

# american libraries DIRECT

American Library Association • December 2, 2014

The advertisement features a blue book titled "APA Handbook of Career Intervention" next to a tablet displaying its digital version. To the right, the APA logo is shown with the text "APA Handbooks in Psychology". Below this, the text reads "Expand your electronic reference collection with the **NEW! APA Handbook of Career Intervention**". A call-to-action button says "Free 30-Day Trial on APA PsycNET® Learn More". The American Psychological Association logo is also present.

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## The 10 winners of this year's I Love My Librarian Award

On December 2, 10 librarians are being honored with the 2014 Carnegie Corporation of New York / *New York Times* I Love My Librarian Award for demonstrating the critical role librarians play in transforming lives and communities through education and lifelong learning. Library patrons across the country who use public, school, college, community college, or university libraries submitted nominations. The nominations detailed stories about how local librarians made a meaningful difference in their lives. Each winning librarian will receive a \$5,000 prize at an award ceremony and reception held this week in New York City, hosted by the *New York Times*....



AL: *The Scoop*, Dec. 2

## Rolling the dice in an academic library

Jayne Blodgett and Peter Bremer write: "Academic libraries usually take their mission seriously, and at the University of Minnesota Morris' Rodney A. Briggs Library, we're no different. We offer research assistance, quiet spaces for study, technology, instruction, rich scholarly resources, opportunities for collaboration, and of course, the opportunity for students to challenge our library director to a *Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots* battle. It may all be fun and games, but there's a deeper motive. We saw a need to provide a fun campus activity on Friday nights and the opportunity to engage with students and the wider campus in a new way."....



American Libraries feature

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### [Text and data mining primary source materials](#)

*Ray Abruzzi, Senior Director, New Product Strategy, Gale*



Electronic access to Gale's series of primary source archives, *Gale Digital Collections*, has forever changed scholarship and research. However, many researchers have requested access to the data *behind* these databases—to break the data from its shackles and analyze it in new ways.

Gale, a part of Cengage Learning, is now [making this possible](#). Researchers with access to one or more GDC can now request the data behind the [digital collections](#) through their library. We hope to drive a new wave of discovery and strengthen the library's role as the center of scholarship.



[Read more](#)



Term Clusters, Term Frequency Graphs,  
and Downloadable OCR

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### Newsmaker: Ursula K. Le Guin

Science fiction and fantasy author Ursula K. Le Guin—who turned 85 on October 21—received an honorary National Book Award in September, joining the company of writers like Toni Morrison and Norman Mailer. Le Guin, author of *The Left Hand of Darkness* and the Earthsea series, has supported ALA's "[Authors for Library Ebooks](#)" campaign since it launched in June 2013. She sits on a digital publishing advisory committee for the Multnomah County (Oreg.) Library and is a founding member of [Book View Café](#), a cooperative publisher with a policy of discounting ebook sales to libraries. She spoke with *American Libraries* about sometimes having to stick your neck out for an important cause....



*American Libraries column, Nov./Dec.*



Get the inside scoop on  
pressing library topics.

## Publishers Weekly honors ALA for ebook advocacy

Jazzy Wright writes: "On December 1, [Publishers Weekly](#) lauded ALA Digital Content and Libraries Working Group former cochairs Sari Feldman and Bob Wolven in the publication's annual 'Publishing People of 2014' recognition for their role in advocating for fair library ebook lending practices. In 2011–2014, Feldman, ALA president-elect and executive director of the Cuyahoga County (Ohio) Public Library, and Wolven, associate university librarian at Columbia University, led meetings with some of the world's largest book publishers."...



*AL: E-Content, Dec. 1; Publishers Weekly, Nov. 28*



## Philadelphia school libraries are essential for learning

Carol Heinsdorf and Debra Kachel write: "In 1991, there were 176 certified librarians in Philadelphia public schools. This year there are 11, and only five are known to be actually doing what they were trained to do. Five librarians for the nation's eighth-largest school district. Leaving Philadelphia's public school libraries without professional staffing is a grave mistake. It will have consequences for the students for the rest of their lives. Study after study shows a clear link between school libraries staffed by certified librarians and student achievement."...



*Philadelphia Inquirer, Dec. 1*

## Ferguson Public Library director does an AMA on Reddit

Brittany Levine writes: "During an [AMA \(Ask Me Anything\)](#) on Reddit November 29, Scott Bonner (right), the director of the Ferguson (Mo.) Municipal Public Library—which has become a symbol of resilience in a community rocked by protests—mentioned that *The Fault in Our Stars* is among the top-read YA novels currently at the library. As an unexpected result, the author of the popular book-turned-movie, John Green,



offered to send signed copies of his works to the library, which has been providing extra programming in the wake of violent protests earlier this week."...

*Mashable, Nov. 30*

## Duluth library's seed program hits a hurdle

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has given a thumbs down to a Duluth Public Library [seed-sharing program](#) that allows members to borrow vegetable seeds from the library in the spring and later return seeds they collect from their gardens. State agriculture regulators say the exchange—one of about 300 in the US—violates the state's [seed law](#) because it does not test the seeds. That could jeopardize the popular program, which attracted 200 members who borrowed 800 packets of seeds in its first year, Library Manager Carla Powers said.....



