General Conference 2011. The manifesto provides principles to assist libraries in undertaking sustainable and interoperable digitization activities to bridge the digital divide—a key factor in achieving the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations. The document was approved by the IFLA governing board in 2010....

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, Dec. 13

[Archives conservation in Haiti](#)

Nora Lockshin writes: "In 2011, I traveled to Haiti, as have other conservation experts, to assist with the Smithsonian's [Haiti Cultural Recovery](#) project, which is working to rescue, recover, safeguard, and restore Haitian artwork, artifacts, documents, media, and architectural features damaged and endangered by the 2010 earthquake. My primary work focused on the preservation of 19th-century historic collections of the Archives Nationales d'Haïti."...

The Bigger Picture, Dec. 13



[Voices from the days of slavery](#)

Karenna Gore Schiff writes: "It seems impossible that voices from the mid-19th century could survive into the age of audio recording, yet a small number have. The perspective on the Civil War that might seem most elusive is in fact the most tangible: that of enslaved children. Thanks to the Work Progress Administration's Federal Writers' Project, and the careful stewardship of the Library of Congress, [voices of onetime slaves](#) who lived well into the 1930s are now just a few clicks away."...

New York Times: Opinionator, Dec. 6



[Bus-stop books in Israel](#)

Israeli artists have developed a new model for the urban library: a free bus-stop library for commuters and travelers. Daniel Shoshan, an installation artist and lecturer at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, along with Technion graduate Amit Matalon, started this new library concept, figuring that people sometimes have long wait times for buses. The duo built a series of bookshelves at bus stops throughout Israel. The idea is that anyone may take a book from the shelf, read it at the station or take it on



the bus, and return it when done....

Israel 21c Innovation News Service, Dec. 1

[Effective video promo for the Reagan Presidential Library](#)

Beth Dempsey writes: "This [video](#) (10:04) is an amazing way to promote a special library. Tour host, actor Gary Sinise, makes the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum sound so fascinating that even a Democrat would want to visit. Also notice 'the ask' right up front—he makes it clear that the library wants donations and tells viewers how to make them. Smart."...



The 'M' Word—Marketing Libraries, Dec. 13

[CRD partners with PubMed Health](#)

The Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) produces and maintains a database of more than 11,000 abstracts for health professionals and policy-makers that looks at the overall validity and reliability of each review. With the new partnership, CRD will provide its database content to PubMed Health, a new online service provided by the National Center for Biotechnology Information at the US National Library of Medicine—the world's largest medical library....

The University of York, Dec. 9

[Scented library candles](#)

Candle-makers Paddywax offers a line of literary candles to light up the libraries of bibliophiles. Pairing quotations from seven famous authors with an appropriate scent (Edgar Allen Poe's "All that we see or seem is but a dream within a dream" is matched with cardamom, absinthe, and sandalwood), the candles and fragrances pay homage to literary greats....

Paddywax



[2011 Librarian Lump of Coal Gift Guide](#)

Travis Jonker writes: "Time is running out to get gifts for the insufferable librarian in your life. With help from Etsy, the 2011 edition of the Librarian Lump of Coal Gift Guide has your back." For the librarian who likes felt a bit too much: The felt Edward from *Twilight* doll (right)....

100 Scope Notes, Dec. 13



[Go back to the Top](#)

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The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | December 21, 2011

Contents

[American Libraries Online](#)
[ALA News](#)
[Booklist Online](#)
[Dallas Update](#)
[Division News](#)
[Awards & Grants](#)
[Seen Online](#)
[Tech Talk](#)
[E-Content](#)
[Books & Reading](#)
[Actions & Answers](#)
[New This Week](#)
[Calendar](#)

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[Neal-Schuman to join ALA Publishing](#)

ALA President Molly Raphael and Neal-Schuman President Patricia Glass Schuman announced December 20 that Neal-Schuman Publishers will sign an agreement on December 23 to become part of ALA Publishing. Neal-Schuman Publishers, founded by John Vincent Neal and Patricia Glass Schuman in 1976, will continue to offer print and electronic publications under its well-known imprint, but will join ALA Editions under the ALA Publishing umbrella....

AL: Inside Scoop, Dec. 20

Neal-Schuman
Publishers, Inc.
Essential Resources for Information Professionals

ala
editions

[Good news on the road to ESEA](#)

Beverly Goldberg writes: "School librarians have regained a bit of ground at the federal level as the push continues to get school libraries restored to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, due for reauthorization. The foothold comes in the congressional appropriation of \$28.6 million for [literacy programs](#) in the \$916 billion budget for FY2012, and, reading between the lines, might be attributed to guilt: Lawmakers apparently realized that they had inadvertently zeroed out the primary source of federal support for school libraries in FY2011 by defunding the Improving Literacy through School Libraries program."...

AL: Inside Scoop, Dec. 21; District Dispatch, Dec. 19

[LSSI moves into Florida, eyes Simi Valley](#)

Despite the opposition of library boosters in Osceola County, Florida, to the proposed outsourcing of county library operations there, the county commission has approved a five-year contract with Library Systems and Services, Inc. (LSSI) to run the library. The 3-2 vote came after reservations were reiterated at a December 12 commission meeting about the long-term impact on the quality of library service and the fate of library workers. Also, across the country, LSSI may have moved a step closer to adding the Simi Valley (Calif.) Library to its client list of outsourced libraries....

American Libraries news, Dec. 21



At "[Reimagining the Public Library in a Post-Recession Economy.](#)"

Corinne Hill, interim director of libraries at Dallas Public Library, will discuss how DPL is rethinking its approach as it transitions out of the 2008 Great Recession. The Saturday afternoon, January 21, talk is part of the ALA Masters Series and will look at library services in a digital age.

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[Outside/In: Add to your \(library\) cart](#)

David Lee King and Michael Porter write: "Our first column begins with a look at calls to action—ways in which you can use your online presence to inspire people to engage with their library. Simply stated, a call to action is a way to ask people—directly or indirectly—to do something. Take Amazon's 'add to wish list' and 'add to cart' buttons, for instance. Turns out libraries can do something similar."...

American Libraries column, Jan./Feb.



[Internet Librarian: Readers are fundamental](#)

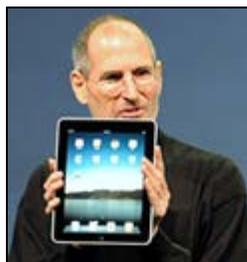
Joseph Janes writes: "Innovations have come and gone, from the 2nd-century codex to medieval word separation and silent reading, right up to today, and reading follows quite naturally and seamlessly along. Only a generation ago, audiobooks weren't always regarded as reading, per se, and even today, graphic novels raise a few eyebrows among those who don't consider the format serious reading. The ways in which stories are displayed come and go; what matters is the story and the storytelling."...

American Libraries column, Nov./Dec.

[It's \(kinda\) Steve's fault, actually](#)

Christopher Harris writes: "There was a moment in ebook history when things could have gone either way. The Amazon Kindle was flying off the shelf, the Nook was just getting started, and everyone was pretty happy about \$9.99 ebooks. And then Steve Jobs came along with iBookstore and the iPad. And really, all this mess that we are in now was kind of his fault."...

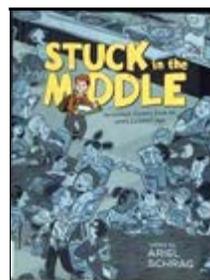
AL: E-Content, Dec. 20



[Stick with *Stuck in the Middle*](#)

A committee assigned to review a graphic story collection about the travails of life in middle school recommended that the book stay on the shelves of Buckfield (Maine) Junior-Senior High School, but that parental permission be required for students to borrow it. Parent Becky Patterson called for *Stuck in the Middle: 17 Comics from an Unpleasant Age* to be removed from the library because it contains references to sexuality and includes profanity....

