

# american. libraries

APRIL 2009

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## Ageless & Evergreen

Spotlight on  
Design & Construction

### PLUS

Simple Library Living  
with Wanda Urbanska

Retrofitting on the Cheap

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Cover photo by Technical Imagery Studio.  
Design by Jennifer Palmer.

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Santa Rosa Junior College's Herold Mahoney Library in Petaluma, California, features tall glass curtain walls that face east to capture the view of Sonoma Mountain. New construction by TLCD Architecture. *American Libraries* highlights 23 new and renovated academic, public, and school facilities.



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## Buildings You Can Count On

by Leonard Kniffel

Welcome to the annual facilities issue of *American Libraries*, featuring a showcase of new and renovated libraries from around the country. While the current economic environment might make you stop and wonder how these projects managed their way through to completion and how many more we can expect in the coming year, here and now the news is good.

Photographs and documentation from 73 projects rolled into the AL offices over the past year, painting a picture of growth and progress that bodes well for our libraries' ability to respond to the rapidly increasing demand for the kind of community support and development they represent. Public, academic, and school libraries are featured in the showcase (beginning on page 31), and this year, in addition to the building projects highlighted in this issue, another 49 will share the spotlight in a spring

AL digital supplement that's coming to you soon via e-mail.

The green movement picked up speed this year as librarians became increasingly aware that environmentally friendly design and construction can also be financially friendly. Public television's Wanda Urbanska, host of the syndicated *Simple Living* show, has investigated the phenomenon and come up with some steps each of

us can take to get professionally greener, actions that are practical and, well, simple (p. 52). Urbanska will also be an AL-sponsored Auditorium Speaker during ALA's Annual Conference in Chicago this summer. Visit [www.simplelivingtv.net](http://www.simplelivingtv.net) to learn more about her show, if you aren't already a fan of the woman *O, The Oprah Magazine* has called "the de facto Martha Stewart of the voluntary simplicity movement."

Also in this issue, you'll find the winners of the 2009 Library Buildings Awards presented by ALA's Library Leadership and Management Association (p. 44) and an excerpt from a forthcoming ALA Editions book, *Building Rescue*, by Lynn Piotrowicz and Scott Osgood. The authors look at "Building Science 101" and offer tips for saving money, energy, and resources by getting a better understanding of how your building works.

What will the facilities showcase look like next year? How will the scramble for funding affect projects that are underway or in the planning stage? It's impossible to say, of course; but it has been reassuring, putting together the current issue, to hear from library directors whose building projects are forging ahead. Norman Maas at Norfolk (Va.) Public Library told me, "We have sent two city staff to a 'Library Green Conference' recently to prepare ourselves for doing our new building as green as we can. The RFP for the architects will go out this month, and I assume we will be into serious program design by this summer." Stay tuned! ■

# american libraries

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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Photo: B. Charlo/Kalispel Nation

# Celebrate Library Workers

Advocate for better salaries and support ALA–APA

by Jim Rettig

**N**ational Library Week will be celebrated April 12–18 this year. Tuesday of that week, April 14, is National Library Workers Day ([tinyurl.com/akmrfu](http://tinyurl.com/akmrfu)).

This isn't a Hallmark holiday with commercially generated greeting cards from grateful library patrons to library staff. But library workers who enjoy creating their own cards may want to make some for their colleagues. In other words, this is a little-known commemorative day, to date, for ourselves by ourselves.

National Library Workers Day is promoted by the American Library Association–Allied Professional Association (ALA–APA): The Organization for the Advancement of Library Employees ([www.ala-apa.org](http://www.ala-apa.org)).

When I have asked audiences at library conferences how many know about ALA–APA, perhaps 5% raise their hands. Created in 2001 to carry out two roles that lie outside ALA's tax-ex-

empt status, ALA–APA was designed to develop certification programs and to advocate for better compensation for all library workers. ALA–APA Director Jenifer Grady explains that "ALA is for what people do. APA is for who people are."

Library workers are service-oriented. Our focused attention on the needs of those we serve all too often

eclipses attention to our own needs and advocacy for our own interests. ALA–APA works to advance those interests.

The shared vision of three ALA divisions to create a post-MLS public library administrator certification program provided the impetus to create ALA–APA. The program is growing gradually with 114 candidates to date and nine graduates who have earned certification. Participants praise the program for the increased knowledge and self-confidence they have gained. A complementary certification program for library support staff enters field testing this year. These programs have been designed as a service to interested library workers and as sources of organization revenue.



**Now more than ever, we need an organization that makes the case for our value as workers.**

ALA–APA's practical tools help library workers be their own advocates. The Better Salaries Toolkit ([tinyurl.com/af7ond](http://tinyurl.com/af7ond)) and programs on pensions, employee relations, and more during ALA Annual Conferences build confidence and can

make a difference.

Sources of revenue for ALA–APA are the public library administrator certification program, librarian and library support staff salary surveys, and subscriptions to the monthly online newsletter *Library Worklife*, which offers practical information on labor and workplace issues, such as interview blunders, the gender wage gap,

and performance management.

To expand and fulfill its advocacy role, ALA–APA needs additional resources. Personal donations are another revenue stream; alas, they are not tax-deductible. The organization's newest venture, an online store ([tinyurl.com/bj8bpz](http://tinyurl.com/bj8bpz)), offers tote bags, T-shirts, and more to carry the message that "Libraries Work Because We Do."

Controversy has attended ALA–APA since its inception. It has not yet become the financially robust organization envisioned in its initial business plan. However, other than individual action on one's own behalf and collective action by local unions, it is the only organization we have to advocate for better compensation. Budget cuts have hit libraries as the economy has declined, with more cuts in the offing. Now more than ever, we need an organization that makes the case for our value as workers. If ALA–APA, the organization created to do just that, is to thrive and fulfill its founders' vision, it needs support from library workers.

Send cards if you wish on National Library Workers Day, but also take action. Send a contribution to ALA–APA, shop its store, purchase a personal or institutional subscription to *Library Worklife*, or at the very least ask your coworkers if they know about ALA–APA and its purpose. If they don't, tell them. It's not a secret. ■

ALA President JIM RETTIG is university librarian at Boatwright Memorial Library, University of Richmond in Virginia. Visit [jimrettig.org](http://jimrettig.org).



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# Letters and Comments

## IMLS Grants Should Aid U.S.

I do not understand why the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is awarding a \$500,000 grant to train library leaders from China and set up seminars for "Chinese librarians in China" (AL, Jan./Feb., p. 12). Why is our tax money going to train Chinese librarians rather than American librarians and set up institutes in China rather than in the United States?

I could use some professional development myself. Turns out, the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grants for professional development available through IMLS are only available for traditional librarians working for libraries, not for librarians like me who are working in the private sector for a vendor, or the legions of librarians who today are unemployed.

Seems as though unemployed librarians could benefit the most from professional development grants.

Emily Nedell Tuck  
Vallejo, California

## More Obama Observations

Thank you for your eloquent editorial in the January/February issue of *American Libraries* (p. 4).

Thank you for reminding us of the positive and encouraging comments we heard from then-Senator Barack Obama

when he spoke during ALA's Annual Conference in 2005.

You are so right! Offering what we can do to support our president and the nation, rather than what we want, is the best way to build our power. Yes we can!

Peggy Barber

Library Communication Strategies, Chicago

## Second Banana Profession

Have you no shame? Consideration for the image of our profession?

Clearly Anna Koval has none, when she writes that she and her husband had to "share a banana" for breakfast; but of course, she didn't mind, because she's such a proud librarian (AL, Mar., p. 10).

Are you that gullible? You think she's even telling the truth? I was torn between

rofl and hiding my face in shame.

Dave Lawrence  
New York City

## More on "Bunheads"

I have to completely agree with Emily Nedell Tuck in her response to "The Bunheads Are Dead" (AL, Mar., p. 10). I have an MLIS with an undergraduate degree in English and have found that many of the suggestions for alternative careers for librarians are completely absurd.

I would never tell a young person today to go for an MLS unless they had

a JD or years in legal research at a large firm because they may find employment. If you have really good computer programming skills, then the degree may make sense for digital and other metadata work.

Secondly, I do not understand why an MLS has to be a master's degree. I have worked in a public library, a government library, and a school library and as a paraprofessional in both a law firm and law school. I do not see the need to have the degree as anything but an undergraduate degree. If you are going into academia that is different, and usually does require a second master's in liberal arts. As far as public and school libraries are concerned, a master's is just not necessary.

Nurses; dental hygienists; physical, speech, and occupational therapists; and dietitians all work with undergraduate degrees. The graduate degree is available, but the undergraduate degree also exists. More harm could be done to an individual in the health care field through a practitioner than a undergraduate-degreed librarian could inflict.

Perhaps it is time for the field to reexamine its requirements, which are very costly compared to the income and job prospects.

Margie Wirth  
New York City

## Second Life Memories

My friend died Friday, February 13, after a two-year battle with cancer. Dave Mewhinney was not a librarian, but he played one in Second Life. I never met him face-to-face. All our contact was through e-mail, web communities, and Second Life.

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



He and his wife, Holly Peters, signed up for Second Life soon after he was diagnosed, seeking information and community with other cancer survivors. They somehow found their way to Info Island and became regulars among the visitors to the Info Archipelago and the Alliance Virtual Library, an area of extensive library development within Second Life. They became founding members of a Second Life group called the Infogroupies or, alternatively, the Infomaniacs, which served both a social and a mentoring function to librarians and anyone interested in information delivery within virtual worlds

Dave had a couple of different Second Life avatars; one was Haldin Koba, a gray-haired, sharp-tongued joker who was a regular fixture at the Alliance reference desk on Info Island International, where he served an official volunteer shift. He also created a female named Lena Kjeller, who was given the Volunteer of the Month award for service at the reference desk. She played a schoolmarm in Deadwood, an Old West role-playing simulation loosely based on the television series. She even set up a library with 19th-

century dime novels and books of improvement for young ladies.

When Dave died, the librarians, developers, and residents of Info Archipelago created two memorials to

him; one on Imagination Island and the other near the reference desk.

Dave and Holly had both retired. In real life he had been a television engineer, and she was in public relations and marketing. In Second Life they were not only great friends, but also real information professionals.

They understood the importance of social interactions to information delivery in virtual (and actual) worlds and made real contributions to the improvement of the Info Archipelago.

Dave, in all his forms, touched a lot of lives during the past two years. His loss makes me realize how important connections are, even virtual ones, and how tenuous. Dave and Holly's home is in Illinois. I had hoped to meet both this summer during ALA's Annual Conference.

Steven R. Harris  
University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque

### Rutgers Change Troubling

Since Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey in New Brunswick, is highly ranked as a graduate program for library science, particularly in areas like school libraries, and the highest-ranked program in this area of the country, I guess it makes perfect sense to the new dean to remove "library" from the school's name.

A couple of years ago I attended a recruiting event in Chicago. As soon as recruiters heard that I was a Rutgers student, the very next words out of their mouths were "You're from Rutgers? Would you be willing to relocate?"

I guess future grads can expect to hear "You're from Rutgers? I didn't know that they still awarded the MLIS."

Jeanne Murray  
Newark (N.J.) Public Library

### Copyright Protection Profits

Melanie Schlosser's piece on copyright (*AL*, Mar., p. 33) is correct in noting it is not the artist who profits from copyright extension, but the commercial distributors. She does, however, fail to mention one of the major offenders: Mickey Mouse. It's amazing



that just as *Steamboat Willie* was about to fall into the public domain, there was an extension of the period of protection.

It's reasonable to allow copyright protection to be extended for the life of the artist and with a reasonable period after the artist's death for the heirs and assignees to get some value from it, but without extending it seemingly forever. Corporate copyright needs protection, but, again, not forever.

Congress has, upon occasion, extended the copyright on specific items with private bills, though these have sometimes been challenged. It's a balancing act, but in the long run allowing works to enter the "intellectual commons" in a timely manner is in the greater interest.

J. B. Post  
Paoli, Pennsylvania

**CORRECTION:** Sheldon Bair's name was misspelled in "Hearing It Again for the First Time" (Dec. 2008, p. 48-51). The Williamsburg Regional Library in the photo "Having an Inaugural Ball" is in Virginia, not Ohio (Mar., p.18).

They understood the importance of social interactions to information delivery in virtual (and actual) worlds.



Continue the conversation at [al.ala.org/forum/](http://al.ala.org/forum/)

# Survey Reveals a Decline in Public Library State Funding

**F**orty-one percent of the states report declining state funding for U.S. public libraries in FY2009, according to a survey of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies conducted by ALA. Twenty percent of these states anticipate an additional reduction in the current fiscal year.

While coast-to-coast reductions have been seen, the hardest-hit areas are in the southeast, with declines as large as 30% in South Carolina and 23.4% in Florida compared with FY2008. Per-capita state aid in South Carolina has fallen back to 2003 levels; at the same time inflation has averaged between 2.5% and 3.4 % annually. Additionally: Alabama reported

a 9% reduction; Georgia, 8%; Louisiana, 7.1 %; and Mississippi, 5%.

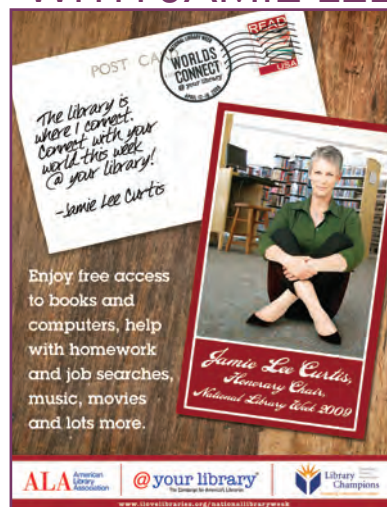
Ohio and Hawaii, which provide the greatest proportion of state funding to public libraries per capita in the United States, also are reporting or anticipating declining state funds. Hawaii reported a 7% decline in state funding in FY09 and anticipates additional reductions. As state revenues plummet in Ohio, libraries in the state are bracing for the impact on their budgets, as state funding for public libraries constitutes 2.22% of the state general revenue. Nationally, state funding makes up about 9% of overall public library funding. In Ohio, it provides 62.1% and in Hawaii 86.7% .

Other states reporting FY09

funding declines include Iowa, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Utah.

The survey was conducted as part of the Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study. The 2007–08 and 2006–07 studies are available at [www.ala.org/](http://www.ala.org/)

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## New Accreditation Actions Announced

ALA's Committee on Accreditation has announced actions taken during the Association's Midwinter Meeting in Denver.

Continued accreditation status was granted to the following programs: master of science in library and information science offered by Pratt Institute in New York City, master of library and information science offered by the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and master of science in library and information science offered by Syracuse (N.Y.) University.

The next comprehensive review

visit at each institution is scheduled for 2015.

The candidacy status of the master of library and information science program at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minnesota, was maintained. A progress review visit is scheduled for 2012.

A complete list of programs and degrees accredited by ALA is available at [www.ala.org/accreditation](http://www.ala.org/accreditation). Individuals who would like more information about a particular program should contact the program.

New York Times bestselling author and actress Jamie Lee Curtis is serving as this year's National Library Week (April 12–18) honorary chair. Curtis is lending her image to a public service announcement that features this year's theme, "Worlds connect @ your library." Visit [www.ala.org/nlw](http://www.ala.org/nlw) for more information and ALA Graphics ([www.alastore.ala.org](http://www.alastore.ala.org)) for other theme materials.



## Annual Unconference Plans Underway

As part of ALA President Jim Rettig's "Creating Connections" initiatives, 75 conference attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a free Unconference that will take place July 10 during ALA's Annual Conference in Chicago.

The full-day Unconference program will provide an opportunity for attendees to become active participants by determining the day's agenda. Collaboration will take place online prior to the Unconference to identify discussion topics. Everyone will be both teacher and learner, discussing the topics of most interest to them.

Registration is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Lunch will be included. Visit [wikis.ala.org/annual2009/index.php/Unconference](http://wikis.ala.org/annual2009/index.php/Unconference) for details.

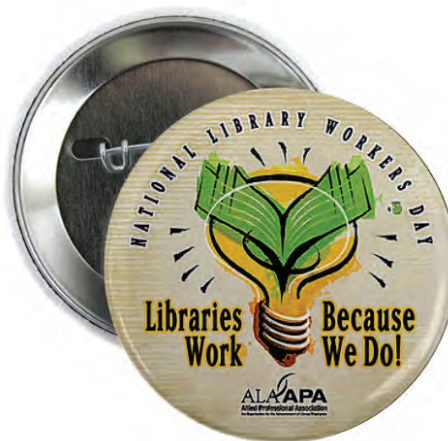
## Second Virtual Poster Sessions Announced

Following the success of ALA President Jim Rettig's Association-wide fall/winter Virtual Poster Session, a second session is planned for this

spring with the theme "Inquire Within." The deadline for submitting proposals is May 1.

Proposals should focus on practical research aimed at addressing challenges that face individual

## CELEBRATING LIBRARY WORKERS



April 14 is National Library Workers Day (NLWD), when library staff and patrons are urged to honor the contributions of all library workers, including librarians, support staff, and others who make library services possible. Purchase buttons (as shown), T-shirts, caps, and other NLWD paraphernalia at [www.cafepress.com/ALA\\_APA](http://www.cafepress.com/ALA_APA) and nominate your favorite library worker for a star by visiting [www.ala-apa.org](http://www.ala-apa.org). Star entries will be featured until June 30.

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- Easily find your ALA groups or start a new community.

**Just Playing**  
by Brian Gray  
Social Media/Reference

**Hey, I think I**  
by Peter Bromberg  
Social Media/Reference

libraries. To be considered, send a proposal in the form of a summary of your library's efforts. Up to 25 submissions will be selected and will be available for viewing during July. Send proposals to John M. Budd at [buddj@missouri.edu](mailto:buddj@missouri.edu).

## ALSC, Reforma Host Día April 30

Complimentary brochures featuring a booklist with bilingual, Spanish-only, and English titles for children are available as ALA's Association for Library Service to Children and Reforma: The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking urge libraries across the country to celebrate El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day), also known as Día, April 30.

This year's theme is "Celebrate

¡Celebremos!" Día, created by author Pat Mora, is designed to focus on the importance of advocating literacy for every child, regardless of linguistic and cultural background. New this year is a Día wiki ([wikis.ala.org/alsc](http://wikis.ala.org/alsc)) for libraries to share celebration ideas, tips, and resources.

To request a brochure, visit [www.ala.org/dia](http://www.ala.org/dia). Libraries that register their events through the website will receive complimentary brochures, while supplies last. An interactive map showing information about registered events is also available on the website.

Reforma is an ALA affiliate.

## Neal-Schuman Joins as Library Champion

The Neal-Schuman Foundation, based in New York City, has joined ALA's Library Champions program. The foundation was established in

2000 by Patricia Glass Schuman and John Vincent Neal, founders of Neal-Schuman Publishers, to aid, assist, and promote research and educational activities for the improvement of library and information services.

Schuman, who serves as company president, is a past ALA president. Her work on behalf of library advocacy, including cofounding the Library Champions group to support ALA's first national media campaign to increase library funding, has garnered many awards and accolades.

For more information, visit [www.ala.org/librarychampions](http://www.ala.org/librarychampions).

## Arbuthnot Lecture Tickets Available

The 2009 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture, featuring children's and young adult author Walter Dean My-

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There's no debate: Across the country library budgets are being cut. And, there's no debate that Kingsley Book & Media Returns, duraLight™ Aluminum Carts, and xtreme™ duty book trucks can save time, energy, and money. For over 47 years Kingsley has been there for you, and now we're *here* saving you even more money with the Kingsley Factory Rebate.

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## LIMITED EDITION



Matteson (Ill.) Public Library youth services staffers (from left) Joseph Friedman, Julia Driscoll and Phyllis Davis show off the library's copies of the special-edition *Amazing Spider-Man* #583, featuring President Barack Obama on the cover. Also in hand are Obama bookmarks made at the library using ALA's READ artwork software.

ers, will take place April 18 at the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Haley Farm in Clinton, Tennessee.

The lecture is administered by ALA's Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC). It is being hosted this year by CDF's Langston Hughes Library with the support of the University of Tennessee School of Information Sciences in Knoxville, UT's Center for Children's and Young Adult Literature, Knox County Public Library, and Clinton Public Library.

For ticket information, visit [arbutnotlecture2009.eventbrite.com](http://arbutnotlecture2009.eventbrite.com). Written ticket requests may be faxed to 865-457-6464.

ALSC is also seeking available institutions interested in hosting the 2010 Arbutnot Lecture, to be delivered by Kathleen T. Horning, director of the University of Wisconsin at Madison's Cooperative Children's Book Center.