*Minnesota Public Radio, Nov. 30*

## Fresno County's Library Without Walls program

Seven librarians from Fresno County (Calif.) Public Library are fanning out in brand new Toyota Priuses to meet one-on-one with business owners or nonprofits, attend community events, and inform the public about free services the library system offers. The [Library Without Walls \(WoW!\)](#) program has been under way for about nine months but reached full staffing in September. It grew out of an analysis of library services and users that showed only 35% of county residents used the system. The program costs about \$800,000 annually, paid for with revenue from voter-approved Measure B and the library system's annual taxpayer funding. And it is gaining attention statewide....



*Fresno (Calif.) Bee, Nov. 27*

## The web is getting slower

Jim Rapoza writes: "One thing you can always rely on technology to do is speed things up. Everything, from processors to phones to networks, gets faster. So when at a recent Akamai analyst event a speaker made the offhand comment that the web is getting slower, it pretty much made me sit up in my seat and say 'what?' But once that initial instinct passed, I had to admit, it sure did seem that many of my recent web browsing experiences were less than satisfactory from a performance standpoint. The reason the web is slowing down for so many of us isn't a problem with the web itself, but with how many of us now use the web."...



*Wired, Nov. 28*

## The softer future of wearables

Rebecca Greenfield writes: "Amanda Parkes is a fashion-tech consultant with her company Skinteractive Studios, which she founded in 2009 to help develop wearables. A product engineer by training, Parkes engages with both the conceptual and practical. Wearables of the future will cover the entire body and do a host of things. Instead of making a pretty wrapping for a limited edition FitBit, Parkes wants to create entire new categories of yet-to-be imagined products. She's working with Google, for example, to create the first-ever interactive textile. Recent [projections](#) from Gartner predict that 'smart garments'—currently just a blip in the wearables market—will outsell 'smart wristbands' and become a regular part of our wardrobes. The projects Parkes is working on now may very well be what you are wearing in five years."...



*FastCompany, Dec. 2; ZDNet, Nov. 14*

## Orkney Library's humorous Twitter feed

Orkney Librarian Stewart Bain writes: "We seemed to gain a sizeable number of Twitter followers quite quickly. Very soon after we started using Twitter we were having tweets read out on BBC Radio 2 and our content was being widely retweeted. After 18 months on Twitter we had over 1,600 followers and [@OrkneyLibrary](#) was already being used as an example of best practice in case studies and at conferences. What we hadn't thought about was how beneficial it would be for the service in terms of direct contact with authors, publishers, and journalists. Our popularity on Twitter has also resulted in a surprising number of people on holiday or visiting Orkney, popping in to say hello."...



*BuzzFeed, Dec. 1*

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## ALA helps TNT promote *The Librarians*

ALA has partnered with the TNT network to help promote its new series *The Librarians*, which premieres December 7. The show ([trailer](#), 2:16) is about an ancient organization of librarians responsible for protecting the world's greatest magical relics (like Excalibur) stored beneath the fictional Metropolitan Public Library. ALA helped TNT find six adventurous librarians to highlight on the show's [website](#) and [social media channels](#): They are Liana Juliano, Felton Thomas (above), Henry Mendelsohn, Jessica Zaker, Audrey Barbakoff, and Aaron Schmidt. ALA President Courtney Young attended a [premiere party](#) for the show in New York City on December 3 to present one of the stars, Christian Kane, with an honorary ALA membership. Kane promotes libraries in this [video PSA](#) (0:54)....



TNT: *The Librarians*; YouTube, Nov. 4, 6

## How the Newbery Medal came to be

ALA awards the Newbery Medal annually for the most distinguished American children's book published the previous year. Frederic G. Melcher proposed the award on June 22, 1921, at the meeting of the Children's Librarians' Section at ALA Annual Conference and suggested that it be named for the 18th-century English bookseller, John Newbery. The idea was enthusiastically accepted by the children's librarians, and Melcher's official proposal was approved by the ALA Executive Board in 1922. Read the story of the Caldecott Medal [here](#)....



ALSC Book and Media Awards

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### [Books on Tape](#)

Travel is the number one reason why patrons choose to learn a new language. [Books on Tape](#) is offering this opportunity to expand your language programs at an affordable price with 50% off its Living Language Self-Study programs.



This discount offers nearly 50 self-study programs in durable library packaging starting as low as \$10.50 now through December 31. Help your patrons find the language learning experience they are looking for with Living Language, described as "nothing short of delightful" by the *New York Times*.

The image features the 'american libraries ►LIVE' logo on the left, consisting of the word 'american' in lowercase, 'libraries' in a larger bold font, and '►LIVE' in red. To the right, the text 'Get the inside scoop on pressing library topics.' is displayed in a white, sans-serif font against a dark blue background.

