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# american libraries

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## Building the Future

2013 LIBRARY  
DESIGN SHOWCASE

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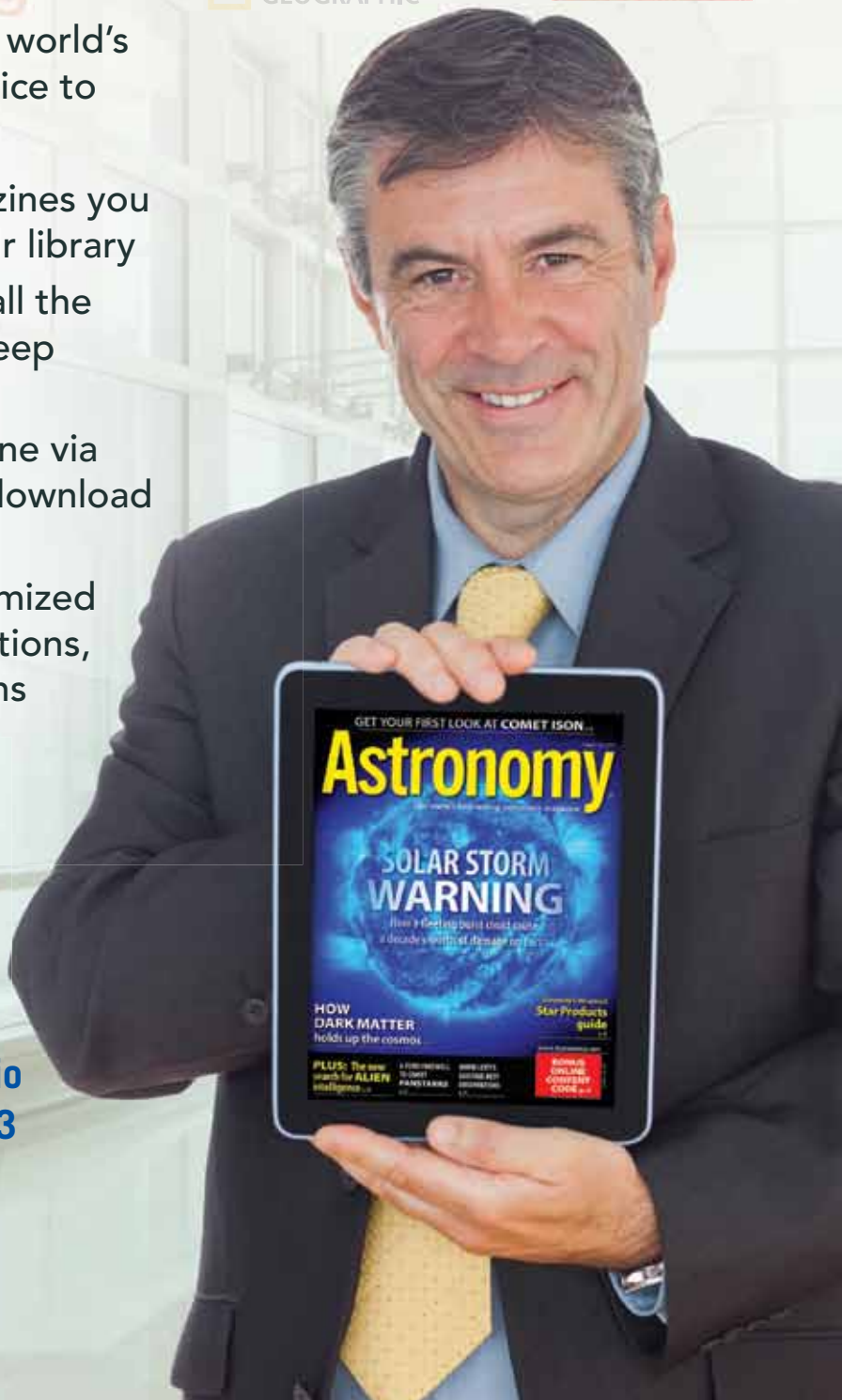
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# CONTENTS

