

american libraries

MAY 2016

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

POWER PLAYS

LIBRARY SYSTEMS REPORT

by Marshall Breeding p. 30

PLUS

- Weeding without
Worry p. 50
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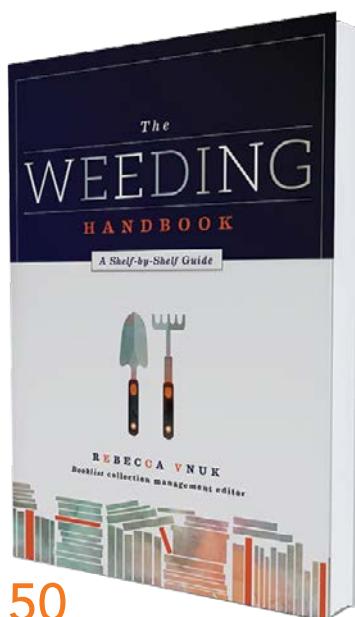
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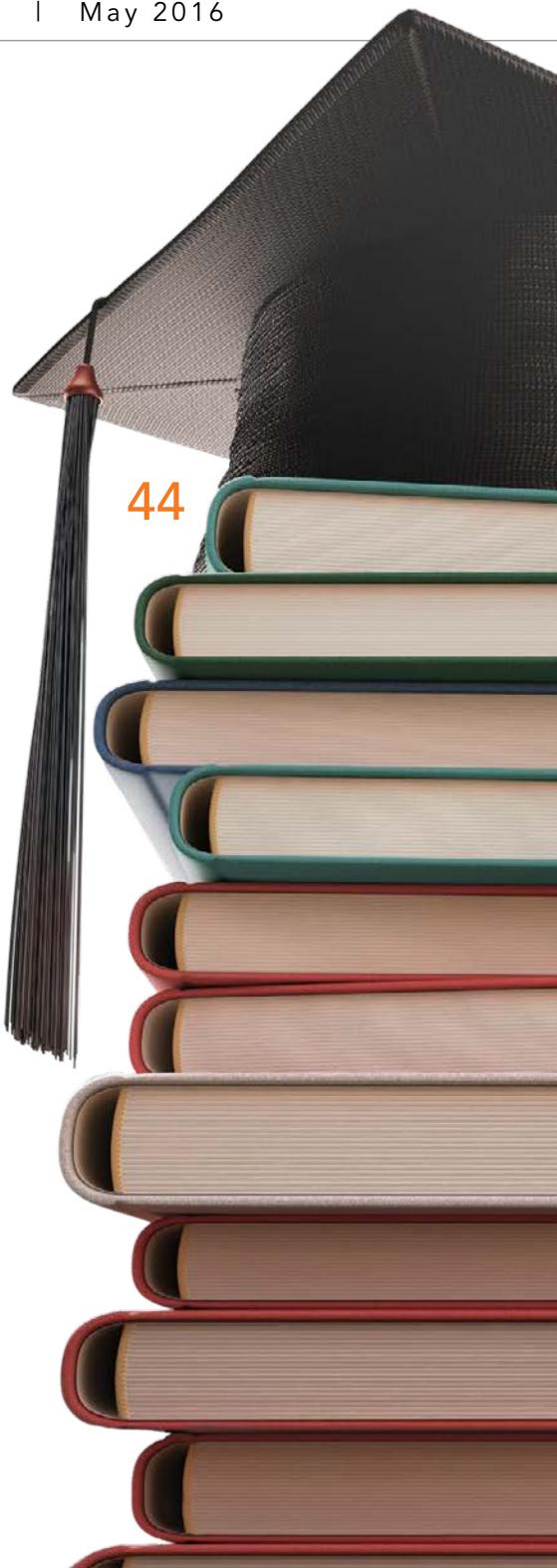
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The Alpha and Omega of a Library Program

by Laurie D. Borman

Sometimes, launching a library program seems like a no-brainer. The interest is high, the costs are low, the planning is simple, attendance is steady. But sometimes, with a little added help, the ongoing library program will grow and grow and grow. That's the idea behind this issue's On My Mind column by David Piper of New Carrollton (Md.) Library on page 24. He tells us how he helped nurture a boys reading program beyond a small group. Okay, he did resort to magic tricks, but by using simple techniques, such as changing the location, he managed to draw more kids—girls included—into the program.

On the flip side, sometimes a library program has outlived its useful life and should be retired. This issue's Youth Matters column by Abby

How do you improve a program, and when do you pull the plug on one?

Johnson on page 58 helps you decide when to pull the plug on a program. Hint: It isn't just about the attendance numbers.

Marshall Breeding, former Vanderbilt University librarian, provides his extensive research on library systems for us for the third year. He documents ongoing library investments in strategic technology products, from the impact of consolidation in the industry to library services platforms. This is one story you'll want to save and refer to throughout the year. It begins on page 30.

It's May, so it must be time to plan what you must see and do at the 2016 Annual Conference and Exhibition in Orlando, Florida. We have all the inside tips for you to begin mapping your schedule in our Annual Must-Dos feature on page 54.

Every garden has weeds that must be pulled, and every library has outdated and worn materials that must be weeded. That's where our excerpt of *The Weeding Handbook: A Shelf-by-Shelf Guide* by Rebecca Vnuk comes in handy. Check out Vnuk's most excellent tips and ideas in the story on page 50.

If you just can't get enough library news from our print issues, website, American Libraries Direct e-newsletter, American Libraries Live streaming webcast, and *American Libraries* social media, we now offer Dewey Decibel, a new monthly podcast available on SoundCloud at bit.ly/deweydecibel. Associate Editor Phil Morehart hosts the podcast, and our first episode (to be released April 24) features ALA Preservation Week 2016 honorary chair and bestselling author Brad Meltzer, as well as Michael Witmore, director of the Folger Shakespeare Library, and Michèle Cloonan, author of the ALA Editions title *Preserving Our Heritage*. Give it a listen and let us know what you think.

American Libraries is about to turn a page on this magazine design. With the June issue—which also celebrates 140 years of American Library Association history—we will launch a redesign. Our art director, Rebecca Lomax, has been crafting the new look for the past several months. We hope you like it as much as we do! ■

american libraries

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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Connecting with Cuba

Extending ALA's reach to the global library world

by Sari Feldman

Why do international travel and partnerships matter to the American Library Association (ALA) and its members? When I became ALA president, I was most interested in visiting American libraries and talking to our members. But I have also had the good fortune to represent ALA in some outstanding international events that are forged from a long-term effort to be part of a global community. This participation in international partnerships enables ALA to extend its reach to libraries outside the US and to learn from the powerful work being done by library professionals all around the world.

In February, I led the first official delegation of American librarians and library supporters to Cuba for the Havana International Book Fair. I learned that the country had a long-standing commitment to literacy, and I began my visit with a meeting of renowned Cuban library leaders, including the remarkable Marta Terry González, and our own leaders, made up of Barbara Ford, ALA past president; Barbara Jones, retired director of ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom; and Vailey Oehlke, Public Library Association president and director of Multnomah County (Oreg.) Library.

The development of Cuban libraries can be traced from the early Cuban revolutions and the government-organized campaign to eliminate illiteracy. "Yo, Si Puedo (Yes I Can)" turned Cuba

into the most literate country in Latin America and influenced literacy development in other Latin American nations. The Cuban commitment to literacy is reflected in the country's cigar factories, where cigar rollers listen to live readings of novels and newspapers during work hours. Enthusiasm for books is present in the crowds visiting the Havana International Book Fair and with spirited librarians who express deep pride for their profession.

Our visit to the provincial library in Cienfuegos presented a more sobering picture. The historic building is unsuitable for a modern library, and restrictions on trapping or even controlling endangered swallows on and around the library create an unappealing and potentially unhealthy situation. The library collection is inadequate and in a condition that we would never consider acceptable. The dedicated and passionate staff compensate for the library environment and state of the material collection. They work to provide programs to enrich the lives of children, adults, families, and people with disabilities—and what they accomplish with the limited resources available to them is nothing short of incredible.

Our ALA group was initially concerned with the lack of digital

access in Cuba. However, we quickly came to recognize that basic access to a wide range of books—so desired in this literate and book-starved country—must be the first step. Books first, then broadband and

universal web access.

"It's complicated" is a Cuban catch phrase, and it truly speaks to the challenges facing Cuban librarians and their communities. Everything from books to broadband, from censorship to

intellectual freedom is on the table in terms of future work for Cuban libraries. With President Obama's recent visit to Cuba, we are poised to have new trade and travel relations. But the issues of human rights and free expression must also be delivered to the people of Cuba.

The opportunity to visit Cuba at this critical juncture and to discuss these issues is part of a long history between US and Cuban librarians. We hope to continue our relationship with Cuban librarians and to support them with learning in ways that will be meaningful to their service priorities. We too can and must learn from our colleagues in Cuba, and we can be inspired by their indomitable spirit that creates individual opportunity and community progress. ■



"Yo, Si Puedo (Yes I Can)" turned Cuba into the most literate country in Latin America.

SARI FELDMAN is executive director of Cuyahoga County (Ohio) Public Library. Email: sfeldman@cuyahogalibrary.org

A United Effort

Thousands join ALA's new public awareness campaign

by Keith Michael Fiels

Whether it's a child learning to read, a teen getting help with homework, a veteran using career placement services to find a new job, or a small business owner employing the latest technology to improve his or her business, our public, school, academic, and special libraries are transforming the lives of individuals and communities every minute of every day.

Thanks to the American Library Association's new public awareness campaign Libraries Transform, it has never been easier to spread the word about the transformative and critical role libraries play in the digital age. Since the October 2015 launch, more than 1,600 libraries have registered to participate in the campaign, and that number is growing daily. Through the campaign's attention-grabbing "Because" statements, Libraries Transform delivers powerful messages like "Because not everything on the internet is true" and "Because learning to read comes before reading to learn." Each statement invites the public to click on a link to the Libraries Transform page, where key facts, stories, and statistics illustrate the many and often surprising ways libraries affect and transform our lives.

Our goal is to change persistent public perceptions of the library as "old-fashioned" and to reach new audiences through traditional and social media. Since February, ALA's Public Awareness Office has

been pushing out campaign messaging every week through various social media channels. Our goal is to see these messages shared and retweeted with others so that thousands—and then millions—see the Libraries Transform message.

Over the coming months, there will be more "Because" statements, short videos featuring authors and library users, quizzes, and factoids going out—week after week after week. Since last October, Libraries Transform-related posts have reached more than 1 million people on the ALA and I Love Libraries Facebook pages. Campaign videos have been seen more than 23,500 times on YouTube and Facebook, and Libraries Transform tools have been downloaded more than 8,000 times.

While these numbers are growing every day, your stories will ultimately be the creative driving force



Your stories will ultimately be the driving force of the Libraries

Transform campaign.

and lasting impact of Libraries Transform. For example, the Pickering (Ont.) Public Library has created a YouTube

video featuring "Because" statements to underscore its impact on the community. The Ohio Library Council has adopted the campaign as its National Library Legislative Day theme and plans to use the "Because" statements to showcase the return on investment of Ohio libraries. State associations in Maine and Minnesota are using the campaign as conference themes. And ALA's Library Champions are not only providing critical support for the campaign but also featuring campaign messages on their websites and online products, seen by millions of users.

What does success look like? The Caro (Mich.) Area District Library's arresting roadside sign (pictured) has not only been seen by thousands of drivers but has also reached 2 million people through social media!

We need your voice to be a part of this unified effort. Please register today to become a part of the Libraries Transform campaign at librariestransform.org.

Together, we can help the public understand that libraries aren't just "nice to have." They are essential. ■



Caro (Mich.) Area District Library recently used a Libraries Transform "Because" statement on a roadside sign. The image was posted on social media and has had a reach of more than 2 million people.

KEITH MICHAEL FIELS is executive director of the American Library Association, headquartered in Chicago.

Comment Enabled

Making a Difference

I echo the sentiments of Sari Feldman and Julie Todaro (“Librarians in the Digital Age,” *The Scoop*, AL Online, Jan. 19). Sometimes library folks don’t see the value of their own products and services. Today’s public libraries are so much more than quiet zones and bastions of obscure knowledge—although we’re still great for those things too! Advances in digital technologies have spawned the demand for ebooks and e-media, makerspaces, computer classes, and of course, free Wi-Fi. We

are educators who help our patrons navigate these collections and services so they can experience something potentially greater than they ever knew was possible. We want to make a dif-

ference in their lives. It’s this pride of public service that sometimes gets lost in cynicism and taking what we have for granted.

Daniel Matsumoto
San Francisco

Academic–Public Partnership

One-ID access (“Linking Students to Libraries,” *AL*, Jan./Feb., p. 19) is such a great idea! I work at a small community college library, and when a student needs a book that is either unavailable or not owned by our library, the next place I look is the public library. We have students who come from all

over the state, US, and even abroad. Automatically providing them with a public library card when they enroll as a student would connect them with the abundance of resources that the public library has to offer and could be a means of helping them get out into the community as well.

Nissa Thor
Syracuse, New York

Allow Simultaneous Use

If libraries are limited to a certain number of circulations (“Penguin Random House Ebooks Now Licensed for Perpetual Access,” *E-Content*, AL Online, Jan. 20), the publishers should allow simultaneous use. Popular titles would need to be reordered quickly, which means publishers would get more money, collection development librarians would know they are purchasing titles that are being used, and patrons wouldn’t often have to wait weeks or months for access to the title.

Kacy Helwick
New Orleans

Not a Vibrant Library

I agree with John Juricek (“Comment Enabled,” *AL*, Mar./Apr., p. 7) with regard to Joseph Janes’s column (“The Fee Library,” *AL*, Nov./Dec., p. 29) and will carry the point further by saying that, despite statements on Folio’s website offering some general public access, the tone suggests a first-class literary-themed retreat for gentry visiting the city. I’m not sure that it’s necessarily a bad concept or, as Janes wrote, “it’s their clubhouse.” It’s just

unlikely to be a very vibrant library, at least in the sense of a well-funded public or academic library system.

Clayton E. Blackburn
Atlanta

The New Purchase Model

In writing about the recent decision by Penguin Random House to license all of its ebooks to libraries under a perpetual access model (“Penguin Random House Ebooks Now Licensed for Perpetual Access,” *E-Content*, AL Online, Jan. 20), Robert C. Maier, a member of the ALA Digital Content Working Group (DCWG), states that “there is clear benefit in making the selection decision once and not having to review that decision annually.” As another DCWG member and manager of the Washington Anytime Library, an OverDrive-powered collection provided by a consortium of 44 midsized and smaller public libraries in Washington State, I have a slightly different take on it. We let our customers decide and repurchase only when an expired title has a hold on it. Still, it is a hassle; we must run a weekly search to identify expired titles with holds and then repurchase them.

But the significantly higher cost is a bigger problem. Under the new model, we spent more than \$7,000 to replace expired Penguin titles in January, compared with \$2,000 in December. A preliminary estimate suggests that it would cost \$44,000 to replace the remaining Penguin titles that will expire in 2016; it should be somewhat less to replace only those with holds. In comparison, we spent \$16,500 replacing Penguin titles in 2015. We would have preferred an option to choose the purchase model—12 months at a lower

The editors welcome letters about recent contents or matters of general interest. Letters should be limited to 300 words. Send to americanlibraries@ala.org; fax 312-440-0901; and American Libraries, Reader Forum, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611-2795.

cost versus perpetual access at a higher cost—on an individual title basis.

In the meantime, our holds ratio is higher than we'd like—with longer wait times for popular titles—and our collection is smaller than it should be. The most frequent complaints from library users relate to the long wait times and the inability to find anything available to check out at the point of need. I hear the same thing from other Washington librarians: Current ebook purchase models are ultimately unsustainable for libraries.

Will Stuiwenga
Olympia, Washington

Reject Nothing Digital

We can't start second-guessing the "why" and "how" of storing and accessing digital or analog information ("Saving Digital Ephemera," *AL*, Jan./Feb., p. 18), otherwise we run a risk of depriving the future of information that new technologies could have accessed and new inquiries could have discovered. We need to become hoarders in the best sense of the word and on the grandest of scales—amassing with zeal and abandon, and storing with care and attention.

A project such as the forensic examination of medieval wax seals at the University of Lincoln (UK) is just one example of how new technologies and methods are being used to discover and extract information from previously overlooked sources. In the digital realm, one needs only to consider the many and growing intersections of Big Data and digital humanities to realize that the more data that projects such as Chronicling America's digital newspaper repository can offer, the better. Imagine, with more than a nod to Nicholson Baker's excellent book *Double Fold*, that we had not only retained all of the physical newspapers that were poorly microfilmed and destroyed in the past but also all of their inserts, comics, and advertisements, which were discarded

We need to become hoarders in the best sense of the word and on the grandest of scales—amassing with zeal and abandon.

without having been microfilmed. Newer digital technologies could have created superior scans and a far richer store of information for discovery by an even broader spectrum of disciplines.

The mission and primary focus of each and every institution should be, to paraphrase Internet Archive librarian Alexis Rossi, to archive all of its knowledge and to make it accessible to everyone. Even, at a certain level, attempting to identify redundant aims across institutions could lead to misguided decisions. My copy of an incunabula might appear to be the same as yours and, for example, not be selected in a consortium digitization project. However, future technologies could have the potential to discover previously indiscernible characteristics via the digital copy (say, in the woodcut or typeface) that would have indicated distinction. With apologies to John Ruskin: Go to digital rejecting nothing, selecting nothing, and scorning nothing. The future will be grateful.

Anita Weaver
Los Angeles

Card Catalogs Still Kicking

Pull the rod and contemplate the demise of OCLC's catalog cards ("The Last Card," *AL*, Jan./Feb., p. 28), but the card catalog is not dead yet. Collections in and near metropolitan areas continue to maintain card catalogs. Some may be "frozen" and others are actively updated, but they are in use on a daily basis.

Should you decide to conduct photographic research on the US Army Signal Corps, as I happened to be doing in January, you'd quickly learn

that the National Archives in College Park, Maryland, maintains a card file for Record Group 111. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia is digitizing its cards as photographic images; original card files remain available. The Quadrangle, a continuing care retirement community (CCRC) in Haverford, Pennsylvania, has a web page stating that "more than 30 trained volunteers maintain an up-to-date" card catalog. I phoned Quadrangle's library and was assured that there is indeed a traditional card catalog. At another CCRC with a volunteer-run library, in Media, Pennsylvania, is an electric typewriter; rolled into the platen (another term from the era of the rod!) is a note emphasizing that the typewriter is reserved for typing catalog cards.

In 2007, Jessica C. Gibson completed a thesis at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill focusing on libraries in North Carolina CCRCs. Gibson found that none of the libraries surveyed had electronic catalogs—some relied on card catalogs, some on lists, and some on posters to direct patrons to the appropriate shelf. As baby boomers age into eligibility for CCRCs, building on Gibson's core research would be a valuable project for students of information science, geriatric social services, and libraries. What has changed since 2007? What staffing and collection needs exist? Who will use these libraries in the future, and what finding tools will those users expect?

I completed my MLS at the dawn of OCLC and recall the excitement I felt about my university's transition to an electronic catalog. At Ohio State University in Columbus, I trained hundreds of students in the use of online resources. Today I am still building databases and guiding electronic discovery. We've come a long way in our thinking about how to find materials, but a surprising range of collections still relies on cards.

Sally Stokes
Silver Spring, Maryland

ALA Disappointed by Cuts in Obama's 2017 Budget

On February 9, President Obama released his fiscal year 2017 budget request to Congress.

It includes \$230 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which supports libraries and museums in all 50 states through funding from the Library Services and Technology Act and the Museum Services Act.

The amount represents no change from the president's FY2016 funding for IMLS, but significant allocation adjustments in FY2017 will result in a cut of almost \$1 million in grants to state libraries,

as well as a more than \$200,000 reduction in funding for Native American and Native Hawaiian library services.

The American Library Association (ALA) has expressed disappointment at the news.

"The president's budget does not recognize the value libraries bring to our country," ALA President Sari Feldman said in a February 9 statement. "Every day, America's libraries create individual opportunity and community progress. It is ironic that the president has cut federal funds, considering libraries are on the front lines directly serving

all Americans without exception and that our work with individuals and communities advances our country in education, employment, and entrepreneurship."

Feldman stressed the negative effects that cutting the funds will have on kids, families, and small businesses that rely on libraries for literacy programs, skills training opportunities, health care resources, and internet access to research college and financial aid.

"By cutting federal funds to libraries, the president's budget is making it more difficult for libraries to do their jobs," she said.

Obama to Nominate Hayden as Librarian of Congress

On February 24, President Obama announced his intention to nominate Carla Hayden, 2003–2004 ALA president and current chief executive officer of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, as the 14th Librarian of Congress. Hayden would be the first woman and first African-American Librarian of Congress.

"Hats off to President Obama for nominating Dr. Hayden, a professional librarian uniquely positioned with the leadership and management skills and understanding of digital technology to make the Library of Congress the preeminent national library in the world, highly valued by and serving all Americans as a treasured resource," ALA President Sari Feldman said in a February 24 statement. "We look

forward to working closely with her to further librarians' bedrock principle that all Americans everywhere deserve and must have equitable access to the information that they need to succeed and lead productive lives in the digital age."