### [Ukuleles and guitars on loan](#)

Since the beginning of November, Highland Park (Ill.) Public Library patrons have been able to check out a ukulele and accompanying training materials. It's an unusual addition to a library collection, but one that makes sense to the staff. Recognizing that music can be empowering and enhance lives, adding an instrument to the collection seemed like the logical next step to librarian Chad Clark, himself a ukulele player. The library got ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro (above) to make a special appearance on November 18 to introduce the service. Watch the [video](#) (9:40). The idea is spreading: The Newark branch of the Licking County (Ohio) Library is now [loaning out](#) guitars....



*Chicago Tribune*, Nov. 4; *Vimeo*, Nov. 28; *Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch*, Dec. 5

The logo for the ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits, held in Chicago from January 30 to February 3, 2015. The logo features the words 'ALA CHICAGO' in large, colorful letters (blue, red, yellow, and green) with a stylized city skyline silhouette at the bottom. To the right, the text 'the conversation starts here...' and 'MIDWINTER MEETING & EXHIBITS' is followed by the date 'JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 3, 2015' and the website 'alamidwinter.org'.

### [Wake Forest library creates a tech-free room for napping](#)

Jake New writes: "Napping students, exhausted by long nights of studying for exams or writing term papers, are common in campus libraries. But at Wake Forest University's Z. Smith Reynolds Library in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, sleeping students can now be found resting in comfortable recliners, instead of snoring into open textbooks. In November, the library unveiled a technology-free relaxation area called the ZieSta Room, which encourages students to turn off their electronics, put away their books, and take a quick study break, even if that means falling asleep."...



*Inside Higher Ed, Dec. 4*

## Censorware and spyware at Wayzata High School

Nathan Ringo writes: "I'm a student at Wayzata (Minn.) High School, one of my favorite places to be. I enjoy learning and find almost all my teachers to be agreeable. I'm also a programmer and an advocate of free speech. In that role, my school holds a more dubious distinction: It's the first place where my interests in computers and my rights were questioned. Like many other school districts, Wayzata puts censorware between students and the internet. However, Wayzata chose to implement an unsavory policy of blocking not just porn, but anything they feel is inappropriate in a school setting. Worse, I could not find out *who* makes the judgments about what is considered inappropriate."...



*Boing Boing, Dec. 3*

## Best practices in fair use of orphan works for libraries

More than 150 librarians, archivists, and other memory institution professionals have contributed to the development of this *Statement of Best Practices in Fair Use of Collections Containing Orphan Works* published by the Center for Media and Social Impact at American University in Washington, D.C. The statement provides clear and easily understood guidance for memory institutions that provide digital preservation and access to collections containing copyrighted orphan works under the doctrine of fair use....



*Center for Media and Social Impact, Dec.*

## Five useful tools for YouTube enthusiasts

Mark O'Neill writes: "Launched in 2005, YouTube currently hosts 100 hours of new video every minute, with 100 billion people visiting the site every month. That is a truly staggering figure that shows how much YouTube has infiltrated our lives. In internet terms, the site is an absolute Godzilla. This means that countless



third-party tools and apps have been built around the YouTube API over the years. From downloading tools to scripts, from analytics to trends, the enthusiastic YouTube fan seems to have it all. Here are five that caught our attention."...

*MakeUseOf, Dec. 3*

## Give the gift of better gadgets

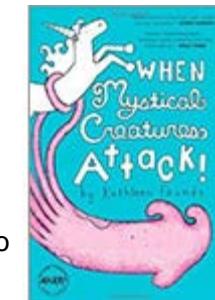
Patrick Allan and Whitson Gordon write: "Who doesn't love getting a new gadget? Even if you can't afford to give the latest smartphone or HDTV as a gift, you can probably find some gadgety accessories to go with them. Here are some of our favorites. For example, a multi-port USB hub. When you've got a bunch of sweet accessories, you need to be able to plug them all in. The [Anker USB 3.0 9-Port Hub](#) is a great way to easily add nine additional USB 3.0 ports—with transfer rates up to 5Gbps—and one 2.1A charging port."...



*Lifehacker, Dec. 5*

## 10 best books by academic publishers in 2014

Jonathon Sturgeon writes: "2014 was a great year for books all around, but academic publishing in particular branched out, with quality works in philosophy, poetry, fiction, and history. This was, of course, the year of Thomas Piketty's broad, sweeping economic tome *Capital*, but it was also the year of smaller books like Julia Kristeva's *The Severed Head* and Cecilia Corrigan's excellent debut *Titanic*. For many readers, it's too easy to forget academic presses, especially as more and more book purchasing goes online, but I hope this list will give you reasons to seek out books by these amazing publishers."...



*Flavorwire, Dec. 3*

## Checklist for a successful Skype with an author

Mary Amato writes: "Nothing beats a live visit, but Skyping with an author is a great alternative for two reasons: It's cheaper and it provides an opportunity that is often intimate. Surprise guests, such as the author's dog or cat or spouse, can make cameo appearances; authors can pick up their laptops and show a quick glimpse of their desk, the rocking chair, or their favorite place to write. No matter how you find your author, using these tips and tricks can make the entire experience run smoothly and enjoyably. From the author's point of view, here's what you can do to be a great Skype partner."...