AL: Censorship Watch, Dec. 19



[Guadalajara's IF buzz](#)

Barbara Jones writes: "I was honored to be an invited speaker at the three-day library conference within a conference, '[Information in the Building of Society and Citizenship](#),' held November 28–30 during the 2011 Guadalajara Book Fair in Mexico. The atmosphere reminded me of the Chicago Humanities Festival, which is similar to TED events and SXSW in Austin, Texas. Librarians and libraries become part of the general cultural buzz around books and ideas—precisely where we need to be seen and heard."...

AL: Global Reach, Dec. 20



[China impressed with ALA conference model](#)

22,000
Audiobooks

225
Publishers

1 Source

MIDWEST TAPE
LIBRARIANS' #1 MEDIA SOURCE

LITTLE PIM

NOW ONLINE!

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mango
languages

Our
graduate program
fits into
your life

Let
the
learning

Hwa Wei-Lee writes: "A delegation of 10 library leaders from China, including the directors of several provincial libraries, a library educator, and a university library director, traveled to the United States in the summer of 2011 to observe the operations of several library associations, including ALA, the Urban Libraries Council, and the Chinese American Librarians Association. The 2011 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans turned out to be the highlight of their trip."...

AL: Global Reach, Dec. 16



[UNESCO Commission ponders Palestine](#)

Barbara J. Ford writes: "On November 28, 85 members of the US National Commission for UNESCO met in Washington, D.C. There was lively discussion about a range of topics related to US funding for the organization. On October 31, the State of Palestine gained initial approval of its bid for full membership in UNESCO. This is a major concern, because full membership for Palestine would result in a legally mandated cutoff of all contributions, both dues and voluntary, from the United States."...

AL: Global Reach, Dec. 16



[Currents](#)

Rita Hamilton (right) was named city librarian at Phoenix Public Library in November. **Elizabeth Bird** is now youth materials specialist and supervising librarian at New York Public Library. **Taina Lagodzinski**, production editor for *Booklist*, left ALA November 28. **Brian Searles**, manager of advertising sales for *American Libraries*, left ALA November 11....

American Libraries column



No AL Direct next week

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

ALA News

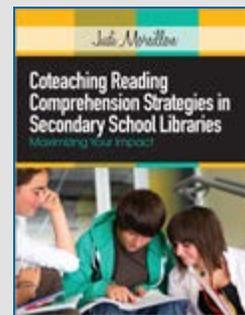
[Dorothy Broderick, 1929–2011](#)

"There's something in my library to offend everyone." So reads a favorite T-shirt of Dorothy Broderick, a legend in YA librarianship, a great defender of intellectual freedom, and an unforgettable personality. Dorothy died Saturday, December 17, at 8:45 p.m. Her work was recognized repeatedly in the library field, from the prestigious Robert B. Downs Intellectual Freedom Award in 1987 to the Grolier Award from ALA in 1991 and the Freedom to Read Foundation's Roll of Honor Award in 1998. She was a cofounder of *VOYA* with Mary K. Chelton in 1978....

YALSA Blog, Dec. 19



[ALA, ACRL comments on public access to research](#)



[Coteaching Reading Comprehension Strategies in Secondary School Libraries: Maximizing Your Impact](#) by Judi Moreillon, available in January, is a companion volume to *Collaborative Strategies for Teaching Reading Comprehension*, which covered lower grades, and completes the educational arc by focusing on adolescent readers in grades 6–12. Drawing on the most current standards from AASL as well as cutting-edge research, this straightforward book offers a comprehensive approach to increasing students' reading comprehension, with chapters covering the complete range of skills. **NEW! From ALA Editions.**

Collaborative Strategies for Teaching Reading Comprehension, which covered lower grades, and completes the educational arc by focusing on adolescent readers in grades 6–12. Drawing on the most current standards from AASL as well as cutting-edge research, this straightforward book offers a comprehensive approach to increasing students' reading comprehension, with chapters covering the complete range of skills. **NEW! From ALA Editions.**

Kara Malenfant writes: "On December 21, ALA and ACRL submitted comments ([PDF file](#)) in response to the [request for information](#) issued November 3 by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. We recommended approaches for ensuring long-term stewardship and broad public access to the peer-reviewed scholarly publications that result from federally funded scientific research. All [responses](#) are due to OSTP by January 2."...

ACRL Insider, Dec. 21

[30 public libraries to host Building Common Ground programs](#)

The ALA Public Programs Office and the Fetzer Institute selected 30 public libraries to host a series of programs as part of the "Building Common Ground: Discussions of Community, Civility, and Compassion" initiative. The [selected libraries](#) will host a series of four to eight events between February 1 and November 30 and will receive a \$2,500 grant to support program-related expenses, access to program models, access to online resource sessions, and promotional materials....

Public Programs Office, Dec. 20



[100 Days for Haiti](#)

Since the January 2010 Haiti earthquake, ALA has been committed to helping rebuild libraries on the island. Deborah Lazar, librarian at New Trier High School in Winnetka, Illinois, has pledged to match any gift to the ALA Haiti Library Relief Fund (up to a maximum of \$5,000) from now through January. You can make a [qualifying donation](#) on the ALA website now, or send your contribution to the ALA International Relations Office....

International Relations Office

[Real-life strategies for library job hunting](#)

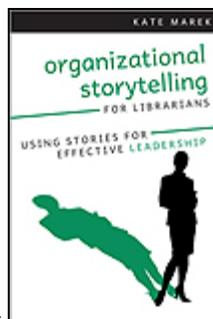
Library job hunters face distinctive challenges in today's market, calling for new approaches. These are addressed in a free January 4 webinar, "[Real-Life Strategies for Successful Library Job Hunting: A Forum.](#)" The webinar will be led by Andromeda Yelton and Tiffany Mair, 2010 library school graduates, who will use polling and questions to the audience to elicit common obstacles in library job hunting and ideas for overcoming them. [Register](#) online....

ALA Editions, Dec. 14

[New webinar: Using the power of storytelling in management](#)

Facts and figures may be the staples of organizational life, yet it is storytelling that reaches people's hearts. ALA TechSource will cosponsor the January 10 webinar "[Organizational Storytelling for Librarians: Using Stories for Leadership, Community, and Advocacy.](#)" Participants will learn the concepts of organizational storytelling taking hold in business and other sectors. Presenters are Kate Marek, professor at Dominican University's Graduate School of Library and Information Science and author of [Organizational Storytelling for Librarians](#) (ALA, 2011); and Chris Rippel, head of continuing education, Central Kansas Library System....

ALA TechSource, Dec. 20



New this week
in *American Libraries*



[Outside/In](#)

[Internet Librarian](#)

[Global Reach](#)

[E-Content](#)

[Censorship Watch](#)

[Currents](#)

[Perpetual Beta](#)

[Inside Scoop](#)

[Ask the ALA Librarian](#)

[Solutions and Services](#)

[AL Focus](#)

Great Libraries of the World



[Schussenried Abbey Library Hall](#), Bad Schussenried,

Germany. The library hall in this 12th-century Premonstratensian monastery was built in 1748 and features two levels of locked bookcases and ample ambient light. The

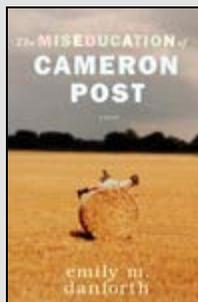
Sometimes you feel like print. Sometimes online.
Get both with the new **Booklist**.

