

american libraries DIRECT

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The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | February 6, 2013

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american libraries
BUYERS GUIDE

American Libraries Online

[Manufacturing makerspaces](#)

Many libraries across the US have developed makerspaces—places to create, build, and craft—and they are experiencing increased visits and demand as a result. In the next few sections, you'll find expert opinions and advice from author Cory Doctorow and *Make* magazine writer Travis Good, as well as practical pieces on the costs and resources involved....

American Libraries feature



[Newsmaker: An interview with Jenica Rogers](#)

In 2012, Jenica Rogers (right), director of libraries for the State University of New York at Potsdam, drew attention in the library community for [announcing candidly](#) that she would not be renewing her university's annual subscription to the American Chemical Society's online journals package because of ever-increasing subscription costs. Her stance sent shock waves through the community and brought up questions concerning new business models and the challenge of open access....

American Libraries column, Jan./Feb.; Attempting Elegance, Sept. 12



[Librarian's Library: How we do librarianship](#)

Karen Muller writes: "Regardless of how large (or small) your library is, or whether you serve elementary school students, college professors, or retirees seeking the latest book by their favorite author, you are affected by issues that may change how we 'do' librarianship. Here are a few recent titles that discuss these topics, sometimes raising more questions than not."...

American Libraries column, Jan./Feb.



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See how **more than 10,700 librarians**, exhibitors, authors, staff, paraprofessionals, teachers, and Friends made the most of ALA Midwinter Meeting conversations, networking, programs, award ceremonies, exhibits, speakers, institutes, social events, and the wonderful city of Seattle. Check out [American Libraries online](#), the *Cognotes* Highlights edition ([interactive version](#), [mobile version](#), [accessible version](#), [PDF version](#)), [AL Direct](#), and the [Seattle Pinterest board](#).

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ALA News

[Sullivan, Clinton sign "Declaration of Learning"](#)

On January 30, ALA President Maureen Sullivan (third from left) joined Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton (at podium), along with 12 government agencies and organizations, to sign the "Declaration of Learning," a statement that formally announces their partnership as members of the Inter-Agency Collaboration on Learning. The declaration recognizes participating institutions for their commitment to use historic artifacts in their collections to create digital learning tools for students and educators....



Office of Government Relations, Jan. 31

[Midwinter's Maker Monday](#)

Steve Teeri writes: "ALA Midwinter in Seattle highlighted the growing interactions between libraries and the Maker Movement. An entire day, Maker Monday, was devoted to examining the current state of makerspaces in libraries. The high point was 'The New Stacks: The Maker Movement Comes to the Library.' Speakers Dale Dougherty, founding editor and publisher of *Make* magazine, and Travis Good, contributing writer for *Make*, provided a history of library involvement in the movement and a vision of the future for library makerspaces."...



AL: Inside Scoop, Jan. 31

[ALA Council approves dues adjustment proposal](#)

On January 29 during the Midwinter Meeting in Seattle, ALA Council approved a dues adjustment proposal and directed that it be placed on the spring ALA ballot for membership approval. If approved by the membership, a five-year dues adjustment mechanism would be established, directing the Executive Board to review personal member dues annually every September from 2013 to 2017. Read the Q&A document ([PDF file](#)) about the proposal....

ALA Membership, Feb. 4

[Michelle Harrell Washington to direct OFD, OLOS](#)

Michelle Harrell Washington (right) has been appointed director of the Office for Diversity and the Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, effective February 11. Currently public services librarian at the Medical College



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of Wisconsin Libraries, where she has been since 2009, she previously served as director of library services at the University of Wisconsin–Washington County, and prior to that was multicultural services librarian at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee Libraries....
Office for Diversity, Feb. 5

[Instagramming ALA Midwinter 2013](#)

Travis Jonker writes: "I mentioned last week that it was time to stop fooling myself that I would get a lot of blog posts out the door during ALA Midwinter. Success! I did, however, manage to take pictures on Instagram. Why don't I dump all the photos right here for anyone interested? I take your silence as a hearty encouragement (bad at interpreting silence). But before we start, here's a quick guide to common ALA ailments (right). I suffered from every one of these conditions at one time or another during the weekend."...



School Library Journal: 100 Scope Notes, Jan. 30

[How to chair an ALA committee meeting](#)

Wayne Bivens-Tatum writes: "Although I haven't the decades of experience of some librarians, I've been to a lot of bad meetings and many good ones. I think I can say without too much immodesty that most of the meetings that I've chaired have been better than average, at least if the goal is to get the most amount of work with the least amount of time spent. And if that's not the goal of meetings, then why have them? Here are some tips that I offer freely to anyone who will be chairing a committee meeting at ALA."...

Academic Librarian, Feb. 1

[Examining the ALA Core Values Statement](#)

Rick Anderson writes: "I recently decided to take a hard look at the ALA [Core Values of Librarianship](#) statement (2004). First, as core values go, everything on the list looked pretty timeless to me. However, I found myself dividing the list of values into three categories: those that strike me as representing fundamental principles, those that represent subordinate principles, and those that we might do well to question as core values of librarianship at all."...

Library Journal: Peer to Peer Review, Jan. 31

[Ebooks workshop returns](#)

By popular demand, ALA TechSource announces another session of its best-selling workshop, "[Integrating Ebooks and E-Readers into Your Library](#)" with Sue Polanka. In two 90-minute sessions on February 14 and 21, Polanka will provide practical guidance on how to begin purchasing ebooks for your library to lend electronically and how to purchase e-reader devices for patron use....

ALA TechSource, Jan. 31



[Tablets in libraries](#)

ALA TechSource is offering a new session of the popular workshop, "[Integrating iPads and Tablet Computers into Library Services](#)," with Rebecca Miller, Carolyn Meier, and Heather Moorefield-Lang. The workshop consists of two 90-minute sessions that will take place on

Boston & South Hadley, MA

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www.libraryedge.org

Where People Connect, Communities Achieve

CHECK IN

Teen Tech Week

Invite teens to [Check In @ your library](#) during YALSA's Teen Tech Week, March 10–16. The library is a hot spot, so remind teens to check in and check out all the technology you offer. From ebooks, audiobooks, music, and movies to games, databases, homework help, and more, show off your library as the hub

March 14 and 21....

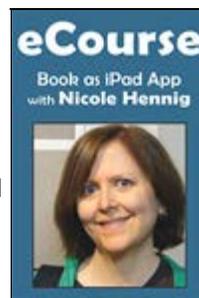
ALA TechSource, Jan. 31

["Book as iPad App" eCourse returns](#)

Your patrons trust your recommendations on what to read next and, as the use of iPads proliferates, they will also ask you about books as apps. In "Book as iPad App: Multimedia, Multi-Touch Ebooks and their Future in Libraries," instructor Nicole Hennig (right) will provide guidance for integrating iPads into your library's programs and services, and offer benchmarks for evaluating book apps and writing reviews of them.

[Registration](#) is open for the eCourse, which begins April 2....

ALA Editions, Feb. 5



["Collaborating with Teens" eCourse](#)

Only a foundation of teen participation can build a vibrant scene such as the one in San Antonio's main library, where teens use computers, listen to music, take cooking classes, do homework, participate in book clubs, and generally hang out. In "Collaborating with Teens to Build Better Library Programs," instructor Jennifer Velásquez (right), who coordinates San Antonio's teen services, will present practical strategies for giving teens the lead in developing high-appeal collections and services. [Registration](#) is open for the eCourse, which begins April 2....

ALA Editions, Feb. 5



[Bring patrons in with music](#)

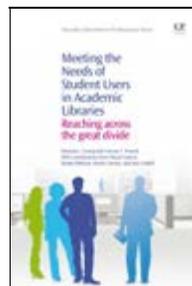
ALA Editions announces another session of its bestselling workshop, "[Building a Music Collection That Brings People to Your Library.](#)" with Matthew Moyer and Andrew Coulon, who will show how your library can build a modern collection for a modern audience. This 90-minute workshop will take place on February 20....

ALA Editions, Jan. 31

[Are we meeting the needs of student users?](#)

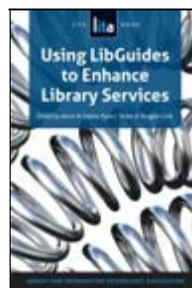
[Meeting the Needs of Student Users in Academic Libraries: Reaching Across the Great Divide](#), available through ALA Neal-Schuman, takes an honest look at learning commons in academic libraries and discusses what is working and what is not. To evaluate their findings, authors Michele Crump and LeiLani Freund examine the measurement tools that libraries have used to evaluate usage and satisfaction....

ALA Neal-Schuman, Feb. 4



[Using LibGuides](#)

[Using LibGuides to Enhance Library Services: A LITA Guide](#), published by ALA TechSource, shows readers how to harness the easy-to-use tools in [Springshare's LibGuides](#) to help organize webpages, improve students' research experience and learning, and interact with an online community of librarians sharing their work and ideas. Editors Aaron W. Dobbs, Ryan L. Sittler, and Douglas Cook recruit expert contributors to address specific applications, creating a one-stop reference....



where teens can plug in and stay connected.
NEW! From ALA Graphics.



[Great Libraries of the World](#)



[National Library of Iran](#), Tehran. The new library building opened in March 2005 in the Abbas Abad district north of the city center, with space for at least 4 million volumes. The collection had languished since 1937 in a facility adjacent to the National Museum of Iran. Further additions are planned through 2015. The new library blends traditional architectural features with modern information technology and has broad staircases, strategically placed skylights, fountains and

[Go back to the Top](#)

Looking for more on the Common Core? **Booklist**

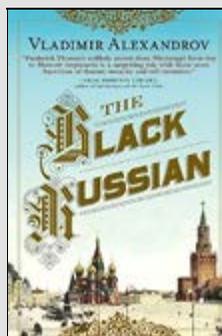
With 22 *Booklist* and 4 *Book Links* print issues, plus our free e-newsletter *Quick Tips*, you'll need look no further. [See a sampling of what a Booklist subscription gets you.](#)

Booklist ONLINE

Featured review: Adult nonfiction

Alexandrov, Vladimir. *The Black Russian*. Mar. 2013. 336p. illus. Atlantic Monthly, hardcover (978-0-8021-2069-4).

Born in Mississippi in 1872 to former slaves, Frederick Bruce Thomas became rich and famous against all odds. In this magnetically appealing, unforgettable biography, Alexandrov tracks Thomas as he works his way cross-country as a waiter, bellhop, and personal valet, then takes "the extraordinary step" of sailing to Europe in 1894. Thomas thrived in the absence of racism in France, Germany, and Italy, then settled in Russia, a land of nearly no people of African descent, where he achieved international renown as a brilliantly innovative and strategically charming nightclub owner. He married a German woman and started a family, but as the world went to war and the Bolsheviks came to power, questions about Thomas's citizenship became dangerously complicated....



Read-alikes: African-American expatriates

Donna Seaman writes: "Frederick Bruce Thomas's astounding life, so dramatically chronicled in Vladimir Alexandrov's groundbreaking biography, *The Black Russian*, is exceptional in its dramatic particulars. But it fits neatly into the mosaic of other African-American expatriates and their experiences, as told in these nine books."...



Top 10 black history nonfiction: 2013

Brad Hooper writes: "'Black History Nonfiction' sounds so staid in view of the enlightening range of topics that fit under that umbrella, as evidenced in the outstanding books in the list that follows, all reviewed in *Booklist* over the past year. Each title contains a wealth of information and, taken all together, the books provide a treasure trove most public libraries can't do without."...



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

[Go back to the Top](#)

waterways reminiscent of a Persian garden, an automated document-retrieval system, and state-of-the-art temperature controls for its rare materials.



National Library of Israel, Jerusalem.

Currently located in the Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the library was founded in 1892 by B'nai B'rith as a world center for the preservation of books relating to Jewish thought and culture, assumed the additional functions of a general university library in 1925, and became the depository library for the state of Israel in 2007. Among its special collections are the personal papers of noted Jewish individuals and organizations; the National Audio Archive of Jewish radio broadcasts, commercial recordings, and traditions; the Eran Laor Map and Travel Book Collection of the Holy Land; the Edelstein Collection in the history of science; and the Gershom Scholem Collection of Kabbalah and mysticism.

This AL Direct feature showcases 250 libraries around the world that are notable for their exquisite



Division News

Sign up for the PLA Virtual Spring Symposium

The PLA [2013 Virtual Spring Symposium](#) will take place March 20. Moderated by librarian, author, and trainer Stephanie Gerding (on the left), the symposium offers eight education programs across four subject tracks: administration and leadership, youth services, marketing and customer service, and technology. Futurist Garry Golden will wrap up the all-day program with a thought-provoking [keynote](#), "Designing a 21st-Century Roadmap for the Future of Public Libraries." [Registration](#) is open....
 PLA, Feb. 5



Become a webinar superstar

With both audience and presenter out of sight, online presentations pose a unique challenge. Learn how to engage an online audience and keep their attention at "[How to Be a Webinar Superstar: Tips for Running Effective Online Presentations](#)" with instructor Steve Yacovelli (right), owner and principal of TopDog Learning Group. Yacovelli will teach how to confidently present an online event that not only has attendees listening, but also remembering what you said. [Registration](#) for the February 27 webinar is open....
 PLA, Feb. 5



Langston Hughes Library a Literary Landmark

Queens (N.Y.) Library's Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center will be designated a Literary Landmark on February 9. A plaque will be placed in the library during its 28th Annual Langston Hughes Celebration. Langston Hughes Community Library is home of the Black Heritage Reference Center of Queens County, housing New York State's largest public circulating collection of print and nonprint material on the black experience....
 United for Libraries, Feb. 6



Aligning graphic novels to standards

In a new *Knowledge Quest* webinar hosted by AASL, writer Katie Monnin (right) will guide attendees through aligning graphic novels to various national standards, including the AASL learning standards and the Common Core State Standards. "Aligning Graphic Novels to the Standards" will take place February 12. To register, visit [eCollab](#)....
 AASL, Jan. 31



architecture, historic collections, and innovative services. If you find yourself on vacation near one of them, be sure to stop by for a visit. Some will be featured 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](#).



Career Leads
 from
 JobLIST

[Agriculture and Natural Resources Librarian](#), University of Maryland, College Park. Reporting to the Head of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Library, the Agriculture and Natural Resources Librarian manages a combination of duties and expectations. Duties and responsibilities include: library liaison to specified academic units/departments; data services and management; general and subject-specific research and information service and instruction; new or enhanced services using emerging technologies;

[It's Digital Learning Day](#)

Digital Learning Day, February 6, is a nationwide celebration of teaching and learning through digital media and technology that engages students and provides them with a rich, personalized, education experience. Eight lesson plans featured as part of "[Digital Learning: Lessons in Action](#)" were created by school librarians or as part of a school librarian and teacher collaboration....

AASL, Feb. 4



[Student video contest](#)

AASL, in collaboration with SchoolTube, announces the launch of the School Library Month 2013 student video contest, "Communities matter @ your library." Contestants are urged to let loose their creativity and use humor, drama, music, and special effects to illustrate how the school library program fosters a sense of community in their school.

Submissions for the video contest will be accepted through March 19. More information can be found on the [AASL website](#)....

AASL, Feb. 4



[Submit an idea for the IDEAxCHANGE](#)

Attendees of the AASL 16th National Conference and Exhibition will once again get a taste of current programs that are leading the way in school library program development during the conference's best-practice showcase. The IDEAxCHANGE, formerly known as the Exploratorium, will be held Thursday afternoon of the conference that will take place November 14-17 in Hartford, Connecticut. Submit proposals [online](#)....

AASL, Feb. 4

[ACRL program proposals](#)

ACRL invites its committees, sections, interest groups, and individual members to consider submitting program proposals for the 2014 ALA Annual Conference in Las Vegas. There will be a virtual meeting on April 18 for ACRL units and members interested in submitting proposals. [RSVP online](#) to attend....

ACRL, Feb. 5

[Free Teen Tech Week webinar](#)

Visit YALSA's 2013 [Teen Tech Week website](#) to take part in the annual celebration of digital literacy and technology via the library and receive free registration for a webinar highlighting the hot topic of makerspaces. Teen Tech Week is March 10-16, with the theme of "Check In @ your library." The free webinar, "Maker Spaces 101, Teens, and You," will take place on February 7....

YALSA, Jan. 31



[Go back to the Top](#)

Awards & Grants

[Betsy Wilson wins Atkinson Award](#)

Lizabeth (Betsy) A. Wilson (right), dean of university libraries at the University of Washington, has been named the 2013 winner of the Hugh C. Atkinson

collaborative work. The subject librarians have vision and dynamic perspective to help shape new approaches to faculty/library relationships....



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Digital Library of the Week



The [Digital Scriptorium](#) is a growing image database of medieval and Renaissance manuscripts that unites scattered resources from many institutions into an international tool for teaching and scholarly research. With technical support provided by the University of California, Berkeley library, DS allows scholars to verify cataloging information about places and dates of origin, scripts, artists, and quality. Special emphasis is placed on the touchstone materials: manuscripts signed



Memorial Award. Wilson will receive a cash award and citation during the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. The award recognizes an academic librarian who has made significant contributions in the area of library automation or management, and has made notable improvements in library services or research....

ACRL, Feb. 4

[2013 Best Fiction for Young Adults](#)

YALSA has announced its 2013 list of [Best Fiction for Young Adults](#). This year's list of 102 books was drawn from 200 official nominations. The books, recommended for ages 12–18, meet the criteria of both good-quality literature and appealing reading for teens. The list comprises a wide range of genres and styles, including contemporary realistic fiction, fantasy, horror, science fiction, and novels in verse....

YALSA, Feb. 1

[2013 Great Graphic Novels for Teens](#)

YALSA announced its [2013 Great Graphic Novels for Teens](#). The list of 55 titles, drawn from 98 official nominations, is presented annually at the ALA Midwinter Meeting. The books, recommended for ages 12–18, meet the criteria of both good-quality literature and appealing reading for teens....

YALSA, Feb. 4

[2013 Quick Picks for Reluctant YA Readers](#)

YALSA has announced its [2013 Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers](#) selection list. The list is presented annually at the ALA Midwinter Meeting. The Quick Picks list suggests books that teens, ages 12–18, will pick up on their own and read for pleasure. The complete list of 65 titles and three series is drawn from 217 nominations....

YALSA, Feb. 4

[2013 Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults](#)

YALSA has announced its 2013 list of [Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults](#). The list, drawn from official nominations, is presented annually at the ALA Midwinter Meeting. The complete list of 90 titles is arranged in four categories....

YALSA, Feb. 4

[2013 Fabulous Films for Young Adults](#)

YALSA has announced its [2013 Fabulous Films for Young Adults](#). The list identifies a body of films relating to a theme that will appeal to young adults ages 12–18 and is presented annually at the ALA Midwinter Meeting. This year's list includes 25 titles based on the theme "Survival."...

YALSA, Jan. 31

[2013 Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults](#)

YALSA announced its [2013 Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults](#) list. The list for ages 12–18 is drawn from the previous two years of spoken-word releases and presented annually at the ALA Midwinter Meeting....

YALSA, Jan. 31

and dated by their scribes. DS records manuscripts that traditionally would have been unlikely candidates for reproduction. It fosters public viewing of materials otherwise available only within libraries.

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

Noted and Quoted

"Here, then, is the point at which I see the new mission of the librarian rise up incomparably higher than all those preceding. Up until the present, the librarian has been principally occupied with the book as a thing, as a material object. From now on he must give his attention to the book as a living function. He must become a policeman, master of the raging book. "

—Philosopher José Ortega y Gasset. from a translation of his address to the International Congress of Bibliographers and Librarians, Paris, 1934.

@ [More quotes...](#)

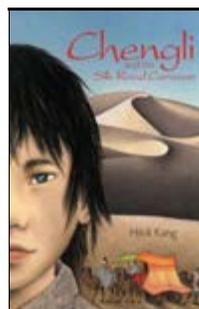
[I want to be on a youth book awards committee](#)

Marge Loch-Wouters writes: "Many of us have this aspiration. There are a number of avenues to make this dream come true, including the many excellent awards bestowed by state library associations; in the blogosphere with awards like the Cybils; and through national associations like NCTE, USBBY, and the National Council on Teachers of English. So what are the pathways to becoming a critical reader (an absolute must) and an awesome award committee candidate?"...
Tiny Tips for Library Fun, Feb. 4

[APALA Awards for Literature](#)

The Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association has selected the winners of its Awards for Literature. The awards, given in five categories, promote Asian/Pacific American culture and heritage and are selected based on literary and artistic merit. The winner in the Children's Literature category is *Chengli and the Silk Road Caravan* by Hildi Kang (Tanglewood), and the winner in the Adult Fiction category is *The Collective* by Don Lee (Norton)....

Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association, Feb. 3



[Call for diversity research grant proposals](#)

The ALA Office for Diversity seeks proposals for its 2013–2014 Diversity Research Grant of \$2,500. Applications may address any diversity topic that deals with critical gaps in the knowledge of diversity issues within library and information science, including recruiting and promoting diverse individuals within the profession or providing library services to diverse populations. [Read](#) the application criteria before [emailing](#) your original research proposal. The deadline is April 30....

Office for Diversity, Feb. 5

[Grants awarded to support financial literacy](#)

The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Investor Education Foundation and RUSA have announced \$1.12 million in grants to 14 recipients as part of the Smart Investing @ your library initiative. The program funds library efforts to provide patrons with effective, unbiased educational resources about personal finance and investing. Now in its sixth year, the program has awarded a total of \$7 million to public libraries and library networks nationwide....

RUSA, Jan. 31

[Allen Foundation grants for Washington and Oregon](#)

Sarah Goodyear writes: "The foundation created by Microsoft cofounder Paul G. Allen is seeking to build the relationship between libraries and their patrons in a recent round of [grants to libraries](#) in the Pacific Northwest. While the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation is funding tech initiatives such as a smartphone app for the Washington State Library, the focus on the human element is key. The foundation is also investing in a readers' advisory program that will pair library patrons in Multnomah County, Oregon, with librarians who will personally assist them with reading choices."...

The Atlantic: Cities, Feb. 4; *Seattle Times*, Jan. 29

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Celebrating the Best in
Books and Media for Youth](#)



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Kit: What Business Is Right
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Michelangelo's David-Apollo](#)

[Tacos! Evolution of Mexican
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Bayless](#)

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Calendar

Mar. 25–27:
[Librarians'
Information Literacy
Annual Conference,](#)

University of
Manchester Library,
UK.

Apr. 5:
[Urban Librarians
Conference,](#) Dr. S.
Stevan Dweck Center
for Contemporary
Culture, Central
Library, Brooklyn
(N.Y.) Public Library.

Libraries in the News

[Historic Timbuktu texts saved](#)

The vast bulk of the Ahmed Baba Institute library in Timbuktu, Mali, was saved from destruction by wily librarians and a security guard—with an assist from modern technology. An estimated 28,000 of the library's artifacts were smuggled out of town by donkey cart, according to Prof. Abdoulaye Cissé and security guard Abba Alhadi, who worked to relocate the documents. Their survival is a testament to the habit of Timbuktu's families of [hiding away](#) their valuable relics whenever danger is near. Gunmen managed to burn only a few hundred papers, but even those were backed up digitally. Other collections, notably the [Mamma Haidara Manuscripts Library](#), which houses 45,000 documents, were also preserved....

Wall Street Journal, Feb. 1; *New York Times*, Feb. 4; *Global Post*, Feb. 3

[Ex-Detroit Public Library contractor indicted for bribery](#)

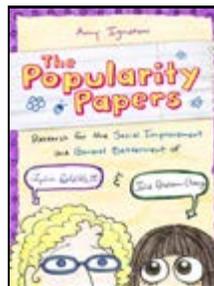
A former contractor with Detroit Public Library was indicted on bribery charges January 31. James Henley, owner of Core Consulting and Professional Services, was accused of secretly paying at least \$600,000 in kickbacks to an unnamed library official for help with winning a \$1.5 million deal. The indictment came about two months after the FBI [raided](#) DPL's Main Library and the West Bloomfield home of DPL Chief Administrative Officer Tim Cromer....

Detroit Free Press, Nov. 22, Feb. 1

[Teacher challenges two books](#)

A teacher has called for two books he considers inappropriate to be removed from libraries in the Prosser (Wash.) School District. Richard Korb, a social studies teacher at Prosser High School, has formally challenged the books for depictions of child abuse and profanity and what he says is the promotion of homosexuality. The books are *A Child Called "It": One Child's Courage to Survive* by Dave Pelzer, and *The Popularity Papers*, a series by Amy Ignatow. Neither are used in classroom instruction but are available in school libraries for certain grade levels....

Yakima (Wash.) Herald-Republic, Feb. 5



[Religious non-libraries exploit e-rate subsidies](#)

The plaque on the door at Kollel L'Horauh in Brooklyn calls the room a library. As a library, it has received \$135,000 in federal e-rate subsidies. But there's no librarian, and the room's "collection" consists of a subscription to a single digital database of Jewish books that is not even available on all the computers. Nine such groups have received an average of \$161,000 in commitments from e-rate since 2010—more than twice the average amount committed to libraries in New York State during the same period....

Jewish Daily Forward, Feb. 5

[EveryLibrary supports new Shorewood-Troy library](#)

Apr. 10–13:
[Association of College and Research Libraries](#), National Conference, Indianapolis. "Peer Revered."

Apr. 19:
[Maryland Information Literacy Exchange Conference](#), Loyola Graduate Center, McGaw Road, Columbia, Maryland.

Apr. 23–25:
[Distance Library Services Conference](#), Curtis Hotel, Denver.

Apr. 30:
[El día de los niños / El día de los libros](#) (Children's Day/Book Day).

May 2–4:
[LOEX Conference](#), Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel.

May 8–10:
[Workshop for Instruction in Library Use](#), University of New Brunswick, Fredericton. "Synchronicity: The Time Is Now."

May 10:
[ACRL New England Chapter](#), Annual Conference, College of the Holy Cross, Hogan Campus Center, Worcester, Massachusetts. "Communities in the Cloud, the Commons, and the College."

May 30–31:
[Futures of Academic Publishing](#), University of North Texas Fourth

EveryLibrary, the nation's first Political Action Committee for libraries, announced February 4 it would support "[Citizens for a New Shorewood-Troy Library](#)" as they campaign for a new library building on the April 9 ballot in Illinois. This new library building will meet the space, collections, computer access, and programming needs of this rapidly growing community in suburban Chicago....



EveryLibrary blog, Feb. 4

[Minneapolis toughens security, adds outreach](#)

Hennepin County Central Library Manager Betsy Williams estimated that a "preponderance" of the 1 million-plus visitors to the Central Library each year are the "poor and underserved" and her sense is that the numbers are increasing. But as the number of homeless persons grows, so do the challenges, prompting ramped-up security, additional training for library staff, and tougher enforcement of rules against sleeping and alcohol use. The library has even started setting aside space for advocates to meet with the homeless twice a month and connect them with county services....