Host site application forms are available at [www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc); click on the link under "Breaking News." The application deadline is May 1.

## Kansas City Selected as Site of JCLC 2012

ALA's Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC) Steering Committee has selected Kansas City, Missouri, as the site of its second national conference, to be held September 19–23, 2012.

This will be the second collaboration of ALA's five ethnic library affiliate groups—the American Indian Library Association; the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association; the Black Caucus of the American Library Association; the Chinese American Librarians Association; and Reforma, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking.

For more information, contact Marcellus Turner at [mturner@jefferson.lib.co.us](mailto:mturner@jefferson.lib.co.us).

## Woman's Day Seeks Library Stories

*Woman's Day* magazine is seeking information on how the library is being used to help save money. Through May 18, women ages 18 and up are in-

## CALENDAR

### ALA EVENTS

**Apr. 12–18:** National Library Week, [www.ala.org/nlw](http://www.ala.org/nlw).

**Apr. 30:** El Día de los Niños/El Día de los Libros, [www.ala.org/dia](http://www.ala.org/dia).

**May 7–8:** LITACamp, Dublin, Ohio, [www.ala.org/lita](http://www.ala.org/lita).

**May 11–12:** National Library Legislative Day, [www.ala.org/washoff](http://www.ala.org/washoff).

**July 9–15:** ALA Annual Conference, Chicago, [www.ala.org/annual](http://www.ala.org/annual).

**Oct. 1–4:** Library and Information Technology Association National Forum, Salt Lake City, [www.ala.org/lita](http://www.ala.org/lita).

**Oct. 18–24:** Teen Read Week, [www.ala.org/yalsa](http://www.ala.org/yalsa).

**Nov. 5–8:** American Association of School Librarians National Conference, Charlotte, North Carolina, [www.ala.org/aasl](http://www.ala.org/aasl).

**Mar. 23–27, 2010:** Public Library Association National Conference, Portland, Oregon, [www.ala.org/pla](http://www.ala.org/pla).

**Aug. 4–10, 2010:** National Conference of African American Librarians, Birmingham, Alabama, [www.bcala.org](http://www.bcala.org).

Visit [www.ala.org/ala/online/calendar/calendar.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/online/calendar/calendar.cfm) for American Libraries' full calendar of library events.

vited to send in stories of 700 words or less to [womansday@ala.org](mailto:womansday@ala.org). Up to four stories will be profiled in the March 2010 issue.

Librarians can download free tools to help collect local stories from the Campaign for America's Libraries website ([www.ala.org/@yourlibrary](http://www.ala.org/@yourlibrary); click on "Woman's Day").

The latest initiative continues an eight-year partnership between the magazine and ALA's Campaign for America's Libraries that has generated millions of dollars worth of editorial coverage for libraries.

Four readers who used the library to improve their health and wellness are featured in the March issue.

## New Gaming Toolkit Available

ALA, with assistance from a \$1-million Verizon Foundation grant, has developed an online toolkit to aid librarians in serving the growing gaming constituency, available at [librarygamingtoolkit.org](http://librarygamingtoolkit.org).

The Librarian's Guide to Gaming: An Online Toolkit for Building Gaming @ your library offers content contributed by expert gaming librarians across the country. It includes a wide range of resources to help librarians create, fund, and evaluate gaming experiences in the library.

Hundreds of libraries across the country celebrated November 15, 2008, as ALA's first annual National Gaming Day @ your library.

## Universities Support Spectrum Scholars

The Wayne State University Library and Information Science Program in Detroit is providing \$5,000 in matching scholarship funds to Spectrum scholar Serena Vaquilar.

A graduate of California State University at Northridge, Vaquilar is interested in a career as a fine- and performing-arts librarian. She recently served as an intern for the

Detroit Symphony Orchestra Library.

The University of Wisconsin at Madison's School of Library and Information Studies is waiving tuition for Spectrum scholar Omar Poler.

Poler is a Mole Lake Sokaogon Ojibwe tribal member, who is originally from a small Anishinaabe com-

munity in northeastern Wisconsin's Forest County. He hopes to combine an interest in academic librarianship with American Indian history and language, specifically in the service of Wisconsin's various American Indian communities.

For more information, visit [www.ala.org/spectrum](http://www.ala.org/spectrum). ■

# THE ASSOCIATION'S ASSOCIATIONS: ALSC

## CREATING A BETTER FUTURE FOR CHILDREN

Through nationwide initiatives, strategic partnerships, prestigious awards, and educational opportunities, the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) advocates for the best possible library service for all children and the development of high-quality library materials.



## ONLINE EDUCATION

ALSC's new online education courses, taking place virtually in Moodle, offer convenience and flexibility for anyone looking to build upon current skills or learn something new. Courses such as "Reading Instruction and Children's Books" and "The Caldecott Medal" will begin July 20. Visit [www.ala.org/alsced](http://www.ala.org/alsced) for more information.

## KIDS! @ YOUR LIBRARY

ALSC's "Kids! @ your library" public awareness campaign will host "A.R.T. and Your Library: How You Can Bring Them Together!" July 12 from 1:30 to 3 p.m., during ALA's Annual Conference in Chicago. A.R.T. (Authors Readers Theatre) members Avi, Brian Selznick, Pam Muñoz Ryan, and Sarah Weeks will perform their readers'-theater magic to demonstrate how this type of program can be presented in the library with children. To learn more about the Kids! campaign, visit [www.ala.org/kids](http://www.ala.org/kids).

## TAKING ON BIG ISSUES AT ANNUAL

The Annual preconference, "Meeting the Challenge: Practical Tips and Inspiring Tales on Intellectual Freedom," will be held July 10. The day will involve practical and pragmatic advice surrounding intellectual freedom challenges, including media debates and legal issues. Author Judy Blume will conclude the preconference by offering strategies for addressing complaints and stories to strengthen resolve.

ALSC's Charlemae Rollins President's Program, featuring Melba Pattillo Beals, is slated for July 13, from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Only 52 years ago, then-15-year-old Beals and eight other black students faced down furious segregationists and the Arkansas National Guard to integrate Little Rock Central High School. Now a bestselling author and Congressional Gold Medal of Honor recipient, Beals will join ALSC to discuss her fight for civil rights in the United States.

*Jenny Najdich, marketing specialist, membership*



# It's Pink-Slip Season for California School Librarians

In what seems to have become an annual spring rite in the Golden State, school boards throughout California have been issuing layoff notices to school library media specialists, as well as other educators and support staff, to ensure that the districts met a March 15 notification deadline mandated by the state education code. With an \$8.4-billion drop in state support to K–12 schools and higher education through June 30, 2010, the California Teachers Association estimated in early March that some 17,800 preliminary layoff notices would be issued to its members; 10,000 were sent in 2008.

“Please, please reconsider some other options that are open to you,” Modesto Teachers Association President Charlie Young urged school board members March 2 before the board voted 5–1 to cut 8.5 library media teachers and eight library assistants. Also scheduled for reduction in force to narrow an estimated deficit of \$11.3 million through July 2010 are college counselors and K–6 music teachers. “It has been no easy task,” Superintendent Arturo Flores told attendees, according to the March 3 *Modesto Bee*.

## Cutting across the state

The library cuts to the Modesto City Schools are particularly ironic in light of the \$506,048 Improving Literacy through School Libraries grant MCS recently received for staff development and materials purchases. The district website explains that the funds enabled K–6 library media teachers and library assistants—many of whom are now on the chopping block—to develop standards-based lessons intended to help MCS close the achievement gap of its students learning English as a second language, a districtwide strategic goal.

“The effect of these drastic cuts in personnel will be the undoing of one of the state’s premier library programs,” MCS Library Media Teacher Cindy Bender wrote in a letter published in the March 10 *Bee*. Serving two elementary schools prior to the cuts, Bender noted that

**“The effect of these drastic cuts will be the undoing of one of the state’s premier library programs.”**

Cindy Bender  
library media teacher  
Modesto City Schools

the FY2010 reductions would result in the remaining MCS school library staff being “expected to serve five or more schools weekly” and eliminate media-center visits for “our youngest students, those whose literature development is most important.”

Among the other school districts where library media staff have been notified that they are on the layoff list are:

- Corona-Norco Unified School District, whose board approved March 3 the issuing of pink slips to its five high-school teacher-librarians;

- Las Virgenes Unified School District, which okayed layoff notices March 3 to all six school librarians and announced plans to merge media-center duties with technology support for classroom teachers;

- Lompoc Unified School District, whose board voted February 19 to cut its two remaining school library media specialists and halve the hours of its library assistants.

## The big picture

Although a few school boards have reversed course on layoffs—including Madera Unified School District, where library advocates have successfully fought off cuts for three years in a row—the state’s dire fiscal crisis does not foreshadow happy endings all around.

“There has been more discussion this year about actually closing school libraries,” Barbara Jeffus, school library consultant for the California Department of Education, told *American Libraries*, noting that while the

state education code requires districts to provide library services, “There isn’t any teeth in [the code].”

“When school libraries are left unattended, the collections disappear and are not replaced,” Blanche Woolls of San Jose State University library school told *AL*.

Determined media specialists were readying talking points and protest signs to sway decision makers. “Libraries should be an easy sell,” school-library advocate Stephen Krashen mused to *AL*, lamenting that too few connect the dots between school-library quality and student success.

—B.G.

## Auditor Cries Foul on Library Gaming

A 10-minute YouTube video posted by the Nebraska Library Commission on January 18, 2008, to announce the Commission's purchase of Rock Band and Dance Dance Revolution has resulted—roughly a year later—in an audit issued February 24. In it, Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts Mike Foley concluded that “the purchase of gaming equipment is a questionable use of public funds,” and that “using social websites and gaming equipment on State time and with State computers . . . appears to be an inappropriate use of public funds.”

The audit, initiated when an unidentified taxpayer expressed concern after seeing the video on YouTube, concluded that the NLC's Network Services staff spent \$447.17

to purchase a PlayStation 2 and the two games, \$29.26 of which was sales tax that the nonprofit state agency did not need to pay. The report further notes that the commission paid \$100 to “lease” virtual real estate in Second Life and a total of \$73 over three years to purchase Flickr pro-account membership.

With an eye toward expanding its services, NLC had proposed at the 2007 joint conference of the Nebraska Library Association and the Nebraska Educational Media Association to make the one-time gaming-equipment purchase to use in training members of the Nebraska library community who wish to integrate gaming into their programming. NLC Director Rod Wagner told *American Libraries* that until NLC made the purchase, state library staff members had been

bringing their own personal videogame consoles to conferences in response to requests for demonstrations. “Because we were getting these requests,” said Wagner, “we decided to spend a little bit of money.”

## Topeka Board Restricts Sex-Themed Titles

The Topeka and Shawnee County (Kans.) Public Library board voted 5–3 February 19 to restrict minors' access to four books about sex, although the trustees failed to specify just what that restriction would entail.

The titles challenged by complainant Kim Borchers in November 2008 are *The Joy of Sex*, *The Lesbian Kama Sutra*, *The Joy of Gay Sex*, and *Sex for Busy People: The Art of the Quickie for Lovers on the Go*, the *Topeka Capital-Journal* reported February 20. Borchers, who represents a group called Kansans for Common Sense, had contended in her statement of concern that the materials were harmful to minors under state law.

In a February 13 memo to the board, library Executive Director Gina Millsap reminded trustees that the TSCPL collection contained more than 600 books “with subject headings relating to sex, sex instruction, sexual behavior, fertility, etc.” and went on to ask, “Will staff be expected to review all of these titles and assign some or all of them to a restricted collection?”

Of the 16 people who weighed in on the challenged titles at the three-hour meeting, 14 were against restricting them. Following the vote, the board's chair, Kerry Onstott Storey expressed surprise at the outcome. “I am extremely disappointed in the board,” she said. “I am stunned as chairwoman.” After the meeting, Onstott Storey noted that several of the trustees who supported the restriction attend Topeka Bible Church, as does Borchers.

## MAGNETIC POLES



Polish-American writers attracted an enthusiastic crowd February 12 at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago, reading from and talking about their work. Host librarians (kneeling) Małgorzata Kot (left) and Krystyna Grell pose with authors (from left) John Guzłowski and Anthony Bukoski; PMA President Maria Ciesla; authors John Minczeski, Leslie Pietrzyk, and Linda Nemec Foster; and PMA Director Jan Lorys. The program was held in conjunction with the Associated Writing Programs conference in the Windy City that week.

Topeka lawyer Pedro Irigonegaray, who attended the meeting, told the *Capital-Journal* he had already been approached by residents interested in initiating a lawsuit to overturn the board's decision. "Unfortunately, we are seeing what can happen when a small but committed minority decides to take action, and it is now up to the good people of Topeka to join together and say no to this insanity," said Irigonegaray. "This is about freedom. Suffice to say, this is a sad day for our community."

Doug Bonney of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas and Western Missouri has also weighed in on the civil liberties at issue in the action. Bonney cautioned Onstott Storey February 18 that any policy restricting access to any titles in the collection is unconstitutional "because it would take these books off the shelves and place them out of

## A HAND IN POLITICS



The Madison Heights (Mich.) Public Library hosted 1st-grade classes from Lessenger Elementary School February 11. The students got library cards, listened to stories about puppets, and made their own—of President Obama. The puppets provided a "*change* from the usual boring library tour," commented Children's Librarian Alex Krentzin, "and the kids had a great time, as I *hoped* they would."

## Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Freedom to Read Foundation

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reach of patrons browsing the shelves [even though] Ms. Borchers and her group are not asking that these books be totally removed.”

The board’s action became an issue in Topeka’s March 3 mayoral primary: City council member Jeff Preisner accused Mayor Bill Burten of injecting politics into the library’s operations. Noting that four of the five trustees who voted to restrict the books were appointed by Burten, Preisner said the mayor packed the board with “like-minded individuals who would carry out his personal agenda,” the *Capital-Journal* reported February 23. Top primary voter-getters Burten, Preisner, and Jon-Wesley D. O’Hara will face off in the April 7 general election.

## Chattanooga Report Urges Major Reforms

The Chattanooga–Hamilton County (Tenn.) Bicentennial Library was slammed in a consultants’ report that said the library “lacks a clear vision for the future,” is underfunded in both its operating and capital budgets, has a problematic governance structure, has buildings that

are unattractive and inadequate, and uses outdated technology.

The report, prepared for a mayoral task force by consultants June Garcia and Susan Kent, found the Downtown Library and four branches “crowded, unattractive, and poorly laid out,” with inadequate lighting, makeshift furniture, and badly designed computer areas. They called for immediate improvements to the buildings, “particularly on items that affect life safety issues,” followed by consideration of new facilities based on population growth and the possible move of the downtown library to another site.

The consultants called the governance and funding structure of the library, which is jointly funded by the city and county, “problematic and confusing,” and faulted the library for not having a fundraising program or a strategic plan.

“One of the critical findings was that it’s underfunded, and we don’t contest that,” Mayor Ron Littlefield said in the February 22 *Chattanooga Times Free Press*. “But the other find-

ing is that they are not using their financial resources in the best possible way.”

Library board Chairman Bill Robinson said the fact that trustees and staff serve both the county and city made it difficult to get increased funding, with the library getting sandwiched between the two bodies bickering over funding

levels. “I think it would be more beneficial for the city or the county to be a sole-governing source,” he said. “It would probably make more sense for the city to take that control.”

Calling the report “tough but honest,” Library Director David Clapp told *American Libraries* that “We’re glad to be on the same page with the city and county for the first time in a while,” noting that the library has long been in need of an overhaul. Requests for improvements have been on the table for years, Clapp said, but the library has “been at a stalemate between the city and county for a long time.”

Clapp hopes that the board will conduct public speak-outs and meet with officials to maintain awareness

**The report found the facilities “crowded, unattractive, and poorly laid out,**

## REFLECTIONS OF SOUTHERN ROOTS



Eleven original paintings by local author and artist Willie Nell Shahraki-Heard were on display at the Art Tatum African American Resource Center Gallery at Toledo–Lucas County (Ohio) Public Library’s Kent branch, including this portrait of the jazz pianist for whom this gallery is named. Part of February’s Black History Month focus, the “Gifts of an Artist” exhibit featured oil paintings of historical images reflecting Heard’s southern roots in Greensboro, Alabama.

of the library's problems. "My principal fear is that the report will be old news" by the time the next budget process begins, he said.

## House Rehashes Bill to Block Public Access

The Fair Copyright in Research Works Act, which would block free access to research conducted by taxpayer-funded organizations such as the National Institutes of Health, was introduced February 3 in the House by Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.). H.R. 801 duplicates word-for-word H.R. 6845, which was shelved at the end of 2008. The legislation essentially bars government agencies from requiring authors to transfer their copyright in order to receive public funding for their research.

If enacted, H.R. 801 would repeal the NIH Public Access Policy, which President Obama backed March 11 by signing a bill containing an open-access provision.

The American Library Association and nine other groups wrote to members of the House Judiciary Committee February 13 urging representatives to oppose the bill. Open access "allows for greater sharing of information, speeding discovery, medical advances, and innovations," the letter stated.

However, the Association of American Publishers welcomed the bill's reintroduction, stating that the act would "preserve the incentives for the private-sector investments in the journal publishing community." Copyright Alliance also praised the bill, stating, "The mere fact that a scientist accepts as part of her funding a federal grant should not enable the federal government to commandeer the resulting peer-reviewed research paper and treat it as a public domain work."

The 10 organizations opposing H.R. 801 emphasized that they fully respect copyright but that copyright first belongs to the author, and that

## FINGERPRINT FIND



Lydia Smith, a first-year psychology student at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, discovered what experts say is a fingerprint belonging to Abraham Lincoln. Smith discovered the print while transcribing an October 5, 1863, letter by the former president found in the library's Papers of Abraham Lincoln collection, which also contains the first authenticated fingerprint of Lincoln with a signature known to historians.

the NIH policy does not affect copyright law because copyright law leaves researchers free to transfer their copyrights to a journal publisher or anywhere they so choose.

## Stimulus Package Could Benefit Libraries

The \$787-billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed by President Obama February 17 includes several economic-stimulus provisions that could directly benefit libraries, notes the American Library Association's Washington Office:

- \$7.2 billion to increase broadband access and usage in unserved and underserved areas of the nation, including \$200 million in competitive grants for expanding public-computer capacity at public libraries and community colleges. This includes \$650 million for DTV, \$90 million of which may be used by organizations, including libraries, for education and outreach to vulnerable populations;

- \$53.6 billion for the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, including \$39.5 billion to local school districts using existing funding formulas; among the permissible uses is school modernization, which could benefit school libraries; \$5 billion

to states as bonus grants for meeting key performance measures in education; and \$8.8 billion to states for high-priority needs such as public safety and other critical services, which may include public libraries and the modernization, renovation, and repairs of the facilities of public schools and institutions of higher education;

- An additional \$120 million for the Senior Community Service Program to provide community service jobs at nonprofit and public facilities, including libraries, to 24,000 older Americans;

- An additional \$130 million for the Rural Community Facilities Program to provide loans and grants for rural community facilities, including libraries.

Washington Office Executive Director Emily Sheketoff cited librarians' role in shaping

the legislation: After an amendment was introduced in the Senate that would have stripped the broadband funding for libraries, an alert from ALA generated over 1,200 phone calls in three hours, helping convince legis-

lators to retain the provision.

Explaining that governors will have great discretion in how to

**"I am grateful to see libraries are included in this effort to put our nation on the road to recovery,"**

—ALA President  
Jim Rettig



spend the stimulus, Sheketoff told *American Libraries* that librarians “need to start talking to their governors to make sure the governors know to direct funds to libraries.” She added that the Washington Office has set up a website ([www.ala.org/knowyourstimulus](http://www.ala.org/knowyourstimulus)) to provide information on how librarians can benefit from the stimulus.

ALA President Jim Rettig said that although the final version of the legislation did not contain all the provisions that libraries had wanted, many opportunities remain for libraries to deliver much-needed services. “Working through this expansive and vitally important piece of legislation was no easy task for Congress and the White House, and I am grateful to see libraries are included in this effort to put our nation on the road to recovery,” he said. “I believe we now have a responsibility to reach out to our governors and state officials to highlight the funding available to libraries through this bill and to advocate that investing that funding in libraries is a wise and efficient use of taxpayer dollars during this difficult economic time.”

Before signing the bill, President Obama noted the building of libraries, along with 21st-century class-

rooms and labs, as “making the largest investment in education in our nation’s history” because “America can’t out-compete the world tomorrow if our children are being out-educated today.”