Obama nominated Hayden to be a member of the National Museum and Library Services Board in January 2010, and she was confirmed by the Senate in June 2010. Prior to joining the Pratt Library, she was deputy commissioner and chief librarian of Chicago Public Library from 1991 to 1993. She was an assistant professor of library and information science at University of Pittsburgh from 1987 to 1991 and library services coordinator for the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago from 1982 to 1987.

Become a Candidate in the 2017 ALA Election

The nominating committee for the 2017 ALA election seeks nominees for president-elect and councilor-at-large.

The nominating committee will select two candidates to run for president-elect and no fewer than 50 candidates for the 33 at-large Council seats. The president-elect will serve a three-year term: as president-elect in 2017–2018, as president in 2018–2019, and as immediate past president in 2019–2020. The councilors-at-large will serve three-year terms, following the 2017 ALA Annual Conference and ending at the adjournment of the 2020 Annual Conference.

Members wishing to make nominations should submit the following information: nominee name, present position, institution, address, telephone, fax, and email address.

ALA GEEKS OUT AT C2E2



Librarians gather en masse at the ALA booth at the Chicago Comic and Entertainment Expo (C2E2), held March 18–20 at the McCormick Place convention center in downtown Chicago. In addition to occupying a booth in an exhibit hall packed with thousands of comic book, film, pop culture, and cosplay fanatics, ALA sponsored several professional panels for librarians during C2E2, including a networking session and panel discussions on reinventing library services to meet geek needs in Chicago, current trends and challenges in digital graphic novel collections, and comics collections quandaries in libraries.

Self-nominations are encouraged. Potential nominees must complete a biographical form available at bit.ly/1V71aJz.

Nominations and forms may be sent to any member of the nominating committee. They must be received no later than July 8. For a list of nominating committee members and more information, visit bit.ly/1p1IG5j.

Endowment Trustee Nominations Open

Nominations are now being accepted for an endowment trustee position for the ALA Endowment Fund. ALA Endowment Trustees have the

authority to hold, invest, and disburse endowment and other long-term investment funds as directed by the ALA Executive Board.

Candidates must have a working knowledge of investment opportunities, long-term investment funds, and benchmarks used to judge fund performance. They must also have experience in the management or oversight of investment funds in a business setting and be able to contribute to the preparation of semiannual performance reports to the ALA Executive Board and Council.

The application deadline is May 15. All applicants must

CALENDAR

May 1–7: Choose Privacy Week, chooseprivacyweek.org.

May 2–3: National Library Legislative Day, bit.ly/1PVyYAP.

May 21: National Readathon Day, readathonday.com.

June: GLBT Book Month, ala.org/glbtkbookmonth.

June 23–28: ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition, Orlando, Florida, alaannual.org.

Sept.: National Library Card Sign-Up Month, ala.org/librarycardsignup.

Sept. 15–17: Association for Library Service to Children Institute, Charlotte, North Carolina, ala.org/alsc/institute.

Sept. 25–Oct. 1: Banned Books Week, ala.org/bbooks.

Sept. 28: Banned Websites Awareness Day, ala.org/aasl/bwad.

Oct. 9–15: Teen Read Week, teenreadweek.ning.com.

Oct. 16–22: National Friends of Libraries Week, bit.ly/Jnyt77.

Nov.: Picture Book Month, picturebookmonth.com.

Nov. 4–6: YALSA's Young Adult Services Symposium, Pittsburgh, bit.ly/1xOnfhU.

LAST CHANCE FOR DESIGN SHOWCASE SUBMISSIONS

The deadline to submit designs for *American Libraries'* 2016 Library Design Showcase, our annual feature celebrating new and newly renovated or expanded libraries of all types, is May 31. The showcase will be featured in *American Libraries'* September/October 2016 issue.

We are looking for libraries that are shining examples of innovative architecture and that address patrons' needs in unique, interesting, and effective ways. Previous submissions have ranged from beautiful restorations of historic buildings to vacant structures that have been repurposed into libraries to colorful kids' sections and high-tech facilities with audio and video production studios.



LIBRARY
DESIGN
SHOWCASE
american
libraries

Wolf Creek Branch Library of the Atlanta-Fulton (Ga.) Public Library System, from the 2015 Library Design Showcase.

If your library is on the cutting edge, we want our readers to know about it. To be eligible, projects must have been completed between May 1, 2015, and April 30, 2016.

To have your library considered, send a completed submission form, along with high-resolution digital

images, to *American Libraries*, Attn: Library Design Showcase, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Submissions can also be sent via Dropbox to pmorehart@ala.org. Unfortunately, not all submissions can be featured.

View last year's showcase at bit.ly/1NhphLq. For more information, email pmorehart@ala.org.

submit an application form (bit.ly/1Rh7mdW) and three references. The candidate will be selected by the ALA Executive Board at the 2016 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition.

For more information, term limits, and additional requirements for consideration, visit bit.ly/1PrOWSa.

Become an Innovator for Your Community

ALA and the Harwood Institute for Public Innovation have announced a training opportunity to help libraries strengthen their role as community change agents.

The Public Innovators Lab for Libraries will be held at the Loudermilk Center in Atlanta, October 19–21. Librarians, community partners, and stakeholders from libraries of all types are encouraged to register.

Participants will learn to:

- tap libraries' natural values to contribute to the greater good and

bring communities together

- surface people's shared aspirations for their communities and help bring them to life

- convene and lead productive, insightful community conversations

- become stewards of public knowledge

The cost is \$1,495 for the first person from an organization to register and \$995 for each additional person. Team participation is encouraged.

Participants must register online at bit.ly/1ZtVF5L by October 14. For more information, visit ala.org/LTC/training.

ALSC Donates \$5,000 to Reforma Project

The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking's (Reforma) Children in Crisis Project donates books to detention centers housing thousands of refugee children who arrive along the southern border of the United States. Reforma

has also compiled resources including booklists and recommended storytimes to assist librarians in providing welcoming spaces for refugee children and families.

To support Reforma's efforts, ALA's Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) is donating \$5,000 to the project and is exploring other ways of activating its membership to raise awareness.

For more information on ALSC's donation and the project, visit bit.ly/1RIhEQ4.

ALSC Awards Honors Tribal Land Library

ALSC has announced that the Leech Lake Tribal College Library in Cass Lake, Minnesota, is the recipient of the 2016 ALSC/Candlewick Press "Light the Way: Outreach to the Underserved" grant. The library will receive \$3,000 for its "Agindaasodaa! (Let's Read!)" program.

The library, located on tribal lands, created the program to provide culturally responsive literacy

THE 2016 VIRTUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

ALA members have an online forum where they can be heard: Virtual Membership Meetings (VMMs).

VMMs are part of ALA's ongoing efforts to reach out to members and get their input on strategic direction, budget priorities, and topics of interest. The 2016 Virtual Membership Meeting (VMM16) takes place June 2, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Central. It will be a fast-paced 60-minute session, extended from past VMMs to allow time for member interaction. All ALA personal members may register and participate. Live captioning will be provided.

To allow members to share what's happening at their libraries, VMM16 will incorporate images and video links submitted by members that show either a library's community involvement and outreach or unique and interesting things that make the library a 21st-century facility.

Many members gather together to view the VMM. It is a chance to share the experience with colleagues from your community and across the world. For complete details, including details on submitting your library's images, using ALA Connect, and accessing other important information, visit ala.org/membership/vmm.

outreach to children up to age 4 and to young caregivers under age 25 living on the Leech Lake Reservation. It hopes to help children develop early literacy skills, help young caregivers embrace literacy in their own children's lives, and help preserve the native Ojibwe language.

For more information on the grant and the winning program, visit bit.ly/22IYHvR.

IMLS Scholarships Send Librarians to IFLA

Fifty US librarians, library staff members, and library students have been awarded \$1,000 scholarships to attend the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) World Library and Information Congress in Columbus, Ohio, August 13–19.

The awards are provided through a \$50,000 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant from IMLS, and will help cover costs related to travel, hotel, meals, and registration.

For a full list of recipients, visit bit.ly/1M4NsCK.

AASL Bridges Dues for Student Members

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) is offering scholarships for student members to bridge the increase between their

student and regular membership dues. The scholarships will make up the cost difference for three years, allowing recipients to establish themselves both in their career and financially before assuming full dues.

Applications for this competitive program are due May 2. Information on how to apply can be found at ala.org/aasl/awards/student.

New Graphic Novels for Kids Lists Released

ALSC has released three new graphic novel reading lists for students ranging from kindergarten to 2nd grade, 3rd to 5th grade, and 6th to 8th grade. The titles were selected, compiled, and annotated by members of the ALSC Quicklists Consulting Committee.

The new lists are available for free at ala.org/alsc/graphicnovels2016.

LTC Public Innovators Case Studies Available

ALA has released five case studies detailing the experiences of the Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC) Public Innovators Cohort, a group of public libraries that spent 18 months engaging their communities and taking a leadership role in driving change.



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GERMAN AND US LIBRARIES UNITE



ALA and the German Library Association (BID) celebrated the start of a three-year partnership between US and German libraries at the German Library Congress in Leipzig March 13–17. From left: Kent Logsdon, deputy chief of mission, US Embassy in Germany; ALA President Sari Feldman; BID President Heinz-Jürgen Lorenzen; and Scott R. Riedmann, US consul general in Leipzig.

The cohort libraries—Columbus (Wis.) Public Library, Hartford (Conn.) Public Library, Los Angeles Public Library, Red Hook (N.Y.) Public Library, and Spokane County (Wash.) Library District—were selected in 2014 through a peer-reviewed application process.

Find more information on the cohort and links to the individual case studies at bit.ly/1UNdFqY.

Registration Open for YALSA Symposium

Register now for the Young Adult Library Services Association's 2016 Young Adult Services Symposium, which takes place November 4–6 in Pittsburgh.

Join school and public library staff, educators, researchers, young

adult authors, and teen advocates as they discuss issues related to the theme of the 2016 symposium: “Empowering Teens to Increase Your Library’s Impact.”

Learn more about the symposium, registration, lodging, and discounted rates at ala.org/yalsa/yasymposium.

New Toolkit Available for LGBT Outreach

The ALA Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table (GLBTRT) released a new toolkit at the 2016 Public Library Association Conference in Denver to help librarians better serve the LGBT population.

Titled “Open to All,” this resource is designed for libraries of all types and sizes and offers practical tips

and resources on purchasing materials, developing programs, and promoting partnerships with other organizations.

“Our goal is to give library staff at any library a [starting] point on serving this community,” said GLBTRT Chair Peter Coyl in an April 5 statement. “Those who are unfamiliar with the GLBT community and their needs often ask us where to start. This toolkit will help point them in the right direction.”

The toolkit is available at ala.org/opentoall.

AASL Seeks Webinar Presenters

AASL invites school librarians looking to share best practices and subject matter experts to present AASL eCOLLAB webinars.

Proposals for the 45–60 minute webinars should include up to three learning objectives and address how the subject matter supports AASL’s mission of empowering leaders to transform teaching and learning. Submissions that demonstrate innovative thinking, new perspectives, and strategies for effectively implementing new ideas and technology will be given top consideration.

All topics may be submitted, but AASL is seeking proposals on the following topics in particular:

- makerspaces
- STEM
- research skills and information literacy
- emerging technology
- community outreach/advocacy
- collection development
- underserved populations
- collaboration/co-teaching
- evidence-based practice

Proposals may be submitted at ala.org/aasl/getinvolved. Send questions to Jennifer Habley, AASL manager of web communications, at jhabley@ala.org. ■

BRING THOMAS PAINE TO YOUR LIBRARY

ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF), the Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF), and actor and playwright Ian Ruskin are offering to libraries screenings of Ruskin's new film *To Begin the World Over Again: The Life of Thomas Paine*. Ruskin's film captures the life of a man who helped shape our national character, basing his beliefs on the idea of "justice for all."

Ruskin and OIF have made the film available to libraries that wish to



screen it for their communities. In addition to the film license, libraries will be supplied with a DVD of the film to circulate, as well as resources to promote and structure the

screening program. OIF and FTRF can consult with libraries on additional display and speaker ideas, if needed. To learn more about this opportunity, visit bit.ly/1RB0LoM.

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UPCOMING EPISODES

- May 12 Makerspaces in the Library
- June 9 Childhood Development in the Library

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Champions of Children's Privacy

Imagine a school where a corner of every classroom contains a corporate interloper, someone with a clipboard tracking student behavior—what they like, what they wear, what they eat for lunch—in order to target them for the company's ads and products. Impossible, right? No school board in the country would let it happen.

But in one sense, it's already happening. In December 2015, the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), a non-profit digital technology rights group, filed a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission against Google for Education, alleging that the company is surreptitiously collecting data about students as they use their school-

owned Chromebooks and education apps—data that they're using to target those kids with ads. In fact, EFF says, those innocent-looking laptops even have settings that allow a school administrator to share children's personal information with the internet giant.

In an age where more of our lives take place in the digital world, we all have a lot to learn about privacy. But for children and teens still developing their identities and personalities, privacy is essential, says librarian Mike Robinson, head of systems at Consortium Library at the University of Alaska Anchorage and chair of the American

Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee's Privacy Subcommittee.

"Children need more privacy as they get older in order to form their own opinions and figure out who they are," says Robinson. "They need space to do this free from surveillance. It's not absolute, but there needs to be room for them to develop their own set of viewpoints, separate from educators, separate from parents, and separate from librarians."

As defenders of intellectual freedom, Robinson says librarians have an obvious role in both protecting the privacy of children and teaching them how to protect themselves.



"The librarian should be the advocate for student privacy, both in the library and in schools," says Robinson. "We should be the privacy experts inside schools and libraries, and we should be the champions of privacy."

The heart of privacy is the control of information, says Deborah Caldwell-Stone, deputy director of the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF), and children deserve that as much as adults, she says.

"Young people are often never given control of their information. Their privacy isn't respected in the way that we would respect it for adults. We can do better than that. We think that no matter what someone's age is, their privacy should be respected," says Caldwell-Stone.

Respecting the privacy of young people means honoring their intellectual freedom and keeping their information private, as well as teaching them how to be good digital citizens, she says. She cites the National Academy of Sciences' metaphor of the internet as a swimming pool: It offers plenty of opportunities for recreation and learning, but it can be dangerous, too.

"You can teach them how to swim, or you can put up a fence. What happens when they climb that fence and open the gate? The best thing is to give kids the education to protect themselves," says Caldwell-Stone.

Although many adults share the perception that children and teens have no concept of or worries about privacy online, research shows that's not actually the case. For more than a decade, Denise Agosto, professor of information science at Drexel University, has been studying how young people perceive technology and threats to their privacy.

"Children need more privacy as they get older in order to form their own opinions and figure out who they are."

—Mike Robinson, head of systems at Consortium Library at the University of Alaska Anchorage and chair of the American Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee's Privacy Subcommittee

HOW TO LEARN AND TEACH DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

1 Know your resources. OIF and its subcommittee on privacy have put together many resources and guidelines on privacy in the library, including information about privacy for children and teens. Access them at ala.org/offices/oif.

2 Learn the Five Ps. AASL President Leslie Preddy cites five Ps for a positive digital footprint from a program in Queensland, Australia, that can help structure your conversations: profiles, positive, permission, privacy, and protect. She also recommends Common Sense Media's video series and resources for teaching kids and parents about privacy and good online habits.

3 Get creative. OIF's Caldwell-Stone notes a fun Virtual Privacy Lab created by San José (Calif.) Public Library (as reported in *American Libraries*, Jan./Feb., p. 22) where kids and adults can learn about privacy issues in an interactive game format. She also notes libraries that have had book discussions, movie nights, and displays that highlight issues of privacy and online safety.

4 Teach about privacy anytime. Did you miss Choose Privacy Week (May 1–7)? Librarian Mike Robinson says don't worry—anytime is the right time for a discussion about privacy and online practices.

"We did programming in June because it fit better in the calendar," he says. Choose Privacy Week comes around once a year, but really, it should be used as a spark for libraries and librarians to get involved with privacy all year long.

5 Review your school or library's privacy practices. Just as librarians protect their patrons' physical book borrowing records, take note of your institution's practices in protecting and encrypting digital information. If you are a school librarian, look at what education apps and services your school uses and investigate how data is collected and protected.

"The vast majority of teens on social media are aware of privacy issues, but they conceptualize privacy differently," says Agosto. "Most teens believe personal privacy doesn't exist—that it's impossible to live a life that's private in today's world—but they're also worried about sharing information with unintended audiences."

What Agosto has shown in her research is that teens want to know about privacy and how to protect themselves, but our current efforts to teach them are falling flat. Agosto has spent thousands of hours in public schools and libraries across the country in the past decade, and what she's seen has been disappointing.

"The majority of it is built on scare tactics," she says. "We're telling them everything is dangerous, and that turns them off. There are so many terrible videos of people telling their horror stories that just don't work. The end result is that most teens are not that well educated on safety and privacy issues."

One message is getting through, though, says Agosto: that information you put on the web stays on the web and can affect future college and employment prospects. But more needs to be done, she says, and librarians are perfectly situated to educate today's youth on privacy issues.

"Young people are much more interested in learning from adults they have trusted relationships with, and librarians already have those trusted relationships," Agosto says. "Even librarians who feel like they are not

very technical can do this. It's not so much a technical issue but having discussions about critical thinking and creating a safe environment where they talk about what they've experienced online."

School librarians have an important role in educating kids about online privacy, says Leslie Preddy, Indianapolis Perry Meridian Middle School librarian and president of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL).

"School librarians are in a unique situation," Preddy says. "The school librarian doesn't just get to work with all kids in the school, but all staff in the school. We can teach other adults about online privacy and help them incorporate it into their lessons and classes."

In addition, school librarians can host educational events for parents and community members, teaching them the basics of good digital citizenship and helping reinforce what kids are learning in school.

Preddy cautions that teaching kids about their "digital footprint" isn't a one-and-done lesson plan but a continual process that should expand as kids get older and become more sophisticated internet users.

"It's really trying to put it in their minds at a young age and continue to reinforce it. It takes a long time to build good habits," she says. "You introduce something, and then you have to enrich and reinforce and expand the concept. That's what we need to do with kids to help them develop good habits online."

—Megan Cottrell is a writer, blogger, and reporter in Michigan.

Rock in the Vault

Homemade concert fliers printed from an unguarded copy machine. Custom jean jacket patches for bands Transilvia, You and I, and The Degenerics. A set list from a 1982 Smithereens show stored away with a torn ticket stub. It's the ephemera of a bygone era, before the internet or social networking, when building a fan base in a local music scene was a band's best chance at getting broader recognition.

The do-it-yourself ethos of the local music scene tells a story of dissent from mainstream culture, says Rutgers University media studies doctoral student Frank Bridges, who played in bands and ran his own record label in the 1980s and 1990s near the New Brunswick, New Jersey, campus. He thinks it's a story worth preserving. Bridges's dissertation explores the scene as a pocket of resistance to the decline of vinyl—a scene which he argues was due in part to the proliferation of independent record labels in the area. He's amassed a fledgling archive of material in his research, but he didn't have to look far to find a place to preserve it. The Rutgers School of Communication and Information is right next door to the Special Collections and University Archives section of the Archibald Stevens Alexander Library.

Turning to his neighbor seemed an obvious decision for Bridges, and other researchers and collectors are reaching the same conclusion. Music archives based on genre, region, and even single artists are trending in the university library world, often for the resources and expertise such institutions bring to the table. The Cornell University Hip-Hop Collection and the



Frank Bridges, media studies doctoral student, and Christie Lutz, New Jersey regional studies librarian and head of public services in Special Collections and University Archives, with items in the New Brunswick Music Scene Archive at Rutgers University.

Grateful Dead Archive at University of California, Santa Cruz, among others, have built substantial collections and are inspiring other schools to start their own. UCLA's punk archive, for example, launched in 2013 after Megan Fraser, head of processing projects and cohead of collection management at UCLA Library Special Collections, saw a presentation by Cornell hip-hop archive curators Katherine Reagan and Ben Ortiz at a Society of American Archivists conference.

"UCLA has been collecting performing arts materials since it was founded, so what was really inspiring to me was the passion the Cornell folks had about their work, but also

Music archives based on genre, region, and artists are trending in the university library world, often for the resources and expertise such institutions bring to the table.

their really strong efforts to relate to the community," Fraser says.

Smaller archives, like UCLA's and the New Brunswick Music Scene Archive at Rutgers, have been established over the past few years and are growing fast. Christie Lutz, New Jersey regional studies librarian and head of public services in Special Collections and University Archives at Rutgers, started planning the archive with Bridges about a year ago and already has a long list of people waiting to donate items, she says. The archive was inaugurated with a symposium last October that attracted about 75 people, but an overwhelming online response to the event at one point had Lutz worried that attendance would outgrow the room she reserved.

The collection, which generally focuses on rock, hardcore, and punk bands from roughly 1980 to the present, has already grown in directions Lutz says she couldn't have expected. "How many archival collections have denim patches?"

she asks. “That’s an example of ‘we don’t know what we want, but when we get it we’re like, aha, that’s something new.’”

As the collection grows, Lutz says she’s turning to more well-established music archives and similar programs for guidance, such as the Institute of Jazz Studies—known as the world’s largest jazz archive—on Rutgers’ Newark campus, the Louisville Underground Music Archive at the University of Louisville (Ky.), and the D.C. Punk Archive at the D.C. Public Library.