AMERICAN LIBRARIES | September/October 2013

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## Features

- 24 HONORING EXCELLENCE AND LEADERSHIP**  
2013 ALA Awards *BY MARIAM PERA*
- 38 AIA/ALA LIBRARY BUILDING AWARDS**  
The American Institute of Architects and ALA honor six new libraries *BY PHIL MOREHART*
- 40 MELDING MINDS TO MAKE A LIBRARY**  
Successful libraries are designed collaboratively  
*BY PETER GISOLFI*
- 44 IS YOUR LIBRARY PLUS-SIZE FRIENDLY?**  
With obesity rates rising, libraries need to meet the needs of larger patrons and staffers  
*BY LORI L. SMITH*
- 48 HOW LOW CAN OUR BOOK BUDGETS GO?**  
More books are getting published, but public libraries are buying fewer  
*BY STEVE COFFMAN*
- 52 GET READY NOW! THE CONVERSATION STARTS HERE...**  
ALA 2014 Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia



- 
- 30 COVER STORY**  
**BUILDING THE FUTURE**  
2013 Library Design Showcase  
*BY PHIL MOREHART*

On the cover and above: District of Columbia Public Library's Francis A. Gregory Neighborhood Library

# CONTENTS

AMERICAN LIBRARIES | SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013 | VOLUME 44 #9/10 | ISSN 0002-9769



## Updates and Trends

- 6 ALA
- 11 PERSPECTIVES
- 16 NEWSMAKER: Skip Prichard



## Departments

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- 22 **DISPATCHES FROM THE FIELD**  
Don't Dumb Down *BY BOHYUN KIM*
- 23 **IN PRACTICE**  
Community Creativity  
*BY MEREDITH FARKAS*

### PEOPLE

- 54 **CURRENTS**

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 56 **YOUTH MATTERS**  
Sponsored by Your Library  
*BY ABBY JOHNSON*
- 58 **LIBRARIAN'S LIBRARY**  
Back to School  
*BY KAREN MULLER*
- 59 **ROUSING READS**  
Pelecanos, Locked and Loaded  
*BY BILL OTT*
- 60 **SOLUTIONS AND SERVICES**

### OPINION AND COMMENTARY

- 4 **FROM THE EDITOR**  
Dreamy Reading Rooms  
*BY LAURIE D. BORMAN*
- 6 **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
America's Right to Libraries Movement  
*BY BARBARA K. STRIPLING*
- 18 **ON MY MIND**  
Guide to Reading Levels  
*BY REGINA POWERS*
- 20 **NOTED AND QUOTED**
- 21 **ANOTHER STORY**  
The Toxic Middle  
*BY JOSEPH JANES*
- 64 **WILL'S WORLD**  
What About the Children?  
*BY WILL MANLEY*

### JOBS

- 63 **CAREER LEADS FROM JOBLIST**  
Your #1 Source for Job Openings

## advertisers | page

American Psychological Association | 3 • Demco | 43 • Innovative Interfaces | Cover 4 • Meyer, Scherer + Rockcastle | 42 • Recorded Books | Cover 2 • Rutgers University | Cover 3 • Shepley Bulfinch | 42 • American Library Association | Booklist | 17, 57 • Editions | 61 • Graphics | 12, 47 • RDA | 43





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## Dreamy Reading Rooms

by Laurie D. Borman

I've never been to Ketchikan, Alaska, but I wouldn't mind being there right now, contemplating the amazing vista of woods and mountains from the Ketchikan Public Library windows. I'd be happy to check out the reading room view from the Spartanburg County (S.C.) Public Libraries' Middle Tyger branch, too, watching the river tumbling over rocks. These are just two of the beautiful library designs featured in our annual Library Design Showcase article, beginning on page 30.