Minneapolis Star Tribune, Feb. 5

[Seeds of the future](#)

The public library in the small town of Basalt, Colorado, is trying an experiment: In addition to borrowing books, residents can now check out seeds. Here's how it works: A library card gets you a packet of seeds. You then grow the fruits and vegetables, harvest the new seeds from the biggest and best, and return those seeds so the library can lend them out to others. Director Barbara Milnor says that in an age of digital books and magazines, the tangible seed packets are another way to draw people in....



NPR: *The Salt*, Feb. 2

[Library statue recovered](#)

A statue that was missing from the Miami (Okla.) Public Library was recovered over the weekend after showing up at a metal recycling business in Joplin, Missouri. The statue disappeared from the library on January 24, according to Library Director Marcia Johnson. The recycler purchased the 40-inch-tall bronze statue of a boy reading for \$200 from a man who claimed it came from his grandfather's pasture, then contacted police to see whether it had been stolen....



Joplin (Mo.) Globe, Feb. 4

[Liverpool threatens to close 10 libraries](#)

Liverpool in the UK is considering closing half its libraries as it looks to make another round of budget savings. Like Newcastle City Council, which is aiming to close 10 of its 18 libraries, Liverpool City Council could shut 10 of its 19 libraries in an attempt to cut £938,000 (\$1.5 million US) from its budget. Mayor Joe Anderson blamed the situation on a massive loss in funding from the UK government....

The Bookseller, Feb. 5

[More arrests in Girolamini theft case](#)

Two more men—a Bologna bookbinder accused of

Annual Open Access Symposium, Communities Foundation of Texas, Dallas.

June 1–2:
[National Day of Civic Hacking.](#)

June 10–13:
[Association of Christian Librarians.](#) Annual Conference, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, California. "More Than True."

June 13–14:
[North American Symposium on Knowledge Organization.](#) Continuing Education Center, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

@ [More...](#)

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American Libraries Direct



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erasing identifying imprints and a runner who ferried stolen books between buyers and sellers—have been arrested in connection to a stolen book-trafficking business that operated out of the Girolamini library. Senator Marcello Dell’Utri (right), a former close aide of ex-premier Silvio Berlusconi, is also [under investigation](#).



Investigators say as many as 4,000 books from its collections may have been sold off by former Library Director Massimo Marino de Caro during his tenure. The director of the Vatican Museums [called](#) it a “premeditated, organized, and brutal” sacking....
ArtInfo: In the Air, Jan. 31; Messina *Gazzetta del Sud*, Jan. 29; *The Guardian* (UK), Jan. 30

[Go back to the Top](#)

Issues

[DOJ might join appeal in Georgia e-reserves case](#)

Fair use and electronic course reserves are back in court. A keenly watched copyright case that pitted three academic publishers against Georgia State University has entered the appeals phase, with a flurry of filings and motions at the end of January and more expected soon. One surprise motion came from the US Department of Justice, which requested more time ([PDF file](#)) to consider filing an amicus brief either in support of the publishers or in support of neither party. The case will be heard by the US Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, which is no stranger to high-profile copyright cases. Nancy Sims [adds further insight](#)...

Chronicle of Higher Education, Feb. 1; *Copyright Librarian*, Feb. 1

[FTC releases mobile privacy guidelines](#)

The Federal Trade Commission has issued a staff report, *Mobile Privacy Disclosures: Building Trust through Transparency* ([PDF file](#)), recommending ways that key players in the rapidly expanding mobile marketplace can better inform consumers about their data practices. Most of the recommendations involve making sure that consumers get timely, easy-to-understand disclosures about what data is collected by mobile platforms, app developers and trade associations, advertising networks, and analytics companies, and how they use the data....

Federal Trade Commission, Feb. 1



[15 sites that help you teach copyright](#)

Julie Greller writes: “An important area for all teacher-librarians to cover is copyright law. Students (and teachers) are really not aware of what they can and can’t do legally. I teach my students about plagiarism and copyright because they will be held accountable if they do not follow the law. Here are 15 websites that will help you.”...

A Media Specialist’s Guide to the Internet, Feb. 1



[Reputation metrics and scientific publishing](#)

Richard Price writes: “Aaron Swartz perceived an injustice in which scientific research lies behind expensive paywalls despite being funded



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by the taxpayer. The taxpayer ends up paying twice for the same research—once to fund it and a second time to read it. The way out of this mess is to build new reputation metrics. An ecosystem of startups is working on building these new reputation metrics in science, including my startup [Academia.edu](#), as well as [Mendeley](#) and [ResearchGate](#). In three to four years, all the world's scientists will be on one or all of these platforms.”...

TechCrunch, Feb. 3

[Go back to the Top](#)

Tech Talk

[Six technologies that will impact higher education](#)

Wearable gadgets, gamification, and learning analytics are three of six technologies that will have a major impact on strategic technology planning in higher education in the next five years, according to the latest [NMC Horizon Report](#) released by the New Media Consortium and the Educause Learning Initiative. The most immediate trends identified in the report—those whose impact will be felt in a significant way within a year at most—were massively open online courses (MOOCs) and tablet computing....

Campus Technology, Feb. 4



[San Francisco eyes laptop-lending kiosks](#)

The latest gadget that the San Francisco Public Library staff is eyeing has some library commissioners questioning whether face-to-face contact trumps high tech. The library wants to earmark \$99,500 in its upcoming budget to purchase three laptop lending kiosks that would boost the number of available computers and remove the human element from the current system where librarians check out portable computers to patrons for inside use. The kiosk pilot program would start in July if the funds are approved....

San Francisco Chronicle, Feb. 3



[Four mobile options for libraries](#)

David Lee King writes: “I just read ‘[Your 4 Mobile Options](#)’ by Paul Boag. Good stuff! In the article, Paul suggests that there are basically four choices when it comes to having a mobile presence: responsive website, native application, web application, and hybrid application. Which one of these options should libraries use? Figure out what your mobile users are doing, how they do it, and what they want to do.”...

David Lee King, Feb. 6; Boagworld, Feb. 4



[It's a tablet. No, it's a PC. Surface Pro is both](#)

David Pogue writes: “For decades, Microsoft has subsisted on the milk of its two cash cows, Windows and Office. The company's occasional ventures into hardware generally haven't ended well: (*cough*) Zune, Kin Phone, Spot Watch (*cough*). But the new Surface Pro tablet, which goes on sale



February 9, seemed to have more going for it than any Microsoft hardware since the Xbox." John Biggs [thinks](#) the Surface Pro will save Windows 8; [others](#) are not so sure....

New York Times, Feb. 6; *TechCrunch*, Feb. 5; *ExtremeTech*, Feb. 6

[The top five external hard drives](#)

Laarni Almendrala Ragaza writes: "I've always extolled the virtues of regularly backing up your data, so for me, having an external hard drive is a must. And these days, it won't cost anyone an arm and a leg. For under \$100, you can add up to one terabyte of data storage to your PC or Mac, portable or desktop. But which to choose?"...

PC Magazine, Feb. 5



[The 10 best wireless routers](#)

Samara Lynn writes: "A wireless router is the hub of your home or business network. At its most basic, a router delivers a single internet connection to other devices on the network either through wired Ethernet or wireless connectivity. When testing routers, we look at several key features: throughput speeds, how well the device keeps decent throughput as you move a wireless client further from it, how easy or difficult the router is to set up, its manageability, its feature set, and pricing."...

PC Magazine, Jan. 31



[Bright screens could disrupt your sleep](#)

If you have trouble sleeping, laptop or tablet use at bedtime might be to blame, new research suggests. Mariana Figueiro of the Lighting Research Center at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and her team showed that two hours of iPad use at maximum brightness was enough to suppress people's normal nighttime release of melatonin, a key hormone in the body's circadian rhythm. The brightness of the light and exposure time, as well as the wavelength, determine whether it affects melatonin....

Scientific American, Feb. 1



[When will the rest of us get Google Fiber?](#)

David Talbot writes: "In 2012, Google installed ultrafast internet fiber to homes in the Kansas City area. A Google spokeswoman said the company expects to operate profitably and that Google Fiber is neither a loss leader nor a PR stunt. If that's true, then why isn't it being made available everywhere? The answer is that there are no compelling business incentives for the established players."...

MIT Technology Review, Feb. 4

[Go back to the Top](#)

E-Content

[Seattle, ebooks, and #alamw13](#)

Sari Feldman writes: "ALA's Digital Content and Libraries Working Group was busy at the 2013 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Seattle. Between formal business meetings of the full DCWG and its individual subgroups, presentations to ALA Council and the ALA Executive Board, meetings about related initiatives, one-on-one discussions on the Exhibit Hall floor and with ALA members, and two DCWG-sponsored programs, we covered a lot of ground."...

AL: E-Content, Feb. 4

[What's selling at the library](#)

Jamie LaRue writes: "Over the months, the DCL Report has examined various bestseller lists. We've sampled the [New York Times](#), [Amazon](#), [USA Today](#), and [others](#). This month ([PDF file](#)) we take a look at our library system's "bestsellers": the titles that were the most borrowed by patrons of Douglas County (Colo.) Libraries in the month of January 2013. I'm intrigued by the idea of a local library bestseller list. It would be also be interesting, and perhaps useful, to compare library lending lists regionally or to aggregate them nationally."...

AL: E-Content, Feb. 4

| EBOOKS | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|------------------|---------|-------|
| Library Pricing | | Consumer Pricing | | |
| Overdrive | 3M | Bilbary | Amazon | Bar N |
| \$85.00 | \$85.00 | \$12.99 | \$12.99 | |
| \$84.00 | \$84.00 | \$12.99 | \$13.99 | |
| * | * | | \$9.99 | |
| * | * | | \$7.50 | |
| * | * | | \$8.99 | |

[The disappearing library discount](#)

Christopher Harris writes: "What would it mean for libraries if one of the ideals that we commonly hold to be fundamental to our existence suddenly ceased to be true? The Douglas County (Colo.) Libraries' ebook report [this month](#) shows a continuation of a concerning trend related to book pricing—at least in this small sample. Looking back at six months of the DCL Report reveals much smaller library discounts for print titles than one might expect."...

AL: E-Content, Feb. 4

| | Highest Discount | Lowest Discount | Average High Disc | Average Low Disc |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| NYTimes (Sep. 12) | 41% | -13% | 13% | 6% |
| USA Today (Oct. 12) | 37% | -12% | 11% | 5% |
| DCL (Feb. 2013) | 17% | -11% | 10% | 5% |

[The e-reading advantage](#)

Doug Johnson writes: "Last month, Ryan Bretag [wrote about an experiment](#) in his school where students, often reluctant to leave print, read from ebooks. His students' reaction to the brief e-reading experience was heartening. Then Tim Stahmer [suggested some requirements](#) for e-textbooks. The real reason to invest in the e-text comes not from a lighter backpack, reduced distribution costs, or even updatibility, but in the value-added features afforded by e-reading."...

The Blue Skunk Blog, Feb. 6; Metanoia, Jan. 25; AssortedStuff, Feb. 3



[New ideas in scholarly publishing](#)

Jennifer Howard writes: "Can a small college library fix what's wrong with scholarly publishing? Bryn Geffert (right), librarian of Amherst (Mass.) College, wants to find out. Geffert is starting a new publishing operation overseen by the library and committed to open access, called the [Amherst College Press](#). It will produce a handful of edited, peer-reviewed, digital-first books on a small number of subjects. The venture is yet another sign of how active academic libraries have become in the publishing arena."...

Chronicle of Higher Education, Feb. 4

[A Book of the Month Club run by libraries?](#)

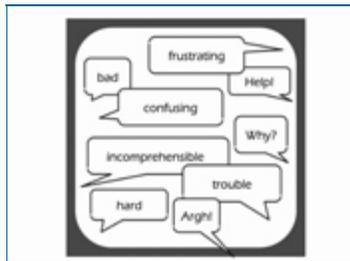
Matt Enis writes: "ALA's Digital Content and Libraries Working Group has begun exploring an idea that could help publishers better understand the powerful impact that libraries can have for their authors and their bottom lines. 'What if one book a month was selected and promoted around the country by all sorts of libraries?' Gluejar founder Eric Hellman said. Choosing relatively new titles that are several months removed from a publisher's marketing efforts would help illustrate that libraries are behind any sales resurgence."...

Library Journal: The Digital Shift, Jan. 31

[Library ebook follies](#)

Software solutions provider BiblioCommons put together this [video](#) (2:25) to demonstrate the difficulty the company had in integrating the access, downloading, and account management of multiple ebook distributors into one unified user experience: "We think there is a better way, and we look forward to working with other vendors, libraries, and publishers to make it happen."...

YouTube, Jan. 24



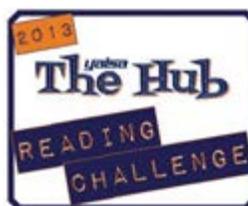
[Go back to the Top](#)

Books & Reading

[YALSA's 2013 Hub Reading Challenge](#)

Gretchen Kolderup writes: "It's time for YALSA's 2013 Hub Reading Challenge. We're hoping it will push you to read or listen to more great books than you would have and to discover something new in a genre or category you might not have tried. Read or listen to 25 of the 83 titles on our list of eligible titles ([PDF file](#)) to finish the challenge by June 22. The list includes YA novels, audiobooks, graphic novels, and books for adults, so there's plenty to choose from."...

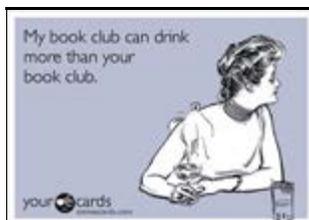
YALSA The Hub, Feb. 3



[Five tips for a successful book club](#)

Wallace Yovetich writes: "Let's face it, book clubs are fantastic in theory, but they're really hard to pull off successfully in real life. However, whether you're an avid reader or not, it's a fun excuse to share ideas (and some wine) with a few friends. Many of us have been in book clubs that have crumbled quickly, or felt a bit more like school than a social activity. But what if book club was actually fun instead of stressful? Here are a few tips to creating a successful book club."...

Book Riot, Feb. 5



[Finnegans Wake a bestseller in China](#)

Jennifer Schuessler writes: "James Joyce's fiendishly difficult novel *Finnegans Wake* has been called many things since it first began appearing in portions in 1924, including 'the most colossal leg-pull in literature,' 'the work of a psychopath,' and 'the chief ironic epic of our time.' Now it can add another designation: bestseller in China. A new translation (right) has sold out its initial print run of 8,000 since it appeared on December 25, thanks in part to an unusual billboard campaign in major Chinese cities." Emily Temple identifies the [top bestsellers](#) in 10 foreign countries...

New York Times: Arts Beat, Jan. 30; Flavorwire, Feb. 3

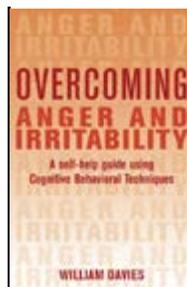


[Self-help books: Rx for mental illness](#)

Individuals in England with mild to moderate mental

health concerns—including panic attacks, anxiety, and depression—will be prescribed self-help books that they can borrow from their local libraries. Titles such as *The Feeling Good Handbook*, *How to Stop Worrying*, and *Overcoming Anger and Irritability* will be among the 30 prescription titles that libraries in the UK will stock in an attempt to improve the wellbeing of the nation. The plan was announced January 31 at the British Library....

The Guardian (UK), Jan. 31



[Book and article recommender systems](#)



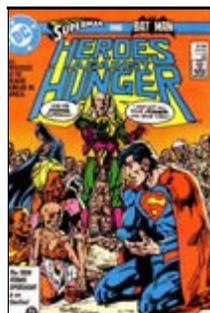
Aaron Tay writes: "By now most academic libraries have implemented web-scale discovery systems, which is what Lorcan Dempsey of OCLC would call '[aggregating supply](#).' The next logical step is to 'aggregate demand' using recommender systems. Here are eight that I am aware of. I focus mostly on recommenders that make use of circulation data or usage data of other users ('People who borrow or read X also read Y'), though matching based on other item characteristics might be included as well." A new recommender site, [Bookish](#), is backed by big-six publishers Hachette, Penguin, and Simon & Schuster; but take a look at its [terms of service](#)....

Musings About Librarianship, Feb. 3; Lorcan Dempsey's Weblog, July 30, 2006; paidContent, Feb. 4; Mike Cane's xBlog, Feb. 5

[10 insane superhero PSA comics](#)

Rob Bricken writes: "Marvel and DC have frequently produced public-service announcement comics, generally referred to as PSAs, using their superheroes to promote awareness of things kids need to be aware of, or warn kids about bad things like drugs, sex, and landmines. Since these comics were educational and given out for free, they were almost invariably terrible and lame. But a few of them were terrible and *insane*. Here are 10 comics that were significantly crazier than they were educational."...

io9, Feb. 5



[Exploring Cover Browser](#)

Laura Damon-Moore writes: "[Cover Browser](#) is today's timesuck for you. As its name would suggest, the site (developed and maintained by Philipp Lenssen) is chock full of different media covers (films, magazines, books, music, comics). And by chock full, I mean over 450,000. Lenssen provides the technical details on how he aggregates and organizes this massive collection [here](#) and has created a section called 'The Labs' where you can play games, view certain comic book characters' timelines, and download comic screensavers, all [here](#)."...

The Library As Incubator Project, Feb. 6



[Judaism in YA literature](#)

Whitney Etchison writes: "Judaism is second only to Christianity in terms of number of YA books published, so there was a lot of literature out there to choose from for this post. The books I will highlight are only a small

sample; you can also take a look at [this great post](#) by Amy Pelman for more titles that involve the Jewish faith."...

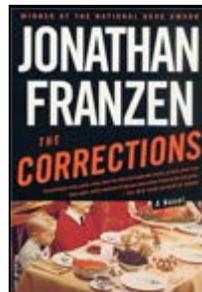
YALSA The Hub, Dec. 11, Feb. 5



[The 10 most notorious parts of famous books](#)

Gabe Habash writes: "A little controversy goes a long way in the book world, where [tweets from prestigious publishers](#) resembling Kanye West lyrics cause people to flip out. In the case of these books, notoriety and controversy have added an extra facet to their reputations, propelling discussion and (in some instances) fierce debate that involved censorship. Here are our picks for the most infamous passages of famous books."...

Publishers Weekly: PWxyz, Jan. 31; *MobyLives*, Jan. 28



[Go back to the Top](#)

Tips & Ideas

[Libraries: Good for the waistline](#)

Bobbi Newman writes: "This is a half-thought-out mashup of two things that crossed my path this week. The first was the article in the *Wall Street Journal*, "[The Web-Deprived Study at McDonald's](#)." Which covers what many of us already know: 33 million Americans do not have broadband service at home. We also know that people without home internet access or computers often turn to their local public libraries, as [OITP noted](#) in its response. But when libraries are closed, students head to other alternatives, including McDonald's or Starbucks."...



Librarian by Day, Jan. 31; *Wall Street Journal*, Jan. 28; *District Dispatch*, Jan. 30

Infographic on school librarians

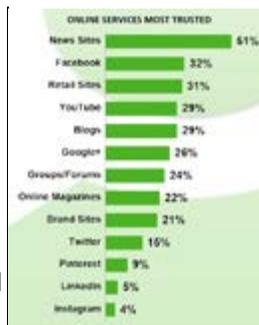
The New Jersey Association of School Librarians has created an infographic, "School Libraries: A Lesson in Student Success" ([PDF file](#)). It reinforces research that shows the positive value that certified school library media specialists and resource-rich school libraries have on student achievement. An [educational video](#) (2:04) with the same title was released earlier this fall....

New Jersey Association of School Librarians, Feb. 6; YouTube, Sept. 27



[2013 Digital Influence Report](#)

Technorati Media has released its 2013 Digital Influence Report ([PDF file](#)), which replaces its historical State of the Blogosphere and expands the concept to all things social. The report is filled with insights culled from surveys that included more than 6,000 influencers, 1,200 consumers, and 150 top brand marketers. For example,



according to consumers, blogs are more influential in shaping opinion than Twitter, and when it comes to affecting purchase decisions, more important than Facebook....

Technorati Media

[Merge your Facebook community page with your official page](#)

Heather Mansfield writes: "Most nonprofits have no idea that they likely have a Facebook Community Page. Launched in 2010, the purpose of community pages are still mostly unknown, although a sound hypothesis would be that their existence is now connected to the recently launched [Facebook Graph Search](#). Facebook has no plans for getting rid of them anytime soon. That means you need to find your community page and request to merge it with your official Facebook page."...

Nonprofit Tech 2.0, Feb. 3



[Gadgets in the library](#)

Melissa Delaney writes: "Instead of readers with their heads buried in books, a visitor to Cleveland Public Library's TechCentral space (right) will find community tables where groups of people can tinker with waterproof cameras, e-readers, global positioning systems, tablet computers, and other gadgets on display. It's like walking into an electronics store, but instead of making a purchase, patrons can take home the goods at no charge for up to a week."...

State Tech Magazine, Jan. 14



[How NYPL increased card sign-ups by 35%](#)

Courtney Eckerle writes: "Celebrated every September, National Library Card Sign-up Month marks an opportunity for the New York Public Library to bring in scores of new library users. The solution to take part in this nationwide effort was to generate a creative social media marketing campaign. Using its flagship channels of Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, Google+, and Pinterest, the library could reach its social media network of more than 550,000 fans and followers."...

MarketingSherpa Blog, Jan. 31

[Hiring the next wave of multicultural librarians](#)

Rosa Ramirez writes: "Jason Alston (right), a doctoral candidate in library and information science at the University of South Carolina, sometimes answers uncomfortable questions on why he selected his chosen career path. For starters, he's preparing for a career in librarianship, an industry largely dominated by white women. As an African-American male, Alston is what some would



consider a double minority. But more often than not, librarians don't look like the people they serve, something industry leaders hope to change as the nation continues to rapidly diversify."...

National Journal, Jan. 31

[Finding balance in a final push](#)

Topher Lawton writes: "Rocketing toward the end of my library school career is exhilarating, but the closer I get to graduation, the more I feel like my list of projects to accomplish is too long to finish. I'm excited to be involved in our student activities, my classes are challenging in all the best ways, and my work outside of the academic milieu is giving me valuable experience, but there's always a voice saying, 'You should do more!'"...

Hack Library School, Feb. 4

[ARL's Position Description Bank](#)

Would you like to search job descriptions at your peer libraries from a single interface? Could you use a digital archive of job descriptions from your own institution? The new Association of Research Libraries [Position Description Bank](#)—launched February 1—could be just the tool for you. The service was developed by a team from the University of Florida Libraries and ARL, along with personnel officers from ARL member institutions....

Association of Research Libraries, Feb. 1

[Access to court opinions expands](#)

A pilot project giving the public free, text-searchable, online access to court opinions now is available to all federal appellate, district, and bankruptcy courts. The Judicial Conference, the policy-making body of the federal court system, approved national implementation of the project with the Government Printing Office's [Federal Digital System website](#), which provides free access to publications from all three branches of federal government via the internet....

Administrative Office of the US Courts, Jan. 31

[Serving homeless teens: What you need to know](#)

Kelly Czarnecki writes: "Sometimes we may not even know who the homeless teens are in our library. It's not information they likely want to broadcast nor do they necessarily show any obvious outward signs of being without a home. Individual teens' situations differ vastly. A teen might be sleeping in a shelter, living on the streets, or staying with friends or relatives in a temporary situation. One thing to keep in mind is that there is a relationship between being homeless and academic success." Don't miss parts [two](#) and [three](#)....

YALSA Blog, Feb. 4–6

[Early modern rocket cats](#)

Mitch Fraas writes: "I was puzzled when a friend asked me a few weeks ago if I'd seen the 'rocket cat' illustrated in a Penn manuscript which had been featured on the book blog BibliOdyssey in November. The image, from what was described as a 1584 'Feuer Buech' manuscript, appeared to show a cat and a bird propelled by rockets towards a castle. Given the illustration's new-found fame I thought it would be worthwhile to



provide a bit of context.”...

Unique at Penn, Feb. 5

[Dogs in medieval manuscripts](#)

Nicole Eddy writes: “Recently we examined [cats in medieval manuscripts](#). But what about man’s best friend, the dog? Dogs were, then as now, renowned for their loyalty. Medieval tomb effigies sometimes included a dog resting at the feet of the deceased, indicating loyalty as a faithful retainer to his lord. This quality of loyalty works its way into many of the stories told about dogs in bestiaries.”...



British Library: Medieval and Earlier Manuscripts Blog, Feb. 4

[OSU library becomes a dance set](#)

“Library Dance Works,” a Master of Fine Arts event, took place in multiple levels of Ohio State University’s William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library on February 4, within the book stacks and in the East Atrium. Choreographer Brian Devine, an MFA dance candidate, said he wanted to use the space after falling in love with Thompson Library. He spent time in the library researching student flow through the space to determine the exact time when the performance should begin....



The Lantern (Ohio State University), Feb. 3

[11 beautiful museum libraries](#)

Emily Temple writes: “We’ve shown you many beautiful libraries from around the world, but what about gorgeous museum libraries? Many museum libraries are strictly utilitarian, meant for easy browsing, and not necessarily planned to be easy on the eyes. That said, some standouts manage to be both. Check out 11 of the most beautiful museum libraries from around the world.”...



Flavorwire, Feb. 2

[The joy of toy libraries](#)

Christina Mayhand writes: “I was in my Foundations library class when I first heard about toy libraries. Entering library school I had no idea that there were toy libraries in existence, what exactly they were, or what they did. Recently I had the chance to talk to a member of the USA Toy Library Association about just that. A toy library’s objectives depends on the community it serves, though it is mainly to provide toys to children.”...



Public Libraries Online, Jan. 31

[Indianapolis PL contest winner](#)

More than 18,000 children from age 6 to 17 used their Indianapolis Public Library cards in December 2012 during the “[Coltstrong. Librarystrong](#)” campaign designed to promote the benefits of a library card to access the free resources of the public library. In a drawing of all eligible entrants, 6-year-old “Tino” Pablo Valentino Sosa



Castañeda (on the right) won a private visit from Indianapolis Colts players Andrew Luck and Dwayne Allen hosted at the College Avenue branch. Tino will be joined by his 8-year-old brother "Alito" Alessandro Carlos Sosa Castañeda....

Indianapolis Public Library, Feb. 5

[Affairs of the Heart @ your library](#)

Love is certainly in the air at the library this month, as February marks not only Valentine's Day, but also Love Your Library Month and American Heart Month. For example, West Babylon (N.Y.) Public Library's YA section is hosting "Fall in Love with a Good Book @ your library," featuring a selection of teen romance novels....