*ALSC Blog, Dec. 4*

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## Reading on the inside

Megan Cottrell writes: "Hennepin County (Minn.) Corrections Librarian Dan Marcou's program, Read to Me, is one of at least half a dozen around the country that helps incarcerated parents connect with their children at home by making a recording of themselves reading a children's book. The parents are allowed to send the book and recording to their child, and they can often read the book during an in-person visit as well. Read to Me—which received the Marshall Cavendish Excellence in Library Programming Award in 2004—has been operating since 1998 and is part of a larger relationship between the county's libraries and correctional facilities that goes back 30 years."...



*American Libraries* feature

## Seed libraries and state laws

Greg Landgraf writes: "The rise of seed exchanges—now numbering more than 300 across the US—has been accompanied by plenty of enthusiasm from librarians and patrons. But Cumberland County (Pa.) Library System's Simpson Seed Library attracted a whirlwind of controversy and misinformation over the summer after receiving a letter ([PDF file](#)) from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, warning that the seed library might not be complying with state law."....



American Libraries feature

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### [Text and data mining primary source materials](#)

*Ray Abruzzi, Senior Director, New Product Strategy, Gale*



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[Read more](#)



Term Clusters, Term Frequency Graphs,  
and Downloadable OCR

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### [ALA meets with New York publishers](#)

Alan S. Inouye writes: "In the first week of December, a delegation of leaders from ALA met with executives of Macmillan Publishers, Penguin Random House, and Hachette Book Group to discuss the current state and future of library ebook lending. This delegation was led by ALA President Courtney L. Young and the cochairs of ALA's Digital Content Working Group, Carolyn Anthony and Erika Linke. Also included in the delegation were President-Elect Sari Feldman, Immediate Past President Barbara Stripling, Executive Director Keith Michael Fielkow, and Alan S. Inouye, the director of ALA's Office for Information Technology Policy. Several publishing executives made explicit note of the strong ALA presence, reaffirming ALA's commitment and priority to library ebook and digital content issues."....



*AL: E-Content, Dec. 9*

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Just visit Apple's Newsstand store and search for "American Libraries."

## Make sure you are eligible to vote in ALA elections

Check to be sure that your American Library Association membership is up to date so that you can vote in the March 2015 ALA elections. To be eligible to vote, individuals must be ALA members in good standing as of January 31, 2015. Members will receive notification by email confirming their eligibility to vote. This year, members are asked to vote for the next ALA president-elect and for 33 councilor-at-large candidates....

*ALA Membership Development*



## Time-lapse video: How the ALA Exhibit Hall gets set up

As we gear up for the [2015 ALA Midwinter Meeting](#) in Chicago next month, check out this two-minute time-lapse video that documents the work that went into setting up—and breaking down—the [2014 ALA Annual Conference](#) this past summer in Las Vegas....



*American Libraries video*

**american  
libraries ►LIVE** Get the inside scoop on pressing library topics.

## The national impact of library programming

A December 8 report released by ALA explores the growing area of library programming and proposes an ambitious, eight-year research plan to explore how programs reach library users and impact communities.

The [National Impact of Library Public Programs Assessment](#) presents a research agenda to understand and quantify the characteristics, audiences, outcomes, and impacts of library programming in the United States. Readers are invited to comment on the report's findings; comments may be shared privately on the [website](#). Join the conversation on Twitter using the hashtag [#libraryimpact](#)....



ALA Public Programs Office, Dec. 8

## 10 quick tips for library advocacy

Illinois Library Association Executive Director Robert P. Doyle offers these suggestions for keeping up on your library advocacy efforts: "1. Challenges to library materials happen everywhere, so stay informed on intellectual freedom issues. 2. Never underestimate the power of one individual to have a positive or negative impact. 3. Have clear, concise materials selection and internet policies and procedures for handling complaints."...

*Illinois Library Association*



## What is the value of a public library?

Abby Noland writes: "What is the value of a public library in the community? This is a basic question and a good question for anyone to ask. Whenever I hear this question, however, I think of the movie *Roxanne* with Steve Martin. Remember the scene where Martin's character is in the bar and a barfly insults his nose? Martin turns to the barfly and tells him he can do better than that. He can give him numerous ways to comment about his nose, such as: 'Fashionable: You know you could deemphasize your nose if you wore something larger, like Wyoming.' My mind flashes to something like this when I am asked to explain the value of a public library in our community. Here are some examples."...

*Rutland (Vt.) Herald, Dec. 6*



## 15 top resources on digital citizenship

Many of the facts you teach your students will be long forgotten by the time they graduate, but the hope is that the practical lessons—the ones that can benefit them for years to come—are the ones that will stick. Digital citizenship is something that can equip students for a lifetime of safe, responsible internet use. How can you mold your students into stand-up digital citizens? Use these resources to help you plan....