These libraries were among the dozens of new-construction, renovation, and expansion projects that were submitted to us for consideration this year. While there's still plenty of opportunity in all the

libraries to grab a book and read, most new designs are focused on creating gathering spots for conversation, collaboration, and creativity, with lots of technology upgrades. This year we created a

special badge for the libraries to use on their Facebook pages and websites to indicate they were selected for our feature.

Also in this issue, we highlight just a few of the 200 winners of ALA awards for 2013, beginning on page 24. They're an inspiring group of people, demonstrating excellence and leadership in the library profession. You can read about even more winners online at [ala.org/awardsgrants](http://ala.org/awardsgrants).

Skip Prichard, this issue's Newsmaker, stepped into his role as president and CEO of OCLC on July 1. A former president and CEO of Ingram Content Group and former president and CEO of ProQuest Information and Learning, he's well prepared for the job. He took time to talk to us recently about OCLC; read what he hopes to achieve. Story on page 16.

Are libraries becoming "book poor" by spending too little on materials? In his article "How Low Can Our Book Budgets Go?" on page 48, Steve Coffman makes the case that library spending on books has sunk to new lows, and that this might spell the end of the library. His piece links the decline of libraries in the UK to their decline in materials spending, and notes that the US is not far behind.

At the other end of the spectrum, there's the new Bibliotech all-digital library opening in Bexar County, Texas, in September. It's not spending anything on paper books because the content is all available on e-readers or as digital downloads. See the story "Paperless Libraries" by Megan Cottrell about that new facility on page 11.

We're pleased to report on page 14 on this summer's World Intellectual Property Organization's Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled. That mouthful of a name belies the good news to visually impaired folks who have run up against copyright barriers in countries across the globe. The treaty will smooth the way for creating works in formats they can read. Watch for updates online. ■

# american libraries

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

**ALA** American Library Association

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# America's Right to Libraries Movement

Hold a signing ceremony in your library

by Barbara K. Stripling

Many years ago, I participated in a powerful American Association of School Librarians (AASL) professional development experience focused on advocacy. To say that it turned my ideas about advocacy upside down would be putting it mildly. I learned that advocacy is not delivering messages about what I value most; rather, advocacy is listening to the priorities of those around me and connecting my goals with theirs. At its best, advocacy is win-win.

Why, then, if the library community has learned this formula for successful advocacy, does it so often seem that we are not winning? Why do so many libraries continue to struggle for funding and awareness? The reality is that effective advocacy must go beyond connecting our goals to those of the constituencies we serve; we must take the next step and move others to take action. Effective advocacy is a long-term commitment to sustainable change. That phrase, "long-term commitment," is enough to make some of us squirm, because at its heart, it means that we must commit to sustaining this change in ourselves and others. What will enable the library community to think and act in a new way and move our communities to action?

I hope the Declaration for the Right to Libraries becomes the powerful advocacy tool we need to in-

spire us to act. Based on the aspirational goal of libraries changing lives, it affirms the underlying values of the profession and the deep impact of libraries on individuals, families, communities, and our nation. Most importantly, the Declaration calls for action by all ALA members: Sign the document and stand up for the right to libraries. But the act of signing is just the beginning. What actions must we take in our libraries and our communities if we are to create libraries that truly change lives?

We have a test case right now. Let's see what we are made of. School libraries are in critical need of effective advocacy. How many school libraries in your community have been closed, the credentialed librarian eliminated or put on part-time status, the collection woefully underfunded, and the technology and electronic access given low budget priority? And the more important question is: How many children and young adults in your community have poor development of information skills, limited or nonexistent access to computer technology and the internet, few books for independent reading in the home, and no regular contact with a librarian of any kind (public or school)?