Campaign for America's Libraries, Feb. 5

[Five task management services for teachers and students](#)

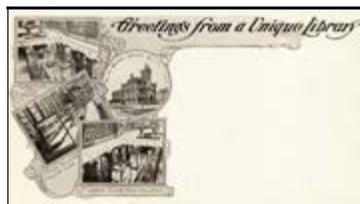
Richard Byrne writes: "This afternoon I was looking at a web-based to-do list service and I was about to write a review of it when I realized that it wouldn't function well on my iPad. The way that we work today requires that our to-do lists and task management services be accessible from whichever device we're using at the time. Here are five to-do list and task management tools that work on the web, on Android devices, and on iOS devices."...



Free Technology for Teachers, Feb. 1

[Iowa's Masonic Library](#)

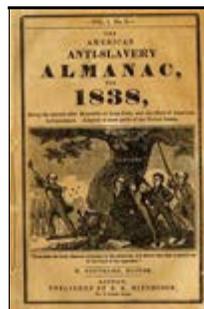
Larry Nix writes: "Freemasonry is a worldwide fraternal organization with a membership of approximately 4 million men including 2 million in the United States. I have several items in my collection related to Masonic libraries. The most recent addition is the postcard shown here, which proclaims 'Greetings from a Unique Library.' The unique library is the [Masonic Library of Iowa](#) located in Cedar Rapids."...



Library History Buff Blog, Feb. 3

[Abolition and modern slavery](#)

In honor of the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, the National Museum of American History is hosting a National Youth Summit on Abolition, a [webcast](#) on February 11 for secondary students to look at the strategies used by 19th-century abolitionists to end slavery in the US and how this history can inform efforts to end modern-day slavery. Chris Wilson, director of the Program in African American Culture, asked Harvard Professor John Stauffer to answer three essential questions to get the conversation started....



O Say Can You See?, Feb. 5

[Murder in the library](#)

Laura Damon-Moore writes: "Murder in the Library is a popular program for libraries around the world. The format for this classic game is familiar to many: Actors (library staff or other local talent) mingle with guests until a



body is found somewhere in the library. Clues are provided, and guests are dispatched to question the cast members until a guilty party is found. One lovely example of this can be found in After Dark Entertainment's work with several UK libraries."...

The Library As Incubator Project, Feb. 5

[How waitressing made me a better librarian](#)

Jessica Olin writes: "Like a lot of people, I was not born with a silver spoon. The relevant ramification of that fact is that I had to work while attending graduate school. Waiting tables was the most profitable job that had a flexible schedule.



Little did I realize that not only would I be making money with which to pay for graduate school, but that I'd also be learning to be a better librarian. Don't believe me? Look at the skills I gained by waitressing."...

Letters to a Young Librarian, Feb. 5

[Bring back shushing librarians](#)

Laura Miller writes: "Librarians hate to be depicted as bun- and glasses-wearing shushers, hellbent on silencing noisy activities within their sacred domain. Fair enough: Librarians should not be reduced to a cultural stereotype ranking only a notch or two above a church lady on the hipness scale. Nevertheless, I've long believed that one of the most precious resources libraries offer their patrons is simple quiet. Now we have data!" 76% of respondents to Pew's "Library Services in the Digital Age" ([PDF file](#)) agree that "quiet study spaces for adults and children" are very important....



Salon, Jan. 31; Pew Internet and American Life Project, Jan. 22

[Oreo riot in the library](#)

Tim Keeney writes: "Some commercials later in the night may have surpassed Oreo's '[Whisper Fight](#)' (0:35), but the 'cookie or cream' debate remains near the top of a short list for best ads from Super Bowl Sunday. There's just something about a massively large, fire-filled fight breaking out in the middle of the library while everyone still keeps their 'library voice' on that makes it nearly impossible not to laugh."...



Bleacher Report, Feb. 4; YouTube, Feb. 3

[Go back to the Top](#)

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The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | February 13, 2013



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american libraries BUYERS GUIDE

American Libraries Online

[How libraries help homeowners fight foreclosure](#)

Deniz Koray writes: "When Susan Moore accepted a job at the San Diego County (Calif.) Library in 2008 after spending the previous 15 years in Louisville, Kentucky, she did not expect to be organizing foreclosure clinics for the public. However, Moore's arrival in Southern California coincided with the beginning of the nationwide housing crisis—and San Diego would be among the hardest-hit locations in the country. 'They don't really tell you about this in library school, and it's not very traditional as a library service, but we saw the need was there.'"

American Libraries feature



[Youth Matters: Teacher librarian tips](#)

Michelle Luhtala and Dan Ambrosio write: "Not everything you need to know about school librarianship is taught in graduate school. No matter how comprehensive the training for school library certification is, there are a few aspects of teaching that may still surprise you. What follows is a top 10 list of what to expect as a newbie school librarian—areas in which you may have little training, despite colleagues' assumptions that you, the rookie, have mastery."

American Libraries column, Jan./Feb.



[New AL Live episode on mobile services](#)

[American Libraries Live](#), a series of free, streaming video broadcasts, returns at 2 p.m. Eastern time on February 14 with a new episode on mobile library services. Moderated by Jason Griffey, "Mobile Services: The Library in Your Pocket" will feature an in-depth discussion with technology gurus Maurice Coleman and Robin Hastings. The program allows you to



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[ALA Annual Conference, Chicago, June 27–July 2.](#)

A highlight of the [ongoing 75th anniversary celebrations](#) for the Caldecott Medal will be the special preconference "A Wild Ride: 75 Years of the Caldecott Medal" on Friday, June 28, at the Art Institute of Chicago with high-profile experts and distinguished children's book illustrators including Jerry Pinkney, Chris Raschka, Brian Selznick, Melissa Sweet, Erin Stead, Philip Stead, and Paul O. Zelinsky. Find out about many other award-related events at the ALA [Annual Conference website](#).

interact with the hosts via live chat, giving you immediate answers to all of your questions....

American Libraries, Feb. 11

[Library educator Brooke Sheldon dies](#)

Brooke Sheldon, 81, ALA president in 1983–1984, died February 11. An advocate for diversity in librarianship, Sheldon worked to promote and secure funding for minority hiring. Her most recent position was as interim director and professor at the School of Information Resources and Library Science at University of Arizona, Tucson, until her retirement in 2004. She was a long-time supporter of Reforma and opened her home in Austin, Texas, to those attending the first Reforma conference in 1996. Contributions in her memory can be sent to the Brooke E. Sheldon Endowed Professorship in Management and Leadership at the University of Texas, Austin, and the New Mexico Library Foundation....



AL: Inside Scoop, Feb. 12

[Go back to the Top](#)

ALA News

[Congressman John Lewis to speak at Annual](#)

Civil rights leader and Congressman John Lewis (D-Ga., right) will appear at the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago as part of the Auditorium Speaker Series on June 29. He will be joined by Andrew Aydin and comic book artist Nate Powell, who collaborated with him on *March*, a three-volume autobiography in comic-book form, to discuss how the project developed and why they believe the format will effectively engage readers with the story of the Civil Rights Movement. Their appearance is sponsored by *March* publisher Top Shelf Comix....



Conference Services, Feb. 12

[Find out why 80 is the new 30](#)

ALA's Public Programs Office, in partnership with Lifetime Arts, will present a day-long preconference workshop based on the Creative Aging Libraries Project during the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. "80 Is the New 30! Learn How Public Libraries Are Delivering Proven, Inspiring, and Transformative Arts Programs for Today's Older Adults" will be held on June 28 and is aimed at public libraries interested in moving programming for older adults aged 55+ beyond passive entertainment. [Registration](#) is open....

Public Programs Office, Feb. 12

[Teaching information literacy with discovery tools](#)

Offering the use of a single interface for teaching information literacy, discovery tools free you from the cumbersome necessity of toggling back and forth between multiple screens. Instead you can focus on developing students' skills. Applicable for teaching one-shot sessions as well as curriculum-embedded instruction, "Teaching Information Literacy with Discovery Tools" with instructors Nancy Fawley and Nikki

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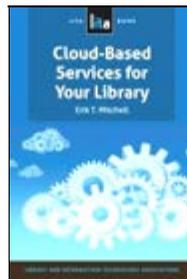
Click Here to Learn More!

Kryszak takes place April 24. [Registration](#) is open...
ALA Editions, Feb. 12

[Cloud-based services for your library](#)

Based on his first-hand experiences migrating the IT infrastructure of Wake Forest University's Z. Smith Reynolds Library, Erik T. Mitchell's [Cloud-Based Services for Your Library: A LITA Guide](#), published by ALA TechSource, bridges the gap between organizational and technical issues in decision making for cloud computing in libraries. This book helps librarians select the cloud computing solution that is right for their libraries while matching staff expertise to the customization involved....

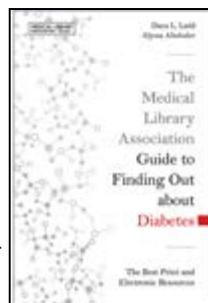
ALA TechSource, LITA, Feb. 12



[Find out about diabetes](#)

[The Medical Library Association Guide to Finding Out about Diabetes: The Best Print and Electronic Resources](#), published by ALA Neal-Schuman, is a comprehensive guide that provides librarians and users with background on key diabetes concepts, encompassing print and electronic resources, hard-to-find periodicals, and audiovisual sources. Each chapter in this guide, authored by Dana L. Ladd and Alyssa Altshuler, provides an overview, description, and an annotated list of multiformat resources on the disease, its treatment, and related issues....

ALA Neal-Schuman, Feb. 8



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Looking for more on the Common Core? **Booklist**

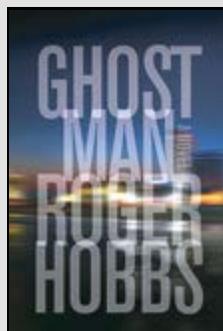
With 22 *Booklist* and 4 *Book Links* print issues, plus our free e-newsletter *Quick Tips*, you'll need look no further. [See a sampling of what a Booklist subscription gets you.](#)

Booklist ONLINE

[Featured review: Adult fiction](#)

Hobbs, Roger. *Ghostman*. Feb. 2013. 336p. Knopf, hardcover (978-0-307-95996-6).

A first novel comes along every few years that clearly separates itself from the field, like Secretariat winning the 1973 Belmont Stakes by 31 lengths. This year's Secretariat is going to be *Ghostman*, a propulsive thriller that combines incredible detail and nonstop narrative drive. Jack White is the Ghostman, a pseudonymous loner living far off the grid who specializes in disappearing. After a high-level heist, he makes sure that all traces of the caper vanish.



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Great Libraries of the World

Only once, in Kuala Lumpur, did it all go bad. The organizer of that job, a master criminal named Marcus, blames Jack for the fiasco, so when Marcus penetrates Jack's deep cover, it clearly means trouble....

[Technology in an RA world](#)

Joyce Saricks writes: "Last week I found me in a brick-and-mortar bookstore. Those of you who frequent bookstores won't be surprised that I found printed on my receipt some suggestions of other books I might want to buy, based on what I had purchased that day. They were poor suggestions I'd never want to pursue, and I thought: We can do much better than that in libraries. So why don't we? The answer is that staff has been cut to the bone. Many complain they're overwhelmed by questions about how to download books to a device or how to make a computer program work. It's interesting that patrons have no qualms about asking for assistance with tablets and iPods, but they're reluctant to ask for reading, listening, and viewing suggestions. (And what better place to start an RA conversation than with a patron whom we've helped download a book? 'Let's find you another title, just in case this doesn't please you?')"...

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

[Go back to the Top](#)



[National Diet Library](#)

Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan. Established in 1948 to assist members of parliament with researching matters of public policy (a luxury unavailable to them under the Empire), since 1949 the library has served as the national library after its merger with the former Imperial Library. It has occupied its current location next to the Diet building in Tokyo since 1961. Two new branches opened in 2002—an international library of children's literature in northern Tokyo, and the Kansai branch in Kyoto, which houses foreign literature and scientific and technical reports. The library also has special collections in Japanese modernization (1868–1926), postwar occupation, maps, music, foreign-language materials about Japan, and premodern writings on astronomy and calendars.



[Waseda University Library](#), Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan. Unlike many other schools,

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Division News

[ACRL 2013 early bird registration deadline](#)

The early bird registration deadline for the ACRL 2013 conference in Indianapolis, April 10–13, is coming up February 22. Take advantage of discounted [registration](#) fees to save \$70 or more off advance and on-site rates. ACRL 2013 will showcase the most current and relevant trends in academic and research librarianship. The [conference](#) offers more than 300 thought-provoking sessions carefully curated to motivate you to imagine, innovate, and inspire....

ACRL Insider, Feb. 13



[ALSC spring online course schedule](#)

Registration is now open for all ALSC spring 2013 [online courses](#). Classes begin April 8. The schedule includes courses that are eligible for continuing education units (CEUs). There is one new course in 2013, "Integrating New Technologies into Your Collections." Registration information is



available on the ALSC [online learning website](#)....

ALSC, Feb. 7

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

On April 30, libraries across the country will host multicultural celebrations that include family programs, bilingual story hours, book giveaways, and other literacy events. In celebration of El día de los niños / El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day). ALSC offers [free promotional tools](#) for the event, including press release and PSA templates, talking points, logos and downloadable audio PSAs featuring Día founder Pat Mora. [Join](#) the National Día Program Registry....

ALSC, Feb. 12



[Training the technology trainer](#)

PLA's interactive online course, "[The Accidental Public Library Technology Trainer](#)," to be held April 8–May 3, is now open for registration. This four-week blended-learning program is designed for library professionals who have unexpectedly found themselves responsible for training users or staff in technology at their libraries. Librarian, author, and trainer Stephanie Gerding (right) will guide participants through an engaging combination of live webinars, independent assignments and online discussions. The deadline to register is April 5....

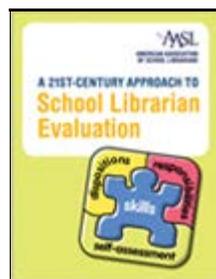
PLA, Feb. 11



[Performance evaluation webinar](#)

Writer Patricia Owen discusses AASL's recently published *21st-Century Approach to School Librarian Evaluation* in the newest archived webinar available in [eCOLLAB](#). Owen walks participants through the workbook's suggested readings, action tips, and evidence collection to help school librarians engage in rigorous self-evaluation and shape school administrator evaluations....

AASL, Feb. 11



[Call for papers for AASL National Conference](#)

The AASL Educators of School Librarians Section (ESLS) invites submissions for papers on original research on school library practice or school librarianship, with a focus on the need for new conceptualizations of how a school library looks and functions. Selected papers will be presented in a concurrent session at the AASL 16th National Conference, November 14–17 in Hartford, Connecticut. The [deadline](#) for submissions is March 30, and online conference [registration](#) is now open....

AASL, Feb. 12



[Webinar invites you to join the Common Core conversation](#)

In a new AASL webinar, presenter Kristina Holzweiss (right) introduces professional social networking using Edmodo and illustrates its use in establishing nationwide connections relating to the Common Core State Standards. "Join the Common Core Conversation" demonstrates how school librarians can extend their classroom beyond



the university and its library, established in 1882, escaped much of the destruction caused by US bombing raids during World War II. Its collections are a primary resource for Japanese prewar history and include literary works from the Qing dynasty, books on the Ming dynasty, the correspondence of university founder Shigenobu Ōkuma, Japanese and Chinese classical mathematical texts, rare books printed during the Tokugawa shogunate, books and manuscripts of the Tendai sect of Buddhism, and original manuscripts by the masters of renga collaborative poetry (Sōgi, Shinkei, Soboku, and Inawashiro Kensai).

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. Some will be featured 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](#).

the book stacks, as well as collaborate with other educators who are also implementing state standards. [Registration](#) is open....

AASL, Feb. 12

[Teen summer reading website launches](#)

YALSA has launched its 2013 [Teen Summer Reading Programs website](#), which offers a place to exchange information and ideas to help implement programs for and with teens. It is funded by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, which also provides grants for summer reading programs. [Join](#) and access the materials available, which will continue to be updated throughout the spring and summer....

YALSA, Feb. 12

[YALSA, Best Buy Mobile team up for teens](#)

YALSA has announced a partnership with Best Buy to direct resources towards closing the digital divide for teens. When Best Buy Mobile—specialty stores offering smartphones, tablets, and services—opens a new location in the US, YALSA will identify a nearby public or school library to receive a \$2,000 donation from Best Buy for digital library resources for teens. The recipient library may opt to participate in a community celebration to promote this collaborative partnership....

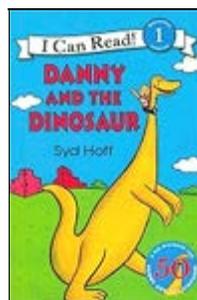
YALSA, Feb. 12



[Syd Hoff home becomes a Literary Landmark](#)

The Miami Beach, Florida, home of children's book author and cartoonist Syd Hoff was designated a Literary Landmark on February 10. Creator of *Danny and the Dinosaur*, *Sammy the Seal*, and more than 60 HarperCollins I CAN READ books, Hoff also published more than 500 cartoons in *The New Yorker*, as well as for King Features Syndicate, *The Saturday Evening Post*, and more. Carol Edmonston, Hoff's niece and creator of the official Syd Hoff [website](#), was among those who spoke at the dedication ceremony....

United for Libraries, Feb. 12



[CEUs available for ASCLA course](#)

ASCLA is now offering continuing education units (CEUs) for its online course "[Improving Library Services for People with Disabilities](#)." The course is designed for all library staff, including support staff, general professional staff, age-level or subject specialists, managers, and



Career Leads from JobLIST

[Senior Community Library Manager](#)

Contra Costa County Library, Antioch, California. Currently there is one full-time (40/40) vacancy located in Antioch that will oversee the Antioch and Prewett community libraries. Incumbents are responsible for day-to-day administration and operation of the library. This includes responsibility for the supervision of subordinate personnel; development of material collections appropriate for the community served by the library; development and implementation of a plan of service; recommendations to County Library Administration regarding community needs and improvements in library service patterns; and the establishment and maintenance of direct liaison between the community library, city, school district, library

administrators. The next session begins February 18; registration ends on February 14....

ASCLA Blog, Feb. 12

[ASCLA preconferences at Annual](#)

ASCLA will host three workshops at the upcoming ALA Annual Conference in Chicago covering the important topics of disaster response, servant leadership, and resource sharing. Add any of these events to your conference [registration](#) or you can register for this event without attending the ALA Annual Conference (registration type: Ticketed Events and Preconferences Only)....

ASCLA Blog, Feb. 11

[Go back to the Top](#)

Awards & Grants

[Longlist for 2013 Carnegie Medals revealed](#)

Fifty books comprising the [longlist](#) for consideration for the 2013 Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction have been selected from the most recent [Booklist Editors' Choice](#) and [RUSA Notable Books List](#). The six-title shortlist—three each for the fiction and nonfiction medals—will be announced in late April, and the two winners will be announced at a [ticketed event](#) on June 30 during the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago....

Booklist, RUSA, Feb. 12



[2013 Leadership in Library Acquisitions Award](#)

The ALCTS Acquisitions Section has selected Rick Anderson (right), interim dean and university librarian at the University of Utah's Marriott Library, to receive the 2013 Harrassowitz Leadership in Library Acquisitions Award. Anderson was cited for his articles and reviews, an *Against the Grain* column, presentations delivered throughout the US and abroad, and his book *Buying and Contracting for Resources and Service: A How-to-Do-It Manual for Librarians*....

ALCTS, Feb. 11



[2013 Cunha/Swartzburg Award](#)

The ALCTS Preservation and Reformatting Section has selected Martha Anderson (right) to receive its George Cunha and Susan Swartzburg Preservation Award. Anderson retired at the end of 2012 as the managing director of the Library of Congress National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program, where she managed initiatives and programs for a national collaborative network of more than 200 preservation partners....

ALCTS, Feb. 11



[Xan Arch wins 2013 Esther J. Piercy Award](#)

Xan Arch, director of collection Services at Reed

Friends, and local groups to encourage good community relations....



@ [More jobs...](#)

Digital Library of the Week



The [Anthropology Photographic Archive](#) database contains images from the anthropology collections of the University of Auckland, New Zealand. The images record staff research in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands in the field of archaeology and social anthropology from 1950 to date. At present approximately 50,000 images have been digitized and uploaded, ranging from social anthropology in Papua New Guinea and Tokelau, to archaeology in

College in Portland, Oregon, is the recipient of the 2013 Esther J. Piercy Award of \$1,500. The ALCTS award recognizes contributions to library collections and technical services by a librarian with no more than 10 years of professional experience who has shown outstanding promise for continuing contribution and leadership....

ALCTS, Feb. 12



[Richey receives ALSC Distinguished Service Award](#)

Cynthia K. Richey was named the 2013 recipient of ALSC's Distinguished Service Award, which honors an individual who has made significant contributions to library service to children and to ALSC. Richey began her career as children's librarian in 1971 and for the past 17 years has served as director of the Mt. Lebanon (Pa.) Public Library. She was cited for being a role model and mentor to many over the years....

ALSC, Feb. 12



[2013 PLA award winners](#)

PLA has announced 11 winners of its awards that honor the best in public library service, innovation, and outreach. PLA President Eva D. Poole, along with the award sponsors and PLA members, will recognize all of the winners as part of the President's Program and Awards Presentation on June 30 at the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago....

PLA, Feb. 8

[Awards are like a box of chocolates](#)

Francisca Goldsmith writes: "What I hope to provide here is some focus on how awards, lists, reviews, and readers' advisory possibilities differ in both purpose and approach. An award isn't about finding the Perfect Book that will magically fit Any Reader; it's the book that shows off to the highest possible degree, in the refined judgment of a committee, that the award criteria are embodied in it during the annual award cycle. It's the blue-ribbon bonbon among the year's confections, not the one piece of chocolate that all tasters would agree as making the perfect breakfast food."...

YALSA The Hub, Feb. 11



[RUSA book and media awards](#)

Last month in Seattle, a standing room-only crowd at the RUSA Book and Media Awards Reception celebrated the winning, honor, and short-listed titles for the division's annual adult reading and reference awards. Take a moment to review this year's winners. Do you have something to say about them? Want to advocate for a book or resource for the 2014 awards? You can tweet about it using the hashtag #literarytastes....

RUSABlog, Feb. 11

[2013 Merrill-Oldham Grant](#)

Marianne Swanberry-Hanley (right), assistant conservator at Syracuse University's Bird Library, has been awarded the ALCTS Jan Merrill-Oldham

Western Samoa, Tonga, and New Zealand. The archive is a joint project between the University Library and the Department of Anthropology to preserve and ensure long-term access to items in this valuable and unique research archive.

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

Noted and Quoted

"Gaudeamus igitur. Don't need classrooms, that's for sure. Libraries are so passé—Remnants of another day.

"We're creating new tradition. Ours is wireless erudition. We eschew all printed words. Rest in *pace* Gutenberg."

—A rewrite of the graduation song "Gaudeamus Igitur" by Ted Fiske, in ["College Songs for MOOC Era."](#) *Inside Higher Ed*, Feb. 12.

"I disagreed with former President George W. Bush on many things. But on one issue, I admired him greatly: He was wise enough to

Professional Development Grant. The grant is intended to support preservation librarians who are new to the field to become involved in the ALA Annual Conference. Swanberry-Hanley will attend the Preservation Administrators Interest Group meeting and at least one other PARS interest group meeting....

ALCTS, Feb. 11



[2013 De Gruyter European Librarianship Study Grant](#)

Daniel M. Pennell (right), bibliographer for Russian, East European, Germanic, and Global Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, has been selected to receive the 2013 ACRL Western European Studies Section De Gruyter European Librarianship Study Grant. The grant provides €3,000 for a trip to Europe in support of a project on the acquisition, organization, or use of library resources from or relating to Europe....

ACRL, Feb. 11



[Burke County Public Library wins 2013 Light the Way grant](#)

Burke County (N.C.) Public Library has won the 2013 [Light the Way](#) grant of \$3,000 for its Outreach to the Hearing Impaired project. Funded by Candlewick Press in honor of Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo, the grant will fund the library's partnership with the county's public schools and the North Carolina School for the Deaf to create library programming for children who are hard of hearing....

ALSC, Feb. 12



[Apply for \\$1,000 travel grant to PLA 2014](#)



PLA is accepting applications for eight [Innovations in Literacy Scholarships](#) to recognize original literacy programs of all types in public libraries. Funded by a generous donation from the Cambria Estate Winery, which has a strong tradition of supporting literacy initiatives, grants in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded to eight winning applicants for registration and travel to the [PLA 2014 Conference](#) in Indianapolis, March 11–15. [Apply](#) by March 29, 2013....

PLA, Feb. 12

[Apply for a Conable Conference Scholarship](#)

The Freedom to Read Foundation has opened applications for its 2013 Gordon M. Conable Conference Scholarship, which will enable a library school student or new professional to attend the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, June 27–July 2. The recipient will attend various FTRF and other intellectual freedom meetings and events at the conference, consult with a mentor or board member, and present a report on their experiences. [Apply](#) by April 5....

Freedom to Read Foundation, Feb. 11

[Deadline extended for Citizens-Save-Libraries grants](#)

marry a teacher and a librarian. I'm unabashedly biased about this, since my late mom was also a teacher and a librarian."

—Op-ed columnist E. J. Dionne Jr. in "[Nothing Self-Made about Me.](#)" *Washington Post*, Feb. 10.

@ [More quotes...](#)

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The deadline to apply for Citizens-Save-Libraries grants from United for Libraries, made possible by the Neal-Schuman Foundation, has been extended to April 15. The 20 grants, 10 to be awarded in 2013 and the rest in 2014, will support advocacy at the local level for libraries with troubled budgets by providing them with expert advocates over the next two years. Among the criteria to apply is a willingness to “pay it forward” by sharing what is learned with others in your state. [Apply](#) online....

United for Libraries, Feb. 12

[Día with an African-American focus](#)

The Center for the Study of Multicultural Children’s Literature will award \$500 grants in selected multicultural children’s books for your library if it has a 2013 El día de los niños / El día de los libros program with an African-American focus. Email Executive Director [Claudette S. McLinn](#) for an application if you are interested. The deadline is March 15....

ALSC Blog, Feb. 12

[Opportunities with Fulbright Canada](#)

Fulbright Canada supports focused academic exchanges between Canada and the United States. It is currently seeking applicants by American scholars for 43 [visiting research chairs](#) at 22 Canadian institutions, all valued at \$25,000 for one semester. It is also recruiting [American scholars](#) and [American students](#) for self-placed traditional awards that can be held at any institution across Canada. The deadline to apply for the 2014–2015 academic year is August 1 for scholars and October 17 for graduate students....

Fulbright Canada



[Library symposium wins Wisconsin award](#)

A coalition of school, public, and academic libraries has won the Standing Up for Rural Wisconsin Schools, Libraries, and Communities Award for its work in successfully organizing the first Lake Superior Libraries Symposium, which took place in June at the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College in Superior. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Evers presented the award to the organizers February 1 in Madison....