Booklist ONLINE

Featured review: Youth fiction

Danforth, Emily M. *The Miseducation of Cameron Post*. Feb. 2012. 480p. Grades 9–12. HarperCollins/Balzer and Bray, hardcover (978-0-06-202056-7).

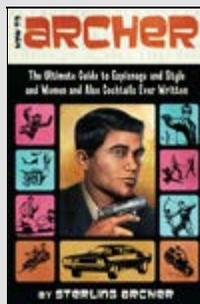
It begins with a preadolescent kiss between protagonist Cameron and her friend, Irene. The very next day Cameron's parents die in an automobile accident, and the young girl is left riddled with guilt, feeling her forbidden kiss was somehow responsible for the accident. This is an old convention of GLBT literature, but freshly handled here and given sophisticated thematic weight. As Cameron grows into her teenage years, she recognizes that she is a lesbian. After several emotional misadventures, she meets and falls in love with the beautiful Coley, who appears to be bisexual. Both girls attend the same fundamentalist church, and when Cameron's conservative Aunt Ruth discovers the affair, she remands Cameron to God's Promise, a church camp that promises to "cure" young people of their homosexuality....



Archer, the book

Ian Chipman writes: "Some things just seem perfectly designed for you to love, like there was a high-level meeting in your brain where all the things that get you geeky were focus-grouped in elegant synchronicity to come up with your ideal product. The animated TV show *Archer* is just that product for me. It's a perfect storm of cartoons, spies, scotch, mayhem, penthouses, casual violence, nostalgia for a vaguely 1960s/Cold War world I never experienced in the first place, a raunchy sensibility so lowbrow it's sublime, and jokes delivered with such perfect timing you could set the atomic clock by them."...

Likely Stories, Dec. 16



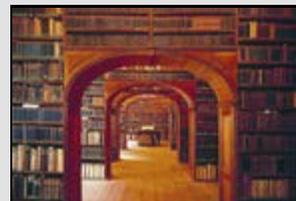
Top 10 crafts and gardening books, 2011

Brad Hooper writes: "What do we talk about when we talk about crafts and gardening? Fun, of course, and honing one's skills in either the sewing room or the garden. Both fun and skills-sharpening are topics emphasized in these special books on calligraphy, sculpture, knitting, needlecraft, and vegetable gardens, all reviewed in *Booklist* over the past year....



Booklist announces prestigious

doors of the bookcases resemble the spines of books and contain hidden wooden reading stands and seats. The ceiling fresco completed by Franz Georg Hermann in 1757 depicts the work of divine wisdom in the apocalypse, the sciences, art, and technology. After secularization, the library books were removed in 1809 and the monastery served successively as a castle, a foundry, and a lunatic asylum. Since 1998 it has been used as an exhibit hall and event center.

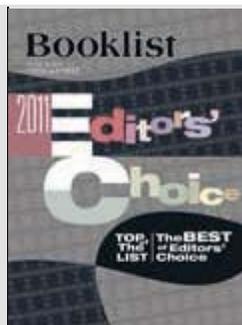


Upper Lusatian Science Library,

Görlitz, Germany. The library was created in 1951 by combining two collections, the Johann Gottlieb Milich City and High School Library founded in 1727, and the Upper Lusatian Scientific Society founded in 1779. Housed in a baroque building owned by the society since 1804, the library moved in 2010 to allow for a complete renovation of the facility, which will be used for the Saxon State Festival in 2011. Its volumes include the most extensive collection of works about the German mystic [Jakob Böhme](#).

2011 Top of the List selections

Booklist magazine has announced its Top of the List winners for 2011. The eight winning titles were chosen from the annual Editors' Choice selections as the best books and media of 2011. The Top of the List picks are featured in the special combined January 1 and 15 issue of *Booklist*, which includes the complete annotated Editors' Choice lists for adult books, adult books for young adults, books for youth, reference sources, and media. The winners are also announced on *Booklist Online* and in its free [e-newsletter](#)....



Publishing, Dec. 20

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

This *AL Direct* feature showcases 250 libraries around the world that are notable for their exquisite architecture, historic collections, and innovative services. If you find yourself on vacation near one of them, be sure to stop by for a visit. The entire list will be available in [The Whole Library Handbook 5](#), edited by George M. Eberhart, which is scheduled for publication in 2013 by ALA Editions.

Dallas Update

The best of Dallas 2011

More "best of" picks from the *Dallas Observer*, the city's free alternative newspaper. Divided into six categories, these editors' picks offer suggestions on where to go, what to see, and what to buy in the Dallas–Fort Worth area: the best TV news show ([Inside Texas Politics](#)), the best honky tonk ([Billy Bob's Texas](#)), best elotes cart ([Fiesta Mart](#)), the best cold, hard evidence that Jesus rode a dinosaur ([Creation Evidence Museum](#)), the best hotel art ([Belmont Hotel](#)), the best comic book store ([Titan Comics](#)), and the best gym ([Life Time Fitness](#))....

Dallas Observer



Latino Cultural Center

The Latino Cultural Center at 2600 Live Oak Street was designed by world-renowned architect Ricardo Legorreta and opened in 2003. A multidisciplinary arts center that presents Latino artists in the visual and performing arts, film, and literature, the LCC also supports local artists by developing and celebrating Latino art and culture. Exhibitions rotate every few months, and the sculpture collection features works by artists Luis Jiménez and Jesús Moroles. Cine en el Centro is a film series program featuring the best in popular and avant garde Spanish-language film....

Latino Cultural Center



Nasher Sculpture Center

Located in downtown Dallas at the base of the city's skyline, the Nasher Sculpture Center represents Raymond D. Nasher's vision to create an outdoor roofless museum that serves as a peaceful retreat for reflection of art and nature and as a public home for his collection of 20th-century sculpture. The goal was to produce a structure of lasting significance that will sustain the legacy of the collection. The resulting design



Career Leads from

ALA JobLIST

Deputy State Librarian, State

Library of Kansas. The State Library is currently seeking a motivated administrator who will function with a high level of autonomy to provide leadership and daily supervision of library staff and agency programs. This position directs internal operations for the State Library, represents the library at meetings, and also organizes special projects to achieve library goals and objectives. The Deputy State Librarian is responsible for the

encompasses an indoor gallery and outdoor sculpture garden....
Nasher Sculpture Center

[Learning to lighten your load](#)

Overpacking tops the list of biggest travel mistakes. The One Bag website offers exhaustive detail on the art and science of traveling light—going pretty much anywhere for business or leisure for an indefinite length of time, with no more than a single carry-on bag. The expert one-bag traveler will have mastered the three core elements of light travel: using a packing list, reducing weight, and optimizing your bag....
One Bag



Division News

[Author Steve Berry keynotes Preservation Week 2012 kickoff](#)

New York Times bestselling author Steve Berry keynotes the kickoff for Preservation Week 2012 (April 22–28) at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Dallas. Berry will speak at the ALCTS Forum, 10:30 a.m.–noon, January 23. Berry, author of *The Jefferson Key*, his most recent novel, and the forthcoming *The Columbus Affair* (Ballantine, May 2012), will talk about the importance of preserving our personal and community cultural heritage....
ALCTS, Dec. 20



[YALSA advances to next phase of competition](#)

YALSA has advanced to stage 2 of the HASTAC/MacArthur Foundation [Badges for Lifelong Learning Competition](#). The competition is designed to encourage the creation of digital badges and badge systems that support, identify, recognize, measure, and account for new skills, competencies, knowledge, and achievements for 21st-century learners. Stage 2 seeks badge system design and tech proposals that respond to Stage 1 winning content or content from one of the competition's official collaborators—including ALA....
YALSA, Dec. 20



[Call for papers on 21st-century literacies](#)

The *Journal of Research on Libraries and Young Adults*, a peer-reviewed, open-access quarterly research journal published by YALSA, seeks papers for its Spring 2012 issue on the theme of 21st-century literacies. [Submissions](#) are due to Editor Sandra Hughes-Hassell by February 13. Possible topics include information literacy, traditional literacy, multicultural literacy, transliteracy, visual literacy, media literacy, civic literacy, or economic literacy....
YALSA, Dec. 21

[Get ready for summer reading with YALSA's webinar](#)

With three carefree months of no school, no homework, long days, and warm nights, summer is the perfect time to get teens reading. Jumpstart your summer reading program planning process with an



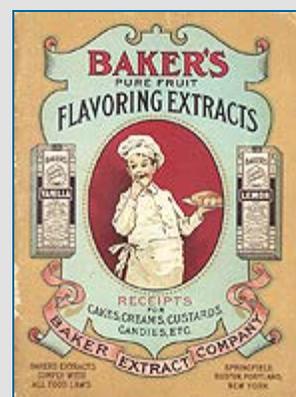
operation of the State Library in the absence of the State Librarian....