As a library community, we must band together to demand the right

of our young people to good school libraries. ALA has taken on two challenges this year: A national campaign advocating for school libraries and a nationwide rollout of



**We must band together to demand the right to good school libraries.**

the Declaration for the Right to Libraries. In October, we will have the perfect opportunity to combine the two. When parents visit schools

for open-school night this fall, school libraries across the country will hold signing ceremonies for parents, students, teachers, administrators, community members, and public officials to come together in active and vocal support for their local school library. Each community will then decide how to sustain the momentum by undertaking strategic actions that strengthen the entire fabric of libraries.

To paraphrase Arlo Guthrie's lyrics in the song "Alice's Restaurant," "If 50 people a day sign the Declaration, people will think it's a movement." As indeed it is—the America's Right to Libraries Movement. Join. Hold a signing ceremony in your library. Follow up with specific actions that bring all types of libraries together and strengthen your place in the community. You will be changing lives. ■

**BARBARA K. STRIPLING** is assistant professor of practice at Syracuse University. Email: [bstripling@ala.org](mailto:bstripling@ala.org).

# ALA Welcomes FCC Move to Modernize E-Rate Program

The ALA welcomed on July 19 news of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to modernize the e-rate program, which makes telecommunications and information services more affordable for schools and libraries in America. The ALA statement followed Senate hearing testimony on July 17 from Maine State Librarian Linda Lord on the impact and successes of the program.

"ALA has heard from dozens of our members sharing examples of what the e-rate program has enabled in

our communities—particularly as it relates to meeting community employment, education, and government online information and service needs," said Emily Sheketoff, executive director of the ALA Washington Office. "Library internet access has been a lifeline and a virtual ladder for many Americans needing to stay afloat and move ahead."

"Now is the time to focus on developing the telecommunications capacity desperately needed to support 21st-century digital learning needs," Sheketoff added. She applauded the opportunity to continue reforms, simplify processes, and

focus on programs to maximize funding.

"Finally, we must strengthen the e-rate program so that it continues to meet its mission of ensuring no one is excluded from the opportunities of the information age," she said. "The program must be adequately resourced. It is not sustainable that demand on the program is double the available funding—and actual need is certainly greater still. We must seriously consider every avenue for improving this program so that libraries and schools have affordable and robust network capabilities available to them."

## Affordable Care Act Resources Available

ALA and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) have new resources available to ready libraries for patron questions regarding the Affordable Care Act, whose next implementation phase begins on October 1.

An IMLS cooperative agreement with OCLC's WebJunction has resulted in informational resources related to the health insurance marketplace, including sign-up opportunities for anyone interested in receiving project activity updates, new online resources, webinar registrations, and archived webinar recordings; FAQs for library staff with more information about WebJunction resources and the health insurance marketplace; the link to the primary US government online tool for delivering information to Americans about their

health care options; and info widgets for library websites that lead users directly to US government information available in English and Spanish.

ALA President Barbara Stripling and IMLS Director Susan Hildreth said in a joint statement July 18, "Providing resources that help librarians answer patron requests for health insurance information furthers the long-standing commitment of both IMLS and ALA to make information more widely available to the public. We are delighted to help connect libraries to these resources so they can provide timely information to their customers."

For resource links, visit [ala.org/news/press-releases/2013/07/ala-imls-detail-affordable-care-act-resources-library-staff](http://ala.org/news/press-releases/2013/07/ala-imls-detail-affordable-care-act-resources-library-staff).

## Council Endorses Right to Libraries Declaration

ALA Council has endorsed the Declaration for the Right to Libraries, a resolution passed at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago that recognizes libraries as essential to a democratic society. The resolution, which ALA President Barbara Stripling unveiled during a signing ceremony at Nashville (Tenn.) Public Library on July 30, acknowledges that the ALA 2015 Strategic Plan calls for the Association to advocate on behalf of libraries, library issues, and the library profession, and plays a key role in formulating legislation, policies, and standards that affect library and information services.

