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Tag-team laughs from Vowell and Offerman

Phil Morehart writes: "Sarah Vowell and Nick Offerman are longtime friends. Vowell, an essayist, historian, and frequent *This American Life* contributor, and Offerman, a writer and actor best known for his work as the stodgy Ron Swanson on the hit NBC comedy series *Parks and Recreation,* share a similar sense of humor. Their comedy is dry, observational, self-deprecating, and very smart. When the two learned that they were each scheduled to deliver talks at the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco on Saturday, they decided to combine forces and moderate each other's talks." Read more #alaac15 coverage on the *American Libraries* website and in Latest Library Links. The final attendance numbers: 15,883 attendees, 6,813 exhibitors, for a total of 22,696. (The Las Vegas total was 19,889 in 2014, and Chicago total was 23,545 in 2013)....

AL: The Scoop, June 28

Doerr, Stevenson win 2015 Andrew Carnegie Medals

Laurie D. Borman writes: "Anthony Doerr (left), author of *All The Light We Cannot See* (Simon & Schuster), and Bryan Stevenson (right), author of *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* (Spiegel & Grau, an imprint of Random House) were awarded the 2015 Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and

Nonfiction respectively in San Francisco during the ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition on Saturday night. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Basketball Hall of Fame inductee and author, offered the keynote address.”...

AL: The Scoop, June 28

Sonia Manzano: Becoming Maria

Amy Carlton writes: “On Monday afternoon, Sonia Manzano delighted the crowd with a reel of highlights from her 45 years on *Sesame Street*—the marriage of Maria and Luis; working with Oscar the Grouch, Grover, Big Bird, and Elmo; having a baby; plus lots of dancing, singing, and lessons. Sighs of nostalgic recognition and bursts of laughter accompanied the three-minute video. Everyone in the room grew up with Maria.”...

AL: The Scoop, June 29

Sarah Lewis: The art of striving

Sanhita SinhaRoy writes: “Sunday’s President’s Program began with ALA President Courtney Young presenting awards to the ALA awards recipients. Art historian, curator, and Harvard professor Sarah Lewis began her keynote to the roomful of librarians by saying that at age 8, she and her sister ‘Dewey decimaled’ the entire collection of books at their apartment while their mom had stepped out. Lewis is the author of the acclaimed debut book *The Rise: Creativity, the Gift of Failure, and the Search for Mastery*.”...

AL: The Scoop, June 29

Wi-Fi lending pilots at NYPL and CPL

Erika Jenns writes: “On Saturday, Michelle Frisque, chief of technology, content, and innovation at

Chicago Public Library, and Luke Swarthout, director of adult education services at New York Public Library, led a session titled 'A Tale of Two Cities: NYPL and CPL Wi-Fi Lending Projects.' The session, sponsored by LITA, offered two examples of public libraries that are experimenting with lending Wi-Fi hotspots to users in high-need communities."...

AL: The Scoop, June 28

Rethinking patron engagement

Krystal Corbray writes: "In the library world, data drives almost everything we do. But it can be a challenge to translate that raw data into the stories or services that are most valuable to our patrons and constituencies. In answer to this challenge, Saturday's PLA-sponsored session, 'Rethinking Patron Engagement: Making Data-Driven Decisions,' featured four presenters from libraries across the US who discussed the approaches their respective library systems have used."...

AL: The Scoop, June 29

ALA Council actions

In its first meeting on Sunday, ALA Council overwhelmingly passed two resolutions, one on the Importance of Sustainable Libraries and another Denouncing the Systemic Racism that Motivated the South Carolina Shootings. Council II opened with a moment of silence for Cynthia Hurd, a victim of the June 17 shooting at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. Hurd was the manager of the John L. Dart branch of the Charleston County Public Library. At Council III, a resolution passed on access to Spanish and bilingual books for children in detention centers. A resolution on mass surveillance was sent back to the sponsoring committees....

AL: The Scoop, June 18, 28–29

NYPL gets first city budget increase in six years

INVEST IN LIBRARIES
INVEST IN NEW YORKERS!

The New York Public Library will receive a $4.4 million increase in city operating funds for Fiscal Year 2015, according to the new city budget, unveiled June 26 by Mayor Bill de Blasio. The increase—the first since Fiscal Year 2008—brings NYPL's total city operating budget to about $144 million. It is part of a $10 million increase in funding to all three of the city's library systems, including the Brooklyn Public Library and Queens Library....

New York Public Library, June 26

James Patterson's first round of school library grants

James Patterson has made good on his pledge to help school libraries. On June 30, the bestselling author announced $500,000 in grants to 127 schools across the US. This is just the first installment of a $1.75 million program to help libraries buy books, fund literary programs, and make repairs. Scholastic Reading Club, a division of children's publisher Scholastic, pledged to match each grant with bonus points that can be used for books and classroom materials....

Washington Post: Style Blog, June 30

2015 International Latino Book Awards

The International Latino Book Awards ceremony took place in San Francisco on June 27. Over the past 17 years the awards have grown to become the largest Latino literary and cultural awards in the US. Among this year's 246 honorees were well-known authors like Isabel Allende, Rudy Anaya, F. Isabel Campoy, Edna Iturralde, all of whom are past ILBA Award Winners. Other honorees included Carlos Santana, Sheila E., and cartoonist Lalo Alcaraz....

Latino Literacy, June 27

25 things to know about Apple Music

Chloe Albanesius writes: "Apple Music arrives June 30. Here's how to get it and what you get once you sign up. At launch, Apple Music is accessible on iOS devices, Mac, and PC. A version for Android and Apple TV launches in the fall. Access and sign up via the Music app. All new members get a 90-day free trial. Membership is $9.99 per month, which includes music recommendations and unlimited skips on radio stations."...

PC Magazine, June 30

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