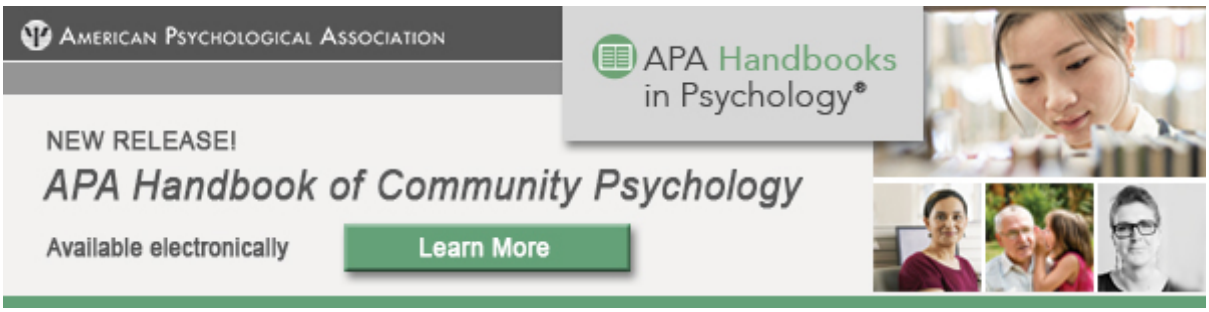
Diversity at New York Comic Con.

american libraries DIRECT

American Library Association • October 14, 2016



For daily ALA and library news, check the *American Libraries* website or subscribe to our RSS feed.

New York Comic Con 2016

Ivy Noelle Weir writes: “To the uninitiated, New York Comic Con can be terrifying. The Javits Center in Manhattan, already a daunting behemoth of glass and steel, becomes a crowded, overstimulating, noisy throng of Batmen, Harley Quinns, and all members of any League, Team, and Force you can name. Panels are full to standing room, and loud dance music blares from booths advertising games, comics, and other swag. For fans, this can be a haven, a place to fully geek out for four days every October. For librarians trying to access a slice of the nerd culture zeitgeist to bring back to their branches, it can be a lot to take in.”...

AL: The Scoop, Oct. 14

Layoffs proposed at the Library of Virginia

Benjamin Bromley writes: “This is a letter that I wrote to Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe and state Secretary of Education Dietra Trent about the proposed layoffs at the Library of Virginia. Twenty-six state employees have to be laid off statewide, and out of that number 15 are currently proposed to come from the Library of

Virginia. It is unfair, inequitable, and devastating to an agency that has borne more than its share of layoffs going back to 2002.”...

Among Other Items, Oct. 13

Sponsored Content

Lord John Grey cast for *Outlander*

Australian actor David Berry has been cast to play Lord John Grey on the upcoming third season of STARZ’s *Outlander*. The Lord John Grey book series, written by Diana Gabaldon, is a spin-off of her bestselling Outlander series.

The breakout TV hit *Outlander,* from Sony Pictures Television, was recently renewed for two more seasons. Season 3, which premieres next year, will adapt Diana Gabaldon’s novel *Voyager,* while Season 4 will be based on *Drums of Autumn.* Recorded Books produced the audiobooks for both the Outlander and Lord John Grey series.

Jeopardy contestant’s music comment goes viral

Video footage of a Maryland librarian who was a *Jeopardy* contestant has gone viral after host Alex Trebek said her favorite type of music is for “losers.” Maryland Department of Legislative Services librarian Susan Cole (right) was featured on the October 12 episode of *Jeopardy* and revealed that one of her favorite genres was “Nerdcore hip-hop.” Trebek said he had never heard of it and commented that it sounds like it was for “losers, in other words.” The video has been watched widely online. Cole won the competition, racking up $20,600....

Baltimore Sun, Oct. 13; Inside Edition YouTube channel, Oct. 13

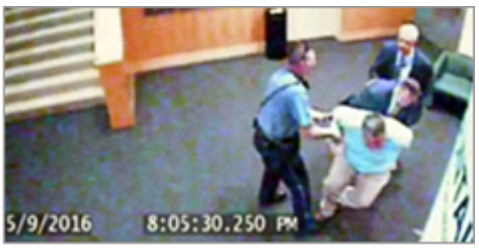
NYPL’s underground sorting system

Anne Quito writes: “Twenty-seven feet below Bryant Park in Midtown Manhattan are miles of bookshelves at the New York Public Library’s newly expanded Milstein Research Stacks. To maximize space, the NYPL is now storing its collection based on a book’s physical dimensions. ‘It’s all based on size,’ explained Gerry Oliva (right), NYPL head of facilities. Compared to the old system, where a small volume about geography might be shelved next to a large book of maps, the new system has increased the library’s storage capacity by 40%.”...