Council urges that ALA work to support and engage libraries and communities across the country in signing the declaration. During the next year, libraries will have the op-



portunity to hold signing ceremonies, at which community members, organizations, and officials can stand up for their right to have vibrant school, public, academic and special libraries in their communities.

To learn more about the declaration and download a copy for your library to sign, visit [ala.org/advocacy/declaration-right-libraries](http://ala.org/advocacy/declaration-right-libraries).

## ALSC Accepting Fellowship Applications

The Association for Library Service to Children's (ALSC) Special Collections and Bechtel Fellowship Committee is accepting applications for the 2014 Louise Seaman Bechtel Fellowship. The fellowship allows qualified children's librarians to read and study at the Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature. Part of the George A. Smathers Libraries at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Baldwin Library contains 85,000 volumes of children's literature published mostly before 1950.

The fellowship is endowed in memory of Louise Seaman Bechtel and Ruth M. Baldwin and provides a stipend of \$4,000. Applicants will be judged on their description of their study topic, and a demonstration of ongoing commitment to motivating children to read. Recipients must spend a total of four weeks in Gainesville, but the time does not have to be spent all at once. Applicants must be ALSC and ALA members.

The deadline for submissions is October 18. For more information visit [ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/profawards/bechtel](http://ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/profawards/bechtel).

## Crash Course in APIs Available Online

ALA Editions is holding an encore session of its popular online course

"Introduction to Web Service APIs Using PHP and HTML." Hosted by Jason Paul Michel, author and user experience librarian at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, this four-week course teaches application programming interface (API) basics—what APIs are, why they are important, and how they can be applied in libraries—as well as the coding skills necessary to produce or contribute to API projects.

"Introduction to Web Service APIs Using PHP and HTML" begins October 15. Jason Paul Michel's ebook *Web Service APIs and Libraries*, which is rich with sample codes and project ideas, is free with course purchase. For a detailed course description and to register, visit [www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=10682](http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=10682).

## Apply for Three LITA Scholarships

The Library and Information Technology Association (LITA) is accepting applications for the LITA/Christian Larew Memorial Scholarship (sponsored by Baker and Taylor), LITA/LSSI Minority Scholarship (sponsored by Library Systems and Services, LLC), and the LITA/OCLC Minority Scholarship (sponsored by Online Computer Library Center).

These scholarships are designed to encourage qualified persons to enter the library technology field, in particular those who plan to follow a career in library and information technology; demonstrate potential leadership; hold a strong commitment to the use of automated systems in libraries; and, for the minority scholarships, are qualified members of a principal minority group (American Indian or Alaskan native, Asian or Pacific Islander, African American, or Hispanic).

Candidates need to submit their

qualifications and the nature of their library experience, letters of reference, and a personal statement detailing what they can bring to the profession, with particular emphasis on experiences that indicate their potential for leadership and commitment to library automation.

Applicants must have been accepted

## CALENDAR

### ALA EVENTS

**Sept.:** Library Card Sign-Up Month, [ala.org/library/cardsignup](http://ala.org/library/cardsignup).

**Sept. 22–28:** Banned Books Week, [ala.org/bbooks](http://ala.org/bbooks).

**Sept. 25:** Banned Websites Awareness Day, [ala.org/aasl/bwad](http://ala.org/aasl/bwad).

**Oct. 13–19:** Teen Read Week, [ala.org/teenread](http://ala.org/teenread).

**Oct. 20–26:** National Friends of Libraries Week, [ala.org/united/events\\_conferences/folweek](http://ala.org/united/events_conferences/folweek).

**Nov. 7–10:** 2013 LITA National Forum, [ala.org/lita/conferences/forum/2013](http://ala.org/lita/conferences/forum/2013).

