ALA asks Random House to reconsider
ALA has called on publisher Random House to reconsider its decision to raise the price of ebooks to the library market starting March 1. ALA President Molly Raphael issued a statement March 2 that said: “While I appreciate Random House’s engagement with libraries and its commitment to perpetual access, I am deeply disappointed in the severe escalation in ebook pricing reported today.” Bobbi Newman has a nice roundup of links on the issue. Peter Brantley points out flaws in the pricing. Michael Kelley has an updated guide to library ebook publishers. Eric Hellman suggests some things that libraries should require from publishers in exchange for premium prices....

AL: E-Content, Mar. 2; Librarian by Day, Mar. 2; Publishers Weekly: PWxyz, Mar. 5; Library Journal: The Digital Shift, Feb. 24, Mar. 2; Go to Hellman, Mar. 4

Random House, meet me at Camera Three
Christopher Harris writes: “As Jon Stewart would say, we need to talk. Look, I understand things are a bit crazy for you right now. Ebook sales are rising, but they are kind of scary at the same time. Contracts, licenses, DRM, all of this is up in the air. So I get it; I see that you are concerned and looking for solutions. The first thing I want to say is thank you for hanging in there and trying to work through the issues. We appreciate it. But we really need to talk about this 300% thing.”...

AL: E-Content, Mar. 5

The once and future library
Charles G. Mueller writes: "So how do architects design libraries nowadays? They do it with humility and factor in the nature of the institution and its constituencies. Built-in flexibility in how spaces can be used now and reconfigured in the future is..."
In general terms, there will be more, varied spaces but probably less overall square footage, fewer physical books, and more services. Compact, efficient libraries can be a good thing for patrons as users and taxpayers."

**Books on demand come to Brooklyn**

A group of 3rd-graders from Brooklyn’s P.S. 399 watched Robert Louis Stevenson’s *A Child’s Garden of Verses* being printed on demand in bound paperback format March 7 at Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library’s Central branch. The children were invited to a ribbon-cutting ceremony to introduce the library’s new Espresso Book Machine (above), which can print more than 8 million titles in any language with the push of a button....

**Youth Matters: It’s always time for CE-TV**

Linda W. Braun writes: “If you are interested in web-based professional development, you may consider some of the following resources. Have you heard of Khan Academy? Sal Khan started the organization in the belief that people could learn by watching short, targeted videos online. Subjects run the gamut from algebra to art history to the principles of banking to taking the SAT. He began by remotely tutoring his cousin in 2004 and created videos to help other cousins, and now the academy catalog includes more than 2,700 recordings.”...

**On My Mind: The conversation continues @ your library**

Nancy Kranich and Carlton Sears write: “Many librarians are already exploring new ways to engage, embed, and integrate libraries into the life of their communities. Academic librarians are eager to deepen their engagement on campus. School librarians strive to collaborate more closely with teachers. Public librarians are seeking new methods to align their missions with community needs. However, few have answered the call to move beyond talk to action.”...

**Cleaning up after water damage**

Q. The recent severe weather has some of our library regulars asking about salvage of wet books. What can I tell them? A. I’m going to address your question from two perspectives. First, what should an individual be doing? And second, what should a library be doing? The information in *Tips for Salvaging Water-Damaged Valuables* by the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works and Heritage Preservation is designed for individuals....
Executive Director’s Message: Key strategies discussed
ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels (right) writes: “ALA’s Executive Board discussions during the 2012 Midwinter Meeting in Dallas focused on some key Association initiatives. ALA's Strategic Plan (PDF file) outlines Association goals and objectives and provides a framework for plans, strategies, and initiatives on a day-to-day and year-by-year basis. This past fall, the board met with the leadership of ALA’s 11 divisions as well as round table representatives to begin fleshing out the Association’s new strategic goal.”...
American Libraries column, Mar./Apr.

The 2012 ALA election: A guide
The Office of ALA Governance has created an electronic guide to this year’s election. Your Guide to the 2012 ALA Elections can be accessed in flipbook format or in PDF format. The guide was created because some members found it difficult to learn about ALA candidates prior to the election....
Office of ALA Governance, Mar. 6

Rebecca MacKinnon at Opening General Session
Focusing on why it is time to stop arguing over whether the internet empowers people and addressing the urgent question of how technology should be governed to support the rights and liberties of users around the world, journalist, internet policy specialist and author of the book Consent of the Networked Rebecca MacKinnon (right) will kick off the 2012 ALA Annual Conference at the Opening General Session on Friday, June 22....
Conference Services, Mar. 5

Dan Ariely to speak at Annual Conference
Behavioral economist and bestselling author Dan Ariely (right) takes a groundbreaking look at the way we behave, examining the contradictory forces that drive us to cheat and keep us honest. He will talk about these and other ideas from his forthcoming book, The Honest Truth About Dishonesty: How We Lie to Everyone—Especially Ourselves, as an Auditorium Speaker at the 2012 ALA Annual Conference on June 24....
Conference Services, Mar. 5
Vote for the talks you want to hear at Conference
Public voting is now open through March 25 for more than 50 talks in two new formats to determine which sessions will be added to this year’s Annual Conference program. ALA has opened a general call for “Conversation Starter” talks, fast-paced 45-minute sessions intended to jumpstart conversations and highlight emerging topics and trends. You can vote here for your favorite Conversation Starters. In addition, ALA is running a series of Ignite sessions that give presenters five minutes to share what they’re most passionate about. Vote here for Ignite sessions....
Conference Services, Mar. 7

Virtual Conference proposals wanted
We’re looking for dynamic presenters to move the needle forward for the profession. If that’s you, this is your chance to inspire others by submitting a proposal to present at the 2012 ALA Virtual Conference, July 18–19, on the theme of “Mapping Transformation.” Submit your proposal for an engaging 45-minute program before midnight on March 25....
Conference Services, Mar. 7

“Transforming Libraries” webinar March 8
Join a conversation on transforming libraries at a free March 8 webinar at 2–3 p.m. Central time. R. David Lankes and Barbara Stripling will host a webinar designed to stimulate conversation about harnessing the evolving role of libraries. Register online....
Office for Library Advocacy, Mar. 6

Discover Tech traveling exhibition
The ALA Public Programs Office, in partnership with the National Center for Interactive Learning at the Space Science Institute, the Lunar and Planetary Institute, and the National Girls Collaborative Project, has announced a new traveling exhibition opportunity for public libraries. Following a competitive application process, eight public libraries will be selected to host an interactive exhibition called Discover Tech: Engineers Make a World of Difference. Public libraries serving rural populations and underserved groups are especially invited to apply. Online applications must be submitted by May 1....
Public Programs Office, Mar. 5

New courses on recruitment and diversity
The Office for Diversity will introduce two new courses to its Diversity Leadership Online series, beginning April 18. This ongoing webinar series provides the foundation for a culture of responsible diversity leadership within the profession. Register and learn more about upcoming sessions here....
Office for Diversity, Mar. 5

COSWL discussion on National Women’s History Month
March is Women’s History Month, and the ALA Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship and Northwestern University Libraries will be celebrating by cohosting a March 29 discussion, “Right Here I See My
Own Books: A History of the Woman’s Library at the Chicago World’s Fair, 1893.” Led by authors Sarah Wadsworth and Wayne Wiegand, the event will take place at the Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago....
Office for Human Resource Development and Recruitment, Mar. 5; Booklist Online: Points of Reference, Mar. 1

**Preservation Week publicity tools**
Libraries of all types can promote [Preservation Week @ your library](http://aldirect.ala.org/sites/default/al_direct/2012/march/030712-2.htm) (April 22–28) with these ALA [publicity tools](http://aldirect.ala.org/sites/default/al_direct/2012/march/030712-2.htm). The toolkit includes Preservation Week logos, program ideas, media templates, and bookmarks....
ALCTS, Mar. 6

**Assessing rebuilding efforts in Haiti**
“Two years after the earthquake, vast numbers of Haitian people are still struggling just to return to something resembling normal life,” said Leonard Kniffel, who returned March 5 from Port-au-Prince after a week of talks with librarians and government officials about ALA’s Haiti Library Relief fund. “Our dollars are making a difference,” he said, “but the need is so vast that we have to focus our efforts on sustainable projects that will advance the nation’s recovery from one of the largest natural disasters on record.”...
International Relations Office, Mar. 7

**The American Library in Paris**
Larry Nix writes: “We are fast approaching the 95th anniversary of America’s entry into World War I (April 6, 1917) which led to the creation of the Library War Service of the ALA a few months later. One of the legacies of the Library War Service was the creation of the American Library in Paris. I recently added a couple of items to my librariansa collection related to the ALP. The first is a postcard showing the home of the ALP at 10 Rue de L’Élysée. The postcard (above) was obviously produced by ALA and includes information on its role in the war.”...
Library History Buff Blog, Mar. 3

**Coping with workplace challenges**
Librarians across all settings can face unexpected challenges or confrontations from an angry or upset patron, community member, coworker, or concerned citizen. Knowing how to handle these difficult conversations in ways that can lead to a healthy resolution is critical. These issues will be discussed in a free webinar, “Moving Difficult Conversations Toward Positive Outcomes: Coping with Challenges in the Library Workplace,” on April 11. [Register](http://aldirect.ala.org/sites/default/al_direct/2012/march/030712-2.htm) online....
Office for Human Resource Development and Recruitment, Mar. 6

**Workshop on gadgets and gizmos**
ALA TechSource announces a new iteration of Jason Griffey’s popular workshop, “Gadgets in the Library: A Practical Guide to Personal Electronics for Librarians.” This two-part workshop will take place on May 10 and 17. Registration is available at the ALA Store....
ALA TechSource, Mar. 6

**What Drupal can do for you**
ALA TechSource will host another session of Sean Fitzpatrick’s workshop, “Drupal Basics: What Drupal Can Do for Your Library.” This...
90-minute workshop will take place on May 30. Registration is available at the ALA Store....
ALA TechSource, Mar. 6

**Hiring, training, and supervising shelvers**
ALA Editions will host a new three-part workshop, "Hiring, Training, and Supervising Shelvers" with Patricia Tunstall, that will take place in three 60-minute parts on Wednesdays, May 9, 16, and 23. Registration is available at the ALA Store....
ALA Editions, Mar. 6

**Using social media in the K–12 classroom**
In today’s classrooms, educators can engage their students using a wide range of digital and social networking tools, from wikis and blogs to podcasts and videoconferences. In her timely new book, *Using Web 2.0 and Social Networking Tools in the K-12 Classroom*, published by Neal-Schuman Publishers, Beverley E. Crane brings together the best tools, ideas, examples, resources, and lessons to help educators create unique and modern curricula to motivate their students....
ALA Neal-Schuman, Mar. 6

Go back to the Top

**Career Leads**
**Librarian for Chinese Studies**, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. As the subject specialist responsible for library support of research and teaching about China-related topics at Yale, the Librarian for Chinese Studies develops strong working relationships with faculty, students, and affiliated researchers in Chinese studies across departments and programs, taking initiative to identify and meet their expectations for collections and services. The Librarian for Chinese Studies partners with departments and programs on projects that further teaching and scholarship, such as digitization, web publishing, workshops, and other initiatives that enhance the academic mission....
another’s lives. Gradually, the practical-minded Enza makes a name for herself as a seamstress, eventually sewing for the great Caruso at the Metropolitan Opera, while Ciro develops into a skilled shoemaker and the charming rake of Little Italy. Their paths remain star-crossed until Ciro realizes what Enza has known all along: that they are destined for each other....

Networking
Joyce Saricks writes: “Good news for public librarians: ALA’s Public Library Association hosts its biennial conference in Philadelphia March 13–17. This conference offers a chance to share not only ideas but also the books in which we’re finding inspiration and pleasure. PLA has long celebrated books and reading. Do you know of any other library journal in which contributors list what they’re currently reading? I’d like to encourage us to take this emphasis one step further with a book-networking challenge. After all, the book in all its formats is surely the most recognizable public library brand.”....

@ Visit Booklist Online for other reviews and much more....

Go back to the Top

Anaheim Update

Walk the exhibit hall like a pro
Have you registered for ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim yet? Early Bird registration is open through May 13. There is so much to look forward to, not the least of which is the Exhibit Hall. The ALA Annual Conference Exhibit Hall can be overwhelming, especially if it’s your first time. Here are some tips on how to handle the exhibits like a pro. Number 1: Target what you want to see first....
YALSA Blog, Feb. 21

Download that airline app
Susan Stellin writes: “Now that half of all travelers carry smartphones, airlines are rolling out apps that allow these devices to take care of most of the tasks agents used to handle. While many travel apps specialize in things like tracking a flight or guiding travelers through airports, the airline apps aim to do it all, from checking in to flight status updates and baggage tracking. American and Delta offer apps for the broadest range of devices. Some apps are better than others, but all are free and most travelers will find them to be useful, particularly on the day of travel.”....
New York Times, Feb. 29

What to do in Disneyland if you only have one day

Public Perception
How the World Sees Us

The Litchfield Collection on the History of Fatty Materials is part of the Hagley Digital Archives at the Hagley Museum and Library in Wilmington, Delaware. Most of the items in this collection relate to the advertising and production of soaps, oils, food products, and other consumer products. The image shown above is part of a group that showcases margarine-related items and includes information on other oils and fats, including photos of people making butter and workers processing olives into olive oil and preparing them for shipment.

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 I Love Libraries site.
You’re in Anaheim, California. You’ve gotten up early and beaten the traffic to pull into an enormous parking lot. In fact, you’re at Disneyland Park half an hour before the doors open, just to be ready to go inside. You’ve got water bottles and sunscreen and your most comfortable sneakers on. Why are you so prepared? Cause you have just one day to explore the Happiest Place on Earth. Here are some tips to maximize your time and see the best attractions....

Go back to the Top

Division News

Join YALSA for a Hunger Games tweetup
Join YALSA on March 8 for a tweetup in honor of Teen Tech Week to discuss the film premiere of The Hunger Games and your library. The tweetup, sponsored by YALSA’s The Hub blog, will take place from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Eastern time with the hashtag #THGyalsa. The Hub will also host a concurrent CoverItLive session....

YALSA, Mar. 1

PLA to discuss the future of public libraries
Thousands of public librarians, library professionals, authors, publishers, and vendors from across the country and around the world will meet in Philadelphia March 13–17 at the PLA 2012 Conference to discuss a host of pressing issues affecting the future of public libraries—such as access to ebook lending, library funding, new technologies, and advocacy. Don’t forget to download the PLA Conference mobile app. Looking for a job? Visit the PLA Career Center. Watch PLA Conference Chair Karen Danczak Lyons (above) explain why this PLA Conference will be the best ever (3:10)....

PLA, Mar. 6; YouTube, Mar. 2

Scott Walter appointed C&RL editor
ACRL has appointed Scott Walter (right) to the post of editor of College & Research Libraries. He will serve a three-year term beginning July 1, 2013, succeeding Joseph J. Branin. Walter currently serves as associate university librarian for services at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. On April 30, he will assume the position of university librarian at DePaul University in Chicago....

ACRL, Mar. 6

“The librarian must have all of the qualifications of a good routine worker: quickness, accuracy, and neatness. Even the girl who can never become more than a thoroughly reliable routine worker will find here an unusually pleasant workroom, good associates, and reasonable pay; and her services will be in demand more and more as the work of the library becomes more completely specialized.”


More quotes...

Spreading Honey in the Age of Bee Blight by Wanda Urbanska

Women's History Month: Girl Scouts of America Celebrate 100th Year Anniversary

Eugene Atget: Memorable Photos of Architecture, Street Life in France

'Spread the Word: Evolution of Gospel'
**MLA members to get complimentary *Choice* reviews**

The Modern Language Association and *Choice* have announced a pilot project to provide MLA members with complimentary access to *Choice* Reviews Online through a link from the members-only portion of the MLA website....

ACRL, Mar. 6

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**Hosts selected for Scholarly Communication Road Show**

ACRL has selected five sites from 12 applications to host its “Scholarly Communication: From Understanding to Engagement” workshop this spring and summer, including the first host site outside the US. In its fourth year, when the 20 workshops are complete, the road show will have visited 17 different states, the District of Columbia, one US territory, and one Canadian province....

ACRL, Mar. 6

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**Enter the first ALSC/YALSA video contest**

The first ever ALSC/YALSA video contest is looking for entries that show what tweens, young teens, and technology look like at your local library. What is the life of a tween or young teen like in this digital age? What are the particular challenges and opportunities they face online? What should libraries be doing? Selected videos will be shown at the ALSC and YALSA Joint Presidents’ Program at ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim. All entrants will be eligible to win a $100 Amazon gift card. The deadline is April 30....

ALSC Blog, Mar. 2

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**Duane Bray to address joint ALCTS/ACRL program**

Duane Bray (right), a partner at IDEO, a global innovation and design consulting firm, is the featured speaker at the joint ALCTS/ACRL President’s Program in Anaheim on June 25. Bray’s presentation, “Future of the Book: Innovation in Traditional Industries,” will delve into the challenges traditional industries often face when experiencing disruptive change....

ALCTS, Mar. 5

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**Preconference on business reference**

RUSA’s June 22 preconference, “Mastering Business Acumen (MBA) in a Day: Business Concepts for Library Reference,” will provide librarians who may be intimidated by business reference questions with a foundational understanding of business concepts and prepare them to answer these types of questions with confidence. Conference registration information is available here....

RUSA, Mar. 6

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**YALSA wins badge competition**

YALSA and its design partner Badgeville were named one of 30 winners from a pool of 91 finalists in the Badges for Lifelong Learning Competition on March 1 at the Digital Media and Learning Conference in San Francisco. The winners—awarded grants ranging from $25,000 to $175,000—demonstrate the wide range of approaches to, and uses for, digital badges and badge systems. YALSA’s badges will be based on its Competencies for Serving Youth....

YALSA, Mar. 2

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**Keys to successful coteaching**
Now available on the AASL website is the newest installment of “30-Second Thought Leadership: Insights from Leaders in the School Library Community” series. The series features school librarian experts delivering brief and practical advice based on the themes of Knowledge Quest issues.....
AASL, Mar. 6

**Prepare for Día April 30**

More resources to serve diverse populations are now available to libraries through the new website devoted to El día de los niños / El día de los libros (Children’s Day / Book Day), known as Día. Día encourages libraries to support multicultural family literacy throughout the year and to celebrate children and literacy annually on April 30....
ALSC, Mar. 6

**Getting started with GIS**

LITA is offering a new web course, “Getting Started with GIS,” presented by Eva Dodsworth, geospatial data services librarian at the University of Waterloo Map Library. The three-week course will be held April 9–30 and will consist of a combination of asynchronous lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on tutorials. Register online....
LITA, Mar. 6

**AASL expands the reach of its Fall Forum**

AASL is expanding the educational reach of its biennial Fall Forum by offering registrants the opportunity to attend via one of four satellite sites. AASL’s national institute, “Transliteracy and the School Library Program,” will take place October 12–13, in Greenville, South Carolina, and satellite site offerings include western and eastern Pennsylvania, north Texas, and the San Francisco Bay Area....
AASL, Mar. 6

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**Go back to the Top**

### Awards & Grants

**New literary awards to debut at ALA Annual Conference**

Beginning with the 2012 ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, California, ALA will award new Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction to one adult book in each category. The medals, which are funded by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation on the occasion of its centennial, will give $5,000 to each winning author and $1,500 apiece to each finalist. Cosponsored by *Booklist* and RUSA, the Carnegie medals mark the first time ALA is offering single-book awards for adult fiction and nonfiction....
ALA Public Information Office, Mar. 5

**Turock and Reed named ALA Honorary Members**

Betty J. Turock and Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.) were elected to honorary ALA membership in action taken by the ALA Council at the 2012 Midwinter Meeting in Dallas. Honorary membership is...
conferred in recognition of outstanding contributions to libraries and librarianship. Former ALA President Turock was nominated in recognition of her outstanding commitment and achievement in the field of library and information science. Reed was cited for his continuing, unwavering, and effective support of libraries in the US Congress.

Office of ALA Governance, Mar. 6

2012 Peggy Sullivan Award
The 2012 Peggy Sullivan Award for Public Library Administrators Supporting Services to Children has been awarded to Lynda Welborn Freas (right), director of family services at Anythink Libraries, Thornton, Colorado. The award is presented annually to an individual in a library administrator role who has shown exceptional understanding and support of public library service to children. Freas received the award for her innovative approach to providing children's services throughout her career.

Office of ALA Governance, Mar. 1

2012 Marshall Cavendish Award
The Waukegan (Ill.) Public Library has been named the 2012 winner of the Marshall Cavendish Excellence in Library Programming Award. The award is given in recognition to either a school or public library that demonstrates excellence in library programming. The library was cited for its creation of an Early Learning Center (above) to meet the demands of a community affected by changing demographics and a lack of resources.

Office of ALA Governance, Mar. 2

Try out for a John Cotton Dana Award
Have you had success with a library marketing campaign? The H. W. Wilson Foundation, LLAMA, and EBSCO Publishing announce that the chances to win a John Cotton Dana Award have increased tremendously. Now there are eight awards, and the amount for each winner has gone up to $10,000. Apply by March 15.

LLAMA, Mar. 6

Apply for a Library Interior Design Award
The submission deadline for the Library Interior Design Awards is March 30. These biennial awards honor excellence in library interior design and promote examples of extraordinary design reflected through innovative concepts. They are cosponsored by LLAMA and the International Interior Design Association. Entry forms and official guidelines may be found online.

LLAMA, Mar. 6

2012 Leab Exhibition Awards
The ACRL Rare Books and Manuscripts Section has selected five winners of the 2012 Katharine Kyes Leab and Daniel J. Leab American Book Prices Current Exhibition Awards. The awards recognize outstanding exhibition catalogs issued by American or Canadian institutions in conjunction with library exhibitions, as well as electronic exhibition catalogs of outstanding merit issued within a digital

Office of ALA Governance, Mar. 6

Apr. 27–28:

May 3–5:

May 21–23:
PrestoCentre, Screening the Future Conference, on audiovisual archives, University of Southern California, Ronald Tutor Campus Center, Los Angeles. “Play, Pause, and Press Forward.”

