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A Publication of the Public Library Association

# PUBLIC LIBRARIES ONLINE WEEKLY

Friday, October 14, 2016

Issue #73

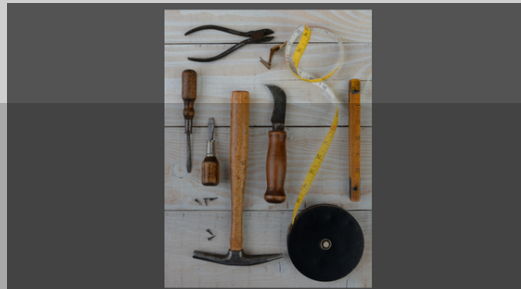
## Trending...The Latest From PLOnline

- Every so often a new phrase, buzzword, or philosophy about library service comes along and sheds a different light on what we do, and how we do it. There's been a lot of talk and interest in "the purpose-based library" recently. What's that all about? I had an opportunity to speak with Steven Potter, library director and CEO of the Mid-Continent Public Library in Kansas City, (Missouri) who recently co-authored a book on the subject. The purpose-based library connects with the community, collaborates to better reach goals, measures what is useful and shows value, and continually improves. Summing up, Potter says, "It is all about re-embracing the vitality of our profession." Read "[What Is The Purpose-Based Library?](#)"
- A recent *Business Insider* article touts the changes coming to public libraries, detailing the shifts our field will see over the next fifty years. According to writer Chris Weller's research, libraries five decades from now will transform into "all-in-one spaces for learning, consuming, sharing, creating, and experiencing," even offering alternate realities for loan.



Their emphasis will be on connectivity, not just physically providing technology to patrons, but also in linking them with sensory experiences. They will connect experience with the ever-present technological movements of social media, streaming content, and data. 3-D printers are perhaps one of the most obvious creation tools that have started to penetrate today's libraries. Weller writes this shift will transform libraries into places where people go to create the future, rather than research the past. Eventually, libraries could pave the way for creation in areas like genetic engineering and alternate reality. It is possible, he writes, that in fifty years our patrons would check out experiences such as visiting other planets or thinking

- Middle school media specialist and teacher librarian Diana Rendina recently posted on her blog, *Renovated Learning*, her wish to return to the term “librarian” as her title and the term “library” as the name of her institution. “I think that there is a great deal of power in the words library and librarian that we have started to neglect,” wrote Rendina. Her endeavor to own the terms again and use them as advocacy tools for school librarians can speak to us as public librarians too. Read "[Library and Librarian Are Powerful Words.](#)"
- On Thursday afternoons at the Pikes Peak Library District, when Programming Librarian Antonia Krupicka-Smith sets up her experiment, a crowd starts to gather. It’s time for Science Stop! The younger patrons come close to the table with excitement on their faces. They put forth hypotheses and you hear their reactions when the experiment plays out. The adults hang back a little at first, but you see them lean in as the science happens. Read "[Experiment With Science at the Library.](#)"
- In June 2016, the Vancouver Public Library (VPL) opened its [Sun Life Financial Musical Instrument Lending Library](#). “The Sun Life Financial Musical Instrument Lending Library at VPL is a collection of instruments that you may borrow using your Vancouver Public Library card. The collection is located at the Central Library. The instruments can be found by searching the library catalogue." In addition to Vancouver, the [Toronto Public Library](#) has also added a musical instrument lending program. Each library has about 100 instruments. Read "[Lending Musical Instruments.](#)"
- As if free Wi-Fi on the New York City Subway wasn’t exciting enough, the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) partnered with Penguin Random House to bring free books to subway passengers through mid-October. And for those who don’t think they have enough time to read a full story on their commute, “Subway Reads” offers selections based on reading times (ten minutes, twenty minutes, and thirty minutes). Read "[Subway Reads Offer Selections Based On Reading Times.](#)"
- For either religious or political reasons, or in times of conflict, people of past centuries have felt the need to protect hundreds of texts by stashing them away. In a recent article on *BBC Culture*, Fiona Macdonald highlights some great examples of secret libraries from around the globe. A few modern day examples have recently come to light. In [Damascus](#), volunteers risk their lives to grow a secret library amid the Syrian civil war. And who can forget the effort to save the manuscripts of [Timbuktu](#)? This desire to save the printed word proves its power and cultural significance, or at the very least, the fact that humans have had a connection to books for thousands of years. Read "[Secret Libraries Around the World.](#)"
- In all types of libraries, services, collections, and spaces are being redesigned as a response to changing patron needs and preferences. Advancement in technology is fueling these changes. Outside of libraries, these changes are causing



businesses to rethink their products, services, and delivery methods. All of this together is changing how the modern workforce performs its work and the skill sets it needs in the dynamic modern workplace. At Johnson County Library, located in the Kansas City

redesign of the central library was also in the planning stages. Moreover, a flexible approach to programming allowed these three forces to combine, creating fertile grounds for the launch of a makerspace. Read "[Getting Your Makerspace Off the Ground.](#)"

- Design Thinking and Human Centered Design are two different terms for the same basic concept. The idea is to use techniques to help shift the human brain out of familiar ways of thinking and generate creative solutions. The end goal is always to foster empathy and see things from a different perspective, usually the user or service consumer. In this way design thinking is a great way to enhance your library's user experience philosophy. As an architect and librarian, I find that many people don't consider themselves designers, or creative in any way. In actuality, we are all designers simply by living our lives – what we choose to wear, how we arrange our homes and workspaces (or don't), what books we read, and TV shows we watch (or don't). These are all design decisions. You are the designer of your life, whether you do it consciously or not. With spreadsheets, oil paints, words, or singing in the shower, we are all creative. The maker movement is just the newest recognition of the human need to create. Read "[Enhance Library User Experience with Design Thinking.](#)"



## New Podcast Available

### FYI: The *Public Libraries* Podcast - Digital Readiness Gaps

PLA Deputy Executive Director Larra Clark talks with John B. Horrigan of the Pew Research Center about his report, "Digital Readiness Gaps," which finds that just over half of American adults have low levels of readiness to

use digital tools as they pursue lifelong learning. [Check it out here.](#)

## Midweek Media MashUp

### A Choice Selection of Links for Your Perusal

- (Watch 3:21) StoryCorps Oral History Animation "[The Bookmobile](#)"
- [This App Could Help Parents Diagnose Autism Early](#)
- [Think Like a Designer for a More Fulfilling Life](#)
- [The Untold Story of The Black Women Mathematicians Who Powered Early Space Exploration](#)
- [Quick and Dirty Marketing for Your Library's Arts Programming](#)

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 get back to you as soon as possible. Thanks for reading!

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