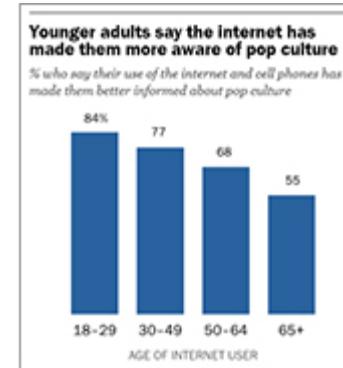
*Educause, Dec. 4*

## The internet makes Americans feel better informed

Kristen Purcell and Lee Rainie write: "A new survey ([PDF file](#)) by the Pew Research Center finds that the vast majority of Americans believe their use of the web helps them learn new things, stay better informed on topics that matter to them, and

increases their capacity to share ideas and creations with others. These generally positive attitudes are buttressed by the view that people like having so much information at their fingertips, rather than feeling information overload. Moreover, this positive judgment extends to the broader culture. Most believe that average Americans and US students are better informed than in the past."...

Pew Research Center, Dec. 8



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## FCC approves massive funding hike for E-rate program

The Federal Communications Commission voted December 11 to increase fees on phone users in order to boost funding for a program that provides internet connections for schools and libraries. The rule would increase the funding cap on the E-rate program by \$1.5 billion, to a total of \$3.9 billion per year. The move, which would cost customers an extra \$2 per year per phone line, is meant to increase high-speed broadband and Wi-Fi access for education, especially in low-income communities. ALA President Courtney L. Young issued a [statement](#) applauding the decision....



*The Hill, Dec. 11; ALA Office for Information Technology Policy, Dec. 11*

## American Libraries apps now available

You can now read issues of *American Libraries* magazine on your iPhone, iPad, or Android device with two newly released apps. The current issue is available, along with previous issues going back to July/August 2012. Each issue can be read on your device or downloaded for later browsing. The iOS app is downloadable from [iTunes](#), and the Android app is available from [Google Play](#). The display is from PageSuite, the same page-flip software that appears on the [American Libraries website](#)....

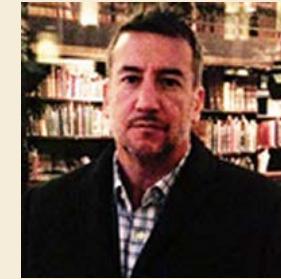


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[Read more](#)



Term Clusters, Term Frequency Graphs,  
and Downloadable OCR

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### [Julianne Moore is spokesperson for School Library Month](#)

Julianne Moore, award-winning actress and bestselling author, will serve as the national spokesperson for the 2015 observance and 30th anniversary of School Library Month. Celebrated in April and sponsored by AASL, School Library Month honors the essential role that strong school library programs play in a student's educational career. Moore is the author of the Freckleface Strawberry series, inspired by her childhood as a redhead covered with freckles. Moore said, "School libraries are the best. I grew up spending most of my time in them. I really depended on librarians to guide me, and I am forever in their debt."...



*AASL, Dec. 11*

### [Robert Downs Award given to Orland Park Public Library](#)

The staff and board of trustees of the Orland Park (Ill.) Public Library are the 2014 recipients of the [Robert B.](#)

[Downs Intellectual Freedom Award](#), given by the faculty of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Graduate School of Library and Information Science. The library is being honored for its defense of intellectual freedom, despite some strong opposition to its policy of not filtering adult Internet access. The protracted controversy elicited an intense public response and received a great deal of attention nationwide....



*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign GSLIS, Dec. 9*



### Participate in the Students Rebuild Literacy Challenge

Students Rebuild, a program of the Bezos Family Foundation, has launched a global effort to help children become successful life-long readers and learners. To participate in the Students Rebuild Literacy Challenge, young people simply [make and mail in bookmarks](#). For each bookmark sent in, the Bezos Family Foundation will donate \$1—up to \$300,000—to Save the Children's Literacy Boost program in Latin America (Peru), Africa (Mali), and Asia (Nepal). The Challenge launched on International Literacy Day and will close March 31, 2015; already 400 teams from 26 countries have signed up to participate. The foundation will donate \$2 for all bookmarks that are [postmarked](#) between January 15 and February 14....



*Students Rebuild*

### 49 libraries closed in the UK in 2014

The UK has lost nearly 50 libraries over the past year, according to figures released December 11 by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. The total number of libraries fell from 4,194 in 2012–2013 to 4,145 in 2013–2014, a loss of 49 libraries and a drop of 1.2%. The new statistics also paint a bleak picture of [patrons turning away](#) from libraries in droves, dwindling staff and collections, and a huge decline in lending. Even libraries that have managed to stay open, like the new [Birmingham Library](#) (above), are faced with reductions in staff and hours....



*The Bookseller, Dec. 11; The Guardian, Dec. 10; Birmingham Post, Dec. 10*

## The 15 best novels by black authors in 2014

Hope Wabuke writes: "How do you speak when you speak of our literature? Do you say 'African-American authors' and leave out the brilliant work of Zadie Smith, Helen Oyeyemi, and countless others who are African but not American? Do you say 'black authors' without pausing to think about how this term relates to authors from Mexico, Brazil, and other Latin American countries who are black but who identify as Latino? Any terminology is inherently flawed, by necessity forcing unequal comparisons and leaving out beautiful, important voices. There were many impressive books written by our people this past year, but here, from a list of more than 200 novels, we highlight 15 books that were stunning for specific reasons."....