## Court Says Book Ban Isn’t Censorship

Plaintiffs are examining their legal options after a federal appeals court rejected February 5 their challenge of a 2006 order from the board of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools to remove a children’s book about contemporary life in Cuba. The three-judge panel instructed a district court to lift its preliminary injunction on the districtwide removal of *Vamos a Cuba* and its English-language translation *A Visit to Cuba*.

Howard Simon, executive director of the ACLU of Florida, stated February 5 that the civil-liberties group would “move forward to protect free speech in America’s public schools through one of the multiple legal options that are available.”

Deborah Caldwell-Stone, deputy director of the American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom, told *American Libraries*, “Naturally we are disappointed with this decision. The book ban is un-

constitutional, and we will continue to support the ACLU’s efforts to return the books to the shelves of the Miami-Dade school libraries.” ALA’s Freedom to Read Foundation had filed an amicus curiae brief for the plaintiffs in *ACLU of Florida v. Miami-Dade School Board*, along with Reforma and other groups.

In a 2–1 vote, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals found that the school board’s action did not violate the First Amendment. However, the lone dissenting judge, Charles R. Wilson, characterized the school board’s ban of *Vamos*, along with the other 23 unchallenged books in the “A Visit to . . .” series, as “an offense” to the First Amendment.

## Protection Urged for Gaza Cultural Heritage

The International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS) issued a statement February 18 deploring the loss of human lives and the destruction of cultural heritage that has recently taken place in the Palestinian Territories and the State of Israel, in particular in the Gaza area.

Headquartered in the Netherlands and founded in 1996 “to work to protect the world’s cultural heritage threatened by wars and natural disasters,” ICBS is calling on all parties involved in the conflict “to be respectful of the cultural property in the region” but is taking “no position on any other issue relating to conflicts in the region.”

Signed by ICBS President Julien Anfruns, the statement goes on to say that there have been reports that two municipal libraries in Amoghazi and Juhur-el-Deek have been completely destroyed and that the libraries of the Islamic University and the Tal el-Hawa branch of al-Aqsa University are severely damaged. “Sadly we have to assume that civil records have been destroyed in the violence of the recent period,” Anfruns notes.



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ALA adopted a resolution at its January Midwinter Meeting in Denver calling for the protection of libraries and archives in Gaza and Israel and urging the U.S. government to support the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield in upholding the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (*AL*, Mar., p. 54).

## Alternative System Rates Public Libraries

Created for Reed Business Information's *Library Journal* by Keith Curry Lance and Ray Lyons, the *LJ* Index of Public Library Service is a new rating system sponsored by Baker and Taylor's Bibliostat, web-based statistical analysis software for public libraries. *LJ* Editor in Chief Francine Fialkoff calls it "better than Hennen," referring to the HAPLR ranking system created by Thomas J. Hennen and published regularly in *American Libraries* since 1999.

This first edition of the *LJ* Index is based on 2006 public library statistical data published by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. It

rates U.S. public libraries with total expenditures of \$10,000 or more that serve populations of at least 1,000. Ratings are based on four per-capita service indicators: library visits, circulation, program attendance, and public internet computer use. Only libraries that report all four statistical indicators received an *LJ* Index score.

*LJ* Index ratings divide libraries into nine peer comparison groups based on total operating expenditures. Within each group the highest scoring libraries are recognized using 5-star, 4-star, and 3-star designations. Each star-rating group contains 10 libraries, except for the \$30 million and above group, for which each star-rating contains five libraries. Star ratings are based on scores.

Lance and Lyons claim that "by combining and weighting so many variables, from input stats like funding to output data like circulation, the [Hennen] rankings obscured the most important measure

of all: public service." Their index is designed to redress that perceived shortcoming.

There are many differences between the HAPLR rankings and the

***Library Journal*  
Editor-in-Chief  
Francine Fialkoff  
calls the index  
"better than Hennen."**

*LJ* Index, Hennen told *AL*, "but the fundamental difference is that HAPLR includes input measures while the *LJ* Index does not. The *LJ* Index looks at only one side of the

library service equation, while HAPLR looks at both sides." Hennen said the new index winds up saying that input measures such as staffing, materials budget, and funding levels are not essential to the measurement of the all-important output: public service.

## Wall Street Journal Closes Its Library

The *Wall Street Journal* announced February 5 that it would close its news research library on March 23. Leslie A. Norman, who heads the library, said in a posting on the NewsLib online discussion group that she and News Assistant Ed Ra-

## WE SHALL REMAIN DEBUTS APRIL 13 ON PBS



From the award-winning PBS series *American Experience*, the five-part *We Shall Remain* premieres April 13. The landmark production aims to establish Native American history as an essential part of American history by examining 300 years of pivotal events from the Native perspective. ALA Immediate Past President Loriane Roy served as a key advisor for the series. An Event Kit for Libraries, designed to help librarians develop programs and discussion forums about issues related to the indigenous peoples in their area, has been mailed to public libraries nationwide. Visit [www.pbs.org/weshallremain](http://www.pbs.org/weshallremain) for details.



mos had received their termination notices that day.

Norman wrote, "When I asked who will do research for the reporters, I was told, 'No one.' The reporters will probably be using a Lexis product called Due Diligence Dashboard." She added that "it cannot replace the knowledge about how to research using all the tricks we've learned over the years. We figure that the reporters will probably spend 10 times our compensation trying to do their own research."

The library closure is part of a 14-person newsroom job reduction announced by the *Journal*, *Editor and Publisher* reported February 11. In an e-mail to the publication, *Journal* spokesman Robert Christie stated, "Yes, we are closing the library. It is regrettable. Our reporters do have access to multiple databases including Factiva and this migration to digital databases . . . has been happening for many years."

In a NewsLib posting the next day that thanked colleagues for their

words of support, Norman noted that many *Journal* reporters "have called wondering what they are supposed to do after the library closes. They told me how important my research was to their stories. I didn't know I meant so much to them."

Norman, an assistant librarian who has been running the library since her predecessor left in 2007, has been at the *Journal* since 2005, with four years' prior experience at the Bloomberg library, according to *E&P*. ■

## GLOBAL REACH

### SCOTLAND ①

Some 200 books were seriously damaged in the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh after a 20-year-old sprinkler pipe on the top story failed, causing 5,000 liters of water to run through all 12 floors. The potentially catastrophic incident late on the evening of February 26 forced 30 library staff to work through the night to clear standing water, and to spend the day beginning the task of drying out the affected volumes. An additional 4,000 bound volumes and 500–600 manuscript volumes and boxes were affected and moved for drying.—*The Times*, Feb. 28.

### UNITED KINGDOM ②

Muslims have complained that the Koran is often displayed on the lower shelves in libraries, a practice deemed offensive because of their belief that the holy book should be placed above "common-place things." Library officials in Leicester have been told by the Museums, Libraries, and Archives Council to keep all holy books, including the Bible, on the top shelves in the interests of equality. But some Christian charities worry it will put the Bible out of the reach and sight of many users, and other critics express concern that the books will be treated as objects to revere rather than books to read.—*The Daily Telegraph*, Feb. 18.

### GERMANY ③

The city archives building in Cologne, Germany, suddenly fell apart around 2 p.m. March 3. City officials said two persons were missing and presumed dead. Eberhard Illner, a former city archivist, said the collapse, which took about 30 seconds, was a "catastrophe, not just for the city of Cologne but for the history of Europe." Volunteers have already pulled close to 9,000 documents out of the basement and offices of employees, but many of the repository's 65,000 invaluable holdings, some dating as far back as the 10th century, may be lost forever. Officials believe the collapse could be related to the construction of an adjacent subway line.—*Deutsche Welle*, Mar. 3–4; *Der Spiegel*, Mar. 4.



### KENYA ④

A remarkable library, run by the Nicofeli Youth Club, is promoting a reading culture and bringing the community together in the Kibera slums of Nairobi. The library is the brainchild of Chicago photographer and designer Ron Reason, who visited the dis-

tressed neighborhood in 2008 and was inspired by the beauty he found there to raise \$1,400 to send back, along with book donations for the children.—*Nairobi Standard*, Feb. 14.

### UNITED ARAB EMIRATES ⑤

Canadian writer Margaret Atwood issued a mea culpa February 21, explaining that she may have been too hasty in canceling her February 17 appearance at the inaugural Emirates Airline International Festival of Literature in Dubai. Atwood had heard that a book by British author Geraldine Bedell, *The Gulf Between Us*, had been banned because one of its characters was a gay sheik. However, the book was only one of many that had simply not been invited. Atwood made an appearance at the festival via satellite link.—*Toronto Globe and Mail*, Feb. 23; *The Independent (U.K.)*, Mar. 6.

### PAKISTAN ⑥

The Education Ministry has begun to set up small libraries in various neighborhoods of Islamabad in order to promote reading and literacy. Ministry official Muhammad Nazir said March 1 that four libraries had already been established and two others were planned.—*Lahore Daily Times*, Mar. 2.

### CHINA ⑦

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions opened a Chinese-language center March 3 in the National Library in Beijing. The center will translate IFLA documents, press releases, and papers into Chinese. Alex Byrne, former IFLA president, said the center would help the organization communicate more easily with its counterparts in Asia. The library's Yan Xiangdong will serve as director.—*Xinhua*, Mar. 6.

## NEWSMAKER: YOHANNES GEBREGEORGIS

**G**rowing up in rural Ethiopia with very little access to books, Yohannes Gebregeorgis was 19 years old the first time he picked up a book for pleasure. This experience helped him become a literacy advocate, a children's book author, and founder of the nonprofit Ethiopia Reads, based in Denver and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He came to the United States in 1981 seeking political asylum. After receiving an MLIS, he left his job as a children's librarian at San Francisco Public Library with 15,000 donated books and opened a children's library on the first floor of his Addis Ababa home. Today, the Shola Children's Library records an average of 60,000 visits per year. In 2008, he was selected from more than 3,000 individuals as one of the top 10 "CNN Heroes" of the year for "championing children."



### American Libraries: What is the premise behind Ethiopia Reads?

**YOHANNES GEBREGEORGIS:** Ethiopia Reads was founded to promote reading and literacy by developing public and school libraries and by publishing books in Ethiopian languages. Other activities include the annual Ethiopian Children's Book Week and the biannual Golden Kuraz Award for the best children's book published in Ethiopia. Annually, we also have the Star Reader Award for the best readers in that particular year and the Ethiopia Reads Bookathon.

**What made you want to go back to your native land and begin this project?** After I graduated from the University of Texas at Austin, I traveled to Ethiopia for the first time in 10 years and found out that the places called libraries were really very pitiful. Most of the books were old and raggedy. I saw thousands of children playing on neighborhood streets with rag balls and discarded tin cans. There were no parks, playgrounds, or

libraries. This is when I first thought that I should do something.

### How are the projects, especially the libraries, aiding children?

The libraries have helped thousands of Ethiopian children become readers. Their self-image has been boosted; they now see possibilities in their future, that knowledge would free them from poverty and other ills, and that reading is a humanizing and a positive activity that would help them understand themselves, their society, and the world at large. Our libraries have given children a safe, clean, and well-lit place, where they are respected. For the first time, they have books in their homes and the availability of library resources.

### Are parents happy that the children are getting these kinds of services?

Parents are very happy because they know that their kids are safe and are reading. Although the primary focus is on reading and enhancing reading abilities, we also allow them

to play, to dance, to paint, and to do anything that would enhance their creativity and their imagination.

### Tell us about your outreach to rural villages.

In 2005, we established the Rural Libraries and Literacy Development Project with a reading center in Awassa as well as a tent library in a nearby village and our first Donkey Mobile Library that has now grown to four. We also published our first bilingual book, which was given out to over 5,000 children. We have recently added a Portable Library Program, a boxed library targeted toward smaller rural schools that don't have the space for a regular library. The boxed set of about 200 or 300 books fits in a principal's office and can be carried or wheeled into classes

### Were you surprised at the recognition from CNN?

Yes, I was surprised, pleasantly, and I started asking myself, "What have I done? What has my organization done to garner such worldwide recognition?" I came to understand of this recognition that it's a testament to the importance of the work we do for our country's development.

### How can your library colleagues in the U.S. and internationally help you?

Librarians, teachers, and schoolchildren worldwide are our most ardent supporters. We need more librarians and teachers supporting and advocating for our work. We also need volunteers. Librarians and teachers know how to change the world. ■



# Amazon Lets Publishers Silence Kindle Audio

Amazon released version 2 of its Kindle e-book reader February 24 to fanfare over improvements over the previous incarnation and controversy over a feature that converts text to spoken words.

Protest of the text-to-speech feature came from the 9,000-member Authors Guild. “Kindle 2 is being sold specifically as a new, improved, multimedia version of books—every title is an e-book and an audio book rolled into one,” wrote Authors Guild President Roy Blount Jr. in a *New York Times* op-ed February 24. “Whereas e-books have yet to win mainstream enthusiasm, audio books are a billion-dollar market, and growing.... Income from audio books helps not inconsiderably to keep authors, and publishers, afloat.”

Amazon reined in the text-to-speech feature February 27, announcing that it would allow publishers to disable the feature on a title-by-title basis. The company’s statement asserted that “Kindle 2’s experimental text-to-speech feature is legal: no copy is made, no derivative work is created, and no performance is being given.... Nevertheless, we strongly believe many rights holders will be more comfortable with the text-to-speech

feature if they are in the driver’s seat.”

Amazon’s statement also noted that it is in the audio book business through its Audible and Brilliance subsidiaries, and argued that the text-to-speech would serve as a gateway for consumers to seek out professionally narrated audio books and ultimately grow the market.

Not all authors concur with the guild’s take. “If there’s one thing Amazon has demonstrated, it’s that it plans on selling several bazillion metric tons of audiobooks,” wrote Cory Doctorow on the Boing Boing blog February 25. “To accuse them of setting out to destroy [the audiobook market] just doesn’t pass the giggle-test.”

Barbara Mates, special populations librarian at Cleveland

Public Library and past-president of ALA’s Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies, suggested that while the text-to-speech feature may be beneficial for people with reading disabilities such as dyslexia, it wouldn’t necessarily be a boon to visual accessibility. “The mechanics to get to the feature aren’t accessible themselves,” she told *American Libraries*. “You’d have to have some vision to make them work.”

Of more value to people with visual impairments, she added, was the Kindle’s adjustable text sizes. “This Kindle gives the ability for any book

to go into large print instantly,” Mates said, which expands the reading possibilities for people with visual impairments because many print books do not currently otherwise have large-print versions.

The large print feature has not faced the protests generated by the text-to-speech feature.

## In circulation

Sparta (N.J.) Public Library bought two Kindles to circulate when they were originally released in 2007 (*AL*, May 2008, p. 46) and they remain popular. Assistant Director Diane Lapsley told *American Libraries* that “the units are never in the building unless they are waiting to be picked up.” The library has also bought a Kindle 2 for patron use, although it is not yet in circulation.

Lapsley said the library’s experience has been “nothing but positive.” Users are allowed to download one book per checkout at the library’s expense; patrons who purchase more would be responsible for the cost, but none have yet. And, while some have questioned the library’s right to circulate Kindles with books already loaded, Lapsley said she made about two dozen calls to Amazon and never received a response from the company.

“It’s really a nice tool to use,” Lapsley said, noting that several patrons have bought Kindles for their own use after trying them at the library. The Kindle 2’s text-to-speech feature was “not a deciding factor” in the library’s decision to purchase, but Lapsley observed that “There would have been patrons who would have benefited.”

—G.L.

**“The mechanics to get to the [text-to-speech] feature aren’t accessible themselves. You’d have to have some vision to make them work.”**

—Barbara Mates

## TECH NEWS IN BRIEF

**Digital Music Software** Indiana University has released Variations, an open source software package to create a digital music library system. Variations allows college and university libraries and music schools to digitize audio and score materials from their own collections and provide them to students and faculty online. Users can create bookmarks and playlists, and libraries can set up access rules based on their own institutional policies.

**Ephemera Preserved** The Council on Library and Information Resources has awarded a \$247,738 Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant to four San Francisco institutions to support the California Ephemera Project. The California Historical Society; the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society; the San Francisco Public Library; and the Society of California Pioneers will collaborate to build a searchable online catalog linking the ephemera collections of all four institutions. "The ephemera files are some of San Francisco Public Library's most heavily used collections, but people don't know they exist until they come into the History Center and ask for help," said City Archivist Susan Goldstein.

**Browser as OS?** Microsoft Research has tested a web browser called Gazelle that is constructed to act like an operating system, ReadWriteWeb reported February 22. The goal is improved security, achieved by separating the browser and any plug-ins and requiring communication between them to be mediated by the browser kernel. There is no guarantee that Gazelle will be developed further, but Microsoft Research concluded that "The implementation and evalua-

tion of our Internet Explorer-based prototype shows promise of a practical multiprincipal OS-based browser in the real world."

**Library as Movie Studio** Sewickley (Pa.) Public Library Young Adult Librarian Kelly Rottmund has created "Movie Stars @ The Library," a program where teens can use the library's camera to make their own films after school, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported March 5. The young filmmakers have thus far created a murder mystery, a dance video, and a comedy involving Pokemon and communists.

**NPR Library Blog** National Public Radio's library has started As a Matter of Fact ([www.npr.org/blogs/library/](http://www.npr.org/blogs/library/)), a blog covering "everything from pop-culture insanity and weird pronunciations to

the history of NPR and libraries in the news."

### Talking over Twitter . . .

Olivia Mitchell provided advice for presenting to a tweeting audience on the Pistachio blog ([pistachioconsulting.com](http://pistachioconsulting.com)) February 23. Among her suggestions: Recognize that typing is a sign of interest, monitor the Twitter backchannel during the presentation, and answer the questions that appear on Twitter.

### . . . and Twitter through Time

The Historical Tweets blog ([historicaltweets.com](http://historicaltweets.com)) makes amusing guesses at how major events might have been relayed on Twitter. JohannesG, for example, wrote "Finally finished invention. Disappointed to learn that no one can read." Theories of how Twitter might have evolved before movable type are, sadly, outside the site's scope.

## ADVENTURE AT HER FINGERTIPS



Seven-year-old Carmen Chavez ponders an adventure puzzle on the new Advanced Workstations in Education computer in Hancock County (Ind.) Public Library's children's room February 18. The Indiana State Library and the Institute of Museum and Library Services awarded an AWE grant to the library, which provided funding for two workstations with bilingual early-learning software packages.

# At the Last Minute

There's a method to students' procrastination

by Joseph Janes

**M**y deadline for these columns is the 20th of each month, two months before they appear, so I'm writing this April missive in mid-February (the 16th, for the record). I know that the crack *American Libraries* staff will back me up when I say that I'm always right on time each month without fail. Okay, once in a great while, a day late. Or so. Ahem.

I figured I better get my cards on the table when writing a column about procrastination. My musings on this were provoked by a preliminary report on undergraduate students' perceptions of their own research, from a project on information literacy ([www.projectinfoilit.org](http://www.projectinfoilit.org)) being run by Allyn Head and Mike Eisenberg, and funded by ProQuest. (Disclaimer: Mike's an old friend and mentor, not to mention a former dean of mine, but I don't owe him anything at present.)

There's lots to chew on in this report, and it would make valuable reading for librarians of all varieties. I seized on a couple of findings: First, students use Wikipedia as an orientation device, to get the big picture on paper topics and to get the right words to use in later searching.

Other than currency and interface issues, much of what students say

they use Wikipedia for could have been said a generation ago about the *Encyclopedia Americana* (gives citations and timelines, builds confidence, etc.). They understand and share concerns about accuracy, but believe they are able to assess credibility (including the use of Wikipedia's markers like "this article needs additional citations"). They know, largely, that it's not a place to finish but it's a place to start. Smart.

Also, most of them—at least 80%—procrastinate, waiting until the last day or two to start working on 80% of their papers. Sometimes,

that's due to scheduling or workload issues; often, though, it's to provide time to contemplate or stew

on the topic, or for inspiration, motivation, focus, and even adrenaline for the work to come.

What might our services look like if we took these tendencies seriously? Friday (Saturday? Sunday? Late-night?) reference services and paper-writing workshops? "Moving beyond Wikipedia" sessions? Staff training and faculty liaison based on what students actually do, rather than what we think or hope they do? Reducing midweek, low-traffic services to support such initiatives?

Students were also remarkably canny about their environments: Those at large institutions know they've got access to gobs of stuff,

digital and otherwise, so they can afford to wait a while; those at smaller places seem to recognize their options are fewer and thus get started sooner.