Quartz, Oct. 13

NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION
DIVISIONS • OFFICES • ROUNDTABLES • AND MORE

When librarians are silenced



Francine Prose writes: "Search the internet for news stories about public libraries in America and chances are that, sooner or later, the phrase 'on the front lines' will come up. The war that is being referred to, and that libraries have been quietly waging since the September 11 attacks, is in defense of free speech and privacy—two concepts so fundamental to our democracy, our society, and our Constitution that one can't help noting how rarely their importance has been mentioned during the current election cycle. Recently, a librarian in Kansas City, Missouri, was arrested simply for standing up for a library patron's free speech rights at a public event."...

New York Review of Books, Oct. 14; The Pitch (Kansas City), Oct. 11

Join a nationwide reading of *It Can't Happen Here*

During the week beginning October 24, theaters, universities, and libraries across the country will imagine the rise of fascism in America with staged readings of Sinclair Lewis's semi-satirical *It Can't Happen Here.* More than 20 sites have already signed on to participate. Join in and hold your own staged reading, royalty-free. Published in 1935, the novel tells how the fictional Senator Buzz Windrip, a charismatic and power-hungry politician, is elected president after promising to restore his country to greatness....

Programming Librarian, Oct. 4; Berkeley Rep

UK House of Lords attacks library closures

Social entrepreneur John Bird painted a grim picture of the UK with a reduced library service, warning the House of Lords on October 13 that cuts would result in "disorder, crime, problems for schools, and the fact that children will not be able to get a job because they will not have the skills and abilities." Opening a debate on libraries and booksellers, Bird said that "we have lost more than 500 [libraries] since 2010," and almost 9,000 librarians. He called on the government to "supply some emergency relief money to stop local authorities doing this dastardly deed."...

The Guardian (UK), Oct. 14

LGBT book placement an issue in Oklahoma City

For 10 years, the Metropolitan Library System in Oklahoma City has placed a group of children's books with sensitive subject matter into a smaller, elevated section. The section, known as "family talk," includes books on drug and alcohol abuse, sexual abuse, incarceration, mental illness, death, divorce, and LGBT issues. Freedom Oklahoma, an LGBT rights advocacy group, will ask the Metro Library Commission to revisit its policy and amend it to place LGBT books in general circulation....

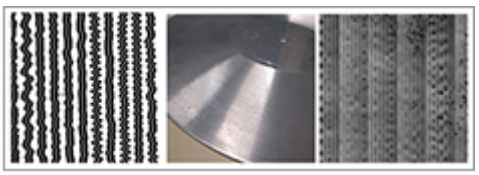
The Oklahoman, Oct. 11; NewNowNext, Oct. 12

More medieval manuscripts to go online

Tuija Ainonen writes: "The national libraries of Britain and France will work together to create two innovative websites that will make 800 manuscripts decorated before the year 1200 available freely. The Bibliothéque nationale de France will create a bilingual website that will allow side-by-side comparison of 400 manuscripts from each collection, selected for their beauty and interest. The British Library will create a website for a general audience that will feature highlights from the most important of these manuscripts. Both websites will be online by November 2018."...

British Library: Medieval Manuscripts Blog, Oct. 12

CLIR gets $2.7 million to preserve at-risk recordings



The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded the Council on Library and Information Resources $2.7 million for a regranting program to digitize "at risk" audio and audiovisual materials of high scholarly value. The program will run four competitions between January 2017 and

September 2018, awarding a total of $2.3 million. CLIR will issue a pilot call for proposals, in partnership with the Northeast Document Conservation Center, in January....

Council on Library and Information Resource, Oct. 13

Signage by design

Edward Luca and Bhuva Narayan write: "Signage can welcome, guide, instruct, and delight users, helping them navigate the complex information world of any library. In practice, however, signage can be problematic, contributing to visual noise through information overload; this often leads to signage blindness, library anxiety, and confusion. We found that a design-thinking approach using empathy, problem definition, solution ideation, prototyping, and testing, can help libraries make meaningful changes."...

Weave: Journal of Library User Experience 1, no. 5 (2016)

Animated GIFs from the National Archives

Andrea James writes: "From the sublime to the ridiculous, the US National Archives' new curated page of GIFs on Giphy has an animated bit of US history for every occasion, like Woodsy Owl, an analog odometer from the Apollo 8 mission, *Twilight Zone*'s Rod Serling, Bugs Bunny dancing, President John F. Kennedy, the Beatles, or Elvis meeting Richard Nixon."...

BoingBoing, Oct. 13

AL Direct is a free electronic newsletter emailed every Tuesday and Friday to personal members of the American Library Association.

Send news and feedback: aldirect@ala.org

Direct ad inquiries to: mstack@ala.org

AL Direct FAQ: americanlibrariesmagazine.org/al-direct

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

AL Direct will not sell your email to outside parties, but your email may be shared with advertisers in this newsletter should you express interest in their products by clicking on their ads or content. If the advertisers choose to communicate with you by email, they are obligated to provide you with an opportunity to opt-out from future emails in compliance with the CAN-SPAM act of 2003. Read the ALA privacy policy.

American Libraries
50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611
800-545-2433, ext. 4216

ISSN 1559-369X

ALA PUBLISHING | AmericanLibraryAssociation