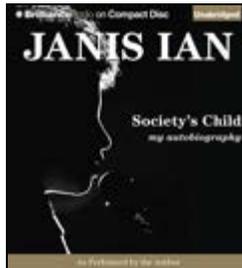
BusinessNorth, Feb. 6



[Janis Ian wins Spoken Word Grammy](#)

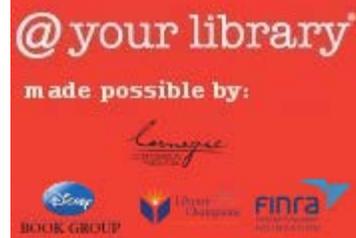
Mary Burkey writes: “*Society’s Child: My Autobiography*, written and read by Janis Ian, has won the Grammy for the Best Spoken Word Album. Ian was able to sing her signature tunes on the audiobook because she had retained the rights to her songs. If you’ve ever wondered why a narrator speaks lyrics in a book rather than sing, it’s all about procuring the rights. The combination of words and music make *Society’s Child* such an amazing audiobook.”...

Booklist Online: Audiobooker, Feb. 10



[2012 PROSE Awards](#)

The Association of American Publishers Awards for Professional and Scholarly Excellence (the PROSE



Calendar

Feb. 14:

[American Libraries Live](#), web episode.

“Mobile Services: The Library in Your Pocket.”

Feb. 20:

[National Information Standards Organization](#), Virtual Conference.

“Future Perfect: How Libraries Are Implementing Emerging Technologies.”

Feb. 21:

[OCLC Research Roundup](#), webinar.

Mar. 1–2:

[Charlotte S. Huck Children’s Literature Festival](#), University of Redlands School of Education, Redlands, California.

Mar. 14:

[American Libraries Live](#), web episode.

“Library Safety and Security.”

Mar. 16:

[Southwest Florida Reading Festival](#),

Harborside Event Center and Centennial Park, Fort Myers.

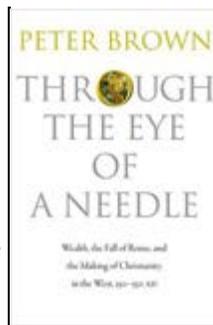
Mar. 20:

[Public Library Association](#), Virtual Spring Symposium.

Mar. 21–24:

Awards) annually recognize achievements in professional and scholarly publishing. More than 50 awards were presented February 7 in Washington, D.C. The R. R. Hawkins Award, the top honor, went to Princeton University Press for *Through the Eye of a Needle: Wealth, the Fall of Rome and the Making of Christianity in the West, 350–550 AD* by Peter Brown....

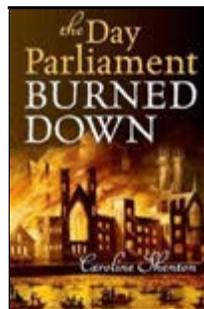
Association of American Publishers, Feb. 7



[New political books award](#)

The winners of the inaugural Paddy Power and *Total Politics* Political Book Awards were announced in London on February 6. The winners were in 11 categories, with Caroline Shenton winning the Political Book of the Year award for *The Day Parliament Burned Down* (Oxford University Press), recalling the events of a horrifying day in October 1834. In the Political Biography category, the winner was *Muckraker: The Scandalous Life and Times of W. T. Stead* by W. Sydney Robinson (Robson Press). These new awards, to be made annually, recognize the best in political writing and publishing....

Total Politics, Feb. 7



[Go back to the Top](#)

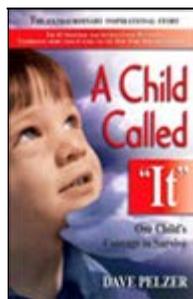


Libraries in the News

[Prosser committee votes to keep disputed books](#)

A review committee has recommended a book challenged for its portrayal of a family with two fathers remain on the shelves of libraries in two elementary schools in the Prosser (Wash.) School District. *The Popularity Papers* by Amy Ignatow is only available to 5th graders in those two schools. That restriction will remain in place. The committee [also recommended](#) that a book challenged for its graphic depiction of child abuse, Dave Pelzer's *A Child Called 'It'*, remain available to 7th and 8th graders at Housel Middle School....

Kennewick (Wash.) *Tri-City Herald*, Feb. 6, 8



[Publisher sues university librarian for libel](#)

Colleen Flaherty writes: "In September 2010, a Kansas State University librarian questioned the quality of a publishing house on his personal [blog](#). In June 2012, the librarian and his current employer, McMaster University in Ontario, are getting [sued](#) for libel and damages in excess of \$4 million. McMaster Associate



[Alaska Library Association](#),

Annual Conference, Valdez Convention and Civic Center. "Alaska's Libraries: The Original Discovery Channel."

Apr. 10–13:

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

National Conference, Indianapolis. "Peer Revered."

May 17:

[Atlanta Area Bibliographic Instruction Group](#),

Annual Conference, Mercer University, Atlanta. "Beyond Face Value: Asserting the Value of Instruction and Making Instruction Valuable."

June 4–7:

[5th International Conference on Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries](#),

La Sapienza University, Rome, Italy.

June 10–12:

[Chinese and American Forum on Legal Information and Law Libraries](#),

Renaissance Shanghai Zhongshan Park Hotel, Shanghai, China.

"Collaboration: Information, Access, and Partnership."

July 22–26:

[Joint Conference on Digital Libraries](#),

Indianapolis. "Digital Libraries at the Crossroads."

University Librarian Dale Askey said his comments about Edwin Mellen Press pertained to his work, assessing materials for potential inclusion in Kansas State's library collection in a time of diminishing resources." Wayne Bivens-Tatum [comments](#) on the implications, Philip Nel [outlines the problems](#) with the suit and suggests what steps you might take, and Rick Anderson tells of a [personal encounter](#) with Mellen Press publisher Herbert Richardson....

Inside Higher Ed, Feb. 8; *Academic Librarian*, Feb. 6; *Nine Kinds of Pie*, Feb. 8; *The Scholarly Kitchen*, Feb. 11

[Spokane voters approve library tax](#)

Spokane, Washington, voters resoundingly approved February 12 a tax to ensure that branch libraries won't close. It is the first library-only tax placed on the ballot since construction of library branches was approved in 1990. The four-year library tax plan, called a levy lid lift, had wide support from the city's elected leadership. The national library PAC EveryLibrary [contributed](#) \$5,000 in support of the "[Yes for Spokane Libraries](#)" citizens committee's work educating voters through phone campaigns, voter awareness mailings, and yard signs....

Spokane (Wash.) Spokesman-Review, Feb. 13; *EveryLibrary*, Jan. 14



[Suburban Pittsburgh library wants photo removed from exhibit](#)

Mt. Lebanon (Pa.) Public Library officials have asked photographer John Flatz to replace one of his exhibition photos with something else. Flatz refused to remove his photo of a 1911 painting hanging in the Mercer County Courthouse that shows a woman with an exposed breast. "Innocence" is one of Flatz's architectural photographs that is on display through the end of February, but "the possibility exists that it could be challenged," said Assistant Director Cynthia Landrum....

Pittsburgh (Pa.) Post-Gazette, Feb. 7



[Indianapolis displays the Lynch Quilt Project](#)

A provocative and disturbing quilt that displays the stark black-and-white image of a woman who was lynched in 1911 by a mob in Oklahoma drew a steady stream of viewers February 7 at the Indianapolis Central Library. Artist LaShawnda Crowe Storm (right) said she created the quilt, "Her Name Was Laura Nelson," in hopes of spurring a broader conversation about race relations. "This is appropriate to display in the library," library trustee Robert J. Bonner said. "It educates people about our history." [Watch](#) Storm discuss her work (2:06)....

Indianapolis Star, Feb. 9



[Maine income tax check-off helps libraries](#)

Library directors across Maine are encouraging their patrons to help struggling libraries by donating money through a new state income tax check-off. The first year of the tax check-off is especially crucial, because if \$10,000 isn't raised, the fund will not be established. All funds raised will come to the Maine State Library, which provides grants and training to individual libraries....

Portsmouth (N.H.) Herald, Feb. 10

Aug. 1–4:

[Digitalooza '13.](#)

OverDrive User Group Conference,
Renaissance Cleveland Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio.

@ [More...](#)

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Association

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To advertise in American

[Harvard library workers resist restructuring](#)

Workers at Harvard University avoided threatened mass layoffs last spring but are now enduring the consolidation of their work in a new "shared services" model that translates into bigger workloads and fragmented work relationships. Now, along with the rest of Harvard's clerical and technical employees, library workers are mobilizing for a fair and long-overdue contract....

Labor Notes, Feb. 12



[San Diego State acquires major science fiction collection](#)

Edward E. Marsh spent 30 years and millions of dollars assembling one of the largest and most significant collections of science fiction on the planet. And now he is giving much of it to San Diego State University's Love Library. The gift, valued at more than \$2.25 million, will eventually be displayed in the "Edward Marsh Golden Age of Science Fiction Room," created specifically to house these works. Most of the books in the collection are signed first editions and include ephemera such as press clippings, notes, and autographs....

San Diego State University NewsCenter, Jan. 29



[San Francisco Law Library sues over space](#)

The San Francisco Law Library sued the city February 6, alleging that officials would be violating the City Charter if they fail to provide it with adequate space to house its 250,000 law books. The War Memorial Veterans Building has housed the library since 1995, when the library was moved out of City Hall for renovations after the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989. It was supposed to be temporary, but now the building is closing in May for renovations and its board fears the library will be homeless....

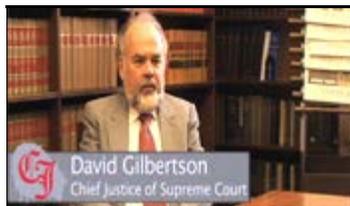
San Francisco Chronicle, Feb. 6



[The chief justice, in the library, with paint thinner](#)

For more than 15 years David Gilbertson (right), chief justice of the South Dakota State Supreme Court, had heard rumors of a lost mural hidden behind the bookshelves in the State Capitol building's law library. It was modern technology that gave him the chance to investigate. Computerized research made most of the law library's books—and more importantly, the shelves holding them—obsolete. After the start of the new year, a team began pulling away the metal backing on a mezzanine-floor bookcase. They didn't see evidence of a mural, but instead found an intricate stenciling pattern. [See](#) what they found (scroll down on the left to watch the video, 2:46)....

Pierre (S.Dak.) Capital Journal, Feb. 8



[Student collects 50,000 books for Tonga library](#)

A University of Alaska Anchorage student has collected

Libraries Direct, contact:



Doug Lewis:
dglewis@ala.org



Katie Bane:
kbane@ala.org

Send news and feedback:
aldirect@ala.org

AL Direct FAQ:
americanlibrariesmagazine.org/aldirect

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50,000 books to help build the first public library in the island nation of Tonga. 29-year-old Kato Ha'unga (right) began her quest to build a library after the country was devastated by a pair of huge earthquakes and a subsequent tsunami in September 2009. After three years, she has filled a storage unit of books that are now ready to be shipped. She is also raising funds to rebuild a community center that will house the [Northern Lights Library](#)....



Alaska Dispatch, Feb. 8

[Russia and US in brawl over Schneerson collection](#)

Moscow is preparing a lawsuit against the Library of Congress over rare books claimed by a US-based Hasidic group. The move comes after a US District Court ruled in January to fine Russia \$50,000 daily (as a penalty for not complying with its [2010 decision](#)) until the Russian State Library surrenders the Schneerson Library to the Chabad-Lubavitch organization. The Russian Foreign Ministry plans to fight the ruling, claiming the collection, gathered by Rabbi Yosef Yitzchok Schneersohn, was nationalized in 1918 because there were no legal heirs in the Schneerson family....



RT, Feb. 8; Interfax, Aug. 10, 2010

[It's a Sadistic story, and France wants it](#)

Elaine Sciolino writes: "*The 120 Days of Sodom*, by the Marquis de Sade, is one of the most perverse works of 18th-century literature. Even Bruno Racine, director of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, calls it 'depraved.' But that hasn't stopped him from negotiating long and hard to buy de Sade's manuscript. He has argued in front of the Commission of National Treasures to declare it provisionally a 'national treasure' that needs to be preserved in the library. And he is ready to pay more than \$5 million to get it."...



New York Times, Jan. 21

[Go back to the Top](#)

Issues

[Libraries and violent media](#)

One consequence of the recent gun-violence tragedies in the United States is increased scrutiny of video games, films, and other media with violent content held in library collections. As a result, libraries are now receiving requests to remove or restrict access to these materials. The discussion points here provide an intellectual freedom framework for talking about the issue of violent video games and violence in media with library trustees, staff, and library users....

OIF Blog, Feb. 7

[A warning to college profs from a high school teacher](#)

Kenneth Bernstein writes: "You are a college professor. I have just retired as a high school

teacher. I have some bad news for you. In case you do not already see what is happening, I want to warn you of what to expect from the students who will be arriving in your classroom. No Child Left Behind went into effect for the 2002–2003 academic year, which means that America's public schools have been operating under the pressures and constrictions imposed by that law for a decade."...

Academe, Jan./Feb.



The new digital divide is hard to cross

Mike Cassidy writes: "The new digital divide isn't about who has computers and who doesn't; or who does and doesn't have internet access. This divide is between kids whose families have the means and know-how to layer an extra helping of education on their children and those who don't. The old divide is closing with the wide adoption of smartphones and the growth of free access to the internet through public Wi-Fi and public libraries. But the new gap has to do with how kids are using the internet and who is available to guide them along their digital journey."...

San José (Calif.) Mercury News, Feb. 8

How BTOP and public libraries have impacted communities

ALA's Office for Information Technology Policy released February 12 the first national report detailing US library engagement with the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. The preliminary report ([PDF file](#)) highlights statewide library BTOP projects, funded with just over \$4 billion from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and improvements they have made to public access technology resources, digital literacy, and workforce development. A final report is slated to be available by April 1....

Office for Information Technology Policy, Feb. 12

Copyright explained musically

Mike Masnick writes: "For those of you who claim that copyright inspires no creativity whatsoever, perhaps you have not seen the following video, "[PandoHouse Rock: Copyright. Explained](#)" (1:35), a collaboration between PandoDaily and Explainer Music's David Holmes. This one actually does a pretty good job of making the key point: that copyright is a crazy mess and widely abusable and abused."...

TechDirt, Feb. 8



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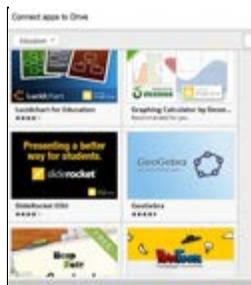
Tech Talk

Google Drive's new Create menu

Joyce Valenza writes: "It's just a little easier to find your apps these days and to discover and connect to new ones. On February 8, Google [announced](#) a new feature in its Drive interface. The

Create menu now expands to list a lovely variety of third-party Drive-connected apps. These apps may now be conveniently added to your Create menu in a list to the right of the official Google Apps—documents, presentations, spreadsheets, forms, and drawings.”...

School Library Journal: NeverEnding Search, Feb. 12; Google Developers Blog, Feb. 8



[The ultimate Google toolbox](#)

Daniel Ionescu writes: “Google’s search, mail, maps, and cloud services are practically de facto public utilities. Fire up your browser, and there Google is. But don’t take Google for granted. With this toolbox of tips, usability tricks, and third-party services, you can keep your privacy, fix Google annoyances, and get the most out of automation.”...

PC World, Feb. 13



[Tablets not a replacement for PCs and laptops](#)

Don Reisinger writes: “The rise of tablets has been well-documented. PC vendors, offering notebooks and desktops, have seen their shipments drop as tablet sales have steadily increased. That performance, along with the continued success of Apple’s iPad, has prompted many to speculate that tablets are slowly but surely replacing larger PC models. But that logic might not actually hold up. Here’s why.”...

eWeek, Feb. 7

[Top three problems with tablets in the classroom](#)

Beth Bacon writes: “One million iPads. That’s the number of tablets Apple sold to schools and colleges in the year before the current school year. It’s roughly double the number sold in the education market during the previous year. As versatile as tablets are for learning, educators are still in the infancy stage of integrating them into their academic curricula. A quick survey of the environment reveals the three essential problems today.”...

Digital Book World, Feb. 11

[How to access your old 3.5-inch floppy disks](#)

Rick Broida writes: “Modern PCs don’t have floppy drives. So how can you hope to extract your photos, WordPerfect documents, and any other old data that might be lingering on those disks? I did a little shopping on eBay and found plenty of 3.5-inch external floppy disk drives, most of them selling in the \$10–\$15 range. Newegg also sells an [external floppy drive](#) for \$14.99 shipped. Just plug the drive into a USB port and you should be good to go.”...

PC World, Feb. 13



[How the Linux file system is different from Windows](#)

Chris Hoffman writes: “Linux’s file system has quite a few differences from the Windows file system. You won’t find any drive letters or backslashes, but you will find an alien-looking layout



where files can have the same name, differing only in capitalization. This isn't an exhaustive list. It is intended for new Linux users who aren't aware of all the differences between Linux and Windows. There are many more differences that apply."...

How-to Geek, Feb. 13

[Go back to the Top](#)

E-Content

[One ebook to prove them all](#)

Eric Hellman writes: "There's a lot of data suggesting that exposure to books in libraries increases sales for those books. There's also a lot of data that suggests that many publishers believe the opposite: namely, that the availability of books in libraries depresses sales, and that if libraries improve the ebook lending process, making it easier for library users to substitute loans for sales, then ebook sales will be hurt even more. That word 'suggests' is the problem."...

AL: E-Content, Feb. 11



[Macmillan to pay \\$20 million in ebook-pricing lawsuits](#)

Macmillan settled with the Department of Justice February 8 over allegedly colluding to set ebook prices, and is now settling the [class action](#) and [states'](#) lawsuits remaining against it. Under the proposed settlement, Macmillan will pay \$20 million to consumers represented by 33 states' attorneys general and by Hagens Berman, the law firm handling a separate, consolidated class action suit. Macmillan's payout is added to the \$69 million that Hachette, HarperCollins, and Simon & Schuster [agreed to pay](#) consumers. The money will be doled out in the form of [small credits](#) at ebook retailers."...

paidContent, Feb. 11; Aug. 30, Sept. 17, 2012; Hagens Berman, Feb. 8; Attorney General of Texas, Feb. 8

[#1 battery-saving tip for Android e-readers](#)

Nathan writes: "The number-one battery-saving tip for tablets and ebook readers is quite simple: Turn off Wi-Fi. Obviously you want to keep it on when you have need of it, but you'd be surprised how much Wi-Fi drains the battery when you aren't even using the device. Just by leaving that default setting where Wi-Fi is always on managed to drain my entire battery overnight."...

The eBook Reader Blog, Feb. 11



[Anachronisms of ebook front and back matter](#)

Eric Hellman writes: "The process of digitizing a printed book involves much more than the conversion of ink on paper to bits in a file. Functional aspects of the book must be mapped to digital equivalents. Thus we have tables of contents and indices turning into hyperlinks and spine files, page numbers that beget location anchors, and progress indicators. The terms of art for this stuff are front matter and back matter. What is this stuff for, anyway?"...

Go to Hellman, Feb. 8

[How America's billionaires could be modern Carnegies](#)

David Rothman writes: "It's time for Warren Buffett,

Bill Gates (right), and other billionaires to think analytically and strategically about America's digital library needs. I'd much rather that public funding alone sufficed, but this is the era of rampant dysfunction on Capitol Hill. So perhaps billionaires can themselves finance a new national endowment to help fund two separate but tightly intertwined national digital library systems—one public, one academic.”...



LibraryCity, Feb. 11

[IFLA principles for library ebook lending](#)

The governing board of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions has endorsed a new policy document on “IFLA Principles for Library eLending.” The document is intended to help all library professionals seeking to provide downloadable ebook content to their users and is broadly drafted to maintain relevance across IFLA's 150 member countries....

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, Feb. 8

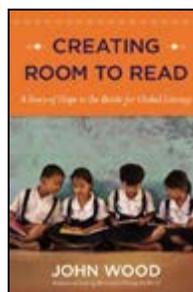
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Books & Reading

[Room to Read builds libraries worldwide](#)

There's no better way to build a peaceful world than by building literacy, John Wood said February 11 at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in Washington, D.C. A former Microsoft executive, Wood was in Washington for the release of his book *Creating Room to Read: A Story of Hope in the Battle for Global Literacy* (Viking,). It describes how his nonprofit group, [Room to Read](#), has built more than 1,600 schools and almost 15,000 libraries across south Asia and Africa....

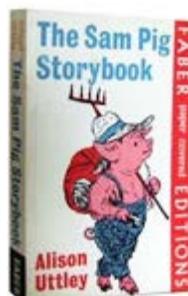
Washington Post, Feb. 12



[30 books to read to a 6-year-old](#)

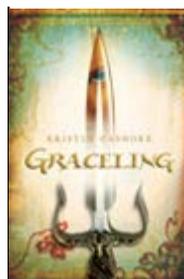
Richard Davies writes: “Each night I read to my daughters before bedtime. It's a ritual. I've tried to keep this list to books that work for a broad spectrum of 6-year-olds—suitable for boys and girls—and literature that is a pleasure to hear aloud. A 6-year-old needs stories that move along briskly. The text must be easy on the ear but regularly introduce new words, and the books must also satisfy the adult doing the heavy lifting. I heartily recommend *The Sam Pig Storybook* by Alison Uttley—these stories of rural life come from another age but are so readable.”...

AbeBooks, Feb. 7



[YA fantasy novels for book clubs](#)

Molly Wetta writes: “The following titles will appeal to longtime fantasy fans and might hook readers who shy away from fantasy in their normal reading. Some of these are new, some are old, some are more obvious choices, and others are easily overlooked. What they have in common is thought-provoking premises and



compelling characters—just what you need for a good book club discussion.”...

YALSA The Hub, Feb. 7

[Five reading gadgets](#)

Wallace Yovetich writes: “What could be better than reading? How about reading with the aid of five awesome gadgets? I can think of quite a few uses for [Night Owl LED reading light](#) (right). Not only do I love that you have to have glasses to use this (cheers to my fellow four-eyes of the world), but you can use this for so much more than reading.”...



Book Riot, Feb. 11

[Celebrating African Americans in picture books](#)

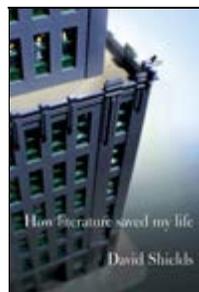
In honor of Black History Month, the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation has selected a list of illustrated books that highlight the contributions of African Americans. Deborah Pope, executive director of the foundation, said the [list](#) of more than a dozen recommended books “tells compelling stories, both fictional and historical, about African Americans through gorgeous art and powerful storytelling.”...



Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, Feb 12; NY1 News, Jan. 31

[10 books that could save your life](#)

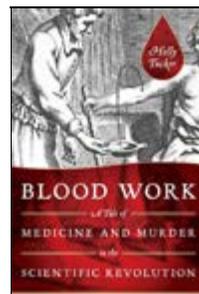
This week marked the release of author David Shields's newest book, *How Literature Saved My Life*, a wonderfully meandering meditation on reading, writing, and the reason for art. Part of the pleasure of reading this book is watching him pick apart his favorite writing and piece it back together, perhaps in a different way than originally intended. To mark the occasion, here are 10 books that just might save your life—some of which Shields mentioned in his latest, others of which are the Flavorwire editors' favorites....



Flavorwire, Feb. 7

[23 exciting science books that read like genre fiction](#)

Annalee Newitz writes: “Some of the greatest nonfiction books about science read like novels. They borrow tropes and narrative tricks from science fiction, fantasy, and horror—turning great discoveries into great adventures. Here are 23 science books that are better than genre fiction because they're true. I've tried to offer a representative sample, picking from classic works as well as science books that borrow their styles from a few popular genres.”...

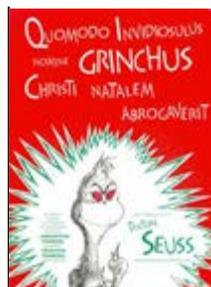


io9, Feb. 11

[Seven ways to be ready the next time news breaks in Latin](#)

Arika Okrent writes: "When Pope Benedict XVI announced his resignation on February 11, the first reporter to break the story was Giovanna Chirri. The Pope gave his statement in Latin, and Chirri [got the scoop](#) because she understood Latin. Latin is not just a fossilized church language. It is alive in the modern world, doing lively modern things. Here are VII ways to keep up your Latin and be ready when the next chance to be a Latin superstar presents itself."...

Mental Floss, Feb. 12; *Huffington Post*, Feb. 11



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Tips & Ideas

[Edge benchmarks: We can do better](#)

Edge logo

Steve Matthews writes: "Launched in March 2011, the [Edge Initiative](#) is led by a coalition of library and local-government organizations. It has developed benchmarks that are a suite of tools supporting continuous improvement and reinvestment in public technology. But as I read the specific 11 recommendations, my high hopes sank. They contain neither leadership nor new, useful ideas that I can discern. Among these benchmarks, which ones are innovative or even new?"...

21st Century Library Blog, Jan. 29



[Digital storytelling in ETMOOC](#)

Paul Signorelli writes: "After dabbling with [digital storytelling](#) as part of the work I'm doing as a learner in [#etmooc](#), the Education Technology and Media MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) organized by Alec Couros, professor of educational technology and media at the University of Regina, and several co-conspirators, I circled back on the theme in a more focused and serious way. And found myself in far deeper emotional waters than expected—as is often the case with any completely engaging learning experience."...

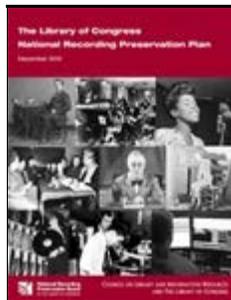
Building Creative Bridges, Feb. 2



[LC announces National Recording Preservation Plan](#)

On February 13, LC unveiled its [Library of Congress National Recording Preservation Plan](#), a blueprint for saving America's recorded sound heritage for future generations. The congressionally mandated plan spells out 32 short- and long-term recommendations involving both the public and private sectors and covering infrastructure, preservation, access, education, and policy strategies. The plan is the result of more than a decade of work by the library and its National Recording Preservation Board....

Library of Congress, Feb. 13



[Carol Tilley deconstructs 1950s anti-comics crusade](#)

Televised public hearings held by the US

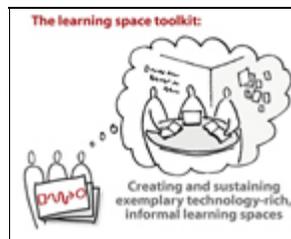
Senate Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency in 1954 resulted in the decimation of what was an enormous comic book industry. The hearings were largely inspired by the book *Seduction of the Innocent* by psychiatrist Fredric Wertham, based on his own case studies. But Carol Tilley (above), who teaches media literacy, youth services librarianship, and a readers' advisory course on comics at the University of Illinois GSLIS, has gone through Wertham's case studies at the Library of Congress and found that he had "played fast and loose with the data."...