## Don't take offense

This sort of thing would rub a lot of us—and instructors and parents, no doubt—the wrong way, partly on professional grounds and partly because, well, we weren't that sort of student, and they should care more and pay attention more and get more out of their assignments. But if we truly want to be student- or learner-centered, then engineering services to meet their needs, situations, and work styles has to actually mean something instead of just looking good in accreditation documents or glossy brochures.

This is all still preliminary stuff, and more and deeper investigations are forthcoming that should shed greater light. For now, it would behoove us to give these ideas serious consideration, sooner rather than later (so to speak).

The *coup de grâce*? Their major finding so far is that, paradoxically, "Research seems to be far more difficult to conduct in the digital age than it did in previous times." Why? Too much stuff, too many kinds of stuff, and it's hard to find. This has been true, off and on, since Alexandria . . . but that's another story. ■

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Students use Wikipedia as an orientation device, to get the big picture on paper topics.



# From Desktop to Cloud Top

Cloud computing comes of age

by Meredith Farkas

In a world where we seem to be dealing with a baffling assortment of technology buzzwords, one you will probably hear thrown around a lot in 2009 is cloud computing. While the name may sound a little funny, it refers to a very important change in how we are using our computers and the internet.

In the past, most of what we did with our computers involved desktop applications and storing files on a hard drive. With cloud computing, your workstation is just a device to access the web, and everything you need and do with your computer is online. The sort of applications you used before are now available on the web, which really changes what we can do with those programs and with other people.

## The sky's the limit

It's not just about what we can do without desktop applications either. From the IT end of things, it's all about scalability. Organizations no longer need to invest in a server or new software when developing something new for the web or maintaining what they have. With cloud computing, IT staff can store data on a pay-per-use basis and in some cases can even outsource the maintenance of software through a SaaS (software as a service) model.

For those of us outside the IT world, cloud computing is all about what we can now do on the web. I'm amazed by what I can do online today that I could only accomplish

with a desktop program just five years ago: web-based calendars, to-do lists, e-mail, office and bookmarking applications, and more.

Web applications that we needed to install on a server are now available as hosted services, accessible to anyone. We can store the content of our hard drives on the web, making it accessible from anywhere. And the beauty of all these web-based applications is that most of the content is easily sharable, enabling us to work collaboratively in ways our desktop applications never allowed.

## More silver linings

There are many benefits to having one's applications live on the web instead of on a desktop. The first is not having to install and update software. Desktop applications have to be installed on one's computer, updated when there are security patches, and upgraded when a new version is released. Web-based applications are updated by the company running the service. This allows web-based software providers to make incremental product improvements instead of waiting for the next big software release.

Another huge benefit is portability. Most of us these days have at least a home computer and work computer. Others have more than that, including mobile devices. Web applications make content accessible from any device capable of accessing the internet. No longer is it



Web applications make content accessible from any device capable of accessing the internet.

trapped in a single machine. We can also develop content online collaboratively.

There still are some drawbacks to cloud computing. In most cases, you cannot access content "living" in the cloud when you're offline. Google Gears ([gears.google.com](http://gears.google.com)) has enabled some applications to be downloaded to your computer for such times, but most cloud applications do not have this functionality.

Security and privacy issues are also concerns. Websites have been hacked and people's data stolen, and sometimes we're not privy to the privacy measures that a company hosting our content is taking to protect us. The same goes for how the company backs up our data.

Whether your head is already in the cloud or you're tethered to your desktop applications, cloud computing is becoming an increasingly important phenomenon that should allow many libraries to extend their reach online and enable collaborative work in ways never thought possible just a few years ago. ■

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# How the World Sees Us

"The amputation of a treasured local library system's branches has been called an 'unintended consequence' of the state property tax caps. If so, then legislators failed to properly study the law they passed. They've let down a steady stream of people, from all walks of life, who turned to those libraries for help, enlightenment, and recreation."

Editorial criticizing the Indiana legislature for passing limits on property taxes that led to the closing of the Meadows branch of the Vigo County (Ind.) Public Library, *Terre Haute Tribune-Star*, Feb. 21.

"Use your local library. So few people do anymore. And if you are a parent, introduce your children to their neighborhood library. It will give them a real sense of independence to have their own library card and enjoy borrowing books."

SARA JESSICA PARKER sharing her "tips for a chic and gracious life" in *Vanity Fair*, March 2009.

"It's like the air we breathe, the water we drink. We need libraries. They are treasure houses. It's through reading that we actually access higher forms of thought."

Children's author MICHAEL ROSEN discussing the importance of libraries and their role in education on the BBC's *The Daily Politics*, Jan. 27.

"I didn't even know we had a library. I wondered if that is something that should be included in the budget."

STEVE DOERHOEFER, speaking at a Sharpsburg, Georgia, town council meeting, asking about \$2,450 in the town's budget for the volunteer-staffed library's supplies and materials. "Sharpsburg Council holds budget hearing," *Newnan (Ga.) Times-Herald*, Jan. 6.

"For centuries we've looked to libraries as historic evidence of cultured civilizations: will electronic texts fill that bill for future generations? While I'll admit that I'm intrigued by the Kindle, . . . when I first settle into my comfy chair ready to

read with that new device, I'll probably feel as if I had a phantom limb."

New York Times blogger ALLISON ARIEFF opining about the future of electronic books in her piece on book purveyor William Stout and his eponymous design and architecture bookstore in San Francisco, *By Design* blog, *New York Times*, Feb. 23.

"If the government can bail out the banks that are so deeply implicated in our current troubles—and is about to

**"I'm not interested in building an empire. Our idea is to build the future."**

Internet Archive founder Brewster Kahle, describing his goal of achieving universal access to all knowledge, in the *Economist*, March 7, 2009.

give them another huge helping of cash . . . why can't it support libraries and schools and publishing by stocking the public bookshelves with inviting new books and hiring staff to keep the doors open?"

Columnist KATHA POLLITT on stimulus funding, "Stimulating Reading," *The Nation*, Jan. 22.

"Bookstores are closing, people aren't reading. You've heard it all before. But is it possible that reading is changing—that readers are changing?"

Chicago Tribune Magazine editor ELIZABETH TAYLOR introducing the magazine's March 8 cover story on comic books and graphic novels.

"It's not about the book itself. It's that books like that can get into my daughter's hands."

SHIRLEY WALLER, speaking in defense of removing the novel *My Brother Sam Is Dead* from her 9-year-old daughter's school in Muscogee County (Ga.) School District, Columbus (Ga.) *Ledger-Enquirer*, Feb. 20, 2009.

"E-books are for chumps."

Xkcd webcomic characters discuss the new Amazon Kindle 2, released in February.

"Why get a Kindle?" asks one character.

"One reason," replies the other. "Free cellular web access," xkcd, Feb. 24. ■



In his current exhibition, *Bookshelf File Cards*, on display at the Leo Kamen Gallery in Toronto, Manitoba artist Cliff Eyland explores his lifelong obsession with books and art. These paintings—the size of book file cards—are reminiscent of his past work, where he hid 3-by-5-inch paintings inside books at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design library. Inkjet on paper, mounted to MDF, 3-by-5 inches, 2008. Courtesy of artist Cliff Eyland and the Leo Kamen Gallery, Toronto, Ontario.

# Separate Means Unequal

Decrying the marginalization of technical services

by Katherine C. Adams

Catalog workers are running for cover. In large research libraries, technical services staff is being carted away from the central library campus to satellite locations. This recent trend is misguided and will harm both the end user and the library catalog.

Institutions such as New York Public Library, Harvard, and Yale (my employer) are separating technical services librarians from their core patron base. Because catalogers describe materials with particular end-user groups in mind, technical services are the flip side of public services. That is, catalogers create information structures that help patrons find what they are looking for and explore new fields of information. Cataloging theory is fun, but I see my job as creating road maps to information. Importantly, isolating catalogers from patrons eliminates the exercise of the cataloger's judgment. One can't tailor a bibliographic record to an unknown patron.

## Relocation rationales

Plunking technical services down in outlying areas is, I believe, the result of yet another crisis in cataloging. There are both pragmatic and conceptual problems facing library workers and managers. There's a debate within metadata circles about coping with interrelated challenges: increasing amounts of digital information, rising patron expectations, and declining cataloging budgets. Catalogers have not de-

veloped information designs that are fast, flexible, and affordable enough to compete with Amazon and Google.

For these reasons and others, catalogers are being relocated away from the "hub" of campus life.

Cataloging theorists and national leaders have not ridden to the rescue. The development of a new cataloging code, RDA (Resource Description and Access), is causing bitter frustration, and its release has been delayed more than once. As if this weren't bad enough, the Library of Congress has arguably abandoned its leadership role in technical services; for example, it no longer offers authority records for series to the nation's libraries.

The rationale for moving catalogers away from the researchers they serve is largely a question of footprint: Institutions want the work areas of technical services staff. At Yale we were informed that the core mission of the central campus in New Haven was to facilitate face-to-face interactions between teachers and students. Since technical services are viewed as extrinsic to this core mission, we are being relocated. Large institutions increasingly want all of the central campus area to be, as one of my colleagues charmingly terms it, "mission space."

All library workers believe their work space is mission space. Academic librarians typically feel they



The analytical abilities of catalog librarians are more needed than ever.

are members of a learning community and find enjoyment in being part of the mix of scholarly life.

As contrarian as it may sound, catalog librarians can only recover lost ground by finding work outside of their departments. Technical services librarians can no longer afford to wait for work to come to them. In the good old days, print materials arrived at my desk via book trucks or I worked with data that patiently waited for me in a computer file. This strategy is no longer effective, and catalogers must grab work when and where they see it. Traditional book-in-hand cataloging is being marginalized—some would say deprofessionalized—within academic institutions, but the analytical abilities of catalog librarians are more needed than ever.

Catalogers can think strategically about information design, but unfortunately this fact seems widely unknown outside of cataloging departments. Technical services librarians can best survive the current climate by looking for new intellectual friends, expanding their skill set, and taking risks. The important point is for catalog librarians to assertively look for opportunities in the nooks and crannies of their workplace. ■

KATHERINE C. ADAMS is catalog librarian at Yale University in Connecticut.





# 2009 LIBRARY DESIGN SHOWCASE

Projects submitted to this year's Library Design Showcase balanced many types of sensitivities: to history, to technology, to the immediate surroundings, and to accessibility. In this issue, *American Libraries* highlights 23 new and renovated library facilities. For the first time, we are also publishing a digital supplement, which will include 50 additional projects plus features on moving, children's spaces, and green products. The digital supplement will be e-mailed to ALA members in April.





MEDINA COUNTY (OHIO) DISTRICT LIBRARY





MEDINA COUNTY (OHIO) DISTRICT LIBRARY

## MEDINA LIBRARY

The renovation of the Medina Library tripled its size. Environmentally sensitive features include low-VOC carpet and paints, recycled upholstery, recycled-resin paneling, and large, low-e glass windows that reflect heat outside while reducing the amount of artificial light needed. Other accoutrements include fireplaces in the fiction area and the quiet reading room, a decorative glass mosaic mural of the county landscape, a window in the children's department that looks into a working beehive, and 66 public computers.

### *Renovation and Expansion*

David Milling Architects

dmaa.com

Size: 50,000 sq. ft. expansion, 76,000 sq. ft. total

Cost: \$20.4 million

Photo: William H. Webb, Infinity Studio

## JAMES V. BROWN LIBRARY

To better serve area children and families, Lycoming County (Pa.) Library developed a downtown lot adjacent to the original library into the Kathryn Siegel Welch Children's Wing. The three-story addition features a theme of "The Amazing Wilds," which ties into northern Pennsylvania's "The Pennsylvania Wilds" tourism theme. The first floor, devoted to children, features a maze at the center of the room with interactive activities and brightly colored shelving that helps children who can't yet read traditional signs to navigate. The second floor is dedicated to teens and tweens, while the third floor houses the library's adult literacy program, meeting and conference spaces, and the Friends' bookstore.

### *Expansion*

Larson Design Group

larsondesigngroup.com

Size: 26,400 sq. ft. expansion

Cost: \$4.1 million

Photo: Eric Stashak Photography



LYCOMING COUNTY (PA.) LIBRARY SYSTEM





SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

#### NOE VALLEY/SALLY BRUNN BRANCH

Before renovation, this 1916 building had a number of serious problems: a low seismic rating, soiled and cracked exterior masonry, a leaky roof, worn interior finish, poor accessibility, and a spectacular main reading room marred by inappropriate fluorescent lighting and other intrusions. The rehabilitation protected the building's noteworthy features—including the structure's brick-and-terra-cotta facade, the interior marble-lined staircase, and the popular community garden—while improving lighting, installing WiFi, and adding accessible restrooms and an elevator.

Renovation and Expansion  
Carey & Co. Inc. Architecture  
careyandco.com  
Size: 286 sq. ft. expansion, 6,096 sq. ft. total  
Cost: \$5.7 million  
Photo: David Wakely

#### OLDSMAR (FLA.) PUBLIC LIBRARY



The new Oldsmar Public Library was designed to characterize "Old Florida" architecture. Key construction components include cast stone, painted stucco, and clay barrel tile roofing. The interior is adorned with paddle fans, pendant lights, stained wood beams, and natural light through clerestory windows.

New Construction  
Harvard Jolly Architecture  
harvardjolly.com  
Size: 19,800 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$4.9 million  
Photo: George Cott, Chroma Inc.





WORCESTER COUNTY (MD.) LIBRARY

## OCEAN CITY BRANCH

Environmentally sensitive features at Ocean City's new library include parking spaces located under part of the building to reduce the size of the heat island, a geo-thermal heat pump system, the use of native vegetation that requires little watering, and pervious paving. The building is clad in a combination of metal panels and cementitious siding/trim; the interior finish includes recycled carpets with low-VOC adhesives, bamboo floors in the circulation area, and exposed structural framing.

*New Construction*

BSA+A

[simpers.com](http://simpers.com)

Size: 12,691 sq. ft.

Cost: \$5.2 million

Photo: Charles Uniatowski

Photography/BSA+A

## HIGHLAND PARK (TEX.) LIBRARY

The renovation of the 1930 Highland Park Library included upgrades to the lighting, windows, signage, and service desks. Custom features were designed to efficiently use space while remaining sensitive to the historic structure and style of architecture.

*Renovation*

Komatsu Architecture

[komatsu-inc.com](http://komatsu-inc.com)

Size: 5,700 sq. ft.

Cost: \$2.45 million

Photo: Thomas McConnell







NORFOLK (VA.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

#### MARY D. PRETLOW ANCHOR BRANCH

The Pretlow Branch was designed for technology, with a 40-PC Adult Computer Center that can stay open after hours, a Teen Zone with 20 computers and a big-screen TV, and an Early Childhood Learning Center with 20 computers. Flat-screen monitors near the lobby broadcast news and library programming, while public meeting rooms are equipped for teleconferencing and distance-learning programs.

#### *New Construction*

The Design Collaborative  
designcollaborative.cc  
Size: 31,500 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$7.9 million  
Photo: The Design Collaborative and Alexandra R. Fenton

#### LANE LIBRARIES, HAMILTON, OHIO



#### HAMILTON LANE LIBRARY

The renovation of the 143-year-old Lane Public Library was made possible by moving several backroom operations offsite. The space that freed up made possible a dedicated teen department, a quiet study area, a revitalized children's department, and improved traffic flow in the building.

#### *Renovation*

SHP Leading Design  
shp.com  
Size: 25,000 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$1.9 million  
Photo: Nikki Shoemaker





NEW CASTLE COUNTY (DEL.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

## JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY, HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

### EAST CAMPUS LIBRARY

The design of the East Campus Library incorporates two main areas: a square-shaped core that contains traditional reading rooms, book stacks, and offices; and a curved "wing" that houses the open study areas. The building contains 45 group study rooms, including nine with LCD monitors, and a large flexible-use area with movable furniture and whiteboards.

#### *New Construction*

The Design Collective  
designcollective.com  
Size: 108,200 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$31.1 million  
Photo: Michael Dersin,  
The Design Collective



### HOCKESSIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

The 10,000-square-foot expansion of Hockessin Public Library takes the form of a glass pavilion, cantilevered so it floats over the neighboring flood plain. The addition, which houses the children's library, overlooks a densely vegetated county park on one side and wetlands on another.

#### *Expansion*

ikon.5 architects  
ikon5architects.com  
Size: 12,000 sq. ft. expansion, 25,000 sq. ft. total  
Cost: \$8.5 million  
Photo: James D'Addio



## GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY, STATESBORO

### ZACH S. HENDERSON LIBRARY

The renovated Henderson Library is the largest building on the university's prominent east-west pedestrian corridor. Originally built as a precast-concrete box in 1972, the renovated library visually connects the historic buildings to the north of the library with the newer buildings along the walkway.

*Renovation and Expansion*

Cogdell & Mendrala

Architects

[cogdellmendrala.com](http://cogdellmendrala.com)

Size: 103,000 sq. ft. expansion, 235,000 sq. ft. total

Cost: \$23.3 million

Photo: Richard Leo Johnson/Atlantic Archives



## HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

### CENTRAL LIBRARY

The largest renovation in Houston Public Library's history converted 12,600 square feet of administrative space into public space. It also doubled the size of the Kids Area, added a Teen Room, updated the IT infrastructure, and replaced old escalators with a Grand Staircase and upgraded elevators. Much of the furniture is reused from the original building, and other sustainable features include recycled-rubber flooring and motion-sensor light switches.

*Renovation*

Prozign Architects

[prozign.com](http://prozign.com)

Size: 268,663 sq. ft.

Cost: \$19.3 million

Photo: Prozign Architects







## UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT, NEW YORK

### JEFFERSON HALL LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER

Jefferson Hall is the first new academic building at West Point in more than 35 years. The design is intended to advance the campus's 19th-century Military Gothic style to modern times, with more than 1,500 tons of granite cladding the building, sandstone window surrounds, a three-dimensional West Point arch at the main entry, and double-height windows that echo similar features in neighboring buildings.

#### New Construction

STV Inc. in collaboration with Holzman Moss Architecture

[stvinc.com/holzmanmoss.com](http://stvinc.com/holzmanmoss.com)

Size: 141,000 sq. ft.

Cost: \$74.5 million

Photo: Tom Kessler, courtesy of STV Inc. and Holzman Moss Architecture

## HEROLD MAHONEY LIBRARY

The Mahoney Library is the centerpiece of a campus expansion completed in fall 2008. The new building quadruples the space of the previous library, with 400 reader seats, 50 public computers, 24 media-viewing stations, eight group-study rooms, and a library-instruction classroom. Cultural and civic events will be hosted in a public reading room, which overlooks the new eastern quadrangle and connects to the main reading room by a gallery walk.

#### New Construction

TLCD Architecture  
[tlcd.com](http://tlcd.com)

Size: 34,734 sq. ft.

Cost: \$10.5 million

Photo: Technical Imagery Studio

## SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE, PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA







UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, OREM

Utah Valley University's library is built for a student population projected to grow significantly—from 24,000 to 40,000 students in the next decade. The building has the capacity for 33% growth in its existing 221,000-volume print collection, as well as built-in physical and technological adaptability, with raised floors, flexible technology workstations, and universal design and planning. Featured spaces include social and family study areas adjacent to major entries; reading rooms occupying the fourth and fifth floors that provide views of desert, lake, and mountains; teaching labs; and a 150-seat lecture hall.

**New Construction**  
**Alspector Architecture**  
 alspectorarchitecture.com  
**Size:** 190,000 sq. ft.  
**Cost:** \$48 million  
**Photo:** Paul Warchol

## TANIMURA AND ANTLE FAMILY MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Tanimura and Antle Family Memorial Library was built to meet the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Silver standard, with high-performance glass that filters out infrared light and reduces unwanted heat, water-saving landscaping and bathroom fixtures, and a high level of recycled content in the library's carpet, tile, and building materials.

**New Construction**  
**EHDD Architecture**  
 ehdd.com  
**Size:** 136,151 sq. ft.  
**Cost:** \$69 million  
**Photo:** Don Porter, CSUMB

## CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, MONTEREY BAY







## ARIZONA STATE LIBRARY, PHOENIX

### POLLY ROSENBAUM STATE ARCHIVES AND HISTORY BUILDING

The archive building was designed with colors and shapes reminiscent of a desert cliff face. Built primarily from 6-inch precast concrete, the facility includes two layers of roofing to prevent water penetration, a fan wall system to control the temperature throughout storage spaces, a humidity room used for document restoration, and a cold room and blast freezer to provide protection from insects. Financial shortfalls, however, have forced the library to make access by appointment only through the end of the fiscal year.

#### *New Construction*

DWL Architects + Planners  
[dwlarchitects.com](http://dwlarchitects.com)

Size: 124,330 sq. ft.