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Digital Library of the Week



The University of Iowa Libraries [Szathmary Recipe Pamphlet Digital Collection](#) includes more than 4,000 promotional recipe pamphlets, published mainly by food and appliance manufacturers and trade associations. Dating from the late 19th century to the present, this advertising ephemera reflects the evolution of the modern American diet. Of particular interest is the time period from 1880 to 1930, when industrialization gave rise to the [modern food industry](#). The result was a dramatic change in diet, driven by an ever-expanding

hourlong [webinar](#) from YALSA January 19. Join Charli Osborne (right), head of teen services at the Oxford (Mich.) Public Library, for a discussion of books and programming ideas....

YALSA, Dec. 20

[2012 ASCLA preconference workshops announced](#)

Registration for ASCLA's three half-day preconferences in Anaheim, California, covering mission-critical library topics—library services for the print-disabled, public library partnerships with correctional facilities, and successful library marketing and development strategies—will open January 3, along with the 2012 ALA Annual Conference [registration](#). Conference registration is not required to attend these ASCLA preconference events....

ASCLA, Dec. 20

[2012 ASCLA conference programs focus on future](#)

ASCLA's 2012 program topics highlight the expertise of ASCLA members while delivering relevant content to a wide variety of library types and librarian roles. Program participation is open to any registered Annual Conference attendee. Conference [registration](#) opens January 3. In addition to these programs, ASCLA will host a number of discussion groups, several cutting-edge preconferences, the ASCLA/COSLA dessert and awards reception, and association business meetings....

ASCLA, Dec. 20

[LLAMA leadership development seminar will focus on new librarians](#)

LLAMA will present a free panel discussion on "Recruitment, Retention, and Mentoring of New Librarians" January 22 at Midwinter. Panel members include Tina Oswald from Stephen F. Austin University; and Martha Rossi, library services and media specialist for Education Service Center 20 in San Antonio. They will offer their perspectives as graduates of the TALL Texans Leadership Development Institute. Offering the perspective of the new librarian will be Ameet Doshi, user engagement and assessment coordinator, Georgia Institute of Technology....

LLAMA, Dec. 20

[RUSA's overview of Annual Conference programs](#)

RUSA will host technology and future-focused programs at the upcoming ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, California, tackling topics such as mobile technology, ebooks, readers' advisory in the digital age, international interlibrary loan, and financial literacy, among other topics. Conference [registration](#) opens January 3....

RUSA, Dec. 20

[Go back to the Top](#)

Awards & Grants

[I Love My Librarian Award videos](#)

Interviews with each of the 10 Carnegie Corporation of New York / *New York Times* I Love My Librarian Award winners are now posted on the [At Your Library website](#). The entire December 8 award ceremony, complete with addresses by *New York Times* CEO Janet L. Robinson, Carnegie Corporation



market of products. This digital collection contains a representative [sampling](#) of pamphlets from that era.

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

"Fear of Apple is about losing control over the software on our computers. Fear of Google is about losing control over our privacy."

—John Gruber, "[There Is a Flip Side.](#)" Daring Fireball, Dec. 19.

"An other chief Point of the Keeper's Charge, is to range all his Books, as well of the bigger as lesser fold, according to their Faculties; to assign to every Faculty their Catalogues and Tables; and to dispose of every Table the Authors therein named, according to the Alphabet: Where besides the Author's Name, and the Title of his Work, he must

President Vartan Gregorian (above), and special guest Caroline Kennedy, is now posted on [YouTube](#) (1:11:38, but timestamps bookmark each segment)....

At Your Library; YouTube, Dec. 18

[Travel grants to PLA conference](#)

Gale Cengage is inviting librarians from small libraries to submit an application for two funding opportunities to attend the [PLA National Conference](#) in Philadelphia, March 13–17. Gale will be providing travel, lodging, registration, and all related expenses for library staff (who serve populations of 50,000 or less) to attend. Librarians can apply for the scholarship online by submitting a short essay answering one of two questions by January 18....

Gale Cengage, Dec. 21

[Yale archivist wins theater librarian award](#)

Yale University Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library Archivist Susan Brady won the Theatre Library Association's highest honor, the 2011 Award for Distinguished Service in Performing Arts Librarianship. The award has been given since 1994 to a performing arts librarian, curator, archivist, or scholar who has made extraordinary contributions to the field. Brady serves as cochair of the American Theatre Archive Project's steering committee, working to preserve records of North American theatre companies....

Yale Daily News: Cross Campus, Dec. 19



[Ezra Jack Keats Awards move to Mississippi](#)

The Ezra Jack Keats Awards have moved from the New York Public Library to the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection at the University of Southern Mississippi Libraries in Hattiesburg. The 2012 awards ceremony will be held in conjunction with the university's Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival on April 12. Since 1985, the awards have been given annually to an outstanding new writer and new illustrator of picture books for children (age 9 and under) by the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation....

Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, Dec. 14



[2011 Edublog Award winners](#)

The Edublog Awards honor the best in educational blogs, as voted by the readers. This year's Lifetime Achievement Award went to Teacher Librarian [Joyce Valenza](#) for her *School Library Journal*-based blog [NeverEndingSearch](#). The winner in the category of Best Librarian or Library Blog was Sarah Ducharme's [Try Curiosity!](#) blog....

Edublog Awards; *School Library Journal*, Dec. 19



[Apply for an Excellence in Summer Learning Award](#)

The Excellence in Summer Learning Award recognizes outstanding summer programs that demonstrate excellence in accelerating academic achievement and promoting healthy development for K–12 students. The award is given annually by the National Summer Learning Association based on an application and interview process that elicits information on a program's history, mission, and sustainability. Apply by February 10....

National Summer Learning Association, Dec. 15

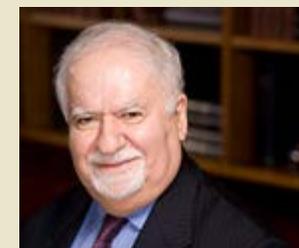
be mindful to express, in what kind of Volume the same was Printed, with a Note of the Place, and Year of that Edition. For it so fareth often with a Number of Students, that the Knowledge of some one of these petty Particulars, may turn them in their Studies to some singular Advantage."

—Sir Thomas Bodley's [First Draught of the Statutes of the Public Library at Oxon](#) (1609), reprinted in John Cotton Dana and Henry W. Kent, eds., *Literature of Libraries in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*, vol. 3 (Chicago: McClurg, 1906), 73–74.