[Learning Space Toolkit](#)

Kristin Antelman writes: "The [Learning Space Toolkit](#) is a freely available resource designed to support the full lifecycle of an informal learning space design project, from defining the goals and needs to designing the space to supporting it. Whether you're a librarian, architect, administrator, or facility manager, you can use the toolkit to plan, evaluate, and support your new space."...

UpNext: The IMLS Blog, Feb. 8



[Kids read to dogs at Stowe Free Library](#)

Julia Rogers writes: "Sylvester, a certified therapy dog with Therapy Dogs of Vermont, has just started a new gig at the Stowe Free Library. To him, this seems like the easiest job in the world: He shows up, gets loads of pets, cuddles, and treats, and has an opportunity to show off his best tricks. But what he doesn't realize is that he's making a difference in many young lives."...

Children's Literacy Foundation, Feb. 12



[A library with a pedigree](#)

Joanne Kaufman writes: "The [American Kennel Club research library](#) (right) is one of the largest in the world devoted to man's best (pedigreed) friend. From modest beginnings in 1934—three shelves in a meeting room—the collection now has a dedicated 1,600-square-foot space in the AKC's quarters on lower Madison Avenue in New York. The holdings are expansive (18,000 volumes) and ecumenical (they include cat books). The rules are simple: No books are allowed out, no dogs are allowed in."...

Wall Street Journal, Feb. 11; *AKC Breeder*, June 2006



[The five stages of retirement planning angst](#)

Paul B. Brown writes: "Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, who died in 2004, is best known for identifying the five stages of grief that people go through once they understand they are dying. And those stages—denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance—describe perfectly my reactions when I read recently that, according to Fidelity Investments, my wife, Alison, and I will need to save eight times our current annual income to come even close to having the kind of retirement we want."...

New York Times, Feb. 9

[Why more Americans are working past age 65](#)

Emily Brandon writes: "Turning 65 is no guarantee that you will be ready or willing to retire. A rapidly growing number of Americans are continuing to work beyond their 65th birthdays. The proportion of people age 65 and older in the workforce grew to 16.1% by 2010, up from 12.1% in 1990. Here's a look at some of the reasons why people are increasingly working during the traditional retirement years."...

US News and World Report, Feb. 11

[Staying private on the new Facebook](#)

Somini Sengupta writes: "Facebook is a personal vault that can contain photos of your firstborn, plans to bring down your government and, occasionally, a record of your indiscretions. It can be scoured by police officers, partners, and would-be employers. It can be mined by marketers to show tailored advertisements. What can you do? Ask yourself these four simple questions."



There are also [two new tools](#), [My Permissions](#) and [Scrambls](#), you can use to help you with your privacy settings....

New York Times: Personal Tech, Feb. 6; Bits, Feb. 7

[10 social media marketing tips for libraries](#)

Ellyssa Kroski writes: "There are now so many social media platforms available for libraries to participate in, but it's sometimes difficult to get a handle on how these channels can best be used for marketing library services. If you're considering leveraging social media to promote your library, here are some strategies I've found helpful."...

iLibrarian, Feb. 12

[Help choose the Follett Challenge winners](#)

Nearly 120 entries have been submitted for the second [Follett Challenge](#), and contest organizers are calling on the public to crown the winners.



The Follett Challenge will award \$200,000 worth of Follett products and services to six winning schools, and also provide educators with a platform to show off their innovative teaching programs to the world. Help choose the winners by voting for the best video submission once a day between now and March 18....

Follett Software Company, Feb. 6

[Content analysis of librarian blogs](#)

Grace M. Jackson-Brown writes: "A content analysis study of leading librarian blogs shows how blogs are used for professional development, political advocacy for libraries, research, and other information dissemination uses. An examination of blog posts, comments, and blogger responses to reader comments show major areas of interaction. Unstructured interviews with librarian bloggers illuminate how these bloggers view the role of their blogs now and blogging into the future."...

First Monday 18, no. 2 (Feb. 4)

[Five environmentally friendly libraries](#)

Jeff O'Neal writes: "The only thing better than a cool library is a cool library that is ecofriendly, right? Here is a tour of some



of the greenest libraries in the US. Each of these libraries is LEED certified." For example, the Appaloosa branch (right) of the Scottsdale (Ariz.) Public Library, where more than 95% of the construction waste was recycled and most of the landscaping requires no irrigation....

Book Riot, Feb. 8

[Sex materials in libraries](#)

Michelle Martinez and Scott Vieira at Sam Houston State University Library in Huntsville, Texas, are gathering opinions on collecting sex materials for libraries. They are planning to present preliminary findings at the Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association meeting in March. Library staff from any type of library are encouraged to take the 49-question [survey](#), which takes 25-40 minutes....

Sam Houston State University, Feb. 11

[Too gay, or not too gay: That is the question](#)

Sarah Alexander writes: "I like to think that most librarians are open-minded. We're the protectors of the First Amendment. We believe in information for all. We help the patron in front of us no matter who they are. But then I think about all the awkward looks I got when I wore a rainbow tie at a library conference. I think about a long argument I had with a coworker about the appropriateness of providing information on trans* issues. Did I mention I'm a big ol' lesbian?"...

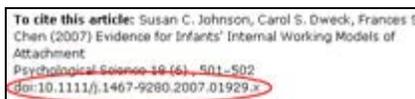
Hack Library School, Feb. 8



[On identifiers: DOI, ISBN, CASRN, SSN, ISSN](#)

Bonnie Swoger writes: "With information sources, there are many types of identifiers that help us pinpoint the exact item we are talking about and distinguish it from similar items. In libraries, a common identifier is the ISBN, or international standard book number. Another identifier used extensively in the scientific literature is the Digital Object Identifier (DOI). Each journal article has a DOI, and no two articles have the same identifier."...

Scientific American: Information Culture, Feb. 7



[Public service on the inside](#)

Stephen M. Lilienthal writes: "A cart laden with books is pushed down the corridors of the George R. Vierno Center (GRVC), one of the correctional facilities on New York's Rikers Island. The library may consist only of a small storeroom of books and a cart attended by Nicholas Higgins, supervising librarian of NYPL's Correctional Services Program, but library service to the inmates of GRVC is definitely welcome. In Higgins's view, providing library service to inmates and those returning from prison allows 'a wholly segregated group of people' access to information that most Americans take for granted."...

Library Journal, Feb. 4



[Deposit collections in homeless shelters](#)

Sara Zettervall writes: "Hennepin County (Minn.) Library is rolling out an innovative effort to connect homeless patrons with the library system. The Shelter Deposit Program, the brainchild of Substitute Librarian Amy Mars and coordinated and sustained by Outreach Librarian Dan Marcou, places deposit collections in Minneapolis homeless shelters and surrounds them with library resources and activities. The project is inspired by similar work in Multnomah County, Oregon."...

Public Libraries Online, Feb. 12



[Advanced searching in FDsys](#)

A new [training video](#) (9:54) on Advanced Searching of GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys) is now available. The video focuses on utilizing the FDsys Advanced Search function, using metadata to return precise results, and ways to further improve search results. Note the options for closed captioning, enlarging the video, and volume control from the menu in the bottom right-hand corner of the video screen....

Federal Depository Library Program, Feb. 11



[Advice for genealogical searchers](#)

James Tanner writes: "The first lesson is patience. Always assume what you are looking for is there if you just keep looking a little while longer. Lost arrows do not just disappear, despite how much you would like to believe. The same goes for ancestors; they do not just disappear, no matter what the appearances from the information you are given. Here are some rules for searching that can help you avoid frustration."...

Genealogy's Star, Feb. 3

[Presidential Library boosts knowledge with Abe App](#)

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation in Springfield, Illinois, along with AT&T, launched a free "Abe App" February 12 in honor of the 16th president's 204th birthday. The new app, which is available for [iPhones](#) and [Android](#) phones, lets people explore Lincoln facts, answer quiz questions on the president, and look at pictures of the presidential museum....

Springfield (Ill.) *State Journal-Register*, Feb. 12



[National Library of Medicine seeks social-media data](#)

The National Library of Medicine wants to mine social media to learn how people are using its services and how it can make those services better, solicitation documents show. The library plans to contract for a system to mine Twitter, Facebook, blogs, news sites, discussion boards, and video- and image-sharing sites to determine how health-related emergencies such as a West Nile virus outbreak can affect how people use library resources, according to a [request for proposal](#) posted February 11....

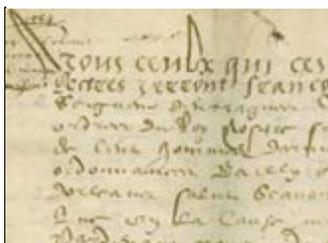
Nextgov.com

[Newberry Library receives](#)

[funding for paleography seminars](#)

The Newberry Library in Chicago has received a \$600,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation to teach students and scholars how to read late medieval, Renaissance, and early modern manuscripts written by hand in Italian, French, Spanish, and English. The funding allows the Newberry to begin a four-year series of [summer institutes](#). The Folger Shakespeare Library, the Getty Research Institute, and the Huntington Library are also involved in the program, the only one of its kind in North America....

Crain's Chicago Business, Feb. 8



[Transcribing the diary of a Civil War surgeon](#)

As an intern in the National Museum of American History's Paper Conservation Lab, Greg Waters got to spend time with the diary of a surgeon in the Union Army. The diary's first entry appeared on January 30, 1863, 150 years ago. Waters writes: "I was assigned to go through this diary and transcribe what was written within. All I was told is that it was written by a Civil War surgeon named M. A. Henderson. With no idea what to expect, I put on gloves and very carefully opened the front cover."...

O Say Can You See?, Jan. 30



[Chaim Grade's papers to be made public](#)

The literary estate of the esteemed Yiddish writer Chaim Grade (right) has found a home—or more precisely two. The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in Manhattan and the National Library of Israel in Jerusalem have been chosen to jointly receive Grade's literary estate, including 40 boxes of his letters, manuscripts, and photographs, and 20,000 books from his wide-ranging personal library. They will jointly arrange for the translation, publication, and digitization of Grade's works, including much that had not previously been published....

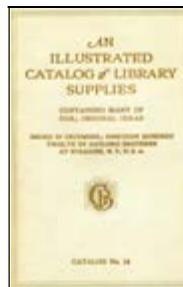
New York Times: Arts Beat, Feb. 12



[Gaylord Brothers and book repair](#)

Larry Nix writes: "Whenever I have the chance, I acquire early catalogs of library supply companies. Among those in my collection are several from Gaylord Brothers, a library supply and furniture company that was established in 1896 and continues today. My earliest Gaylord Brothers catalog dates from 1912 (right). A specialty for Gaylord from its beginning was the repair of books."...

Library History Buff Blog, Feb. 9



[Australian Zombies in the Library project](#)

On November 9, 2012, the rural Australian town of Tullamore, New South Wales, experienced a library event like no other. Students from 8 to 18 visited the public library for a storytime event, only to find it



vandalized and quickly surrounded by a zombie horde. The students now faced a desperate battle for survival. With only the library's books at their disposal, would they survive? Matt Finch, the organizer of the project, describes what happened and how you can set up a similar zombie event at your own library....

The Library As Incubator Project, Feb. 13

[Nine very specific rules from real libraries](#)

John Brandon writes: "We've all seen signs banning cellphones, food, and drinks. But these rules cover issues that might not be common to all libraries. For example, in Charlemont, Massachusetts, the historic Goodnow Hall also houses the Tyler Memorial Library. If you are having a meeting, make sure you check with the front desk—there's a rule about making sure you keep the door closed so that bats do not come inside."...

Mental Floss, Feb. 10



[Luis Herrera reads "The Raven"](#)

Because he lost [a bet](#) with the Enoch Pratt Public Library over who would win Super Bowl XLVII, San Francisco City Librarian Luis Herrera (right) paid up by reciting Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven" in the atrium of his library wearing a Ravens jersey. Part of the deal was to post the event on [YouTube](#) (10:58), which he gamely did (with the help of a chorus of staffers)....

YouTube, Feb. 9; San Francisco Public Library, Jan. 31



[Harlem Shake in the library](#)

Jason Boog writes: "The Harlem Shake meme exploded online last week, as a video maker named Filthy Frank took an infectious beat created by a producer named Baauer and invented a [kooky dance sequence](#). Videomakers around the globe took the same 30-second clip from the song, choreographing surreal dances in everyday locations, including libraries. We have already uncovered a few examples of library patrons doing the Harlem Shake, but our favorite was the West Point Military Academy Library version of the [dance](#) (0:43)." Other library venues are [University of Texas Library](#) (0:30), [Tutt Library](#) at Colorado College (0:31), [Bapst Library](#) at Boston College (0:30), and [others](#)....

GalleyCat, Feb. 11; YouTube, Feb. 11-13



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The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | February 20, 2013

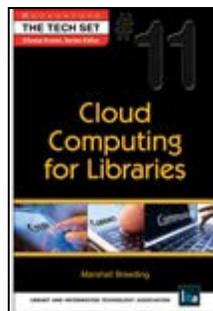


American Libraries Online

[10 great technology initiatives for your library](#)

Ellyssa Kroski writes: "Today's hottest web and mobile technologies are offering libraries a new world of opportunities to engage patrons. Forward-thinking librarians are actively experimenting with and incorporating these new technologies into their digital strategies. Here are 10 ideas for you to leverage today's most innovative tools and techniques—all of these straight from [The Tech Set #11–20](#) series."...

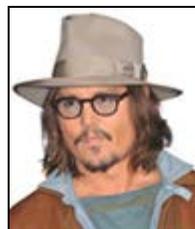
American Libraries feature



[Editor's Letter: Engaging our communities](#)

Laurie D. Borman writes: "Where's Johnny Depp? In 2013, you can find him in *American Libraries*, as part of our annual [Year in Review](#). He started his own book imprint last year, with the inaugural title—about Bob Dylan—slated to appear in 2015. There's a lot more to our 2012 retrospective than celebrity sightings, though. Check out surprising Pew Research Center stats, the truth about ebook pricing, the launch of Google Fiber at the library, and the new Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence."...

American Libraries column, Jan./Feb.



[Another Story: Why do publishers hate us?](#)

Joseph Janes writes: "It doesn't take much to find numerous examples in recent months to indicate that the publishing world, broadly construed, has a library problem. (Or, more aptly, the library world has a publishing problem.) The prevailing school of thought seems to be that it's preferable to lock stuff up rather than run the tiny risk that some long-tail novel or journal might get copied and read a second time. *Please*."...

American Libraries column, Jan./Feb.



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[ALA Annual Conference](#)

Chicago, June 27–July 2. Check out the [preconferences](#) offered by ALA divisions and offices. Topics include Common Core, digital media labs, the semantic web, RDA basics, a YA Lit bloggers' summit, the crowdsourcing experiment TERMS, rethinking resource sharing, creating scalable laptop services, international perspectives on innovation, and 80 as the new 30.

[Internet use in libraries](#)

Valerie Hawkins writes: "The ALA Library recently revised [ALA Library Fact Sheet 26: Internet Use in Libraries](#). Originally, the focus of the fact sheet was on the prevalence of US public libraries having computers with access to the internet that their patrons could use. But, as noted in the [Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study \(PLFTAS\) 2011-2012](#), virtually all public library outlets provide public access to the internet. And so the fact sheet's focus now is on how libraries assist with the ever-growing internet access needs of their patrons, especially those whose only internet access is in public libraries."...

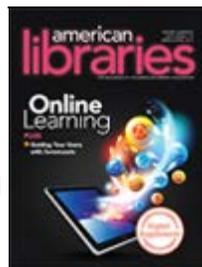
AL: Ask the ALA Librarian, Feb. 20



[AL Online Learning Digital Supplement](#)

ALA provides continuing education in a variety of venues and formats for librarians, support staff, and trustees. Check out the opportunities in the *American Libraries* Online Learning Digital Supplement from 11 divisions, ALA Publishing, and the Office for Intellectual Freedom. Also read Greg R. Notess's article, "Guiding Your Users with Screencasts."...

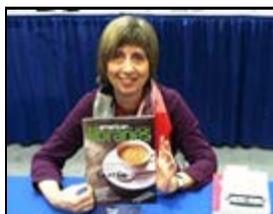
American Libraries Digital Supplement, Mar./Apr.



[Submit a photo](#)

Take a photo of someone holding an issue of *American Libraries* and we'll add it to our "People with *American Libraries*" Pinterest board. It can be of yourself, a colleague, or a writer or celebrity whom you have coaxed into posing. Email them to [American Libraries](#) and we will add them to the lineup....

Pinterest



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ALA News

[FCC chairman lauds the role libraries play in digital literacy](#)

FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski (right) released a [YouTube video](#) (2:44) that thanks the nation's librarians for their service in closing the digital divide. ALA and the Institute of Museum and Library Services have worked with Genachowski and FCC staff members to support broadband adoption, with a focus on digital-literacy training through some 16,400 public library locations. This spring, the Ad Council will team up with the nonprofit [Connect2Compete](#) to begin a national campaign to promote digital literacy....



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RBdigital

Office for Information Technology Policy, Feb. 14; YouTube, Jan. 25

[Register for National Library Legislative Day](#)

Library advocates are encouraged to support federal funding for libraries by attending the ALA's 39th annual [National Library Legislative Day](#), an advocacy event that will be held May 7–8 in Washington, D.C. Every year, hundreds of library supporters, leaders, and patrons meet with members of Congress during the event to advocate for national library funding. Participants will receive training and briefings to prepare them for meetings with their members of Congress. Register [here](#)....

Office of Government Relations, Feb. 14

[Khaled Hosseini to speak at ALA Annual](#)

One hot new title that people will be reading, recommending, and talking about this season is Khaled Hosseini's *And the Mountains Echoed*, his first new novel in more than six years. Attendees of the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago will be able to hear Hosseini, the bestselling author of *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns* on June 29 when he appears as an Auditorium Speaker, sponsored by Penguin. [Register and book housing](#) now for the 2013 ALA Annual Conference, June 27–July 2....



Conference Services, Feb. 19

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



For the summer of 2013, a selected [Google Policy Fellow](#) will spend 10 weeks in residence at the ALA Washington Office to learn about national policy and complete a major project. Google provides the \$7,500 stipend for the summer, but the work agenda is under the full control of ALA and the fellow. The Google Washington office provides an educational program for all of the fellows. [Applications](#) are due by March 15....

District Dispatch, Feb. 19

[Two new programming opportunities](#)

Libraries and state humanities councils that received NEH's *"Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys"* are eligible to [apply online](#) for *"Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys"* funding through March 29. Also, the United States Institute of Peace and the Institute of International Education will also be accepting proposals beginning in early March for a public education initiative titled, "US Institute of Peace Public Education for Peacebuilding Support." Eligible institutions may [apply](#) by May 1 to receive up to \$2,000 in matching support for programming....

Public Programs Office, Feb. 19

[Support programming and visit the Robie House](#)

Tickets are now available for attendees of the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago to spend an evening exploring the Frank Lloyd Wright–designed Robie House (right) while toasting the 10th anniversary of the



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Great Libraries of the World



[Liaquat Memorial Library](#), Karachi, Pakistan. Named after Pakistan's first Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan, the library houses more than 170,000 books, manuscripts, newspapers, dictionaries, atlases, and technical reports. It was built in 1950 from donations

ALA Cultural Communities Fund. This unique evening at the renowned Robie House on the University of Chicago campus is scheduled for July 1, with tours available starting at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Transportation to and from the event will be provided. A limited number of tickets for this exclusive event are available as part of conference registration....

Public Programs Office, Feb. 15

[Webinars on youth and technology programming](#)

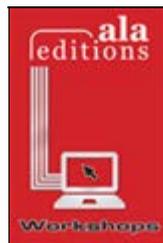
Public Programs Office and [ProgrammingLibrarian.org](#) announced two upcoming webinars that will present innovative, effective ways to engage young audiences with technology programs. These webinars are suitable for librarians from public and school libraries. A March 12 webinar will focus on digital literacy for early learners, while an April 9 webinar will discuss using webisodes to engage teen readers.

[Register](#) online....

Public Programs Office, Feb. 15

[Hiring, training, and supervising shelve](#)

Shelvers are crucial to library operations. They play a major role in determining how your physical collection is organized and presented, helping ensure that your library is as user-friendly as possible. But how do you find good library shelve



ALA Editions, Feb. 19

[Find the bugs and win a Nexus 7](#)

Jenny Levine writes: "We are upgrading ALA Connect from Drupal 6 to version 7 in March, and we need your help to find all of the bugs we know are lurking in the corners. Help us find them, and if you're the ultimate bug squasher, we'll give you a free 16GB Google [Nexus 7](#) tablet. The bug deadline is February 25."...

ALA Connect, Feb. 14

[Where are future ALA leaders? Student chapters](#)

For library students, the best place to start being active and gain leadership skills is through one of the 56 active ALA [student chapters](#). ALA student members at the master's level and beyond are eligible to [form](#) official ALA student chapter groups at schools offering ALA-accredited programs. The first ALA student chapter was created in 1980 at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The most recent was created in 2011 at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota....

ALA Student Membership Blog, Feb. 15

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commemorating Ali Khan's service to the nation and since 1986 has been administered by the Culture Department of the government of Sindh.



[National Library](#)

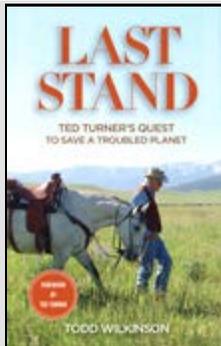
Civic District, Singapore. The library's new 16-story, energy-efficient facility on Victoria Street opened in 2005, replacing the much loved but overcrowded red-brick facility on Stamford Road where it had been housed since 1960. The library traces its origins back to 1837 when the library of the Singapore Institution was established, and it soon developed into a combination lending library, reference library, and museum by 1887 when it reopened as the Raffles Library and Museum. Bricks from the demolished Stamford Road building are incorporated into a wall along one of the two gardens inside the new facility, which houses both the Central Lending Library and the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library.

This AL Direct feature showcases 250 libraries around the world that are notable for their exquisite architecture, historic collections, and innovative

Featured review: Adult nonfiction

Wilkinson, Todd. *Last Stand: Ted Turner's Quest to Save a Troubled Planet*. Apr. 2013. 368p. Lyons, hardcover (978-0-7627-8443-1).

If Ted Turner were a superhero, as befits the extraordinary daring and scope of his singular, under-the-radar achievements, his powers would involve shape-shifting, controversy-igniting, strategic charisma, and making and giving away epic sums of money. Turner's philanthropic innovation and zeal led him to fund the work of his great mentor, Jacques Cousteau; bolster the UN; found an organization devoted to eliminating nuclear weapons; support clean water and sustainable energy initiatives; and restore and preserve vast ecosystems and diverse endangered species. Journalist Wilkinson first interviewed Turner in 1992, when the ecohumanitarian—a restless man of high curiosity, “expansive thinking,” and bold action—was newly married to Jane Fonda and busy with his now-famous bison herd on his majestic Montana ranch....

**Top 10 books on sustainability: 2013**

Donna Seaman writes: “As this list of titles attests, sustainability—the need to stabilize and balance the relationship between humankind and the rest of nature—encompasses everything from facing the facts about climate change (*Global Weirdness: Severe Storms, Deadly Heat Waves, Relentless Drought, Rising Seas, and the Weather of the Future*) to defending human rights (*The Land Grabbers: The New Fight over Who Owns the Earth*), protecting wilderness areas (*Empire of Shadows: The Epic Story of Yellowstone*), and establishing clean, renewable energy sources (*The Conundrum: How Scientific Innovation, Increased Efficiency, and Good Intentions Can Make Our Energy and Climate Problems Worse*).”...

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services. If you find yourself on vacation near one of them, be sure to stop by for a visit. Some will be featured 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](#).



Career Leads from
ALA JobLIST

[Geographic/Adaptive Technologies and Instruction Librarian](#)

Indiana University Northwest, Gary. This Assistant Librarian position will oversee the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Data Center and Adaptive Technology Center in the John Anderson Library. Additional responsibilities include support of the expanding general education information literacy program through instruction presentations and modules for face-to-face and online classes. This librarian will have Information Commons (Reference) Help Desk and subject-discipline

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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**Division News****[Poundstone headlines “The Laugh’s on Us”](#)**

Author, standup comedian, and library advocate Paula Poundstone (right) will headline “The Laugh’s on Us” fundraiser for United for Libraries on June 30 during the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. Sponsored by Sage Publications, the event will also feature Selena Coppock (*The New Rules for Blondes: Highlights from a Fair-Haired*



Life) and other comedians and humorists. [Tickets](#) are on sale....
United for Libraries, Feb. 19

[Preconference workshops at AASL conference](#)

The AASL 16th National Conference and Exhibition promises to help school library professionals rise to the challenges of their careers with its offering of hands-on, full-day [preconference workshops](#). The conference, "Rising to the Challenge," will take place November 14–17 in Hartford, Connecticut. Full-day preconference workshops will be held November 13....

AASL, Feb. 19

[ACRL/LLAMA President's Program \(and a contest\)](#)

Join ACRL and LLAMA for their joint Presidents' Program at the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. Titled "Standing on Marbles: Ensuring Steady Leadership in Unsteady Times," the June 29 program will feature noted author, executive coach, and leadership consultant Karol M. Wasylyshyn (right). The Program Committee is also offering ALA members the opportunity to reflect on memorable moments of leadership that have inspired them. Entries must be submitted by May 1 to cochairs [Valeda F. Dent](#) and [Lila Fredenburg](#)....

ACRL, Feb. 19



[LITA Forum call for proposals](#)

The 2013 LITA National Forum Committee seeks proposals for high-quality preconferences, concurrent sessions, and poster sessions for the 16th annual LITA National Forum to be held in Louisville, Kentucky, November 7–10. Proposals should relate to the themes of creation, empowering library users, collaboration, cooperation, and building or engaging communities. Use the [online form](#) to submit proposals. The deadline is February 25....

LITA Blog, Feb. 14

[New resources from ASCLA](#)

The [ASCLA resources page](#) has been updated to include new information on website accessibility and students with disabilities. The page contains links that will lead you to excerpts from selected ASCLA publications or to websites that may be of interest in the areas of services to special populations....

ASCLA Blog, Feb. 19

[Go back to the Top](#)

Awards & Grants

[2013 Marta Lange / CQ Press Award](#)

Kathi Carlisle Fountain (right), head of collection development at the Washington State University Vancouver Library, has been awarded the 2013 ACRL Law and Political Science Section Marta Lange / CQ Press Award. The award honors an academic or law librarian who has made distinguished contributions to bibliography and information service in law or political science....

ACRL, Feb. 19



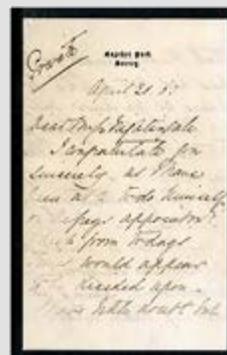
collections development responsibilities. Successful candidate will serve on the library's New Media Committee and be knowledgeable about academic library community engagement activities....