Cost: \$28.7 million

Photo: Neil Koppes, Koppes  
 Photography



### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

#### BANCROFT LIBRARY

The rehabilitation of the Bancroft Library corrected several shortcomings of the original 1950 construction. The new building includes a sophisticated HVAC system with three air-filtering levels to eliminate dust, the university's most advanced security system, the building's first true instructional space, and an exhibit area four times larger than its predecessor. The renovation also made direct entry to the library possible for the first time; previously, patrons could only access the Bancroft library through another library to which it is attached.

#### *Renovation*

Ratcliff/Noll & Tam  
[ratcliffarch.com/nollandtam.com](http://ratcliffarch.com/nollandtam.com)

Size: 129,651 sq. ft.

Cost: n/a

Photo: David Wakely





MARSHALL (MICH.) PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

The renovation of Marshall High School's library addressed safety and security issues by converting the original L-shaped space to a more open one with better sight lines. This visibility is maintained with shorter 42-inch-tall bookcases, a new glass-walled computer lab, a glass-walled conference room, and two unwallled class group areas that each have pull-down screens on the wall and LCD projectors. The renovation relocated the entrance from a dead-end corridor to a high-traffic school lobby, and created two covered outdoor balcony reading areas.

*Renovation and Expansion*

Kingscott Associates Inc.

kingscott.com

Size: 3,400 sq. ft. expansion, 18,200 sq. ft. total

Cost: \$724,000

Photo: Kingscott Associates Inc.

## WINDLAND SMITH RICE LIBRARY

The library occupies the first floor of a new three-story building for the school's 4th- through 8th-graders. In honor of the building's namesake, whose renowned nature photographs adorn the walls, the lobby features related motifs, including a metal-and-glass staircase resembling an unwinding roll of film, a terrazzo floor patterned like a camera aperture, and a translucent fiberglass ceiling panel representing a camera lens. The library itself features two computer labs, a distance-learning lab, eight self-check-out stations, and four study rooms with whiteboards and wireless internet access.

*New Construction*

Fleming/Associates/Architects P.C.

flemingarchitects.com

Size: 53,256 sq. ft.

Cost: \$9.0 million

Photo: Rick Bostick/INVISION

## ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE







## ST. AGNES/ST. DOMINIC ACADEMY, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

### VERITAS RESEARCH CENTER AND CYBRARY

The Veritas Research Center serves students of all ages, from pre-K through grade 12. Distinct spaces within the facility are intended for varying age levels, and a distance-learning center that seats 60 is also open for community organizations. The Cybrary houses 30,000 print books and provides access to 37,000 more electronically; the reading area is located along the outer wall, with views of the outside provided by nearly full-height windows.

*New Construction*

Fleming/Associates/Architects P.C.

[flemingarchitects.com](http://flemingarchitects.com)

Size: 26,033 sq. ft.

Cost: \$4.8 million

Photo: Rick Bostick/INVISION

## ALEXANDRIA (VA.) PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### T. C. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL

Highlights of the library serving Alexandria's largest public high school include 20-foot-high, north-facing windows that provide light and a view of a green roof; a wireless network; and space to accommodate three classes simultaneously. While the library is smaller than the library in the previous school building, library usage has increased by more than 50% since the new building opened.

*New Construction*

Moseley Architects

[moseleyarchitects.com](http://moseleyarchitects.com)

Size: 10,280 sq. ft.

Cost: n/a

Photo: Sisson Studios Inc.



## SIERRA CANYON SCHOOL, CHATSWORTH, CALIFORNIA

### BURTZLOFF LIBRARY

The Burtzloff Library is the academic center of the school's new Science and Humanities Building. Technical features include wireless access to electronic resources in all rooms, data ports at all study carrels, and a technology lab. The library has a 150-foot wall of curving windows overlooking the San Fernando Valley.

*New Construction*

Parallax Associates

[parallaxassociates.com](http://parallaxassociates.com)

Size: 8,770 sq. ft.

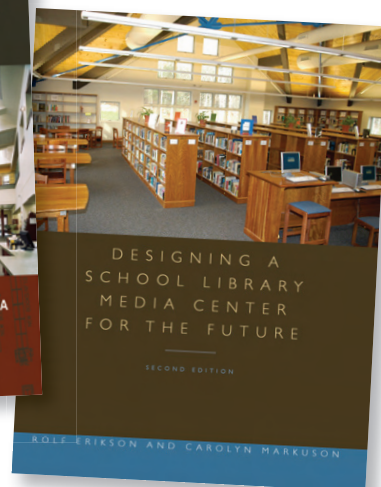
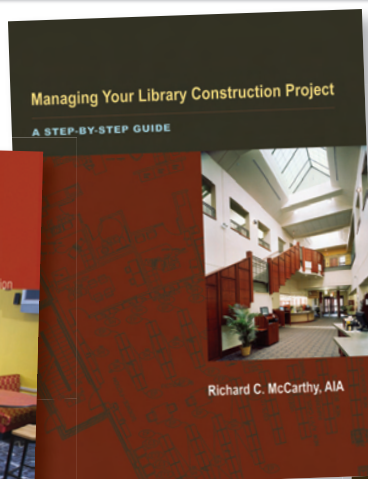
Cost: \$2.5 million

Photo: Tom Bonner

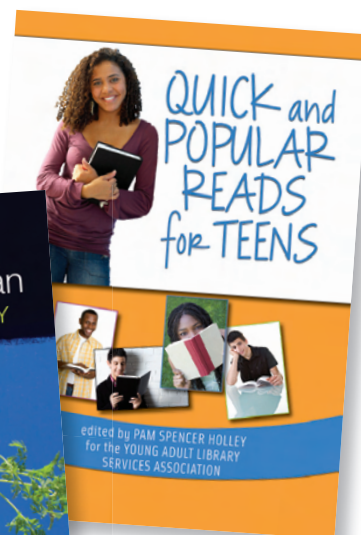
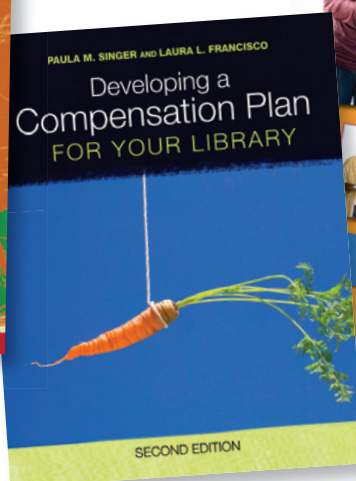
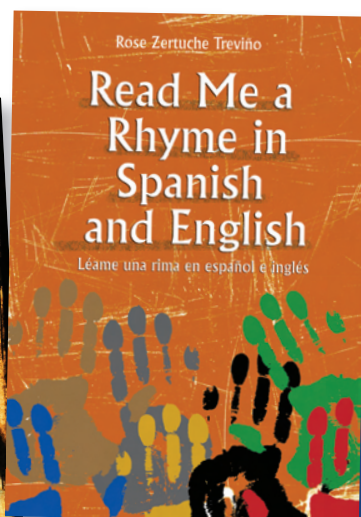
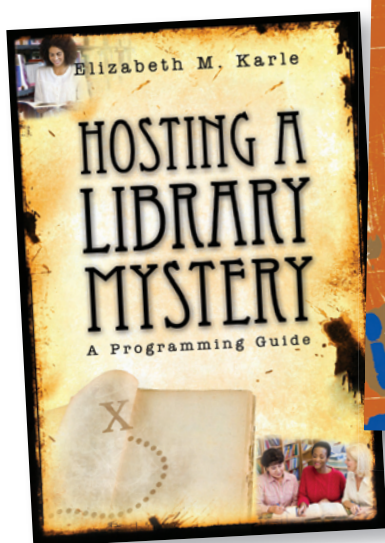


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# AIA/ALA Library Building Awards ★★★★★

The following libraries are winners of the 2009 Library Building Awards, sponsored by the American Institute of Architects and ALA's Library Leadership and Management Association. The biennial award recognizes distinguished accomplishment in library architecture by an architect licensed in the United States for any library in the U.S. or abroad. This year's competition was open to all libraries completed since December 1, 2002.



GENTRY (ARK.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

Gentry Public Library occupies a preexisting brick building that the community wanted to maintain. Existing columns were developed into lighting columns that also provide book display space, while the space's existing pressed-metal ceiling was preserved.

Marlon Blackwell Architect  
marlonblackwell.com  
Size: 11,970 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$1.32 million  
Photo: Timothy Hursley

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
FRANCIS MARTIN LIBRARY



The renovation of the Francis Martin Library transformed a dark, cheerless, outdated space to inspire and connect the members of the community. Reflective Barisol forms a ceiling that folds away in some areas to increase height, while the diagonal shelf arrangement and curved walls create a dynamic space for children.

1100 Architect P.C.  
1100architect.com  
Size: 4,000 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$830,000  
Photo: Timothy Furzer



The new Chongqing Library is an urban complex that respects the culture of its 1947 predecessor while projecting a modern image. The building's form is based on the Chinese architectural tradition of the courtyard and the multi-story atrium halls of western libraries. The use of water in a sculptural reflecting pool symbolizes Chongqing's location at the convergence of two of China's most important rivers.

Perkins Eastman  
perkinseastman.com  
Size: 490,500 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$38.6 million  
Photo: ZhiHui Gu/Courtesy Perkins Eastman



## HENNEPIN COUNTY LIBRARY



## MINNEAPOLIS CENTRAL LIBRARY

The Minneapolis Central Library is well-known for the metal "wing" hovering over the central Library Commons space. Flanking the Commons are two rectangular volumes with large open floors and no interior load-bearing walls. The library features dedicated spaces for many different groups, including a Children's Library with materials in more than 30 languages, a teen center designed by teens, the New Americans Center for recent immigrants, and a major business-services department.

Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects  
pcparch.com  
Size: 353,000 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$138.7 million  
Photo: Jeff Goldberg/ESTO

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY C. V. STARR EAST ASIAN LIBRARY



The Starr Library reflects both campus design guidelines and the library's Asian mission. The screen, an important element in traditional Asian architecture, was interpreted as an array of cast bronze grilles on the library's exterior. Behind the grilles, perforated metal screens were installed to block almost half of the direct sunlight from entering the building, reducing the cooling load.

Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects  
twbta.com  
Size: 67,984 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$46.4 million  
Photo: Michael Moran





## BIBLIOTECA CENTRAL ESTATAL WIGBERTO JIMÉNEZ MORENO, LEÓN, GUANAJUATO, MEXICO

The library is the first building of Forum Cultural Guantajuato, a 9.6-hectare municipal cultural center. The exterior was constructed in glass, painted steel, and white cantera, a variety of Mexican stone. Construction was planned to preserve existing tabachines and jacaranda trees, many of which are more than 50 years old.

Pei Partnership Architects

[ppa-ny.com](http://ppa-ny.com)

Size: 92,570 sq. ft.

Cost: \$12 million

Photo: Alberto Moreno Guzmán

## PALO VERDE LIBRARY

The Palo Verde Library occupies a new mixed-use building that also incorporates a community center and the existing public pool, recreational park, and ball field. The interior walls are faceted with recycled aspen oriented strand board panels that help the library meet acoustic requirements.

Gould Evans Associates/Wendell Burnette Architects

[gouldevans.com/wendellburnettearchitects.com](http://gouldevans.com/wendellburnettearchitects.com)

Size: 16,000 sq. ft.

Cost: \$5.8 million

Photo: Bill Timmerman

## PHOENIX PUBLIC LIBRARY



## SCOTTSDALE (ARIZ.) PUBLIC LIBRARY



## ARABIAN LIBRARY

The Arabian Library's design reflects the desert slot canyons of Arizona. The main reading room is clad in acoustically absorbent perforated wood treatment that mitigates noise spillover from adjacent areas. The library is currently undergoing LEED certification.

richärd+bauer architecture

[www.richard-bauer.com](http://www.richard-bauer.com)

Size: 21,202 sq. ft.

Cost: \$7.4 million

Photo: Mark Boisclair




Medina County District Library - Medina Library (04)

Photo Credit: William Webb




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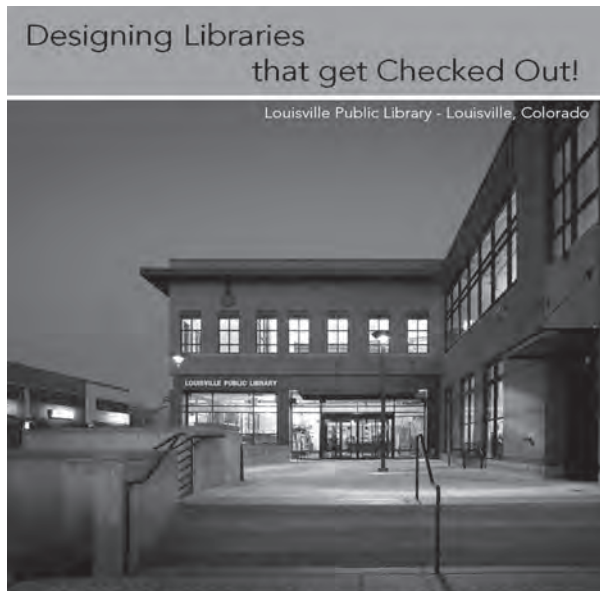
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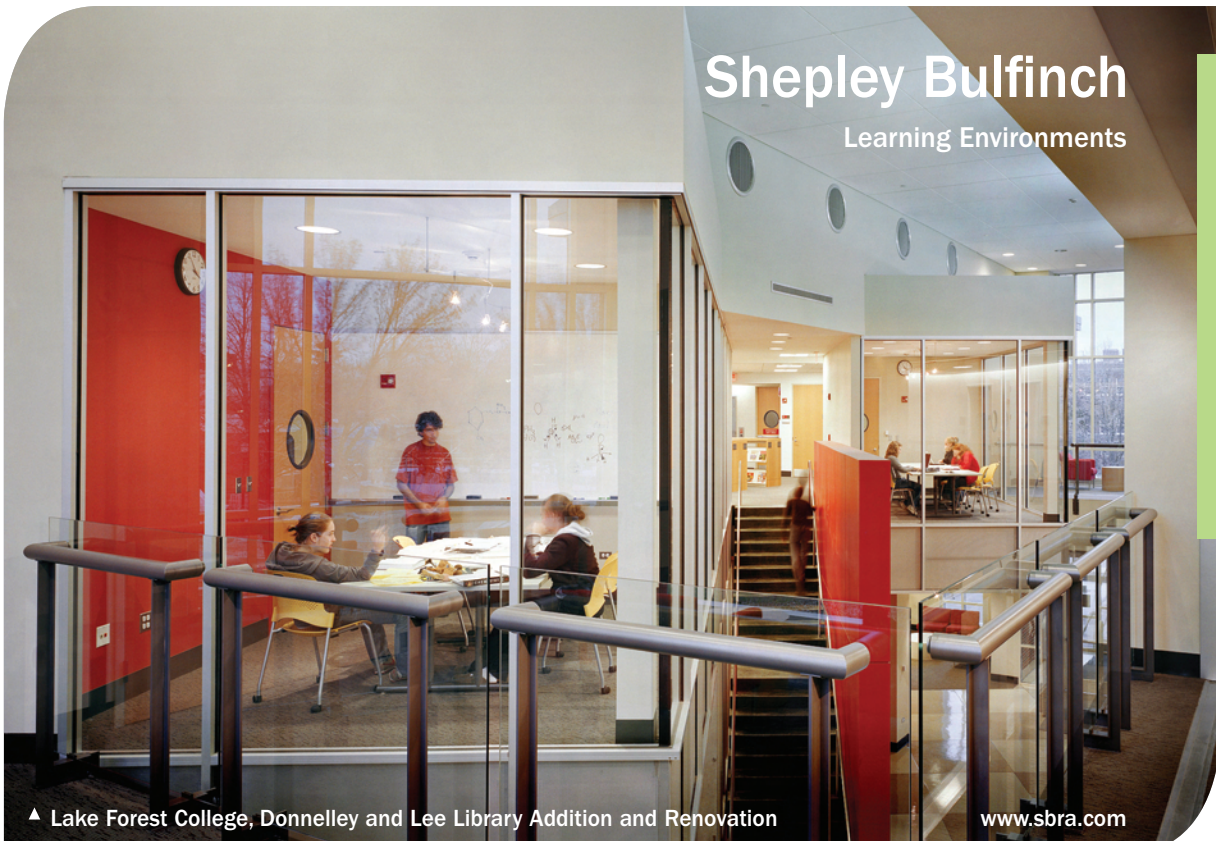


Library Planning & Design



**Wallace Roberts & Todd**  
wrtdesign.com **WRT**

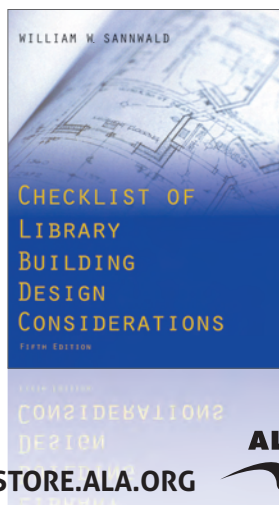
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▲ Lake Forest College, Donnelley and Lee Library Addition and Renovation

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by Wanda Urbanska

Librarians can make a difference every day in many ways, as libraries move toward environmental friendliness

# A Greener Librarian

## A Greener You

When I moved from Los Angeles to rural Appalachia in 1986, I was a freelance journalist and first-time author, anxious about what kind of library I'd find in my new hometown in North Carolina. After pulling up to the Mount Airy Public Library, I had to do a double-take. Sleek and contemporary, the library was more future-friendly than anything I'd ever seen. In fact, long before LEED-certification standards were established and green building had become the new orthodoxy in construction, the \$1.75 million, 13,750-square-foot facility was a national model for energy efficiency.

Simple steps: David Siders commutes on foot to his job in Cincinnati. Facing page: A Chicago Public Library patron recycles old plastic bags as new shopping bags.







Designed by famed architect and solar energy advocate Ed Mazria, the 1982 library incorporates passive solar and daylighting as its signature architectural features. The welcoming open floor plan organized around the circulation desk from which staff can visually access 360 degrees features natural light cascading from sawtooth clerestory windows overhead, offering both a connection to the outdoors and a sense of well-being. When monitored in the first year of operation, the library used approximately one-sixth of the energy per square foot as its counterpart, a conventionally built municipal building nearby. What's more, the aesthetically pleasing structure, with its ageless, locally sourced granite façade, contributes to the impression that the library was built... yesterday. "People love it," exudes librarian Pat Gwyn. Newcomers always ask, incredulously, "So when was this built?"

While building a green library may represent the largest public statement any community can make to show its support for sustainability, a whole host of measures can be taken to move existing facilities in the right direction. *American Libraries* asked librarians around the country about specific practices they employ to be good environmental stewards and found answers ranging from energy-savings policies to green-cleaning techniques to educational programming. However, even the "greenest of the green" view the process as a journey; none felt that they had arrived.

## Fayetteville takes the LEED

When the doors opened to the new LEED-certified silver library in Fayetteville, Arkansas, in October 2004, Executive Director Louise Schaper admits that the systems weren't yet in place for the library to be green from the inside out. However, the building itself both inspired and set the stage for their "educational evolution"—a process that continues to this day—of phasing in green practices throughout the facility. The process has library staff ex-

amining choices large and small throughout the system, making choices and continuing to refine them. "There are many layers of the onion," she says. "You can peel them forever."

One watershed event in that evolutionary journey occurred in late 2008, when the library began what Schaper calls "a huge change in how we do technology." With much of its technology ready for updating, the library replaced the 36 PCs used for the public access catalogs and walk-up internet stations with thin clients. (Thin clients are low-power PCs embedded with a scaled-down version of Windows that use one-tenth the power of a regular PC.) To save even more energy, staff PCs and thin clients were programmed to automatically turn on and off around library hours. Being off for 12 hours a day saves about 537,000 watt hours from the library's electrical use daily. With each energy-saving milestone the library achieves, new goals are set to pare down usage even further. The next goal: replacing its servers with compact, energy-efficient blade servers. Once that conversion is complete, Schaper estimates that the library will enjoy a 66% reduction in server power consumption.

In Houston, where in 2004 the city set LEED certification as the standard for major new building, replacement facilities and major renovation projects, the Houston Public Library (HPL) system is working aggressively to implement LEED-inspired green policies throughout the system. The system recently instituted an energy-efficiency awareness campaign called "Reduce the use of e-juice"—a competition amongst its 42 "points of service" to see which one could reduce energy use most.