June 6–8:
LOEX of the West, Conference, Woodbury University, Burbank, California. “Creative Landscapes: Information Literacy for All Terrains.”

Sept. 13–14:

Sept. 19–21:
Third International Symposium on Information Management in a Changing World, Hacettepe University,
AL Direct, March 7, 2012

Deadline extended for Jesse Shera awards
The Library Research Round Table has extended the submission deadline for two research awards named for Jesse H. Shera. The new deadline date is March 30. One award recognizes distinguished published research and the other is given in support of dissertation research.

Library Research Round Table, Mar. 2

Achievement in Library Diversity Research
As part of its ongoing support of the propagation of library-based diversity research, the Office for Diversity is seeking nominations for the 2012 Achievement in Library Diversity Research honor. Nominations are due by April 1 and should include the name of the individual nominated, contact information for that person, and a short description of their diversity research accomplishments.

Office for Diversity, Mar. 6

2012 Carroll Preston Baber Research Grant
Libby Pollard and Melissa Fry are the winners of the 2012 Carroll Preston Baber Research Grant for their project titled “Assessment of Non-Library Use at the Jeffersonville Township (Ind.) Public Library.” The $3,000 grant supports innovative research that could lead to an improvement in library services to any specific group of people.

Office for Research and Statistics, Mar. 2

2012 Louise Seaman Bechtel Fellowship
ALSC and the Special Collections and Bechtel Fellowship Committee have awarded the 2012 Louise Seaman Bechtel Fellowship to Allison Angell (right). The Bechtel Fellowship is designed to allow qualified children’s librarians to spend a month or more reading and studying at the Baldwin Library of Historical Children’s Literature, a part of the George A. Smathers Libraries at the University of Florida, Gainesville. Angell is the head of youth services at the Benicia (Calif.) Public Library.

ALSC, Mar. 7

2012 Penguin Young Readers Group grants
ALSC has awarded 2012 Penguin Young Readers Group grants to Heather Schubert, Eric Barbus, Linda Klein, and Donna Alvis. The $600 stipend enables up to four children’s librarians to attend their first ALA Annual Conference.

ALSC, Mar. 6

Rethinking Resource Sharing Innovation Awards
The Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative has created an award to encourage libraries and librarians to make changes in how they do resource sharing and improve service to users. In 2012, one winning

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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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Beverly Goldberg, Senior Editor: bgoldberg@ala.org
Greg Landgraf, Associate Editor: glandgraf@ala.org

Ankara, Turkey. “E-Science and Information Management.”

Sept. 21–22: Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy, Coastal Georgia Center, Savannah.

@ More...
submission will be awarded a cash prize of $1,000. The recipient will be announced at the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim. Submit a description of the user-centric service change you have made that has improved resource sharing in your library by May 1....

Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative

Mandel Foundation grants $5 million to West Palm Beach
The Mandel Foundation has awarded a $5 million grant to the West Palm Beach (Fla.) Library Foundation to transform the library into a world-class institution. The grant will be used to create an endowment, develop the WPBL Foundation, and fund innovative programs geared toward making the library more user friendly....
West Palm Beach (Fla.) Library Foundation, Feb. 21

2012 Ezra Jack Keats New Writer and New Illustrator Awards
The Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, in partnership with the de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection at the University of Southern Mississippi Libraries, announced the winners of the 26th Annual Ezra Jack Keats New Writer and New Illustrator Awards: New Writer winner Meg Medina for Tia Isa Wants a Car, and New Illustrator winner Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw for Same, But Different. The awards will be presented at the Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival on April 12....
Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, Mar. 6

2012 Blue Peter Book Awards
The Considine Curse (Bloomsbury), a werewolf mystery by South London author Gareth P. Jones, was announced March 1 as the winner of the 2012 Blue Peter Book of the Year Award on a special episode of the BBC-TV children’s program Blue Peter, broadcast from the John Rylands Library in Manchester. The Best Children’s Book of the Last 10 Years Award went to Jeff Kinney’s Diary of a Wimpy Kid....
Booktrust, Mar. 1

Go back to the Top

Seen Online

Chicago teens design Lady Gaga tour bus
Working out of the YOUmedia teen space at Chicago’s Harold Washington Library Center, six 16- and 17-year-olds have been helping to design a tour bus for Lady Gaga, a specialized vehicle that will join the pop star’s caravan when she goes out on the road again next year. The teens were featured in a celebrity philanthropic event at Harvard University on February 29. Called the “Born Brave” bus, its mission echoes Gaga’s new Born This Way Foundation and its interior will feature a media-focused youth space much like YOUmedia itself....
Chicago Tribune, Feb. 28

Publishers oppose bill on scholarly open access

Sanhita Sinharoy, Associate Editor: ssinharoy@ala.org
Laurie D. Borman, Editor and Publisher, American Libraries: lborman@ala.org
Jennifer Henderson, Contributing Researcher

To advertise in American Libraries Direct, contact:
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Send feedback: aldirect@ala.org

AL Direct FAQ: americanlibrariesmagazine.org/aldirect

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ISSN 1559-369X

A group of 81 scholarly journal publishers came out against the latest iteration of the Federal Research Public Access Act (FRPAA)—a bill that would require federal research grantees to make their resulting academic papers freely available to the public no more than six months after publication in a scholarly journal. The bill, introduced in February in both the House (H.R. 4004) and Senate (S. 2096), is the third iteration of FRPAA to be introduced since 2006; two previous versions failed to make it to a vote....

Inside Higher Ed, Mar. 6; Association of American Publishers, Mar. 5

Protesters rally against Harvard Library layoffs

Approximately 50 protesters gathered in front of the Holyoke Center on the campus of Harvard University March 1 to rally against layoffs that may result from the Harvard Library’s upcoming reorganization. On February 13, the university announced a voluntary retirement package for library workers. Three organizers with the Harvard Union of Clerical and Technical Workers, which represents close to half the library workforce at Harvard, wrote an op-ed in the Harvard Crimson March 5, stating the implications of the reorganization....

Harvard Crimson, Jan. 23, Mar. 2, 5

MLK Library’s future: Half a library or none at all?

Mike DeBonis writes: "Last fall a blue-ribbon panel of planners, developers, and architects looked at what could be done with the historic but increasingly unsuitable Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in downtown Washington, D.C. The options included (a) renovating the building, (b) selling off the building and using the proceeds to build a new library elsewhere, and (c) expanding the current building and dividing it between a library and another, revenue-generating use. The panel’s final report is now public, as is this news release from DCPL.”...

Washington Post: District of DeBonis, Mar. 5

Robolibraries roll out in Chicago suburbs

Libraries short on cash, parking, and staff are looking at self-service options to reach customers during off hours without adding work for employees. Tucked into vending machines or train station lockers, robolibraries allow patrons to pick up or drop off DVDs and books at their convenience during a time when many suburban libraries are cutting operating hours....

Chicago Tribune, Mar. 7

Library settles lawsuit with author of Library Diaries

Four years after a book exposed details of residents’ lives in the small town of Ludington, Michigan, the book’s author, Sally Stern, a local library worker fired for writing The Library Diaries, filed a wrongful termination complaint in US District Court in Grand Rapids. It was settled in February with Stern receiving $57,000. The Library Diaries draws from Stern’s 14 years as a library assistant at the Mason County (Mich.) District Library. She wrote it as a memoir but, before publication, labeled it fiction....

Detroit News, Mar. 4

Laura Bush gives final grants for Gulf Coast school libraries

Former First Lady Laura Bush (right) returned...
to Chalmette High School in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, March 1 for the fifth time since Hurricane Katrina and announced grants ranging from $20,000 to $60,000 to 10 Louisiana school libraries. The grants are part of her foundation’s Gulf Coast School Library Recovery Initiative, Bush also announced—to the surprise of the librarians in attendance from many of the schools—that all the 116 school libraries that have received grants from the foundation over the past six years will also receive about $1,000 each....

New Orleans Times-Picayune, Mar. 1; Tales from a Loud Librarian, Mar. 1

EU commissioner says new Google privacy policy breaks the law

Google rolled out its new privacy policy March 1 to renewed protests from data protection authorities in Europe. The policy will allow the world’s largest internet company to collect information about its users across all its products, services, and websites and store it in one place. Some European authorities have concluded that the new policy violates European law, European Union Justice Commissioner Viviane Reding told BBC Radio Four. Meanwhile Google responded to reader questions about its privacy changes....

Los Angeles Times, Mar. 1–2

Advice from the man who helped save LA’s libraries

In 2010, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa handed Los Angeles Public Library a budget so severe that the system’s board couldn’t keep any of the city’s 73 libraries open more than five days a week. In March 2011, LAPL’s fortunes changed when voters approved a ballot initiative that forced the municipal government to rearrange the city’s budget in order to provide the library with enough funding to restore hours at all its branches. The man in charge of LAPL during this tumultuous period was Martín Gómez (right), Los Angeles’ soon-to-be-former city librarian....

Torontoist, Mar. 2

Seaside sued over meeting room policy

A lawsuit, filed in US District Court against the Seaside (Oreg.) Public Library, claims that the library’s policy involving the use of its meeting room is unconstitutional. A Florida-based nonprofit organization called Liberty Counsel filed the suit, claiming that the policy discriminates on the basis of religious content and viewpoint. The lawsuit stems from a request by Benjamin Boyd, who wrote a letter August 6, 2010, seeking to use the meeting room on behalf of the Liberty Foundation (now known as the Liberty Counsel)....

Daily Astorian (Oreg.), Mar. 2

Million-dollar boost to Prince George’s school libraries

School libraries in Prince George’s County, Maryland, received a $1.2 million boost for additional staff and materials as the school board voted February 24 to send the $1.65 billion FY2013 school budget to county officials for approval. Board members introduced amendments that would allocate $2 per student to purchase library materials and offer a full-time library media specialist—up from the proposed part-
time employee—at each of the county’s 22 traditional high schools....
Prince George’s (Md.) Gazette, Feb. 24

**Library book returned after 100 years**
A 500-year-old medical textbook has finally found its way back to Dublin’s Marsh’s Library after having been lost for more than a century. It was bought along with an antique mirror for 90 euros ($118 US) from a Dublin junk shop by an unnamed barrister and returned to the library March 2. Originally published in 1538 in Basel, Switzerland, the book is the third volume in a series of five on the medical works of physician, philosopher, and surgeon Galen....
Irish Times (Dublin), Mar. 6

**Tech Talk**

**Librarian helped launch the first website in North America**
Diane Rezendes Khirallah writes: “On December 12, 1991, the first web server in North America went into operation. It came from what is now SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, operated by Stanford University, whose mission was high-energy physics, not computer science. The server, inspired by an idea developed at the European particle physics center CERN, provided users remote access to a Stanford database of some 200,000 preprints of scientific papers.” SLAC Librarian Louise Addis (above) was part of the team that established the first website. She received the LITA Gaylord Award in 2001. Read a 2000 interview with her....
Symmetry, Mar.; Stanford Report, Apr. 11, 2001; First Monday 5, no. 5 (May 1, 2000)

**11 inspiring nonprofit Facebook timelines**
Heather Mansfield writes: “Most nonprofits have not yet upgraded to the new Facebook Timeline for Pages design, but as more and more admins begin to realize that the Timeline design and tool set is much more than just uploading a photo to the top of your page, I think we’ll see many of our favorite nonprofits take the leap and upgrade before the mandatory rollout of Facebook Timeline to all pages on March 30. Here are 11 nonprofits that have upgraded to Facebook Timeline.”...
Nonprofit Tech 2.0, Mar. 4

**What is Action Analytics?**
Gwen Evans writes: “Technology is enabling a different kind of future-oriented analytics. Action Analytics is evidence-based, combines data sets from different silos, and uses actions, performance, and data from the past to provide recommendations meant to influence future actions at both the institutional and the individual level. It was a presentation by Mark David Milliron at Educause 2011 that made me think about the possibilities of the interventionist aspect of analytics for libraries.”...
ACRL Tech Connect, Mar. 5
Innovative Interfaces joins the private equity club
Innovative Interfaces, one of the veteran companies of the library automation industry, has been one of the major holdouts in the wave of private equity investments that has reshaped the library automation industry over the past six years. The company has remained under the sole ownership of its cofounder Jerry Kline. That position now changes as a pair of private equity firms have made strategic investments in Innovative Interfaces and its sister company, SkyRiver Technology Solutions....
ALA TechSource blog, Mar. 1

Nearly half of American adults are smartphone owners
Nearly half (46%) of American adults are smartphone owners as of February 2012, an increase of 11 percentage points over the 35% of Americans who owned a smartphone last May. Two in five adults (41%) own a cellphone that is not a smartphone, meaning that smartphone owners are now more prevalent within the overall population than owners of more basic mobile phones....
Pew Research Center: Internet and American Life Project, Mar. 1

How a web link can take control of your smartphone
Tom Simonite writes: “A chilling demonstration to a small, packed room at the RSA security conference February 29 showed how clicking a single bad web link while using a phone running Google’s Android operating system could give an attacker full remote control of your phone. Once George Kurtz and colleagues from security startup CrowdStrike were done, they could record phone calls, intercept text messages, and track the hacked phone’s location at all times.”...
Technology Review, Feb. 29

How to buy an external hard drive
Joel Santo Domingo writes: “External hard drives promise almost unlimited storage. For under $100, you can add a terabyte of data to your PC or Mac, portable or desktop. That’s enough for over 750,000 MP3s or photos, or more than 230 DVD-sized movies. Auxiliary storage allows you to back up your system files, in case your primary system goes kaput.” Here are five of the best external hard drives out there....
PC Magazine, Feb. 29, Mar. 1

Go back to the Top

E-Content

The arithmetic of library ebook lending
Jonathan Chambers writes: “I became curious about the economics of ebook lending, and what I found has made me even more curious. My conclusion: Public libraries’ acquisition and lending of ebooks could be structured in a way that would not have any greater or lesser financial impact on the publishing industry than library lending of physical books. This is true even if ebook lending is made more convenient (less friction) for library patrons, as it should be.”...
**Should libraries get out of the ebook business?**
Bobbi Newman writes: “I know what you are going to say, I can hear it already. But the truth is our patrons want a lot of things we can’t give them. When it comes to ebooks, we cannot give them what they want, not really. What we can do, what maybe we should do, is spend their tax money wisely, and I am no longer convinced that spending it on the current ebook system is a wise move.”...

**Library Renewal, Mar. 5**

**Alternative uses for the pesky ebook budget**
Andy Woodworth writes: “Not happy with an ebook collection that has limited checkouts or paying three times the price for the privilege? I’m willing to bet that there are better uses for that ebook budget money that would yield a higher rate of return on investment, better community outreach and involvement, and make more fiscal sense for your library’s stakeholders. So, I brainstormed a few ideas, but I’m hoping that you can help me think of more possible uses. Let's begin!”...

**Librarian by Day, Mar. 7**

**Reading, interrupted**
Can you concentrate on Flaubert when Facebook is only a swipe away, or give your true devotion to Mr. Darcy while Twitter beckons? People who read ebooks on tablets like the iPad are realizing that while a book in print or on a black-and-white Kindle is straightforward and immersive, a tablet offers a menu of distractions that can fragment the reading experience—or stop it in its tracks....

**New York Times, Mar. 4**

**If books are our brand . . .**
Carson Block writes: “While it’s true that ebooks are books, it’s also true that ebooks are not books. The broadening of the definition of ‘book’ complicates one of the primary functions of the public library, which is connecting people to information, education, and enrichment (mostly in the form of books) at no direct cost to the seeker as a tax-funded public good. What happens when this primary function undergoes a dramatic shift, especially when it’s not driven by the library, but by the marketplace?”...

**Public Libraries 51, no. 1 (Jan./Feb.)**

**Predatory online journals lure scholars**
Michael Stratford writes: “Amy L. Reynolds, associate dean at Louisiana State University’s Manship School of Mass Communication, had never heard of the *Journal of Mass Communication and Journalism* when she first received an email soliciting submissions for it. But she took a quick look at the journal’s website, recognized some colleagues on its editorial board, and sent a note about the publishing opportunity to her graduate students. She now regrets doing that, because she found out the company running the journal is an open-access publisher operating under an author-pays model.”...

**Chronicle of Higher Education, Mar. 4**

**Fair use ruling sought in HathiTrust case**
Plaintiffs filed a motion (PDF file) February 28 asking Federal District Judge Harold Baer to rule on the fair use defense in the HathiTrust lawsuit. At issue is a mass book digitization program through which
Google converted millions of copyright-protected library books into machine-readable digital files that were duplicated and distributed to university libraries and HathiTrust, an online digital repository. James Grimmelmann offers a [detailed analysis](http://aldirect.ala.org/sites/default/al_direct/2012/march/030712-2.htm) of this "early knockout" tactic....

**OverDrive breaks ground on new HQ in Ohio**

Ebook distributor OverDrive announced March 7 it has begun construction of a new 95,000-square-foot world headquarters and "Blue Sky Campus" in Garfield Heights, Ohio. Gary Price [points out](http://www.libraryjournal.com/?p=499014): "Congrats to OverDrive but at a time when libraries (their customers) are having budgetary issues (to say the least) is it a good idea for them to point out that the new HQ will have two indoor basketball courts, a walking path, and pond?"...

**The disappearing virtual library**

Christopher Kelty writes: "In late February, a website called library.nu disappeared. A coalition of international scholarly publishers accused the site of piracy and convinced a judge in Munich, Germany, to shut it down. Library.nu (formerly Gigapedia) had offered, if reports are to be believed, between 400,000 and a million digital books for free. And not just any books, but scholarly books. But who were these sad criminals, these barbarians at the gates ready to bring our information economy to its knees? They were students and scholars from every corner of the planet."...

**10 things ebooks won’t tell you**

Kelli B. Grant writes: "Don’t dismantle the bookshelves yet. We reveal why e-reading is still far from perfect. #2: Ebook publishing platforms are so easy to use; just about anyone can publish a book. That increased freedom means there’s little oversight on copyright or quality. Readers could spend good money on poorly written content—or worse, something which could be found elsewhere online for free."...

**Four reasons to love e-reading**

Becky O'Neil writes: "I don’t like to do what everyone else does. I waited forever to join online social networks, I scoffed at the cost of the first iPods while happily polishing my scratched CDs, and I was known to hug and pet books in my book collection even while my friends were raving about e-readers. How was I converted to The Dark Side, you may wonder? Well, it all began with a long Russian novel."...

**A look inside the Elsevier boycott**

Caralee Adams writes: "Proponents of Open Access have long criticized the business practices of Elsevier, the largest publisher of academic journals in the world. But in late January, Timothy Gowers, the accomplished Cambridge mathematician, took things to a new
level, issuing a call for researchers to enact a boycott of Elsevier-run journals. Mathematician Tyler Neylon offered to start a website devoted to the cause. Here are some highlights of two separate interviews with Gowers and Neylon."

SPARC, Mar. 5; Gowers’s Weblog, Jan. 21

**Regional English, tweet by tweet**
The Dictionary of American Regional English, the recently completed landmark project, is based largely on research by a team of fieldworkers who fanned out across the country some 50 years ago in vans called Word Wagons, querying Americans about their ways of talking. The linguists of the future, however, may not have to go to such literal lengths to find geographical variations in speech; the 200 million or so messages posted each day in the supposedly placeless world of Twitter may end up being a rich source of information about regional differences....


**The Hunger Games @ your library**
With the success of The Hunger Games trilogy, teens and adults are equally excited about the movie’s upcoming release. Here are just a few ideas of how librarians across the country are tapping into readers’ enthusiasm. A “survival training class” and Capitol fashion show are among the scheduled programs for the One Book, One Community project offered by the Livingston County (Mich.) libraries....

Campaign for America’s Libraries, Mar. 6

**The 10 best fictional bookstores**
Emily Temple writes: "One of our favorite bookstores on TV, Portlandia’s Women & Women First (right), will soon be taking a vacation, so to console ourselves, we’ve created a list of our 10 favorite fictional bookstores from film, TV, and literature. We’ve limited ourselves to bookstores that are truly fictional, not just appearing in fiction—so the Travel Book Shop from Notting Hill and the defunct-but-actual shop at 84 Charing Cross Road are sadly both eliminated."...

Flavorwire, Mar. 4

**The average book has 64,500 words**
Gabe Habash writes: "According to Amazon’s great Text Stats feature, the median length for all books is about 64,000 words. The figure was found through looking at a number of books’ text stats, until Brave New World’s 64,531 word count landed in the exact center of all books—50% of books have fewer words and 50% of books have more words. Here’s a sampling of the classics and where their word counts land them on the spectrum."...

Publishers Weekly: PWxyz, Mar. 6

**Gender bias in book reviews**
Vida, a US organization supporting women in the literary arts, has compiled statistics on the gender split in books coverage at publications including the London Review of Books, the Times Literary Supplement, the New Yorker, and the New York Times Book Review, each of which showed a
substantial bias toward using male reviewers and covering male authors. Bestselling author Jodi Picoult, who caused a minor storm in 2010 when she hit out at the New York Times for its focus on “white male literary darlings,” said the Vida statistics were “mystifying” given the amount of great fiction written by women and the fact that more women buy books....

The Guardian (UK), Mar. 2; Aug. 20, 2010; Vida, Feb. 27

**How they dealt with errata**

Sarah Werner writes: “In my last post, I wrote about my joy in finding printer’s errors and what we might learn from them about early modern printing. In this one, I want to look at some examples of what printers did to correct their errors. In most cases, they would hope that an error came to light during a proof stage so that they could correct it before starting a print run. Sometimes, however, they found mistakes during a print run and had to stop the presses to replace the incorrect type with correct type.”...