The Cornell Hip-Hop Collection is in its ninth year and already serving as a model for similar collections. Launched in 2007 with about 10,000 items, it has grown to more than 250,000 recordings, films, books, and other pieces of ephemera, such as magazines, event fliers, press packets, photographs, and clothing. Reagan, curator of rare books and manuscripts and assistant director for collections in Cornell Library’s Rare and Manuscript Division, says the collection has become an important resource for various history, music, and English courses. The archive is now such a priority for the school, Reagan says, it hired an assistant curator in 2011 to serve as a teaching and subject expert.

Though it primarily serves scholars and researchers, the collection is available to everyone, particularly those in the community who helped establish it, Reagan says. “Hip-hop was created by black and brown teenagers in the Bronx in the 1970s. Then and now, it’s one of the poorest counties in the US. It’s critically important to make the archiving of

this available to all communities, not just academic communities, to make sure the community that created this culture and spread it around the globe, that it’s their collection and not just Cornell’s.”

She describes it as a “living archive” that aims to connect the voice of the people in hip-hop to the university’s curriculum. As part of that effort, the school hosted hip-hop pioneer Afrika Bambaataa as a visiting scholar from 2012 to 2015, and it plans to appoint more hip-hop artists as visiting scholars in the future.

Both Cornell’s hip-hop archive and the new Rutgers collection started with private collectors. The hip-hop archive, for example, originated through a donation from Johan Kugelberg, a former recording industry executive at Warner Bros. Kugelberg shopped around for the right institution for his collection, Reagan says, primarily focusing on various organizations in New York City. “He didn’t find, at that time, an institution that had the resources or the inclination to take it on,” Reagan says, noting that Cornell Library offers a rare book

and manuscript vault, conservation and digitization labs, archival professionals, and an audiovisual preservation program “essential to ensuring modern cultural documentation survives into the coming centuries.”

While the expertise of archivists makes universities a good fit for establishing and growing a music archive, one university is turning to its students as a resource. Pam Hackbart-Dean, director of the Special Collections Research Center at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, says mass communication students learn to restore reel-to-reel, wax cylinder, and other recordings from defunct formats as part of the sound engineering curriculum. She says the university’s recently established Southern Illinois Music Archive grew out of the curriculum. “We started doing this particular program over the last five years, and it’s been a really nice complement,” Hackbart-Dean says.

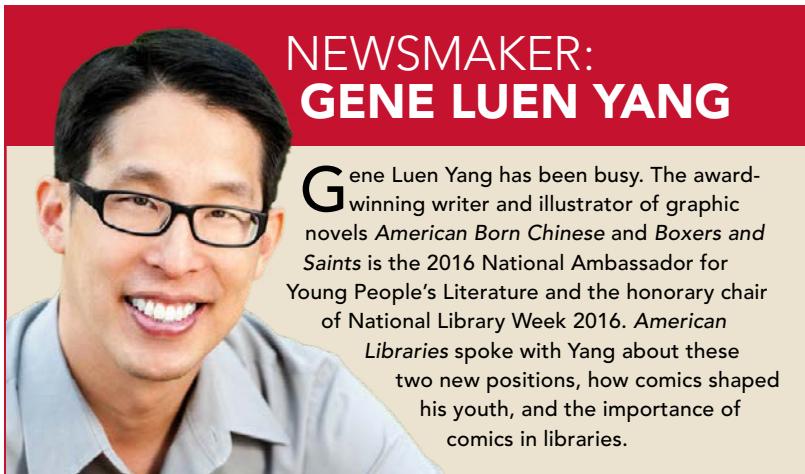
Like at Rutgers, the idea for the archive was spearheaded by a student: Alex Kirt, pursuing a master’s degree in mass communication and media arts. The archive is looking for creative ways to raise funds, and Kirt recently launched an online fundraiser through GoFundMe to buy reel-to-reel machines not available through the university.

Hackbart-Dean says maintaining close relationships with professors has helped build the archives. “Especially with us having the radio and television program and the school of music, we have other expertise to draw from,” she says.

— Timothy Inklebarger
is a freelance writer
based in Chicago.



Issues of the punk-rock fanzine *Slash* are included as part of UCLA’s punk archive.



NEWSMAKER: GENE LUEN YANG

Gene Luen Yang has been busy. The award-winning writer and illustrator of graphic novels *American Born Chinese* and *Boxers and Saints* is the 2016 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature and the honorary chair of National Library Week 2016. *American Libraries* spoke with Yang about these two new positions, how comics shaped his youth, and the importance of comics in libraries.

What got you into writing and drawing?

GENE LUEN YANG: I've been interested pretty much all of my life. My parents are avid storytellers, and I grew up listening to their stories. I also grew up drawing. Comics was a way of combining those two things.

There are themes running through your work—of identity, of trying to find yourself, of confronting stereotypes. Was this intentional when you started? Do you think it's important for a young adult comic creator to address such issues?

Yeah, I have always been drawn to the idea of diversity, and maybe it's because of how I grew up. My parents are immigrants and, like most children of immigrants, I grew up navigating two different cultures. I lived with one culture at home, another one at school. I had one name at home, another one at school. One language at home, another one at school. So there was always this back-and-forth, and a big part of growing up was figuring out how to fit these two cultures together into a cohesive identity for myself. I think that's why it is something I return to again and again.

What role did the library play in your childhood?

I went to the library a lot. My mom took me there, me and my brother. I do remember, however, being in late elementary school and feeling like my local library didn't have much for me, you know? There wasn't really a young adult section the way there is now. Around that time is when I discovered comics. I had this friend in 5th and 6th grade who was a big comic book fan, and he showed me how we could get to the comic book store by having our parents drop us off at our local library, wait until they drove away, and then sneak out and walk to the comic book store. We would buy comics from the quarter bins, sneak back into the library, and wait for our parents to pick us up.

For a little while, that's how I got my comics. I'm kind of jealous of kids today because my local library now has a better and more diverse graphic novel section than my local comic book store does. I think if I were a kid today, it would be the exact opposite. I would be sneaking out of the comic book store and into the library because of its comics.

What current comics trends excite you?

Number one is diversification,

and I mean that in every sense of the word. When I was growing up, most of the comics that were available to me were superhero comics, and they mostly featured straight, white, male protagonists. The publishers thought of them as boy's stories, stories targeted to boys. Now, you can find comics in every genre, for every age demographic, reflecting a diversity of characters and cultural life experiences. I think all of that is just going to continue.

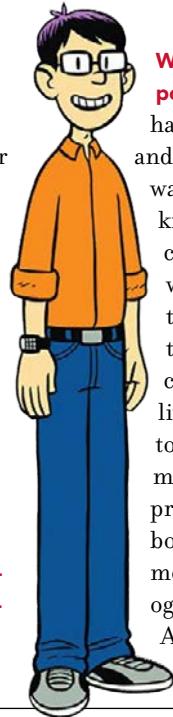
We're also seeing diversification in terms of creators. More and more people from different backgrounds are finding their voice in comics. All of those are very, very positive, encouraging trends. They give me a lot of hope.

Comics are also trying to figure out their relationship with technology. For a while, there was discussion within the comic book industry, and within the book world in general, that digital was going to replace print. Now, it seems like we've gotten to the point where we realize that digital actually reinforces print. Digital sales don't eat away print sales; digital actually brings people to print. People who first experience a comic digitally, if they like it enough, will start buying the print version.

What are your thoughts on comic books in the libraries?

They've done studies that have found that the presence of a graphic novel section can actually increase the overall circulation of noncomics material. I think that was definitely true for me. When I got to a point where I had a hard time finding books that spoke to me, I started reading comics. Eventually

Yang's illustration of himself



when I got older I picked up prose books again, but comics were really this bridge to reading for me. I think that's true for a lot of kids. Comics can be a gateway into reading. For all those reasons, comics really do belong in the library. It's really rare now that I meet a librarian who doesn't agree with that. Librarians nowadays are so comics-positive. It's pretty amazing.

Were you excited when the Library of Congress chose you to be the 2016 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature? Yeah, I was excited, and I was intimidated.

What are your plans for this position? Every ambassador has a platform of some kind, and mine is "Reading without walls." I want to encourage kids to read outside of their comfort zones, to explore the world of reading. I want them to do three things: I want them to read books with main characters who don't look or live like them. I want them to pick books with topics that might be intimidating. My pet project in this area is STEM books—I want kids to read more about science, technology, engineering, and math. And finally, I want kids to read books in different formats.

If you're a kid who reads only prose, I encourage you to give graphic novels a try. And if you're the exact opposite—which is who I'm meeting more and more now; I'm meeting a lot of kids who read only graphic novels—I hope you'll give a prose book or a book in verse a chance.

What are your thoughts on being named honorary chair of National Library Week 2016? I'm thrilled. Libraries are such an important part of my life. They're where I research, where I read, where I write, where I think. There's a feeling you get from standing in between two shelves of books—you're literally surrounded by knowledge. Every kid ought to experience that feeling. ■



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Sweating in the Stacks

In February, Troy (Ala.) University Dean of Library Services Christopher Shaffer brought fitness to the libraries when he made available six exercise bikes for student use. The endeavor made national headlines. Here, Shaffer explains his motivations, the bikes' reception, and plans for the future.

SPOTLIGHT

Your libraries,
your stories

Troy University's motto is "Educate the mind to think, the heart to feel, and the body to act." I was thinking of those words as well as the American Library Association's Libraries Transform campaign

when I came across an article on exercise bikes that featured tables for laptops from a company called FitDesk.

The bikes were reasonably priced at \$299 each, so I ordered three for our library in Troy and three for our extension campus library in Dothan, Alabama. We placed the Troy library bikes in a large space that had been previously used as the archives processing room. At Dothan, the bikes are in a combination computer room—group study area, but they are being moved to a larger space that is currently being converted from an office into a student space.

We added the hybrid exercise-study equipment to our libraries for a variety of reasons. To begin with, it just seemed like a cool idea. There were deeper motivations, though.

In an era when people tend to think that everything can be found via Google, it is important to find creative ways to bring people back to the library where they can receive help getting the information they truly need. By adding these bikes, people may visit us who otherwise would not have or rarely would have.

There were health reasons as well. Obesity is a severe problem in the United States, and Alabama has one of the highest rates (33.5%) in the nation. The cause is not just our diets but the fact that technology has made us sedentary creatures. Students and faculty tend to spend the bulk of their day in front of a computer. We cannot alter that fact, but we can alter what they do while looking at the monitor.

We also wanted to change how academic libraries are perceived.

I want students to view our libraries as places where they want to be. I like the idea of them coming in, checking out a video for pleasure, and watching it on their computer while they exercise for an hour. If they enjoy being at the library for reasons other than academics,



Troy University students ride the new exercise-study hybrid bikes at the Troy campus library.

maybe they will be more comfortable visiting the library—and approaching librarians—in the future.

The response from students, faculty, and others has been overwhelmingly positive.

A picture of the bikes posted to our Facebook page, which has about 950 followers, was seen by 7,300 people. Articles followed from a number of outlets, including Huffington Post. As a result, we now have on order three more bikes and six elliptical machines to go under tables that students can use while seated.

Students are using the exercise bikes, but it remains to be seen how popular they will be in the long run—the bikes were made ready for use only in early February. Ultimately, if we can help make the library more popular and comfortable while also offering innovative ways to study that promote good health, then the idea has been a success.

—Christopher Shaffer is dean of library services at Troy University.

GLOBAL REACH



ECUADOR 1

The National Library in Quito closed its doors March 23 for a major renovation that will improve its infrastructure, security, and plumbing, as well as add new technological capability and open shelving. Many of its books, newspapers, and magazines were removed to a temporary storage area. The revamped facility will reopen in October in time to serve as a venue for Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development.—*Prensa Latina (Cuba)*, Mar. 23.

ARGENTINA 2

At least 250 employees—25% of the entire staff—of the National Library in Buenos Aires were laid off on March 22. The layoffs followed major staff dismissals in the Culture Ministry that are interpreted as cost-cutting measures by President Mauricio Macri, who assumed office in December. A public letter, published several weeks earlier and signed by Argentine writers and intellectuals, expressed concern about the library's future and demanded it remain a "space of pluralism and freedom of expression."—*Buenos Aires Herald*, Mar. 23; *Télam (Buenos Aires)*, Mar. 22.

UNITED KINGDOM 3

High-profile writers from Val McDermid to Ann Cleeves launched a petition to save Orkney's threatened mobile library, which brings books to some of Scotland's most remote locations. Traveling to villages on Orkney's mainland and islands, the mobile service is facing a reduction of £25,000 (US \$35,329), after Orkney Islands Council agreed to find £1.4 million in savings following its own reduction in funding.—*The Guardian*, Mar. 17.

CZECH REPUBLIC 4

Books on freemasonry acquired by SS Chief Heinrich Himmler were discovered in a storage depot near Prague owned by the National Library. The depot has not been actively used since the 1950s. The collection includes 13,000 volumes, nearly half of which came from the library of the Norwegian Order of Freemasons, seized when the Nazis occupied Norway in 1940–1945.—*Prague Post*, Mar. 20; *The Wild Hunt*, Mar. 31.

ITALY 5

Physicist Vito Mocella has discovered lead in the ink on two papyrus fragments from Herculaneum held in the Institute of France in Paris. Some 800 of these delicate papyrus scrolls, buried by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD, cannot be opened without destroying them. The presence of lead could allow imaging techniques to detect the metal and read the content of the scrolls. Mocella plans to start X-raying scrolls held in the National Library of Naples in July.—*New Scientist*, Mar. 21.

THAILAND 6

Public libraries are reimagining and redesigning themselves as "knowledge parks" in order to offer children and adults opportunities to learn in a more relaxing atmosphere. Eighteen knowledge parks have been established so far, the most recent in Roi Et, a town in the northeastern region. The Roi Et facility is divided into zones for reading, children, computers, video, and quiet. Assistant Librarian Woraya Panomket said the number of users, especially families, has increased since the transformation.—*The Nation (Bangkok)*, Mar. 21.

INDONESIA 7

The House of Representatives on March 22 announced an ambitious plan to build the largest library in southeast Asia within the legislative complex in central Jakarta. House Speaker Ade Komarudin said the design was inspired by the US Library of Congress and will be larger than Singapore's National Library. The library is to be managed by an executive board consisting of intellectuals selected by the House and president.—*Jakarta Post*, Mar. 23.

AUSTRALIA 8

The federal government has told the National Library to seek private funding for its award-winning Trove digital library (trove.nla.gov.au), launched in 2009, because of budget cuts that will result in the loss of staff and programs. Three separate online petitions for funding have reached more than 10,000 signatures, and researchers have been sharing stories of the website's value using #fundTrove.—*WAtoday (Perth)*, Mar. 11.

Growing a Program

How our library built and retained an audience

by David Piper

Our program “Boys Read”—designed in 2013 to get boys ages 8–13 excited about reading aloud from some of their favorite titles—had a small but loyal following. As an adult services librarian at the time, I had some trepidation when asked if I would be interested in taking over this existing children’s program at New Carrollton (Md.) Library in 2014, but I decided to give it a try. I discovered I *loved* it.

The boys were eager to share their favorite graphic novels and joke books, and it was fulfilling to see them have fun and cultivate a joy of reading. While the enthusiasm was inspiring, the library needed to find ways to attract more participants and make the program worth the time it required each week.

For those who have ever found themselves in this position, here is what helped us grow our library program:

■ **Interactivity.** To boost engagement, I wanted to get the boys passionate about books by getting them involved in a related activity, so a colleague recommended I try magic tricks. I figured there was nothing to lose. I demonstrated card tricks, and halfway through each session I would ask the boys if

they wanted to stay and learn about “magic in the natural world,” which allowed a way to transition to books about the Bermuda Triangle, dinosaurs, or weird facts.

■ **Expertise.** The youth services department was eager to help by pulling books from the collection about magic tricks. Staff members even coordinated with our library’s marketing department to design bright, eye-catching fliers that were placed in strategic locations within the library.

Colleagues recognized how popular the program was becoming and volunteered to lead weekly sessions. The interests and backgrounds of the staff

proved advantageous. For example, one staff member who studied electrical engineering showed children how to make paper hexaflexagons that could be folded or flexed to practice basic geometry.

Wanting to ride the momentum of a growing audience, we brought in guests to lead the program,

including archaeologists, historians, and wildlife experts from community organizations.

■ **Exposure.** One change that was helpful in attracting children to “Boys Read” was simply to move the location. The room where the program took place was not easy to find, so we started meeting in the open children’s area, where there is foot

traffic. Families came to find books and, when they saw children making a craft, they would join in.

On one occasion, we had a scavenger hunt that included questions about physical aspects of the library so that children could learn how to locate materials. We started with about 15 kids, but as others saw them intently searching the library, they got curious and asked to take part. By the end of the hour, about 40 children had participated. We saw teens helping younger kids complete tasks—an unexpected display of mentorship that was rewarding to witness.

■ **Rebranding.** Something unanticipated happened: Girls started showing up too. They were just as interested in magic tricks and other activities. To reflect the program’s broadening appeal and interactivity, we changed the name from “Boys Read” to “Kids Explore!”

■ **Expansion.** Despite the program’s success, we look for ways to improve it. We’d like to develop programming that is more inclusive of New Carrollton’s large immigrant population and find a strategy to get children from various cultures to share their backgrounds with peers.

We’d also like to develop a mobile “Kids Explore!” program to take to schools. This type of arrangement would benefit the library as a marketing tool and get more children into the library. ■



While the enthusiasm was inspiring, the library needed to find ways to attract more participants and make the program worth the time it required each week.

DAVID PIPER is youth services librarian with the New Carrollton branch of Prince George’s County (Md.) Memorial Library System.

What They Said

“Something more fundamental is lost when a system such as libraries becomes privatized. The sense that government exists in part to provide infrastructure and services that should be immune from the influence of private interests. Sometimes that means providing a service at a price that a private company would treat as a loss on its financial statements. That’s the folly of trying to run public services ‘like a business,’ the mantra that also leads to proposals to privatize the post office. The post office, like a free public library, is a service that binds a community together. It’s not a business.

“You can be sure that [Library Systems & Services Inc.] wouldn’t be operating the Kern County libraries at a loss, but the compromises it imposes to avoid red ink won’t be visible to the average taxpayer. The Kern County supervisors favoring privatizing their libraries need to ponder this more basic question: If a local government body won’t deliver a service as fundamental to community interests as a library, what is it good for?” MICHAEL HILTZIK, “A Handy Sign That a Local Government Is Shirking Its Public Duty: Privatizing the Library,” *Los Angeles Times*, February 1.

“I wish these leaders weren’t dealing in abstractions. I wish CPS [Chicago Public Schools] wasn’t, to them, just a failing behemoth. I wish they were getting the sort of emails I get from my kids’ elementary school each week.... The weekly updates about the girls basketball games and the 8th-graders’ upcoming trip to Washington, D.C. The announcement about Beta Club’s bake sale to help fight human trafficking, and the invitation to enroll our kids in knitting club, run by the school’s delightful

librarian. The notes like the one I just received from my son’s 1st-grade teacher, letting us know about two February field trips to nearby museums and Friday’s equally exciting jaunt to the neighboring kindergarten classroom for ‘read aloud like an expert.’

“Reading, I might add, is something my son had zero interest in before this lovely teacher (and the aforementioned librarian) came into his life. That he now happily considers himself an expert brings tears to my eyes.” HEIDI STEVENS, “If Only CPS Critics Actually Had Their Children Enrolled There,” *Chicago Tribune*, January 21.

“As budgets are cut, libraries are being more creative in the way their services are being delivered. But there are daily news reports of libraries closing, losing staff, or being run by volunteers. Who will want to become a librarian now? It’s sad because in what other profession can you be a teacher, a care worker, an artist, a children’s entertainer, an IT expert, a [truck] driver, and a coder all in one day? I never meant to be a librarian, but even in difficult times, when I don’t know if I’ll have a job from one round of cuts to the next, I love it.” ANONYMOUS, a librarian in the UK, writing for a *Guardian* series on the effects of budget cuts on public services (“For Many Library Visitors, I’m the Only Person They’ve Talked to All Day,” February 6).

“We never owned books, and I never knew there was such a thing as bookstores until I was an adult. I didn’t know you could buy a book—I thought all books were property of the state. They were so valuable. We were always in the libraries, even before I knew how to read. To me it was just a quiet house, a

“As we traveled around the US reporting on the revival of towns and cities, we always made the local library an early stop. We’d hit the newspaper offices, the chamber of commerce, city hall, and Main Street for an introduction to the economics, politics, and stresses of a town. The visit to the public library revealed its heart and soul.”

DEBORAH FALLOWS, who made a three-year, 54,000-mile journey around America in a single-engine plane with her husband (“The Library Card,” *The Atlantic*, March 2016).

house you could think [in]. We lived in apartments with nine people crowded into a tiny space, so it was more important for me just to have a quiet space where you could imagine things you couldn’t imagine at home because there was too much noise.

“[My brother and I] wanted a book so badly, but we didn’t know how you could buy it.... The book we wanted was Virginia Lee Burton’s *The Little House*, so [we] planned to tell the librarian that we’d lost it, and that way we could save our quarters from our Sunday allowance and pay for it. But we couldn’t lie to the librarian, so we never acted out our plot.” SANDRA CISNEROS, on the importance of libraries while she was growing up in Chicago, interviewed for the *Nerdette* podcast, February 11. ■

One of Us

If Carla Hayden is confirmed, the new Librarian of Congress could breathe fresh air into the profession

by Joseph Janes

That sirocco you felt whizzing across the countryside a while ago wasn't just an early promise of spring. It was the collective relieved sigh of a large chunk of the library world at the news that President Obama planned to nominate Carla Hayden to be the next Librarian of Congress. "Thank God," you could almost hear in the wind, "he picked one of us."

