

The latest articles from PLA's online magazine
and more!

[View this email in your browser](#)


A Publication of the Public Library Association

PUBLIC LIBRARIES ONLINE WEEKLY

Wednesday, December 30, 2015

Issue #34

Trending..The Latest From PLOnline

- There is a lot going on with drones right now: people have questions about what it means for privacy, how it's going to affect the airspace, what Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations are being put in place, examples of them being used, etc. You can certainly have these conversations with patrons at any time, but when they are able to feel the weight of the drone in their hands, look into the on-board camera, and see a quick flight demo in person, their imaginations are sparked and they begin to create their own story of what the future of technology will look like. And yes, if the patron is feeling daring enough, we'll let them do a quick test flight for themselves—in a safe and secure area, of course. Read more in "[Drones @ The Library.](#)"

- You've just spent thirty days conducting the best National Novel Writing Month your library can offer. You planned early, stayed late, used your own money, cheered and supported, advertised, and couldn't stop yourself from hugging the ones who crossed the finish line. Maybe you even joined in the writing yourself and produced something you're proud to put next to the works you arrange on the shelves. So now what? Find out in "[Beyond the First Draft With NaNoWriMo.](#)"
- Often, when we think of the Middle Ages, we think about England, France, or Italy. The vast variety of art to come out of those regions and historical events like the Black Death are part of the reason, not to mention the tendency of U.S. schools to teach primarily Western European history. So it's interesting to see a resource that tries to address this time period with a global perspective. While exploring [Library Journal](#), I came across an article about a great new resource called [Global Middle Ages](#). Created by the University of Texas at Austin, Mappamundi is the online web portal for the Global Middle Ages Project (GMAP), which covers the period between 500-1500 CE. The website "links to a

Africa, and China. This resource is distinctive and interesting and contains a map, downloadable [scholarly articles](#), and even a virtual 3D model of medieval Plasencia, Spain. Particularly intriguing is the project called “The [North American Middle Ages: Big History from the Mississippi Valley to Mexico.](#)” This is certainly a unique topic, and one that is not usually discussed in school curriculum. Read all about it in "[New Resource Provides a Global Perspective of the Middle Ages.](#)"

- [Dave Reidy's](#) debut novel, *The Voiceover Artist*, came out to rave reviews earlier this fall. Booklist praised it as “moving and honest” and no less than Scott Turow hailed it as “tender and beguiling.” The *Voiceover Artist* tells the story of Simon, a shy young man who suffered such a profound stutter growing up that he chose not to speak for eighteen years. As an adult, he moves to Chicago to break into the world of voiceover artists, the sonorous voices that kept him company throughout his isolated childhood. Independent for the first time, he struggles to find a community, volunteering at St. Asella's, a fading parish in downtown Chicago. Reidy charts Simon's coming of age through the complicated relationships with the women in his life: Catherine, a recently divorced interior decorator he meets at church; his tart-tongued agent Elaine; and his ex-girlfriend Brittany. Public Libraries Online spoke to Reidy on December 2nd. Read the entire interview "A Product of Libraries: An Interview with Dave Reidy" [here](#).



From the Nov/Dec Issue of Public Libraries

May I Ask You a Question? Lessons Learned

from Interviewing Public Library Leaders

By Douglas Crane

DOUGLAS CRANE is Director, Palm Beach (FL) County Library System, and Vice-President, Southeast Florida Library Information Network (SEFLIN). Contact Douglas at Douglas at craned@pbclibrary.org. He is currently reading *Brain Chains: Discover Your Brain and Unleash Its Full Potential in a Hyperconnected, Multitasking World* by Theo Comperolle.

What exactly does a library director do? In 2012, I was a branch manager in the Palm Beach (FL) County Library System (PBCLS). While in this position, I graduated from a county leadership program that inspired me to consider becoming a library director. I had to admit that I did not know what the job fully entailed. So I set about researching the duties and responsibilities of the position, along with identifying the traits that make a great director. I wanted real advice, not just book knowledge. But the question was how to find it?

Then I remembered best-selling author John Maxwell (who lives in Palm Beach County) sharing a story about researching leadership. First, he drafted a list of people he saw as successful leaders from different fields. Then he contacted them to arrange interviews to discuss the skills, philosophies, and experiences that helped them rise to the top. Inspired by this story, the answer to my question was obvious: to learn more about directorship, I needed to interview library directors. Read the entire article "May I Ask You a Question? Lessons Learned from Interviewing Public Library Leaders" [here](#).

Midweek Media Mash-Up

A Choice Selection of Links for Your Perusal

- [Lessons revealed after a year of tracking reading.](#)
- [Finding Time to Read When You Have Small Children](#)
- [Wikipedia invites Librarians to Add a Reference in Celebration of its Anniversary](#)
- [PLA's Leadership Workshop for Women](#)
- [The Dangers of the 'Always-On' Work Culture that Comes with a Flexible Schedule](#)

Ask Us Anything

If you have questions about PLOnline, *Public Libraries*, PLA or anything else, send them in! Just hit reply and send your question on its way! We'll try to answer every email and maybe even share our conversation in future newsletters.

A division of the
American Library
Association
50 E Huron
Chicago, IL 60611
Contact:
Kathleen Hughes,
khughes@ala.org

is the companion website
to the bi-monthly print
publication “Public
Libraries,” the official
magazine of the Public
Library Association.

Twitter

Website

Copyright © 2015, Public Library Association, All rights reserved. [Terms & Policies](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)