The Collation, Feb. 23, Mar. 1

**500 new fairy tales discovered in Germany**

A whole new world of magic animals, brave young princes, and evil witches has come to light with the discovery of 500 new fairy tales, which were locked away in an archive in Regensburg, Germany, for more than 150 years. The tales are part of a collection of myths, legends, and fairy tales gathered by the local historian Franz Xaver von Schönwerth (1810–1886) in the Bavarian region of Oberpfalz at about the same time as the Brothers Grimm were collecting their fairy tales....

The Guardian (UK), Mar. 5

**An oral history: Dental books from yesteryear**

Elizabeth C. writes: “If you have a sweet tooth for rare books, then this selection of dental textbooks dating back to 1778 will appeal (unless you are squeamish or have a toothache right now). Personally, I love the selection—some grisly diagrams, archaic methods, and harrowing-sounding procedures. These are the kind of old books I love to thumb through. I feel like dentists should keep these in their waiting rooms to remind modern patients how good they have it.”...

Reading Copy Book Blog, Feb. 29

**Pew study: The Library in the City**

Big-city public libraries have rarely been as popular
as they are today and rarely as besieged. *The Library in the City: Changing Demands and a Challenging Future* (PDF file), a report from the Pew Charitable Trusts, looks at how Philadelphia is faring and the challenges facing urban libraries across America. It examines the Free Library of Philadelphia’s operations and compares them to those of 14 other library systems....

Pew Charitable Trusts, Mar. 7

**Emily Pogue, public library nurse**

Lisa Bunker writes: “In her first week working at the Pima County (Ariz.) Public Library, Registered Nurse Emily Pogue (right) helped a newly homeless woman find safe shelter and access to the medications she needed. She listened to the stories of military veterans, helped them organize a buddy system, and she helped library staff deal sensitively with a child’s case of head lice. In just a month, library staff noticed a drop in calls to 911 and experienced far fewer behavioral incidents.”...

Boing Boing, Mar. 2; Pima County (Ariz.) News, Feb. 23

**20 ways to escape the library echo chamber**

Sally Pewhairangi writes: “Usually suggestions for escaping the library echo chamber include writing about, contributing to discussions about, or marketing libraries in nonlibrary spheres. All of these are necessary. But not all of us in Libraryland can do it. This list contains 20 ways to escape the library echo chamber. Each suggestion encourages you to be curious about what is happening outside libraries.”...

Finding Heroes: Project management for Libraries, Mar. 6

**The best images to promote digital preservation**

Bill LeFurgy writes: “We do a fair amount of personal digital archiving outreach. Our main goal is to raise awareness that people who create and keep personal digital information need to take steps to ensure their data persists. We look for pictures to tell this story. This can be a challenge because digital information is hard to graphically represent. How many hackneyed iterations of streaming ‘1’s and 0’s’ can we get away with, after all?”...

The Signal: Digital Preservation, Mar. 5

**Syracuse poses a Pinterest contest**

Joyce Valenza writes: “The iSchool at Syracuse University has announced a forward-thinking, library-flavored Pinterest challenge. Participants are invited to share their new library vision on Pinterest, the highly popular, visual (and pretty) curation network. The Pinterest Contest for the New Librarianship is a search for a few good boards that define and illustrate the future of our profession.”...

School Library Journal: NeverEndingSearch, Mar. 7

**The cost of reading privacy policies**

Alexis Madrigal writes: “One simple answer to our privacy problems would be if everyone became maximally informed about how much data was being kept and sold about them. Logically, to do so, you’d have to read all the privacy policies on the websites you visit. A few
years ago, two researchers calculated how much time it would take to actually read every privacy policy you should. They found that if you read every privacy policy on every website you visit, you would spend 25 days out of the year doing nothing else.


**Full-time school librarians linked to higher student reading scores**
The findings of a fall 2011 report by Library Research Service indicate that Colorado schools that either kept or acquired a full-time school librarian between 2005 and 2011 tended to have more students scoring higher in reading in 2011 and fewer students scoring unsatisfactory, compared with schools that either lost their librarians or never had one. The report, *Change in School Librarian Staffing Linked with Change in CSAP Reading Performance, 2005 to 2011* ([PDF file](#)) is by Keith Curry Lance and Linda Hofschire.

Library Research Service, Jan. 17

**Youth and digital media**
A new report from Harvard’s Youth and Media project at the Berkman Center for Internet and Society seeks to understand youths’ real experiences of online information quality. The February report, *Youth and Digital Media: From Credibility to Information Quality*, synthesizes more than three years of research. One key finding: Youth use cues and heuristics to evaluate quality, especially visual and interactive elements.

Berkman Center for Internet and Society, Mar. 6

**37 websites for teaching kids about money**
Julie Greller writes: “Students today are surprised to find out that they can easily amass $1 million by the time they retire if they start investing and saving while they are still in high school. This type of instruction should be mandatory for all students, so that when they are out on their own they will understand how to balance their own checkbook and make sound investments. If you teach personal finance, I hope you can use some of these wonderful resources.”

*A Media Specialist’s Guide to the Internet*, Mar. 6

**Report on the Miami Hurricane Summit**
On February 8, the Louis Calder Memorial Library of the University of Miami’s Miller School of Medicine hosted a summit meeting to share best practices, discuss roles for libraries following a disaster, and facilitate communication and cooperation among librarians and emergency planners in the Miami/Dade County area. This report ([PDF file](#)) summarizes the presentations and takeaways at the meeting.

National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Mar. 5

**OCLC to share Dutch public library data**
OCLC and Bibliotheek.nl, the organization of Dutch public libraries, have signed an agreement to include the complete collections of public libraries in the GGC, the Dutch shared cataloging system. The agreement was signed at the OCLC EMEA Regional Council Meeting in Birmingham, United Kingdom, and will serve as a foundation for the new Dutch National Library Catalog. The collections will be visible...
Library parks foster community in Colombia

Greg Nichols writes: “Medellín, Colombia’s ‘library parks’—built for its poorest residents—are bringing sanity and community to one of the world’s most violent cities. Nine of these combination community centers and social service hubs are currently operating or under construction in the slums. The library parks are some of the most architecturally impressive buildings in the city. The Parque Biblioteca San Javier (above), designed by Colombian architect Javier Vera, hugs a hillside in western Medellín.”

Miller-McCune, Feb. 28

The Kabul Public Library

Bengali Indian author Amitav Ghosh has written up a short description of the public library in Kabul, Afghanistan, accompanied by many photos, after a visit in February. He writes: “The library is a 1960s-style building, modest but well-constructed. In the main reading room a charcoal-burning bukhari stove was being used to ward off the cold. The library is said to have 220,000 books, of which 180,000 are in Farsi/Dari. There is a small but cheerful children’s section (above).” He also paid a visit to the National Archives.

Amitav Ghosh, Feb. 21, 27

David Letterman and the NBC bookmobile

A recurring character on Late Night with David Letterman in the 1980s was the NBC Library Lady (played by scenic designer Kathleen Ankers), along with the “gruff but lovable” Gus, the bookmobile driver. In this sketch (8:16), the Library Lady is preparing for the “Battle of the Network Bookmobiles,” Letterman reviews some recent book titles, and Gus drives the bookmobile to the Live at Five set.

Late Night with David Letterman, Feb. 4, 1988

Shutesbury library raises money with ukelele song

The M. N. Spear Memorial Library in Shutesbury, Massachusetts, needs to raise money to build a new building to replace its current one, which has no running water and a lack of space. The video fundraiser (2:14) says the library needs to raise $1.4 million by June 30 in order to receive 60% of funding from the state for the new facility. So far, the library has raised about $180,000.

YouTube, Feb. 29
Sign up to receive *Al. Direct* every Wednesday [here](http://aldirect.ala.org/sites/default/al_direct/2012/march/030712-2.htm).  
*American Libraries Magazine*, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611
Library Design Showcase 2012
As the transformation of libraries continues, it follows that the physical structure would have to transform as well to support changes in services, missions, and audiences. The 2012 Library Design Showcase highlights the best in new and newly renovated library buildings, divided into 12 sections that each focus on one architectural aspect..

American Libraries feature

Rowdy librarians at SXSWi
Paul Vinelli writes: “Saturday is typically the most frenetic day at the SXSW Interactive conference in Austin, Texas, March 9–13, as dealmakers recover from the previous night’s parties and rally for a second day of negotiations and networking. Librarians rally just as fiercely as anyone else—only we put more heart into what we do. Panelists offered new ways of thinking about the field while challenging us to take action in redefining how we serve our communities.” Look for other rowdy librarians posts here, here, and here. A group called #sxswLAM (Librarians, Archivists, and Museum Professionals) is making its presence felt at the conference, and OIF Director Barbara Jones is also blogging the event.

ALA Membership Blog, Mar. 10–13; The Signal: Digital Preservation, Mar. 12; OIF Blog, Mar. 14

Reflective teaching for librarians
Char Booth writes: "Research and attentiveness build a composite of ideas collected through chance and diligence, which is similar to a reflective concept I call gleaning—incorporating the connections that naturally occur through
collaboration, participation, and simply moving through the day into whatever you happen to be working on. It is a mindset in which you notice potential solutions to the challenges you face and make use of the resources around you. Gleaning grows out of a willingness to become an active and interested sponge, and involves four elements: observation, documentation, integration, and acknowledgement.”...

Newsmaker: Jeanette Winterson
Sanhita SinhaRoy writes: “British author Jeanette Winterson (right) grew up in poverty, with few books and even fewer prospects for escape from the small industrial town where she was raised. In her new memoir, Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal? (Grove Press, March) the author pays tribute to the power of books and the influence libraries and librarians had in helping her break away from an abusive upbringing and build a better life for herself.”...

A conversation at the Newberry
Laurie D. Borman writes: “Author Scott Turow and US Court of Appeals Judge Richard Posner discussed the future of authors, books, and libraries at the Newberry Library in Chicago February 22 at the first of the ‘Conversations at the Newberry’ series created by National Public Radio’s Chicago affiliate WBEZ. Turow, currently in his second term as president of the Author’s Guild, spoke passionately about the rights of authors and the guild’s fight against the Google Books Project. Posner opened his remarks on how the internet simplifies research, particularly for academics.”...

ALA News

Actor, author Chris Colfer to appear at Annual Conference
Award-winning actor Chris Colfer will appear in the high-profile Auditorium Speaker Series at 2012 ALA Annual Conference on Saturday, June 23, in the Convention Center. Best known for his starring role as Kurt Hummel in the critically acclaimed Golden Globe and SAG Award–winning comedy Glee, Colfer has authored his first children’s book, The Land of Stories, which will be released July 17....

Conference Services, Mar. 13
**Start planning for Annual with the Preliminary Program**
ALA Annual Conference Preliminary Program offers the latest highlights and details, showcasing the huge range of events and sessions that can help you expand your network, build your knowledge, and improve your profession. Look for details on coverage of books and authors, information and public policy, and support for career development. Find out more about the new Tech Talks, ALA Masters Series presentations, Conversation Starters, Ignite Sessions, Unconference, Library Camp, and the Networking Uncommons....
Conference Services, Mar. 13

**2012 ALA elections open March 19**
Voting in the 2012 ALA elections will begin 9 a.m. Central time March 19. Between March 19 and March 21, ALA will notify voters by email, providing them with unique passcodes and information about how to vote online. Polls will close on April 27. For the fourth year in a row, ALA is holding its election exclusively online. To be eligible to vote, individuals must be members in good standing as of January 31....
Office of ALA Governance, Mar. 13

**Disaster response and planning**
Fire, water, mold, construction problems, power outages—mishaps like these not only bring library services to a grinding halt, but can also destroy collections and endanger employees. Preparing for the unexpected is the foundation of a library’s best response. A third edition of Disaster Response and Planning for Libraries, published by ALA Editions, comes to the rescue with a timely update of the best step-by-step, how-to guide for preparing and responding to all types of library disasters....
ALA Editions, Mar. 7

**ALA and iPAC research libraries’ e-government needs**
ALA and the Information Policy and Access Center at the University of Maryland College Park have launched a project, “Libraries and E-Government: New Partnerships in Public Service,” in recognition of the expanding role of the public library in the provision of e-government services. The project focuses on the development of an online resource that will assist public librarians to better meet the e-government needs of the communities they serve....
District Dispatch, Mar. 8

**ALA Graphics summer catalog**
Two treasured children’s characters star in new illustrated posters and bookmarks: The Frankie Pickle poster (right) and the Yoko Learns to Read poster. In honor of the 30th anniversary of Banned Books Week, two dramatic poster designs, Banned and Forbidden, buttons, and double-sided bookmarks will help libraries, schools, and community groups celebrate the freedom to read September 30–October 6. “It Came from the Library,” YALSA’s 2012 Teen Read Week theme, is highlighted in a spooky poster. Find all of the new products at the ALA Store....
ALA Graphics, Mar. 13

Suzanne Collins’s Hunger Games trilogy has been an epic sensation for teens and adults alike. Every year in the ruins of what was once North America, the nation of Panem forces each of its 12 districts to send a teenage boy and girl to compete in the Hunger Games. This poster featuring Katniss (Jennifer Lawrence), Peeta (Josh Hutcherson), and Gale

Featured review: Media, adult fiction
Fans of Naxos’ acclaimed recordings will recognize Lesser’s distinctive British voice in his exceptional reading of Dickens’s classic. What sets the audio apart is Lesser’s skill in establishing the novel’s tone and characters, both key elements in the impact of the story. The setting is Coketown, an English industrial town where pollution fills the air with grime, and the working-class inhabitants with despair. From the opening passages, Lesser sets the stage for conflict in his portrayal of capitalist Gradgrind in arrogant and plummy tones....

Happy birthday, Mr. Dickens
Bill Ott writes: “I started reading Dickens in earnest in the 1970s, after I had escaped academia, and have continued sporadically ever since, aided along the way by all those Masterpiece productions and, more recently, by my new passion, audiobooks. I’m currently listening to Simon Prebble’s spectacular reading of Great Expectations and luxuriating in every mellifluous word. I remember first reading the novel in junior high and not really getting it. My main critical response to the tale was to wonder why nothing was said about how badly Miss Havisham must have smelled. Frankly, the issue remains a concern.”...

@ Visit Booklist Online for other reviews and much more....
The Muzeo (which means “museum” in Esperanto) is a relatively new center for arts, knowledge, entertainment, and culture, housed in a former Carnegie library building at 241 S. Anaheim Boulevard. During ALA Annual Conference, the Muzeo will feature an exhibit on “The Word: Ink and Blood” that reviews the history of the Bible and the origins of written language. Artifacts on display include authentic Dead Sea Scroll fragments, Hebrew Torahs, ancient Greek texts, Medieval Latin manuscripts, original pages from the Gutenberg Bible, and rare English printed Bibles.

Disney’s Cars Land set to open in June

Disney California Adventure, one of the two theme parks in the Disneyland Resort, is opening a new attraction June 15 based on Radiator Springs, the fictional town in the Disney-Pixar movie Cars. Cars Land is designed to look like old Route 66, complete with prominent neon signage. Rides will include the Radiator Springs Racers, Mater’s Junkyard Jamboree, and Luigi’s Flying Tires. Watch a video (1:30) about the neon creations.

Division News

Family life in the digital age

Lori Takeuchi, director of research for the Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop, will be the keynote speaker at the AASL President’s Program at the 2012 Annual Conference. During her presentation, Takeuchi will discuss Families Matter: Designing Media for a Digital Age (PDF file), the findings of two studies that document how families with young children are integrating digital media into the rhythm of daily life.

New name, logo for AASL’s research journal

AASL’s online refereed research journal, School Library Media Research, has changed its name to School Library Research (SLR). Beginning with its 15th volume in April 2012, all research manuscripts in the journal will carry the new name and be branded with the new logo (above).

School Libraries Count! deadline extended

a study room, with portraits of two Habsburg emperors.

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze, Florence, Italy. The library was founded as the Biblioteca Magliabechiana in 1714 with the bequest of a collection by Antonio Magliabechi, bibliophile and librarian to the grand duke of Tuscany. In 1743, it became a depository for Tuscan imprints and opened to the public in 1747. After Italian unification, it was renamed the National Central Library of Florence. Since 1935, the collections have been housed in a building located along the Arno River, which flooded on November 4, 1966, and damaged nearly one-third of the library’s holdings including prints, maps, posters, newspapers, and a majority of works in the Palatine and Magliabechi collections. Unfortunately, 46 years later, many of the damaged books are still in storage awaiting repair, binding, cleaning, and reassembling.

This AL Direct feature showcases 250 libraries around the world that are notable for their exquisite architecture, historic collections, and innovative
The deadline to participate in the AASL 2012 “School Libraries Count!” longitudinal survey has been extended to March 30. The survey gathers basic data about the status of school library programs across the country. AASL will use this information to develop advocacy tools to support school library programs at the local, state, and national levels. All K–12 schools—public and private—are invited to participate on a voluntary basis....

**Mackin to sponsor student video contest prizes**

Mackin Educational Resources will once again sponsor prizes for AASL’s School Library Month student video contest. Mackin will award the school libraries of the student winners with a prize of $500 in books. The 2012 contest, You Belong @ Your School Library, asks students to visually illustrate why the school library is (either physically or virtually) the place to be. [Submissions](#) for the video contest will be accepted through March 29....

**ALSC spring online courses**

The schedule for ALSC’s spring 2012 online courses is now available. Classes begin April 2 and registration is now open for all courses. Detailed descriptions and registration information is available on the ALSC website. Fees are $95 for personal ALSC members; $145 for personal ALA members; and $165 for nonmembers....

**Webinar: Managing teen behavior**

When teens flood into the library, anything can happen. But chaos needn’t reign in your teen space. By setting the right tone with regulars, establishing appropriate boundaries, and equitably addressing problem behaviors, you can create a teen space that is consistently welcoming using strategies from "Managing the Swarm." YALSA’s April 19 webinar, led by Erin Downey Howerton (right)....

**Visit the PLA Store**

If you are going to the PLA Conference in Philadelphia, check out the PLA Store at the Pennsylvania Convention Center near the Broad Street entrance. The store is located near registration, ideal for easy access and convenient browsing. With plenty of new and bestselling items available, you’ll want to make sure to carve out some time in your schedule to stop by....

**ALCTS preconference to look at authority work, RDA**

“"A Change in Authority: Authority Work in the RDA Environment" is the topic for the upcoming ALCTS preconference at this year’s ALA Annual Conference. This one-day preconference is intended for catalogers new to authority work and/or who work with authority control issues at the local level. The preconference will be held June 22. [Registration](#) is required and a separate registration fee applies....

**LITA preconferences announced**

LITA is offering three full-day preconferences, to be held June 22, at 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.

LITA, Mar. 13

**Explore Ireland’s libraries, pubs, historic sites**

ASCLA is following up its sold-out Paris trip with a fall trip to Ireland in 2012 to explore the emerald isle, its castles, libraries, and important historic sites. The trip will run October 4–12, and will include hotels and transportation to Dublin, Kilkenny, Cork, Cobh, and Killarney; four dinners; tours of the National Library and the Killarney Library, Trinity College and the Book of Kells, Powerscourt Gardens, Kilkenny and Blarney Castles, and the Ring of Kerry. Download the brochure ([PDF file](#)).

ASCLA, Mar. 13

Go back to the Top

**Awards & Grants**

**OCLC/LITA Kilgour Award winner**

LITA has announced G. Sayeed Choudhury (right) the 2012 winner of the Frederick G. Kilgour Award for Research in Library and Information Technology. Choudhury, associate dean for research data management at the Sheridan Libraries of Johns Hopkins University, was recognized for his leadership in the field of data curation and for his ongoing impact on the field of librarianship in applying the principles of librarianship to the curation and preservation of digital data.

LITA, Mar. 13

**2012 Notable Children’s Books**

ALSC selected its 2012 list of Notable Children’s Books in January during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Dallas. The list of titles includes fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and picture books of special interest, quality, creativity, and value to children 14 years of age and younger. View the annotated list of titles.

ALSC, Mar. 13

**2012 Coretta Scott King Book Donation Grants**

The Morton School of Excellence in Chicago, the Perris (Calif.) Library, and the Prentiss (Miss.) Public Library are the recipients of the 2012 Coretta Scott King Book Donation Grants. The grant provides to libraries and other organizations the books submitted for consideration for the Coretta Scott King Book Awards, including a full set of the 2012 winning titles. Each year, three organizations are selected that demonstrate need and potential benefit from receiving the collection.

Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table, Mar. 8

**Bookapalooza Program winners announced**

ALSC has awarded the 2012 Bookapalooza Program to three libraries: First Regional Library in Hernando, Mississippi; Conley Elementary School Library in Whitman, Massachusetts; and Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe–Saginaw Chippewa Academy in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. The award includes a variety of materials from books to campus. The Data Visualization Coordinator oversees the operation of the Digital Scholarship Lab (DSL) and identifies, installs, and supports software to facilitate information visualization across multiple disciplines within the context of the DSL.
Queens Memory Project receives citation
ALCTS has declared the Queens Memory Project as the recipient of its Outstanding Collaboration Citation for 2012. The citation recognizes and encourages collaborative problem-solving efforts in the areas of acquisition, access, management, preservation, or archiving of library materials. The project is dedicated to digitizing, preserving, and providing access to the local history of Queens, New York....
ALCTS, Mar. 12

New RUSA BRASS travel grant
Academic business librarians are encouraged to apply for the BRASS Business Expert Press Award for Academic Business Librarians, a new conference travel grant offered by the Business Reference Services Section of RUSA and sponsored by Business Expert Press. This award, in its inaugural year, recognizes a librarian new to the field of academic business librarianship and provides $1,250 for expenses related to attendance to the 2012 ALA Annual Conference. Download the nomination form (PDF file)....
RUSA, Mar. 13

Apply for a Jan Stauber Grant
The Beacon Society, a nonprofit affiliate of the Baker Street Irregulars, has set a May 1 deadline for librarians, teachers, and others in the US and Canada to apply for a $250 Jan Stauber Grant. The grant will fund programs that introduce young people to Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories. The society's website also offers ideas on how libraries can use Sherlock Holmes to spur reading....
Beacon Society

Movers and Shakers 2012
Library Journal’s Movers and Shakers award spotlights librarians and others in the library field who are doing extraordinary work to serve their users and to move libraries of all types and library services forward. They hail from all corners of the library world. They’ve been nominated by their colleagues, friends, bosses, and admirers. This year’s group of 53 brings the Movers cohort to more than 550....
Library Journal, Mar. 13

2012 Judaica Bibliography Award
The Research Libraries, Archives, and Special Collections Division of the Association of Jewish Libraries has announced the winner of its 2012 Judaica Bibliography Award. Bibliographia Karaïtica (Brill), edited by Barry Dov Walfish and Mikhail Kizilov, is a mammoth bibliography that captures every conceivable aspect of Karaite literature and culture....
People of the Books Blog, Mar. 12

2011 National Book Critics Circle awards
On March 8, the National Book Critic Circle presented its awards for the publishing year 2011. The prize in...
fiction went to Edith Pearlman for *Binocular Vision: New and Selected Stories* (Lookout Books), a collection of 34 Chekhov-like short stories that was also nominated for the National Book Award. The nonfiction prize went to Maya Jasanoff for *Liberty’s Exiles: American Loyalists in the Revolutionary World* (Knopf), a book of fresh, original, and sprightly scholarship....

2011 James Tiptree Jr. Award
Every year, the Tiptree Award celebrates an unusual novel that contemplates shifts and changes in gender roles. This year’s winner is *Redwood and Wildfire* (Aqueduct) by Andrea Hairston, a story of a “hoodoo woman” who migrates from rural Georgia to Chicago at the turn of the 20th century. The citation noted that the “characters in Redwood and Wildfire deftly negotiate freedom and integrity in a society where it’s difficult to hold true to these things.”...

James Tiptree Jr. Literary Award Council, Mar. 9

2012 AHS Book Award winners (PDF file)
Each year, the American Horticultural Society recognizes outstanding gardening books published in North America with its annual Book Award. This year, five winners were named, among them *The Holistic Orchard* by Michael Phillips (Chelsea Geren) and *The Year-Round Vegetable Gardener* by Niki Jabbour (Storey)....

The American Gardener, Mar./Apr.

Books sought for Henryville school libraries
The elementary and secondary schools in Henryville, Indiana, were severely damaged by a March 2 tornado, especially the high school library located on the hard-hit south end of the complex (right). Few books survived the assault, according to Henryville teacher Shawn Turner. The Greater Clark County Schools Educational Foundation in Jeffersonville, Indiana, is accepting donations to help rebuild the collection. Indiana authors are holding a raffle to encourage donations. At least two school libraries in Kentucky were also badly damaged in the same storm system....

Greater Clark County Schools; *Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal*, Mar. 7; GalleyCat, Mar. 13; *Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader*, Mar. 8

Obama nominates two librarians to national board
President Obama announced March 9 his intent to nominate Luis Herrera and Suzanne E. Thorin to the National...
Museum and Library Services Board. Herrera is the city librarian of the San Francisco Public Library and Thorin is university librarian at Syracuse University. The NMLSB is an advisory body that includes the director and deputy directors of IMLS and 20 presidentially appointed and Senate-confirmed members of the general public.... White House, Mar. 9

**Court: Excerpting and linking online is fair use**

On March 9, the US District Court in Nevada issued a declaratory judgment (PDF file) that makes it harder for copyright holders to file lawsuits over excerpts of material and burden online forums and their users with nuisance lawsuits. The judgment—part of the nuisance lawsuit avalanche started by copyright troll Righthaven—found that Democratic Underground did not infringe the copyright in a Las Vegas Review-Journal article when a user of the online political forum posted a five-sentence excerpt, with a link back to the newspaper’s website.... Electronic Freedom Foundation, Mar. 10

**The rebirth of New Orleans libraries**

For some New Orleanians, the story of the post-Katrina public library system’s resurrection might read like a never-ending tale. While officials managed to reopen five of the 13 storm-damaged locations quickly, many neighborhoods have been forced to rely on makeshift mini-libraries. But city hall is preparing to cut the ribbons on five new state-of-the-art libraries over the next few months, including three in rapid-fire succession in March.... New Orleans Times-Picayune, Mar. 12

**Strike deadline looms for Toronto library workers**

The union representing Toronto Public Library workers says it’s battling the city to give members full-time jobs as a strike and lockout deadline looms. More than half of the workforce at Toronto Public Library is part-time, and an increasingly understaffed library system has made it so part-timers are competing with other part-timers, said library union official Maureen O’Reilly.... CBC News, Mar. 7

**Former library president admits stealing nearly $100K**

The former president of Blue Mountain Community Library in Pen Argyl, Pennsylvania, admitted March 9 to stealing nearly $100,000, in a plea agreement under which his wife will be allowed to enter into a first-offender program. Over nine years, Richard Leidich used the public library’s funds to support himself, his wife, and his various business interests, pilfering $99,212 from it before he was caught.... Allentown (Pa.) Morning Call, Mar. 9

**Google to partner with the**

American Society for Indexing Annual Conference, Bahia Resort, San Diego. “Index Appreciation Days: Oh, the Places You’ll Go!”


May 9–11: Maryland Library Association / Delaware Library
Belgian Mundaneum
Google is linking up with an information precursor that aimed to do something similar in the 19th century, on paper. The company announced March 13 it is forming a partnership with a museum in Mons, Belgium, the Mundaneum, dedicated to the compilation and indexing of knowledge in a giant, library-style card catalog with millions of entries—an analog-era equivalent of a search engine or Wikipedia—conceived in 1895 by Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine. The partnership is part of a campaign by Google to demonstrate that it is a friend of European culture....

New York Times, Mar. 12

A cataloger of carillons
Joy Banks (right) is thought to be the only carillon librarian in the world. She chronicles and catalogs the largest collection of carillon music known. That extensive collection is housed inside the centerpiece of the Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales, Florida, the Singing Tower. Banks actually manages two libraries inside the tower: the Bok Tower archives and the Anton Brees Carillon Library, which houses books, periodicals, recital programs, music scores, maps, recordings, slides, and photographs related to carillon music....

Winter Haven (Fla.) News Chief, Mar. 11

Houston library helps mayor delve into her roots
Thanks to KUHT-TV and Houston Public Library’s Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, Mayor Annise Parker stands a good chance of getting some of her genealogical questions answered. KUHT is preparing a program documenting Parker’s genealogical journey to accompany the PBS series Finding Your Roots. Clayton Reference Librarian Ashley Riggenbach said she has found apparent paternal ancestors for Parker dating to the 1870s....

Houston Chronicle, Mar. 12

Little free libraries are catching on in many places
Pat Schneider writes: “I ran into Rick Brooks recently and, not surprisingly, talk soon turned to Little Free Library—the project he cofounded with Todd Bol (right) that places small boxes offering free books in places where people will find them. ‘We’re now in 34 states and 17 countries,’ said Brooks, an outreach manager with UW-Madison’s Division of Continuing Studies. The effort started in 2010 when Bol put up the first one in Hudson, Wisconsin, to honor his late mother. Brooks says today there are 400 to 500 Little Free Libraries now in use around the world.” Watch the newscast (2:41)....

Madison (Wis.) Capital Times, Mar. 11; MSNBC, Mar. 11

The story behind Nairobi’s McMillan Library
When the final story of the McMillan Memorial Library is written, it will be about a person, eccentric philanthropist and plantation owner William Northrup McMillan, who bequeathed part of his wealth to the citizens of Nairobi, Kenya, and had it...
protected by an Act of Parliament. That was the work of a genius. As the only landmark building in Nairobi specifically protected by law, this library will remain for years as a showcase of Victorian architecture....

Business Daily Africa, Mar. 8

New iPad or Android? What should you get?
Eugene Kim writes: “This time around, the Apple iPad rumor mill was mostly right on. With Apple’s third-generation tablet, we got a super-high-res 2,048-by-1,536-pixel Retina Display powered by a beefed-up A5X CPU, a better camera, and fast 4G LTE on AT&T or Verizon. This all brings up the eternal tablet question again: iPad or Android?” Sascha Segan compares the apps....

PC Magazine, Mar. 8–9

Automatic recharging, from a distance
Anne Eisenberg writes: “Think how convenient it would be if you could recharge electronic devices without ever having to plug them in—or even take them out of your briefcase. Instead, you could leave your briefcase, tote bag, or backpack on a counter in the living room at home, and the smartphones and tablets within could see to their own recharging. The technology is based on magnetic induction—the process used to recharge electric toothbrushes.”....

New York Times, Mar. 10

The best USB flash drive
Brian Lam writes: “The thing I figured out after looking over a few dozen USB flash drives is that the best ones from three years ago are considered dog slow by today’s standards. Sure, any drive you get will work. But some will be slow and some will be expensive, and some will be slow and expensive. But there are a handful of great ones out there. Because of that, I’ve decided the Patriot Supersonic USB 3.0 is the drive I’d get because it’s the right combination of speed and value.”....

The Wirecutter, Mar. 2

10 spell-checker secrets for Microsoft Word
Helen Bradley writes: “You use Word’s spelling checker every day, and probably just as often encounter some of the tool’s puzzling behavior. But do you know how to get rid of a word that you mistakenly added to its dictionary or how to hide the red wiggly lines that appear all over your document? The following 10 tricks will help you to work more efficiently in Word 2010, and they will even make you and your documents look smarter.”....

PC World, Mar. 13

What happens to missing smartphones?
Jason Fitzpatrick writes: “What exactly happens to smartphones separated from their owners? To find out, Symantec loaded 50 smartphones with fake personal and corporate information, then left...
them in public locations around New York City. Using remote software, researchers then tracked what exactly happened to the phones after they were released into the wild. Here are some of the stats from their white paper.”...

How-To Geek, Mar. 14

Go back to the Top

E-Content

Justice Department suspects an ebook price fix

The Justice Department has warned Apple and five of the biggest US publishers that it plans to sue them for allegedly colluding to raise the price of electronic books. Several of the parties have held talks to settle the antitrust case and head off a potentially damaging court battle. If successful, such a settlement could have wide-ranging repercussions for the industry, potentially leading to cheaper ebooks for consumers. Not every publisher is in settlement discussions. Peter Brantley notes: “If agency pricing is struck down, readers may once again see reasonable book prices from online retailers that years ago acknowledged that digital music and videos have a very different value than their traditional analogues.”...


Califa Group adopts an ebook ownership model

Michael Kelley writes: “The largest library network in California will adopt the pioneering ebook business model of Colorado’s Douglas County Libraries, which allows libraries to truly own, not rent, their ebooks. The San Mateo–based Califa Group, which brokers services and products for 220 multitype library systems, has seeded the project with about $30,000 and will purchase ebook files directly from publishers as well as an Adobe Content Server to manage the digital files.”...

Library Journal: The Digital Shift, Mar. 12

The little guys stand up to Amazon

Curt Matthews, chief executive of the Chicago-based Independent Publishers Group, is up against an almost insurmountable force, Amazon.com. The online retailer rakes off half the cover price of IPG’s ebooks and is demanding an even larger share. For now, Matthews isn’t budging. The standoff began in February when IPG’s contract came up for renewal. When Matthews balked at what he called tougher terms, Amazon pulled from its website nearly 5,000 of IPG’s electronic books....

Chicago Tribune, Mar. 10

E-journal preservation and archiving: The hard questions

Rick Anderson writes: “How important is it that we archive all of the scholarly record? I realize this question may sound crazy. How could any reasonable person (a librarian, no less) suggest that the scholarly record doesn’t need to be robustly and fully archived? We should stop and think before we automatically assume that it does—and that if we do decide that it does, we need to make ourselves fully aware of the scale of project we’re talking about.”...

The Scholarly Kitchen, Mar. 7

Sign up to receive AL Direct every Wednesday here.

American Libraries
50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611
800-545-2433, ext. 4216
ISSN 1559-369X
Books women read when no one can see the cover

If that woman next to you on the train seems unusually engrossed in her e-reader, there may be a good reason. Electronic readers, and the reading privacy they provide, are fueling a boom in sales of sexy romance novels, or “romantica.” Kindles, iPads, and Nooks “are the ultimate brown paper wrapper,” says Brenda Knight, associate publisher at Cleis Press, a publisher of erotica since 1980. Mainstream publishers are launching digital-only erotic labels to feed demand, and the genre even has its first bestseller, *Fifty Shades of Grey*, by E. L. James....


Penguin restricts ebook downloads to USB devices

Paul Biba writes: “Penguin is doing everything it can to make ebooks unpalatable to libraries and their users. Restricting transfers to USB means that a reader can’t use the Kindle app on his iPhone, for example, to download and read a library book. This is due to restrictions publishers have placed on their titles. At the moment, Penguin is the publisher that has chosen this limitation for their Kindle titles in Library2Go.”...

TeleRead, Mar. 13

SXSWi: The fate of libraries

Harry McCracken writes: “Carson Block, who gave a SXSW Interactive talk March 10 titled ‘The Great Library Swindle,’ says that he’s passionate about libraries and technology. But he didn’t really need to tell his audience that. The intensity of his interest was very much on display during his talk, which was about the daunting challenges that public libraries face in the age of the internet and digitization.”...

*Time: The Technologizer*, Mar. 11

Go back to the Top

Books & Reading

The story of “Keep Calm and Carry On”

Kent Anderson writes: “I think the first time I saw the classic ‘Keep Calm and Carry On’ poster was in 2005 or 2006. A coworker had it hanging on her wall. Because she was also one of the busiest people around, it made sense. But the classic and very British elegance also resonated for me as it apparently has for millions. This short video (3:01) outlines the strange history of the poster—a true World War II relic almost lost forever.”...

The Scholarly Kitchen, Mar. 9

Britannica discontinues its print edition

For 244 years, the thick volumes of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* have stood on the shelves of homes, libraries, and businesses everywhere, a source of enlightenment as well as comfort to their owners and users around the world. But on March 13 the editors announced that they will discontinue the 32-volume printed edition of the *Encyclopaedia*
Britannica when the current inventory is gone. In a larger sense this is just another historical data point in the evolution of human knowledge. The New York Times offers some background. Watch the video (2:29)....


Go back to the Top

Actions & Answers

Survey: People like Google, but not what it’s doing
Greg Sterling writes: "On March 9, the Pew Internet Project released findings of a survey on search, personalization, and targeted advertising. In a nutshell, survey respondents had a positive view of search and the quality of search results. Yet the majority gave an unequivocal thumbs down to search personalization (and behavioral targeting). This isn’t necessarily a contradiction in the abstract, but it is when you consider that the most popular search engine is moving aggressively in a direction most people say they don’t want search to go.”...
Search Engine Land, Mar. 9, 12; Pew Internet and American Life Project, Mar. 9

Google scales back its scanning
Jennifer Howard writes: “Google has been quietly slowing down its book-scanning work with partner libraries, according to librarians involved with the vast Google Books digitization project. But what that means for the company’s long-term investment in the work remains unclear. Librarians at the University of Michigan and the University of Wisconsin systems confirmed that the pace has slowed. According to Michigan’s Paul Courant, the slackening pace reflects a natural maturation of the project.”...
Chronicle of Higher Education, Mar. 9

Aurora librarians inspire students with Milk Duds
Aurora (Ill.) University students returning from spring break are getting a tasty reminder from the staff at Phillips Library that their final papers and projects are due soon. Librarians fanned out across campus and passed out notes to students that said, “Don’t let your papers be duds,” attached to Milk Duds. The candy campaign, begun last spring with Nestlé Crunch bars, is the brainchild of Elizabeth Nicholson (right), part-time information services librarian....
AU Today, Mar. 13

Unlocking the sounds of the past
Erin Allen writes: “In the basement of LC’s Madison Building, Peter Alyea sits at a desk and takes millions of photos of the insides of the grooves of old recordings. The images, reassembled on Alyea’s computer monitor, reveal in detail every curve cut into the floor of every groove—and provide the key to extracting sound from recordings unheard for decades and preserving those sounds for future generations. The pictures are the product of IRENE/3-D.”...
Library of Congress Blog, Mar. 12

Top five formerly top secret

government documents
March 11–17 is Sunshine Week, an initiative to spark conversations about transparency in government. Catherine Shreve, librarian for public policy and political science at Duke University’s Perkins Library, has been rifling through the government’s files and has come up with this list of her favorite formerly secret documents, selected either for their historical importance or simple oddity....
Duke Today, Mar. 11

Coding for kids
Gretchen Caserotti writes: “We are putting together a big STEM-based fair at the Darien (Conn.) Library this summer and it got me thinking about technology programming for kids. In my investigations, it seems there are three programming languages that are easiest for kids to start with: Python, Ruby, and Scratch. Once kids are comfortable, they can graduate to the more challenging languages like Perl and C++. Here are a few resources to get kids started coding at your own library.”...
ALSC Blog, Mar. 10

10 things I didn’t learn in library school
Eric S. Riley writes: “When I first started working for a public library in 2007 there were numerous things that came up over the course of my day-to-day work that were just never discussed in library school. If they were, they were not in the classes that I took. But let me tell you, if there was a ‘getting real’ class, it should have been mandatory. So, here’s a quick list of things that I was totally unprepared for.”...
Letters to a Young Librarian, Mar. 8

Is an MLS a poor investment?
Dorotea Szkolar writes: “In the June 2011 Forbes online edition, Jacquelyn Smith ranked a master's degree in library science as the one of worst master's a student could invest in. She based the rankings on employment projection data and average mid-career pay compared with similar jobs. Let me provide a counterperspective to supplement the statistical analysis and create a more complete picture of the benefits for those considering the degree.”...
Information Space, Mar. 7; Forbes, June 6, 2011

Are librarians choosing to disappear?
Carl Grant writes: “As librarians, we frequently strive to connect users to information as seamlessly as possible. A group of librarians said to me recently: ‘As librarian intermediation becomes less visible to our users/members, it seems less likely that our work will be recognized. How do we keep from becoming victims of our own success?’ As our library collections have become virtual and as we increasingly stop housing the collections we offer, there is a tendency to see us as intermediaries serving as little more than pipelines to our members.”...
Thoughts from Carl Grant, Feb. 28

Women’s History Month @ your library
This March, Women’s History Month is being celebrated across the country with the theme “Women’s Education–Women’s
“Empowerment.” This year’s theme aims to bring attention to the critical role that rural women play in the global economies of both developing and developed nations. Throughout the month libraries will offer a variety of programs and activities to celebrate. Here are just a few examples of what libraries are doing....

**Explaining patron privacy in a world of target markets**

After reading a recent *New York Times* article on companies snooping on customers’ shopping habits, Laura Crossett writes: “We are so used to being targeted by retailers and political campaigns that we see hospitals and libraries as just more people looking to sell stuff to us. I tell people I meet that the library has as much concern for our patrons’ privacy as the hospital does for its patients. I tell them this is a major component of my ethics as a librarian, that next to opposing censorship, it is the thing I hold most sacred. They are always, always shocked.”...

lis.dom, Mar. 12; *New York Times*, Feb. 16

**Next week is National Poison Prevention Week**

Marcia Zorn writes: “National Poison Prevention Week is the third week of March. Since 1962, it has alerted the public to the dangers of accidental poisonings. This is a week for libraries and librarians to provide information on safety measures to prevent poisoning from household products, medicines, pesticides, plants, bites and stings, food poisoning, and fumes. Here are some resources.”...

ReferencePoint, Mar. 2

**Create a great teen website**

Karen Jensen writes: “If you are a school or public library, you can’t ignore the fact that teens are online. A lot. And honestly, you need to create a situation for yourself where you have a dynamic and continually updated web presence committed to teens.”...

Teen Librarian’s Toolbox, Mar. 9

**Four seriously cool information resources**

Gary Price writes: “As a librarian, researcher, and frequent blogger, I’m constantly coming across incredibly useful online information resources that are most effectively searched using their own site search tools, rather than relying on general-purpose engines to surface their valuable content. I plan to start writing about these on a regular, ongoing basis, using a bullet-point format that highlights the most useful features of each resource. Here are the first four (of many more to come).”...

Search Engine Land, Mar. 9

**The first separate academic library buildings in the US**

Larry Nix writes: “The first US library building built..."
solely to serve as a library was at the University of South Carolina in 1840. The USC building (right) is still used as a library. Academic libraries prior to this time were located in campus buildings that served multiple purposes. According to Kenneth E. Carpenter, Gore Hall, built at Harvard in 1841, was a close second."

Pages, the Valley Center library cat
In Valley Center, Kansas, a stray cat found its way into the hearts of the folks who work at the library. After a story ran in the local newspaper, some visitors said they had to quit going to the library because of cat allergies (3:43). But the patrons who love the cat (nicknamed Pages) outnumbered those who didn’t, the library board and Director Janice Sharp agreed, and Pages became a permanent resident with his own blog....

KAKE-TV, Wichita, Kans., Feb. 6, 2011; Posts from the Paw
Ebook talks continued: ALA meets with distributors
ALA President Molly Raphael prepared this summary of the meetings of members of the ALA Digital Content and Libraries Working Group with ebook distributors at the PLA Conference in Philadelphia, March 13–17, as well as a panel she moderated at the Association of American Publishers annual meeting. She writes: “We explored possibilities for collaboration to conceptualize and develop business models and improve everyone’s understanding of how library ebook lending advances the marketability and availability of titles for all.”...