Indeed he did.

A lot of names were circulating, of people who would be great and a few that made my hair stand on end. Mercifully, we don't have to contemplate a

future with a Librarian of Congress with just a background in business or technology—though as director of a major urban public library, Hayden has a background in business *and* technology, and much more—or Yet Another Historian. She'd be the first professionally trained and experienced librarian in the post in more than 40 years.

Now we have it. He picked one of us. Assuming she survives the confirmation process, for which she must have a stronger constitution than I do. The prospect of cozying up to some of the more reptilian members of the Senate is enough to turn anybody's stomach. ("Why, yes, Sen. Beauzeau, I think we could indeed explore expanding

the coloring-book collection.") Or whatever. *Gulp.*

In a sense, Hayden's new role won't be that different than her previous ones, or of anybody's for that matter: demonstrating the value of libraries and librarians to their communities and clienteles through the work they do and the connections they make, every single day. She'll just now get to do that on a

much grander scale.

There is now also tremendous opportunity for recruitment to the profession. The vision of a strong, dedicated, experienced

woman of color in this role will signal to young people of all kinds that they too can find themselves, and a place to do important work, in our profession. I hope ALA and my colleagues in the LIS education world take full advantage of that.

So yes, the nation's chief librarian will once again be a librarian. *Whew.* Now the hard part begins. As Librarian, she will be the face and voice not only of the Library of Congress but of us all, of librarianship, in the halls of government and in other important venues as well, from copyright to the digital future and all its myriad promises and terrors to cultural heritage and preservation and many more besides.

As such, the burden of expectations will be great and the stakes very high for one of the great cultural institutions of the world—and also for us. We will no longer have the luxury of rolling our eyes dismissively with a heavy sigh when we don't like or agree with something that comes out of LC, as we've been accustomed to.

It's on us now, and entirely fair or not, Hayden's performance as Librarian will reflect, in modest though meaningful ways, on our profession and our institutions.

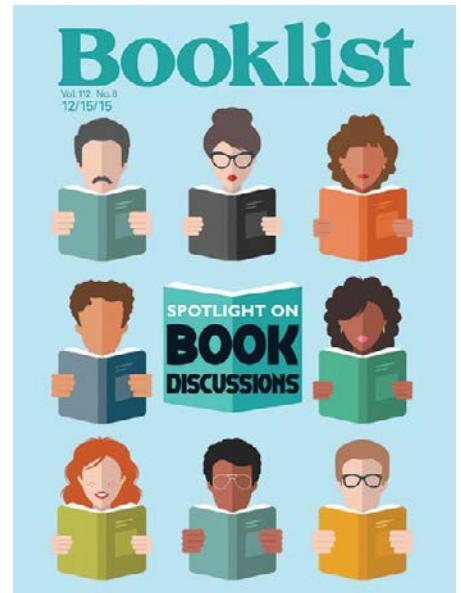
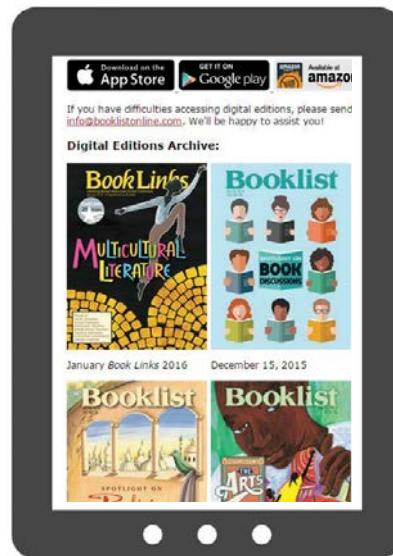
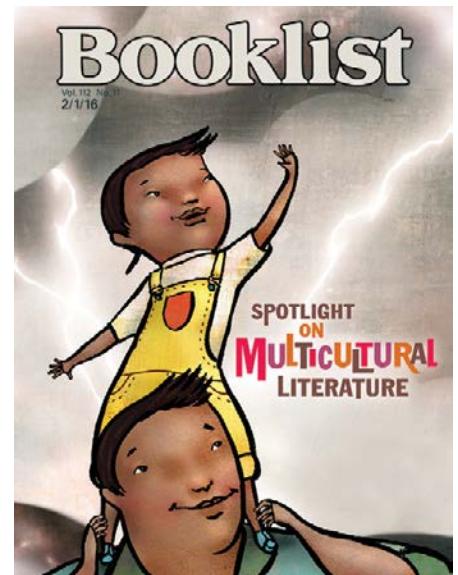
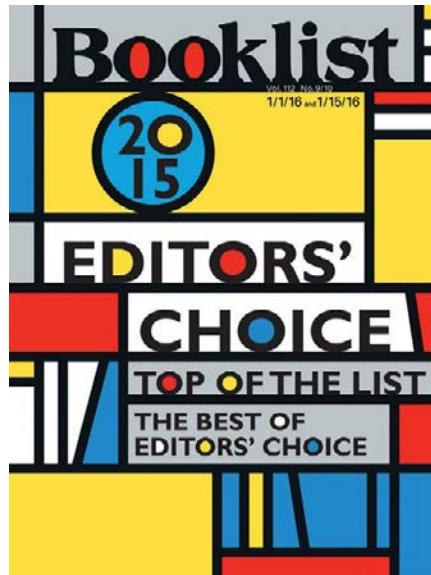
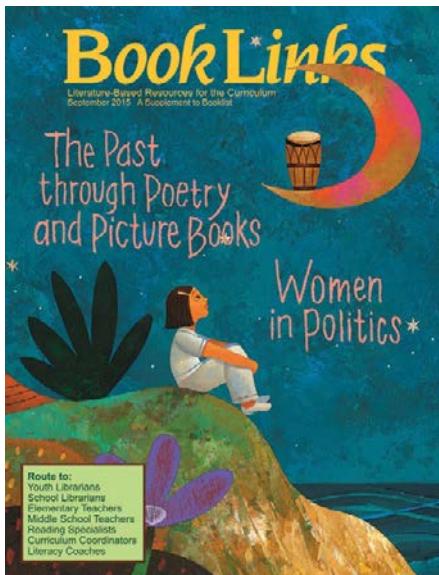
She will stand for us, and thus I believe we need to stand up for her as well. No doubt there will be decisions and ideas that rankle or confuse, and at least an occasional misstep or even outright blunder (not that I'd know anything about those). But I think it is incumbent on us to give her at least the benefit of the doubt, and wholehearted and vocal and public support whenever possible. Along with some constructive and collegial advice along the way too, of course.

I don't know Hayden that well personally; we've met a few times, and her record at Enoch Pratt, Chicago Public, and ALA speaks for itself. I wish her Godspeed and fair winds on her new and exciting adventure. She's going to need all the help she can get ... but that's another story. ■

JOSEPH JANES is associate professor and chair of the MLIS program at the Information School of the University of Washington in Seattle.



No doubt there will be decisions and ideas that rankle or confuse us, but it is incumbent on librarians to give Hayden our vocal and public support.



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PUBLICATIONS

Our Digital Heritage

Bringing local history to life online

by Meredith Farkas

A picture is worth a thousand words, and I think that's especially true when it comes to historical content. Photographs can reveal so much about a time period or event. Local history can be especially compelling—I love looking at pictures of the town I live in from 50 or 100 years ago, seeing what has changed and what has endured.

Libraries have always played a role in preserving local history, but that job has become more complex as the formats in which materials may be available continue to multiply. On the other hand, the technologies to digitize and post local history resources online have become cheaper and more readily available, even to small libraries.

Some libraries are making it easier for patrons to preserve their own local history and to contribute it to the library's collection. Much of an area's local history is likely sitting in patrons' attics, for example, and older photographs may be available only in the form of slides. Slide scanners have become less expensive, but most individuals wouldn't consider purchasing them for short-term projects like this. That makes these scanners a perfect tool for libraries to offer. An increasing number of public and academic libraries offer scanners that will digitize slides or negatives to make them available as high-resolution digital images.

Libraries and other local cultural heritage institutions offer community scan-ins, scan days, and

other events where community members can get their items digitized and contribute some of it to a repository of local digital history.

The Arlington Heights (Ill.) Memorial Library offers programs to teach patrons how to best digitize their photos and slides. It also shows patrons how they can contribute their photos to the local digital history archive, Home Sweet Home (ahml.info/homesweethome).

Making digitized local history available online has also become significantly easier, with many free technologies available to host or display the content. Open source tools like Collective Access (collectiveaccess.org), Omeka (omeka.org), and CollectionSpace (collectionsspace.org) allow libraries with server space and a small amount of tech savvy to create beautiful displays of digital work. Omeka in particular has robust documentation and strong community support. Some libraries and cultural heritage institutions have chosen to host their historical photos on Flickr, and in the Flickr Commons (flickr.com/commons) people can find, annotate, and comment on historical photos from a variety of institutions.

Of course, libraries can do so much more with digital history when they collaborate to find shared solutions. Put all of the digitized

local history collections together and you have the history of America. The Digital Public Library of

America (dp.la) represents the collaborative efforts of libraries, museums, archives, and other cultural heritage institutions to make the digital history of the United States available online.

It collects not just photographs but also texts, sound files, video, and images of physical objects, all searchable from a single platform.

In many states and regions, libraries and other organizations have banded together to form DPLA service hubs to consolidate collections from diverse organizations in their area. Each service hub is responsible for contributing digital items of local as well as national relevance. The result is an amazingly diverse digital collection of our cultural heritage.

While the initiative of individual libraries in building digital historical collections is exciting to see, just imagine how much better and more accessible we could make our digital cultural heritage if all of our state or regional library associations and consortia supported collaborative solutions. ■

MEREDITH FARKAS is a faculty librarian at Portland (Oreg.) Community College and a lecturer at San José State University School of Library and Information Science. She blogs at [Information Wants to Be Free](http://InformationWantsToBeFree.com). Email: librarysuccess@gmail.com



The technologies to digitize and post local history online have become cheaper and more readily available, even to small libraries.

Learning Management

A tool for the embedded librarian

by John J. Burke and Beth E. Tumbleson

Embedded librarians—those who work closely with students and faculty on projects or programs—have an important new tool for reaching out and collaborating. Educational institutions of all types are expanding their use of learning management systems (LMSes), also known as course management systems. In an October 2014 Educause survey, 86% of faculty reported using an LMS in at least one of their courses. Some 83% of student respondents in the same survey reported using the campus LMS in at least one of their courses.

The largest LMS companies in the United States in terms of numbers of institutions served are (in ranking order) Blackboard, Moodle, Canvas, BrightSpace (D2L), and Sakai. Blackboard currently is the market leader in the US, even without including installations of ANGEL Learning, a formerly independent LMS that Blackboard still offers under its own name. Canvas is quickly gaining ground.

Institutions are prone to adding or changing systems based largely on budgets and user experience. Generally, librarians will have little input into the choice of an LMS and will need to become familiar with the interface of whatever platform is available. But the best LMSes offer common features and capabilities that benefit students, faculty, and embedded librarians alike.

Content pages can be posted on the course site, whether produced

through the LMS content editor interface or created outside as HTML, PDF, or other types of files. The embedded librarian might post a page listing contact information, links to useful resources, tutorials, and step-by-step guidance on database searching.

In collaboration with the instructors, librarians can add specific library resources

or links to the larger resource page into other course documents, such as assignments, specific lessons or modules, or the syllabus.

Librarians often find it difficult to communicate with students beyond face-to-face instruction time. Emailing students who are enrolled in the course is easy with a built-in LMS email interface. The LMS environment also allows for follow-up opportunities to reintroduce the librarians and remind students they are available later in the semester.

Discussion boards or forums give students a venue to ask questions and hold discussions around class topics. Some embedded librarians will set up a separate board or forum for students to “ask the librarian” research questions. Others may monitor a general class discussion board, perhaps participating before the due dates for a project. This offers an opportunity to respond

to questions from individuals in a group format so that the entire class will benefit from the responses. It can also be used for posting tips or highlighting resources.

LMSes provide web conferencing tools for synchronous interaction

with individuals, groups, or the entire class, from shared videos to simple chat exchanges.

Librarians can use this

for appointment-based research consultation with students, for example, to demonstrate useful databases or suggest directions for research. They can also deliver online adaptations of individual face-to-face instruction sessions to the entire class.

Embedded librarianship in the LMS combines librarians’ professional talents with technology and instructional support that is essential to students and faculty. The expertise that librarians continue to develop in instructional design, open educational resources, copyright, and digital learning can be amplified through this technology—and that’s a win for everyone. ■



management systems.

Universities are expanding their use of learning

JOHN J. BURKE is director and BETH E. TUMBLESON is assistant director of the Gardner-Harvey Library on the Middletown regional campus of Miami (Ohio) University. This article is adapted from the February/March 2016 Library Technology Report, “Learning Management Systems: Tools for Embedded Librarianship.”

POWER PLAYS

LIBRARY SYSTEMS REPORT 2016

By Marshall Breeding



The background of the page is a composite image. On the left, a person's hands are shown typing on a keyboard. In the center and right, there are server racks with glowing lights. Overlaid on the entire image is a pattern of binary code (0s and 1s) in various colors (blue, green, yellow, red).

The technology infrastructure libraries implement can affect their ability to manage internal operations efficiently and deliver high-quality services, in person and online. Weak or obsolete technology products impede success.

Libraries have much at stake in products that align well with their strategies, resonate with their patrons, and facilitate the work of their staff. Previously established products are evolving to gain long-overdue modernization. In an era of web-based and cloud computing, library technology has held fast to aspects of the previous age of client-server computing. Library systems continue to see uneven progress.

A new shape of the industry

Some of the most significant shifts of strength in the history of the industry took place in 2015, and a new set of dynamics emerged with important implications. Consolidation among top players occurred in both the library software and RFID sectors. Each recently acquired smaller companies to expand into additional product areas synergistic with business strategies or new international regions.

The transitions seen in 2015 were not lateral changes of ownership among investors but strategic acquisitions that concentrated power among a smaller number of much larger companies and reassembled product portfolios. Libraries may resist consolidation, but this could enable the development of technology products and services that are less fragmented and better able to support libraries as they provide access to increasingly complex collections.

A number of major business transitions transpired this year, and each significantly affected a corner of the industry.

An academic powerhouse: ProQuest and Ex Libris

Ex Libris, an established powerhouse of technology for academic and national libraries, was acquired by ProQuest, a less mighty competitor in the technology sector but a top-tier company offering a broad portfolio of content products and workflow applications. Ex Libris had made costly investments in research and development, which meant less profitability in the short term. But this strategy ultimately established Ex Libris as the most valuable commercial entity in the library technology industry. The company's Alma platform has emerged from a business strategy that emphasizes the development of new products—or new product categories—positioned to attract revenues for the 2020s. This strategy, based on deep investments in research and libraries, has been beneficial to both libraries and the company's financial position.

The acquisition of Ex Libris by ProQuest, announced in October 2015 and completed two months later, stands as one of the most significant events in the history of the library technology industry. The new company, formally called Ex Libris, a ProQuest Company, merges the former ProQuest Workflow Solutions personnel and products including Summon, Intota, SIPX, Ulrich's, and 360 Link into the Ex Libris organization, which now operates as a wholly owned ProQuest subsidiary. Previously, Golden Gate Capital owned Ex Libris. ProQuest is majority owned by Cambridge Information Group with minority equity held by Goldman Sachs.

The executive management of Ex Libris remains intact under the new ownership, supplemented by ProQuest executives, and now reports to the ProQuest board of directors. Prior to the acquisition, the raw personnel counts were 615 employees from Ex Libris and 255 from ProQuest, but the headcount will fall below that figure as the organizations integrate.

Commitment to production products

Ex Libris has committed to support and follow all existing development road maps of both companies' products. Alma takes center stage as the flagship library services platform and will be aggressively developed and marketed. Primo, which can be paired with Alma or used in conjunction with any other integrated library system (ILS), continues as a strategic discovery service. Summon joins the fold with equal standing.

The central indexes of Primo and Summon will be combined, which will extend the Summon index to include resources uniquely covered by Primo Central. The combined index will power both Primo and Summon. Until now, Primo has been the exclusive public interface for Alma. Summon will be enhanced to integrate with Alma, possibly increasing the appeal of Alma to libraries that prefer Summon's interface to Primo's.

Demise of Intota v2

The merger spells the demise of the Intota library services platform. The continued delays in completing Intota allowed Ex Libris to solidify its position, greatly mitigating any impact Intota might make in the academic library market when introduced.

The functionality of Intota Assessment and some of the concepts and workflows intended for Intota v2 will be folded into Alma, but its development as a comprehensive resource management platform will not go forward. This move will not disrupt the operation of any libraries because it had not yet been deployed as a production system. ProQuest offered a package branded as Intota v1, which included Summon, Intota Assessment, and components of its electronic resource management suite, all of which will be retained.

2015 Product Installations

In Mid-sized and Larger Libraries

PRODUCT	COMPANY	INSTALLATIONS
Symphony	SirsiDynix	2,548
Aleph	Ex Libris	2,412
Voyager	Ex Libris	1,200
EOS.Web	SirsiDynix	1,089
Horizon	SirsiDynix	979
Koha	ByWater Solutions	919
Evergreen	Equinox Software	876
LibLime Koha	LibLime	657
Alma	Ex Libris	626
Sierra	Innovative Interfaces	582
VERSO	Auto-Graphics	506
Polaris	Innovative Interfaces	493
WorldShare Management Services	OCLC	386
Aurora	Axiell	165
LibLime Academic Koha	LibLime	134
Evolve	InfoVision Software	129
Koha	PTFS Europe	68
Koha	Equinox Software	33
CARL.X	The Library Corporation	13
Bibliovation	LibLime	8

In Smaller and School Libraries

PRODUCT	COMPANY	INSTALLATIONS
Destiny Library Manager	Follett	66,129
Concourse	Book Systems	9,995
Atrium	Book Systems	3,526
Apollo	Biblionix	547
V@school	Infor	435

Other recent acquisitions

Prior to the acquisition of Ex Libris, ProQuest made two other strategic acquisitions in 2015. In early April, it bought SIPX, an application that provides more efficient and cost-effective ways to acquire, share, and manage copyright licensing for course materials. Only a few weeks later, ProQuest announced the purchase of Coutts Information Services, including the MyiLibrary and OASIS platforms, from Ingram Content Group. The move strengthened its position in ebooks and gained further access into the acquisition workflows of libraries.

Also in April, Ex Libris acquired oMbiel, the creator of the campusM content management and distribution platform for mobile devices. This platform addresses the campus-wide need to provide an optimal presence for mobile users and is not specifically oriented to libraries, providing Ex Libris a new area within the bounds of its specialty in higher education.

ProQuest Workflow Solutions operated independently for most of the year before acquiring Ex Libris in mid-December 2015. ProQuest made 158 new subscriptions to Summon, increasing its total to 718. The 153 new libraries signing up for 360 Link increased the number of total subscriptions to 1,094.

EBSCO acquires YBP and LearningExpress

As an example of the synergies EBSCO seeks with YBP, the company worked with the Kuali OLE Project to develop the OLE GobiAPI, which provides close integration between their respective platforms.

In April 2015, EBSCO acquired LearningExpress, an online platform that helps students improve academic skills and prepare for standardized tests.

Bibliotheca acquires 3M, forms RFID megalith

Bibliotheca's acquisition of 3M Library Systems's assets in October consolidated the top two global companies involved in RFID and self-service. Bibliotheca operates as a portfolio company of One Equity Partners, which financed this acquisition. The former 3M Library Systems team in Minnesota has moved from the 3M campus into new facilities to continue the development, sales, and support of that product line, now branded as Bibliotheca. This merger significantly reshapes this business sector, though challenges from regional companies are expected.

A little over a week into 2015, Bibliotheca acquired Aturis Group, a provider of RFID and self-service products in Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands. The move added yet another geographic area to its global business.

Boopsie goes to Demco

Boopsie, a company that specializes in mobile apps for libraries, was acquired by Demco in October 2015. The company's operations will continue intact, with Tony Medrano serving as president. Demco is a subsidiary of Wall Family Enterprise.

EBSCO: A formidable competitor

The technological prowess of Ex Libris heightens its competition with EBSCO Information Services, a much larger competitor in the library services arena that has a sharply differing strategy for its content and technology products and services.

ProQuest and EBSCO Information Services have opposing visions for resource management and discovery, and

EBSCO Information Services stands as one of the major forces in the library technology sector, despite not offering its own comprehensive resource management product.

the stage is now set for a new round of competitive discourse. These visions center on whether discovery should be bundled with resource management or if libraries should have the ability to select discovery products independently.

EBSCO Information Services stands as one of the major forces in the library technology sector, despite not offering its own comprehensive resource management product. Its Discovery Service is used in more libraries than any competing index-based discovery service, and the company provides applications for electronic resource management, acquisitions, and other tools and interfaces that library personnel use. EBSCO reports a workforce of 3,028, of which 553 are assigned to technology development, more than any other company in the industry.

EBSCO's discovery products are based on the primacy of subject indexing, because of the value it places on that approach and its vast experience in creating abstracting and indexing services. EBSCO's technology strategies are rooted in its vision of the importance of end-user discovery.