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Digital Library of the Week



The [Florence Nightingale Letters Collection](#) at the University of Illinois at Chicago highlights aspects of Nightingale's work in the fields of nursing and medical sanitation throughout her life. She developed a model of statistical gathering and reporting for medical data, distinguishing herself as a professional statistician. The correspondences exemplify her engagement in policy matters as well as her leadership. Many letters appear on

[2013 Ross Atkinson Lifetime Achievement Award](#)

Barbara Tillett (right), recently retired chief of the Policy and Standards Division of the Library of Congress, has been awarded the 2013 ALCTS Ross Atkinson Lifetime Achievement Award. Tillett has a distinguished record of service to ALCTS and a long history in catalog rule revision, including serving as the LC representative to the Committee on Cataloging: Description: and Access beginning in 1994. The award, sponsored by EBSCO, will be presented at the June 30 ALCTS Awards Ceremony during the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago....

ALCTS, Feb. 19



[2013 Margaret Mann Citation](#)

Judith A. Kuhagen (right) has been awarded the 2013 Margaret Mann Citation by the ALCTS Cataloging and Metadata Management Section. The Mann Citation recognizes outstanding professional achievement in cataloging or classification and includes a \$2,000 scholarship donated in the recipient's honor by OCLC to the library school of the winner's choice. Kuhagen has chosen the LIS program of the Morgridge College of Education at the University of Denver to be the recipient....

ALCTS, Feb. 19



[2013 Banks/Harris Preservation Award](#)

Randy Silverman (right), preservation librarian at the University of Utah, is the recipient of the 2013 Paul Banks and Carolyn Harris Preservation Award, given annually by the ALCTS Preservation and Reformatting Section. The award, sponsored by Preservation Technologies, consists of \$1,500 and a citation. It recognizes the contribution of a professional preservation specialist who has been active in the field of preservation of library materials....

ALCTS, Feb. 19



[2013 First Step Award](#)

Jennifer Castaldo (right), electronic resources manager and distance education librarian at Johns Hopkins University, will receive the 2013 First Step Award, a Wiley professional development grant presented by the ALCTS Continuing Resources Section. This \$1,500 grant offers librarians new to the serials field an opportunity to broaden their perspectives by attending an ALA Annual Conference....

ALCTS, Feb. 19



[ALA scholarship deadline is March 1](#)

ALA has more than \$300,000 for students who are studying library science or school library media at the master's level. Scholarships typically range from \$2,500 to \$7,000 per student per year. The [application and instructions](#) are available online and the application deadline is March 1....

ALA Membership Blog, Feb. 20

[Enrollment Assistance Awards for support staff](#)

The [Library Support Staff Certification](#) program, in

black-bordered mourning stationery. Dr. Karl A Meyer accumulated the letters in this collection, later donating them to the Cook County School of Nursing. The Special Collections Department of the University of Illinois at Chicago acquired the collection in 2000.

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

Noted and Quoted

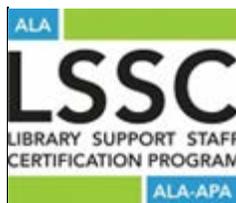
“What other industry creates a product and allows someone else to give it away, endlessly? The car industry would collapse if we went to car libraries for free use of Porsches. . . . Librarians are lovely people and libraries are lovely places, but they are damaging the book industry. They are putting bookshops out of business, and I’m afraid we have to look at what place they have in the 21st century.”

—British author Terry Deary on the [irrelevance of libraries](#), *The Guardian*, Feb. 13.

@ [More quotes...](#)

cooperation with nine state-level library organizations, will be offering Enrollment Assistance Awards this spring to library support staff applying for certification. The program offers library support staff the opportunity to achieve recognition for their existing skills and knowledge, to gain new skills and knowledge, and to enhance their library's service to the public. [Apply](#) by March 15....

ALA-Allied Professional Association, Feb. 19



[Finalists for National Medal](#)

On February 14, the Institute of Museum and Library Services announced 33 finalists for the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The National Medal is the nation's highest honor conferred on museums and libraries for service to the community. Sixteen libraries are on the list. IMLS is encouraging those who have visited finalist libraries and museums to share their story on the [IMLS Facebook page](#). The 10 winners will be announced in late April....

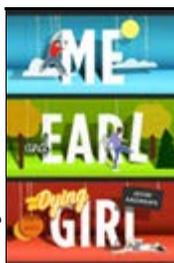
Institute of Museum and Library Services, Feb. 14



[The Cybils 2012](#)

The Cybils awards are given by bloggers for the best children's and young adult titles published in the US or Canada in the past year. The winner in the Nonfiction Picture Book category was *Mrs. Harkness and the Panda* (Knopf), written by Alicia Potter and illustrated by Melissa Sweet; the winner in Young Adult Fiction was *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* (Amulet) by Jesse Andrews....

Cybils Awards, Feb. 14



[Jan Stauber Grants available](#)

The Beacon Society is offering Jan Stauber Grants of \$350 to persons and organizations proposing literacy projects and other educational experiences that will introduce young people to Arthur Conan Doyle's fictional detective, Sherlock Holmes. US and Canadian teachers, librarians, and Sherlockian literary societies are invited to apply. The deadline is May 1....

Beacon Society, Feb. 17

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Libraries in the News

[Arbitration panel vindicates former Lexington director](#)

The Lexington (Ky.) Public Library owes Kathleen Imhoff (right), its former chief executive officer, an undetermined sum of money because it dismissed her

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[Alan Lomax Collection Highlights Folk Music of the 20th Century](#)



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Calendar

Mar. 17–20:
[Electronic Resources and Libraries](#),
Conference, AT&T
Conference Center,
Austin, Texas.

Mar. 18–19:
[MOOCs and Libraries: Massive](#)

without cause in July 2009, an arbitration panel ruled February 15. In a 2-to-1 legally binding decision, the arbitrators said Imhoff had a four-year employment contract with the library, which was required to honor the remaining two years of her contract. The library could be asked to pay nearly \$1 million in damages....

Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader, Feb. 15



[Librarians rally behind blogger](#)

A university librarian who is being sued after writing a critical blog post about a scholarly publisher is finding support from professors and librarians around the world. In 2010, Dale Askey, now a librarian at McMaster University in Ontario, wrote a blog post about Edwin Mellen Press on his personal website, referring to the publisher as "dubious." The publisher responded with a libel lawsuit. The Association of Research Libraries released a [joint statement](#) with the Canadian Association of Research Libraries on February 14, saying they disapprove of the publisher's "aggressive use of the Canadian court system." The Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries and the Medical Library Association released a [statement](#) on February 15, while ACRL issued a [statement](#) February 20....

Chronicle of Higher Education, Feb. 14; Association of Research Libraries, Feb. 14; Medical Library Association, Feb. 15; ACRL Insider, Feb. 20

[Another publisher threatens a libel suit](#)

The Canadian Center of Science and Education, publisher of numerous open-access journals that charge authors to get published, sent a letter to Jeffrey Beall, scholarly initiatives librarian at the University of Colorado Denver, informing him that his inclusion of the company and several of its products on a [list of a possible "predatory" journals](#) amounted to defamation and libel. The letter threatened legal action unless Beall removes the material and pays \$10,000 in damages. Beall runs the [Scholarly Open Access](#) blog devoted to critical analysis of scholarly open-access publishing....

Inside Higher Ed, Feb. 15

[Five Jersey Shore libraries remain closed, post-Sandy](#)

Five libraries that served patrons in Jersey Shore towns devastated by Hurricane Sandy remain shuttered months after the storm as they wrangle with the same questions many residents now face: How much of the storm damage will insurance cover? When will that money arrive? What is the best way to rebuild? With few firm answers available, timelines for reopening are sketchy....

Newark (N.J.) Star-Ledger, Feb. 19



[Gary Public Library struggles toward reopening](#)

The main branch of the Gary (Ind.) Public Library is on course to once again become a library. Closed in January 2012 following a 40% cut in the budget, library officials hoped to turn the 50-year-old building into a museum and cultural



[Opportunity or Overwhelming Challenge?](#)

Conference, Hall of Flags, Perelman Quadrangle, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. The event (now full) will also be [livestreamed](#) and archived on YouTube. Sponsored by OCLC.

Mar. 27–30: [Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association](#)

[National Conference](#), Wardman Park Marriott, Washington, D.C.

Apr. 4–5: [Virginia Hamilton Conference on Multicultural Literature for Youth](#)

Student Center, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio. "Dreams and Promises: Multicultural Literature and the Common Core."

Apr. 5: [Urban Librarian's Conference](#), Dr. S. Stevan Dweck Center for Contemporary Culture, Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library's Central Library. "Living in Interesting Times."

Apr. 26–27: [Center for International Scholarship in School Libraries](#)

Third International Research Symposium, Heldrich Hotel, New Brunswick, New Jersey. "Digital Youth, Inquiry, and the

center. The move triggered an outcry and led Robert Buggs to form Citizens to Save the Gary Public Library. The group gathered 5,000 signatures in opposition, filed a court injunction, and lobbied to get library board members recalled. Buggs himself became a library board member on February 18....

Northwest Indiana *Post-Tribune*, Feb. 18

[Plan to downsize Brooklyn Heights branch](#)

Residents are up in arms over a controversial plan to sell the city-owned Brooklyn Heights branch of the Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library to a private developer who will erect an apartment tower with a new, 15,000-square-foot library on the ground floor. But the existing building needs \$9 million in [repairs](#) to its air-conditioning system that the library can't afford. Half of the space in the old building is taken up by the BPL Business and Career Library, which will move to the Central Library in Prospect Heights....

New York Daily News, Feb. 17; *Brooklyn (N.Y.) Daily*, Feb. 4



[Camden County will finally get a public library](#)

As of July 1, Camden will no longer be North Carolina's only county without a library. After partnering with Pasquotank County for library services for more than 70 years, Camden plans to lease space in a business park, furnish it, and stock it with computers and about 20,000 books at a cost of \$450,000. With a population of about 10,000, Camden is one of the smallest and poorest counties in the state....

Norfolk (Va.) Virginian-Pilot, Feb. 16

[Seventh-grader wants a better school library](#)

A 7th-grader's poem may have sparked some change in a local school's neglected library. Greta Jarvi, a student at McKay Arts Academy in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, says she's had limited opportunities to access the books in the school library, many of which she says are sitting in boxes out of reach of the children or in disarray on library shelves. Frustrated, Greta wrote a letter to the local newspaper in poem form to describe the situation. Principal Dan Hanneken said that the school's librarian had been out on medical leave for most of the school year....

Fitchburg (Mass.) Sentinel and Enterprise, Feb. 18

[George Washington presidential library in the works](#)

The [Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington](#), a new library dedicated to the study of the first US president, will open September 27 on the grounds of Washington's Mount Vernon estate in Virginia. Mount Vernon has prided itself on never accepting government funding and emphasizes that this library is not affiliated with other presidential libraries operated by the National Archives. Nor is it intended for visits by the general public. It is designed as a scholarly destination and a conference center....

Boston Herald, Feb. 15



[Advocates save Friern Barnet library](#)

Squatters who have occupied Friern Barnet

Future of the School Library."

May 16-17:

[Conference for Entrepreneurial Librarians](#), University of North Carolina, Greensboro. "Social Entrepreneurship in Action."

June 10-13:

[International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums](#), Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort and Spa, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Sponsored by the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums.

July 9-11:

[Western Conference on Science Education](#), Western University, London, Ontario. "More ____ with Less ____."

@ [More...](#)

Contact Us

American Libraries Direct



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

library in north London for the past five months claimed victory February 5 and moved out after the Barnet council agreed to hand the library over to the local community. The council closed the library in April 2012, but squatters entered the building through an open window in September, restocking shelves with donated books and acting as librarians with the backing of the local community. Now an agreement has been reached for the library to be run as a community facility by residents....

The Guardian (UK), Feb. 5



[Go back to the Top](#)

Issues

[Why Terry Deary is wrong: The case for libraries](#)

Foz Meadows writes: "Terry Deary (right), author of the Horrible Histories series, has not only said that [libraries are defunct](#), but accused them of stealing the income of authors: 'cutting their throats and slashing their purses,' as he rather dramatically has it. The linchpin of his argument seems to hinge on his belief that, because his books were borrowed more than 500,000 times from public libraries in 2012, he's lost out on the £180,000 (\$278,400 US) he feels he ought to have had if he'd instead sold those extra copies. There's so much wrong with this statement that I hardly know where to begin." Historian Marc Morris takes Deary to task for [sloppy research](#), saying he should have spent more time in a library....

The Huffington Post, Feb. 15; *The Guardian* (UK), Feb. 13; Marc Morris, Feb. 14



[25 writers on the importance of libraries](#)

Alison Nastasi writes: "Terry Deary's cranky comments (previous entry) feel like a swift kick in the teeth, since libraries around the world are struggling against significant budget cuts each year, and authors have been tirelessly advocating for their importance. We gathered a few passionate statements from 20 writers that emphasize why libraries aren't 'sentimental' institutions. Read what Neil Gaiman, Judy Blume, Ray Bradbury (above), and other writers have to contribute to the conversation....

Flavorwire, Feb. 17



[John Green tackles copyright](#)

Kathy Ishizuka writes: "Copyright law is complex enough—throw in an instance of international remixing by young nerdfighters, and you have a real mess. But in the hands of author John Green, it's the basis for a pretty cool [video](#) (3:56). Green recounts his attempt to discern the provenance of a poster based on characters from his novel *The Fault in Our Stars*, revealing the complexities of copyright in the digital age along the way."...

School Library Journal: The Digital Shift, Feb. 17; YouTube, Jan. 29



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[Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act](#)

On February 14, the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act ([PDF file](#)) was introduced in both the US House of Representatives and the US Senate. This bicameral and bipartisan legislation would require federal agencies with annual extramural research budgets of \$100 million or more to provide the public with online access to research manuscripts stemming from funded research no later than six months after publication in a peer-reviewed journal. ACRL joined other organizations in a letter ([PDF file](#)) thanking the members of Congress who introduced the bills. Rick Anderson offers some [analysis](#)....

ACRL Insider, Feb. 15; SPARC, Feb. 14; The Scholarly Kitchen, Feb. 19

[French National Library privatizes public domain](#)

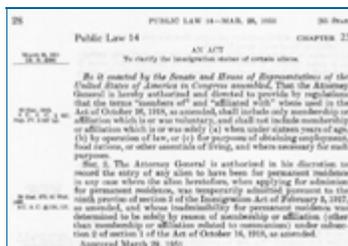
In January, the French Ministry of Culture announced a fresh public-private partnership between the Bibliothèque nationale de France and the privately held ProQuest, defining how the company will digitize 70,000 books published between 1470 and 1700. The agreement sparked [outrage](#) among free-culture defenders. In short, the BnF has agreed to sell access to digitized copies of books in the public domain. The library is supposed to grant access to these works, but the private agreement actually blocks access. The BnF at one point admitted that its contract with ProQuest had been [misplaced](#)....

Techdirt, Jan. 31, Feb. 19; ActuaLitté, Feb. 7

[GPO is closing the gap on public access to law](#)

Daniel Schuman writes: "The GPO's recent electronic publication of all legislation enacted by Congress [from 1951 to 2009](#) is noteworthy for several reasons. It makes available nearly 40 years of lawmaking that wasn't previously available online from any official source. And it has published the information in a way that provides a platform for third-party providers to cleverly make use of the information. While more work is still needed to make important legislative information available to the public, this online release is a useful step in the right direction."...

Sunlight Foundation Blog, Feb. 19



[New ed-tech bill in the hopper](#)

A new bill calls on Congress to fund \$500 million in grants to states and districts for educational technology, and supporters say it could replace the old Enhancing Education Through Technology program, which died in 2011. The Transforming Education Through Technology Act was introduced by Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.) and is backed by a coalition of national education organizations representing K-12 schools. The bill encourages the use of technology to redesign curriculum to meet Common Core standards, individualize instruction, and increase student engagement....

eSchool News, Feb. 15

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Tech Talk

[Ouya: A game-changing game system](#)

Christopher Harris writes: "Book publishing has the big six; console gaming has the big three. As the only major survivors from the more robust console

[American Libraries](#)

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ecosystem of the 1990s, Nintendo, Sony, and Microsoft have dominated the console system market for over a decade with big name consoles and bigger game franchises. But that might be changing, thanks to the upstart [Ouya console](#), set to debut in the next few months.”...

AL: E-Content, Feb. 17



[Cool 3D printer projects](#)

Mark Hachman writes: “Digital printing traverses the boundaries of the practical and the artistic, creating a physical *something* from specks of powdered material, painstakingly rendered layer upon layer during a process that can take hours. Each 3D-printed object begins with a digital Computer Aided Design (CAD) file, created with a 3D modeling program or scanned into a 3D modeling program with a 3D scanner. Software then slices the design into hundreds or thousands of horizontal layers. Here are some of the best digital objects that a 3D printer can create.”...

PC Magazine, Feb. 16



[Dalhousie library students build 3D model archive](#)

On behalf of the Dalhousie University Library in Halifax, Nova Scotia, LIS grad student Michael Groenendyk and his team are building a [3D model repository](#)—an open database filled with three-dimensional scans of interesting objects in the university’s possession. The files can be freely downloaded in full detail and viewed in most common 3D modeling applications. Currently the team is working on scanning about 30 objects—mostly shells and bones—from the marine biology collection of the university’s Thomas McCulloch Museum. Watch the [video](#) (1:22)....

UNews, Feb. 13; Vimeo, Feb. 13



[It’s okay to open more than nine browser tabs](#)

Whitson Gordon writes: “Recently, we had a guest post on why you should [never have more than nine](#) browser tabs open, and it was quite controversial, even among some of us on staff. So, here’s our counterpoint: It’s okay to have a ton of tabs open, but you need a few tricks to keep them all organized.”...

Lifehacker, Feb. 14, 19

[How to buy a keyboard](#)

Brian Westover writes: “With so much of your time spent dealing directly with the letters and keys, why would you ever settle for the generic keyboard that came bundled with your desktop PC? A good keyboard can spell the difference between frustration and efficiency, between gaming defeat or victory, and has a serious impact upon your health. For these reasons, and more, it pays to know what makes a keyboard a good fit.” Here are 10 of the [best keyboards](#) for gaming....

PC Magazine, Feb. 13



[How to buy a mouse](#)

Brian Westover writes: "In its most basic form, a computer mouse is a simple device, a sensor on the bottom with two buttons on top, and a scroll wheel. But while all mice are simple in concept, this basic pointing device has found several unique incarnations. Thus, it pays to know what distinguishes one from another when you go shopping for a new mouse." These are the [top 10 mice](#) reviewed by PC Labs....

PC Magazine, Feb. 13



[Batch renaming the easy way](#)

Meghan Frazer writes: "Everyone occasionally dives right into a problem without researching the best solution. For me, this once meant manually renaming hundreds of files and moving them into individual folders in preparation for upload to a digital repository. Then finally a colleague said to me, and rightly so, 'Are you crazy? There are scripts to do that for you.' In this post, I'll review a few easy methods for batch renaming files."...

ACRL TechConnect Blog, Feb. 18

[19 degrees of separation](#)

No one knows for sure how many individual pages are on the web, but right now it's estimated that there are more than 14 billion. Recently, though, Hungarian physicist Albert-László Barabási discovered something surprising. Like actors in Hollywood connected by Kevin Bacon, from every single one of these pages you can navigate to any other in 19 clicks or less. His findings were [published](#) February 18 in the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*....

Smithsonian, Feb. 18; *Philosophical Transactions*, Feb. 18



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E-Content

[Jessamyn gets a Kindle](#)

Jessamyn West writes: "I am aware that I am dreadfully behind the times, but the Kindle I wanted finally hit a price point that I felt was worth it and I got one: a Kindle Keyboard 3G Wi-Fi model. It's nice. I've been tinkering with it. Here are some initial impressions. I am mostly interested in using this when I travel for the free worldwide-ish [internet access](#) as well as being able to carry a lot of books with me on a long trip."...

librarian.net, Feb. 16; xkcd



[Impelsys debuts ebook ordering system](#)

E-content provider Impelsys has launched a new acquisitions system for libraries that enables library staff to order ebooks for their collections directly from participating publishers. The Impelsys eBook Ordering System was developed in partnership with Douglas County (Colo.) Libraries. The acquisition dashboard was beta-tested by DCL's professional staff, and system modifications were made prior to commercial launch in February....

Impelsys, Feb. 14



[UW-Stout explores digital textbook rentals](#)

Nate Hoffelder writes: "The University of Wisconsin–Stout is one of a couple dozen American universities that directly [rents print textbooks](#) to students. This past fall semester they started dabbling in renting [digital textbooks](#). The pilot program will be expanded this spring, and the early results from fall have already revealed some interesting info on cost and user adoption. Students pay \$170 per school year to rent textbooks at UW-Stout, far less than the national average of \$600."...
The Digital Reader, Feb. 19; UW-Stout News, Feb. 6



[Can libraries lend books without DRM?](#)

Eric Hellman writes: "Librarians are nothing if not practical, but the strong DRM that's been imposed on them by the incumbent ebook platforms is in conflict with many of the core beliefs of librarianship. DRM degrades accessibility, fair use, and privacy. Is there a way to use the strength of the library lending social construct to enable an ebook lending system that works without DRM?"...
Go to Hellman, Feb. 14



[UC Berkeley students aim to revolutionize ebooks](#)

University of California, Berkeley students in the School of Information are collaborating to enhance the efficiency of ebooks in the hopes of revolutionizing the accessibility of information among researchers and the general public. According to Master of Information Management and Systems student Jacob Hartnell, research on ebooks will improve an inefficient system that is "app-based" instead of "web-based."...
Daily Californian, Feb. 19

[Four companies that are changing e-reading in Africa](#)

The digital reading revolution is not going to look the same in developing countries as it has in the developing world—but that doesn't mean that ebooks don't have potential there. Efforts to get them into readers' hands, however, are complicated by low incomes, spotty or nonexistent internet access, and lack of credit cards. Here are four companies that are bringing new ways of reading to developing countries in Africa....
paidContent, Feb. 18



[Personal digital archiving: How well do you score?](#)

Tess Webre writes: "I love dumb magazines. Love 'em. Most of all, I adore the quizzes with titles such as 'Is your guy a zero or a hero?' or 'What is your hair personality?' So I thought, why not make a quiz on digital preservation complete with over-the-top puns, graphics, and dated pop-culture references? Why not indeed, I ask? Here it is."...
The Signal: Digital Preservation, Feb. 20



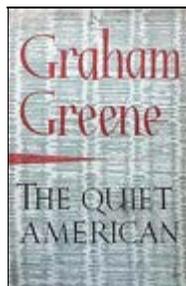
[Go back to the Top](#)

Books & Reading

Rousing Reads: Hot country

Bill Ott writes: "I'm a sucker for novels starring war correspondents, especially those set in tropical climes. You know what I'm talking about here—rumped, sweat-stained seersucker suits; constant consumption of gin and tonics (ostensibly to fight off malaria); a few days' growth of beard (before that look became hip); and, most important, a sense of constant innuendo hanging (like a ubiquitous cloud of cigarette smoke) over the denizens of the press club. Graham Greene's *The Quiet American* (1956) is really the godfather of the war correspondent novel."...

American Libraries column, Jan./Feb.



Goodreads brings readers together

Goodreads.com, a social media site for finding and sharing titles, has 15 million members, is exploding in popularity, and now rivals Amazon.com as a platform for promoting new books. The site allows passionate readers to share what they are reading, rate books they have already read, and list what they are considering next. They can do this publicly or among only a self-selected network of online friends. The site is also host to roughly 20,000 organically occurring online book clubs for every preference....

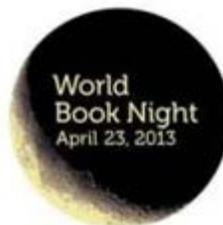
New York Times, Feb. 12



World Book Night readiness

Executive Director Carl Lennertz announced several major milestones in the preparations for this year's giveaway of a half million free books during the April 23 celebration of [World Book Night](http://WorldBookNight.org). Host bookstore and library sign-up is completed, and there will again be more than 2,000 WBN host locations this year. An additional 250 libraries signed up this year thanks to coordination by ALA....

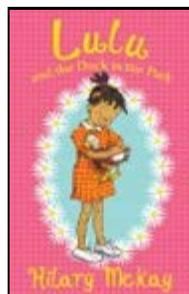
Bookselling This Week, Feb. 13



Duck on the cover: Which search is best?

Brian Herzog writes: "One common question at the reference desk is a patron asking for a specific book by describing the cover. In this case, the patron was actually a coworker of mine. She had taken her niece to a different library, and was trying to relocate a book her niece had picked out and loved, to see if the author had any others. But all she could remember was that it was a newish kids' book with a girl holding a duck on the cover. I first went to [Amazon's advanced search](http://Amazon.com) with this question."...

Swiss Army Librarian, Feb. 16



LC accepts first emoji novel

It's been more than 30 months since New York City microengineer Fred Benenson put the last smiley face on his epic new media novel *Emoji Dick*. But the hits keep coming for his Kickstarter-funded remake of *Moby-Dick*, which refashions Herman Melville's 212,000+ words into emojis, those Japanese picture characters that kids send through text. The Library of Congress contacted him February 19, saying it wanted to acquire *Emoji Dick* as the first emoji book in its collection....

Mashable, Feb. 19



[Sex on the rise in New Adult Fiction](#)

Irresistible by debut novelist Liz Banks is, according to its British publisher, an attempt to capture the *Fifty Shades of Grey* success within the teen market, and in the United States raunchy teen literature has been flying up bestseller lists. But is there any more to so-called “steamies” than a marketing ploy, and how many teens are really getting their hands on them? Steamies are better known in the trade as New Adult Fiction. The genre was coined in 2009 by St. Martin’s Press to reflect a slightly older group of readers who were reading YA fiction....

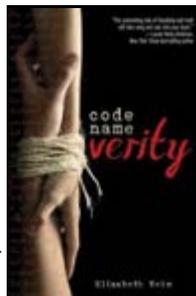
The Telegraph (UK), Feb. 14



[Hot historical fiction set in Nazi-Occupied France](#)

Anne Rouyer writes: “Readers who think historical fiction is blah or boring should *stop right there!* This list of books, set in France in 1940–1944, will provide you with fast-paced adventure, high-stakes thrills, nail-biting tension, whirlwind romance, and daredevil girls who are cool under pressure. A 2013 Printz Honor Book, *Code Name Verity* (2012) is hands-down one of the most thrilling historical fiction novels I’ve read in years.”...