Directions to library wayfinding
Donald A. Barclay and Eric D. Scott write: “The word ‘wayfinding’ has multiple meanings, but the one that really matters to librarians comes from the field of architecture and is concerned with how human beings orient themselves and choose paths within a built environment. While architects typically have control over building identification and regulatory signage, library staff should have considerable control over directional and informational signs. Three considerations stand out when it comes to directional signage.”...

QR codes extend library programming
Tim Blevins writes: “The macabre postcard on the right depicting Willis and Sallie Skinner, prostrate among some rocks and covered by snow, is in fact an invitation to a film premiere from Pikes Peak (Colo.) Library District. The invitation also contained a QR code that, when scanned with a smartphone with the installed code-reader app, connected a user to a film trailer promoting the event. Although statistics indicated that only 2%...
of the nearly 2,000 postcard recipients scanned the QR code, PPLD's Information Technology and Virtual Services Officer Carolyn Coulter didn't consider the experiment a failure.”...

**Merritt Fund aids a colleague in distress**

John W. Berry writes: “As director of Hooper (Nebr.) Public Library, Karla Shafer (right) worked to transform the institution into a vital place in the community for six and a half years. Those efforts ended abruptly in 2010, however, when controversy erupted over Shafer’s teaching of English classes to immigrants in a nearby town on her days off. She resigned her position as the work environment became intolerable and then turned to ALA’s Merritt Humanitarian Fund for help.”...

**Editor’s Letter: Of design, Danes, and daffodils**

Laurie D. Borman writes: “What is your favorite library space? Perhaps a school library reading nook, or the august reading room from your university days, or maybe the balcony stacks in your hometown? The architectural design—and of course, a facility’s resources—draws you to these places and encourages you to stay awhile. That’s why *American Libraries* features new and newly renovated library buildings in our *2012 Library Design Showcase*—to give you ideas to consider for your facility.”...

**Libraries rising slowly in Haiti**

Two years after a devastating earthquake, Leonard Kniffel visited Haiti to see how the rebuilding of libraries has progressed—and what still needs to be done. This video (4:54) summarizes what he found there. To contribute to the rebuilding efforts, visit the Haiti Library Relief website....

**American Libraries on Pinterest**

*American Libraries* staffers have set up a Pinterest page that currently has four boards: Great Libraries of the World, some favorite Digital Libraries of the Week, segments of our 2012 Library Design Showcase, and selected magazine covers from both the print *American Libraries* and its digital supplements. Feel free to repin....

**AL Direct sections revamped**

As of this issue, the two general news areas in *AL Direct*, Seen Online and Actions & Answers, have been broken into three different topical sections: Libraries in the News (featuring articles about specific libraries and librarians); Issues (with stories covering such broad topics as copyright, privacy, legislation, and intellectual freedom); and Tips & Ideas (for practical advice, suggestions on programming and software, useful lists, and fun videos).
ALA News

2012 ALA elections are open
Voting in the 2012 ALA elections is now open. Through March 21, ALA will send emails to voters, providing them with their unique passcodes and information about how to vote online. The polls will close at 11:59 p.m. Central time on Friday, April 27....
Office of ALA Governance, Mar. 19

J. R. Martinez to speak at Closing General Session
Long before J. R. Martinez won legions of fans as the 2011 winner of Dancing With the Stars, he was inspiring audiences of all kinds with his remarkable story. Martinez will help end the 2012 ALA Annual Conference on a high note as the speaker at the Closing General Session on Tuesday, June 26, in the Anaheim Convention Center. His new book Full of Heart: My Story of Survival, Strength, and Spirit is scheduled to for publication in November....
Conference Services, Mar. 19

Raise scholarship funds when you visit Disneyland
ALA Annual Conference attendees can indulge their desire for some fun with friends in the Magic Kingdom June 21–26 and at the same time support ALA scholarships. ALA is sponsoring special discounted tickets for attendees to enjoy some evening hours at both Disneyland and Disney California Adventure Parks. A portion of the money raised from these discounted tickets will provide scholarships for LIS graduate students, including Spectrum....
Conference Services, May 20

Denim and Diamonds Gala Dinner and Dance
The first annual Denim and Diamonds Gala Dinner and Dance to benefit the Reforma Educational Foundation will take place June 22 during the 2012 ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim. The foundation provides scholarships for Latino LIS students. The gala will take place at the Anaheim Plaza Hotel. Tickets are available through the Reforma website....
Office for Diversity, Mar. 20

Reporting challenges: A how-to video

Something sinister is afoot out there—and this second edition of The Readers’ Advisory Guide to Mystery has all the clues to help librarians solve the mystery of which titles readers should check out next. Equally useful for novice librarians and seasoned gumshoes, this handbook summarizes the history of mystery fiction, highlighting key figures in its development and offering examples of how library staff can help readers move back and forth from fiction to nonfiction. NEW! From ALA Editions.
The Office for Intellectual Freedom produced a short video (2:30) that explains the process of reporting challenges to library or school materials, and answers some common questions about what information OIF collects and what kind of assistance it provides. To report a challenge or download free “Defend the Freedom to Read” artwork, visit the ALA Challenges page....

OIF Blog, Mar. 20

**National Library Workers Day, April 10**

Since 2003, National Library Workers Day has been celebrated on the Tuesday of National Library Week. The day recognizes the contributions of all library workers, including librarians, support staff and others who make library services possible. The ALA–Allied Professional Association encourages those who will celebrate the day to nominate “star” library employees for public recognition....

ALA–Allied Professional Association, Mar. 16

**East Carolina LIS students share the gift of literacy**

Between Thanksgiving and the last days of December 2011, students in East Carolina University’s Department of Library Science, in Greenville, North Carolina, gathered 239 books and materials to donate to homeless shelters, after-school programs, hospitals, and libraries in communities throughout the state. This was the students’ sixth year participating in the ECU-ALA Student Chapter Holiday Book Drive....

ALA Student Membership Blog, Mar. 19

**Learn to build a website with Joomla!**

ALA Editions is offering a new facilitated eCourse, “Using Joomla! to Build Library Websites.” Jon Fackrell, a librarian, web developer, and Joomla! expert, will serve as the instructor for this six-week facilitated eCourse that begins on May 7. Fackrell will introduce you to Joomla!, teach you how to set up and configure a site, and give you the foundation for learning more....

ALA Editions, Mar. 20

**What is WordPress and what can it do?**


ALA TechSource, Mar. 20

**Practical guidance on academic archives**

Modern academic archivists require new sets of skills and training. Academic Archives: Managing the Next Generation of College and University Archives, Records.
Managing the Next Generation of College and University Archives, Records, and Special Collections

Francesco Todeschini Piccolomini, who later became Pope Pius III, commissioned the library in 1492 as the repository for the books and manuscripts of his uncle and predecessor. The library ceiling also contains paintings by Pinturicchio of scenes from classical mythology. Beneath the frescoes, the choir books from the sacristy are in display cases carved by Antonio Barili in 1495–1496; these exquisite illuminations by Liberale da Verona and Girolamo da Cremona were executed between 1466 and 1478.

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. There is also a Great Libraries of the World Pinterest board.

and Special Collections from Neal-Schuman Publishers, offers valuable guidance for archivists of all levels, helping them start or manage archives and remain current on new and future trends. Aaron D. Purcell, an experienced archivist and director of special collections at Virginia Tech, examines every facet of academic archives in this exhaustive book....

AL Neal-Schuman, Mar. 20

Featured review: Youth fiction
The latest graphic-format book to come out of the Center for Cartoon Studies (which has done books on Satchel Paige, Harry Houdini, Amelia Earhart, and Henry David Thoreau) opens yet another fascinating page into history. The relationship between Helen Keller and her teacher, Annie Sullivan, is a well-documented and celebrated one: Sullivan, who was visually impaired herself, bridged the seemingly insurmountable communication gulf for the deaf and blind Keller. But it's one thing to know the story and a whole other thing to actually experience it. In a brilliantly conceived and executed maneuver, Lambert uses a dynamic interplay between words and images to convey how someone could learn to communicate without access to either....

Top 10 graphic novels for youth
Ian Chipman writes: “This eclectic bunch of the best graphic novels reviewed in Booklist during the past year provides ample proof that the format is up to just about any task.”...

Visit Booklist Online for other reviews and much more....

AL Direct, March 21, 2012
Anaheim Update

Disneyland’s Matterhorn to reopen by June 15

The Matterhorn Bobsleds went down early this year for a six-month refurbishment, which looks like it will be worth it when the 53-year-old ride reopens on June 15. The facelift includes a new set of bobsleds with more legroom, a new boarding station, and a newly painted exterior for the 147-foot-tall ride. Watch this short video (1:31) on the refurbishing.

Fun fact: Disney used to hire mountain climbers (including one dressed as Mickey Mouse) to scale the structure in the mid-1990s....

OC Weekly, Feb. 29; YouTube, Feb. 24; Orange County (Calif.) Register, Feb. 8

Flightdeck Air Combat Center

For those who have always wanted to pilot a jet fighter, this nearby attraction is the place to go. Experience the challenge of aerial maneuvers at 500 knots, aircraft take-offs and landings, and the thrill of air-to-air combat. Up to 10 people can fly at the same time, each in their own authentic F-16 flight simulator. Check in at the front desk at 1650 S. Sinclair Street, put on your flight suit, then pay attention in your 20-minute classroom briefing before you go on a 45-minute (or longer) simulation....

Flightdeck Air Combat Center

Go back to the Top
PLA 2012: Powerful advice, practical solutions

Laurie D. Borman writes: “Admit it: You snag free books and party at receptions. But who would come to PLA 2012 if there weren’t also meaningful programs, new products, great speakers, and networking opportunities? At the PLA Conference in Philadelphia March 13–17, more than 6,000 attendees packed meeting rooms and the exhibit hall for all of the above. The 180 continuing education programs ranged from e-content and community engagement to building successful programs and websites.”...
American Libraries feature

To catch a library thief: Black belt security

Laurie D. Borman writes: “Warren Graham (right) is a very suspicious guy. The author and library security consultant probably has seen more dangerous characters than Sandy Stern in a Scott Turow thriller. But being suspicious makes Graham effective, and he recently shared his best tips and more at the PLA Conference in Philadelphia. Graham peppered his talk with anecdotes as he described how to create and maintain safer libraries.” Graham is the author of The Black Belt Librarian (ALA Editions, 2012)....
American Libraries feature

PLA attendee wins $1,000 shopping spree

Quality Books has announced that Mary Soucie, director of the Three Rivers Public Library District in Channahon, Illinois, is the winner of its drawing at the PLA Conference for a $1,000 shopping spree on its website....
Quality Books, Mar. 21

Doing the PLA Conference virtually

Pamela Goodes writes: “Participants logged in from as far away as Alberta, Hawaii, Oregon, and California to chat and interact with program presenters and authors during the two-day PLA 2012 Virtual Conference, March 15–16, held in conjunction with the division’s national conference in Philadelphia. I joined a group of more than 100 participants both days for two programs, which included handouts, instant polling, and downloadable videos.”...
AL: Inside Scoop, Mar. 16

ALTAFF President’s Program to feature Dan Rather

ALTAFF President Donna McDonald will welcome award-winning journalist Dan Rather during the ALTAFF President’s Program at the 2012 ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim on June 25. Rather anchored the CBS Evening News for decades and is the author of Rather Outspoken, which looks back over his storied and sometimes controversial career. A book signing will follow the program....
ALTAFF, Mar. 30

ACRL launches CLIPP

[Image]
ACRL’s College Libraries Section has launched CLIPP: College Library Information on Policy and Practice, a reconceptualization of its CLIPNotes publication series. Offering the same high-quality policy and procedure documents that CLIPNote readers have relied on for more than 30 years, this monographic series will provide richer context and more sophisticated analysis of current trends and issues from a college and small university library perspective. To submit a proposal, visit the CLIPP website....

ACRL, Mar. 16

Celebrate School Library Month
Recognizing school libraries as the centers of the school community where learning, research, and collaboration happen and technologies and information resources are available 24/7, AASL invites everyone to celebrate School Library Month in April. The 2012 theme, “You belong @ your library,” will highlight the role strong school libraries play in a student’s educational career. More information and resources can be found online....

AASL, Mar. 20

Support Teen Literature Day
On April 12, people across the United States will join YALSA in celebrating Support Teen Literature Day by hosting a Booze for Books fundraiser to benefit the Books for Teens initiative. Books for Teens aims to give libraries funds to purchase age-appropriate, high-quality recent materials for teens in low-income communities....

YALSA, Mar. 20

Best of the Best Reading Challenge
The Hub, the teen literature blog published by YALSA, will host the Best of the Best Reading Challenge for three months beginning April 1. Participants will be challenged to read as many titles as they can from YALSA’s 2012 award winners and honor books and selected lists (including Amazing Audiobooks, Best Fiction for Young Adults, Great Graphic Novels, Popular Paperbacks, and Quick Picks) through July 1....

YALSA, Mar. 21

Apply for YALSA’s virtual mentoring program
YALSA will accept applications for its virtual mentoring program through April 30. The program will pair an experienced librarian (five years’ experience or more) with a new librarian (fewer than five years’ experience) or an LIS graduate student. This is a virtual mentoring program, so there is no requirement to meet face to face. The program runs from August 1, 2012, to July 31, 2013....

YALSA, Mar. 20

YALSA award books for the middle school
The middle school librarian faces a unique challenge of building a collection that is appropriate for both teens and tweens. In light of the 2012 YALSA book award announcements, what winners and honor books have middle school appeal? Join Megan Fink for “Finding a Place on the Shelf: YALSA Book Awards and the Middle School Library,” a March 22 webinar....

YALSA, Mar. 16
Nearly 1,400 libraries celebrated Teen Tech Week

Thousands of school and public libraries throughout the country joined YALSA in celebrating Teen Tech Week 2012, March 4–10. Some 1,400 libraries embraced the theme, “Geek Out @ your library,” by hosting an array of events and programs that encouraged teens to take advantage of the many free technological resources available at the library....

YALSA, Mar. 20

AASL seeks researcher for survey analysis

AASL is looking for a researcher or team of researchers to assist in a data analysis of its national longitudinal survey of school library programs, School Libraries Count! The data to be analyzed runs from the survey’s inception in 2007 through 2011. View the RFP here. Submit an application to the AASL office by May 25....

AASL, Mar. 20

Awards & Grants

2012 James Madison Award winner

ALA President Molly Raphael presented Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.) with one of the Association’s highest honors, the James Madison Award. Lofgren received the award March 16 during the National Freedom of Information Day Conference held at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. Lofgren was recognized both for her commitment to sponsoring legislation that strengthens the public’s right to access information and her opposition to legislation that impedes First Amendment rights....

Office of Government Relations, Mar. 16

2012 Francis Joseph Campbell Award

Carole Rose (right), who recently retired as a librarian at the Indiana Talking Book and Braille Library, is the 2012 winner of the ASCLA 2012 Francis Joseph Campbell Award. The award is presented to a person or institution that has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of library service for blind and physically handicapped people. Rose was selected for her significant contributions over 46 years to the advancement of library service for blind and physically handicapped people throughout the state of Indiana....

ASCLA, Mar. 20

2012 Cathleen Bourdon Service Award

Kathleen Moeller-Peiffer (right), associate state librarian at the New Jersey State Library, is the 2012 recipient of the Cathleen Bourdon Service Award, an annual achievement award given by ASCLA. The award is presented to an ASCLA personal member for exceptional service and sustained leadership to the division....

ASCLA, Mar. 20

2012 Virginia Boucher Award

Cyril Oberlander (right), interim director of the Milne
Library at the State University of New York, Geneseo, is the winner of RUSA’s 2012 Virginia Boucher–OCLC Distinguished Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Librarian Award. The award recognizes an individual for outstanding professional achievement, leadership, and significant contributions to the fields of interlibrary loan and document delivery. Oberlander was cited for the scope of his work with the Information Delivery Services Project, a resource-sharing cooperative within New York State.

RUSA Award for Excellence in Reference and Adult Services
The Richland County (S.C.) Public Library Job Center is the 2012 RUSA Gale Cengage Award for Excellence in Reference and Adult Library Services winner. The award recognizes an outstanding, imaginative, and unique resource developed by a library to meet users’ reference needs. The center’s Employment Search Portfolio and Searching for a Job Online materials provide comprehensive assistance for the entire job-seeking process.

Travel grant for new ILL practitioners
Natalie D. Beam (right), head of access services at University of Hawaii at Hilo, is the 2012 winner of the RUSA STARS-Atlas Systems Mentoring Award—a competitive ALA Annual Conference travel grant for librarians new to the field of interlibrary loan. The grant provides $1,250 in travel funds to a candidate who is involved daily in ILL, document delivery, or resource sharing.

2012 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award
Celebrated Dutch author Guus Kuijer has won the world’s richest children’s book prize, the Astrid Lindgren memorial award. Worth 5 million Swedish kronor ($744,200 US), the prize is for a body of work in the spirit of Pippi Longstocking creator Astrid Lindgren. The international jury said the award-winning author combined “serious subject matter and razor-sharp realism with warmth, subtle humor, and visionary flights of fancy” in his writing. His Book of Everything was translated into English in 2006.

2012 Hans Christian Andersen Award winners
The International Board on Books for Young People announced the winners of the 2012 Hans Christian Andersen Awards at the Bologna Book Fair on March 19. Maria Teresa Andruetto from Argentina has won the Author Award and Peter Sís from the Czech Republic has won the Illustrator Award. The awards are given every two years to a living author and illustrator whose complete works are judged to have made lasting contributions to children’s literature.

Children’s Choice Book Awards voting is open

Apr. 20–26: Slovenian Book Days, Castle Square, Maribor, Slovenia.


May 21: University of North Texas Symposium on Open Access, Gateway Center, Denton.

May 25:
The Children’s Choice Book Awards is the only national book awards program where the winning titles are selected by children and teens. Launched in 2008 by the Children’s Book Council and Every Child A Reader (the CBC Foundation), the program was created to provide young readers with an opportunity to voice their opinions about the books being written for them. Teachers and librarians can vote on behalf of their students [here](http://aldirect.ala.org/sites/default/al_direct/2012/march/032112-2.htm) through May 3.

**2011 Man Asian Literary Prize**

South Korean author Kyung-sook Shin has become the first woman to win the Man Asian Literary Prize. *Please Look After Mom* details a family’s search for their mother who goes missing in Seoul Station. The award recognizes novels written by Asian authors, either written in or translated into English. The book was translated by Chi-Young Kim.

BBC News, Mar. 15

**Lubuto Library Project receives Soros grant**

The Lubuto Library Project has received a grant from one of philanthropist George Soros’s foundations, the Open Society Initiative of Southern Africa, that will enable them to conduct an evaluation of the impact of the Lubuto Library model and make plans for bringing Lubuto Libraries to other African countries. The Lubuto project, with offices in Zambia and Washington, D.C., has since 2007 created high quality, open-access libraries to serve African street kids and other vulnerable children and youth.

*Lubuto Library Project Newsletter, no. 22 (Mar.)*

**Libraries in the News**

**Racial lens used to cull curriculum in Arizona**

Michael Winerip writes: “Tucson High School Junior Ana Verdugo is a fan of Matt de la Peña’s young adult novels; she read his *Mexican WhiteBoy* in two days. But on January 1, after a new state law targeting Mexican-American studies courses that are perceived as antiwhite was upheld, it became illegal to teach *Mexican WhiteBoy* in Tucson’s classrooms. State officials cited the book as containing ‘critical race theory,’ a violation under a provision that prohibits lessons ‘promoting racial resentment.’ Yet the novel’s story is pretty much the American dream.”...

*New York Times*, Mar. 19

**Library workers on strike in Toronto**

More than 1,200 library workers were picketing outside Toronto’s city hall March 19, after talks collapsed between the 2,300-member library union and city officials over the issue of job security. Many of the workers who picketed said they are unhappy with what they said is an ongoing shift toward part-time work. The strike will close 98 branches. A recent poll shows that the public is overwhelmingly on
the side of the workers....

Library tentatively settles with whistle-blower
For making noise about a billing scandal and other problems at the Sacramento (Calif.) Public Library Authority, Accounts Clerk Diane Boerman said officials stripped her of job responsibilities, froze her pay, and tried to force her to quit. She sued. The library’s maintenance superintendent and its security chief and his wife were charged, convicted, and jailed as a result of her allegations. On March 16, a judge ordered the former superintendent to pay back the agency $824,097 in restitution....

Sacramento (Calif.) Bee, Jan. 15, 17

$10 million donation to USC Polymathic Academy
The Harman Family Foundation has made a gift of $10 million to help fulfill the extraordinary vision of Sidney Harman by endowing the center that will bear his name, the USC Sidney Harman Academy for Polymathic Study, located in the Doheny Memorial Library. The academy, a unit of the University of Southern California Libraries, supports the study of the interrelatedness among academic disciplines. Its programs encourage critical and integrative thinking, the study of history’s great polymaths, and intellectual investigation that crosses the boundaries of traditional academic specialties....

University of Southern California, Mar. 20

Restoring one of the world’s largest collections of African-American culture
“Antiquated.” “Depleted.” “Grossly underfunded.” Those were a few of the harsh words Howard Dodson (right), the recently retired chief of New York’s Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, used to describe Howard University’s library system in a December 2011 consultant’s report. The Washington, D.C., university recently lured Dodson out of retirement to become director of its undergrad and graduate libraries and Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, one of the world’s largest collections devoted to the history and culture of people of African descent. Now it’s up to him to fix these problems....

New York Times, Mar. 14

Jailed library director resigns
Pelham (N.H.) Public Library trustees confirmed March 15 that they have accepted the resignation of jailed library director Robert Rice Jr., who pleaded guilty in December to stealing more than $200,000 from his former employer, the Revere (Mass.) Public Library. Rice will spend six months in jail and has been ordered to pay restitution of $260,000. He was accused of taking items purchased with Revere library funds, such as a Rolex watch and collectibles, then keeping or selling them in online auctions....