The company reports impressive counts of libraries using EBSCO Discovery Service. Many of these numbers are seen in large-scale deals that include many smaller libraries. EBSCO also competes well among the lucrative sector of large academic libraries, but this position is challenged by current market dynamics. Should Ex Libris make a sweep of this sector with Alma—as it seems well positioned to accomplish—its nearly mandatory packaging with Primo will be a major concern for EBSCO. Gaining Summon as an alternative discovery service that can be paired with Alma within the ProQuest family further amplifies the threat to EBSCO.

Although EBSCO, unlike ProQuest, has not opted to build or buy its own comprehensive resource management platform, it participates in other ways. EBSCO has engaged in partnerships with almost all of the companies involved with ILS products to facilitate the integration of EBSCO Discovery Service. This can enable EBSCO Discovery Service to be used instead of the ILS's online catalog module or allow its index to provide article-level access to a library's collection of electronic resources.



VENDOR DIRECTORY

Auto-Graphics, Inc.

Ontario, CA
800-776-6939
auto-graphics.com

PRODUCTS: SHAREit (ILS),
VERSO (ILS)

Axiell Group

Lund, Sweden
+46 46 270 04 00
axiell.com

PRODUCTS: Aurora (ILS),
Adlib (archive/museum
management), Arena
(discovery/portal), BOOK-
IT (ILS), Calm (archive/
museum management),
DDElibra (ILS), EMu (museum
management), OpenGalaxy
(ILS), Vitalware (records
management)

Baratz

Madrid, Spain
+34 91 456 0360
baratz.es

PRODUCTS: Absys (ILS),
Absys.Edu (ILS), Absys
Express (ILS), AbsysNET
(ILS), BKM (document
management), Media Search
(discovery)

BiblioCommons

Toronto, ON
647-436-6381
bibliocommons.com

PRODUCTS: BiblioCMS (content

management), BiblioCore
(discovery), BiblioDigital
(ebook platform)

Biblionix

Austin, TX
877-800-5625
biblionix.com

PRODUCT: Apollo (ILS)

Book Systems, Inc.

Huntsville, AL
800-219-6571
booksys.com

PRODUCTS: Atrium (ILS),
Concourse (ILS), Booktracks
(asset management)

ByWater Solutions

Santa Barbara, CA
888-900-8944
bywatersolutions.com

PRODUCTS: Support services
for Koha (ILS) and related
open source software

Capita

Trowbridge, UK
+44 8701 631 800
capita-libraries.co.uk

PRODUCTS: Alto (ILS),
Soprano (ILS), Strato (ILS)

Civica Library Solutions

Melbourne, Australia
+61 3 8676 4400
civicalld.com

PRODUCTS: Spydus 8 (ILS),
Spydus 9 (ILS), Spydus 10
(ILS)

COMPanion Corp./Alexandria

Salt Lake City, UT
801-943-7277
goalexandria.com

PRODUCT: Alexandria (ILS)

EBSCO Information Services

Ipswich, MA
800-653-2726
ebSCO.com

PRODUCTS: EBSCO Discovery
Service, EBSCONET
(subscription management),
EBSCONET Analytics,
LinkSource (e-resource
knowledge base)

Equinox Software, Inc.

Duluth, GA
877-673-6457
esilibrary.com

PRODUCTS: Support services
for Evergreen (ILS),
Fulfillment (interlibrary
loan), Koha (ILS), and related
open source software

Ex Libris, A ProQuest Company

Des Plaines, IL
800-762-6300
exlibrisgroup.com

PRODUCTS: Aleph (ILS), Alma
(library services platform),
bX (recommendation
service), MetaLib (federated
search), Primo/Primo
Central (discovery), Rosetta
(digital preservation), SFX
(OpenURL resolver), Verde
(e-resource management),
Voyager (ILS)

Follett

McHenry, IL
877-899-8550
folletlearning.com

PRODUCTS: Aspen (student
management system),
Destiny Library Manager
(ILS), Destiny Resource
Manager, Destiny Textbook
Manager, Follett Shelf
(ebook digital platform),
Titlewave (e-commerce for
library materials)

Infor Library and Information Solutions

Framingham, MA
800-825-2574
infor.com/libraries

PRODUCTS: Iguana
(discovery/portal), V-eyeQ
(collection analysis tool),
V-link (OpenURL resolver),
V@school (ILS), V-smart
(ILS)

Another thread of this strategy favoring unbundled discovery can be seen in EBSCO's investment in open source management products. In February 2015, the company provided funding to the open source Koha ILS, supporting a slate of development requests that enabled better integration with its discovery service and provided other areas of functionality. EBSCO joined the Quali Foundation in 2013 and is a Quali commercial affiliate for Quali OLE.

The Quali OLE Project has had little impact to date beyond its handful of development partners. Only three

libraries have implemented the software (version 1.7), and it is used only to manage print collections. The vision of comprehensive resource management is slated for later versions. Given the delayed delivery of the software, broad ranks of academic libraries are no longer holding out for this open source option and are moving forward with procurements among the commercial systems, with Alma currently showing almost unstoppable momentum.

EBSCO has recently engaged in a new initiative to alter the direction of academic library resource management

InfoVision Software, Inc.

San Diego, CA
800-849-1655
infovisionsoftware.com
PRODUCT: Evolve (ILS)

Innovative Interfaces, Inc.

Emeryville, CA
510-655-6200
iii.com
PRODUCTS: Chamo Discovery (discovery), Content Pro (digital collections management), Encore (discovery), Millennium (ILS), MozGo (mobile interface), Polaris (ILS), Polaris Leap (ILS), Sierra (library services platform), Virtua (ILS), VITAL (digital asset management)

Insignia Software

Edmonton, AB
866-428-3997
insigniasoftware.com
PRODUCTS: Digital Asset Manager, Library System Enterprise, Student Management System

Keystone Systems, Inc.

Raleigh, NC
800-222-9711
klas.com
PRODUCT: KLAS (ILS)

LibLime, a division of PTFS

North Bethesda, MD
301-654-8088
liblime.com
PRODUCTS: Bibliovation (library services platform), GetIt (acquisitions application), LibLime Academic Koha (ILS), LibLime Koha (ILS), Knowvation (content management system)

The Library Corporation

Inwood, WV
800-325-7759
tlcdelivers.com
PRODUCTS: CARL.X (ILS), eBiblioFile (MARC records for ebook collections), Library.Solution (ILS), LS2 PAC (enhanced online catalog), LS2 Staff (web-based staff clients), RDA Express (bibliographic conversion service)

Lucidea

Richmond, BC
604-278-6717
lucidea.com
PRODUCTS: SydneyPLUS (ILS) and brands Argus, CuadraSTAR, Inmagic, ISS, LawPort, LookUp Precision

Mandarin Library Automation, Inc.

Boca Raton, FL
800-426-7477
mlasolutions.com
PRODUCTS: Mandarin ILS, Mandarin M5 (library automation), Oasis (collection management)

Media Flex Inc.

Champlain, NY
877-331-1022
mediaflex.net
PRODUCT: OPALS (ILS)

OCLC

Dublin, OH
800-848-5878
oclc.org
PRODUCTS: CONTENTdm (digital asset management), EZproxy (proxy and authentication service), WorldCat Discovery Service, WorldCat Local (discovery), WorldShare Interlibrary Loan, WorldShare License Manager, WorldShare Management Services (library services platform)

ProQuest

Ann Arbor, MI
800-521-0600
proquest.com
PRODUCTS: 360 Link (OpenURL resolver), 360 Resource

Manager (e-resource management), Flow (citation management), Intota (library services platform), Summon (discovery)

PTFS Europe

Woking, UK
+44 483 378 728
ptfs-europe.com
PRODUCTS: Koha (library management system), Knowvation (web-based, full-text search and retrieval system), Rebus:list (reading list management), VuFind (search functionality)

SirsiDynix

Lehi, UT
800-288-8020
sirsidynix.com
PRODUCTS: BLUEcloud Suite (cloud-based ILS and management tools), Enterprise (discovery), EOS. Web (ILS), eResource Central (e-resource management), Horizon (ILS), Portfolio (digital asset management), Symphony (ILS)

Soutron Global

Encinitas, CA
760-870-4243
soutronglobal.com
PRODUCTS: Soutron (ILS/knowledge management)

by pledging a massive donation to support the creation of a new open source solution.

In partnership with Quali OLE, EBSCO will provide funding to accelerate development and availability of a competitive open source resource management system. Index Data, a Copenhagen-based firm specializing in open source development, will help create a new modular technical infrastructure that supports third-party functional modules. EBSCO has not publicly disclosed its level of funding other than to mention that it is the

largest financial grant ever given in the industry and is comparable to investments made in the creation of commercial products.

OCLC's position

OCLC, despite its vast resources and global membership base, has so far seen only moderate success in the deployment of its WorldShare Management Services (WMS). WMS uses a multitenant web-native platform and employs internal knowledge bases to provide consolidated

workflows for the management of print and electronic resources. This year, OCLC added a new set of analytical tools to WMS. Although it is a product with functional similarities to Alma, it has advanced more in the midrange of academic libraries than in the top tier. Ironically, given OCLC's roots in resource sharing, WMS has not found resonance among the large consortia and multicampus university systems seeking deeper collaboration and shared technical infrastructure. Even though sales of WMS have not set records, OCLC's investments may be seen as both a valuable service offered to its members and a hedge against the likely softening of potential revenues associated with its core bibliographic services.

This year, OCLC made 68 new contracts for WMS. The 386 total installations reported by OCLC are around half the number of Ex Libris Alma installations. The number and size of libraries involved in WMS installations is also considerably smaller than those for Alma. In addition to the libraries using WMS, 839 use WorldShare License Manager.

OCLC has made strides in the realm of linked data. It has been a key partner with the Library of Congress and the broader library community in the development of BIBFRAME and other initiatives involving linked data.

Innovative's evolution

Innovative Interfaces prospers as one of the largest stand-alone library technology companies. It has seen impressive adoption of Sierra, primarily from existing customers moving from Millennium but also through the acquisition of new clients. The transition from Millennium to Sierra has not been without some leakage, as a small portion has opted for competing products. Overall, Innovative has seen net gains in its customer base.

Innovative has grown through the strategic acquisitions of Polaris Library Systems and VTLS in 2014, which are now well integrated into its business. Many former Polaris executives now populate Innovative, and some of its technologies, such as its Leap web-based interfaces, have become key infrastructure components. Sales of Polaris,

once the rising star of the large public library sector, have flattened since the Innovative acquisition, but its previous level of sales may have been unsustainable regardless.

Innovative has expanded to serve multiple types of libraries. Originally rooted in academic libraries, its products have been widely adopted by public libraries, and it has been a favorite of law, medical, and other special libraries. Innovative now faces more formidable competition in the academic sector from Ex Libris and OCLC. There has already been some drifting, with a much larger portion of public libraries using Sierra than was the case for Millennium.

Innovative has consistently followed an evolutionary product strategy. Each of its successive generations—INNOPAC, Millennium, and now Sierra—has poured existing codebase and functionality into new architectures and interfaces. This approach has meant fewer disruptive migration processes for libraries and lower costs relative to purchasing a new system from another vendor. Libraries signing up for Innovative's products do so with full awareness of its evolutionary strategy, which may account for the levels of loyalty seen so far, even in the context of revolutionary alternatives.

SirsiDynix focuses on BLUEcloud

SirsiDynix, now a year post-acquisition by ICV Partners, offers its products to all library types. In recent years, the company has seen the majority of its new sales come from public libraries. Of the 2,548 libraries using Symphony, only 615 are academic libraries.

SirsiDynix, like Innovative, faces the challenge of retaining existing and attracting new academic libraries courted by Ex Libris, which has concentrated on this sector.

The company has focused its efforts on the development of products based on its web-native, multitenant BLUEcloud platform. SirsiDynix has opted for a hybrid approach where libraries continue to operate their Symphony or Horizon ILS, deploying new interfaces and functional modules via BLUEcloud. The company reports that more than 1,700 of its customers have implemented at least one of its BLUEcloud products.

Drifting away from standalone ILS companies

These business transactions further reinforce a growing trend. OCLC, Follett, ProQuest, EBSCO Information Services, Civica, and Infor all provide technology products to libraries but only as a relatively small portion of their overall business activities. The traditional ILS companies continue as well, with many growing into larger-scale organizations through prior rounds of business consolidation. In the context of a ProQuest or EBSCO, however, even the largest ILS companies like SirsiDynix and Innovative compete with much more modest resources. Many midsized and small companies continue to survive, with some prospering, by catering to specific niches.

OCLC has been a key partner with the Library of Congress and the broader library community in the development of BIBFRAME and other initiatives involving linked data.

2014–2015 Personnel Comparison

COMPANY	2014	2015
EBSCO Information Services	2,982	3,028
Follett	1,359	1,394
OCLC	1,315	1,195
Ex Libris	565	615
SirsiDynix	421	416
Civica	454	403
Innovative Interfaces	416	329
Axiell	263	274
ProQuest	255	255
LibLime	155	155
Baratz	80	79
Infor	87	68
Book Systems	66	67
BiblioCommons	55	46
Auto-Graphics	28	30
Soutron Global	24	24
ByWater Solutions	19	22
PTFS Europe	15	17
Keystone Systems	N/A	14
Equinox Software	17	13
InfoVision Software	10	10

Progress toward fully web-based platforms

Libraries of all types are ready to take steps forward in technology. Opportunities abound for academic libraries to take the full plunge into comprehensive web-based platforms offered in the true software-as-a-service (SaaS) model. These products move data and workflows into cloud infrastructure, eliminate the need to worry about servers, and eliminate the need for software installed on staff computers. Outside the academic library arena, multitenant platforms have not been sold as aggressively. Established products deployed as server-oriented software and graphical clients endure. Almost all new sales are based on servers hosted by the vendor, reflecting libraries' widespread preference to not maintain local infrastructure.

Academic libraries have seen the most rapid progress toward web-native, multitenant platforms, especially Ex Libris Alma and OCLC WMS. Such platforms have not emerged in larger public libraries, where Innovative's Sierra and Polaris or SirsiDynix's Symphony and Horizon dominate. Web-based interfaces for staff functions have inched ahead the last couple of years, though graphical clients still lead. Web-based interfaces have been standard fare in the K–12 school arena for quite some time, especially via Follett's overwhelmingly popular Destiny Library Manager. COMPanion Corporation, seen as the second-place contender, launched its new web-based Alexandria v7 this year. Small public libraries have shown considerable interest in Biblionix's fully web-based Apollo ILS.

The track toward fully web-based systems has slowly accelerated. Both Innovative and SirsiDynix have launched initiatives to develop web-based interfaces, with both working toward new technical architectures less oriented to institutional servers. SirsiDynix's BLUEcloud strategy and Innovative's Open Library Stack represent progress to a more modern infrastructure.

Technology architectures themselves should not necessarily be seen as inherent requirements but more as a means to fulfill library strategies. These involve deep collaboration among groups of libraries to increase the impact of their collections, reduce costs of operations, expend fewer resources on local technology infrastructure, and to streamline processes related to managing their collections. Multitenant platforms have emerged as the architecture best able to support these strategies, but these are alternate approaches.

Open source library software

Another power play is in the arena of open source library software. The stakes here pit community-based development against development of proprietary software by commercial companies. Libraries value open source options and yearn for less expensive software and flexibility often not delivered by proprietary products, but an alternative will prevail only if it has superior functionality. Regardless of the software license and development model, the outcomes depend on how the software aligns with the needs of the organizations it is intended to serve.

Open source software has seen mixed results. Repository platforms such as DSpace, Fedora Repository, and Hydra are widely implemented. VuFind and Blacklight are widely adopted open source discovery interfaces capable of enabling libraries to create highly customized search environments, integrating a wide variety of content repositories, indexes, and other services.

Koha and Evergreen are well established among specific library sectors. Evergreen prospers in supporting consortia of small to mid-sized public libraries. Equinox Software, whose team includes its original developers, has



SCHOOL LIBRARIES

The pre-K–12 school library sector has its own set of business and technology characteristics. The companies involved with school libraries tend to focus on a single country or geographic region. Follett dominates the school library sector in the US, with only a minority of its business from other regions. Although the number of school libraries is quite large, each library is quite small, with limited budgets for automation systems. School libraries made the shift long ago to central systems for districts rather than those for individual schools.

FOLLETT SCHOOL SOLUTIONS, a business unit of Follett Corporation focused on pre-K–12 schools and districts, offers a variety of technology products for libraries. The company's flagship Destiny Library Manager ILS is used in 66,129 libraries after 5,679 new sales were made in 2015. In October 2015, Nader Qaimari was named executive vice president and general manager for Follett School Solutions following the retirement of Tom Schenck, who had been with Follett for 26 years. Qaimari will also serve on the executive committee of Follett Corporation.

Integration with learning management systems and other school infrastructure has become a key concern for pre-K–12 school libraries. This year Follett extended Destiny Library Manager with inte-

Follett's Destiny Quest mobile app

gration mechanisms such as basic LTI (Learning Tools Interoperability), the broadly accepted standard for building plug-ins for learning management platforms. Single sign-on capabilities via Security Assertion Markup Language is also underway. Ebook lending integration is also a key interest for these libraries. Follett made new content integration partnerships with OverDrive and Mackin Educational Resources, one of the top suppliers of books, ebooks, and other materials to K–12 schools. In February 2016, Follett partnered with EBSCO to add around 600,000 ebooks to the catalog of titles available for purchase via its Titlewave e-commerce platform.

Outside the library and into the classroom, Follett launched Lightbox as an interactive learning application that aims to increase student engagement and improve literacy skills and includes multimedia content from a variety of providers.

In February 2016, Follett acquired ClassBook, one of the major providers of print and digital textbooks to private and parochial schools.

COMPANION CORPORATION, also known by the name of its flagship product Alexandria, is a small company with 50 employees, oriented mostly to K–12 schools and small public libraries. Bill Schjelderup founded COMPANION in 1987 and continues to serve as its president. The company did not report statistics for new sales or total installations.

In 2015, the company completed Alexandria v7, a fully web-based application for staff and patron interfaces. The company also now offers this version of Alexandria as a hosted service. The architecture of the new system also offers higher performance, supporting up to 10 times the number of searches during peak periods compared to previous versions. Alexandria v7 features private and shared lists and many other new features.

MEDIA FLEX has developed the OPALS open source ILS, which has been implemented in libraries in K–12 schools, district-wide systems, church and synagogue libraries, and other small libraries. OPALS support is provided through districts, other service centers, or directly through Media Flex. Although an open source software, development for OPALS is performed primarily by Media Flex.

MANDARIN LIBRARY AUTOMATION'S offerings serve schools, small public libraries, and small academic libraries. The company's products have included the DOS-based Mandarin ILS and Mandarin M3. In October 2015, the company introduced Mandarin M5 as a major upgrade to Mandarin M3. It includes a variety of new features, such as autocomplete in its search functions, recommendations, and a digital gallery. The product was reengineered to operate on Microsoft SQL Servers and is now offered both as a hosted service and for local installation. In its initial year, Mandarin M5 saw five new installations and 54 for Mandarin M5 Hosted Service.



ByWater Solutions is the dominant provider of support for Koha in the United States, attracting a diverse demographic of small to midsized academic, school, and public libraries.

built its business on providing development and support services. The company not only faces stiff competition from the realm of proprietary ILS products but also from libraries that forgo paid support and rely on their own resources for hosting and support. It is not uncommon for a consortium to contract with Equinox or another support provider during its early years of migration and operation of Evergreen but eventually shift to local support.

ByWater Solutions is the dominant provider of support for Koha in the United States, attracting a diverse demographic of small to midsized academic, school, and public libraries. The company has strengthened its niche and continues to prosper, attracting libraries that value excellent support services, desire an ILS with ample functionality, and embrace the values of open source. With support provided through an external provider, libraries can implement an open source ILS with about the same level of local technical expertise as for a proprietary system.

ByWater Solutions, a relatively small company of 22 employees, provides services surrounding the Koha ILS and other open source library software. This year the company reported 40 new support contracts for Koha, representing 76 libraries. Though the counts of libraries are lower than last year, the libraries involved were larger. The company's support clients now total 919 libraries, of which 665 are public, 100 are academic, 95 are schools, and 59 are special.

As part of the global community of Koha developers, ByWater Solutions created several new enhancements in 2015, including an advanced module designed for professional catalogers as an alternative to the more simplified templates available, implementation of NCIP for interlibrary loan integration, and EDI in the acquisitions module for orders and invoices. Work is underway for integration of ebook lending for libraries using OverDrive, Recorded Books, and Axis 360. ByWater Solutions completed the integration of EBSCO Discovery Service with Koha through funding provided by EBSCO Information Services.

The Kuali OLE Project began in 2008 with a mission to create an open source resource management system for

academic libraries. Despite a series of grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Kuali OLE has seen limited impact with only three libraries placing the software in production and only for management of print resources. The library of the School of Advanced Oriental Studies, affiliated with the University of London, became the third to use Kuali OLE in April 2015. Two additional libraries, Cornell University and the Texas A&M University System, committed to Kuali OLE in January 2016. The Mellon Foundation awarded a new grant of \$1.2 million to Duke University in support of the project in February 2016.

LibLime, a division of PTFS, represents another thread of open source software for libraries, though one which has increasingly drifted toward a proprietary flavor. PTFS specializes in providing library technology products and services to libraries in the US federal government. Its subsidiary LibLime works outside of this sector, developing and supporting software for public, academic, and school libraries and consortia. LibLime has a history of providing services related to the open source Koha ILS and has developed LibLime Koha and LibLime Academic Koha as derivatives.