*The Root, Dec. 10*

## The rise of digital poster sessions

Brian Mathews writes: "On December 9, I posted this tweet (right) and it received a lot of attention so I'll expand my thoughts. About a year ago, Virginia Tech opened its [Multipurpose Room](#) in the library. We framed it as a gathering place for creative, cultural, academic, and social experiences. The one major rule is that everything has to be public: no private events. Since it opened in January, we have seen an increase in digital poster sessions. The room has eight large monitors on the walls and two additional mobile monitors that can be utilized. Think of a poster session, but with 70-inch monitors instead of tack boards."...



*Chronicle of Higher Education: The Ubiquitous Librarian, Dec. 10*

## 10 places to watch educational videos online

Mihir Patkar writes: "The internet is full of great videos, some of which can be quite educational. In 2012, we rounded up a few [choice websites](#) with informative videos to expand your mind. There have been many other great options since then, so here is a second round of fun and educational videos—five aggregation websites and five original video makers on YouTube."...



*MakeUseOf, Dec. 11; Apr. 18, 2012*

## 2014 Librarian Lump of Coal Gift Guide

Travis Jonker writes: "Time is running out to get gifts for the insufferable librarian in your life. With help from Etsy, the 2014 edition of the Librarian Lump of Coal Gift Guide has your back. For example, for the librarian who is somehow more effective at diagnosing and treating mental illness than a professional in



that field, you might consider these ‘What Therapy?’ letterpress cards (above).”...

*100 Scope Notes, Dec. 9*

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American Library Association • December 16, 2014

The advertisement features a blue book titled "APA Handbook of Career Intervention" next to a tablet displaying its digital version. The text reads: "Expand your electronic reference collection with the **NEW! APA Handbook of Career Intervention**". It offers a "Free 30-Day Trial on APA PsycNET®". A "Learn More" button and the American Psychological Association logo are included.

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## Kentucky Appeals Court considers library funding lawsuits

Most of Kentucky's public library systems could be forced to roll back their tax rates and collectively refund millions of dollars to local taxpayers under a pair of lawsuits heard December 15 by the state Court of Appeals. The suits, filed by taxpayers in Kenton and Campbell counties, argue that many library districts have improperly raised taxes for decades without the 51% voter approval required by a previously obscure 1964 state law. Library attorneys said that a separate law enacted in 1979 was meant to include most libraries among the special taxing districts that are allowed to raise taxes up to 4% each year without voter approval....



*Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader, Dec. 15*

## Referenda Roundup 2014

Kathy Rosa writes: "During the 2014 election year, the ALA Office for Research and Statistics tracked 153 library referenda across 22 states. Of the 126 measures, Ohio and Michigan led the way in sheer numbers. Ohio was a big winner in 2014, with [31 of the 34](#) measures passed. Michigan voters approved [54 of 68](#) measures. The outcome of local referenda votes is crucial, given that [nearly 85%](#) of library funding comes from local sources. The vote on library referenda determines whether or not libraries can support their operating budgets, make improvements, and stay current with technology resources. Passage of referenda also helps build new libraries that support the growing US population." ...



American Libraries feature; Associated Press, Nov. 6; Library of Michigan; Institute of Museum and Library Services

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### Living Language Self-Study programs

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### All about the FCC's E-rate Order

Marijke Visser writes: "On December 11, the Federal Communications Commission brought the E-rate modernization proceeding to a conclusion with all the bravado it deserved. To a packed room, including library directors, teachers, a superintendent, a school principal, and a handful of students from D.C. public schools, the FCC staff presented the E-rate Order that the Chairman had [circulated](#) to his colleagues three weeks ago. The shiny object that tops the list of all the press headlines is the additional \$1.5 billion that will be added to the program, immediately increasing available funding to \$3.9 billion (plus annual inflation) from here on out."...



*District Dispatch*, Nov. 17, Dec. 12



### Ebook price-fixing appeal went well for Apple

Philip Elmer-DeWitt writes: "Deputy Solicitor General Malcolm Stewart, a legal heavyweight from Washington called in to defend the antitrust ruling that went so badly for Apple two years ago, tried several times on December 15 to compare Apple to a driver who carries a narcotics dealer to a drug pickup. Judge Dennis Jacobs would have none of it. It was not a good moment for the deputy solicitor general—or, by extension, for Denise Cote, the district court judge whose antitrust ruling against Apple Stewart was laboring to defend. In contrast, the morning seemed to go more smoothly for Apple's counsel."...

*Forbes, Dec. 16*



## Things that make the librarian angry

Jessamyn West writes: "Having a waiting list for library ebooks is really stupid, on the face of it. As a librarian, I'm pretty savvy about digital content—enough to know that patrons want it, lots of it. However, we have a short list of ways that we can offer it in a lendable fashion. At work I keep my game face on. At home I just want to tell people the truth, the frustrating truth: Offering digital content in this way has short-term benefits but long-term negative consequences. Doesn't digital rights management just increase friction between readers and the books they want? Isn't the Internet Archive all about giving things away for free? Shouldn't the entire internet be free?"...