New York Public Library Blogs, Feb. 20



[Homeless and abused teens in YA fiction](#)

Molly Wetta writes: “Tragically, too many of today’s youth experience abuse and neglect, and many are homeless. There are many factors that contribute to homelessness. Differences and disagreements with parents and guardians can lead youth to leave home, as can abuse and neglect. To commemorate February as Mend a Broken Heart Month, we’re promoting ways in which you can help these teens and spotlighting young adult fiction that deals with the difficulties they face.”...

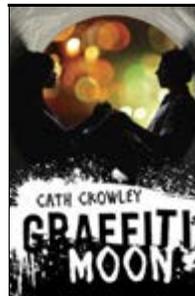
YALSA The Hub, Feb. 20



[A teen’s perspective: Three reasons to read](#)

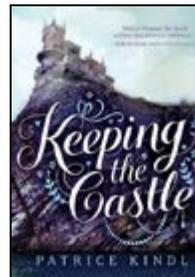
Lauren, an 8th-grader, writes: “It’s not really a big deal when someone says to me, ‘I don’t really read books that often.’ But when I hear a classmate say, ‘Books’ (pause for obnoxious laughter) ‘who reads those!’ I feel like grumbling. How can someone not be in awe of how these incredible people called writers have managed to harness meaningless words and turn them into your best friends? Here are three reasons why reading is cool.”...

YALSA The Hub, Feb. 19



[What to read while waiting for Downton Abbey](#)

Carli Spina writes: “If you are like me, you started wondering how you were going to manage to wait for the start of Season 4 of *Downton Abbey* about five minutes after watching the final episode of Season 3. Sharon Rawlins has written about *Downton* readalikes before in a [great post](#) that I highly recommend. But if you’ve already read all of those books and you are still



looking for more, try these options to fill the void now that *Downton Abbey* is done for another season.”...

YALSA The Hub, Feb. 18; Feb. 21, 2012

[The book mind of Tom Gauld](#)

Michael Lieberman writes: “Here is a healthy sampling of some of the book-friendly cartoons by Tom Gauld. His latest book, *You're All Just Jealous of My Jetpack*, will be published later this year by Drawn & Quarterly. The book comprises a selection of Gauld's weekly cartoons for *The Guardian*. [His Tumblr](#), whose title mirrors the book title, is a treat to scroll.”...

Book Patrol, Feb. 18



[Go back to the Top](#)

Tips & Ideas

[Camouflaged anti-Nazi literature at NYPL](#)

Jack Sherefkin writes: “In the early 1980s, Rare Book Librarian John Rathe pulled down a dusty box, wrapped in twine, from a far corner of the New York Public Library's rare book room. Attached to the box was a label that said: ‘Do not open until war is over.’ Inside he found disguised anti-Nazi tracts hidden in packets of tea and shampoo and concealed in miniature books both popular and scholarly. From 1933 to 1945, without freedom of speech, press, and assembly, opponents of the Nazis began to use camouflaged writings called *Tarnschriften* to communicate with their supporters.”...

New York Public Library Blogs, Feb. 14



[Dewey vs. genre shelving](#)

Jen Habley writes: “At the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Seattle, I moderated the AASL-sponsored Hot Topics discussion on genre-fying the school library collection. Six panelists presented a variety of viewpoints; two of them, Devona Pendergrass and Christopher Harris, offer their thoughts here.”...

AASL Blog, Feb. 15

[Project ENABLE summer workshops](#)

Project ENABLE, a collaborative project of Syracuse University's School of Information Studies, Center for Digital Literacy, and Burton Blatt Institute, provides continuing education programs to train school librarians in creating effective library and information services to students with disabilities. Its launch was made possible by Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian [grants](#) from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The project is recruiting three-person teams (librarian, general educator, special educator), as well as 14 school library faculty in higher education, to attend workshops on the Syracuse University campus in either June or August 2013. [Apply](#) on the project website....

Project ENABLE; UpNext: The IMLS Blog, Feb. 15



[Jim Gill on “Music Play with](#)

[Purpose](#)

Sharon McClintock writes: "I recently attended the California Kindergarten Association's PK1 Conference, where Jim Gill (right) presented a workshop on 'Music Play with Purpose.' Gill is an early childhood specialist with a graduate degree in child development and an emphasis on play. He has created six albums and written two delightful picture books. Here are my key takeaways from his workshop."...



ALSC Blog, Feb. 18

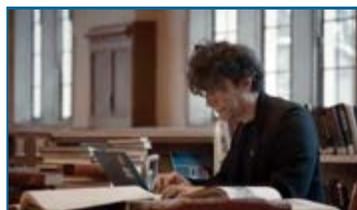
[Using photo scavenger hunts in the classroom](#)

Aditi Rao writes: "As a technology resource specialist, it is my job to provide the faculty at my school with new, relevant options for technology integration in their own classrooms. Recently, what I have been most excited about sharing with my colleagues is a relatively simple and often overlooked idea: using student smartphones for photo scavenger hunts. Check out these examples of task lists for photo scavenger hunts, broken down by subject area."...

Free Technology for Teachers, Feb. 18

[Help illustrate 12 new Neil Gaiman mini-stories](#)

Tasha Robinson writes: "A few weeks ago, author Neil Gaiman took to Twitter to call for story prompts. He asked his followers 12 questions over the course of a day, each tied to a month, such as 'Why is January so dangerous?' Then he picked one reader response per month and wrote a short story around it. All 12 stories have now been posted online ([PDF file](#)). His project is called 'A Calendar of Tales,' and the end plan is a digital and limited-edition print collection matching his stories to illustrations contributed by readers. You can now [submit your own artwork](#) for the collection." Watch the [video](#) (1:53)....



A.V. Club: Great Job, Internet! Feb. 19; YouTube, Feb. 19

[Maria Tristan wins "I Love My School Librarian" contest](#)

The winner of Hertz Furniture's "I Love My School Librarian" contest is Maria G. Tristan of Dr. Palmira Mendiola Elementary School in Mission, Texas, who has received an OFM ergonomic Airflow executive office chair. The competition, which ran for six weeks, invited students, teachers, principals, and parents to nominate a special school librarian and write a short paragraph about him or her....

Hertz Furniture, Feb.19

[Online games for geezers](#)

When Thomas Abel gets home from a stressful day at work, the 43-year-old airplane mechanic likes to let off steam by playing videogames. But he doesn't like to play against kids. He says they spout mom jokes and infantile nonsense during online matches. So Abel retreats to a safe haven where he knows he can find suitably mature joystick companions: a website he helped found called [Geezer Gamers](#), where players meet on forums with names like 'Get off my lawn.'"...



Wall Street Journal, Feb. 18

[The Billy Pilgrim Traveling Library](#)

Cassandra Neace writes: "February 15 was the grand opening of the Billy Pilgrim Traveling Library, a bookmobile based in Houston, Texas. It will be joining the fleet of other trucks (food trucks and mobile boutiques) that navigate the city streets."



The brainchild of two former University of Texas School of Information students, Chris Grawl and Kelly Allen, the bookmobile serves as a traveling library that works on a rent-barter-donate system and can be rented out to organizations for meetings and activities....

Book Riot, Feb. 15

[Bibliolancha, Chile's Library boat](#)

Once a month, Teolinda Higuera, director of the library in Quemchi, Chile, visits the Chiloé Archipelago's most remote villages in a Bibliolancha, or library boat, to lend books, as this [video](#) (3:45) describes. Among the community's favorites are novels, gardening handbooks, and manuals on traditional and natural medicine. The service makes the townspeople feel less remote from urban centers....



YouTube, Jan. 18

[Getting started with social media for your library](#)

Andy Burkhardt writes: "I occasionally get emails from people who have seen my more popular posts about library social media. People who write often want to know how to get started using social media from a library account. I wanted to collect some of the advice that I've shared with them into a post for others who may have similar questions."...

Information Tyrannosaur, Feb. 20

[Jeff Sturges on libraries and makerspaces](#)

Caitlin A. Bagley writes: "On February 14, I talked with Jeff Sturges (right), founder and conductor of the [Mt. Elliott Makerspace](#) in Detroit, about makerspaces and libraries. Jeff and the Mt. Elliott Makerspace collaborate with the Detroit Public Library on their HYPE teen makerspace, featured in ALA TechSource's December [makerspace webinar](#). Here are highlights from the interview."...



ALA TechSource Blog, Feb. 15

[Celebrate Science and Women's History Month](#)

NASA science education partners are celebrating National Women's History Month in March with the expanded "[NASA Science4Girls and Their Families](#)" initiative. The theme for this year's month is "[Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.](#)" Libraries are encouraged to partner with NASA science education programs throughout the spring to empower women's success....



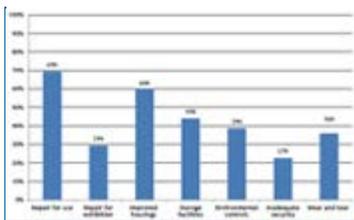
Programming Librarian, Feb. 19

[Report calls for change in](#)

[special collections in UK, Ireland](#)

OCLC Research and Research Libraries UK collaborated to survey the special collections practices of RLUK members and OCLC Research Library Partnership institutions in the UK and Ireland. The findings from this survey as well as the resulting recommendations have just been published in [Survey of Special Collections and Archives in the United Kingdom and Ireland](#). The report provides inspiration to plan for much needed and deserved transformation of special collections. OCLC Research prepared a similar report, *Taking Our Pulse* ([PDF file](#)), on North American special collections in 2010....

OCLC Research, Feb. 13



[NOAA's FOIA office and library collaborate](#)

Wendy Schumacher writes: "I started my job as the FOIA Officer at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration about a year after the April 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. My new colleagues had collected, organized, reviewed, redacted, and released tens of thousands of pages of records in response to a large number of FOIA requests prior to my arrival. It didn't seem feasible to host these large files on our server, so we needed to figure out another way to give people access. Now the records are available through the NOAA library's [online catalog](#)."...

The FOIA Ombudsman, Feb. 12

[Volunteer to read public domain books](#)

The nonprofit group LibriVox is asking for volunteers to read and record chapters of books in the public domain (usually published before 1923) so that they can be made available for free on the internet. All their recordings are also placed in the public domain. Books can be recorded in any language. All LibriVox activity (book selection, project management, discussion) happens on the [Forum](#), and you'll need to [register](#) there to join....

LibriVox



[Google Translate app can be a conversation starter](#)

Seth Kugel writes: "Heading up the Yangtze River on \$50 a day was intimidating. In China, English speakers are rare at \$20-a-night hotels, \$2-a-plate restaurants, and ferry ports. I've been watching Google's translation tools improve over the years, but this trip would be a true test: Could it really blunt the trauma of arriving in a country where the average American is instantly rendered illiterate, deaf, and mute?"...

New York Times: Frugal Traveler, Feb. 13



[Managing your career in a negative environment](#)

Mandy R. Simon writes: "Many colleagues I've spoken to lately have the same problem in their work environments: rampant negativity from coworkers. Workplace negativity is insidious and can feel downright inescapable. Negativity can seep into an organization unannounced and threaten to discourage even the most motivated and enthusiastic leaders. How does one manage a career in such a

climate? Here are some tips I've found useful for staying buoyant in a pessimistic sea."...

Library Worklife, Feb.

[Arizona State to set up business incubators in public libraries](#)

Arizona State University and the Scottsdale (Ariz.) Public Library have announced a new initiative for helping inventors, problem-solvers, entrepreneurs, and small businesses. The new Alexandria Network will support the innovation economy within designated public libraries, creating a network of locations in the greater Phoenix area and eventually across Arizona. The locations will combine elements of the now popular coworking spaces, along with expert library fact-finding services and ASU startup resources....

Arizona State University, Feb. 5



[Sun City Friends court businesses](#)

The Friends of the Sun City Library in Menifee, California, launched a new program that allows businesses to advertise on the window façade of the bookstore it maintains in exchange for an annual membership donation of \$50. The membership also allows businesses to have their logos printed on the Friends newsletter and displayed during its four yearly book sales, as well as on its Facebook page....

U-T San Diego, Feb. 19



[Overcoming instruction stage fright](#)

Julia Feerrar writes: "I realized that if I was going into academic librarianship I should prepare for instruction to be a part of my job. While the idea of actually standing up in front of a classroom was pretty frightening to me, I saw the user education side of libraries as incredibly important and exciting. Building confidence in the classroom will take a while, but after only two hours of experience last week, I have much better tools for getting there. Here are the steps and approaches I'll be taking."...

Hack Library School, Feb. 18

[The secret titles of librarians](#)

Timothy A. Lepczyk writes: "In my post last week about skills and titles for library workers, I asked librarians what their secret or unofficial title is at work. The inspiration for looking at secret titles came from Rands in Repose. Of the librarians that responded to my survey, more than one-third felt their title did not match well with what they actually did at work. Here are some of my favorite unofficial titles that people wrote."...

Eduhacker, Feb. 18

[Library Wars to be released in Japan in April](#)

A [trailer](#) (1:32) has been released for the live-action Japanese movie titled *Library Wars*, scheduled to open on April 27 in Japan. It is adapted from the Toshokan Sensō anime series. The premise is that in 2019 the Japanese government is cracking down on free expression in books and media. All major libraries are fully equipped with military task forces, who take it upon themselves to protect intellectual freedom and do battle



with agents of the Media Betterment Committee....
Digital Journal, Feb. 13; YouTube, Feb. 14

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The e-newsletter of the American Library Association | February 27, 2013

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american libraries BUYERS GUIDE

American Libraries Online

[ALA President responds to publisher suing librarian](#)

ALA President Maureen Sullivan writes: "I share the deep concern expressed by [ACRL](#), the [Association of Research Libraries](#), and the [Canadian Library Association](#), among many others, in deploring the actions of the Edwin Mellen Press in filing a libel suit against Dale Askey, currently a librarian at McMaster University, for expressions of his professional opinion on his personal blog." The press is suing Askey for \$4.5 million in damages, alleging that he committed libel while criticizing Edwin Mellen Press....

AL: Inside Scoop, Feb. 22



[In Central America, community-minded libraries become community funded](#)

Carol A. Erickson writes: "The homicide rate in Honduras is among the highest in the world. Decades of corruption have gnawed through government and police forces from top to bottom. And as in any culture, Honduran children are especially susceptible to the risky lifestyles that surround them. 'Honduran libraries are working to get kids off the street,' said Dagoberto Licona Cortés, the mayor of San Vicente Centenario. 'Young children and teens can change their way of thinking when they have access to leadership programs at libraries.'"...

American Libraries feature



[In Practice: E-Discovery with QR codes](#)

Meredith Farkas writes: "The fully electronic collection is pretty far from being a reality at most libraries. Given the current limitations of ebooks and the large print collections that libraries continue to manage and grow, most libraries exist in a hybrid space where much is digital, but also, much is still in print. For patrons, this can be confusing, as most libraries still don't have a single system for searching all of it. QR codes are one possible solution."...



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Enjoy a free chance to learn, revisit, and discover when you [watch and listen to recordings](#) of some popular 2013 ALA Midwinter Meeting sessions, including Caroline Kennedy, Steven Johnson, the ERT/*Booklist* Author Forum, Book Buzz Theater, Lisa Genova, and the Star Wars-themed Wrap Up/Rev Up. [See which sessions were recorded.](#)

American Libraries column, Jan./Feb.

[Outside/In: Develop your emotional intelligence](#)

David Lee King and Michael Porter write: "One of the most powerful and most common questions we receive deals with psychology. The topic came up most recently when we were preparing a presentation on how library staff can communicate more effectively with information technology staff members. As our session date drew closer, we began to think about interactions with IT personnel in terms of emotions."...

American Libraries column, Jan./Feb.

[Go back to the Top](#)

ALA News

[Johns and Neal elected to ALA Executive Board](#)

Sara Kelly Johns and James G. Neal were elected to the ALA Executive Board by ALA Council during the 2013 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Seattle.

Johns is a school librarian at the Lake Placid (N.Y.) Middle/High School



Library and an online school library and information technologies instructor at Mansfield University of Pennsylvania. Neal is vice president for information services and university librarian at Columbia University in New York City. Their three-year terms begin at the end of the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago and conclude after the 2016 ALA Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida....

Office of ALA Governance, Feb. 26

[Top 10 reasons to start planning now for Annual Conference](#)

Heather Booth writes: "There's a thick blanket of snow outside my window, my library's spring newsletter hasn't yet arrived in our patrons' mailboxes, and some bubbling hot chili is on this week's menu, but I'm dreaming about sunny Chicago in late June. Now is the perfect time to start making plans for ALA Annual in Chicago. Here's why."...

YALSA Blog, Feb. 27



[COA announces accreditation actions](#)

ALA's Committee on Accreditation has announced the actions that were taken at the 2013 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Seattle. Continued accreditation status was granted to programs at the University of Arizona, Dalhousie University, and Florida State University. Conditional accreditation status was granted to the program at Long Island University....

Office for Accreditation, Feb. 21

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[31 more libraries to host "America's Music"](#)

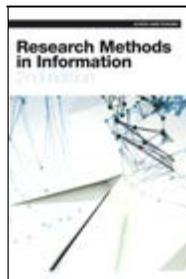
The National Endowment for the Humanities has provided an additional grant of \$1,500 apiece to [31 more libraries](#) to offer the film discussion series "America's Music: A Film History of Our Popular Music from Blues to Bluegrass to Broadway." The six-week series of documentary screenings and scholar-led discussions about 20th-century American popular music is funded by the NEH and administered by the Public Programs Office through a grant to the Tribeca Film Institute....

Public Programming Office, Feb. 25

[Pickard's research methods handbook updated](#)

The long-awaited second edition of Alison Jane Pickard's [Research Methods in Information](#), published by ALA Neal-Schuman, includes brand-new coverage of online research methods and techniques, mixed methodology, and qualitative analysis. The first primer to focus entirely on the needs of the information and communications community, it guides would-be researchers through the variety of possibilities open to them under the heading "research" and provides students with the confidence to embark on their dissertations....

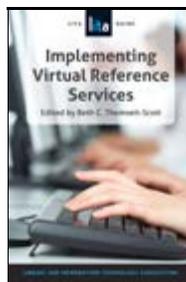
ALA Neal-Schuman, Feb. 21



[Learn how to implement virtual reference services](#)

Social web technologies present an often confusing array of options for answering library users' reference questions. In [Implementing Virtual Reference Services: A LITA Guide](#), published by ALA TechSource, editor Beth C. Thomsett-Scott applies 20 years' experience as a reference librarian to sort through the clutter of tools and technologies in the industry. Contributors from across the field lay out how libraries are using vendor services such as LibraryH3lp, LibAnswers, and Text a Librarian, as well as free tools like Twitter and Google Voice, for their reference needs....

ALA TechSource, Feb. 25



[Free webinars to Engage! YA audiences](#)

ALA's Public Programming Office is offering a free, three-part series of webinars for school and young adult librarians that introduces the Engage! programming model. "Engage! Teens, Art, and Civic Participation" introduces young audiences to themes of civic participation using the visual arts, and is funded by the Chicago Community Trust's Searle Funds and the Terra Foundation for American Art. Register for "[An Introduction](#)," "[Creating Compelling Discussion through Art](#)," and "[Creating Local, Issues-Based Programming](#)."...

Public Programming Office, Feb. 26

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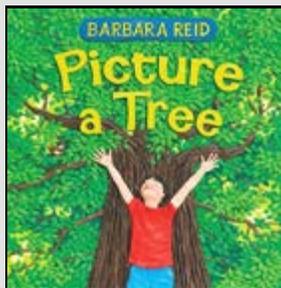
In 1901, a Commonwealth Parliamentary Library was established to serve the newly formed Federal Parliament. The National Library Act separated the library from Parliament in 1960 and a new building opened in 1968, which was designed by architect Walter Bunning, who was inspired by the

Booklist ONLINE

Featured review: Fiction for youth

Reid, Barbara. *Picture a Tree*. Mar. 2013. 32p. Albert Whitman, hardcover (978-0-8075-6526-1).

This open-ended picture book begins, "There is more than one way to picture a tree," and then gives one example after another, written in simple, evocative phrases and illustrated in Reid's distinctive, surprisingly adaptable style. Trees can be "sun umbrellas" (leafy trees creating shade on a sweltering city sidewalk), a "drawing on the sky" (bare branches curving against a bleak, wintry background), or a "wild good-bye party" (scarlet, orange, and yellow leaves cascading to the ground). While trees are a constant presence in the illustrations, so are the many children who climb them, play around them, and observe them....



Top 10 books on sustainability for youth: 2013



Ann Kelley writes: "Whether through a fairy tale, a biography, or an sf novel, this year's list of the best sustainability-themed youth books reviewed in *Booklist* over the past year all encourage meaningful thought about life on our planet."...

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

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CHICAGO

Division News

Lee Rainie of Pew to keynote RUSA's President's Program

Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project, will speak on "The Myth and the Reality of the Evolving Patron" at the RUSA President's Program on June 29 during the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. Coauthor of *Networked: The New Social Operating System* and lead researcher on new studies of adults and teens, Rainie will share the latest data about how Americans are interacting with information technology and ebooks. [Register](#) for the ALA Annual Conference....

RUSA, Feb. 26



Parthenon after a visit to Greece. The library features stained glass windows in the foyer by artist Leonard French that depict the planets and tapestries by French artist Mathieu Mategot that portray Australian life. Now the nation's largest library, its many collections include a Braille archive, Australian dance and performing arts resources, Asian materials, and oral histories of prominent Australians. In 2010, the library began setting up a Treasures Gallery to put on permanent exhibit the handwritten *Endeavour* journal of Captain James Cook, the original words and music for "Waltzing Matilda," the watercolor art and maps of the First Fleet of ships that landed in Sydney Cove in 1788, a page from a Gutenberg Bible, and Jørn Utzon's preliminary model for the shells of the Sydney Opera House.



New Norcia Monastery Library.

Western Australia. Benedictine monks founded this community in 1846 and established a library soon afterwards. It owns more than 60,000 books, as well as

[Register for the 2013 ACRL Virtual Conference](#)

The ACRL 2013 Virtual Conference, offered April 11–12 during the ACRL 2013 National Conference in Indianapolis, will provide academic and research librarians an affordable opportunity to participate online. The virtual conference features 12 live webcasts, as well as asynchronous activities, and the Virtual Conference archive will be available for one year and will include more than 130 slidecasts from every contributed paper, Cyber Zed Shed presentation, invited paper, and panel session at the face-to-face conference. [Register online](#)....

ACRL, Feb. 25

[AASL unveils preconference workshops for Hartford conference](#)

AASL is offering six half-day preconference workshops on November 13–14 that will precede its 16th National Conference, to be held November 14–17 in Hartford, Connecticut. Topics include instructional partnerships, libraries in the cloud, and mobile learning. [Details](#) are available online....

AASL, Feb. 25



[Literary landmark: Langston Hughes Library](#)

Queens (N.Y.) Library's Langston Hughes Community Library was designated a Literary Landmark on February 23 in honor of the renowned author after which it was named in 1969 when it opened for public service. Hughes wrote more than 860 poems and was heralded for his short stories, plays, essays, anthologies, and as a journalist from the 1920s until his death in 1967....

United for Libraries, Feb. 26



[New group forms for future school librarians](#)

The AASL board has approved the creation of the Students Special Interest Group to give those working toward a degree in school librarianship an opportunity to network with colleagues in person and virtually. [Read more](#) about the group on ALA Connect....

AASL, Feb. 25

[Two new School Library Research articles](#)

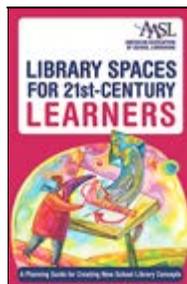
Two new research articles—one covering the topic of LGBTQ-themed literature for teens and the other on providing school library services to students with special needs—are now available online as part of Volume 16 of AASL's peer-reviewed online journal, [School Library Research](#)....

AASL, Feb. 26



[Explore new concepts for school library spaces](#)

Margaret (Peg) Sullivan's [Library Spaces for 21st-Century Learners: A Planning Guide for Creating New School Library Concepts](#) walks school librarians and administrators through the process of gathering information from students and other stakeholders involved in planning a resource-rich learning space. To celebrate the publication's launch, AASL invites school library professionals to contribute to an [album](#) of school library



documents, manuscripts, maps, photos, films, videotapes, and oral history tapes that have far outgrown the original library rooms, which are now only open to the monks and their invited guests.

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. Some will be featured 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](#).



Career Leads from JobLIST

[Library Director](#), Red Wing Public Library, Red Wing, Minnesota. The City of Red Wing is accepting applications from qualified professionals to fill the position of Library Director. We seek applicants who are

concepts and share the learning-space solutions created in your libraries....

AASL, Feb. 26

[YALSA Best of the Best website](#)

Librarians, educators, parents, teens, and other YA literature enthusiasts who are looking for the best teen books and media of 2012 can find them online at YALSA's new [Best of the Best website](#). In addition to lists of YALSA's awards and top 10 lists, the Best of the Best homepage includes promotional tools featuring the award-winning books named in 2013....

YALSA, Feb. 26

[Go back to the Top](#)

Awards & Grants

[Service to Young Adults Award](#)

Gretchen Kolderup has been named the 2013 recipient of the YALSA/ABC-CLIO/Greenwood Service to Young Adults Achievement Award. Kolderup, who is also the current blog manager of the YALSA The Hub blog, plans to donate half of the \$2,000 award to Camp Interactive, a nonprofit that connects urban teens with nature and technology, and will use the other half to attend and present at local and national conferences....

YALSA, Feb. 26



[Hutton receives Routledge Distance Learning Librarianship Award](#)

Jane M. Hutton, electronic resources/reference librarian and assistant professor at West Chester (Pa.) University, has been named the 2013 recipient of the Routledge Distance Learning Librarianship Conference Sponsorship Award of \$1,200 from ACRL's Distance Learning Section. Sponsored by the Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group, the award recognizes an ACRL member working in the field of, or contributing to, the success of distance learning librarianship or related library service in higher education....

ACRL, Feb. 25



[Walker named ACRL/EBSS Distinguished Librarian](#)

Judith A. Walker, education/psychology librarian and professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, is the recipient of the 2013 Distinguished Education and Behavioral Sciences Librarian Award of \$2,500, given by ACRL's Education and Behavioral Sciences Section. Sponsored by John Wiley & Sons, the award honors accomplishments and service to education and behavioral sciences librarianship....

ACRL, Feb. 25



[Beverley Geer receives Ulrich's Award](#)

Beverley Geer, collection development manager at YBP Library Services, is the 2013 recipient of the Ulrich's Serials Librarianship Award of \$1,500 from the Continuing Resources Section of ALCTS. Sponsored by ProQuest through its Serials Solutions business unit,

optimistic about the future of public library service and are skilled in nurturing an environment of exceptional customer service. Candidates must have excellent communication skills and the ability to work cooperatively with staff, board, and city administration....