@ [More quotes...](#)

ENJOY OUR LATEST CONTENT

[Vartan Gregorian: 'Libraries are stations of hope.'](#)



[History of the Youth Media Awards: Part 2](#)

[Connect with your kids: Excellence in Reading for Young Adults](#)

[2011 I Love My Librarian Award Ceremony \(video\)](#)

[Woody Allen's Manhattan Tells Us Why Life is Worth Living](#)

[The Unseen Eye: Photographs from W.M. Hunt Collection at George Eastman House](#)

[Dominican University offers new LIS scholarship](#)

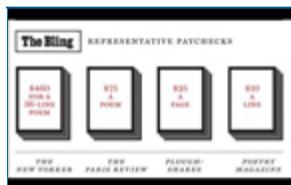
Applications are open for the newly established Vera May Barnes Zubrzycki Scholarship at the Dominican University GSLIS in River Forest, Illinois. The scholarship ([PDF file](#)) is a collaborative project between GSLIS and the Polish American Librarians Association. One \$2,300 scholarship will be awarded annually for the next three years to a library school student specializing in service to children, with an emphasis on incorporating the Polish-American experience into their practice of librarianship. The application deadline is January 4....

Polish American Librarians Association, Dec. 14

[How much money do poets make?](#)

Rachel Friedman writes: "Tomas Tranströmer had a good two weeks: On December 10, the 80-year-old Swedish poet was officially given the 2011 Nobel Prize in Literature, and on December 19, Farrar Straus and Giroux will publish a new edition of his verse. To get to this moment, he triumphed o'er what are perhaps the longest economic odds in the arts." Or, as *Huffington Post's* Madeleine Crum [writes](#): "He did, however, have to wait until after his 80th birthday before he won."...

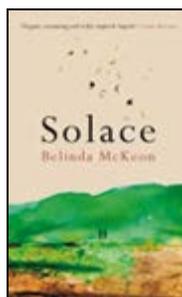
New York Magazine, Dec. 11; *Huffington Post*, Dec. 13



[2011 Irish Book of the Year](#)

Solace, the debut novel by Belinda McKeon, has been voted the Bord Gáis Energy Irish Book of the Year for 2011. It tells a contemporary story of a young man who is struggling to complete his Ph.D. in English at Trinity College but has to return home to his father's small farm to help with the hay and the plowing. The public voted for *Solace* from the list of 10 category winners announced at the recent Irish Book Awards 2011....

Belfast (UK) Telegraph, Dec. 14



Seen Online

[Historic Egyptian Institute library destroyed during protests](#)

Volunteers, ranging from academic experts from the Egyptian National Library to appalled citizens, spent two days trying to salvage what's left of some 192,000 rare books, journals, and manuscripts belonging to the Egyptian Scientific Institute, established in 1798 by Napoleon. A [video](#) (1:39) shows the volunteer salvage operation. The building caught fire early on December 17 during [clashes](#) in Cairo between Egyptian security forces and pro-democracy protesters. At least one man has been [arrested](#) for arson. Firefighters were late to the scene as the fire raged for more than 12 hours. A short [video](#) (0:43) shows the gutted interior. [Fighting continued](#) around the building as salvage efforts took place. Some 50,000 books and manuscripts have been [recovered](#). National Library Director Zein Abdel-Hady is leading the effort to save what's left of the damaged books and [charred manuscripts](#). The French government and the Emirate of [Sharjah](#) have expressed their willingness to help rebuild the library....

Associated Press, Dec. 19; YouTube, Dec. 17, 18; *Al-masry Al-youm* (Cairo), Dec. 19-21; Science Insider, Dec. 19; Cybrarians, Dec. 17



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Calendar

Feb. 9–10:

[Italian Research Conference on Digital Libraries](#),

University of Bari.

Feb. 9–12:

[Capricon 32](#), science fiction convention, Westin Chicago North Shore, Wheeling, Illinois. Special guest: Cory Doctorow.

Feb. 10:

[Online Northwest](#), conference, Oregon State University, CH2M Hill Alumni Center, Corvallis.

Feb. 11–12:

[Fifth International Workshop on Personal Information Management](#), Seattle.

Feb. 16:

[Cloud/Gov.](#), conference, Westin Washington, D.C. "Plan. Implement. Succeed."

Feb. 23–24:

[Personal Digital Archiving](#), conference, Internet Archive, San Francisco.

[How to protest library cuts](#)

Christian Zabriskie writes: "Libraries in New York City have been getting hammered in the budget fight over the last couple of years. Urban Librarians Unite started as a way to get librarians from all three public library systems to exchange ideas and quickly spread to include academic librarians, corporate librarians, and library school students. The regular threat of budget cuts has galvanized the organization. Over time we've cultivated an effective mix of social media and old-fashioned advocacy."...

The Huffington Post, Dec. 15



[Rahm Emanuel's Chicago Public Library cuts](#)

Jonathan Messinger writes: "In November, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced hundreds of layoffs in the library system and the planned reduction of hours for dozens of local branches. How a mayor who has proclaimed improving the city's education as a top priority could then undercut a public library system that is the largest repository of educational materials—for both kids and adults—makes little sense. He cut the second-biggest educational engine in the city and held on to the \$500-million surplus sitting in the mayor's discretionary fund."...

Time Out Chicago: Books, Dec. 14

[SOPA hearing delayed](#)

Hearings in the US House of Representatives to finish markup on the Stop Online Piracy Act were slated to resume December 21, but things will remain at a standstill until next year. The holiday break has pushed the committee hearing back to a yet-to-be-rescheduled date, with nothing more specific than "early next year" being promised. A Whitehouse.gov [petition](#) asking President Obama to veto the bill and any future ones like it has far exceeded its goal of 25,000 signatures....

PC World, Dec. 20

[UK library advocates lose a big legal battle](#)

Advocates in the United Kingdom have failed in a legal bid to thwart the closure of several libraries in northwest London. Residents and celebrities wanted to prevent Brent Council shutting six libraries and hoped the Court of Appeal would overturn the decision of a High Court judge who found the plan lawful. But the justices sided with the council in the case....

BBC News, Dec. 19

[Patron leaves Oshkosh library \\$1.1 million](#)

Christmas came early at the Oshkosh (Wis.) Public Library after a donor provided an unexpected gift. The \$1.1 million is one of the largest monetary contributions ever for the library, from a donor only a few people knew—Marjorie Drexler, who passed away in August 2010. The library originally found out about the donation last spring, but the exact dollar amount wasn't disclosed at the time. Director Jeff Gilderson-Duwe (right) said the library has no specific plans yet on how the money will be used....

WBAY-TV, Green Bay, Wis., Dec. 17



[Feb. 26–28: National Federation of Advanced Information Services](#)

Annual Conference, Hyatt at the Bellevue, Philadelphia. "Born of Disruption: An Emerging New Normal for the Information Landscape."

[Apr. 11–14: Museums and the Web](#)

conference, Sheraton Marina, San Diego.

[Apr. 19–21: American Society for Indexing](#)

Annual Conference, Bahia Resort, San Diego. "Index Appreciation Days: Oh, the Places You'll Go!"

[May 3–6: Association of Independent Information Professionals](#)

Annual Conference, Indianapolis. "Racing to Succeed."

[May 30–June 1: Society for Scholarly Publishing](#)

Annual Meeting, Marriott Crystal Gateway, Arlington, Virginia. "Social, Mobile, Agile, Global: Are You Ready?"

[June 7–10: North American Serials Interest Group](#)

Annual Conference, Sheraton Music City, Nashville.