*The Message, Dec. 12*

## Tech-savvy teens still prefer print

Despite teens' tech-savvy reputation, YAs continue to lag behind adults when it comes to reading ebooks, even with the young adult genre's digital growth relative to the total ebook market. While 20% of teens purchase ebooks, 25% of 30–44-year-olds and 23% of 18–29-year-olds buy digital copies, according to Nielsen's Books and Consumers US Survey. While younger readers are open to ebooks as a format, teens continue to express a preference for print that may seem to be at odds with their perceived digital know-how....



*Nielsen Newswire, Dec. 9*

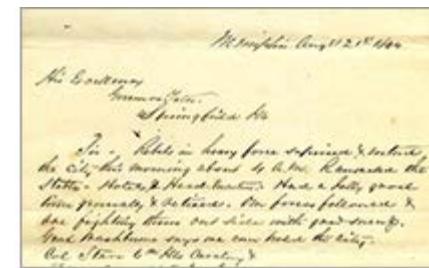
## Lincoln Library needs help transcribing Civil War docs

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois, has a new project that asks the public to help transcribe 30,000 pages of documents written during the Civil War. Library officials said

December 11 that they've set up a [website](#) where volunteers can log in and see the papers of Richard Yates Sr., governor of Illinois during the Civil War.

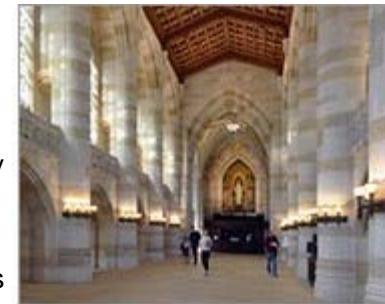
Visitors can set up an account, read a document, and type the text into a box at the bottom on the webpage. When they're finished the document is saved and put in a file for other volunteers to review....

*Associated Press, Dec. 11*



## Yale to launch a Digital Humanities Laboratory

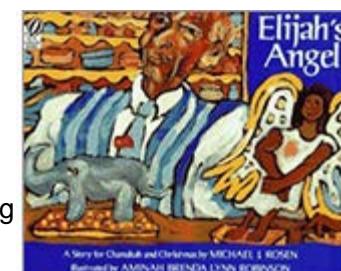
Yale University Library has received a \$3 million award from the Goizueta Foundation to inaugurate a comprehensive initiative in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) education by launching a Digital Humanities Laboratory to be located in Sterling Memorial Library. The laboratory will provide expertise, equipment, and facilities for faculty and students across a wide range of subjects. A portion of the award will also establish an endowment fund to support STEAM education at Yale....



*Yale News, Dec. 11*

## Nine Hanukkah books for kids

Jessica Tripler writes: "The first night of Hanukkah, the eight-day 'festival of lights,' is December 16. Hanukkah is a minor holiday in Judaism, but culturally, at least in the US, it's taken on more importance thanks to its proximity to Christmas. As Jewish book-loving parents, we sometimes found it challenging to find Hanukkah books. So here's a list of recommended Hanukkah books for younger children..."



*Book Riot, Dec. 13*

## The myth of multitasking

Aja Frost writes: "Usually, at any given time, I have about 10 to 20 tabs open on Chrome. I'm also juggling several tasks at once: answering emails as they come in, updating my organization's social media channels, writing an article, browsing the news. I used to think this method of tackling everything at once made me more efficient, but I've started to notice that it actually takes longer to finish anything. This is called 'the myth of multitasking,' and I'm not the first to realize



that it harms our work. In fact, [research shows](#) that multitasking lowers productivity by up to 40% and increases errors and stress."...

*Mashable, Dec. 15; The Muse, Feb. 13*

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## Youth Matters: Outcomes-based futures

Linda W. Braun writes: "It's easy to get caught in the trap of responding to the newest technology or educational stratagem when planning your program of service for youth and their families. Instead, start by thinking about the impact you want to have on children and teens and develop services that support those. For example, instead of focusing on bringing youth and families into the library because you have a 3D printer, focus on what you want young people to learn by using those printers." Karen Pundsack has more about outcomes [here](#)....



*American Libraries column, Nov./Dec.; Public Libraries Online, Dec. 17*

## Queens Library board terminates Tom Galante

The Board of Trustees of the Queens (N.Y.) Library voted unanimously on December 17 to oust embattled CEO Tom Galante (right) for cause. The board approved a resolution following an executive session of more than two hours at the library's Jamaica central office. Galante has been under fire for nearly a year, since a series of reports in the *New York Daily News* led to investigations by city agencies and the FBI, who are probing the library's and Galante's spending. Galante's lawyer, Hillary Prudlo, said that her client [planned to sue](#) for wrongful termination....



*Queens (N.Y.) Chronicle, Dec. 17; New York Daily News, Dec. 18*

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### [Text and data mining primary source materials](#)

*Ray Abruzzi, Senior Director, New Product Strategy, Gale*



Electronic access to Gale's series of primary source archives, *Gale Digital Collections*, has forever changed scholarship and research. However, many researchers have requested access to the data *behind* these databases—to break the data from its shackles and analyze it in new ways.

Gale, a part of Cengage Learning, is now [making this possible](#). Researchers with access to one or more *GDC* can now request the data behind the [digital collections](#) through their library. We hope to drive a new wave of discovery and strengthen the library's role as the center of scholarship.