North Andover (Mass.) Eagle-Tribune, Mar. 16

Jailed First Folio dealer found dead
A UK antiques dealer who was jailed after being convicted of handling a stolen edition of Shakespeare’s First Folio was found dead in Acklington Prison in Northumberland March 14, an apparent suicide. Raymond Scott, 55, was sentenced to eight years in 2010 after being convicted of transporting the book, which had been stolen from a
Library reunites backpacker with missing bag

Jonathan Smith lost his backpack while he was vacationing in Central America. But within several days Smith was reunited with the backpack and all its contents, thanks to the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library in the UK, 5,000 miles away in his hometown. The intriguing detective story involved transatlantic phone calls and emails sent across two continents and three countries. The global drama unfolded on a packed chicken bus in Guatemala, when a French girl hopped off with Jonathan’s backpack instead of her own....

The Telegraph (UK), Mar. 19

Jamaica wants to boost its National Library

As part of its rebranding, the National Library of Jamaica is looking to boost its customer base, especially outside Kingston. Executive Director Winsome Hudson said many of its users are from business, and this is the wrong image for the institution. A March 14 open house was held to support the Book Industry Association of Jamaica, which was celebrating Book Week, and to celebrate the library’s recent separation from the Institute of Jamaica’s corporate structure....

The Daily Gleaner (Kingston), Mar. 21

Big plans for Egypt’s National Library

The Egyptian National Library and Archives recently announced plans to modernize the administration of the National Library (right) and improve access to information countrywide. First, the NLA aims to bring all libraries under the National Library umbrella within a four-year period and standardize regulations governing all operations. The agency is also expected to issue new regulations aimed at improving the exchange of documents and manuscripts....

Al-Ahram (Cairo), Mar. 13

Bill calls for video game warning labels

US Reps. Joe Baca (D-Calif.) and Frank Wolf (R-Va.) on March 19 once again proposed a bill that would require the vast majority of video games to bear a warning label about content they consider “potentially damaging.” Under the Violence in Video Games Labeling Act (PDF file), packaging for all video games except those rated “EC” for Early Childhood would be required to prominently display a message reading “Warning: Exposure to violent video games has been linked to aggressive behavior.” The proposed label would be required even if the video game in question is not violent....

Ars Technica, Mar. 20

How to protect copyright was a key topic at AAP meeting

Go back to the Top

Issues

Send feedback:
aldirect@ala.org

AL Direct FAQ:
americanlibrariesmagazine.org/aldirect

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

Sign up to receive AL Direct every Wednesday here.
Jennifer Howard writes: “Legislation is not the way to fight online piracy—at least not right now. That was the message broadcast at the annual meeting of the Association of American Publishers, held March 14 in New York. But the publishing executives who gathered at the McGraw-Hill headquarters in midtown Manhattan also heard that the need to protect copyright is as critical as ever, and that one challenge is to overcome the ‘disinformation’ spread by reformers who want to loosen or do away with copyright restrictions.”...

*Chronicle of Higher Education*, Mar. 14

**Belgian rights group wants to charge library storytellers**

Robin Wauters writes: “People with a healthy interest in fundamental freedoms and basic human rights have probably heard about [SABAM](#), the Belgian collecting society for music royalties that has become one of the global poster children for how outrageously out of touch with reality certain rightsholders groups appear to be. The Belgian media [reported](#) March 13 that SABAM is spending time and resources to contact local libraries across the nation, warning them that they will start charging fees because the libraries engage volunteers to read books to kids.”...

*The Next Web*, Mar. 13; *De Morgen (Brussels)*, Mar. 13

**Storytime goes on the road**

It would be nice if all the children who need to read—or be read to—came to the library. But the truth is they don’t. So the libraries are trying to go to them. Armed with new research that validates what many have thought for years about the [urgency of early literacy](#), libraries in recent years have beefed up collections geared toward babies between 6 and 18 months old, and they are developing programs designed to teach parents and caregivers the most effective ways to read to children....

*Washington Post*, Mar. 18

**Two SXSW programs push the censorship envelope**

OIF Director Barbara Jones writes: “Two SXSW programs about free speech were especially provocative and very controversial. In both cases, the projects use humor to present the impact of censorship in closed societies. They both experiment with how far they can push the limits to free expression—one in Iran, the other in Sharjah (United Arab Emirates). *Parazit* (meaning ‘static’) is a popular TV show broadcast on the Voice of America’s Persian service.”...

*OIF Blog*, Mar. 14; *YouTube*, Feb. 14

**Four leadership qualities that are key for rural librarians**

John D. “Danny” Hales writes: “In my 35 years as a library director of a multicounty rural library system, I believe being engaged, setting an example, being enthused, and embracing the community are all key elements of being a successful library leader. In small towns, a vast majority of the public knows (or knows of) the library director. One must engage and accept, even relish that position.”...

*OLOS Columns*, Mar. 20

**Notes from Webwise 2012**

[WebWise 2012](#), the free conference held February 29–March 2 by the Institute of Museum and...
Library Services, is both a showcase of IMLS-funded projects and an excellent opportunity to spot emerging trends, tools, and services in libraries and museums. If one theme emerged from this year’s session, it was an emphasis on creating a more unmediated user experience by supporting evolving narratives, generative storytelling, and a deeper level of interaction between patrons and collections....

The Signal: Digital Preservation, Mar. 20

Tech Talk

Chrome vs. IE9 vs. Firefox
Michael Muchmore writes: “These days, the default OS browsers are all fast, have clean interfaces and helpful features like bookmarking. And they are all compatible with nearly any site you’d care to visit. The biggest differences are in support for the forward-looking HTML5 web markup standard, hardware acceleration, and privacy tools. In HTML5 support, Google’s Chrome is the clear leader. At the back of the pack in this measure is Internet Explorer, though the upcoming IE10 significantly narrows the gap.”...

PC Magazine, Mar. 14

The iPad wins because Android tablet apps suck
Sascha Segan writes: “I just gave the new iPad an Editors’ Choice award for large tablets, but frankly it was a foregone conclusion. The iPad doesn't get the award because of its hardware, lovely as the hardware is. It gets the award because its apps are generally better than the apps available for Android tablets. The assertion is hard to test, but I wanted to try.”...

PC Magazine, Mar. 17

Eliminating the password
Imagine sitting down at your work keyboard, typing in your user name, and starting work right away—no password needed. That’s a vision that the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, part of the US Defense Department, wants to turn into a reality. It will distribute research funds to develop software that determines, just by the way you type, that you are indeed the person you say you are....

New York Times, Mar. 17

Microsoft patent points to virtual reality gaming
Kyle Orland writes: “We’re unreasonably excited that a new Microsoft patent for a ‘laser-scanning virtual image display’ could actually point to plans for the company to jump into the world of virtual reality gaming. The document describes both a helmet and a set of eyeglasses, using two laser-based, ‘dilation optic’ displays to project what appears as a 21-inch diagonal, 16:9 ratio image viewed at arm’s length.”...
Integrate iPads and tablets into library services
In light of Apple’s recent rollout of the new iPad, you may be interested in integrating iPads and tablet computers into library services. Check out these sample policies, sample library user agreements, and other relevant resources from a recent TechSource workshop.
ALA TechSource Blog, Mar. 15

E-Content

Working Group rolls up its sleeves at PLA
Larra Clark writes: “Several members of the Digital Content and Libraries Working Group are taking advantage of the vibrant PLA gathering in Philadelphia to continue vendor meetings and increase awareness of the issues at stake. DCWG Cochair and PLA Past President Sari Feldman started things off at the Opening General Session by calling for wider engagement across ALA to further advance the goal of increasing access to digital content through our libraries.” See ALA President Molly Raphael’s report on meetings with ebook distributors at the PLA Conference.
AL: E-Content, Mar. 14, 20

Libraries need ebooks too
Publishers and libraries are at odds over how to satisfy the public’s craving for electronic books. Fearing potentially crippling losses, publishers are withholding ebooks from libraries, charging them more than other customers, or limiting how many times a library can lend an ebook. That bumps into librarians’ unwavering commitment to promote literacy, preserve culture, and make books accessible.
Philadelphia Inquirer, Mar. 19

Making library ebooks visible
Bohyun Kim writes: “Like many libraries, Florida International University Library started an ebook reader lending program. Each reader comes with more than 100 titles that have been selected by subject librarians. But how can a library get users to notice the ebooks on library ebook readers? How can a library help a user identify the books available on a library Kindle device when those are specifically what the user is looking for? Here are some ideas.”
ACRL Tech Connect, Mar. 21

The ebook of 1935
Matt Novak writes: “The April 1935 issue of Everyday Science and Mechanics included this nifty invention that was to be the next logical step in the world of publishing. Basically a microfilm reader mounted on a large pole, the media device was supposed to let you sit back in your favorite chair while reading your latest tome of choice. Additional text accompanying the illustration reads, ‘You can read a book (which is a roll of miniature film), music, etc., at your ease.’”
Smithsonian: Paleofuture, Mar. 7

What the big ebook publishers should do
Mike Shatzkin writes: “The reluctance of most big publishers to make ebooks available through library lending is a topic of widespread concern. The more I think about it, the less I accept the notion that total withdrawal from the library market is necessary to create a clear advantage for the retailer as a destination for ebook readers. In fact, it is possible that putting ebooks into libraries, in the right ways, could increase sales at retail. And the only way for publishers to find that out is to do some controlled experimentation in that marketplace. To my knowledge, that’s not taking place.”...

E-lending and ILS vendors
Michael Kelley writes: "Even as anxious publishers are hoping to increase friction in the ebook lending experience, librarians have been clamoring for vendors of integrated library systems to make e-lending a unified, sleek experience. Rather than navigating their patrons away from the library’s web presence to Balkanized, often commercial, third-party platforms, each with a different discovery and delivery experience, librarians have been demanding a single, easy-to-use, easy-to-search platform—an integration of the ILS with ebook vendor platforms.”...

Ebooks and our evolving brains
Andy Woodworth writes: “I came across two ebook-related articles I wanted to share. The first is written by evolutionary neurobiologist Mark Changizi, which discusses the lack of spatial navigation cues for our brains to latch onto. The second article comes from Time magazine health writer Maia Szalavitz and builds on Changizi’s argument. Combined with a TED talk (9:03) by neuroscientist Neil Burgess (above) about how our brains tell us where we are, it gave me a moment of pause. I wonder if and how our brains will adapt to this kind of container change.”...

Libraries as community publishers
Peter Brantley writes: “I got to thinking about how public libraries could turn the tables on publishers who obviously feel that their digital books are too precious to share with libraries. Increasingly with digital tools, libraries are places where people can come together and learn how to write their own stories. There is no reason why libraries can’t be the place where those stories are also published. Using authoring tools like Pressbooks, it’s possible for libraries to get community works into the hands of retailers quite easily.”...

Ebrary announces a new approach
Ebrary announced a strategic new approach to library ebook acquisition based on three steps: Transition, Diversify, and Streamline. Libraries that transition a greater percentage of their budgets from print to electronic, diversify their acquisition models, and streamline their ordering processes will see a much greater and faster return on their ebook investments. Similar to a stock portfolio, libraries that diversify their acquisition models can see a better return on investment, the company said....
British, US college students diverge on ebook use
While the majority of the UK's undergraduate students are now using ebooks, none are yet relying on them as a primary source of information. Print continues its hold as a key resource for at least two-thirds of students. In the US, the trend appears to be going in the opposite direction, with almost 6 in 10 college students preferring digital over print when reading books for fun or textbooks for class—a reversal from last year, when more US college students preferred print over digital....
Bowker, Mar. 15; Pearson Foundation, Mar. 14

The case for ebooks
Dwight Garner writes: “The case against electronic books has been made, and elegantly, by many people, including Nicholson Baker in the New Yorker a few years ago. But the best case I've seen for electronic books, however, arrived in February, on the website of the New York Review of Books. Novelist Tim Parks proposed that ebooks offered 'a more austere, direct engagement' with words. What's more, no dictator can burn one. His persuasive bottom line: 'This is a medium for grown-ups.'”...

Books & Reading

The Hunger Games by the numbers
Annie Schutte writes: “The Hunger Games has had quite a journey since it first came out on September 14, 2008. From the humble beginnings of a 200,000-book first run, it has become one of the bestselling books in recent years. Read on to find out everything you need to know about the books and movie, from how many movies there will be in the series to how much Jennifer Lawrence made for her role as Katniss to how long you'll have to wait for the second movie to come out.”...
YALSA The Hub, Mar. 19

Your brain on fiction
New support for the value of fiction is arriving from an unexpected quarter: neuroscience. Brain scans are revealing that stories stimulate the brain and even change how we act in life. In February, a team of researchers from Emory University reported in Brain & Language that when subjects read a metaphor involving texture, the sensory cortex—responsible for perceiving texture through touch—became active. Metaphors like “The singer had a velvet voice” and “He had leathery hands” roused the sensory cortex, while phrases matched for meaning, like “The singer had a pleasing voice” and “He had strong hands,” did not....
New York Times, Mar. 17

The trouble with books
Maura Smale writes: “I recently had the opportunity to participate in a conversation with library faculty and other academic departments about undergraduate research assignments. We discussed some of the stumbling blocks that our students seem to face, especially as they search for sources for their papers. We don’t want them to use Wikipedia as research sources, but many students are just not ready
to tackle the scholarly research articles they’ll find when they search JSTOR or even Academic Search Complete.”...

**The art of exploding books**

Judy Berman writes: “There’s book art, and then there’s extreme book art. The exhilarating work of Madrid-based artist Alicia Martín clearly falls into the latter category. In her dramatic *Biografias* series, thousands of books explode out the windows of three buildings, evoking such forces of nature as waterfalls and tornadoes. To us, these massive sculptures symbolize the boundary-busting, life-changing power of literature.”...

*Flavorwire, Mar. 19*

**Building the ultimate Summer Reading app**

Nate Hill writes: “The summer reading program is probably the most ubiquitous public library program in the United States. The Digital Public Library of America has been [hosting a conversation](http://www.dpl.org) about what it would mean to scale summer-reading software up to the national level. There is great potential in using the emerging [DPLA platform](http://www.dpl.org) as a foundation upon which a digital summer-reading application might be built.”...

*DPLA Blog, Mar. 13*

**Tiny Brontës**

On the right is a page from a miniature manuscript book, written with a sharp eye and a steady hand and stitched together in 1830 by Charlotte Brontë (1816–1855). It is the beginning of a novelette Brontë called, “An interesting passage in the lives of some eminent personages of the present age.” The author, she alleged, was one “Lord Charles Wellesley.” Charlotte and her siblings wrote a series of plays based on the adventures of their toy soldiers. Harvard’s Houghton Library has nine of these hand-sewn, two-inch tall miniature books, given by the poet Amy Lowell....

*Harvard Magazine, Jan./Feb.*

**Books by Anonymous**

The author known as Anonymous has been prolific over the centuries. A quick search on AbeBooks reveals 2.2 million listings where the author is listed as Anonymous. This selection of rare books showcases anonymously published titles that deserve to be remembered. The most interesting books are the ones where the author’s identity remains a mystery decades after the book was published. It’s a hard secret to keep, considering the social and complicated nature of book publishing....

*AbeBooks, Mar. 19*

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**Go back to the Top**

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**Tips & Ideas**

**Library terms that users understand**

John Kupersmith writes: “This document is intended to help library web developers decide how to label key resources and services in...
such a way that most users can understand them well enough to make productive choices. It compiles data from usability studies evaluating terminology on library websites, and suggests test methods and best practices for reducing cognitive barriers caused by terminology. Terms most often cited as being misunderstood by users include: database, library catalog, e-journals, and resource."

University of California, Berkeley

Out of the library and into the wild
Lana Thelen writes: “Librarians and library school students have a lot to gain by sharing their skills with groups outside of the library, such as community organizations, social justice groups, and nonprofits. By building coalitions and offering support to different groups, librarians lend their particular expertise and advance the roles of these groups. When we leave the library and enter the wild, we build our professional and personal relevance and bridge connections with socially and politically minded groups."

In the Library with the Lead Pipe, Mar. 21

Get ready for Great Expectations
In honor of the 200th anniversary of Charles Dickens’s birth this year, Masterpiece on PBS will air Great Expectations, a BBC production starring Gillian Anderson (right) as the iconic Miss Havisham, in two parts on April 1 and 8. Watch the trailer (1:28). Three video-based lessons will be posted in April on the PBS free educator resource, PBS LearningMedia, so that teachers and librarians can get some ideas to pass on to students about Dickens, the novel, and the times.

Public Broadcasting Service

Teaching children the value of pre-web pages
Ida Owens’s 6th grade art class at the Gordon Parks School for Inquisitive Minds in Queens, New York, is part of the Morgan Book Project, which aims to instill in children of the digital age an appreciation for books by providing authentic materials to write, illustrate, and construct their own medieval and Renaissance-inspired illuminated manuscripts. Institutions like the Morgan, with collections drawn from the printed word, are balancing the digital and physical worlds with their offerings and finding ways to embrace both.

New York Times, Mar. 14

Pinterest is the new black
Brian Herzog writes: “I’ve only been hearing about Pinterest for the last couple months, but already it seems to have spread far and wide in libraries. For those who don’t know (like me until yesterday), Pinterest is visual social bookmarking. It’s similar to Delicious, in that you set up bookmarks to interesting things online to create a curated web directory—but it has images, so it’s extremely visual and engaging."

Swiss Army Librarian, Mar. 21

RDA tips
James Hennelly writes: “We get lots of email, and we do our best to answer each of them. In order to enlighten all our users to some common and very pertinent questions, it seems useful to address some of those questions here.” These are some tips on opening links in a new window or tab, recent changes to the database, and access for LIS cataloging courses....

**Kentucky goes Beyond Proficiency**

Studies indicate that today’s students require multiple literacies—including digital, visual, textual and technological—in addition to information literacy to succeed. In order to guide students down a path toward academic success, the Kentucky Department of Education created Beyond Proficiency @ your library. The guide is a web-based tool designed to help school librarians create and maintain effective library media programs for the 21st century....

Campaign for America’s Libraries, Mar. 20

**A conundrum solved, collectively**

Daryl Green writes: “In January we posted a plea for help in identifying a motif found in one of the medieval manuscripts in the University of St. Andrews Special Collections: msBR65.A9S2, a Pseudo-Augustian Sermones ad fratres eremo. This manuscript had been cataloged and thought of for quite some time as a 14th-century Italian manuscript. What followed was a largely profitable discussion conducted through emails, blog comments, and Twitter enquiries that resulted in us finding out much more about this manuscript.”...

Echoes from the Vault, Jan. 11, Mar. 12

**Why was the first English book printed in Bruges?**


The Cataloguer’s Desk, Mar. 16

**Einstein’s papers digitized**

David Pescovitz writes: “The Hebrew University of Jerusalem is scanning and posting more than 80,000 documents from the University’s Einstein Archives and the Einstein Papers Project at Caltech. Seen here is a snip from a manuscript titled “E = mc2: The Most Urgent Problem of our Time,” published in a 1946 issue of Science Illustrated.” The project launched March 19 with 2,000 images and will continue to include more images throughout the year....

BoingBoing, Mar. 20

**Designing Libraries, the UK way**

With its many examples of inspiring and functional library buildings, Designing...
Libraries has long been an important and well-used source of information for anyone planning a new library or a library refurbishment in the UK. Its database forms a current and permanent record of design development and innovation for both public and academic libraries; and its recently revamped website will expand its reputation as a collaborative resource by providing more online resources and the addition of school library design developments.

**Designing Libraries, Mar. 20**

**South Africa celebrates its Library Week**
In his 2011 State of the Nation address, President Jacob Zuma of South Africa indicated that his number-one priority is job creation. The Library and Information Association of South Africa is tying its objectives to that of the government’s agenda by placing libraries at the forefront of the development of the country. During South Africa Library Week, March 17–24, libraries are emphasizing their roles in job searching and computer training. The theme is “Develop @ your library.”

Library and Information Association of South Africa

**So you want to be a medical librarian**
Alison Aldrich writes: “Nine years ago, I was wrapping up graduate school and looking for my first professional librarian position. I was thrilled to find out I’d been granted an interview at an academic health sciences library, but I was at a loss for how to prepare. The career services office put me in touch with a helpful alumna who emailed me what amounted to a crash course in medical librarianship. It worked and I got the job. Here is my advice to those of you who are considering medical librarianship today.”

Letters to a Young Librarian, Mar. 15

**Do you really want to go into library management?**
Will Manley writes: “Yesterday’s rather detailed discussion about how to give bathroom directions to a patron of indeterminate gender brought back memories of my days as a library administrator and city manager. Who would have thought that such a simple matter as the proper procedure for answering the question ‘Where’s the bathroom?’ could get so complicated? We take advanced courses in cataloging, reference, and personnel law and then discover in the real world that you can spend hours on the following bathroom issues.”

Will Unwound, Mar. 14–15

**Book domino chain reaction**
The artistic collaborative group Responsible Fishing UK took over the public library in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, on March 19, 2011, and created this spectacular “Domino Topple” (1:58) using deaccessioned library books. The music is by Jon Ashton.

YouTube, Apr. 27, 2011

**I Am a Librarian**
LIS grad student “minidaffodil” created this
YouTube video (1:34) in 2008 to show why many people choose to become a librarian and to challenge what the general public knows about librarians. The music track is “Funkytude” by laMundial.net....
YouTube, Aug. 10, 2008

Go back to the Top
Court to Camdenton: Replace antigay internet filter
In response to a lawsuit claiming that Camdenton (Mo.) R-III School District’s internet filtering system censors content supportive of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, a federal district court has ordered the district to discontinue using its current blocking software, adding that “any new system selected must not discriminate against websites expressing a positive viewpoint toward LGBT individuals.” The district’s filter, URLBlacklist, was developed by one British programmer who winds up determining what information students in Missouri have access to....