Over the years, LibLime's software has increasingly diverged from Koha, culminating this year in a new product entirely dissociated with Koha: Bibliovation. PTFS has likewise rebranded its ArchivalWare product Knowvation.

While LibLime continues to support LibLime Koha and LibLime Academic Koha, this year marks a new phase emphasizing Bibliovation as its strategic direction. LibLime positions Bibliovation as a comprehensive suite of products, including a newly developed discovery layer composed of LibLime Academic Koha, the GetIt acquisitions application, and Knowvation. Development efforts in 2015 included enhanced search capabilities through the latest version of Apache's Solr, cross-language searching, and the creation of RESTful APIs exposed through the new discovery layer. LibLime has also integrated with EBSCO Discovery Service.

LibLime characterizes its approach as an open development model. In this model, any enhancements funded by one library are included in subsequent releases and made available to all LibLime customers.

Sales leaders

Many complexities prevent simple rankings of the performance of library technology businesses. The vast majority of this economy is fueled by the annual maintenance fees or SaaS renewals. But success can also be seen in terms of business won through sales of new products to existing customers and by winning away clients from competitors. Any comparisons must take into consideration the vast differences in contract values, ranging from as little as \$1,000 per year for small libraries to hundreds of thousands of dollars for larger projects.

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PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The public library technology sector had a relatively quiet year in 2015 with a steady churn of libraries shifting to alternative ILS products in a competitive environment characterized by marginal differentiation.

Public libraries have not yet seen the drastically reshaped technology products that have swept through the academic sector. Each of the ILS products of interest to public libraries is evolving toward more modern architectures and extending functionality to meet shifting requirements. ILS continues as the preferred automation model in public libraries. High circulation volumes of physical materials and ever-increasing interest in ebook lending services have so far reinforced the model of the ILS rather than the creation of a new genre of software. Yet thorough integration of ebook lending and other digital services has become essential, as well as other features that increase patron engagement or modernize interfaces.

These dynamics put **BIBLIO-COMMONS** in a good position because of its focus on public library interfaces. The company provides its BiblioCore discovery environment and BiblioCMS website environment for public libraries. A relatively small company, BiblioCommons focuses on patron-facing discovery and portal products and does not offer its own ILS. The company's flagship product, BiblioCore, is a discovery interface based on social features able to fully replace the online catalog of a public library. All libraries subscribing to BiblioCore participate in the same instance of the software and are able to customize many aspects of how it is presented to patrons through its deployment as a multitenant platform.

Major development work included the transition to a responsive design to support mobile access and the

creation of additional features and enhancements to the BiblioCore and BiblioCMS platforms. The company continues to build the ebook lending platform BiblioDigital. BiblioCommons continues to offer integration of ebook lending through OverDrive and other external services.

BiblioCommons completed a consulting project with the Society of Chief Librarians in the UK to develop a report that envisions a unified digital presence for public libraries in England.

THE LIBRARY CORPORATION (TLC), a midsized company, specializes in technology products for public libraries. Owned and managed by its cofounder Annette Harwood Murphy since 1974, TLC has kept itself apart from external investment and acquisitions, other than its purchase of CARL Corporation in 2000. Its CARL.X product finds use in larger public libraries, and its Library.Solution product is primarily used in midsized public libraries and school districts. CARL.X also manages the inventory of at least two book publishers. In July 2015, Baker & Taylor completed the second phase of its implementation of CARL.X to manage the cataloging operation of its Customized Library Services group.

The Loudoun County (Va.) Public Library selected CARL.X to replace its Horizon ILS. Salano, Napa, and Partners Library Consortium in California opted to move from CARL.X to Polaris. Major contracts include the Hawaii Department of Education, which has more than 220 school libraries.

In 2015, the company continued development and deployment of CARL.Connect, a suite of web-based interfaces for the CARL.X ILS. Modules of CARL.Connect now available include circulation, collections, and reports. This year TLC also enhanced Library.Solution, including integrating it with reading level metrics, such as

Lexile and Accelerated Reader, and providing a new simplified interface for circulation.

TLC partnered with SocialFlow as the exclusive distributor of its platform for the syndication of content to social media destinations. SocialFlow allows organizations to optimize their presence on social networks and increase their visibility to their clientele.

AUTO-GRAPHICS, a midsized company, offers the VERSO ILS and SHAREit interlibrary loan platforms. Approximately 94% of the company's revenues come from libraries in the US. In 2015, it finished integrating a variety of ebook and digital media content resources into VERSO, including OverDrive, Recorded Books, Zinio, and OneClickdigital.

Auto-Graphics made five new contracts for VERSO that represent 10 libraries, increasing installations to 506. New SHAREit installations include statewide projects in South Dakota and Indiana.

BOOK SYSTEMS has developed its Atrium ILS primarily for small public and school libraries, though the company has increasingly attracted a more diverse demographic. In 2015, the South Dakota State Library opted to replace its Aleph ILS with Atrium, as did six public libraries that previously participated in the South Dakota Library Network using Aleph.

Book Systems made 165 sales of its Atrium ILS, 42 to public libraries and 92 to K-12 schools, including one district migrating from Evergreen. The number of libraries using Atrium now totals 3,526, and about two-thirds of those are school libraries. Development accomplished this year includes the release of Atrium Mobile Interface and Mobile Asset Tracking, both offered as iOS and Android apps.

INFOVISION SOFTWARE is a small company with 10 employees

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In 2015, SirsiDynix made the most sales with 122 contracts for Symphony, 77 of which were to new clients, and 52 new contracts for EOS.Web. The company also saw significant sales of its new BLUEcloud components, including BLUEcloud Analytics (83 contracts), MobileCirc (93 contracts), and BLUEcloud Visibility (31 contracts). SirsiDynix also had 91 new contracts for its Enterprise discovery interface.

Ex Libris led in terms of economic impact. Momentum for Alma among academic and research libraries continues to accelerate, and the 88 contracts representing 202 library organizations signed for Alma in 2015 more than doubles the previous year's performance. Of these contracts, 35 were to libraries not previously using Ex Libris products. Many of these involve shared platforms for large library systems or consortia. Ex Libris has 626 institutions subscribed to Alma, and 375 of those already in production.

Innovative had an impressive year moving its Millennium sites to Sierra and attracting new libraries. Innovative inked 90 new contracts for Sierra in 2015: 56 to academic libraries, 20 to public, 13 to special libraries, and one to a consortium. Of these contracts, 76 were to libraries migrating from Millennium.

The majority of Millennium sites selecting a new ILS in 2015 chose Sierra. Of the 166 libraries using Millennium known to have selected a new system in 2015, 95 went to Sierra. Public libraries on Millennium were even more loyal, with 28 out of 38 selecting Sierra. Innovative

retained a smaller percentage of academics, with 52 going to Sierra, 31 to Alma, and seven to WMS.

Innovative made 13 new contracts for Polaris that represent 38 library organizations and span 493 individual branches. Polaris displaced Virtua for the 25-branch Hamilton (Ont.) Public Library. The selection of Polaris for the Saskatchewan Information and Library Services Consortium alone brought 336 new facilities into the fold. Sales of Polaris were down relative to last year in terms of contracts (10 signed in 2015), but it saw an increase in the number of branches using it (100 in 2015).

Overall, sales of Polaris were stronger prior to its acquisition by Innovative, though it continues as one of the top products in new sales for large public libraries and consortia.

In 2015, Innovative also signed three new contracts for Virtua, which has seen annual sales drop consistently since 2012 when it made 14 contracts for the system.

OCLC saw 68 new subscriptions for WMS, representing 73 libraries. Of these, 47 were academic libraries and 21 special. Total WMS subscriptions increased to 386 libraries, which is up from 303 in 2014. The similarity of the numbers reported for contracts and libraries in 2015 shows that most were single-facility organizations rather than large library systems or consortia. Many new subscriptions signed this year were made by midsized institutions, and more than half were from outside the US. Internationally, WMS has been adopted in Aruba, Australia, Canada, France, South Africa, Spain, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

Library services platforms can now be considered a well-proven model of automation. These products have been successfully adopted by academic libraries of all sizes, including large-scale, complex consortial implementations. Academic libraries demonstrate resonance with library services platforms, which provide comprehensive print and electronic resources management, deployed through web-based platforms, with workflows streamlined through built-in knowledge bases.

Competitive options for academic libraries are limited. Ex Libris

dominates with Alma. OCLC's WMS provides some degree of competition with a platform based on a similar vision. Sierra provides an alternative for academic libraries comfortable with its more traditional approach.

In the US, 252 academic libraries selected new automation systems in 2015. Of these, 171 selected Alma, 27 opted for Sierra, 20 chose WMS, and 11 contracted with ByWater Solutions for Koha. Six small academic libraries moved to Polaris by virtue of their participation in a multitype consortium. In 2015, eight members of the

Association of Research Libraries (ARL) signed contracts for a new automation system, all opting for Ex Libris Alma.

Using ARL as a barometer for the large academic library sector, Ex Libris has a commanding lead. Sixty-eight ARL members use a resource management product from Ex Libris. Twenty-seven use Voyager, 25 use Alma, and 16 use Aleph. Innovative follows with 31 ARL members, with 18 using Millennium and 13 using Sierra. SirsiDynix has 19 ARL members, with 17 using Symphony and two using Horizon. Three have selected WMS.

Notable Dissertations

Some of the best original student research can be turned into practice. Here's how

By Kathy Rosa

What dissertations stood out over the past year? We looked at several of them—including 10 that we highlight here—to glean useful knowledge for practitioners of library and information science.

As all doctoral candidates know, dissertations are rites of passage that facilitate a student's transition into independent scholar, and to earn this passage, he or she must make an original contribution to the knowledge of the field. Sadly, dissertations are often overlooked as a source of information within our profession.

While the topics vary, these 10 dissertations can help inform practice in different types of libraries. And with that, we want to shine light on those scholars and the notable work they bring to the field.

The students and their topics are:

■ **Patricia B. Condon** (Simmons College) looked at the emergence of digital curation as a field of study.

■ **Jeff Ginger** (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) examined digital literacy capability in rural libraries serving predominantly African-American and Latino communities.

■ **Jennifer Goulston Zwillenberg** (University of Pennsylvania) advocates for access to a wide variety of genres and formats for adolescent readers, along with learning the skills of book selection.

■ **Alison S. Gurganus** (Pepperdine University) and **Stacy G. Hollins** (University of Missouri–St. Louis) each addressed information needs in community colleges. Gurganus studied patron use of virtual reference, and Hollins looked at the availability of technology resources through the lens of Critical Race Theory.

■ **Colleen S. Harris-Keith** (University of Tennessee at Chattanooga), **Michele A. Leininger** (University of Pittsburgh), and **Sharon P. Morris** (Simmons College) all discussed the development of leadership capability for public and academic library directors.

■ **Laury Lear** (Notre Dame of Maryland University) analyzed the personality traits of young characters in three decades of Caldecott Medal winners.

■ **Hannah M. Rutledge** (University of North Texas) discussed the information requests received by hospital libraries from both patient families and hospital staff members. ■



KATHY ROSA is director of ALA's Office for Research and Statistics.

Digital Curation through the Lens of Disciplinarity: The Development of an Emerging Field

SUMMARY: Condon explores the emergence of digital curation as a possible discipline by examining literature, content analysis, and interviews. Five key themes emerged from the data analysis. First, the terminology of the field is fairly well known, but a specific language has not coalesced. Second, collaboration among individuals and across social networks has evolved—in part from the need to partner for sustainability of projects. Third, there is evidence of multiple discipline engagement in digital curation practices. Fourth, education and training are evolving. Programs are offered through some library and information science

departments. And fifth, the theme of professional and scholarly focus refers to the body of accumulated knowledge and skills related to a discipline.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The results show that digital curation is not yet an independent discipline but appears to be heading in that direction. Its emergence as a field of study, however, requires identifying, researching, and practicing competencies, knowledge, and skills. And for it to thrive, more programs of study need to be developed and offered in higher education, and a community of practice needs to provide it direction.



Patricia B.
Condon

PhD, Simmons
College

*Digital curation is not yet an independent discipline
but appears to be heading in that direction.*



Jeff Ginger
PhD, University
of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Capturing the Context of Digital Literacy: A Case Study of Illinois Public Libraries in Underserved Communities

SUMMARY: Ginger gathered data about how public libraries are providing digital literacy services and resources in rural locations and predominantly African-American and Latino communities. In many rural communities the public library is the only available public access to the internet. There are fewer opportunities for digital literacy education; race and ethnicity strongly correlate with rural poverty; and technology infrastructure and stable funding are challenges for libraries within rural communities. Although many libraries have moved from providing only internet access to now also assisting with public computing, Ginger's results revealed that many rural libraries did not have a strong technology infrastructure and have fewer staff to devote to digital literacy programming.

RECOMMENDATIONS: First, library staffers and patrons need to work together to decide what digital literacy means in their community. Second, staff members need professional development to help with digital literacies training and become proficient in developing related programming. This training should go beyond teaching librarians how to work devices and use software; instead, they need to know how to instruct and engage with patrons. To assess programming, library officials must show how a patron is changed by the programming, not merely count how many people attended or used computers. Providing resources and professional development about assessment can help empower staff members to accurately measure and improve the success of digital literacy efforts.

This Text Matters: Students' Experiences with Independent Reading. A Dissertation in Reading, Writing, and Literacy



Jennifer
Goulston
Zwillenberg
EdD, University
of Pennsylvania

SUMMARY: Learning how to select books and having access to a wide variety of genres and formats are key ingredients in developing avid readers. The focus of this case study was on the adolescents' view of what makes interesting reading rather than the prescriptive view of what students should read. Set in an urban school, the study participants included African-American students in the 6th grade who had varied reading identities and literacy practices. The school's support of daily independent reading was critical to providing time for adolescents to browse, read, and talk about their interests. Goulston Zwillenberg and educators developed a library of a few thousand texts from grant funds, donations (including 300 comic books), bargains from Scholastic, and purchases made from students' wish lists.

RECOMMENDATIONS: An analysis of interviews, observations, discussions, and field notes revealed several implications for practice. Educators need to select texts beyond the traditional lists of recommended reading. Adolescents like familiar stories and a variety of genres and formats, including read-alouds, hybrid texts, and graphic novels. Lists such as those in the Common Core State Standards may not provide meaningful and enjoyable titles for many adolescents. Students need instruction on how to select books using more information than the cover and title. Adolescents allowed to discuss books with older adolescents (mentors) may broaden their own interests. Finally, we must talk with students about their experiences with texts and literacy in order to understand their needs and interests.



Alison S.
Gurganus
EdD, Pepperdine
University

Virtual Reference in a Community College Library: Patron Use of Instant Messaging and Log-In Chat Services

SUMMARY: This study directly compared the transcripts of instant message (IM) chat reference and log-in chat from the viewpoint of both users and librarians at a community college. Results show that both IM and log-in chat are needed for differing reasons: The IM portal is most often used for simpler questions, and the log-in portal receives research-based questions. While chats tend to be less formal and shorter, a librarian must still decipher the information needed. Thus, it is important that the reference interview be conducted in both chat and log-in reference service. Interestingly, librarians were perceived to be 18% friendlier in log-in reference, possibly because of the longer time of the transaction. But being friendlier in IM transactions is an achievable goal.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Libraries have to adapt to new models of reference work. This study provides information to help make decisions about chat and log-in reference services. When selecting software, librarians need to understand the different ways that students use the technology. By understanding student needs and the attributes of reference platforms, librarians can make decisions that reflect fiscal responsibility and service improvement. Additional recommendations include being aware of the librarian's role in the communications process. In addition to technical proficiency, a librarian must make patrons feel comfortable. Being approachable and available is necessary for successful online—as well as in-person—reference service.

COMMUNITY
COLLEGE NEEDS

An Exploratory Study of the Relationship between Academic Library Work Experience and Perceptions of Leadership Skill Development Relevant to Academic Library Directorship



Colleen S.
Harris-Keith

Edd, University
of Tennessee
at Chattanooga

SUMMARY: Harris-Keith surveyed academic library directors about the skills used in their previous library positions to determine which positions help develop the leadership skills necessary for academic library director positions. The verdict: Prior experience as an academic librarian may not necessarily provide the skills needed for director positions.

RECOMMENDATIONS: One idea is to inform curricula in LIS graduate programs of the need for leadership knowledge and experience. A second recommendation is

to encourage discussion among academic librarians about the needed skill sets and how to find appropriate leadership development opportunities. Professional associations could create leadership inventories to assist members in choosing professional development opportunities that address weaker skills. Additionally, these associations should integrate practice-oriented skills development into training opportunities. The profession could consider scaffolding as a way to develop competencies to better prepare for academic library leadership.

Prior experience as an academic librarian may not necessarily provide the skills needed for director positions.

LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT



Stacy G.
Hollins

PhD, University of
Missouri-St. Louis

The Digital Divide through the Lens of Critical Race Theory: The Digitally Denied

SUMMARY: African-American professors and African-American community college students participated in this study about the impact of the availability of technology resources and support on student success. Technological resources included access to the internet, software, hardware, technology training, technology support, and community resources. It was found that lack of access to technological resources results in missed assignments, low grades, and failed classes. Family obligations and lack of transportation often limit student access to on-campus computers and other

technology. Public libraries and technology centers are also difficult to access because of lack of transportation and childcare needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Results of this study promote an awareness of those students who lack access to technology in community colleges, universities, and public libraries. This study could inform decision makers, such as policymakers and community college leadership. Libraries and computer labs must reconsider open hours and staff availability at times that would be beneficial to students who lack access or who have work or family obligations.

COMMUNITY
COLLEGE NEEDS

Lack of access to technological resources results in missed assignments, low grades, and failed classes.

From Librarian to Proficient Manager: The Journey of Public Library Front-Line Managers



SUMMARY: This case study investigated the path public librarians took to learn how to become managers. The study also looked at how librarians interact with colleagues and organizations to become proficient. Findings include that new managers must understand—and be able to make—the transition from being a star producer to getting others to do the work. Many managers in smaller libraries serve in more than one role, i.e., they may also serve as adult and teen services librarian.

RECOMMENDATIONS: A clear understanding of the varied staff roles will aid the balancing act. Keeping the lines of communication open among staff members will aid the new manager in making the transition to management. Participants suggested that LIS programs include more education about human resources, interpersonal communications, guidelines for dealing with both difficult staffers and customers, and the general processes and laws surrounding disciplinary action and firing employees.

Michele A.
Leininger

PhD, University
of Pittsburgh

New managers must understand—and be able to make—the transition from being a star producer to getting others to do the work.

LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT



Laurry Lear
PhD, Notre Dame of
Maryland University

Personality Traits of Young Characters in Caldecott Medal-Winning Picture Books from Three Time Periods: 1950s, 1980s, and 2000s

SUMMARY: Picture books have a great impact on children at an early age. Over the decades, studies have considered picture books in terms of equity in the portrayal of gender and ethnicity. This study examines personality of young characters in Caldecott Medal-winning picture books from the 1950s, the 1980s, and the 2000s. Lear used the big five personality traits—extroversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, emotional stability, and openness to experience—to examine changes in the personality of characters over the decades. She found that there was little change in picture book characters pertaining to agreeableness, conscientiousness, and emotional stability. An interesting note: Emotional stability ranked very low for picture book characters over all three time periods. By contrast, extroversion and

openness to experience saw increases within characters, possibly reflecting a change in our values over time.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Lear noted that children relate to fictional characters, and educators need to develop an understanding of the personalities of characters in picture books and how they might influence children. Children may need background information when interpreting picture books from different time periods or cultures. Educators and parents can help children by providing context, literary analysis, and discussion when reading these books. Lear suggests pre-service and in-service training in the selection and use of picture books to help children handle social problems, develop positive self-concept, and learn positive problem solving.

Reflecting on the Core Values and Defining Moments of Public Library Directors

SUMMARY: Morris examined the values and experiences of public library directors considered leaders in the field. Results indicate that public library directors' values operate within five distinct contexts: intrapersonal, interpersonal, organizational, community, and societal. The values of a library director affect many people, including employees, trustees, volunteers, donors, and community leaders. Decisions made based on values may influence the broader community, including special interest groups, policymakers, and demographic groups. Sometimes difficult moments and critical incidents will arise, requiring us to examine our values.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Some library directors noted the lack of integrity of former

directors as critical incidents that defined moments when long-held values solidified or shifted. Mismanagement of resources, personnel, and funds were identified as indicators of a lack of integrity. Maintaining integrity, some noted, included transparency of decision making and management aids. Likewise, systems of accountability help demonstrate integrity for some library directors. Sometimes being direct and honest in a difficult situation was the best choice. Recommendations include that the profession consider policy implications related to the lack of integrity, promote ethics training, and develop ethical accountability measures.



Sharon P. Morris

PhD, Simmons College



Hannah M. Rutledge

PhD, University of North Texas

Patient Family and Hospital Staff Information Needs at a Pediatric Hospital: An Analysis of Information Requests Received by the Family Resource Libraries

SUMMARY: What are the information needs of patient families and hospital staff? Rutledge sought to find out. She analyzed and categorized the information requests received by the Family Resource Libraries over the span of three years. While the results of hospital staff requests are most pertinent to medical libraries, the results of the patient families' requests are also of importance to public, school, and academic libraries. The top 10 information requests were: nutrition, diet, exercise; autism; asthma; diabetes; school issues; nursing research; ADD/ADHD; cancer; epilepsy; and surgery. Library staffers provided extensive bookmarks on all computers and laptops to make it easy for families and hospital staff to locate reliable information. Individual instruction was also available in the library.