### 2014 EVENTS

**Jan. 24–28:** ALA Midwinter Meeting, Philadelphia, [alamw14.ala.org](http://alamw14.ala.org).

**June 26–July 1:** ALA Annual Conference, Las Vegas.

## LIBRARIANS SHAVE HEADS IN SUPPORT

Library workers at Flint (Mich.) Public Library shaved their heads in a show of support for a librarian who is undergoing chemotherapy treatment. Named for Flint librarian Juliet Minard, Team Juliet doffed their locks before having their photo taken for a Read poster during the 2013 National Library Week. From left, Brenda Harris (librarian), Diane O'Keefe (librarian), Alvin Jackson (security), Kris Hohn (IT), Alonzo Hill (librarian), Jennifer Roth (librarian), Sarah Brooks (librarian), and Juliet Minard (librarian).



to an ALA-accredited MLIS program to be considered. Scholarship winners will be announced at the LITA President's Program at the 2014 ALA Annual Conference in Las Vegas.

For more information and to apply, visit [ala.org/cfapps/scholarships/login/index\\_close.cfm](http://ala.org/cfapps/scholarships/login/index_close.cfm).

### Grants Support Muslim Cultural Programming

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), in collaboration with the ALA Public Programs Office, has awarded grants to 125 libraries and state humanities councils to host "Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys" reading and discussion groups.

The groups use materials from the Muslim Journeys Bookshelf, a collection of programming resources to help audiences in the US become more familiar with the diverse people, places, history, faith, and cultures of Muslims around the world and within the US.

Winning libraries receive up to \$4,500 in grant funding which can be used to purchase books and pay

scholar honoraria; promotional materials, including posters, bookmarks, and folders, to support local audience recruitment efforts. It can also be used for an orientation for the library project director and scholar at a national workshop, where they will hear from national project scholars, expert librarians, and organizers as well as receive a program planning guide, materials, and ideas.

The Bridging Cultures Bookshelf is an NEH initiative that uses the humanities to promote understanding and mutual respect for people with diverse histories, cultures, and perspectives within the US and abroad. In addition to Muslim Journeys, NEH and ALA have developed Let's Talk About It themes to encourage conversations on a variety of issues: "American Stories," "Connected Histories," "Literary Reflections," "Pathways of Faith," and "Points of View."

For more information about the program and to view the full list of grant recipients, please visit [programminglibrarian.org/muslimjourneys](http://programminglibrarian.org/muslimjourneys).

### Campaign Calls for Patriot Act Reforms

The Campaign for Reader Privacy, a joint initiative of the American Booksellers Association, ALA, the Association of American Publishers, and PEN American Center, has called on Congress to pass legislation to restore privacy protections for bookstore and library records that were stripped in 2001 by the Patriot Act as a first step toward reining in what the group calls "runaway surveillance programs."

A full statement issued by the coalition addresses known abuses of the Patriot Act, including how Section 215, which allows the government to gather information about citizens' private lives, was used to compile phone records of Verizon customers and those of other major US telecommunications carriers—without regard to whether those customers were suspected of involvement in terrorism or any other illegal activity; how the National Security Agency collected metadata about internet communications without warrants or probable cause;



and how the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court has approved virtually every government application to exercise surveillance powers, as well as issuing opinions regarding the legality of those new powers that remain secret from public and constitutional review.

“Two years ago, Democratic and Republican members of Congress introduced a bill requiring the government to show that those whose reading records it wishes to gather are actually suspected of criminal activity—something that is required by the Fourth Amendment and the First Amendment. But Congress ignored that bill and reauthorized what we now know are flawed, dangerous powers,” the statement reads.

“The Campaign for Reader Privacy calls on Congress and on the president to take the first step by passing legislation this year that will restore privacy protections for book sales and library lending records. What law-abiding Americans are reading is nobody’s business.”

To read the statement in full, visit [readerprivacy.org](http://readerprivacy.org).

## Black Caucus of ALA Seeks Award Essays

The Black Caucus of the ALA seeks submissions for the 2013–2014 E. J. Josey Scholarship Award Competition. The scholarships are unrestricted grants of \$2,000 awarded annually to African-American students from the US or Canada who are enrolled in or accepted by an ALA-accredited program.