"We're trying to get at least 10% reduction at each location," says Wendy Heger, HPL's assistant director of planning and facilities. Recommended strategies include switching heating and cooling to timer systems that phase down upon closing; eliminating such items as individual

**"Some librarians take their role as eco-citizens even further, modeling personal behaviors to reduce their carbon footprint for colleagues, staff, and patrons."**



# GREEN PROGRAMMING

"A REALLY HOT TOPIC"

**F**red Stoss, cochair of ALA's Task Force on the Environment, says libraries around the country have seen an exploding interest in saving the planet ever since the release of Al Gore's film *An Inconvenient Truth* in 2006. "No pun intended," Stoss quips, "global warming has become a really hot topic."

To respond to that interest, most library efforts have centered on environmental outreach programs. In 2008, Chicago Public Library adopted as its theme "Read Green, Live Green." The program included classes and lectures for adults and children on green-living themes, concentrated in the high-traffic summer months. According to Ruth Lednicer, CPL director of marketing, programs ranged from a very-popular green parenting program; to the social dimensions of climate change; to a program on how to weave with used plastic bags.

"The kids are as into it as the adults are," Lednicer says. Over 52,000 children read 1.2 million green-themed books last year. For the summer program, the library paired up with the Chicago Park District and the Garfield Park Conservatory, taking the children outside.

This March, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County organized Green University, a workshop sponsored by a local homebuilder about greening your home and lifestyle. Additionally, the library is hosting stand-alone events throughout the year on a range of topics, from bicycle commuting to the benefits of local food. David Siders says that the 2008 summer series on urban container gardening was so popular that they're repeating it this summer. "It's safe to say the public is hungry for more information on green living," says Siders. "We're hard at work trying to provide it."

coffee pots and space heaters; and asking staff to unplug inactive equipment after each use, eliminating the so-called "phantom load" effect, by which standby items consume up to 5% of the power of the item when operational. For those locations without occupancy sensors on the lighting equipment, staff is asked to be mindful of flipping the switch upon entering and exiting a room. Branch representatives meet quarterly to compare results, and winning locations are awarded recognition certificates and goodie bags filled with eco-friendly gifts.

Reducing, reusing, and recycling paper tends to be the first order of business when a library goes green. To reduce the use of paper, many libraries

discourage printing from computers by setting page limits and/or charging patrons per page. Shifting from paper newsletters and postcards to e-newsletters and e-mail announcements is an increasingly common paper-reduction strategy, as is requiring printing on front and back of sheets of paper. In some eco-friendly libraries, used paper is cut into small pieces for reference desks and scratch paper, then recycled once used. While recycling white paper, newsprint, and magazines is de rigueur in most libraries, some dedicated staff and volunteers go a step further by removing covers from discarded books so that the printed pages inside can be recycled.

"It's important to recycle," says Evelyn Holzwarth, library administrator of the Hastings Public Library in Michigan, which was built on a brownfield site and touts numerous green features, from a vegetative roof to low-flow commodes. "But the other side of the coin is that it's important to buy materials containing recycled content." Toward that end, Holzwarth says that she buys copy paper, toilet paper, and paper towels containing recycled content, even if it means paying more. Likewise, in an effort to lower the library's carbon footprint and support the local economy, staff makes every effort to buy products in Hastings.

## Recycling @ your library

Numerous libraries have moved beyond internal recycling to assuming a more public role in the battle to curb the effects of global warming. Chicago Public Library houses battery-recycling drop-off canisters at all of its 79 locations. In Cincinnati, a community recycling bin accepting co-mingled paper, plastic, glass, cans, and cardboard was placed at the main public library downtown, allowing patrons and staff to do one-stop "shopping"—and dropping. "The downtown residents are thrilled with the convenience," says David Siders, Popular Library manager at the downtown library. And library staff uses it significantly, bringing their recyclables from home. He says that of the four recycling bin locations downtown, the library's is "the most heavily used." The enthusiasm for community-wide recycling is also energizing staff. Siders notes that ever since the recycling bins were set up in October 2007, recycling in the office has seen a significant uptick.

To promote the reuse of materials that might otherwise be discarded or recycled, Mount Airy Public Library maintains a continuous magazine swap on the window sills adjacent to the stacks. "It's not an easy thing to keep neat, but people love it," says Pat Gwyn. "The idea is that patrons bring in a magazine and take home another one, but we



Learn more, visit [www.simplelivingtv.net](http://www.simplelivingtv.net)



**Numerous libraries have moved beyond internal recycling to assuming a more public role in the battle to curb the effects of global warming.**

don't monitor it." Likewise, unsold books from the Friends of the Library biannual book sale, set on bins in the foyer, are also free for the taking. "Especially in today's economy—where books and magazines are considered luxuries—people are so happy to get these," she says.

Similarly, cutting waste at the source is an increasingly common initiative. To that end, many libraries have given plastic bags the pink slip. Chicago Public Library has phased out plastic bags entirely and now sells recycled canvas bags for a dollar. "We can't keep them in stock," says Ruth Lednicer, director of marketing. "If we'd done this five years ago, it wouldn't have gone over. Now people are really getting it."

Some libraries have made the commitment to eliminate disposable plates, cups, and utensils for staff and reduce their use at library events. "We use actual plates, cups, and silverware in the staff lounge," says Holzwarth. The Hastings library has a staff of 15, including five full-time employees, and a kitchen that "looks more like a home sink." "We hand-wash our dishes and dry them with actual cloth towels." With no on-site washing machine, staff takes turns bringing dirty towels home. For public events, china plates and real utensils are used along with recycled-content paper cups. The rationale for the disposable cups is not so much the difficulty of hand washing, says Holtzwarth, but because "people were wandering off with our cups and glasses."

At Fayetteville Public Library, Louise Schaper says that they did away with bottled water and installed filters on water faucets. She brings her own bottle to work and fills it up several times daily, and encourages staff to follow suit.

Eliminating night-time contract cleaning services in February 2006 and bringing cleaning in-house was one of Fayetteville's best moves, according to Schaper. With the money saved, the library is now able to employ full-time housekeeping staff, employees who are at the ready in the daytime to handle the inevitable spills and accidents. What's more, the facilities manager now chooses their cleaning agents, which are hydrogen-peroxide-based, thus eliminating the risk of toxicity and cutting the cost of chemicals in half. As a result, Schaper says, the entire library is "much cleaner: clean and green."

## **Eco-citizens and advocates**

Some librarians take their role as eco-citizens even further, modeling personal behaviors to reduce their carbon footprint for colleagues, staff, and patrons. Though she sheepishly admits to driving eight minutes to work, Louise Schaper walks everywhere else in town—for meetings downtown, to the post office, and even to the University of Arkansas, which is 10 blocks away, some of it uphill.

"It's a hike," she says, but "I set aside the time."

David Siders commutes three minutes on foot to his job at Cincinnati Public Library from his apartment a block away. "I joke that I might as well wear my pajamas to work," he says. During a recent spate of snow and ice, when car commuting was a nightmare, he became the envy of his colleagues. He uses his bicycle to run errands downtown, where he buys locally and patronizes the farmers' market, whenever possible.

Perhaps Siders' greatest contribution to eco-activism is in his advocacy role as chairman of the Recycling and Green Living Committee of the Downtown Residents Council. When he came onto the council, the city was "a little behind in providing curbside pickup." Now, the communal recycling bins are in place. "Eyeballing the bin each week and seeing how full it gets, it's clear we need a second one. The mayor has informed me that he hopes to add additional bins in the future." ■

## **APPEARING AT ALA'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN JULY**



**M**et Wanda Urbanska, author of this article, at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, at a program sponsored by *American Libraries*, Sunday, July 12, 10:30–11:30 a.m., in the Auditorium Speaker Series. An expert on sustainability and green living, she will talk about simple and practical steps every librarian can take toward economic and environmental friendliness.

Urbanska is the author or coauthor of seven books, including the forthcoming anthology *Less Is More: Embracing Simplicity for a Healthy Planet, A Caring Economy, and Lasting Happiness* (New Society, August 2009), *Simple Living* (Viking, 1992; Blair, 2004), *Moving to a Small Town* (Simon and Schuster, 1996), and *Nothing's Too Small to Make a Difference* (Blair, 2004). She is host/producer of *Simple Living with Wanda Urbanska*, a nationally syndicated public television series currently in its fourth broadcast season on selected PBS stations nationwide. She has appeared on the *Today Show*, *CBS This Morning* and *Oprah*, and has been heard on NPR's *All Things Considered*. *O, The Oprah Magazine* recently identified her as "the de facto Martha Stewart of the voluntary simplicity movement." She has published in the *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Mother Earth News*, *Natural Home*, and *Rotarian*, among others. She is a graduate of Harvard University.



# Building Science 101

by Lynn Piotrowicz  
and Scott Osgood

Save money, energy, and resources by getting a better understanding of how your building works

**A**s you enter your building on a snowy morning, do you marvel at the beautiful icicles that drip down from the roof? As you look out your office window, do you express childish glee over the work of Jack Frost on your panes? Do staff members suddenly look thinner in April because they've started removing the multiple layers of their winter wardrobe? Does your library offer the same summer reading program every year, "Reading in the Tropics," because then shorts, T-shirts, and sandals are the approved "uniform" for employees working in a building that feels like the rain forest: hazy, hot, and humid?

While many librarians accept responsibility for their town libraries, a good number do so based on the merits of our experience providing excellent library service. Few of us have any experience managing the physical plant: the structure of the facility, the building, the bones. Sure, we may have helped shovel snow, put up storm windows, or open vents, but those acts do not constitute knowledge of a building.

## Changes in habit

As building managers, we can examine our facilities to look for things that are causing the HVAC systems to run harder, longer, and less effectively. If you have done any

research on how to make your building more energy efficient, then you have probably already made a few inexpensive and basic changes in your building. A few behavioral and physical changes will provide you with some immediate savings with little or no money invested. These changes do not require any contractors, special installation instructions, or understanding of building science; they are simply changes in habit and small hardware.

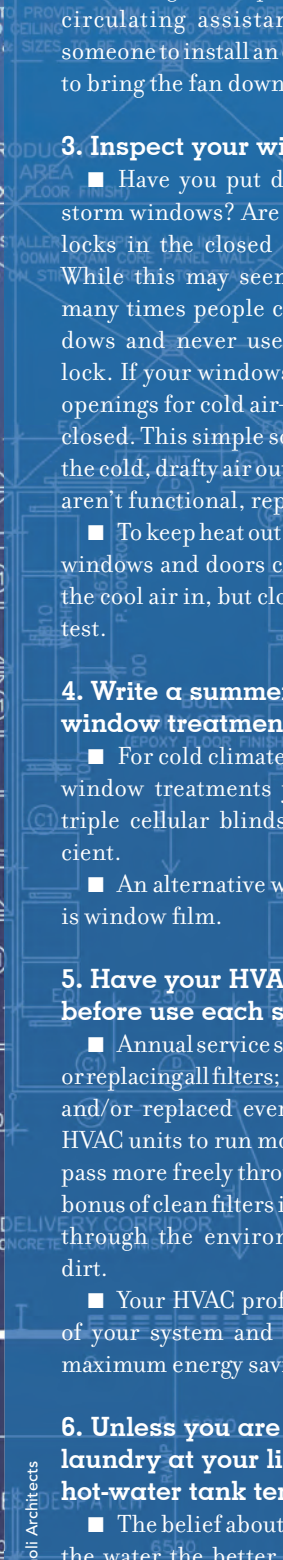
### 1. Install programmable thermostats (cost: under \$100 each).

- Buy thermostats that allow for both weekday and weekend programming (unless your hours of operation are the same all seven days of the week).
- Choose thermostats that allow you to lock them with a password.
- Installation is simple: Replace every old dial thermostat with a new programmable one by removing the old and following the instructions for wiring.
- Remember that the recommended money-saving thermostat setting is 65–67 degrees during the winter and 78 degrees in summer.
- Change the battery in the thermostat annually; make it part of your tune-up routine with your heating and cooling contractor.

### 2. Look up at your ceiling fans if you have them.

- Are you using your ceiling fans correctly? Ceiling fans circulate air; they don't provide any cooling relief. Use ceiling fans in the winter to push the warm air that sits on your ceiling down to the floor. Run fans on low to do this.
- Turn on the fans and look up. In winter, fans should be rotating in a clockwise direction. In summer, fans should be circling in a counterclockwise direction. If this isn't the case, change it.
- Look up at your ceiling fans again. Are they flush against the ceiling? If you have high ceilings, fans against





the ceiling won't provide any circulating assistance. Hire someone to install an extension to bring the fan down.

**3. Inspect your windows**

- Have you put down your storm windows? Are your sash locks in the closed position? While this may seem simple, many times people close windows and never use the sash lock. If your windows are rat openings for cold air—check them closed. This simple solution is the cold, drafty air out of your aren't functional, replace them.
- To keep heat out during winter windows and doors closed. Or the cool air in, but close them test.

**4. Write a summer/winter window treatments.**

- For cold climates, purchase window treatments you can triple cellular blinds, which efficient.
- An alternative window treatment is window film.

**5. Have your HVAC units serviced before use each season.**

- Annual service should include or replacing all filters; filters should and/or replaced every month. HVAC units to run more efficiently pass more freely through the system. The bonus of clean filters is less dust through the environment—less dirt.
- Your HVAC professional can inspect your system and guarantee maximum energy savings.

**6. Unless you are taking laundry at your library, hot-water tank temperature**

- The belief about hand-washing the water the better, but the recommended temperature for researchers discovered that hot improve the efficacy of hand-washing.

Photo: Field Paoli Architects

A vibrant, modern library interior. The space is filled with large windows that let in bright natural light. The ceiling and walls are decorated with numerous colorful butterfly cutouts. In the foreground, a woman and a young boy are sitting on a large, colorful, patterned armchair, reading a book together. In the background, several other children are sitting at small round tables, also engaged in reading. The floor is covered with a blue and yellow patterned carpet. Bookshelves are visible along the walls, and the overall atmosphere is bright and inviting.

that the tolerable temperature for washing hands was still not hot enough to kill bacteria.

because of the extra cracks and grooves in dry skin. This, the researchers felt, would lead to painful hand-washing and therefore less thorough scrubbing. As a rule, the best water temperature with which to wash hands is the warmest temperature that you find comfortable.

### 3. Inspect your windows.

■ To keep heat out during hot and humid weather, keep windows and doors closed. Open windows at night to let the cool air in, but close them before the sun is at its hottest.

■ For cold climates, purchase the most energy-saving window treatments you can afford—ideally, double or triple cellular blinds, which are the most energy efficient.

**5. Have your HVAC units serviced before use each season.**

We may have helped shovel snow, put up storm windows, or open vents, but those acts do not constitute knowledge of a building.

**6. Unless you are taking showers or doing laundry at your library, consider turning the hot-water tank temperature down to 105.**

■ The belief about hand-washing used to be the hotter the water the better, but the FDA recently changed the recommended temperature from 120 to 105°F degrees, as researchers discovered that higher temperatures did not improve the efficacy of hand-washing. In fact, it was found

Okay, librarians: Brace yourselves, because we are going to discuss the physics of your building. Some of the concepts we understand intuitively. We remember watching our grandmothers closing the windows and heavy curtains early on a hot August day and opening them after dark. We never quite understood why she did this, but we enjoyed sitting in her cool living room during those dog days of summer. It is the goal of this section to impart a little knowledge about why these old strategies make sense.

## Lesson 1: East, west, north, south— and what that means

Look at your building. Orient yourself with the equator. Start using the terms north, south, east, and west to identify the geography of your facility. Using these directional terms is the first step in understanding exactly how your building is impacted by its location on the horizon.

During the winter months, the sun travels closer to the horizon or at a lower angle to your building. This means that sun coming in the south windows of your building can provide a significant solar heat gain. On sunny winter days, open those southern window treatments and let the heat



stream in. Keep your window treatments closed on the north, east, and west sides of your building since there is no opportunity for this heat gain.

In summer, morning sun saturates the east side of your building, adding a significant amount of heat. The same thing happens on the west side late in the day. Ideally, there are shade trees or exterior awnings to help alleviate some of the solar heat gain; if not, keep your window treatments closed to block some of this heat. Since the sun is at its highest during the summer, solar heat gain through southern windows is minimal, so you can again use these windows to let natural light in without significant heat gain.

Hint: It is easier to communicate with contractors in these terms rather than using the names of the rooms within your building. "The windows in the Spectacular Room need to be caulked" leaves the contractor stymied about where the job needs to be done. Specifying "the northeast corner of the building" assures an immediate understanding.

## Lesson 2: Heat transfer

Heat transfer is simply the movement of heat in your building. In winter, heat moves from indoors to outdoors. In summer, heat moves from outdoors to indoors. There are three mechanisms by which heat transfer occurs: conduction, convection, and radiation.

Conduction is the process by which heat is directly transmitted through a substance when there is a difference of temperature between adjoining regions, without movement of the materials.

That heat rises is not exactly accurate. Heat flows through solid materials toward the cold in every direction. Insulation helps stem the effects of conduction, or what is called conductive heat loss.

How air moves through your building is called convection. Think of convection as an interaction between the

inside temperature of your building and the outside temperature of the neighborhood. Convection goes hand-in-hand with the stack effect, which involves how your building responds to the varying temperatures and how it interacts with your mechanical ventilation system. Your building is waging a constant battle between hot and cold air, and who wins the battle depends on the inside/outside temperature and the presence of leaks that allow one force an advantage over another.

To better understand this concept, let us assume that our buildings are permeable vessels that contain 100 pounds of air. If the temperature outside is 65 degrees and the temperature inside is 65 degrees, the difference is zero. This means your building is under a constant pressure and the vessel remains filled with 100 pounds of air that is 65 degrees. During winter, the inside of your building is 65 degrees and the outside temperature is 10 degrees. The difference between the two temperatures is 55 degrees, and this difference causes an increase in pressure in your building; so the cold air in the lower levels of your building has more influence than the hot air and pushes the hot air up and out through your attic and roof. So the 100 pounds of air is made up of more cold air than hot, and your furnace works overtime to heat the cold air.

During the summer, the inside temperature of your air-conditioned building is 75 degrees and the outside temperature is 95 degrees. The difference between these two temperatures is negative 20 degrees. This means your building is in a state of low pressure, and the superheated air from your attic is drawn down by the cool air in your lower levels, displacing the cool air that leaks out through the openings of the lower levels. In this case, the 100 pounds of air in your building is made up of more hot air than cool, so your air conditioners must work harder, trying to cool the hot air that is being pulled down through your building.

Radiation is the third force acting on your building. Radiation is the direct transfer of energy between two points. During the winter, radiation or solar or thermal heat coming through your southern windows warms the room and feels good, while in the summer the thermal heat that comes through your window is more intense.

A basic understanding of the forces acting on your building can help you make simple and inexpensive changes that will save money and energy. ■

Expansive window walls draw light at the Belmont (Calif.) Library, which was designed to wrap around a grove of heritage oak trees.



LYNN M. PIOTROWICZ, director of the Tucker Free Library in Henniker, New Hampshire, has been a librarian in old buildings for 17 years. She has a BA in psychology, an MA in organizational psychology, and an MLS from the University of Pittsburgh. SCOTT OSGOOD is a civil engineer with over 30 years in the building construction industry. He is director of facilities and capital projects for the seven-campus Community College System of New Hampshire. Their book, *Building Rescue*, will be published by ALA Editions in 2010.

Photo: Field Paoli Architects





From solitary refuge to social hub, understanding the different ways students utilize the library is the key to boosting usage

# Meeting Students' Need States

by Brian Mathews

When I lived in the Washington, D.C., metro area I frequently ate lunch at the gourmet-sandwich bistro Cosi. One evening I went there for dinner, and to my surprise it was a completely different experience. Instead of several clusters of small tables, the furniture was arranged to accommodate groups; instead of standing in line to order, there was table service. Dinner also featured wine, music, and mood lighting. Cosi adapts to the needs of its customers based upon the time of day; at midday the bistros provide a quick lunch, while in the evening they expand the menu and emphasize the atmosphere.

We can apply the same principle to libraries. We know that students need different things at different times of the day, as well as at specific points throughout the semester. Our challenge, then, is to align our products and services to be more optimal. What is it that students need in the morning, compared with the afternoon or late evening? A student asking a reference question during the day most likely has a different mindset than one seeking help at night: Is he on his way to class or did he just get off work; is she on her way to lunch or did she just eat dinner; is his assignment due next week or is it due tomorrow? While it is impossible for us to account for all possible variations,

anyone who has worked at a public service desk for several years recognizes patterns that emerge throughout the school year. By anticipating these patterns and building them into our communications strategy, librarians are better positioned to support users.