@ [More jobs...](#)

Digital Library of the Week



The Boston Athenæum's collection of over 6,000 pieces of [Confederate national and state currency](#) provides a comprehensive look at historic pieces of Confederate currency and reveals interesting details about their design, production, and distribution. The collection contains examples of each type of currency from both the Confederacy and each state within the Confederacy. This cataloging, conservation, and digitization project was made possible through a generous gift from Caleb Loring Jr., a trustee emeritus of the



the award recognizes Geer's work as a trainer, her 1996–1997 presidency of the North American Serials Interest Group, as well as her numerous scholarly contributions, which include coediting the "Serials Report" column of *The Serials Librarian* with Bea Caraway from 1994 to 2000....

ALCTS, Feb. 25

[Murray, Tillett win Outstanding Publication Award from ALCTS](#)

Ronald Murray and Barbara Tillett are the 2013 recipients of the ALCTS Outstanding Publication Award of \$250 each for their article, "Cataloging Theory in Search of Graph Theory and other Ivory Towers," which appeared in the December 2011 *Information Technology and Libraries*. The award honors the author(s) of the year's outstanding monograph, article, or original paper in the field of technical services....



ALCTS, Feb. 25

[Schreur article wins Best of LRTS Award](#)

Philip Evan Schreur, head of the metadata department at Stanford University, has received the 2013 Edward Swanson Memorial Best of LRTS Award for "The Academy Unbound: Linked Data as Revolution," published in the October 2012 *Library Resources & Technical Services*. The Edward Swanson Memorial Best of LRTS Award is given to the author of the best paper published each year in LRTS, the official journal of ALCTS....

ALCTS, Feb. 25

[YALSA Award for Best Literature Program for Teens](#)

Kristen Pelfrey, a teacher at Foothill Technology High School in Ventura, California, is the recipient of the 2013 Margaret A. Edwards Award for Best Literature Program for Teens from YALSA. Pelfrey was honored for created a program, "The Best Fiction (about) Young Adults Revolution," that allowed her students to unplug from their digital lives and read a book from YALSA's "Best Fiction for Young Adults" list. Sponsored by the Margaret A. Edwards Trust, the award provides \$500 to the recipient and \$500 to the recipient's library....

YALSA, Feb. 26



[Four win YALSA Writing Award](#)

Four members of YALSA have been named the winners of the YALSA Writing Award, winning prizes in four categories. The recipients are Heather Gruenthal (best article in the previous volume of *Young Adult Library Services*), Maria Kramer (best post on YALSA The Hub between December 1, 2011, and November 30, 2012), Shannon Crawford Barniskis (best article in the previous volume of *Journal of Research on Libraries and Young Adults*), and Gretchen Kolderup (best post on the YALSA blog between December 1, 2011, and November 30, 2012)....

Athenæum.

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

Noted and Quoted

"There are, of course, worse places to wait for someone than in a library."

—Valerie Wolzien, *All Hallows Evil* (Fawcett, 1992), p. 84.

@ [More quotes...](#)

ENJOY OUR LATEST CONTENT

[Zack Stentz: Libraries, 'as important as roads or police or firefighters'](#)



[Picture Windows: The Art Work of Hank Willis Thomas](#)

[North Korea and the Famine that Killed Hundreds of Thousands of Its Citizens](#)

[Hats Off to Dr. Seuss](#)

[Black History Month: Radical Black Abolitionists and the Underground Railroad](#)

YALSA, Feb. 26

[2013 Louise Seaman Bechtel Fellowships awarded](#)

Alison Anson, children's services librarian at the Woodside (Calif.) Public Library, and Susan Wackerbarth, cataloging librarian at the Northland Public Library in Pittsburgh, have each received a Louise Seaman Bechtel Fellowship. The \$4,000 stipend is designed to allow recipients to spend four weeks or more reading and studying at the Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature at the George A. Smathers Library of the University of Florida at Gainesville....

ALSC, Feb. 25

[Nominate the 2015 Arbuthnot Lecturer](#)

ALSC invites members to suggest names for the [Arbuthnot Lectureship](#) established in 1968 and given annually to honor May Hill Arbuthnot. The award is given to an individual of distinction who shall prepare and present a paper which shall be a significant contribution to the field of children's literature. [Email](#) suggestions by April 15....

ALSC Blog, Feb. 25

[Apply for Jesse H. Shera Awards](#)

ALA's Library Research Round Table invites submissions by March 29 for two awards named for Jesse H. Shera. The [Jesse H. Shera Award for Distinguished Published Research](#) honors the author(s) of a research article published in English during the calendar year and nominated by any member of LRRT or by editors of an LIS research journal. The [Jesse H. Shera Award for the Support of Dissertation Research](#) recognizes dissertation research of exemplary design and methods relating in at least a general way to library studies....

Library Research Round Table, Feb. 25

[Three libraries win YALSA's Great Books Giveaway](#)

YALSA has named Allen Parish Libraries in Oberlin, Louisiana, the winner of its annual Great Books Giveaway. The library will receive more than \$20,000 in books, audiobooks, and other materials that publishers and producers sent to YALSA in 2012. The two runners-up are the Foundation Schools in Largo and Gaithersburg, Maryland, and John B. Hood Junior High School in Odessa, Texas....

YALSA, Feb. 26

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

Twelve libraries have been chosen to receive \$5,000 each to offer their patrons a Family Book Club in celebration of April 30 as El día de los niños / El día de los libros (Children's Day / Book Day). These clubs will utilize multicultural, multilingual, or second-language books to provide an opportunity for the community to come together. The minigrants are part of ALSC's "Everyone Reads @ your library" grant, generously funded by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation....

ALSC, Feb. 21

[Stanford Libraries reward international innovation](#)

The first winners of the Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries are the Bibliothèque nationale de France (National Library of France) and the Miguel de Cervantes Digital Library in Spain. Stanford's new annual award celebrates groundbreaking programs, projects, and services for research libraries anywhere in the world. Commendations of merit went to Australia's Griffith University and the New York Public Library....

[Beatriz Adriana Guevara: Beyond the Walls of the Library](#)

[Alan Lomax Collection Highlights Folk Music of the 20th Century](#)



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Calendar

Mar. 27–30:

[Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association](#)

National Conference, Wardman Park Marriott, Washington, D.C.

Apr. 4–5:

[Virginia Hamilton Conference on Multicultural Literature for Youth](#)

Student Center, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio. "Dreams and Promises: Multicultural Literature and the Common Core."

Apr. 5:

[Urban Librarians Conference](#)

Dr. S. Stevan Dweck Center for Contemporary Culture, Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library's Central Library. "Living in Interesting Times."

Apr. 10–12:

[Third International Conference of Asian Special Libraries](#)

Philippine International Convention Center,



Stanford News, Feb. 26

[British librarian honored by Queen Elizabeth II](#)

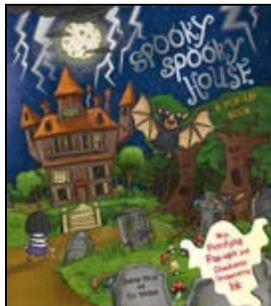
Zvi Rabin, founder more than 40 years ago of the Chabad-Lubavitch lending library in Stamford Hill, England, became a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire by the Queen of England in a February 20 ceremony that also honored the library of 18,000 books in English, Hebrew, and Yiddish....

Chabad-Lubavitch News, Feb. 21

[2013 Red House Awards](#)

The winners of the 2013 Red House Children's Book Awards were announced at an awards ceremony in London on February 23. The overall winner, in addition to being the winner in the younger children category, was *Spooky Spooky House* (Corgi) by Andrew Weale and Lee Wildish. *Gangsta Granny* (HarperCollins) by David Walliams was the younger readers category winner, while Sophie McKenzie's *The Medusa Project: Hit Squad* (Simon & Schuster) won in the older readers category. The award is the only national UK children's book award voted for entirely by children....

Federation of Children's Book Groups, Feb. 23



[Go back to the Top](#)



Get the inside scoop on pressing library topics.

Libraries in the News

[West Virginia high court nixes decades-old library funding formula](#)

The West Virginia Supreme Court found unconstitutional February 22 a law mandating that nine school systems in West Virginia must turn over a portion of their budget to help fund public libraries in their counties. The decision ends a decade-long legal battle between the Kanawha County school board and the county library, which [is now scrambling](#) to come up with \$3 million—nearly 40% of its annual operating budget....

Charleston (W.Va.) Daily Mail, Feb. 22, 26

[Retired Alabama librarian murdered](#)

Kate Ragsdale, 73, a longtime librarian at the University of Alabama, was killed in The Highlands community in Tuscaloosa on February 24. Investigators now say she was stabbed to death by an intruder. Ragsdale had [worked her way up](#) as a UA employee, starting out in a clerical position, then moving up to a librarian post and finally a planning officer for university libraries....

WBRC-TV, Birmingham, Feb. 25–26



[Tampa honors segregation-era library](#)

Harlem Public Library opened in 1919 in the

Pasay City, Philippines. "Special Libraries: Towards Achieving a Dynamic, Strategic, and Responsible Working Environment."

Apr. 10–13:

[ACRL 2013](#)

[Conference](#), Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis. "Imagine, Innovate, Inspire."

Apr. 18–19:

[Digital Public Library of America](#)

Launch Event, Boston Public Library.

Apr. 25–29:

[Art Libraries Society of North America](#)

Annual Conference, Convention Center, Pasadena, California. "Crafting Our Future."

Apr. 26–27:

[Center for International Scholarship in School Libraries](#)

Third International Research Symposium, Heldrich Hotel, New Brunswick, New Jersey. "Digital Youth, Inquiry, and the Future of the School Library."

May 16–17:

[Conference for Entrepreneurial Librarians](#)

University of North Carolina, Greensboro. "Social Entrepreneurship in Action."

May 19–22:

[American Association of Museums](#)

Annual Meeting and Museum Expo, Baltimore Convention Center.

June 4–7:

[5th International](#)

Harlem Academy at 512 Harrison Street in Tampa, Florida, one of only two libraries in Hillsborough County open to blacks. In the early 1920s it shared a building with the Tampa Urban League (right). It closed in 1969.



On February 23, county library officials celebrated the library's history with a road show featuring photos, printed materials, and recorded oral histories....

Tampa (Fla.) Tribune, Feb. 21

[**Detroit Public Library fires CAO amid FBI probe**](#)

Detroit Public Library Executive Director Jo Anne Mondowney has fired Chief Administrative Officer Tim Cromer, who had been on paid leave from his \$145,323-a-year post since a mid-November FBI raid of his office at the main library and his West Bloomfield Township home. "He had been there a long time in a position that requires periodically a fresh set of eyes," said library board member LaMar Lemmons of the February 20 action. The November raid came after a series of stories highlighting allegations of mismanagement, nepotism, and cost overruns....

Detroit News, Feb. 23

[**Thefts force Trenton library to ration toilet paper**](#)

Staff of the Trenton (N.J.) Free Public Library are passing out toilet paper and hand sanitizer from a sanitation station by the front door to combat a growing wave of theft and vandalism going on inside the library's first floor bathrooms. "These are not the things they teach you in library school," Director Kimberly Matthews said. Trenton's latest TP saga comes one year after city council refused to approve a paper products contract and supplies dwindled to critical levels....

Trenton (N.J.) Times, Feb. 23

[**\\$1 million gift endows early literacy post in Indianapolis**](#) (PDF file)

The Indianapolis Public Library Foundation has announced a \$1 million gift from the Herbert Simon Family Foundation to endow the position of early literacy specialist, whose expertise in early childhood development has led to the creation of strategic, research-based programming at the library as part of its Ready to Read initiative....

Indianapolis Public Library Foundation, Feb. 26

[**Calgary okays \\$245 million for new central library**](#)

After getting the city council's unanimous approval February 25 for a new central library for Calgary, Alberta, the building team is planning to select an architect by September, break ground by 2014, and complete the facility by 2018. Some critics have expressed concern about there being less physical books in a new facility that will have a greater focus on gathering spaces and technology....



Calgary (Alta.) Herald, Feb. 27

[**No one noticed man living in library for six weeks**](#)

A middle-aged man is thought to have been living in a Cambridge college library for up to six weeks. The man, who is understood to be homeless, has been "living under the radar" in the library at St John's

[**Conference on Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries**](#), Sapienza University, Rome, Italy.

June 10–13:
[**International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums**](#), Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort and Spa, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Sponsored by the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums.

June 27–July 2:
[**American Library Association**](#), Annual Conference, Chicago.

July 9–11:
[**Western Conference on Science Education**](#), Western University, London, Ontario. "More ____ with Less ____."

July 21–24:
[**American Association of Law Libraries**](#), Annual Meeting and Conference, John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center, Boston. "Learn, Connect, Grow."

@ [More...](#)

Contact Us

American Libraries
Direct

College, Cambridge, UK. It is thought he may have followed students into the building late at night....

The Telegraph (UK), Feb. 27

[Go back to the Top](#)

Issues

[E-rate's looming fiscal cliff](#)

Marijke Visser writes: "While Congress and the White House debate how to prevent the looming across-the-board budgets cuts known as sequestration, those of us in the e-rate world are worrying about our own fiscal cliff. E-rate has enabled libraries to offer video-conferencing services for patrons at the high end and has allowed small rural libraries to be the only free internet game in town. Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.) has stood by the side of libraries since creating the e-rate program with his colleague, former Senator Olympia Snowe (D-Maine), and he [still speaks](#) (1:14) on our behalf."...

District Dispatch, Feb. 25



[Authors' Guild files opening brief in HathiTrust appeal](#)

James Grimmelman writes: "The Authors Guild and its coplaintiffs have filed their opening brief ([PDF file](#)) appealing from [its decisive loss](#) in the district court in October 2012. Most of the arguments should be familiar if you've been following the case, so I'm going to mention only the significantly new or modified points, along with a few details I found striking."...

The Laboratorium, Feb. 27; *American Libraries* feature, Jan./Feb.

[Justice Dept. will not weigh in on GSU e-reserves](#)

The US Department of Justice has decided not to file an amicus curiae brief in a high-profile copyright case involving Georgia State University and several publishers. The case in question, *Cambridge U. Press et al. v. Mark P. Becker et al.*, was brought against the university by Cambridge, Oxford University Press, and Sage Publishers. It accuses Georgia State of committing widespread copyright violations by making some of the publishers' content available on electronic reserve without licensing it....

Chronicle of Higher Education: The Ticker, Feb. 23

[White House memo orders open access](#)

On February 22, the White House issued a directive ([PDF file](#)) to ensure that the results of taxpayer-funded research are made available to the general public. The directive is in response to last year's [We the People petition](#) asking that scholars and researchers be required to provide "free access over the internet to scientific journal articles arising from taxpayer-funded research."

ALA's Washington Office [notes](#) that the timing is opportune, just after the introduction of the [Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act](#), but that the fight for open access isn't over....

Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition, Feb. 22; District Dispatch, Feb. 25



[Like a bad penny, CISPA has returned](#)

Jessica McGilvray writes: "Rep. Mike J. Rogers (R-Mich.) and Rep. C.

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A. Dutch Ruppertsberger (D-Md.) introduced the [Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act of 2013](#), H.R. 624 (CISPA), in the House. This is essentially the same bill ([H.R. 3523](#)) that the House passed in April 2011 and that President Obama threatened to veto ([PDF file](#)). CISPA would make it possible for private companies to share information with the government while keeping it from the public, violating the spirit of the Freedom of Information Act.”...

District Dispatch, Feb. 22

[Go back to the Top](#)

Tech Talk

[Reflections on Code4Lib 2013](#)

Margaret Heller writes: “Code4Lib is a loose collective of programmers working in libraries, librarians, and others interested in code and libraries. Its conference this year, held February 11–14 at the University of Illinois Chicago, included talks that illustrated what I saw as threads running through the conference—care and emotion. This is perhaps unexpected for a technical conference. Yet those themes underlie a great deal of the work that takes place in academic library technology and the types of projects presented at Code4Lib.”...

ACRL TechConnect Blog, Feb. 27

[20 nerd conventions you should attend](#)

Paul Lilly writes: “If you’ve ever wanted to dress up as Batman or Harley Quinn and mingle with fellow cosplayers in full garb (and why wouldn’t you want to?), don’t worry, you’re not alone. There’s a convention for that—several, in fact—along with conventions for all levels of nerdery, places you can go and get your geek on with fellow science-fiction fanatics, movie buffs, or whatever it is you’re into. To help you plan your itinerary for the coming year, we’ve put together a gallery of 20 conventions, in chronological order.”...

Maximum PC, Feb. 25



[30 powerful WordPress plug-ins](#)

Jeffrey L. Wilson writes: “WordPress’s popularity and ease of use has spawned a rich plug-in ecosystem that gives users the ability to accept donations, display related articles that will drive interested readers deeper into your site, track RSS feed traffic, and credit authors in new ways. In short, there are numerous ways to expand your WordPress functionality. If you are self-hosting and ready to enhance your WordPress-powered site, check out these 30 excellent plugins.” Check out [Dublin Core for WP](#)....

PC Magazine, Feb. 27



[Staying safe from Java threats](#)

J. D. Biersdorfer writes: “Java is a computing platform with its own programming language that is used in many games, business applications, and other utilities. Recent attacks on Apple and Facebook used a flaw in the Java web browser plug-in to infect computers with malicious software when visiting certain sites, and the Department of Homeland Security even issued a [warning](#) about Java in January. Computers running Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux are most at risk. Apple released its own [Mac OS X update](#) to deal with



AL Direct FAQ:

[americanlibrariesmagazine.org/aldirect](#)

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the Java problem on February 19."...

New York Times: Gadgetwise, Feb. 26

[The trouble with latency](#)

Chris Hoffman writes: "There is more to an internet connection's speed than just its bandwidth. This is especially true with satellite internet connections, which can offer speeds of up to 15 Mbps but will still feel slow. Latency can be an issue with all internet connections and networks. Wired network connections tend to have the lowest latency, while wireless connections generally have higher latency."...

How-to Geek, Feb. 27

[Go back to the Top](#)

E-Content

[Amazon Kindle iOS update erases your entire library](#)

Amazon is advising users of the Kindle iOS app not to download the latest update due to a bug that can delete users' existing libraries and settings from their device. The company issued an update for its Kindle app February 26, but it didn't take long for some users to report it was actually deleting their content. The good news is that libraries are retrievable, thanks to backup in the cloud, but the update deregisters users and makes them start the upload process all over again....

Mashable, Feb. 27

[Piggyback technology](#)

Christopher Harris writes: "Publishers are upset because Amazon is becoming a successful publisher. So Hachette, Penguin, and Simon & Schuster thought they would try becoming booksellers, like Amazon. Thus was born [Bookish](#), a website where the three publishers are trying to out-Amazon Amazon with book recommendations, reviews, and sales. The problem is that the three publishers involved are basing this endeavor on an incorrect assumption. Amazon is *not* a bookseller."...

AL: E-Content blog, Feb. 25



[Independent bookstores vs. Amazon and the Big Six](#)

Christopher Harris writes: "In a [lawsuit](#) filed in New York February 15, three independent bookstores are seeking relief from what they refer to as monopolistic practices regarding ebooks. At issue is the digital rights management that locks ebooks purchased through Amazon to the Kindle platform. While libraries can certainly empathize with the plight of the three plaintiffs, I see some critical errors with this case."...

AL: E-Content blog, Feb. 22

[One idea to save illustrated books: Gamification](#)

Jeremy Greenfield writes: "Gamification is one of the hot new concepts in children's enhanced ebooks. The general idea is simple: To get kids to eat their broccoli (that is, read books), let's put some cheese on it (make them fun: cheese on broccoli > broccoli alone)." Joanna Cabot writes that she [scoffed and bristled](#), until she came across *Slim for Life* by Jillian Michaels....

Digital Book World, Feb. 24; TeleRead, Feb. 26



[Sustainability of digitized special](#)

[collections](#)

The Association of Research Libraries and Ithaka S+R have released *Appraising Our Digital Investment: Sustainability of Digitized Special Collections in ARL Libraries* ([PDF file](#)), a report on findings from a survey of ARL libraries on the range of activities and expenses that libraries undertake to support their digitized special collections. The research reveals that understanding the continuing costs for sustaining digital collections is a challenge across libraries....

Association of Research Libraries, Feb. 21



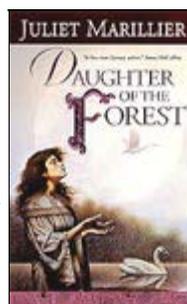
[Go back to the Top](#)

Books & Reading

[New tales from old: Adult fairy tales for YA lit lovers](#)

Julie Bartel writes: "February 26 was Tell a Fairy Tale Day, a possibly-made-up-by-the-internet day, but a worthwhile and exciting day nonetheless. In honor of such an auspicious occasion, and in an attempt to put a slightly [different spin](#) on the topic, here are a handful of adult retellings that fans of YA literature are sure to find compelling." Emily Calkins [celebrates](#) Tell a Fairy Tale Day with fairy-tale mashups from YA literature....

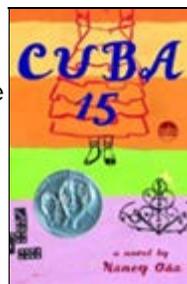
YALSA The Hub, Feb. 25–26; Apr. 11, 2011



[Biracial characters in YA literature](#)

Hannah Gómez writes: "I think today's YA audience is a bit luckier than I was when it comes to finding someone who shares their background in a novel. Since teens of today have been allowed to identify legally as 'more than one race,' it makes perfect sense that more YA novels have featured biracial characters. The best part? Sometimes they don't even have to be problem novels about racism."...

YALSA The Hub, Feb. 25



[The 30 best places to be if you love books](#)

Tanner Ringerud writes: "Mark Twain said, 'In a good bookroom you feel in some mysterious way that you are absorbing the wisdom contained in all the books through your skin, without even opening them.' Mark Twain would have lost his mind if he saw any of these places," which include 16 libraries, eight private libraries, and six bookstores....

BuzzFeed, Feb. 22

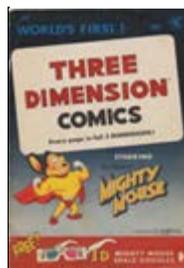


[The first 3D comic books](#)

Michael Lieberman writes: "It was almost 60 years ago that the first 3D comic book was published. Three Dimension Comics starring Mighty Mouse hit the stands in September 1953." It included instructions on assembling your 3D space goggles and traveling into the amazing third dimension. Here are some other

examples from that era....

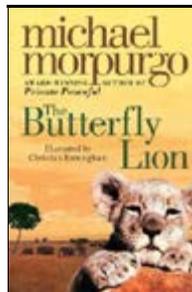
Book Patrol, Feb. 25



[Sarah Lean's top 10 animal stories](#)

The author of *A Dog Called Homeless* picks her favorite tales featuring our furry and feathered friends. Sarah Lean writes: "A story can be funnier or richer with the presence of animals because we can see our own strengths and frailties in them. Maybe that's why animals work so well for children's books, because we are able to stand back and have a good look at what's really going on. I chose these books for their language and their moving themes and illustrations, but mostly for the creatures alive on their pages."...

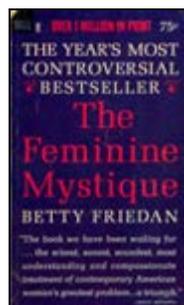
The Guardian (UK), Feb. 21



[10 essential feminist texts everyone should read](#)

Emily Temple writes: "This month is the 50th anniversary of Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique*, a book that, as the *New York Times* put it, 'ignited the contemporary women's movement in 1963 and as a result permanently transformed the social fabric of the United States and countries around the world.' To celebrate, we've put together a list of 10 essential feminist reads, from fiction and poetry to essays and nonfiction dissections."...

Flavorwire, Feb. 19



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Tips & Ideas

[Flipping out: Preflip planning](#)

Kim Miller writes: "One of my current professional goals is to experiment with new ways to improve my library instruction sessions and grow as an instructor. So when our residency librarian decided to lead a group of instruction librarians to test the 'flipped classroom' in library instruction, I welcomed the opportunity to discover how 'flipping' might transform my classes. Given the [previous interest](#) in 'flipping' here at ACRLLog, I've also decided to share a bit of my planning, implementation, and reflection to continue the discussion about 'flipping out' in the library world."...

ACRLLog, Feb. 25; Apr. 30, 2012



[National Student Poets Program](#)

The National Student Poets Program is the country's highest honor for young poets who are presenting original work. In 2012, for the first time, five outstanding high school poets—Luisa Banchoff, Claire Lee, Miles Hewitt, Natalie



Richardson, and Lylla Younes, whose work exhibits exceptional creativity, dedication to craft, and promise—were selected for a year of service as national poetry ambassadors. Deadlines to participate in the [2013 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards](#) vary by region. All students who earn National Gold and Silver Medals in the Scholastic Awards will be notified on March 15....

National Student Poets Program

[A first-hand experience with MOOC](#)

Kate Kosturski writes: "MOOC. This tiny word has the power to be a very large change agent. Massively Open Online Courseware is an opening of education to anyone, anywhere in the world, as long as they have a computer and internet access. In 2007, my library school was one of few (if not the only one) that did not offer online courses. This instructional philosophy, coupled with my part-time student status, left me critically thinking about the state of education."...

ACRL TechConnect, Feb. 21

[Trials and tribulations of a children's mombrarian](#)

Cen Campbell writes: "Little people rule my life. They offer an innocent, wise, and precious view into the developing human psyche, and they humble me on a regular basis. When I'm working, I'm either developing and presenting storytimes for little people, or developing professional resources for other children's librarians. One might assume that since I have a 3-year-old at home, it must be easy to put storytimes together and get through the piles of books and apps that I need to review. The case is often the opposite."...

ALSC Blog, Feb. 21



[#ideadrop house at SxSWi](#)

Electronic Resources & Libraries is hosting the ER&L + ProQuest #ideadrop house (right) at the South by Southwest Interactive Conference on March 8–12 in Austin, Texas. The house will be an informal meeting space less than three miles from the convention center and convenient to public transit, offering salon-style small-group discussions. Live streaming and recording are made possible through funding support from the Digital Library Federation. View the [schedule](#) and get involved....

Electronic Resources & Libraries



[What kinds of experts are important to faculty?](#)

Chris Bourg writes: "In general, it is the humanists and the social scientists who are most likely to say support from various kinds of experts is important to their research. The humanists are most likely to say that 'staff with both technical and scholarly expertise' and 'reference or research librarians' are important; while social scientists are most interested in support from experts in emerging areas of library services—such as programming, GIS and statistical analysis,

and metadata support. Specific results from our recent survey are summarized here.”...

The Feral Librarian, Feb. 25

[Libraries in the snow on postcards](#)

Larry Nix writes: “It’s been a rough winter in many parts of the country this year. I’m sure that a few pictures have been taken of libraries in the snow. Here are three postcards from my collection that show libraries in snow. [See the Baker Library at Dartmouth College, right, in 1894.] I have a previous post about a [postcard](#) showing the Elroy (Wis.) Public Library in the ice storm of 1922.”...



Library History Buff Blog, Feb. 24; June 25, 2012

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