AL: Censorship Watch, Mar. 28; ACLU, Feb. 15; New York Times, Mar. 26

Eight tips to highlight history using Facebook
Sanhita SinhaRoy writes: “At the University of Nevada, Reno, Head of Special Collections Donnellyn Curtis turned to Facebook to connect the university’s archives with students who care about history and the school’s tradition. She began by creating Facebook pages for Joe McDonald and Leola Lewis—two students who attended the university in the 1910s. Curtis started the project as a way to educate people, especially students, about the couple’s lives and the history of their time, as well as to bring more exposure to the special collections department.”...

American Libraries feature

Why ebooks need libraries
Beverly Goldberg writes: “About a week ago, an ALA colleague popped into my office with an epiphany. ‘Libraries will never die out. You know why? If they didn’t exist, people would be inventing them.’ As you might imagine, that got us talking and finding examples—and it certainly wasn’t hard. Little Free Libraries, anyone? When you think about it, as AL’s Librarian’s Library columnist Karen Muller has, the Occupy libraries movement sprung from the same human need to
share ideas, and often there’s no better vehicle for that than the written word.”...

AL: Inside Scoop, Mar. 28

**Technology in Practice: Click here to engage**

Meredith Farkas writes: “Librarians who teach are always looking for ways to get patrons more actively engaged in instruction sessions. Research has shown that active learning can have positive effects on student learning and certainly helps to get students to reflect on the application of what they’re learning. In large lecture classes, most active learning exercises simply aren’t feasible, making it difficult to avoid the ‘sage on the stage’ model of teaching.”...

*American Libraries* column, Mar./Apr.

**On My Mind: Just whom do we serve?**

Anthony Molaro writes: “Chances are, your library is chock-full of people. The vast majority of them—those who visit libraries—are part of a group that library workers have had significant trouble defining. How do we, as librarians, view our patrons? How we perceive them is reflected in what we call them, and judging by the variety of terminology, we have significant trouble pinpointing that perception.”...

*American Libraries* column

**Rousing Reads: Translit: New genre collapses time, space**

Bill Ott writes: “At the recent PLA conference in Philadelphia, my friend and *Booklist* columnist David Wright used a term I had never heard, ‘translit,’ to describe that boundary-breaking kind of novel that shatters all the too-often pigeonholing categories we use to compartmentalize modern fiction. Translit—in the dual sense of transcending and transformative—seemed like a perfect term to describe Murakami’s *1Q84* and Nick Harkaway’s *Angelmaker.*”...

*American Libraries* column, May/June

**Librarian’s Library: The librarian’s history of the library**

Karen Muller writes: “Libraries have been shaped by history, and providing historical sources is merely one way they serve their communities, either to research specific events or to pursue something more personal, such as genealogy. When I think of history, two quotations come to mind. One, by Marcus Cicero, says history illuminates the present; the other, by Henry Ford, says we must live in the present.”...

*American Libraries* column, Mar./Apr.

**Use social media for the most effective job search**

How many channels are you using to get that next job? Caitlin Williams of San Jose State University has been in the field of career development for over 20 years and led a March 22 webinar on the importance of building your online presence purposefully. With the
focus on social media tools and other strategies to expand your networking, Williams mentioned many websites (Word file) for social networking, social news, company information, and job aggregation that can aid in your job search....

AL: Inside Scoop, Mar. 28

From barn to Bibliothek
American Libraries Associate Editor Greg Landgraf writes: "Most libraries aren’t found in barns, but Jackson (N.H.) Public Library happily makes its new home in one. It’s not just any barn, either. Built in 1858 as part of the town’s first inn, the barn was dismantled and stored away in 2008. At about the same time, the library was looking to open a new facility."
Boing Boing, Mar. 26

Go back to the Top

AL News

Picoult and daughter at ALA Annual Conference
Best-selling author Jodi Picoult and her daughter Samantha Van Leer will appear as part of the ALA President’s Program and Awards Presentation at ALA Annual Conference on June 24 at the Anaheim (Calif.) Convention Center. The mother-daughter author team will be on tour for the launch of Between the Lines, a book they wrote together that will be published in June....
Conference Services, Mar. 21

John Irving to introduce his new novel
Bestselling author John Irving (right) will appear at the 2012 ALA Annual Conference on June 23 in the Anaheim (Calif.) Convention Center. He will introduce attendees to his 13th and latest novel, In One Person, due to be published in May. The novel is described as his most political since The Cider House Rules and A Prayer for Owen Meany, offering an unforgettable portrait of the solitariness of a bisexual man dedicated to making himself “worthwhile.”...
Conference Services, Mar. 23

Raise funds with the Rock Bottom Remainders
By day, they’re famous authors. But once a year they shed their pen-and-pencil-clutching personas and become rock stars, complete with roadies,
groupies, and a wicked cool tour bus. The ALA/ProQuest Scholarship Bash welcomes the Rock Bottom Remainders (right) for a special June 23 performance at the ALA Annual Conference in the Anaheim (Calif.) Convention Center. Scheduled to appear are Stephen King, Amy Tan, Mitch Albom, Dave Barry, Matt Groening, Scott Turow, and many others. Roger McGuinn of the Byrds will join the band as special musical guest.{}

Conference Services, Mar. 27

Virtual Membership Meeting agenda
ALA President Molly Raphael and the Committee on Membership Meetings sent ALA members an invitation to respond to a survey about topics and the format for the 2012 ALA Virtual Membership Meeting, scheduled for June 6. The survey invites your input about agenda items for the meeting and your feedback on virtual participation. It will remain open through April 9, and all responses are anonymous.{}

ALA Membership Blog, Mar. 27

Choose a balanced information diet
The ALA Office for Information Technology Policy recommends that you improve your information diet. In a new report, Restoring Contemplation: How Disconnecting Bolsters the Knowledge Economy (PDF file), author Jessie L. Mannisto outlines future directions for libraries and other social institutions to improve our capacity for thoughtful endeavor. Options for libraries might include creating a contemplative resource center, supporting and reinforcing student reflection as part of the school day, or using books and exhibits to enable and encourage discussion of our technological habits.{}

District Dispatch, Mar. 28

Vote on your smartphone
Did you know that you can vote in the 2012 ALA elections on your smartphone and other mobile devices? You are no longer tied to your desktop to cast your vote; you can now vote virtually anywhere. Log in using the URL and credentials that were sent to you between March 19 and March 21. The polls will close on Friday, April 27.{}

Office of ALA Governance, Mar. 22

Personal ALA member dues
There are several types of personal memberships in ALA, but all have the same rights and privileges of membership. Dues are tiered, based on the roles one has in library work. Special rates are available for retirees, students, Friends, trustees, international members, and non-salaried members. Membership in ALA divisions and round tables is an additional fee, and special dues rates may also be available. To join, go online, call, or fill out the enrollment form.{}

Membership Development Office

You belong @ your library
From snapshot days to visual poetry events, libraries are gearing up and reminding people across the country and in their communities that during National Library Week (April 8–14) and throughout the year the place you belong is at your library. Here are just a few programs that libraries are holding to promote the “You belong @ your library” theme....

Public Information Office, Mar. 27

**Virtual Library Legislative Day**

Virtual Library Legislative Day is part of ALA’s National Library Legislative Day on April 23–24, when hundreds of library advocates will descend on Capitol Hill to meet with members of Congress and their staffs. Library advocates who cannot make it to Capitol Hill for the event can still be a part of the effort by calling or emailing their elected officials any time during the week of April 23–27....

ALTAFF, Mar. 27

**Library superheroes invited to C2E2**

ALA will be presenting and exhibiting at the Chicago Comic and Entertainment Expo (C2E2), April 13–15, in the North Building at McCormick Place in Chicago. ALA will present two programs for the library community and comics industry professionals during the Professional Day, April 13. C2E2 has extended free passes for all library staff members on Professional Day, with the hours of 10 a.m.–1 p.m. open only to librarians and educators....

ALA Membership Blog, Mar. 21

**Sponsor an Emerging Leader**

The ALA Emerging Leaders program is still accepting sponsors for the 2013 class. A completed Intent to Sponsor form (PDF file) should be submitted to Beatrice Calvin by April 6. Organizations or individuals must commit to providing financial support of at least $1,000 ($500 per conference) for each Emerging Leader selected....

Office for Human Resource Development and Recruitment, Mar. 27

**New Spectrum Scholarship webinar series**

As part of the Spectrum Doctoral Fellowship Program: Building Change, a diversity recruitment program funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Spectrum Scholarship Program will present a series of four webinars this spring exploring opportunities for doctoral studies in library and information science. The webinars are free and open to all individuals interested in learning more about LIS doctoral education. They will be recorded and posted to the Spectrum Doctoral Fellowship Program web page....

Spectrum Scholarship Program, Mar. 26

**Call for IFLA nominations**

The International Relations Committee is accepting nominations to section standing committees of the International Federation of Library....
Associations and Institutions. IFLA elections are held biennially. In 2013, elections will be held for committees, divisions, sections, and round tables for the period 2013–2017. Forward nominations to Delin Guerra before November 13....

Library War Service map poster
Larry Nix writes: "I've added a nice item to my collection of ALA Library War Service memorabilia. It is a map of the United States (right) that documents the extent of ALA's library program in World War I. It proclaims, 'Every dot on the map means a special war library for our fighting men.' A larger square dot indicates camps with libraries, and a smaller round dot indicates libraries in other buildings. It includes an impressive list of statistics: 41 camp library buildings in operation; 143 hospitals and Red Cross houses supplied; and 243 librarians maintained in the service."...

Library History Buff Blog, Mar. 23

Digital Library of the Week
In honor of Maryland’s 378th birthday on March 25, 2012, the Enoch Pratt Free Library/State Library Resource Center in Baltimore has launched the new Maryland Digital Cultural Heritage website. The site showcases a digital collection of items from Maryland libraries, museums, historical societies, and other institutions, and includes more than 5,000 items, such as maps, manuscripts, photos, artwork, books, and other media.

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 I Love Libraries site, Check out our Featured Digital Libraries Pinterest board.

Booklist ONLINE

Featured review: Science fiction for youth
Grant, who showed a flair for grandiose conceptual gambits in his Gone series, here goes big by going small. With science as soft as pudding (though, really, who cares—pudding is delicious), he envisions nanotechnology so advanced that brains can be rewired, memories manipulated, and senses hacked by robots and gene-spliced creatures the size of dust mites. A war between two ultra secretive, competing ideologies—one championing free will, the other promising enforced happiness—is being fought “down in the meat,” and Grant gleefully exposes the biological ickiness of the body going about its everyday business in paranoia-inducing scenes of nanobots scuttling across spongy brain matter or plunging probes into optic nerves....

Hostile questions: Libba Bray
Daniel Kraus writes: “Libba Bray (right) dashed off some New York Times bestselling books called the Gemma Doyle trilogy—well, don’t that beat all? She also won the Michael L. Printz Award for a book called Going Bovine—sooooo impressive, right? Mostly she goes around writing
Anaheim Update

Disneyland: The basics
The Disneyland Resort is divided into two separate theme parks, three hotels, and a shopping and entertainment district. Here is a map. The first park is the original Disney theme park Disneyland (opened on July 18, 1955). Its sister park Disney California Adventure (opened in February 2001) is located across the entry plaza. Both parks are divided into “lands,” or themes. At the western end of the entry plaza is Downtown Disney, the shopping and entertainment district. Disneyland rides are mostly well-themed dark rides (Pirates of the Caribbean) with the occasional thrill ride (Space Mountain), while California Adventure rides are more thrill-oriented (California Screamin’) with some family-style rides (Soarin’ Over California, above)....

Finding cheaper gas with your smartphone
Jeff Brady writes: “Companies have applications for most smartphones out there to help people find the cheapest gas in town. I tried out six applications on an iPhone and narrowed the selection to two that I found the easiest to use: GasBuddy and Fuel Finder. GasBuddy launches quickly, with a big, green gas-pump button in the center of the screen labeled ‘Find Gas Near Me.’ Fuel Finder has a feature called ‘On Fumes,’ which lists all the stations close to you regardless of price in case you’re running out of gas.”...

NPR: All Tech Considered, Mar. 22

How the World Sees Us
“The library, to me, is the second most sacred physical space on the planet.”
—Poet Nikky Finney, winner of the 2012 National Book Award for poetry, during a reading at the Richland County (S.C.) Public Library, Mar. 22.

Division News

Make your mark and vote in the 2012 ALA Election

Division News

**LLAMA preconference on leadership**
LLAMA will present “What is Leadership?” a half-day preconference on June 22 at the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, California. Speakers Jay Johnston and Christine Bradley will outline a theoretically driven yet pragmatic approach to leadership by presenting various leadership styles and appropriate applications. Register online....

**ALTAFF Nuts & Bolts program in Anaheim**
ALTAFF will host “Nuts & Bolts for Trustees, Friends, and Foundations” on June 22 at the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, California. The program is designed to equip advocates with the latest techniques for fundraising and advocacy. The featured guest will be David Levinson (right), author of *Everyone Helps, Everyone Wins*. Other speakers will include Cheryl Gould, April Butcher, Sally Gardner Reed, Marci Merola, Lynn Slawsky, and Deborah Stone....

**Deadline extended to participate in PLDS**
Public libraries in the United States and Canada have until April 16 to be a part of the 2012 survey for the annual *Public Library Data Service Statistical Report*. Log in at the PLDS survey website. Libraries that have not received a PLDS ID and password can request one online....

**Sights from PLA 2012**
More than 6,000 librarians visited Philadelphia March 13–17 for the Public Library Association National Conference. Here are some images from the four days of speakers (Betty White on the right), sessions, exhibits, special dinners, and networking opportunities. All photos are by Paul Coker....

**Last week to participate in School Libraries Count!**
To participate in the AASL 2012 School Libraries Count! longitudinal survey, participants must enter their data by the March 30 deadline. The survey gathers basic data about the status of school library programs across the country. AASL will use this information to develop advocacy tools to support school library programs at the local, state, and national levels....

**ASCLA online learning**
ASCLA offers training to help libraries serve all of their users. Upcoming online learning opportunities will prepare your library to offer effective services, a welcoming environment, and knowledgeable staff to the blind and visually impaired, people with disabilities, and Latinos. Take advantage of this expertise by enrolling in one of these webinars or online courses to gain valuable knowledge that will help transform your library’s services....
ASCLA, Mar. 26

**Registration open for YA Literature Symposium**

YALSA has opened registration for its third Young Adult Literature Symposium, November 2–4, at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch in St. Louis. The 2012 theme is “The Future of Young Adult Literature: Hit Me with the Next Big Thing.” Registration for the symposium includes a welcome reception, educational sessions, coffee breaks, a Saturday reception, and a general closing session on Sunday....

YALSA, Mar. 27

**School Library Month webinars**

Created with the busy school librarian in mind, AASL will present short, on-demand professional development focused on improving and advocating the school library program in April, School Library Month. The 2012 theme, “You belong @ your library,” will highlight the role strong school libraries play in a student’s educational career....

AASL, Mar. 27

**Co-teaching as an essential skill**

AASL will present the next of its free Knowledge Quest webinar series on April 10. The March/April issue of Knowledge Quest features articles on co-teaching—building and teaching courses in tandem with subject area teachers. Presented by Susan Ballard and Judi Moreillon, the webinar will touch on ideas presented in their guest coeditor column....

AASL, Mar. 27

**Awards & Grants**

**2012 Melvil Dewey Medal**

Beverly P. Lynch (right), professor in the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, is the winner of the 2012 Melvil Dewey Medal, sponsored by OCLC. The prestigious honor is given in recognition of creative leadership of the highest order. Lynch was cited for her role in training dozens of current library leaders while director of the UCLA Senior Fellows program since 1990, and in creating and directing the California Rare Book School....

Office of ALA Governance, Mar. 22

**2012 Elizabeth Futas Catalyst for Change Award**

Lyn Hopper (right), strategic planning consultant and former assistant state librarian in Georgia for library development (retired), has received the Elizabeth Futas Catalyst for Change Award. This award is given biennially to an individual for making positive changes in the profession of librarianship and consists of a 24K gold-framed citation and $1,000. In her current and past work, Hopper has focused on providing educational opportunities and training for...
Clifford Lynch named Library Hi Tech Award winner

Coalition for Networked Information Executive Director Clifford Lynch has been named the winner of the 2012 LITA Library Hi Tech Award for outstanding communication in library and information technology. The award recognizes persons or institutions for their long-term contributions in the area of LIS technology and its application. It consists of $1,000 and a certificate of merit....

LITA Blog, Mar. 22

2012 Isadore Gilbert Mudge Award

Robert Kieft (right), college librarian at Occidental College, is the recipient of the RUSA 2012 Isadore Gilbert Mudge Award, the highest honor for contributions to the field of reference librarianship. Kieft was cited for his nearly decade-long investment in reformatting the Guide to Reference from a print volume to an ongoing, dynamic, and interactive database with nearly 16,000 entries....

RUSA, Mar. 26

2012 John Sessions Memorial Award

San Francisco State University’s Labor Archives and Research Center is the 2012 winner of RUSA’s John Sessions Memorial Award. The award recognizes a library or library system that has made a significant effort to work with the labor community and has brought recognition to the history of the labor movement to the development of the United States. One of the center’s notable contributions is the San Francisco Labor Landmarks Guide Book....

RUSA, Mar. 27

2012 BRASS Emerald Research Grants

The RUSA Business Reference and Services Section has selected research proposals from Kerry Wu and Heidi E. K. Senior, and from Louise Mort Feldmann, to receive BRASS Emerald Research Grants—two $5,000 grants sponsored by Emerald Publishing Group that support research in the field of business reference....

RUSA, Mar. 27

2012 Summer Reading Program grants

YALSA has announced the winners of its Summer Reading Program Grants, which are funded by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. Twenty libraries are receiving $1,000 to help fund summer reading programs for teens....

YALSA, Mar. 28

Building Awards Committee seeks jury members

The LLAMA Library Building Awards Committee is seeking nominations and applications for jurors for the 2013 Library Buildings Award competition. Jointly sponsored by ALA and the American Institute of Architects, the prestigious biennial awards recognize distinguished accomplishments in library architecture by American architects. Applications must be submitted by May 18....

LLAMA, Mar. 27

Champaign Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Midwest Book and Manuscript Studies courses. Offerings include in-person and online courses on rare book and special collections librarianship, legal issues in library and information science, and audiovisual materials in libraries and archives. Dates vary by course.

June 6–8:

June 6–8:
LOEX of the West, Woodbury University, Burbank, California.

Sept. 20–22:
Kentucky Library Association / Kentucky School Media Association, Joint Conference, Galt House Hotel & Suites, Louisville. “Kentucky Libraries: For Every Chapter of Your Life.”

Oct. 3–5:

Oct. 3–5:
Missouri Library Association, Annual Conference, University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, Springfield. “Missouri
Apply for a Banned Books Week grant

Applications are now open for the 2012 Judith Krug Fund Banned Books Week event grants, sponsored by the Freedom to Read Foundation. Grants in the amounts of $1,000 and $2,500 will be given to organizations in support of Read-Outs or other activities that celebrate Banned Books Week (September 30–October 6). The deadline is May 11....

Office for Intellectual Freedom, Mar. 27

10th IFLA International Marketing Award

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions’ Section on Management and Marketing has announced the winners of its International Marketing Award for 2012. First place was awarded to Tsinghua University Library in Beijing, China, for its “Falling in Love with the Library” video series (right) that features two undergraduates who meet in the library. The videos are offered in two versions, one in Chinese and one with English subtitles. Second place went to the University of Waterloo (Ont.) Library, which launched a campaign featuring 13 creative button designs to capture the visual identity of the six library locations available to students, faculty, and staff....

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, Mar. 23

New York libraries can apply for a Shubert Award

The Joseph F. Shubert Library Excellence Award is given annually to recognize the achievements of small, medium, and large libraries and library consortia in New York State. The award includes a gift of $1,000 supplied by the Friends of the New York State Library. Apply by June 15....

New York State Library

Atlantic City archivist chosen for Top 40 Under 40

Each year the Greater Atlantic City (N.J.) Jaycees and Atlantic City Weekly choose 40 of the area’s most dynamic young leaders for the Top 40 Under 40 recognition. In 2012, Atlantic City Public Library Archivist Heather Pérez (right) was selected for her work in overseeing Atlantic City history collections and promoting the city’s unique history. For her work as a historical consultant, Pérez is listed in the credits of HBO’s Boardwalk Empire....

Atlantic City (N.J.) Weekly, Mar. 15

2012 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction

The PEN/Faulkner Foundation has selected The Buddha in the Attic (Fig Tree, 2011) by Julie Otsuka as the winner of its 2012 Award for Fiction. The book is a precise, poetic novel that tells the story of Japanese picture brides brought to California from Japan in the early 20th century. Three judges selected the winner and four finalists from the more than 350 works by American authors published in the US during the 2011 calendar year....

PEN/Faulkner Foundation, Mar. 27

@ More...
Libraries in the News

Phoenix libraries could rise again
Phoenix may open its libraries longer in 2012 as officials consider the most significant budget expansion since the recession decimated city finances in 2010 and forced cuts to services. The city projects a surplus of $10–$15 million in the general-fund budget for FY 2012–2013. City Manager David Cavazos released a plan March 22 that called for extending hours at six branches and adding 13 positions....

From glovebox to archive: Stanford receives trove of road maps
Stanford University Libraries has acquired a variety of maps in its newest acquisition—more than 13,000 of them. The Robert C. Berlo Road and Street Map Collection includes road maps, Forest Service maps, topographic maps, regional maps, and city maps. Some were published by oil companies, others by real estate firms, and others by automobile associations, from the mid-1920s on. The maps, which arrived at Stanford March 12, will take more than a year to process and will be made available as they are cataloged....