RECOMMENDATIONS: This study informs librarians about the differences in staff and family information needs in hospital libraries. Hospital staff primarily sought clinical information for evidence-based practice and research. Patient families sought medical info they could print and take home. To serve staff, the library collection must include subscription health and medical databases with full-text access to articles. Staffers also refer to books, so funds must be budgeted. Patient families ask about health conditions, so articles and pamphlets should use lay terminology. The internet was the most-used resource for both librarian-assisted research and unassisted research. Staffers and families need online access with quality health and medical sites bookmarked and with affordable printing options.

WEEDING WITHOUT WORRY

*Transparency and communication
help ease weeding woes*

BY REBECCA VNUK

Library weeding gets a bad reputation, thanks in part to weeding horror stories.

In 2013, Highland Park (Mich.) High School was accused of throwing out a large collection of history materials, including some rare items, which had been cultivated over a 50-year period. That same year, the Urbana (Ill.) Free Library discarded nearly 10,000 items, apparently just based on age, rather than condition or use. The discarding was done at the director's command—while the head of adult services was on vacation. In 2014, there were weeding news stories from school libraries in Racine, Wisconsin, and Boston. The media in Chattanooga, Tennessee, had a field day interviewing the former director of Chattanooga Public Library, who was more conservative about weeding, after the new director weeded almost half the collection over two years. Patrons in Albany County,

California, formed their own protest group when they noticed that most of the shelves in their branch libraries were suddenly only half full.

What usually happens is that a disgruntled (sometimes justifiably so) staff member sets off the alarm to the public about what's happening behind closed stacks. Or worse, a patron spies a dumpster full of discarded material and immediately jumps to the conclusion that the library is enacting a modern-day book burning. Employees who do not feel their concerns are being heard or their professional opinions are being considered may decide they have no choice but to become whistle-blowers. Patrons who do not understand the selection or weeding process are understandably alarmed when they see a mass number of items removed from their local library.

It pains me to read about these situations for a number of reasons. First and foremost, because I've been there—on the dark side.

In 2001, while working for Chicago Public Library, I was accused by a local politician of destroying books while working on a massive and much-needed weeding project at a regional branch. I was part of a team experienced in collections, and we had a plan to move, replace, and discard a large amount of material.

Unfortunately, that plan did not include communicating to the public what was going to happen. Nor did we do a very good job of communicating with the branch staff, who felt that they were being pushed aside by a group of outsiders. The experience opened my eyes to the need for an open path of communication and the need for staff buy-in. Luckily, I have also worked on weeding projects that went very smoothly, even when working with large numbers of books.

I also hate to hear bad weeding stories because they raise the hackles of patrons, taxpayers, and book lovers everywhere and lead them to believe that weeding is never a good thing. Hearing such horror stories brings on the knee-jerk reaction that no book should ever, ever be discarded, which simply isn't

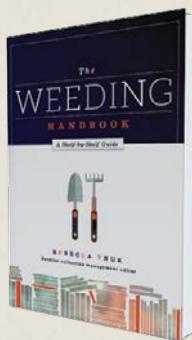
feasible. And, finally, these stories are painful because they illustrate that there are still plenty of librarians and administrators who do not understand the fundamentals of weeding.

Ideally, a library wouldn't need to perform drastic weeding projects. If a collection is weeded on a regular basis, a section at a time, and maintained well with new materials, it rarely requires a large, hard-to-ignore weed. When a major project is needed, it should be planned out carefully, and communication is a key part of that planning. It's not particularly difficult to get the message out to your staff and patrons.

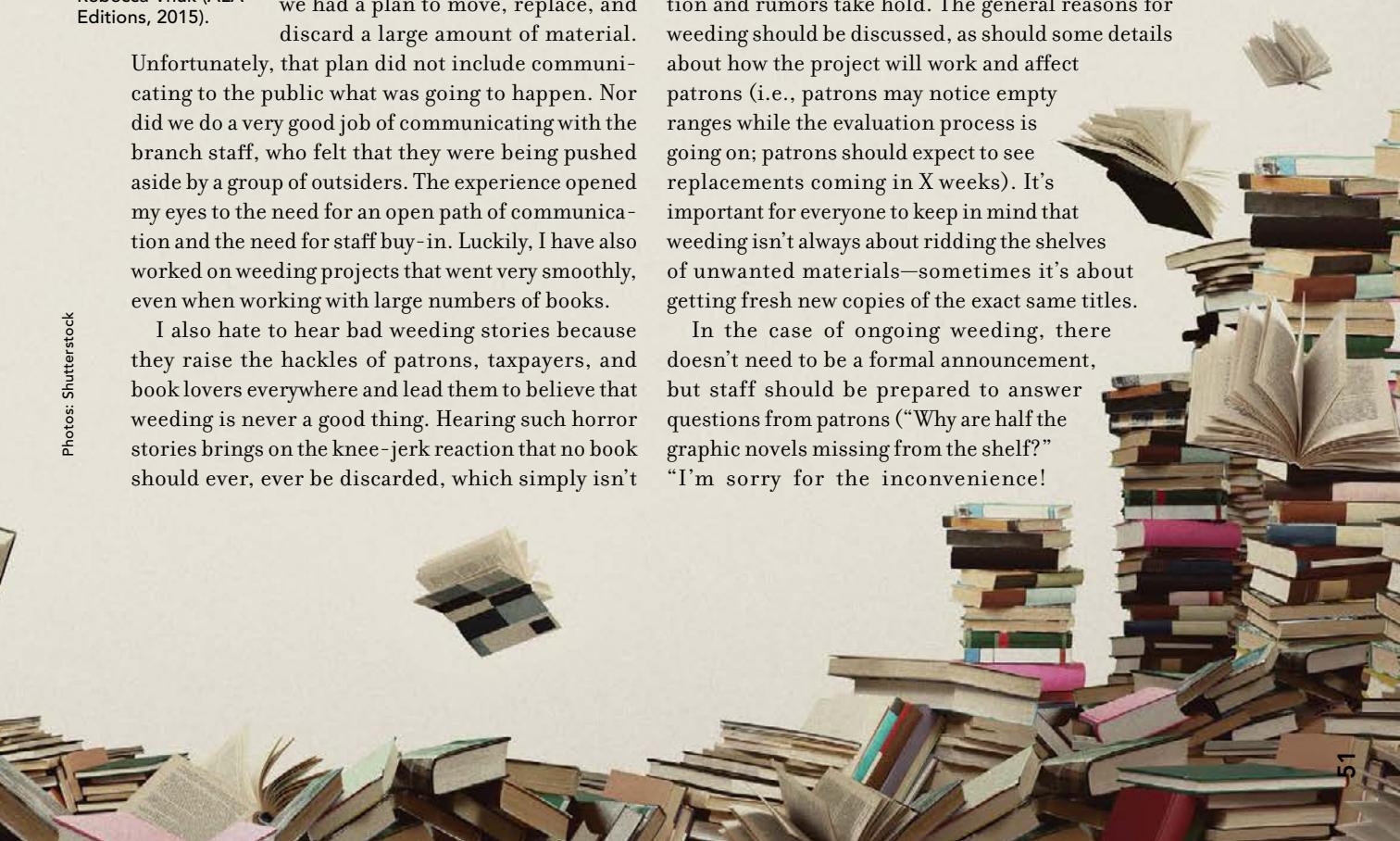
Communicating with patrons

If a large weeding project is planned, get the word out before the work commences. The director should make a statement on the library's website, in the library newsletter, or to the local press. Take command of the situation rather than let speculation and rumors take hold. The general reasons for weeding should be discussed, as should some details about how the project will work and affect patrons (i.e., patrons may notice empty ranges while the evaluation process is going on; patrons should expect to see replacements coming in X weeks). It's important for everyone to keep in mind that weeding isn't always about ridding the shelves of unwanted materials—sometimes it's about getting fresh new copies of the exact same titles.

In the case of ongoing weeding, there doesn't need to be a formal announcement, but staff should be prepared to answer questions from patrons ("Why are half the graphic novels missing from the shelf?" "I'm sorry for the inconvenience!")



This is an excerpt from *The Weeding Handbook: A Shelf-by-Shelf Guide*, by Rebecca Vnuk (ALA Editions, 2015).



TALES FROM THE FRONT

Everyone seems to have a weeding horror story, and several librarians have shared theirs with us. Read on, and see if you can relate—or feel a sense of relief that perhaps your weeding experience wasn't so bad. These stories come from a weeding tips article published June 17, 2013, on Booklist Online.



"I weeded the 800s last year and lost track of the number of volumes I pulled that were original to the building's construction in 1902. Tiny, tiny books that had been library bound, full of onionskin paper and those peculiar ownership stamps that look like punches. I'm not exaggerating when I say that out of the 50% of existing items I weeded, fully half were more than 100 years old and **full of insects** and dry rot."

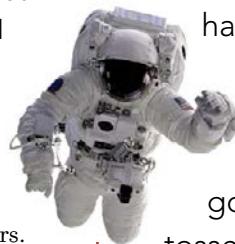
"In my high school library, we began weeding books that had collected years of dust from lack of use. Some dated to the early 1900s! As we began the process, we noticed some books looked chewed on. We just assumed that having been on the shelves for so long, they had deteriorated. However, one day, when we were working on the same shelf from opposite ends, I removed a book, and in front of my eyes was this **tiny little mouse**. I am not sure if I was more frightened or it was—but I would say I jumped a few feet in total fear. The mouse took off in the opposite direction. My coworker took over the job for me."



"A few years ago, I weeded the 600s in a medium-sized suburban library and pulled off a gem called **How to Raise Your Mongoloid Child**, copyright 1954. I regret to this very day that I didn't take a picture of it before I threw it out."



"One of my very first projects was a massive purge at a remote storage facility. Imagine a block-wide building filled with books of every description, and running around the perimeter were high shelves packed with fiction from the late-19th to the mid-20th century. A coworker and I quickly reduced that collection by at least 80%. **It was a bloodbath.** My own reading tastes are a little perverse when it comes to interesting old books, and I'm as likely to be reading that trendy bestseller from 1913 as the one from 2013, so this was a trial by fire. Our liberal arts educations got quite a workout, and on the whole, I think we did a fairly good job."



"When I was weeding a school media collection, I decided that my criteria for nonfiction would be that if any book had a copyright older than my mother-in-law, it was going to be tossed, including the astronomy book that said, '**One day, man will walk on the moon.**' Problem was, that left me with almost no books."

"Tech services thought we had a good way to weed old editions of standing orders. When a new edition came out, we'd put in a slip that indicated the old edition should go to our department for withdrawal, carefully indicating the barcode of the edition to withdraw. The books would then be switched when being shelved. Well, we stopped that practice when we found the current edition had sometimes been sent back with the withdrawal slip in it. We're pretty positive a new edition of a **very expensive reference book** actually got withdrawn and recycled. Another one was on the way to the recycling bin when it was caught, and we were able to salvage it."

We've pulled that section, and it's currently on a book cart in the workroom while we check how much use the books get and search for new ones to add to the collection. Is there something I can grab for you?")

In either case, use positive terms instead of negative ones when talking about weeding, and never complain to patrons about bad materials that were on the shelf. Instead, explain that the library is making room for new materials, making the shelves easier to navigate, and replacing outdated information with current information.

The way you dispose of discarded material will also have an impact on how the public reacts.

If the public knows that material is being reused or recycled, they may feel better about the weeding process overall. If materials have to be thrown in the trash, the library director needs to make a statement regarding the types of materials that are being thrown away (outdated medical and law texts and books in unsalvageable condition are good examples to use), so that everyone is clear that "perfectly good books" aren't being destroyed.

Transparency in action

Until recently, the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) devoted a page on its website to weeding at the library. It included the following language:

What if you see a book that you do not feel should be weeded? Tell us! Stop by the library and talk with one of the librarians or send us an email.

Because of the many factors that are implicated in the decision to remove a book, each case is different. However, the library staff will seriously consider the wishes of all members of the MSOE faculty, staff, or student body who inform us that the book should remain in the library collection. To repeat, no book will be permanently removed while it is a candidate for removal. Books will only be permanently removed after the MSOE community has had a sufficient opportunity to comment on the lists of candidates for removal.

In addition, MSOE described, in very simple terms, its general guidelines for weeding:

"In deciding whether or not a book is a candidate for weeding, the MSOE library staff [members] attempt to answer the following questions:

- Is the book's content outdated or largely outdated?
- What do members of the faculty say? Do faculty members recommend that the book be kept?
- What do members of the staff say? Do staff members recommend that the book be kept?
- What do students say? Do members of the student body recommend that the book be kept?
- How many times has the book circulated? Has it circulated within the last five years?
- Is the book irrelevant to the needs and interests of customers?
- Has the book been superseded by something else? Has a subsequent edition been added? Is there a better book that should be obtained instead?
- Is the book physically damaged and beyond repair?
- Can selected books be obtained easily and quickly through interlibrary loan?
- Is the book requested by other libraries via interlibrary loan?
- Is the book considered a 'classic' contribution to the field (and therefore, it should be retained)?
- Is the book a second copy? Are there good reasons to retain multiple copies of a book?"

Putting out statements like that to the public can help patrons understand that weeding does not happen in a vacuum and that it is a necessary task. Weeding is not a mechanical process. There is emotion involved; there is thought involved, and it takes the same amount of skill to build a collection as it does to cull one. Successful projects will include keeping staff and patrons informed to help avoid speculation and negative assumptions. ■



REBECCA VNUK is editor for reference and collection management at Booklist and cocreator of the popular blog Shelf Renewal. Her most recent library position was as adult services director at Glen Ellyn (Ill.) Public Library. Vnuk is author of *Read On ... Women's Fiction* (Libraries Unlimited, 2009) and *Women's Fiction Authors: A Research Guide* (Libraries Unlimited, 2009), and coauthor (with Nanette Donohue) of *Women's Fiction: A Guide to Popular Reading Interests* (Libraries Unlimited, 2013).



2016 ALA

ANNUAL

Must-Dos

ORLANDO, FLORIDA • JUNE 23–28

Interact with thousands of the most motivated, committed, and imaginative people in the field. Make great connections, choose among hundreds of learning opportunities, and get the latest on products, services, technologies, and new titles. It's all awaiting you in Orlando!

Use the **Preliminary Program** (2016.alaannual.org/preliminary-program) to start planning how you'll be "transforming our libraries, ourselves" at the 2016 ALA Conference and Exhibition.

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

Join ALA's Center for the Future of Libraries for **Library of the Future** sessions examining trends in the neuroscience of attention in education (Steelcase), the use of feasibility studies for designing new spaces (OPN Architects), and more.

Some conference content and activities will again be organized around the **Libraries Transform** campaign. Information about how you and your library can get involved—as well as opportunities to have some fun with it—will be available at the ALA Lounge.

Equity, diversity, and inclusion are critical to a strong future for libraries. Check the list of related recommendations from the Committee on Diversity at 2016.alaannual.org/education-and-meetings.

SPEAKERS WHO INSPIRE

Michael Eric Dyson, one of *Essence* magazine's 50 most inspiring African Americans, opens the conference as

featured speaker at the Opening General Session (June 24). ALA President Sari Feldman welcomes actress and outspoken immigration reform advocate **Diane Guerrero** to the President's Program (June 26). Award-winning actress and bestselling children's author **Jamie Lee Curtis** will close the conference after Feldman passes the gavel to 2016–2017 ALA President Julie Todaro and introduces the new ALA division presidents at the Closing General Session (June 27).

Auditorium speakers include: **Margaret Atwood**, award-winning author and current vice president of PEN International; **Jazz Jennings**, transgender teen activist and one of the youngest and most prominent voices on gender identity; **Brad Meltzer**, bestselling author of non-fiction, suspense, children's books, and comic books, and Honorary Chair of ALA's Preservation Week 2016; **Holly Robinson Peete**—actress, author, talk show host, activist, and philanthropist—along with her 18-year-old twins Ryan Elizabeth and RJ, exploring funny, painful, and unexpected aspects of teen autism; and **Maya Penn**, teen entrepreneur and activist whose TEDWomen talk has been viewed more than 1 million times.

ALA divisions and their presidents invite all attendees to see thought-provoking speakers at the **Division**

Presidents' Programs. As of press time, 2016 speakers include: **Michael R. Nelson**, who works on internet-related global public policy issues for CloudFlare and Big Data changes and related technology issues (ALCTS); **Marty Sklar**, former president of Walt Disney Imagineering, with a panel on the intersections of child development, architecture, and stories (ALSC); **Safiya Noble**, from the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, on culture and technology in the design and use of internet applications (LITA); and **Dave Cobb**, an expert on designing immersive educational experiences with Thinkwell Group, on how to create an effective “guest experience” in your library (RUSA). For additions and updates, visit 2016.alaannual.org/ala-division-presidents-programs.

US Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) will make a special appearance with his award-winning graphic novel series *March*, alongside cocreators Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell, in honor of the 50th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Humanities (June 25).

IN THE EXHIBIT HALL

Allow plenty of time to explore solutions to pressing issues at your library, network with colleagues, connect with your vendors, browse new products and services, discover the hottest titles, meet dozens of authors, and enjoy live events. The **exhibit hall** (2016.alaannual.org/general-exhibits-info) will include Poster Sessions, Book Buzz Theater, Meet the Authors, PopTop Stage, Graphic Novel/Gaming Stage, What's Cooking @ ALA Demonstration Stage, Artist Alley, and specialty areas such as the Mobile App, Zine, and Diversity pavilions.

CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION

Attend peer-led **Ignite Sessions** and **Conversation Starters** (June 25–27) and keep up with Washington Office Updates throughout the conference. Rich Harwood and three public libraries that participated in ALA's **Libraries Transforming Communities** initiative will show how libraries can engage communities and lead change by “turning outward” (June 25). Join Debra Fine at the **PR Forum** (June 26) to learn how to turn every interaction into an opportunity for a successful library relationship, and visit the **ALA JobLIST Placement and Career Development Center** (June 25–26) for guidance, workshops, and résumé review.

TICKETED EVENTS

Get your tickets for preconferences, award celebrations, the International Librarians' Reception, the Gala Author Tea, local tours, and the Inaugural Brunch at 2016.alaannual.org/ticketed-events. ■

Orlando Fun Facts

- At 290,000 square feet, Orlando Public Library is the largest public library building in Florida.
- Disney World covers 43 square miles—roughly the size of the city of San Francisco.
- Jack Kerouac wrote *The Dharma Bums* while living with his mother in Orlando's College Park neighborhood.
- There are more than 5,300 restaurants in the Orlando area.
- When Rollins College—the oldest college in Florida—was founded in 1885, its library collection consisted of a Bible and a dictionary.

Get Connected, Stay Informed

The **ALA Annual Conference Scheduler** (2016.alaannual.org/scheduler) helps you browse sessions, plan and organize your time, create a private or shareable calendar, add and update events and personal appointments, and keep track of exhibitor meetings. Look for the mobile app coming later in May.

- Visit alaannual.org
- Track #alaac16 on Twitter
- Join the Facebook Event (on.fb.me/1KtMdXq)
- See what's happening at Pinterest (pinterest.com/alaannual)
- Keep up on Tumblr (americanlibraryassoc.tumblr.com)
- Follow #alaac16 on Instagram (bit.ly/ALAINstagram)

Currents

■ **Rick Ashton** retired as director of Downers Grove (Ill.) Public Library March 31.

■ February 29 **Jayne Blodgett** joined the University of Northern Colorado Libraries in Greeley as assistant dean.

■ January 15 **Marla Burns** retired as director of Caledonia (Minn.) Public Library.

■ December 1 **Amber Clement** was named director of Presque Isle District Library in Rogers City, Michigan.

■ **Amber Conger** became director of Kershaw

(S.C.) County Library in November.

■ **Pamela Coyle** retired in December as director of Martinsburg–Berkeley County (W. Va.) Public Libraries.

■ **Laurie Duquette** retired as systems librarian at the National Library of Medicine’s History of Medicine Division in Bethesda, Maryland, in January.

■ **Susan Fink** was appointed director of technical services, facilities, and business administration at Rowan University Libraries in Glassboro, New Jersey, in January.



Amber Conger



Susan Fink



Christine Fischer



Amy Harris Houk

■ January 19 **John Finn** became director of Lewis and Clark Library in Helena, Montana.

■ **Christine Fischer** was appointed head of the Technical Services Department at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Libraries January 1.

■ **Judy Hart** retired in January as director of Lewis and Clark Library in Helena, Montana.

■ **John F. Helmer** retired as executive director of the Orbis Cascade Alliance in Eugene, Oregon, in March.

■ In February, **Michaela Willi Hooper** became scholarly communication librarian and assistant professor for Oregon State University’s Valley Library in Corvallis.

■ In January, **Sarah Hoskins** became digital scholarship librarian at Rowan University Libraries in Glassboro, New Jersey.

■ January 4 **Amy Harris Houk** was appointed assistant head of the Research, Outreach, and Instruction Department at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Libraries.

■ February 1 **Damon E. Jaggars** became director and professor of university libraries at Ohio State University in Columbus.

■ November 30 **Virginia Johnson** became director of East Bridgewater (Mass.) Public Library.

■ January 4 **Heath Keller** joined Jacksonville (Fla.) Public Library as assistant director for facilities management and planning.