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### The great British library betrayal

Library services in the UK are on the brink of disaster and can only be saved if they become more like coffee shops with Wi-Fi, sofas, and hot drinks, a December 18 report recommended. A combination of funding cuts and declining attendance threatens the viability of the library network unless urgent action is taken, according to the Independent Library Report for England ([PDF file](#)). The report, which has been hailed as the last chance to halt a decline in which 324 libraries have closed since 2011, recommends a complete “reinvigoration of the library network” for the 21st century, with every library in the country fitted with Wi-Fi to attract people who would otherwise spend time in cafés....



*The Independent (UK), Dec. 17*



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## Pew Research report on the future of privacy

Lee Rainie and Janna Anderson write: "The terms of citizenship and social life are rapidly changing in the digital age. No issue highlights this any better than privacy, always a fluid and context-situated concept and more so now as the boundary between being private and being public is shifting. This report ([PDF file](#)) is a look into the future of privacy in light of the technological change, ever-growing monetization of digital encounters, and shifting relationship of citizens and their governments that is likely to extend through the next decade. To explore the future of privacy, we canvassed thousands of experts and internet builders to share their predictions."...

*Pew Research Internet Project, Dec. 18*

"Government and industry have aligned and allied to almost totally eliminate consumer and citizen privacy. This will not be allowed to change at scale—it is too convenient and too profitable for all parties involved."



## Just say no to digital hoarding

Dominic Basulto writes: "We have become a nation of digital hoarders. We save everything, even stuff that we know, deep down, we'll never need or be able to find. We save every email, every photo, every file, every text message, and every video clip. If we don't have enough space on our mobile devices, we move it to a different storage device, maybe even a hard drive or a flash drive. Or, better yet, we just move it to the cloud. And, in developing these digital hoarding instincts, the big technology companies are more than a little complicit." The answer? Perhaps an [erasable internet](#)....

*Washington Post, Dec. 16; New York Times: Bits, Dec. 18*



## New IMLS budget is \$1 million more than FY 2014

On December 16, President Barack Obama signed into law a \$1.1 trillion spending bill to fund the federal government through the end of September 2015. The legislation includes \$227.9 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which is \$1 million above FY 2014 funding. The additional funds will assist with the agency's planned relocation for the coming year. The total amount appropriated for libraries through the Library Services and Technology Act is \$180.9 million....



*Institute of Museum and Library Services, Dec. 17*

## Duluth calls for change in Minnesota seed law

The Duluth City Council has passed a resolution asking the state legislature to change Minnesota's "seed law" to allow for the free exchange of seeds. This fall, the state Department of Agriculture told the Duluth Public Library its seed-sharing program violated the law, which requires seeds to be tested and labeled before they are sold or given away. When the legislature convenes in January, State Sen. Roger Reinert (D-Duluth) intends to propose an amendment that would exempt seed libraries and seed sharing from its requirements for testing and labeling if there is no exchange of money....



*Minnesota Public Radio, Dec. 16*

## Six technologies that will change PCs in 2015

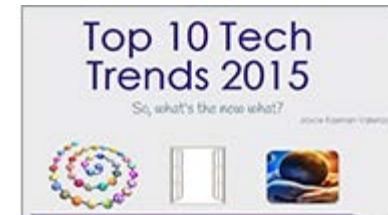
Agam Shah writes: "In an era of slick gadgets, PCs are the dinosaurs, ensnared in wire clutter, sporting tired 2D cameras, and stricken with the occasional blue screen of death. Technology coming up in 2015, however, is set to make PCs more interactive, fun, and perhaps nosier than you'd like them to be. Interactive computers will have 3D cameras that behave more like eyes, with the ability to recognize objects and measure distances. Sensory input through sound, voice, and touch will help PCs respond to and anticipate our needs. Here are six disruptive technologies that could change the face of computing in the next year."...



*Computerworld, Dec. 16*

## Joyce Valenza's top 10 tech trends

Joyce Valenza writes: "Here's an expanded version of my annual Top 10 Tech Trends, along with an infographic summary. The trends we see this year emphasize significant opportunities and the critical importance of transformative library leadership as we rethink our platforms, collections, space, and new opportunities for instruction. Leadership from the center is not new, but perhaps it is a new school essential in a transitional time. We are smack in the middle of a paradigm shift."...



*NeverEndingSearch, Dec. 18*

## The enduring charm of *A Christmas Carol*

Carla Land writes: "I personally love the book *A Christmas Carol* and I read it every December. The language that Dickens used is unlike anything we use in everyday communication in 2014. Not once does Tiny Tim ever *LOL*, and none of the ghosts ever *\*smh\** at Scrooge and his cluelessness. Honestly, I can see how it could be hard for some to

sit down and read page after page of the lengthy descriptions Dickens used—after all, we want to get to the meat of the story with the ghosts and the grumpy old man learning to appreciate kindness and friendship over money—but when we take the time to read what Dickens wrote, he paints some amazing images in our heads.”...

YALSA *The Hub*, Dec. 19

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