[June 21–26: American Library Association](#)

Annual Conference, Anaheim,

[Atlantic City library plans a resort museum](#)

Visitors will be able to travel back to Atlantic City's glory days and experience the sights and sounds of Club Harlem or witness a diving horse plunge into a pool of water if plans for a new museum in the city come to fruition. The public heard for the first time some of the ideas for a proposed Atlantic City Experience museum and research center during a public forum December 14 at the Atlantic City (N.J.) Free Public Library. The museum, a project spearheaded by library employees, would also include exhibits, an event space, a classroom, a research center, and a museum store....

The Press of Atlantic City, Dec. 14

[Wisconsin library says no guns](#)

Trustees of the Kilbourn Public Library in Wisconsin Dells voted December 8 to post signs prohibiting weapons in the library, although two members had objected to taking a vote. One of the board's concerns was whether the library had to ensure that no one carried weapons into the library if it posted signs prohibiting them. The board voted 5-2 to post a sign banning weapons in the library and that the sign will have a disclaimer saying safety isn't guaranteed....

Wisconsin Dells Events, Dec. 9



[School librarians try to survive budget cuts](#)

Certified librarians have become somewhat of a rarity in California schools. Three months into his position as the only librarian for schools in Carlsbad, California, Rod Carr has already had to go to bat for his job once. Carr stood before school board trustees in November, pleading to keep his post as the district librarian while the five-member board went down a list of budget cuts that would help fill what was then an \$11 million hole in the district's \$82 million operating budget....

San Diego (Calif.) Union-Tribune, Dec. 19

[What you can do to support school libraries in crisis](#)

Carl Harvey II writes: "As leader of AASL and an educator, I am struck by the lack of support for school libraries from federal and local governments. There is a common misconception that technology replaces school libraries and school librarians. Rather, in reality, the explosion of technology and information access makes having full-time access to a state-certified school librarian and school library program even more critical for today's learners."...

Huffington Post, Dec. 8

[Beaux Foy is North Carolina's Smartest Card spokesmusician](#)

Beaux Foy, lead singer of the band Airlie Down, is this year's spokesman for the State Library of North Carolina's Smartest Card campaign. He visited Central Cabarrus High School on December 16 to talk about the resources libraries offer and encourage students to get a library card or use theirs more often. Some students said they were shocked to see a musician speaking to them about libraries. Watch the state library's Beaux Foy [video](#) (2:01)....

Concord (N.C.) Independent Tribune, Dec. 18; YouTube, Aug. 8



[Rare paintings uncovered in Dunedin library](#)

California.

July 29-31:

[Church and Synagogue Library Association](#), Annual Conference, Springfield, Illinois. "Lincoln Logs On: Tradition and Innovation in Library Ministry."

@ [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.



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A collection of rare 19th-century paintings, inspired by the books of Charles Dickens, has been discovered in New Zealand. Nearly 60 watercolors by English artist Paul Braddon (the pseudonym of James Leslie Crees) were uncovered earlier this year in the Dunedin Public Library's Reed Collection by rare books librarian Anthony Tedeschi. Hidden inside cardboard folders, the paintings had been donated in 1956 by author and publisher Alfred Reed....

Otago Daily Times (Dunedin), Dec. 19

[New Romanian National Library opens](#)

The new headquarters building of the National Library of Romania opened in Bucharest on December 15. The old building had been neglected for years after the anticommunist revolution and much of it had deteriorated. The [new library](#) has 14 large reading rooms, six conference spaces, an auditorium seating 400, and ample space for exhibitions, bookstores, and cafés. Holdings will be gradually [transferred](#) to the new building throughout the year....

Business Review, Dec. 15; *Nine O'Clock*, Dec. 15; *Romania Business Insider*, Dec. 14



[Go back to the Top](#)

Tech Talk

[Firefox 9: Faster on PCs](#)

Seth Rosenblatt writes: "Mozilla is laying claim to big performance [improvements](#) for Firefox 9, while Firefox for Android goes in for a shave and a haircut as it gets an entirely [different look](#). Both desktop and Android updates were released December 20. Firefox 9 continues the browser's rapid-release development oscillation, where feature enhancements and performance improvements take the lead in alternating months."...

CNET: Download Blog, Dec. 20

[The 30 best iPad games](#)

Jeffrey L. Wilson writes: "The iPad's large, gorgeous display gives gamers an open, visual experience that isn't confined to the DS/3DS/PSP's relatively small displays. This makes it an excellent device for any number of game genres, but it especially benefits those with large footprints, such as Scrabble for iPad. There is one significant drawback, however: Unlike traditional video game portables, the iPad lacks physical controls."...

PC Magazine, Dec. 16



[Libraries begin lending out Chromebooks](#)

Google has been working with public libraries recently to circulate its Chromebook concept. At least three libraries have been working toward lending out Chromebooks to patrons. Most notably, branches of the Palo Alto (Calif.) City Library will begin making Chromebooks available for loan in January; patrons will be able to check out the Google devices for up to one week. The pilot [project](#) is a first of its kind, though the library had previously made



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ext. 4216

ISSN 1559-369X

Windows laptops as well as Chromebooks available to patrons at several of its libraries for two-hour checkouts for in-library use....

Digital Trends, Dec. 15

[12 signs your tech leadership is obsolescent](#)

Doug Johnson writes: "If a person became a technology director before about 1995, he or she probably came up through the teaching ranks. After about 1995, computers, applications, and networks became sufficiently complex that technology directors were hired from business or computer-science programs and had little or no experience as teachers.

I sense another change is overdue in technology director hiring practices. Here are a few ways to know if *your* school's technology leadership may be past its expiration date."...

Blue Skunk Blog, Dec. 19



[Wearing your computer on your sleeve](#)

Nick Bilton writes: "The invention of the smartphone has created a world where millions of people stroll through life constantly staring into a mobile device, like Narcissus at the edge of a pond. People are not going to put these devices down in the near future.

Realistically, we will become only more absorbed by the Screen. Technology will have to solve this problem. It will do so by creating wearable computers."...

New York Times: Bits, Dec. 18



[Searching for apps is getting easier](#)

Bob Tedeschi writes: "As consumers increasingly migrate to mobile apps and developers fight to have their apps discovered in the chaos of the marketplace, app-related search engines and stores have vastly improved their support for both constituencies. Apple users have seen some improvement, but Android is the much bigger story because of upgrades to the Android Market, the emergence of the Amazon Appstore for Android (which sells only Android apps), and upgrades to existing services like [Applicious](#) and [AppBrain](#)."...

New York Times, Dec. 14



[The five best gaming desktops](#)

Laarni Almendrala Ragaza writes: "Despite the proliferation of gaming consoles and handheld gaming devices, PC gaming is still alive and kicking. Gaming enthusiasts know that nothing can beat the quality of gameplay that you would get with a gaming desktop. But which will kick your gaming to the next level? We give you the five best gaming desktops on the market today."...

PC Magazine, Dec. 14



[100 hints and tips for every computer user](#)

SaveDelete has put together a wide selection of bite-sized tips on using and optimizing Windows 7, Vista, XP, Facebook, Microsoft Word, Excel, email, and audio files. For example, to prevent display rotation: "In Windows 7, right-click the Desktop and choose Graphics Options then Graphics Properties. Deselect the 'Enable rotation' option in the

Rotate tab."...
SaveDelete, Dec. 16

E-Content

[Ebook prices spark debate between publishers, retailers](#)

The issue of ebook prices has sparked a global controversy as publishers lock horns with book retailers over how much consumers should pay. Amazon has challenged some publishers on the question of the price of a book—the online giant would prefer to set a price point of \$9.99. Some consumers, online retailers, and authors complain existing ebook prices are too high, compared to the cost of print books. Publishers argue they can't lower the cost of digital books too much or they won't survive....