■ January 1 **Sue Kennedy** retired after 26 years as librarian at Arab (Ala.) High School and media coordinator for Arab City Schools.

■ Columbus (Ohio) Metropolitan Library promoted **Abby Kiracofe** to manager of the Main Library’s children’s division in January.

■ **Annette Curtis Klause** retired in February as children’s materials selector at Montgomery County (Md.) Public Libraries.

■ January 4 **Martha Lund** was promoted to manager of Columbus (Ohio) Metropolitan Library’s Marion-Franklin and Canal Winchester branches.

■ December 21 **Kathy Marquis** became deputy state archivist of Wyoming.

■ January 23 **Kyle Neugebauer** became director of

CITED

■ **Kathryn Ash**, president of Friends of Georgia Libraries and trustee of Piedmont Regional Library System in Jefferson, was named 2015 Public Library Champion of the Year by the Georgia Public Library Service.

■ In November 2015, **Scott A. Bruner**, director of Chino Valley (Ariz.) Public Library, received the Arizona Library Association’s Library Leadership Award.

■ **Ginny Moore Kruse**, director emerita of the Cooperative Children’s Book Center at the University of Wisconsin School of Education in Madison, has been named a 2016 fellow of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters.

■ **Steve W. Schaefer**, recently retired director of Uncle Remus Regional Library System in Madison, Georgia, was named 2015 Public Librarian of the Year by the Georgia Public Library Service.

■ In March **Betty Waznis**, director of Chula Vista (Calif.) Public Library, was named as one of 16 Women of the Year by California 80th District Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez.

Thomas Memorial Library in Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

■ **Elsbeth Olson** became librarian and archivist at the American Bookbinders Museum in San Francisco in December.

■ **Sue Padilla** retired as director of Newton (Iowa) Public Library January 2.

■ February 22 **Matthew Poland** became director of Russell Library in Middletown, Connecticut.

■ January 4 **Sara Roberts** joined Jacksonville (Fla.) Public Library as manager of the Pablo Creek region.

■ **M. Brooke Robertshaw** joined Oregon State University's Valley Library in Corvallis as assessment librarian in December.

■ **Bridget Rowan** became reference librarian at Sedona (Ariz.) Public Library in December.

■ **Nancy Ryckman** retired in January as assistant head of the Research, Outreach, and Instruction Department at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

■ **Michael James "Jamie" Self** became director of development for Jacksonville (Fla.) Public Library Foundation January 4.

■ **Karen Snow**, assistant professor at Dominican University Graduate School of Library and



Sara Roberts



Jamie Self

OBITUARIES

■ **Russell Bowden**, 81, deputy chief executive of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) for almost 20 years, died January 27. Bowden was an active member of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), serving on its executive board 1989–1995 and as first vice president 1991–1995; he founded the Management of Library Associations Section in 1983. He was made an honorary fellow of IFLA in 1995. Prior to joining CILIP, Bowden was a British Council Librarian from 1958 to 1974 in Iraq, India, Nigeria, and Sri Lanka. After retiring from CILIP in 1994, he lived in Sri Lanka and served on a number of LIS-related governing boards and committees for the Sri Lanka Library Association, the National Institute of Library and Information Sciences, and the National Library of Sri Lanka.

■ **Sandra Gold**, 75, a law librarian and director of information services for

three Chicago law firms for more than 30 years, died March 1. Gold was also an adjunct professor of law librarianship at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois, for many years, and an active member and leader in ALA, the American Association of Law Libraries, and the Special Libraries Association.

■ **Jack L. Hallett**, 83, a founding brother of Hallett and Sons Expert Movers, died February 3. Hallett oversaw thousands of library moves in the United States and abroad during a career spanning more than 60 years. Hallett was an ALA member and library champion for several decades, and trained and mentored many in the industry.

■ **John J. Philip Sr.**, 85, a retired librarian at the State Library of Ohio, died February 1. His career focused on bookmobile services, and he regularly spoke at state and national association meetings and provided consulting services relating to developing bookmobile services.

Information Science in River Forest, Illinois, was appointed director of the school's doctoral program, effective in the spring 2016 semester.

■ **Jacqueline Solis** was promoted to director of research and instructional services at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library March 1.

■ **Mattie Taormina** became director of Sutro Library, the San Francisco branch of the California State Library, March 2.

■ January 19 **Kurt Wagner** became university

librarian at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, New Jersey.

■ **Beth Filar Williams** became head of the Library Experience and Access department at Oregon State University's Valley Library in Corvallis in January.

At ALA

■ March 7 **Shannon Carter** joined the American Association of School Librarians as program coordinator.

■ **Liz Catalano**, registra-

tion and membership operations specialist, left ALA March 2.

■ **Keir Graff** was promoted in March from editor of Booklist Online to executive editor, Booklist Publications.

■ **Kelsey Henke** joined the Office for Research and Statistics January 5 as program officer.

■ **Liz Steiner**, marketing manager for ALA Publishing, left ALA February 29.

■ **Rosalie Watts** retired March 30 as production coordinator for ALA Publishing, after 50 years with the Association. ■

Send notices and color photographs for *Currents* to Amy Carlton, acarlton@ala.org.

Pulling the Plug

How and when to discontinue a library program

by Abby Johnson

You provide great youth programs and services at your library, but there comes a time when you may need to consider pulling the plug on something. As much as we librarians want to be everything to everyone, the truth is that resources are finite.

Maybe your funding, meeting room space, or employee availability is limited. Maybe the attendance isn't there, or the staff member who supervised the service has left the branch. How do you decide to discontinue a program?

Libraries should allocate resources in the most efficient way possible. Of course, "bang for your buck" can mean something different to everyone, and attendance numbers are not the programming be-all and end-all.

"I consider any sort of enthusiastic attendance a success," says Thomas Maluck, teen services librarian at Richland Library in Columbia, South Carolina. "The first anime club I started barely had a handful of participants." While word of mouth ultimately grew the program, he says, "I was happy with a smaller, tight-knit group as well."

Children and teens have a different experience at a smaller, more

intimate program than at a program for a larger group. Both types of experiences are valid, depending on the priorities of your library. Qualitative outcomes, such as building skills among attendees or presenting the library as a positive space, should be weighed as you take inventory of your programs. For



"Bang for your buck" can mean something different to everyone, and attendance numbers are not the programming be-all and end-all.

instance, an evening storytime might not be as well attended as your morning storytime, but if it's the only program you offer for working families, it might be worth keeping on the calendar.

Alternately, keep in mind how your programs affect staff members in addition to external customers. If a program has grown cumbersome and takes up a great deal of staff time and concentration, or if staff interest has waned, it's time to look at changes you can make to satisfy everyone. Can the program be simplified or the service streamlined? Is someone else interested in taking it over? If not, it might be time to move staff energies in a different direction.

The key to figuring out the future of your programs is to evaluate. You should constantly look at what your library offers and measure success according to the outcomes you desire. At the end of each programming season, look back at

what you've done. Did your library achieve its goals? Is the program sustainable, as far as attendance and the staff hours expended?

If an evaluation spurs you to cancel a program, make sure you publicize the cancellation so everyone knows what is happening. Letting patrons know in advance that a change is coming can help them get used to the idea. If you can, discontinue the offering at a logical point in your programming year. Implementing changes to youth services at the end of a programming season, end of summer, or end of a school year may ease the transition. Know why you're making changes, and inform your staff so that they can relay the message to patrons. When your customers know that there was thought and reasoning behind the discontinuation, they are more apt to accept it.

Although libraries offer many longstanding programs that patrons can count on, our communities are evolving and we need to adapt. Don't be afraid to take a hard look at what your library offers and ask yourself if it truly works for everyone involved. Don't be afraid to make changes. Letting go of a program or service may free up resources that can be better applied elsewhere, or it may lead to unexpected opportunities. ■

ABBY JOHNSON is youth services manager at New Albany-Floyd County (Ind.) Public Library. Find her at abbythelibrarian.com.

Career Leads from ALA JobLIST

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Your #1 source for job openings
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LIBRARY DIRECTOR—The **Potsdam Public Library** is looking for a Library Director to manage a staff of 9 FTE, a budget of \$560,000 and a service area of 15,000. Potsdam, located in northern New York, is about a 2-hour drive from Montreal and Ottawa. Qualifications: A Master's Degree in Librarianship from a school accredited by the ALA or recognized by the New York State Education Department as following acceptable education practices, and 3 years of professional library experience. Candidates must be eligible for a New York State Librarians' professional license. Salary: \$52,000–\$62,000. **To apply: go to www.slcpersonnel.org, click Examination Schedule.** Inquiries: schafferny@gmail.com. Application deadline: June 1, 2016. AA/EEO

CONTACT Email joblist@ala.org or call 800-545-2433, ext. 4216. Career Leads, American Libraries, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; fax 312-337-6787.



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College & Research Libraries

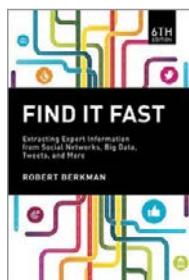
news ACRL

Librarian's Library

Accessing Information

by Karen Muller

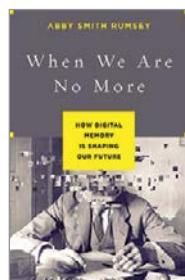
The other day my middle schooler announced, “My teacher said you would be able to help me because you’re a librarian. I have to write about how easy access to technology affects our ability to know the truth.” Over dinner that night, we had a rambling conversation about what truth is, how to assess reliability, changes in data seeking, ease of access, click-bait sites, and a host of related topics. The very next day, this question came in through our reference email: “Is there a publication for reference librarians on vetted or recommended websites for use by truth seekers?”



One of the sources I suggested is *Find It Fast: Extracting Expert Information from Social Networks, Big Data, Tweets, and More*, 6th edition, by Robert Berkman. While intended for the business searcher, the chapters on sources, searching, and experts confirm and expand upon what you may know intuitively. Starting with structuring the search, Berkman moves through some of the best sites for accessing statistics and reaching into the deep web for hard data. He also explains why a library’s print resources may still be the best sources. Although he references now-discontinued print indexes, librarians will be able to

mediate the online versions effectively. After reviewing how search engines were developed, offering strategies for using them better, and analyzing what types of information are available through social media tools, Berkman discusses credibility in a chapter wonderfully titled “Truth, Lies, and Influence.” Finally, he provides an annotated bibliography with more in-depth materials on seeking knowledge in the digital age.

INFORMATION TODAY, 2015. 336 P. \$24.95. PBK. 978-1-9372-9004-7.



When We Are No More: How Digital Memory Is Shaping Our Future, by Abby Smith Rumsey, may well end up in Berkman’s bibliography in the next

edition. Rumsey is a historian with a broad perspective on human efforts through the ages to record memories for the future, whether through cave paintings, cuneiform tablets, books, or websites. Humankind has developed many ways to capture information. Whenever that information threatens to overwhelm us, we invent libraries, archives, museums, and other means to be its repositories. Rumsey references past efforts to grapple with the accelerated pace of information: more libraries after the invention of printing, scholarly journals when scholarly inquiry expanded, and



With digital memory, we need to reinvent how to preserve it.

indexing systems—first in paper, then databases—for both scholarly journals and periodical literature. With digital memory we are again overwhelmed, but we need to reinvent how to preserve it, whether it’s the calendar in a smartphone or a web-based archive. The internet is constantly changing—the average life of a web page before it changes or disappears entirely is a mere 100 days. How much of the digital past must be kept and whether there is value in forgetting are just two of the complex threads woven through this narrative.

BLOOMSBURY PRESS, 2016. 240 P. \$28. PBK. 978-1-6204-0802-5.



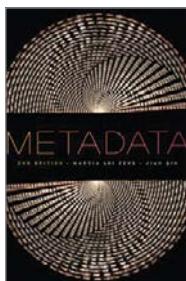
Standards underlie the systems we have to preserve knowledge, from electrical standards that define the shape of a computer’s plug to data coding standards. *The Critical Component: Standards in the Information Exchange Environment*, edited by Todd A. Carpenter, includes chapters on specific standards and their histories, some with case studies. The book covers standard numbers (ISBNs and DOIs), bibliographic

THE BESTSELLERS LIST

THE TOP-SELLING BOOKS FROM ALA PUBLISHING
(SINCE MARCH 1, 2016)

standards (RDA and Dublin Core), and digital preservation standards (Trustworthy Repositories Audit and Certification), all with the ultimate goal of promoting interoperability. It also includes clear explanations of how standards are developed and maintained as well as discussion of how the development of one standard may force another to evolve.

ALCTS, 2015. 312 P. \$71. PBK. 978-0-8389-8744-5.



These standards as applied, along with the addition of metadata, make web content accessible to us through search engines. *Meta-*

data, 2nd edition, by Marcia Lei Zeng and Jian Qin, is a comprehensive examination of metadata schema. Metadata has been defined as the “structured, encoded data that describe[s] characteristics of information-bearing entities,” and it aids in the identification, discovery, assessment, and management of objects in memory institutions, libraries, archives, and museums. Using metadata well is critical to transmitting knowledge in the digital world. The authors have substantially expanded the earlier edition of this textbook. Coverage includes laying out the fundamentals of metadata, examining underlying principles and structures, and offering a detailed look at metadata structures and semantics. The authors review metadata services such as infrastructure, registries, and linked data and look at ways to measure the metadata quality. The last two sections cover metadata research landscape and standards.

ALA EDITIONS, 2016. 584 P. \$84. PBK.

978-1-5557-0965-5. ■

KAREN MULLER is librarian for the ALA Library and Archive.

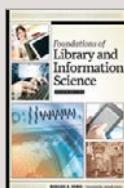
TOP 3 IN PRINT



1. Reference and Information Services: An Introduction, 3rd edition

Kay Ann Cassell and Uma Hiremath

This is the perfect text for students and librarians looking to expand personal reference knowledge, teaching fail-safe methods for identifying important materials by matching specific questions to the best available sources.



2. Foundations of Library and Information Science, 4th edition

Richard E. Rubin, foreword by Joseph Janes

Spanning all types of libraries—from public to academic to school and special—this book illuminates the major facets of library and information science for aspiring professionals as well as those already practicing in the field.



3. The Neal-Schuman Library Technology Companion, 5th edition: A Basic Guide for Library Staff

John J. Burke

Informed by a large-scale survey of librarians across the spectrum of institution types, this guide is a true technology companion to novices and seasoned LIS professionals alike.

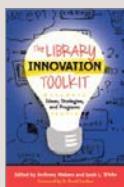
TOP 3 IN EBOOKS



1. Leading Libraries: How to Create a Service Culture

Wyoma vanDuinkerken and Wendi Arant Kaspar

This valuable resource gathers the principles and best practices of leadership and points the way toward creating a service culture that makes every staff member a library leader.

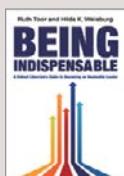


2. The Library Innovation Toolkit: Ideas, Strategies, and Programs

Anthony Molaro and Leah L. White, editors;

foreword by R. David Lankes

Showcasing ideas and initiatives that will inspire librarians at their own institutions, this stimulating collection offers snapshots of innovation in action at a range of libraries.



3. Being Indispensable: A School Librarian's Guide to Becoming an Invaluable Leader

Ruth Toor and Hilda K. Weisburg

Making the case for the vital role school librarians play in learning, this book gives readers all the strategies they need to become the kind of leader their school can't do without.

Libraries Open Up

Gale goes 3D

Gale and Cyber Science 3D have partnered to bring science to life for students.

With both academic and high school students in mind, Gale—a division of Cengage Learning—has created three distinct interactive science programs that allow students to explore multiple science-based subjects.

One program, used as a learning tool for high school and introductory college-level courses, spans a wide range of science topics, while two other programs deal with human anatomy and chemistry and are geared toward higher learning.

The programs use 3D models to help students interact with the subject matter: Users can zoom in and out and rotate models of the human body and manipulate them to reveal musculature and bone structure. By clicking on a specific section of the model, users can access related reference content, including relevant hyperlinks and the ability to search across content. The models are 3D printable and can be viewed on 3D monitors. These web-based programs are also available in 2D.

Key features include:

- guided simulation lessons
- key concept review quizzes at the end of sessions
- 3D printing capabilities with installed driver
- content provided in multiple languages, including English and Spanish

Gale interactive science programs combine Gale's database resources



and Cyber Science 3D's educational technologies. They are available for interactive whiteboards, projectors, tablets, laptops, and computers and are accessible through Google Chrome, Firefox, Opera, Safari, and Internet Explorer browsers. For more information, visit gale.com.

Open access with 1science

The Montreal-based start-up company 1science creates easier ways of finding open access peer-reviewed scholarly articles for librarians, researchers, and students.

With the original goal of improving open access, 1science expanded

to help institutions reduce costs, manage their online reputation and journal subscriptions, and expedite information flow, leading to the creation of their suite of products.

The company has released three new products—oaFindr, oaFoldr, and oaFigr—collectively known as the 1science Library OA Solution. Each has its place in 1science's integrated offering.

The first product, oaFindr, acts as a one-stop shop for retrieving all open access peer-reviewed articles from a given search. Pulling in articles from the internet, it can reach across disciplines and also

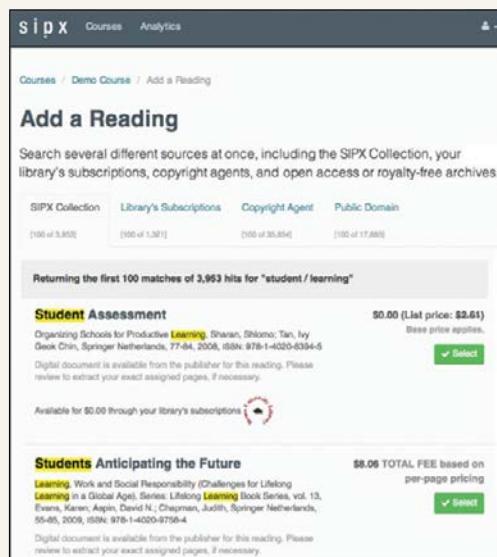
oa**findr** oa**foldr** oa**figr**

SIPX FOR SCHOOLS

Product: ProQuest SIPX, proquest.com

Details: SIPX collects open access and open education resource materials, publisher content, and library holdings into an intuitive web interface where faculty and support staff can set up and share course readings with students. SIPX recognizes and applies library holdings and open content to selections, eliminating redundancies that could lead to increased expenditures. Instructors pay only for the readings they want to assign instead of purchasing entire texts. SIPX integrates with all major teaching and course materials platforms, delivers to all mobile devices, and provides real-time analytics.

Users (pictured): Grace (Gan) Ye, digital systems librarian, and Sally Bryant, head of access services, Pepperdine University Libraries in Malibu, California



How do you use SIPX? Our libraries use SIPX as our e-reserves system. Because SIPX is integrated with Sakai, our learning management system (LMS), it allows us to pass basic course information from Sakai to SIPX, where we can easily add reading materials. After reading lists are created, we inject the SIPX reading list links back into the LMS course sites. In addition, SIPX has copyright licensing integration with our library's holdings, allowing us to search our holdings at the SIPX site.

How does SIPX serve your library's needs? We wanted to better integrate our e-reserves service with other campus technologies. We also wanted to have copyright licensing integration with the library's holdings. We do not need to worry about the license problem anymore.

What are the main benefits? We never have to worry about the copyright licensing process and compliance with SIPX. It also has a user interface that is very easy to use.

What would you like to see improved or added to its service? SIPX has some great changes coming soon that really interest us. It is reaching out to many open educational resource sources to get this content added to its system in order to give schools and faculty even more choices in how they can save students money.

SIPX is also working on a new "my content" area on the website, which will allow us to more easily import citations and reuse content across multiple courses, mixing and matching readings for new courses.

functions across platforms, opening several papers at the same time.

The second product, oaFoldr, goes a step further. It is a virtual storage program for faculty peer-reviewed journals. It finds all open access papers published directly by the user's institution, eliminating

effort spent finding already available articles. No installation or maintenance is required.

The oaFigr subscription service analyzes the user's university journal subscriptions to assess what is currently available in open access. It compiles lists of the journals that are

most frequently cited, as well as the ones that a university's authors are most frequently published in. These lists can help users make informed decisions concerning subscriptions.

The 1science Library OA Solution is available internationally. For more information, visit 1science.com. ■

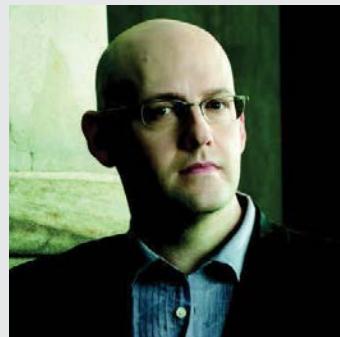
To have a new product considered for this section, contact Patrick Burke at pburke@ala.org.



SUPPORT COLLECTION PRESERVATION *in Your Community*

Whether it be family heirlooms and treasures from the past or digital items from the present, our personal and collective effects are an important part of our history. Maintaining these individual or shared experiences is key to preserving our heritage, and the library plays a critical role in ensuring that our valuables don't get lost. Preservation Week® helps you share vital preservation information with your communities, guaranteeing that every memory made will last forever.

Visit us at booth #1781 during ALA Annual 2016 in Orlando for a special book signing by the 2016 Preservation Week® Honorary Chair and *New York Times* bestselling author Brad Meltzer.





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A revolutionary new electronic resource
is in the works that will change the way you
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