By categorizing the needs that typical students encounter you can understand not only how they perceive the library, but also the big-picture challenges that they face in college, and then work to fill those gaps. Once this foundation is in place, you can begin designing promotional strategies that effectively demonstrate the value of your library.

To determine students' needs, my advice is to start from scratch. Forget everything that you assume about the library. Leave your survey results,

gate counts, LibQUAL+ data, and any other reports on your desk for a moment and take a walk around the building. Spend time observing your population. How do they interact with each other, with library staff, with print resources, and with the environment? A person isn't just studying; he is tucked away in a quiet corner, hidden and possessive of his surrounding space. A group doesn't just sit together; they socialize, tutor, collaborate, and possibly motivate each other. Perhaps the most important question we can ask is *why*? Why are they using the library? What particular need is being fulfilled?

In the marketing industry there is a growing emphasis



on the concept of need states. These mental states are described as psychological or functional conditions that can be aligned with purchases, such as “grooming” or “snacks,” as well as with objectives such as “making dinner” or “getting ready for work.” By understanding the purpose of the shopping encounter, retailers can package items that directly match customer needs. Think of everything that you need for serving Thanksgiving dinner, taking a trip to the beach, or fighting the flu. These events transcend activities into emotional experiences: Thanksgiving is about “family,” the beach is about “relaxation,” and treating the flu is about “recovery.”

Need states are also present in the academic environment. Students moving throughout the day encounter a wide variety of obligations. Librarians can benefit by acknowledging these needs and aligning our services to address each one. I suggest seven categories representing the broad spectrum of student needs.

■ **Academic needs.** Not only do students spend several hours a week in the classroom, but they also attend labs, office hours, and reviews. Outside of these formal activities, students also attend informal study sessions, review textbooks and notes, and perform numerous other assignment-related tasks. Their academic responsibilities are an omnipresent part of their life.

■ **Social needs.** While academic needs may dominate the student schedule, social activities are also important. From hanging out with friends or developing romantic relationships, to talking with family on the phone or attending parties, students engage in a variety of social encounters.

■ **Entertainment and recreational needs.** Entertainment and recreation is another common theme, covering a wide range of activities such as leisure reading, creative expression, hobbies, games, concerts, movies and television, sporting events, and exercise. While many of these outings are social in nature, they are focused upon particular activities, elevating the experience above a mere conversational encounter.

■ **Service needs.** A commitment to service is present in many students’ lives. This can take the form of employment or volunteerism. Opportunities abound for participation in charity, religious, environmental, civic, political, and professional activities.

■ **Personal needs.** Students have a variety of personal needs: hygiene, shopping, cleaning, laundry, medical visits, and numerous other chores, errands, and responsibilities. Personal time is also necessary for reflection, meditation, assessing priorities, and planning.

■ **Travel needs.** A surprising amount of students’ time is spent moving from point A to point B. From home, to class, to work, to a friend’s house, they are in constant

motion. The modes of transportation may include cars, buses, and bikes, but most of the time is spent walking.

■ **Rejuvenation needs.** With such a breadth of activities packed into each day, sometimes students just need to unwind. Rest and relaxation occurs when possible; however, eight hours of continuous sleep is highly unusual. Food consumption is similarly scattered. Many students rely on naps and snacks to refresh, refuel, and replenish before returning to action.

## Academics and atmosphere

To be user-sensitive organizations we must visualize how a trip to the library fits in with everything else students have going on. Librarians should integrate their products into the student lifestyle. How can we provide opportunities for students to fulfill social, entertainment, or service needs? To be user-centered, a library has to be more than just a great channel for academic services, but should also provide a rich atmosphere that supports cultural, social, leisure, and creative activities.

Students cannot be expected to study for several hours without an opportunity to revitalize both their body and mind. Libraries need to provide a variety of study environments ranging from quiet to noisy, from isolated to communal. A visit to the library should not be limited to fulfilling research needs, but should allow opportunities to grab a snack, to gossip with friends, to take a nap, or to listen to a motivating speaker. In short, we need to give them new reasons to use the library.

This concept of “filling the need” will factor largely into our messaging. We can present the library in many different ways. It’s not just for doing research, but also the place to start, edit, and finish an assignment. It is a pit stop during the day and a quiet couch late in the afternoon. It is a place to plug into the web and to discover new ideas and experiences. The library is a shrine of solitude, designed for introspection, discovery, and preparation; and it is also a social hub, filled with friends, activities, surprises, and chance encounters. Our central theme should be that the library is the place where things happen on campus, and our promotional efforts should align with these various need states. In this way, students won’t need to think about why they should use the library, but instead will simply see it as the logical destination. ■

## How can we provide opportunities for students to fulfill social, entertainment, or service needs?



**BRIAN MATHEWS** is a user experience librarian at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. His blog is the Ubiquitous Librarian ([www.theubiquitouslibrarian.typepad.com](http://www.theubiquitouslibrarian.typepad.com)). This article is adapted from Marketing Today's Academic Library: A Bold New Approach to Communicating with Students, published in March by ALA Editions.

# It's Not All Fun and Games

Academic libraries apply scholarship to virtual play

by Jennifer Burek Pierce

**S**ome tidbit about 21st-century pop culture routinely penetrates my historically oriented consciousness, thanks in part to Brian Visser, University of Iowa SLIS student and adult services assistant at Iowa City Public Library. Brian's good-natured enthusiasm for new media ensures that public libraries' use of video games remains on my radar.

But here's something Brian didn't tell me: Video games, as activities and objects, are a developing presence in university libraries, too.

For many academic libraries, the idea emerged in 2007, when ALA's first gaming symposium (*AL*, Sept. 2007, p. 15) first broached the subject, as Catherine Fraser Riehle, instructional outreach librarian at Purdue University, explained.

Afterward, Riehle said, she and 11 other colleagues formed an exploratory committee with a three-fold aim: to provide and gather resources, including the fostering of connections across campus; to investigate issues in information literacy and instruction; and to host events

like gaming nights. Recent Purdue activities responding to this initiative include the acquisition of land in Second Life and the February debut of a Center for Serious Games and Learning in Virtual Environments.

Purdue gaming bibliographer George Bergstrom coordinates with like-minded colleagues such as Professor William Watson, who leads the center, which allows Watson to assess players' reactions to games and the library to host Second Life activities.

One broad goal involves bridging the gap between information literacy and game playing. "Games can teach," Bergstrom said, adding, "We've got to figure out how to sell it." Thinking about users is part of that picture. Noting the trend that saw universities replicating their space in Second Life only to see virtual campuses "turn into ghost towns," Bergstrom observed, "Most users won't go in and do something they could go already."

At the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, game-related



**"We haven't even had a dialogue in this profession about 'What does preserving a game mean?'"**

**Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe**

initiatives date back to 2005, Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe explained. As head of the Undergraduate Library, Hinchliffe links games with faculty research and teaching. "This is about world-renowned researchers and their scholarly work, and the education of our students," she said. Reaching out to the local gaming industry and to student groups with gaming interests is also part of the libraries' efforts, and events "pairing open play with an academic component" attract 50–80 students.

"We're thinking about this as a long-term collection," Hinchliffe said, noting that questions range from how to place a game on reserve to preservation issues. "Is the game the published work, or is it the sum total after it's played?" she asked, indicating that there's a difference between the rules that construct a game and what happens when players make choices. "We haven't even had a dialogue in this profession about 'What does preserving a game mean?'" Hinchliffe observed.

Nonetheless, she said, "Video games aren't a departure from previous collection practices: They're an evolution of it. There's that need to support the researcher." ■

JENNIFER BUREK PIERCE is assistant professor of library and information science at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. Contact her at [youthmatters@ala.org](mailto:youthmatters@ala.org).

## FOR FURTHER READING

- *Gaming in Academic Libraries*, Amy Harris and Scott E. Rice, eds. (Association of College and Research Libraries, 2008).
- John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Series on Digital Media and Learning. [mitpress.mit.edu/](http://mitpress.mit.edu/).
- The Librarian's Guide to Gaming. [librarygamingtoolkit.org/](http://librarygamingtoolkit.org/).



# Currents

■ **Judith Anderson** was promoted to director of Longmont (Colo.) Public Library December 1, 2008.

■ January 31 **Ann Armbrister** retired as deputy executive director of the College Center for Library Automation in Tallahassee, Florida.

■ In December **Lynne Baldwin** was promoted to supervisor of the Mandarin branch of Jacksonville (Fla.) Public Library.

■ The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign appointed **Alistair Black** professor in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science effective in January.

■ **Phyllis Broomfield** retired as periodicals librarian at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee

December 31, 2008.

■ **Elaine Charnov** has been appointed director of education, programming, and exhibitions at New York Public Library.

■ Menlo College in Atherton, California, has named **Sarah Clatterbuck** systems librarian.

■ **Susan Clayton** became Lake County, California, librarian on December 31, 2008.

■ **Cheryl Collins** has been appointed technical services librarian at Menlo College in Atherton, California.

■ Springfield-Greene County (Mo.) Library District has appointed **Regina Cooper** executive director.

■ **Serene S. Corley** is the new user services librarian at Brevard (N.C.) College.

■ Stark County (Ohio)



Alistair  
Black



Christopher  
Korenowsky



Teresa  
Knott



Richard  
Kuhta

District Library has appointed **Kendel Croston** manager of the Plain Community Branch.

■ In March **Connie Vinita Dowell** became dean of libraries at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

■ **Rebecca Eller** started as children's librarian at Larchmont (N.Y.) Public Library on December 14, 2008.

■ Jefferson County (Colo.) Public Library has named **Steve Endicott** director of innovation and strategies for information technology.

■ **Dexter R. Evans** was appointed southwest territory sales representative for H. W. Wilson January 29.

■ **Julie Flemming** retired in February as director of Fox Lake (Wis.) Public Library.

■ January 5 **J. B. Hill** became director of public services at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Ottenheimer Library.

■ **Kathleen Jansen** retired as Lake County, California, librarian December 30, 2008.

■ **Margeaux Johnson** has joined the University of

Florida in Gainesville as science-technology librarian.

■ February 28 **Cynthia Klinck** retired as director of Washington-Centerville (Ohio) Public Library.

■ Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond named **Teresa L. Knott** director of Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences and associate university librarian effective March 10.

■ **Christopher J. Korenowsky** joined the Ohio Library Council as director of professional development February 4.

■ **Richard Kuhta** retired as Eric Weinmann Librarian at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., December 8, 2008.

■ January 1 **Renee McBride** became head of the special formats and metadata section of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

■ January 12 **Lucinda Munger** became library services director at Orange County (N.C.) Library.

■ **Gary Nichols** retired as Maine state librarian December 31, 2008.

■ **James Pelton** will retire

## CITED

■ **Jessica Fenster-Sparber**, MLS student at Queens College and CEO of Literacy for Incarcerated Teens, is one of 10 winners of the 2008 Maybelline New York Beauty of Education Award.

■ **Brewster Kahle** was awarded the 2008 Robert B. Downs Intellectual Freedom Award by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Graduate School of Library and Information Science January 24.

■ **M. J. Tooley**, executive director of the University of Maryland's Health Sciences and Human Services Library in Baltimore, has been named a Fellow of the Medical Library Association.

# OBITUARIES

as director of Shreve Memorial Library in Shreveport, Louisiana, April 20.

■ **May 1 Molly Raphael** will retire as director of Multnomah County (Oreg.) Library.

■ **Jeffrey Rippel** has retired as director of Calcasieu Parish (La.) Public Library.

■ **David Ross**, director of Morgan County (Ind.) Public Library, retired December 31, 2008.

■ **Mike Sainsbury** has joined Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology in Saskatoon as instruction/liaison librarian.

■ **Michael Sawyer** became director of Calcasieu Parish (La.) Public Library January 1.

■ Wayne State University in Detroit has named **Virginia C. Thomas** as director of Neef Law Library.

■ **Lois Langer Thompson** became director of Hennepin County (Minn.) Library February 16.

■ December 30, 2008, **Anne Turner** retired as director of Santa Cruz (Calif.) Public Libraries.

■ **Lisa C. Wemett** retired as assistant library director of Webster (N.Y.) Public Library in March.

■ November 14, 2008, **Melinda Wing** retired as head of the Palo Alto (Calif.) Children's Library.



Virginia  
Thomas



Lois Langer  
Thompson

■ **Helen W. Dalrymple**, 68, chief spokeswoman at the Library of Congress public affairs office for 20 years until her 2005 retirement, died February 13 of complications from brain cancer. As a researcher with LC's Congressional Research Service in the 1970s, she was coauthor of *Treasures of the Library of Congress*.

■ *AL* recently learned of the March 4, 2008, death of **Peter Michael Doiron**, 73, editor-in-chief of *Choice* from 1966 to 1971.

■ **Ruth Carpenter Donnell**, 89, librarian at Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia from 1969 to 1976, died December 26, 2008, of pneumonia.

■ **Marjorie K. Ewald**, 92, librarian at Tiffin-Seneca (Ohio) Public Library and Fremont (Ohio) Middle School for a total of 23 years, died December 20, 2008.

■ **Evan Farber**, 86, library director at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, from 1962 until 1994, died February 12. He was ALA's Association of College and Research Libraries president in 1977 and received ACRL's Academic/Research Librarian of the Year Award in 1980, the Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian Award in 1987, as well as three honorary doctorates.

■ **Judith Hoffberg**, 74, cofounder of the Art Libraries Society of North America in 1973, died of lymphoma

January 16. She curated numerous art exhibitions and started the International Edible Book Festival in 2000.

■ **Althea Jackson**, 86, a librarian in various schools and public libraries near Brockton, Massachusetts, from 1965 to 1972, died February 7.

■ **Earl A. McGovern**, 80, trustee emeritus of Lima (Ohio) Public Library, died January 6.

■ *AL* recently learned of the June 23, 2008, death of **Molly P. Morris**, 59, a librarian for 22 years at Providence (R.I.) Public Library, Pawtucket (R.I.) Memorial Hospital, and Doña Ana Community College in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

■ **Teresa F. Strozik**, 70, whose 36-year library career included stints at Syracuse (N.Y.) University, State University of New York, and Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, died January 2.

■ **Judith E. Wallace**, 54, director of Mattapoisett (Mass.) Free Public Library, died November 15, 2008, after a long illness.

■ **David T. Wilder**, 91, director of the Long Island Library Resources Council in Bellport, New York, from 1971 to 1982, died January 22. Prior to working at LILRC, he worked in libraries at Hamilton College; the American University of Beirut; Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan; the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg; Ohio State University in Columbus; and the University of Baghdad.

■ **Marilyn Wurzbarger** retired January 23 as head of special collections at Arizona State University in Tempe.

## At ALA

■ Development Associate **Amanda Armstrong** left

ALA January 30.

■ January 5 **Sheila Joy** joined ALA as e-learning specialist.

■ **Norman Rose** became program officer for the Office for Research and Statistics September 29, 2008.

■ **Marjike Visser** joined

the Office for Information Technology Policy January 20, supporting the Program on Networks.

■ **Jonathan West**, manager of communications for the American Association of School Librarians, left ALA February 26. ■

Send notices and color photographs for *Currents* to Greg Landgraf, [glandgraf@ala.org](mailto:glandgraf@ala.org).

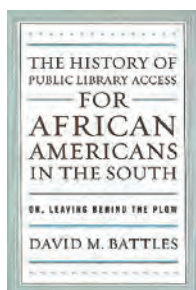


# Librarian's Library

Access for All

by Mary Ellen Quinn

**A**lthough as a profession we pride ourselves on our commitment to access, it's a sad fact that library access has often been denied to African Americans. In *The History of Public Library Access for African Americans in the South, or, Leaving Behind the Plow*, David M. Battles charts this history from the days of slavery to the civil rights movement. While in the North most libraries were fully integrated by the early 1890s, in the South many libraries had "separate place" policies until the 1960s.



Hand in hand with this history is the struggle of African-American librarians in the South to achieve full participation in the profession. Although African Americans had been working in segregated library branches since the early 1900s, few accredited library school programs admitted African Americans as students, and as late as 1962, *Wilson Library Bulletin* was reporting that African-American librarians had been denied membership in state library associations.

Battles also weaves in the history of the American Library Association's internal struggles over access for African Americans.  
INDEXED, 171 P. PBK. \$40 FROM SCARECROW PRESS (978-0-8108-6247-0)

## What's in a Word?

A thesaurus is a standard part of a writer's toolkit, as well as a library's reference shelves. *The Oxford American Writer's Thesaurus* offers over 300,000 synonyms and 10,000 antonyms. What sets it apart from other thesauri, though, are the various features designed to help you find the right word every time. Word



**Battles charts this history from the days of slavery to the civil rights movement.**

Spectrums provide a range of near synonyms from one word to its op-

## NEW FROM ALA

**I**n planning for a second edition of *Fundamentals of Collection Development and Management*, author Peggy Johnson not only read reviews of the first, but also consulted with library school faculty who were using it. Based on their recommendations, one of her goals for the second was to make it more relevant to different kinds of libraries. Among other changes, discussion of electronic resources now appears throughout the book instead of in a separate chapter, a new chapter on scholarly communication has been added, and there are more practical tools, such as sample collection-development and policy statements.  
INDEXED. 407 p. PBK \$70 (978-0-8389-0972-0)



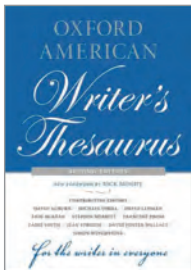
**Y**oung adult librarians will welcome *The Hipster Librarian's Guide to Teen Craft Projects* from Tina Coleman and Peggy Llanes, describing 12 creative projects that can be done using mostly recycled and repurposed materials. Among their ideas: melted crayon bookmarks and rubber band bracelets. The "Mess Factor" is provided for each project, along with detailed instructions and suggestions for spin-offs and adaptations. Even if you aren't necessarily a hipster, you'll appreciate the attention to detail and thrift.  
INDEXED. 91 P. PBK. \$40 (978-0-8389-0971-3)



# ROUSING READS

## NAZI NOIR

to its opposite: beautiful/ugly, kind/cruel, praise/disparage. The Word-



finder lists words in categories—all the different kinds of chairs or sandwiches for example. Penned by Zadie Smith, David Foster Wallace, and other writers, Word Notes offer sometimes

idiosyncratic perspectives on word choice. If you're a word lover (devotee, fan, enthusiast, aficionado), you'll find yourself lost in browsing.

1,052 P. \$39.50 FROM OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS (978-0-19-534284-0)

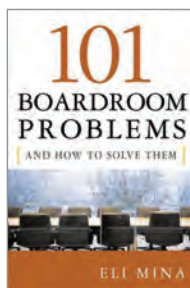
## Board Tips

If you work with a library board, you may not be able to hire registered parliamentarian and board effectiveness advisor Eli Mina, but you can read his book *101 Boardroom Problems and How to Solve Them*. In it, he outlines the potential damage and suggests interventions for familiar and frustrating scenarios that can throttle a board's effectiveness—"The Single-Issue Advocate,"

"The Spineless Chair," "Time

Wasting," "Board Acting as a Complaint Department." The forward was contributed by ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fields, who knows a thing or two about boards.

INDEXED, 178 P. \$24.95 FROM AMERICAN MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (978-0-8144-1058-5) ■



For noir fiction to flower, its heroes need to find themselves hopelessly trapped, either due to their own weaknesses or to circumstances beyond their control. Decadence and repression are the key ingredients in any noir cocktail, but it's hard to find both served at the same bar. Repressive societies, after all, don't usually allow enough freedom to support much in the way of decadence. What you need is a decadent society on the way down, maybe with some nasty repressive types chomping at the bit, ready to take control. Like, say, Germany's Weimar Republic between the wars, the cabarets in full swing, offering every variety of sensual pleasure for the price of few million inflated marks, while the Nazis—modeling brown shirts and jackboots—prepare to put on their own show.

Philip Kerr's Bernie Gunther series remains the gold standard for Nazi noir, but the subgenre seems to be thriving as never before, with three fine examples published between March and May. Kerr came first, with his fifth Gunther novel, *A Quiet Flame* (Putnam). Set in the heart of the Weimar era, the first novel in the series, *March Violets*, established Kerr's almost surreal premise: Take a wise-cracking Chandlerian detective and let him talk tough to emerging thugs named Goering and Himmler. As *A Quiet Flame* begins, it's 1950, and Bernie is on a boat to Argentina, lumped in with some of the Nazis he baited in the earlier novels. But after landing in Buenos Aires, Bernie is shanghaied into investigating a case with tentacles extending to 1932, giving Kerr the reason he needs to flash back to Weimar, where life is a cabaret, old chum, even if the party is nearly over.