CBC News, Dec. 16

[11 places to find free ebooks](#)

Richard Byrne writes: "The internet is full of ebooks. Much to the chagrin of textbook publishers, some teachers are now using ebooks instead of issuing textbooks to students. Others are building their own e-textbooks. If you would like to find some free ebooks that you and your students can use, take a look at the following resources."...

Free Technology for Teachers, Dec. 19



[New Zealand expands its ebook offerings](#)

Wheelers Books, a library and school book distributor based in Auckland, New Zealand, has recently expanded its ebook selection. In addition to ebooks from most major publishers, it now stocks 400 ebooks originally written and published in New Zealand. They were converted as part of [Great New Zealand eBooks](#), an initiative sponsored by a Kiwi-based copyright group, Copyright Licensing. The ebooks are distributed in Australia through ALS Library Services in Edwardstown, South Australia....

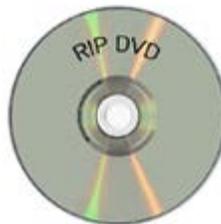
eBookNewser, Dec. 14



[The coming end of the DVD](#)

Stephen Abram writes: "There's a continuing pattern that gives us clues about the end of the DVD format. (Of course, there are still niche markets for vinyl and tape; they are very small markets.) Many public libraries have significant circulation in DVDs. Can they acquire the right to downloads and circulate hard-copy DVDs? Is there any scenario that offers a positioning for public libraries to thrive? Is there a metaphor here for ebooks with a slightly longer timeline? 2012 will be a tipping point for all e-content access."...

Stephen's Lighthouse, Dec. 20



[Go back to the Top](#)

Books & Reading

[Innovations in print publishing](#)

William Skidelsky writes: "Far from killing off the

book, the digital age is proving a boon to innovative publishers and authors, many of whom are using new technology to breathe life back into old ideas. Here, we survey four of the most interesting ventures: subscription publishing, hybrid books, TV series you can read, and Penguin Shorts."...

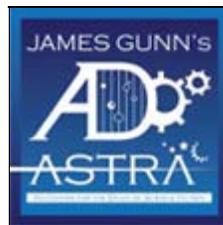
The Observer (UK), Dec. 17



[New KU science fiction magazine](#)

James Gunn's Center for the Study of Science Fiction at the University of Kansas in Lawrence has always been a locus of awesomeness in SF studies. Among other things, the center hosts the John W. Campbell Memorial Award every year, celebrating the best science-fiction novel of the year. Gunn and the center are starting a new online magazine, [Ad Astra](#), which will add to our understanding of science fiction while also publishing some of it....

io9, Dec. 16



[Guide to book collecting](#)

AbeBooks has launched a [Guide to Book Collecting](#), an educational section of its website dedicated to helping you understand the basic elements of book collecting and the terminology of booksellers. The guide includes what to collect, collection care, a glossary of book terms (with pictures), an explanation of book conditions, and a list of abbreviations. New videos and pages will be added on an ongoing basis....

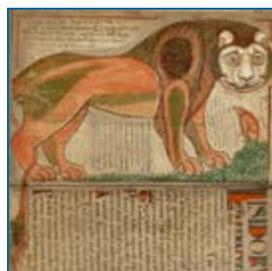
Reading Copy Book Blog, Dec. 19



[Liber Floridus](#)

This image of a lion comes from the fabled manuscript, *Liber Floridus* (Book of Flowers), a medieval encyclopedia produced some 900 years ago by Lambert, the canon of St. Omer in the north of France. The manuscript is essentially a compilation of extracts from nearly 200 late classical and early medieval works by authors such as Isidore of Seville, Orosius, Julius Honorius, and Venerable Bede. The manuscript was completed in his own hand around 1120 and is regarded as the first encyclopedia of the High Middle Ages....

BibliOdyssey, Dec. 19



Actions & Answers

[Rural libraries: The lifeblood of small towns](#)

Phil Hardwick writes: "Recently I had the opportunity to visit eight libraries in rural towns in Mississippi during the course of one week. These libraries ranged from a two-room facility smaller than some master bedrooms to a full-service, modern library that offered a full range of activities for the community. Small-town libraries have become a provider of numerous services to their communities. Their future will be one of expanding those services even more. Here are 10 things that I learned about rural libraries during that week."...

Mississippi Business Journal, Aug. 7

[The pitfalls of political librarianship](#)

Lane Wilkinson writes: "There is something to be said for approaching librarianship as a political activity. It's compelling to think of libraries as change agents and of librarians as some sort of 21st-century *salonnières* fomenting revolution in the streets. An informed public is necessary in a flourishing, progressive republic and, as a nexus for information, libraries serve a vital political role. But, it's one thing for libraries to serve a valuable sociopolitical function (which they certainly do), and quite another thing to treat librarianship as *inherently* political."...

Sense and Reference, Dec. 20



[ARL Annual Salary Survey published](#)

The Association of Research Libraries has published its *Annual Salary Survey 2010–2011*, which analyzes salary data for all professional staff working in the 125 ARL member libraries. The median salary for ARL university libraries in the United States in 2010 was \$65,000, an increase of 1.5% over the 2009–2010 median salary of \$64,069. This modest salary increase compared favorably to the severe economic contraction of the same period....

Association of Research Libraries, Dec. 20



[Forensic librarians at Carleton College](#)

Danya Leebaw, Heather Tompkins, and Iris Jastram write: "'Wait, *this* is information literacy?' a rhetorician at our workshop exclaimed in excited surprise. 'But this is so cool!' We too had had very similar reactions to our own work with information literacy, and not that long ago. We too had realized that information literacy could be different than we had originally thought, more alive and integrated within the discourse of academic work, and more applicable across disciplines and genres and rhetorical goals."...

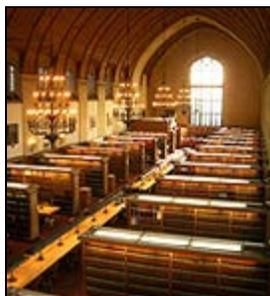
In the Library with the Lead Pipe, Dec. 14



[The 25 most beautiful college libraries in the world](#)

Emily Temple writes: "The college library, whether ornate or modern, digital or dusty, is in many ways the epicenter of the college experience—at least for some students. Colleges and universities are understandably quite proud of their libraries, which often become the most well-designed and beautifully adorned buildings on campus. To that end, we've collected a few of the most beautiful college and university libraries in the world, from Portugal to France to Boston."...

Flavorwire, Dec. 13



[Why not a bachelor's in library science?](#)

Steve Matthews writes: "Why isn't that a good idea? Seems as though it is a very good idea in some librarians' minds—at least those in Connecticut, Kentucky, and Maine. All three



of these states recognized a need within their states for a bachelor's degree in library science programs. The program found a demand, which is always the first indicator of a need for more wide-scale change. Jodi Williams has run the bachelor of science in information and library science program at the [University of Maine at Augusta](#) since 2004. She said: 'Our program found a niche.'..."

21st Century Library Blog, Dec. 19

[A champion for school libraries](#)

Verne Oliver has transformed dozens of libraries in underprivileged New York City schools. It's a second career for the 89-year-old educator devoted to youth and literacy. Oliver rescues usable materials from libraries in schools about to be torn down, and talks to pupils about the basic concept of a lending library. She also builds new collections or rebuilds older ones. Since her 1987 retirement from teaching, Oliver has worked as associate director of the Gilder Foundation, a private New York philanthropy that funds libraries in local parochial schools....