Occupy Wall Street Library confiscated in Union Square
Jason Boog writes: “These are the remaining books left in the Occupy Wall Street Library following a police action. On March 21, the Occupy Wall Street librarians posted a picture of the newly rebuilt Occupy Wall Street Library in New York City’s Union Square Park. By the end of the day, police had cleared out most of the library—leaving behind the books in the picture.”....

A vote of no confidence for Rockford library director
Union members of the Rockford (Ill.) Public Library delivered a 31–1 vote March 23 of no confidence in Director Frank Novak. Union President Karla Janssen spoke critically of proposed plans to close library locations, eliminate Sunday hours, and devote a significant portion of the library’s budget toward digital collections, which, she said, currently make up 3% of the total circulation. But at a March 26 library board meeting, the board’s president and past president defended Novak....

Hawaii’s unfriendly Friends battle
Emotions ran high at a March 21 Hawaii State Capitol Senate Education hearing about libraries and fundraising legalities of their Friends affiliates. More than a year ago, State Librarian Richard Burns told nonprofit groups that raise money for their community library that they must become part of the single statewide “Big” Friends of the Library organization or they would no longer be allowed to fundraise on state property. Among those banned were the well-
organized Friends of the Aina Haina Public Library in Honolulu who have been operating successfully for 50 years....

Hawaii Reporter, Mar. 22

**Two Nazi art albums discovered**

Two original albums of photographs of paintings and furniture looted by the Nazis were recently discovered. The albums have been in private hands since the end of World War II and will be donated to the US National Archives in Washington, D.C. These albums were created by a special Nazi task force engaged in the theft of cultural treasures in occupied countries. In the closing days of World War II, US soldiers entered Adolf Hitler’s home in the Bavarian Alps. Many picked up souvenirs to prove they had been inside the Berghof....

*Prologue: Pieces of History, Mar. 27*

**Toronto librarians, authors join forces at read-in**

"Cheerful rage" is probably the best way of describing the mood at the "read-in" and rally—organized by the striking librarians’ union, CUPE Local 4948—that took place in front of the Toronto Reference Library on March 26. The crowd of more than 100 included library workers, supportive members of the public, and a sizable contingent from the Writers’ Union of Canada who showed up to voice their support for their fellow word lovers during the labor disruption....

*Torontoist, Mar. 26*

**Repairing the damage at India’s National Archives**

Decades of neglect, underfunding, and bad preservation techniques have wrought considerable damage to India’s National Archives. The letters of the Bengali intellectual Romesh Chunder Dutt, for example, are warped due to humidity. A similar fate afflicts the papers of Dadabhai Naoroji, another early nationalist leader. The terrible irony was that the National Archives had the proper equipment for preserving those documents, but the equipment—like the collections—was gathering dust....

*New York Times: India Ink, Mar. 21-22*

Go back to the Top

**Issues**

**FRPAA gains cosponsors and a hearing**

The Federal Research Public Works Act of 2012, H.R. 4004, gained traction in mid-March in the US House of Representatives. On March 19, Rep. Mike Doyle (D-Pa.) held a congressional briefing on the issue of public access to the results of taxpayer-funded research. On March 20, FRPAA picked up a whopping 24 additional cosponsors (both Democrats and Republicans). Then on March 22 the US House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology’s Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight added to its schedule a hearing for March 29....

*District Dispatch, Mar. 23*

**Are privatized public libraries so bad?**
Amanda Erickson writes: “To me, the idea of a privatized public library has a certain dystopian ring to it, the ultimate public space corrupted for a profit. That image was not much aided by my first (and second and third) call to Library Systems and Services Inc., the only library privatization company in the United States. But then, there’s the example of Santa Clarita, California. Even the councilman who opposed letting LSSI run the library, Bob Kellar, says he hasn’t heard any complaints since the new system opened in July.”...

The Atlantic Cities, Mar. 28

A fresh look at the Checklist for Fair Use
Kenneth D. Crews writes: “The Checklist for Fair Use is a tool intended to help individuals and institutions make a reasoned decision about fair use. It is an attempt to capture some of the circumstances and conditions that courts have identified as relevant or even important to the evaluation of each of the four fair-use factors embodied in Section 107 of the US Copyright Act.”...

Copyright and New Media Law Newsletter, Issue 1 for 2012

Amazon, PDA, and library sales for books
Joseph Esposito writes: “Here’s the hypothesis: Virtually all academic libraries buy print books from Amazon, and within a few years, virtually all academic libraries will have PDA programs in place. At some point these two trends will intersect, beginning a significant restructuring of the marketplace. Publishers now have a glimpse of what Amazon is likely to be doing with consumer book markets and now should be thinking about a significantly restructured library market. The question is, what investments should be made today to ensure a publisher’s viability and growth in the years ahead?”...

The Scholarly Kitchen, Mar. 27

Go back to the Top

Tech Talk

The eight greatest tech hoaxes in history
David Cardinal writes: “P. T. Barnum is famously credited with saying, ‘There is a sucker born every minute.’ The March 19 viral video (1:50) of a Dutch man named Jarno Smeets taking flight powered only by a set of flapping wings certainly demonstrated that we all want to believe in the power of technology—until he himself (in the person of filmmaker Floris Kaayk) revealed the entire effort was an elaborate hoax. Technology has been intertwined with hoaxes for centuries. Here are some of my favorites.”...

Extreme Tech, Mar. 26; YouTube, Mar. 19; Digital Trends, Mar. 22

A surge in learning code
Jenna Wortham writes: “Parlez-vous Python? What about Rails or JavaScript? Foreign languages tend to wax and wane in popularity, but the language du jour is computer code. The market for night classes and online instruction in programming and web construction, as well as for
iPhone apps that teach, is booming. Those jumping on board say they are preparing for a future in which the internet is the foundation for entertainment, education, and nearly everything else."

New York Times, Mar. 27

Google account stats
Google added an interesting feature that shows stats for services like Google Latitude, Gmail, and Google Search. If you go to the Account Activity page (requires login), you can opt in for a monthly report that provides a "summary of your account activity across many Google products." It’s like a personal Google Analytics, but it’s less detailed and it focuses on security features."

Google Operating System, Mar. 28

Nonhumans account for 51% of web traffic
Marc Gaffan writes: "Most website owners don’t know that a startling 31% of any site’s traffic can harm its business. And although most website owners rely on Google Analytics to track who is visiting their site, Google simply doesn’t show you 51% of your site’s traffic, including such seriously shady nonhuman visitors as hackers, scrapers, spammers, and spies of all sorts who are easily thwarted, but only if they’re seen and blocked.""

The Incapsula Blog, Mar. 14

Spam on LinkedIn
P. F. Anderson writes: "A Twitter friend of mine contacted me with some concern. An acquaintance on her campus had contacted her administration with a screenshot suggesting awful things about her use of LinkedIn. What had she done that was so awful? She’s a real person and she’s not lying, so what’s left? Spam is all over LinkedIn, just like it is for Twitter and Facebook and email.""

Emerging Technologies Librarian, Mar. 23

What’s the difference between sleep and hibernate?
Lori Kaufman writes: "Windows 7 provides several options for conserving power when you are not using your PC. These options include Sleep, Hibernate, and Hybrid Sleep and are very useful if you are using a laptop. Here’s the difference between them.""

How-To Geek, Mar. 28

Hot spots that don’t stay home
David Pogue writes: "Once you’re out of the house and on the road, you’re out of Wi-Fi range. You’re either offline completely, or you peek at the internet through the tiny screen of a smartphone. There is another way. You could get a broadband cellular hot spot, like the MiFi, a tiny, self-powered base station that creates a Wi-Fi bubble from your pocket or purse."

New York Times, Mar. 21

4G or not 4G
Walter S. Mossberg writes: "Of all the confusing technology terms used in consumer marketing today, perhaps the most opaque is 4G, used to describe a new, much faster generation of cellular data on smartphones, tablets, and other devices. It sounds simple, but there are many varieties of 4G and conflicting claims. It’s a headache for consumers to grasp. So here’s a simplified explainer to some of the
most common questions, based on interviews with top technical officials at all four major US wireless carriers.“..." 
Wall Street Journal: Personal Technology, Mar. 28

**FuzeBox video conferencing**
Ryan Lawler writes: “Video conferencing is becoming increasingly mobile: Participants are no longer required to sit in a big telepresence room to connect with coworkers or partners or to collaborate on projects. Increasingly, devices like the iPad are enabling those workers to be just as productive anywhere they happen to be. Which is why FuzeBox is coming out with a new iPad app that is optimized for the device’s new Retina display and 4G wireless connectivity.“..." 
GigaOM, Mar. 28

### E-Content

**You can buy Harry Potter ebooks now**
The Pottermore ebookstore is open earlier than expected, with all the Harry Potter ebooks and digital audiobooks available (not DRM-free) for sale for the first time March 27. Wait until you see what they worked out with Amazon’s Kindle. While the interactive community portion of Pottermore is still in beta and set to open to a general audience in April, the bookstore is open now. It looks as though Pottermore has done a great job making the ebooks available across every possible device.... 
paidContent, Mar. 8, 27; The Digital Reader, Mar. 27

**The evil ebook is coming**
Jamie LaRue writes: “Libraries of all types need to have systems enabling them to publish and manage content directly. So now let’s say that your library does have an infrastructure for the management of digital content, as my library does. I anticipate that there will be at least four kinds of content coming our way: crap, okay stuff, great works, and evil ebooks (featuring plagiarism, links to pornography, or malicious code).“..." 
myliblog, Mar. 25

**Librarians, publishers, and ebooks**
In this video (61:20), librarians present the case for ebooks in libraries to major publishers at the March 14 Association of American Publishers annual meeting. The speakers are ALA President Molly Raphael (right); Jim Neal, Columbia University libraries; and Tony Marx, New York Public Library. In the audience are the heads of most of the largest houses in publishing, including many that do not sell ebooks to libraries.... 
EarlyWord: The Publisher | Librarian Connection, Mar. 23; Ustream, Mar. 22

**Bowker global ebook research study**
Australia, India, the UK, and the US are leading the world in ebook adoption rates,
according to Bowker Market Research’s Global eBook Monitor. The study tracks consumer attitudes to and purchasing of ebooks in major world markets. Respondents in France and Japan were the least likely to have purchased an ebook. Age and gender are consistent predictors of purchase behavior globally....

Bowker, Mar. 27

**Three sites for online talking children’s storybooks**

Richard Byrne writes: “This post is born out of a request for help from someone that I met at the Teacher 2 Teacher conference in Bow Island, Alberta. She was looking for some free online talking storybooks to use in her Grade 1 class. Nothing came to mind right off, so I searched Diigo and my blog archives to find these three places to find free online talking children’s storybooks.”...

Free Technology for Teachers, Mar. 24

**Behind the scenes at Ancestry.com**

At Ancestry.com headquarters in Provo, Utah, workers scan microfilm and city directories and carefully take photos of historical documents, all to be uploaded to the website. This video (4:34) shows some of their operations. The largest for-profit genealogy company in the world, it operates a network of genealogical and historical record websites focused on the US and nine foreign countries....

Computerworld, Mar. 22

**Books & Reading**

**Hunger Games: A uniting force**

Mary Schmich writes: “To skeptics, the sight of adults glomming on to a young-adult novel may bear a creepy resemblance to middle-aged disco dancers in Spandex. But *The Hunger Games* offers some attractions that many grown-up novels don’t. The plot is strong. The characters are vivid. The writing is clear, better, sentence by sentence, than a lot of adult blockbusters and some purportedly literary novels. It’s also just fun to reflect that many people, young and old, Republicans and Democrats, are reading the same thing.”...

Chicago Tribune, Mar. 28

**Intertwined text and illustration in YA books**

Sharon Rawlins writes: “Remember when you were a kid and graduated from reading books with lots of illustrations to books with nothing but text? You felt so grown up? But there were times when you secretly wanted books where you could just look at the pictures. Now you can indulge in your love of both...
because there are so many books out there that combine text and illustration in innovative ways. In these books, the text and accompanying illustrations complement each other in a seamlessly intertwined and integrated way.”...

YALSA The Hub, Mar. 28

**A slow-books manifesto**

Maura Kelly writes: “Fast entertainment (TV, the internet), consumed mindlessly as we slump on the couch or do our morning commute, pickles our brains—and our souls. That’s why I’m calling for a Slow Books Movement. In our leisure moments, whenever we have down time, we should turn to literature—to works that will take some time to read but will also stay with us longer than anything else. They’ll help us unwind better than any electronic device—and they’ll pleasurably sharpen our minds and identities, too.”...

*The Atlantic*, Mar. 26

**How to host your own audiobook gathering**

Chris Perez writes: “Book clubs can be great, but have you thought about taking them to another level with audiobooks? Wouldn’t it be fun to hold a quaint gathering in your living room—seated ‘round the fireplace with a refreshing cocktail, while a central speaker broadcasts a good story as if it were the 1930s? Read on and we’ll show you how to hold such an event.”...

*Apartment Therapy*, Mar. 19

**ProQuest to publish the Statistical Abstract**

ProQuest will rescue a valued reference tool when it takes on publication of the *Statistical Abstract of the United States* beginning with the 2013 edition. The move ensures the continuation of this guide to an extraordinary array of statistics, published since 1878. The US Census Bureau, responsible for publishing the work, announced in March 2011 that it would cease production of the *Statistical Abstract* after the 2012 edition, prompting widespread concern among librarians, journalists, and researchers about its disappearance....

*ProQuest*, Mar. 22

**Rarities in cartography and Americana to be auctioned**

On April 10, Christie’s New York will auction the private library of Kenneth Nebenzahl, renowned dealer, cartographic scholar, and author from Chicago. Formed over the past 50 years, the collection includes some of the greatest rarities in the fields of cartography, exploration, and Americana. One highlight from the collection includes the *Liber Insularum Archipelagi* of Cristoforo Buondelmonti, the most important Renaissance illustrated travel book of the Eastern Mediterranean. It is a primary source for the Aegean, with the famous bird’s-eye view of an as-yet-unconquered Constantinople....

*Artdaily*, Mar. 27

**The 10 best LGBT romances**

Kim Parker writes: “Ever since Maryland officially legalized same-sex marriage in March, we at Flavorwire...
have had love on our minds. Since we’re also always thinking about books, we’ve collected 10 wonderful literary LGBT romances to get you in the mood. From aching first love to rambunctious adulthood, this list offers something for everyone, regardless of gender or sexual preference. Heartbreak—like disease, love, and death—doesn’t care if you’re hetero-normative or not.”...

Flavorwire, Mar. 28

**The internet unlocks James Madison**

Emily Badger writes: “James Madison’s *Notes of the Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787* has never been a bestseller. But Benjamin Wittes, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, argues that these notes—a kind of *Congressional Record* of their time—may be the most important text in American history that no one ever reads. The Center for the Constitution at James Madison’s Montpelier estate in Virginia has been trying for years to figure out how to unlock the document. Now, in a partnership with Brookings, they’ve put it [online](http://aldirect.ala.org/sites/default/al_direct/2012/march/032812-2.htm) to test a kind of scholarly Wikipedia for American history.”...

Miller-McCune, Mar. 23

**12 great small-press books**

Emily Temple writes: “March is Small Press Month, so before the month is out, we decided we’d better get to talking about a few of the great books published by the tinier houses. We reached out to a few publishers, editors, and publicists of small presses and asked them to recommend some of their favorite books recently released by other indie outfits. They responded in force.”...

Flavorwire, Mar. 27

**Alternatives in Print directory**

*Alternatives in Print* is an online directory of alternative periodicals and book publishers, “alternative” referring to literature that is outside the mainstream, politically oriented, and in some sense rooted in the left. It is a combination of two former reference books: *Annotations*, a directory of periodicals published by the *Alternative Press Center*; and *Alternative Publishers of Books in North America*, a directory of publishers updated every two years by Byron Anderson and created under the auspices of the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table....

Library Juice, Mar. 27

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**Tips & Ideas**

**Braille music scores provide a lifeline to blind musicians**

Mark Hartsell writes: “Ayaka Isono (right) is one of thousands of visually impaired musicians whose work depends upon the collections of the Music Section of the [National Library Service for the Blind and Physically](http://aldirect.ala.org/sites/default/al_direct/2012/march/032812-2.htm)[7/17/2014 11:02:41 AM]"
Handicapped, a program of the Library of Congress. The music collections at NLS represent the world's largest source of material for visually impaired musicians and music lovers. The material provides an important resource for blind musicians trying to adapt to their impairment, learn their craft, or make it in the business of music.”...
Library of Congress Blog, Mar. 26

Celebrate poetry
Angela Hanshaw writes: “April is National Poetry Month. Do you need inspiration for some last-minute programming, or are you looking for ideas you can use year-round? The Academy of American Poets offers a list of 30 ways to celebrate poetry; here are 10 from the list that can be easily adapted for libraries.”...
Programming Librarian, Mar. 27; Academy of American Poets

What to pin at the top of your Facebook timeline
Jackie Cohen writes: “One of the smartest features of the Facebook timeline for organizations is the ability to pin posts to the page. The feature is so helpful that it might seem like a no-brainer to decide what to pin. But the catch is, you can only pin one thing at a time. Whatever you most recently pinned shows up at the top of the page. Here’s a list of things you might want to pin to the top of your timeline page.”...
All Facebook blog, Mar. 26

Librarian Twitter Bingo
Joe Hardenbrook writes: “You ever think, ‘Wow those librarians are always tweeting about the same thing?’ Well, now you can play a game: It’s called Librarian Twitter Bingo. Every time you see a librarian tweet about one of these topics (right), cross it off. When you get a whole row, yell ‘Bingo!’ P.S. I myself could probably cross off at least 13 of these boxes with my own tweets.”...
Mr. Library Dude, Mar. 22

Vote for your favorite New Librarianship Pinterest board
Kelly Lux writes: “Syracuse University iSchool's contest has generated much excitement and interest. We were very impressed with the work that contestants put into their boards and the varying ways they defined what it means to be a New Librarian. It has been a tough chore to decide ‘the best of the best,’ but we have come up with our Elite Eight boards. Vote by March 30 for the one you believe best represents the future of librarianship.”...
Information Space, Mar. 26

Pinterest updates its terms of service
Jon Russell writes: "Fast-growing social sharing site Pinterest has introduced significant changes to its terms of service, which will take effect April 6. An email sent out to registered users explains that the company has updated the original terms that have governed the site since it launched. The most significant of the new changes sees..."
Pinterest relinquish its right to sell user content—something the firm says it had never really intended to make use of.” The previous terms had caused some major concerns....

The Next Web: Apps, Mar. 24; The Flying Trilobite, Mar. 20

**What is workflow automation?**
Becky Yoose writes: “The oversimplified answer to this question is that workflow automation is the process where you have the computer do the things that it can be programmed to do, thereby reducing repetitive manual actions by the staff member. There are two types of automation to consider when you look at your workflows: data entry and decision making.”...

ACRL Tech Connect, Mar. 26

**High school librarians teach technology**
A steady murmur of voices emanated from the library in Cedar Creek High School in Egg Harbor City, New Jersey. But as librarian Christine Finn walked toward a table of students, it wasn’t to quiet them down, but to assist in their history project creating a wiki about the Great Plains. School librarians are also curators, reviewing databases and websites. Finn said she also asks students what they want, and Cedar Creek’s library has a collection of audiobooks popular among students with reading disabilities and those with long bus rides....

Press of Atlantic City, Mar. 22

**Stop branding your library**
PC Sweeney writes: “I had an interview at the library system I currently work at and I spent exactly five minutes in a room with Martín Gómez and realized everything I thought about branding libraries was absolute crap. While I could never even dream to express what he said to me as eloquently as he did in those five minutes, and it’s taken me years to come to terms and process what he said to me, I am going to write about why I now think I was so wrong.”...

PC Sweeney’s Blog, Mar. 28

**Helping students think critically with research**
Buffy Hamilton writes: “One of the challenges of teaching research and information literacy to high school students is helping them conceptualize and apply the principles of citation and ethical use of information. However, no matter how much one-on-one help we provided, how many step-by-step handouts we created, or how many video tutorials we created, students in all grade levels struggled to master the steps to citing different sources, particularly the databases.”...

The Unquiet Librarian, Mar. 27

**New York schools need librarians**
Ruth V. Small (right), David Lankes, and Barbara Stripling appear in this effective video (2:37), presenting the value of school libraries and certified school librarians to students. It was produced by the Center for Digital Literacy at the Syracuse University School of Information Studies....

YouTube, Mar. 24
Storytime as performance art
Melissa Depper writes: "When we're prepping our storytimes, we need to not just prepare our material but also prepare ourselves to be in front of an audience. Actors do breathing exercises to help them project their voices; they do walkthroughs of each scene to learn where they need to stand and how to hold their hands and when and where precisely to pick up and set down props. They practice their lines on their own until they can say them fluidly, then practice them with the rest of the cast to fine-tune the timing."...

Library Thriller
This 2009 video (8:39) by teacher Braulio Cesar Linares shows a bubble-gum-chewing young man pursued by vigilant (and strict) librarians. Filmed at the George Memorial Library, the central branch of the Fort Bend County Libraries in Richmond, Texas....

Secrets don't stay hidden if you know where to look
Staffers at New York Public Library’s Irma and Paul Milstein Division of US History, Local History, and Genealogy are excited to present a movie trailer–style promotional video that debuted in February. They loved the videos that other NYPL divisions and neighborhood libraries have made—especially the Jefferson Market branch’s Haunted Library video (1:44)—and were inspired to make their own. After writing the script, they contacted some people in the film and television industry, and they were willing to help out. Watch the Milstein Suspense Trailer (2:42)....