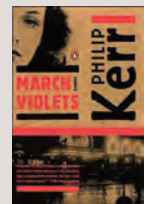
That's the mood, too, in Rebecca Cantrell's *A Trace of Smoke* (Forge). Hannah Vogel is a crime reporter in 1931 Berlin, on intimate terms with the city's underbelly, but that doesn't protect her from the shock of seeing her brother's picture posted in the police department's Hall of the Unnamed Dead. Backtracking Ernst's final days takes Hannah deep into the Nazi power structure, where alternative sexual behavior is pursued with gusto, despite the soon-to-be führer's disapproval. Cantrell nails the cabaret atmosphere, including the desperation floating inside the champagne bubbles.

Concluding our Nazi noir hat trick is perhaps the best of the lot: Jonathan Rabb's *Shadow and Light* (Farrar). In 1927 Berlin, Chief Inspector Nikolai Hoffner is called to the movie studio Ufa to investigate the presumed suicide of an executive. Think *Pandora's Box*: The wildly complex plot starts with a new invention to synchronize sound and action on film, but that's really a McGuffin, leading Hoffner to a plan to rearm Germany. Rabb introduces a host of real-life figures (Joseph Goebbels and legendary director Fritz Lang among them), and there's plenty of Weimar decadence on view, but it's the fascinating slice of film history overlaid with a sense of the gathering storm that gives the novel its punch. That and Hoffner himself, a noir hero in every way, from his un-

quenchable thirst for potables to the inevitability with which he finds himself caught in the riptide of history.



BILL OTT is the editor and publisher of ALA's Booklist.





# Solutions and Services



[www.oclc.org/contentdm](http://www.oclc.org/contentdm)

OCLC has released CONTENTdm 5, the new version of its CONTENTdm **digital collection management software**. CONTENTdm 5 fully supports Unicode so all languages can be searched and offers a redesigned Project Client that streamlines collection-building workflows to reduce the time needed to create a digital collection.



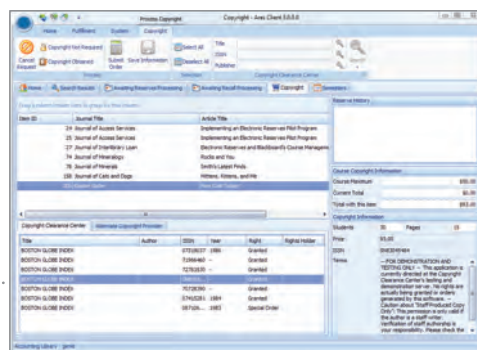
[www.gaylord.com](http://www.gaylord.com)

Gaylord Furniture's new **Genesis** line offers a modular circulation desk, reading tables, carrels, workstations, stands, and shelving. Five wood-finish options are available, as well as mobile and slatwall shelving, accent trim, and lighted corner display units.



[www.e-libro.com](http://www.e-libro.com)

Ebrary offers the E-Libro **Spanish-language database**, containing 30,000 books, theses, and research journals from more than 100 publishers. E-Libro is compatible with existing OPACs; allows a customized, library-branded interface; and can be accessed by users within the library and remotely.



[www.atlas-sys.com](http://www.atlas-sys.com)

The Ares **reserves automation system** is now available from Atlas Systems. The web-based system allows faculty to manage their own reserve lists, tag items to categorize large reading lists, and upload items in a variety of file formats. Ares integrates with existing e-learning environments and includes copyright-management and item-tracking functionality.

To have a new product considered for this section, contact Brian Searles at [bsearles@ala.org](mailto:bsearles@ala.org).



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www.mergent.com

Mergent's InvestorEdge **business research tool** contains company-specific documents updated weekly for more than 4,000 U.S. and international corporations, three years of financial highlights and equity pricing information, and key financial ratios for each company. The database also contains analysis and buy-sell-hold recommendations from Ford Equity Research.



www.sentrytechnology.com

Sentry Technology Corporation offers **RFID antenna panels** with finishes customizable to match library décor. The system is live at all times and does not rely on a photo eye being tripped before activating the detection field. Corridors meet Barrier Free and ADA accessibility codes, and the system is safe to use with magnetic media including videos and audiocassettes.

## CASE STUDY

### LINK RESOLUTION FOR INTERLIBRARY LOAN

The Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, has 2,400 resident and distance learning students, 650 faculty, and 500 staff. Its research and education primarily supports the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, but the mission extends to the rest of the armed forces, as well as allied nations and the defense and national security communities.

The school's Dudley Knox Library decided to implement an OpenURL link resolver in 2006 when new director Eleanor Uhlinger brought awareness of the services that a link resolver could provide.

An OpenURL combines a base URL with additional contextual data—often bibliographic data, which the link resolver can use to

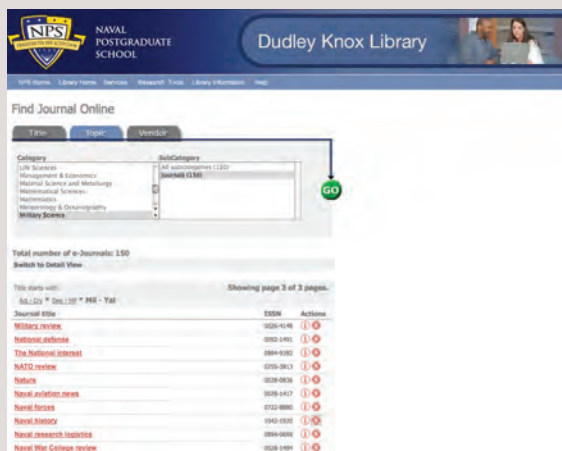
connect an item citation to the target item itself. The library wanted this functionality, which would require little support from librarians and IT staff.

The library opted for SFX, a link resolver hosted by Ex Libris. "We didn't set out to have a hosted solution," Uhlinger said. Several needs, however, led the library to that option: the desire to have a quick installation, the already-burdened IT staff and servers, the concurrent

implementation of a new content management system, and Department of Defense regulations about what services can be made available over the military network.

The first SFX-based interlibrary loan request came within an hour of opening the system, and the service has gained popularity as users became familiar with it. The library branded the service as "Get It!—Dudley Knox Library." Thus far

it has relied primarily upon templates provided by Ex Libris and the content management system, although the library has plans to add more customization.



Screen capture of the SFX link resolver as implemented at Dudley Knox Library.

Ex Libris: [www.exlibrisgroup.com](http://www.exlibrisgroup.com)



# Career Leads from

Your #1 source for job openings  
in Library and Information Science and Technology

## Place a Job Ad

Visit [JobLIST.ala.org](http://JobLIST.ala.org) to establish an institutional account in order to place Web-only ads, print ads in *American Libraries* and *C&RL News*, or any combination. Print ads in *American Libraries* cost \$7.50 per line, \$5.50 for ALA institutional members. Display ads range from \$125 to \$2,340. Print ads may be posted on JobLIST for 60 days for an additional \$75, \$65 for ALA institutional members. Complete rate and size information at [JobLIST.ala.org](http://JobLIST.ala.org).

## Print Deadline

April 6 for the May issue, which mails about May 1. Ads received after the 5th will be published as space permits through about April 15.

## Contact

E-mail [joblist@ala.org](mailto:joblist@ala.org) or call 800-545-2433, Jon Kartman, ext. 4211. Career Leads, *American Libraries*, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; fax 312-440-0901.

## Consultants or Classifieds

"Librarians' Classifieds" and "ConsultantBase" are convenient and economical ad sections that put your products and services in front of more than 100,000 readers. See print ad rates above. No ALA institutional member discount. Discounts for multiple insertions: 2–5 months, 5%; 6 months or more, 10%. ConsultantBase appears in the January, April, June, and October issues.

## Advertising Policies

A salary range is requested for all job recruitment ads per ALA guidelines. The ALA Allied Professional Association endorses a minimum salary for professional librarians of not less than \$40,000 per year. Job applicants are advised to explore "faculty rank" and "status" carefully. ALA opposes residency requirements and loyalty tests or oaths as conditions of employment. Job titles should reflect responsibilities as defined in ALA

personnel guidelines. ALA requires that organizations recruiting through the Association's publications or placement services comply with ALA antidiscrimination policies. Policy 54.3 states that the Association "is committed to equality of opportunity for all library employees or applicants for employment, regardless of race, color, creed, sex, age, disabilities, individual life-style or national origin." By advertising through ALA services, the organization agrees to comply with the policy. Ads are edited only to conform to standard style. Acceptance of an advertisement does not constitute endorsement. ALA reserves the right to refuse advertising.

## Billing

Payment Terms: Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. If pre-approved, net 30 from invoice date. Invoice and tearsheet mailed to the advertiser following publication. Cost of ad furnished upon request.

## POSITIONS OPEN

**COORDINATOR OF REFERENCE, OUTREACH AND INSTRUCTION.** The California Institute of the Arts seeks an experienced librarian and educator to develop and coordinate reference services, outreach efforts, and instruction programs. This public services position includes teaching an information literacy course. **For details, see [tinyurl.com/c4eth8](http://tinyurl.com/c4eth8).**

**OUTREACH SERVICES ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.** The Outreach Services Assistant Director (OSAD) directs and oversees management of Outreach Services staff and functions, including Deposit Collections, Community Branches, Books-by-Mail, Bookmobiles and the Sub-regional Library for the Blind

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**T**he University of Michigan Library seeks innovative librarians to join a dynamic, collegial team engaged in advancing research, collections, teaching, and learning in a client-oriented environment. In addition, the Library seeks candidates for various digital positions.

Successful candidates for our Public Services positions (described below) will balance a wide range of service-oriented activities including reference services and expert searching, teaching information literacy skills, curriculum-integrated instruction, collection development, outreach, and program and service development, while increasing outreach to and participation in the research process of a diverse population of faculty and students.

### Science, Technology, and Medicine Librarians

Imagine an environment of integrated research, education, and community service where faculty, students, researchers, health care providers, and librarians explore their intersecting roles, adapt to changing environments and harness the power of new technologies to further the work of the University. We seek librarians to engage in answering questions such as:

- How should the library facilitate interdisciplinary and transnational research? How does this inform our decisions about our facilities? programs? services? collections?
- What does it mean to be a collaborator rather than a support service?
- What is the library's role in informatics education and research?
- How can the library best adapt to the changes in scholarly publishing?
- What is the science, technology, medical library of the future and how might we get there?

**Coordinator of Public and Information Services, Asia Library**  
East Asian studies are moving rapidly in a digital direction and we seek a librarian interested in exploring the following questions:

- What are the best practices for connecting with faculty and students who are specializing in East Asian studies?
- How can the Asia Library play a role in promoting its services and collections to the population it serves?
- What impact does technology have on scholarship in East Asian studies?
- How does technology play a role in the access to information resources for international studies?
- How do we use the web to best serve our user community?

### Undergraduate Learning Librarians

Envision a collaborative learning environment where students ask questions, explore new ideas, think through complex issues, discover new ways of approaching research, learn various viewpoints, and create meaning out of disparate facts. We seek librarians to engage in answering questions such as:

- Is the library becoming an extension of the classroom? An extension of social functions? How does this impact spatial and programmatic design decisions? How does the library balance being where the students "are" and where they want the library "to be"?
- What does it mean for an undergraduate library to be the intellectual center of the undergraduate experience? How does this translate into the services and facilities provided?
- How should the library facilitate interdisciplinary work? How does this inform our decisions about our facilities? programs? services? collections?
- How do technologies play a role in our services?
- What is the future of instruction? How does that impact outreach and service efforts?

In addition to the cluster of Public Services positions described above, the Library seeks candidates for the digital resource positions that follow:

### Text Creation Partnership, Project Outreach Librarian (term appointment)

Promoting the use of digitized materials for research and teaching is vital to supporting scholarship. We seek a librarian interested in engaging in questions such as:

- What role should libraries play in developing more sophisticated tools for humanities research?
- How is scholarship changed by access to large bodies of digitized historical materials?
- How can libraries support the use of encoded text in research and teaching?
- How do we nurture and sustain collaborative digitization projects across multiple institutions?

### Digital Library Production Services, Head

The Digital Library Production Service is one of the nation's premier organizations for the creation and support of digital library resources and infrastructure. We seek a future-oriented librarian to lead a skilled and diverse team in addressing challenges such as:

- How will the library adapt to its changing needs in digital library services, as well as those of its national and international clients and partners, in an increasingly integrated and collaborative information environment?
- What tools and services are needed to support research in this environment, and how will they be implemented?
- What new partnerships and opportunities in digital libraries do emerging technologies make possible?
- How can DLPS leverage its position as a national leader in digital libraries to forge and strengthen these partnerships, and continue to provide cutting-edge solutions for digital content delivery and preservation both locally and abroad?

### Digital Preservation Librarian

Shape the future of tomorrow's past. Join one of the world's cutting-edge digital libraries in creating the field of digital preservation. Take on the challenge of exploring such concepts as:

- What does preservation mean in the context of a digital library with holdings counted in millions?
- Step-by-step, what does a library need to do to ensure that digital collections will be available ten years from now? 50 years? 100 years?
- How does a digital repository assure users and partners that the holdings are secure for the long-term?
- What does the community at all levels—students, faculty, librarians, the public at large—need to know about preserving digital information, and what is the best way to instruct them?

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Individuals with interest in and appropriate qualifications for one or more of these positions are encouraged to apply. **For more information about specific responsibilities and qualifications, please visit [www.lib.umich.edu/hr/employment/librarians.html](http://www.lib.umich.edu/hr/employment/librarians.html). To apply, email cover letter and resume to Robert Campe at [libhumres@umich.edu](mailto:libhumres@umich.edu). Call 734-764-2546 for further information. Review of applications will begin on April 24, 2009, and continue until the positions are filled.** The University of Michigan is a non-discriminatory, affirmative action employer.





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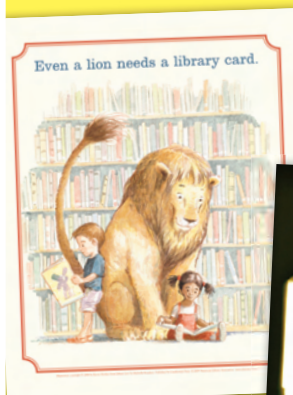
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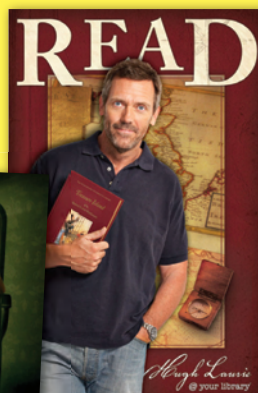
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# Do You Come Here Often?

Frequenting the library is frequently comforting

by Will Manley

Last year I found myself living alone for the first time in my life. I was an early victim of the real estate collapse. Had I put my Arizona home of 25 years on the market two weeks earlier, it would have sold right away. But a month went by, and another and another. The house didn't sell; nobody was even coming to look at it. My wife had already moved to our new home in California to take care of two grandchildren.

It was a spooky time for me. The house was full of the memories of three children and the days when I thought it was too small and too noisy. Now I felt swallowed up in its emptiness and quietude. To exacerbate my disconnectedness, I had moved everything out of the house except the basic furnishings that were needed to sell it. That meant no

television, stereo, computer, or radio, all of which were now in California. I had a phone, but it never rang.

At first I liked living alone. There were no compromises to make. I could eat whatever and whenever I wanted, and get out of bed when I pleased. But the novelty quickly wore off. As much as I admire his writings, I am no Thoreau. I need people around me. I am a chatterer. I need an audience.

After the first week, I got so desperate that I even resorted to talking to my prized collection of finger puppets. It bothered me that they didn't chatter back. In the throes of my loneliness I fancied myself a latter-day Geppetto, but my little puppets never did come to life. So, when I really got lonely I would sit on my patio and chatter to the birds. At

least they chirped back. But when a snake took up residence under some vines and starting eating the birds, I was really alone.

My last resort for companionship was the branch library, which was only a five-minute bicycle ride away. I didn't want to go there too often because I didn't want to be branded a "regular."

I started out liking the regulars during my time as a public services librarian. Yes, many of



The library's role as refuge for lonely people can never be automated.

them smelled, some of them drank, and several of them fell asleep on top of the newspa-

pers, but they all had fairly unusual life stories that I enjoyed hearing.

Life is hard, it grinds you down, and sometimes it deposits you at your friendly, neighborhood library. You can say what you want about the future of the public library, but its role as a refuge for lonely human beings can never be automated. At one urban library where I worked, the regulars would be waiting at the front door every morning like flies on a screen door, and I suppose that is how many of us on the staff viewed them. As much as I liked hearing their stories, I am now ashamed to admit, I came to regard them as a nuisance. I would tire of their smell and erratic behavior; as time wore on I saw them as life's losers. Some were lovable losers, but they were losers nonetheless.

So 30 years later, I started hanging out at the branch library on a daily basis. It just felt good to be surrounded by people. I tried to keep a low profile and out of the librarians' way, but once I approached the woman at the reference desk to ask that a book be sent out from Main. She phoned Main and made the request.

The call ended when she said, "Tomorrow will be fine. He's here every day . . . he's a regular." ■

WILL MANLEY has furnished provocative commentary on librarianship for over 30 years and nine books on the lighter side of library science. Write him at [wmanley7@att.net](mailto:wmanley7@att.net).



"Oh, hi Mr. Manley. I haven't seen you since yesterday."

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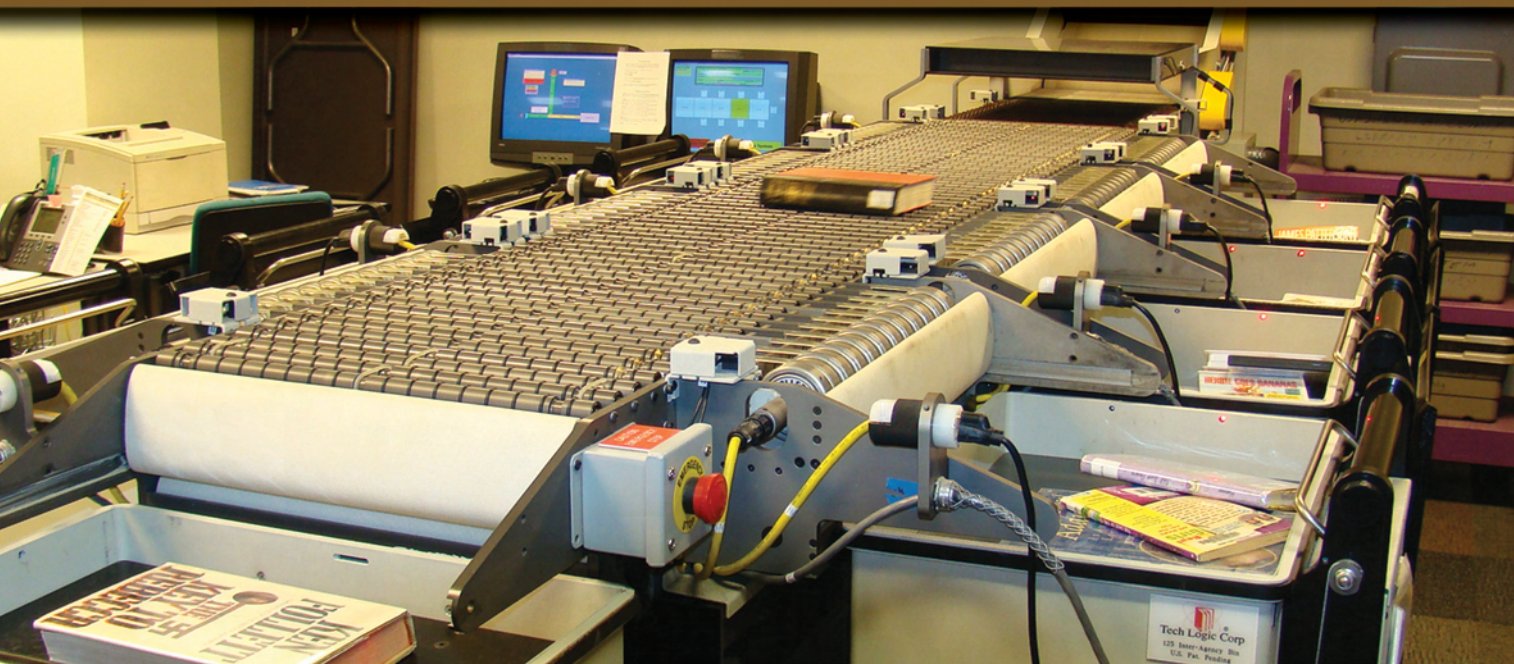
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