AARP Bulletin, Nov. 29



[The 2012 Project: A challenge to teens](#)

Karen Jensen writes: "Every day, teen services librarians are making the difference in the lives of teens. So let's show the world that libraries are still a vital part of teen lives. Your teens can help, too. Read on for what I am calling 'The 2012 Project.' Our goal is to get 2,012 pics of teens in the library or reading books during the year 2012. Here is how it works. You can take pictures or your teens can send them in on their own. Each month, I will take them all and put them in a visual blog post demonstrating the power of libraries in the lives of our youth."...

Teen Librarian's Toolbox, Dec. 15



[Swedes end negotiations with OCLC LIBRIS](#)

The National Library of Sweden has ended five years of negotiations with OCLC for participation in WorldCat, as the parties could not successfully come to terms on a contract. The negotiations primarily dealt with two issues: the conditions for uploading the Swedish union catalogue [Libris](#) database into WorldCat, and the question of license/ownership for copying bibliographic records from WorldCat for use in Libris. A major sticking point was that the library would not be able to deliver bibliographic data to Europeana and the European Library if it were to become part of WorldCat....

National Library of Sweden, Dec. 21

[Present a paper at IFLA](#)

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions has issued [calls for papers](#) on a variety of topics for its World Library and Information Congress, to be held in Helsinki, Finland, August 11–17. The content of the IFLA program is organized by the different professional groups (sections, core programs, and special interest groups). Calls for papers are submitted through these groups. Papers should reflect the conference theme: "Libraries Now!—Inspiring, Surprising, Empowering."...

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

[The 10 key skills for the future](#)

[of work](#)

Jessica Stillman writes: "What are the jobs of the future? With technology and economic developments moving so quickly, it's hard to keep up with what's going on today and more or less foresee what career paths will make you a winner in a decade or two. But the Institute for the Future believes it is still possible to say something useful about how to prepare yourself for the careers of tomorrow. Its [Future Work Skills 2020](#) report identifies broad skills that will help workers adapt to the changing career landscape. What are they?"...

GigaOM, Dec. 16; Institute for the Future, Dec. 7



[Interviewing for an academic library position](#)

Jenica Rogers writes: "In this brief moment while I have no conflicts of interest, let me share my next bundle of thoughts on academic library job hunting. Brace yourself. Your mileage may vary, your experiences may differ, and there's a lot to add to what I say here. Other people have also said [smart things](#) on the subject. There is no silver bullet. But some stuff works better than others."...

Attempting Elegance, Dec. 12; Free Range Librarian, Dec. 20

[Google News drops author search command](#)

Google has dropped a feature on Google News that helped you locate articles by authors. The feature was the Author command and worked in the Google News search box when you typed [author:firstname lastname]. Now when you search using that command, nothing is returned, and it [appears](#) Google has disabled it on purpose....

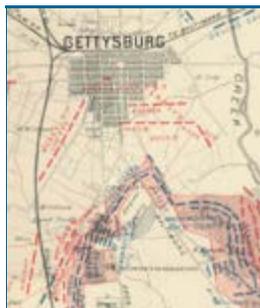
Search Engine Roundtable, Dec. 19; Search Engine Land, Dec. 19



[Wisconsin Civil War maps come online](#)

The Wisconsin Historical Society's online collection [Wisconsin in the Civil War](#) recently added more than 350 Civil War maps. They join 20,000 pages of letters, diaries, memoirs, and photographs already available. The maps have been digitized in a way that allows users to zoom in simply by clicking anywhere on the image. Most of the maps in the collection were produced after the war to illustrate specific battles. Users who are reading diaries or letters can use them to follow troop movements and locate opposing forces....

Wisconsin Historical Society, Dec. 9



[Topeka's paperweight collection](#)

Heather Kearns writes: "For the final week of the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library's Kansas Sesquicentennial video series, we thought we'd take a [closer look](#) (5:31) at our Antique and Contemporary Paperweight collection. There is something about luminous glass filled with intricate design that brings to mind holiday candy, icicles, and ornaments." TSCPL has been collecting paperweights since the 1970s and now has a collection of about 500....



Topeka and Shawnee County (Kans.) Public Library, Dec. 19

[Mississippi State's gingerbread house](#)

A gingerbread replica of Mississippi State University's Mitchell Memorial Library represented a labor of love by two library staff members who delighted in the opportunity to think outside the bakery box.



What Bobbie Huddleston and Faye Fulgham built was both impressive and just plain fun. Among the features were blue window panes made from melted Jolly Ranchers, Christmas carolers from upside-down ice cream cones, and a candy replica of Frances Coleman, MSU dean of libraries....

Mississippi Library Association, Dec. 20

[14 eclectic, bookish gifts](#)

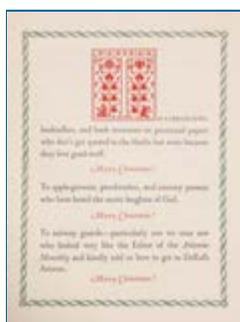
Books are good, but book lovers cannot live on books alone. Here is Jacket Copy's eclectic list of gifts that aren't books but could please the bookish, including this frosted glass [lamp](#) (right) that's both a bedside reading light and, when it's time to close your eyes, a book rest that saves your place....



Los Angeles Times: Jacket Copy, Dec. 15

[A Christmas Salute](#)

Jessica Pigza writes: "Perhaps it is not surprising, but lovers of printing have a long history of honoring the holidays in print. In December 1935, for example, rare book dealer Philip C. Duschne published a limited edition of a small letterpress booklet called *A Christmas Salute*. This little printed keepsake incorporates glittery cardstock and bright red and green ink. The text itself, by American writer Christopher Morley, is a simple series of greetings to those who bring him and others joy—from librarians to greengrocers, from apple-growers to subway guards."...



New York Public Library Blogs, Dec. 19

[The duties of a librarian—in the 17th and 18th centuries](#)

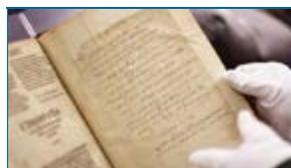
Karen F. Pierce writes: "During my stint cataloging some of the rare books in the Cardiff University Special Collections and Archives, I cataloged a couple of books from the *Literature of Libraries in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries* series, edited by John Cotton Dana and Henry W. Kent (Chicago: McClurg, 1906). Here are some of the pearls of wisdom and advice that shone out from these texts."...



dark-side-of-the-catalogue, Dec. 19

[Mysterious 16th-century sext discovered in copy of Chaucer](#)

Florida State University Professor Elaine Treharne was giving a lecture at West Virginia University when she visited its [rare book collection](#). She "happened to open a 1561 edition of works by Geoffrey Chaucer" and saw a "Latin poem pasted in the back of the



book.” The erotic poem was written by Elizabeth Dacre, née Leybourne, a Catholic noblewoman, probably sometime after 1555....
Gawker, Dec. 14; WVU Today, Dec. 12

[The story of the Fond du Lac circulation desk](#)

It started in 2010 with an internet post making the rounds about a desk made of books at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. When plans for the Fond du Lac (Wis.) Public Library’s new branch—FDLPL Express—began to firm up, the idea of building a similar desk emerged. The library contacted local architect Tom Meiklejohn, who worked to design the framework of a working, functional circulation desk yet accommodate an exterior mosaic of books. But it took a great deal more effort before the desk was ready for the branch’s December 10 opening. Watch the [video](#) (4:29)....

Fond du Lac (Wis.) Public Library, Dec. 10; YouTube, Dec. 13



[Rap version of *The Elements of Style*](#)

Columbia University grad students Jake Heller (“Strunk”) and Ben Teitelbaum (“White”) pay [homage](#) (2:25) to William Strunk and E. B. White’s classic style manual. With music by Valentino and lyrics like: “Omit needless words. Good writing is concise. / When I was in your class, you repeated that thrice.”...

Vimeo, Dec. 9



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