Applicants must submit an essay addressing the following topic: 2013 is the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Using information resources, how would you introduce the significance of this event to a new generation? The winning essays will be announced in January

during the 2014 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia.

Essays should be emailed by October 31 to [JoseyScholar14@gmail.com](mailto:JoseyScholar14@gmail.com). Only essays submitted electronically will be considered. For complete submission guidelines and additional information, visit [bcala.org/awards/joseyapps2013.htm](http://bcala.org/awards/joseyapps2013.htm).

## Online Hub Promotes Digital Literacy

DigitalLearn.org, a hub for digital literacy, offers classes for learners and training resources for those who teach and support digital learners.

The site features interactive classes that can be used by digital learners or to complement in-person classes, and forums for those who teach and support digital literacy to share resources and best practices, work collaboratively, and seek input from others in the field. Organizations can create their own groups to centralize information, calendars, resources, and discussions for their staff and volunteers.

Managed by the Public Library Association (PLA) and funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, DigitalLearn.org receives support from the ALA Office of Information Technology and Policy and state library agencies. PLA is seeking volunteers to join the online community, develop classes, share ideas, and promote the site as well as funders for support of operating expenses and sustainability. Details are available at [digitallearn.org](http://digitallearn.org).

## NEA Backs AASL Push for School Librarians

Delegates at the 2013 National Education Association (NEA) Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly have adopted a new business item which calls on the NEA to

support the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) in its efforts to educate the public regarding the Strengthening America’s Schools Act.

The item asks the NEA to assist AASL in heightening public support for passage of Title IV, Part A, Subpart 2 (Improving Literacy and College and Career Readiness Through Effective School Library Programs) under the Strengthening America’s Schools Act. The bill includes dedicated federal funding for staffing of all school libraries with state-certified or licensed school librarians; up-to-date books, materials, equipment, and technology (including broadband); and the development of information, digital, and research literacy. The measure was supported by the NEA Library, Information Literacy, and Technology Caucus.

“This high profile show of support by NEA will encourage school librarians across the nation,” said AASL President Gail Dickinson.

## Registration Open for 2013 LITA Forum

Registration is open for the 2013 LITA National Forum, being held November 7–10 at the Hyatt Regency Louisville, Kentucky.

The forum, whose theme is “Creation, Collaboration, Community,” features more than 30 concurrent sessions, a dozen poster sessions, and two preconference workshops, as well as keynote sessions presented by Travis Good, contributing editor for *Make Magazine*, Nate Hill, assistant director at the Chattanooga (Tenn.) Public Library, and Emily Gore, director for content at the Digital Public Library of America.

Networking opportunities are an important part of the forum. To preserve this advantage of a small conference, only 500 people are

## WINDMILL TURNS LITERARY LANDMARK

United for Libraries, in partnership with Empire State Center for the Book, designated the windmill at Stony Brook University of New York, Southampton, a Literary Landmark in honor of playwright Tennessee Williams in a July 13 ceremony.

The site was selected because Williams spent the summer of 1957 living there and writing the experimental play *The Day on Which a Man Dies* in response to the death of his friend, artist Jackson Pollock.

Nick Mangano, chair of the Stony Brook theatre arts program, served as master of ceremonies for the event, which included a reading of the one-act play *At Stanley's Place*

by author and Stony Brook faculty member Frederic Tuten; a reminiscence by author and faculty member Roger Rosenblatt about Williams's time on the campus; a recording of Williams reading his poetry; and readings of *Tennessee: A Portrait*, *The Writings of Tennessee Williams* by actress and faculty member Mercedes Ruehl and others.

The windmill is the sixth Literary Landmark dedicated to Williams. Other landmarks include his homes in Key West, Florida, and New Orleans.

Any library or group may submit a site for Literary Landmark status. Information can be found at United



for Libraries' website: [ala.org/united/products\\_services/literarylankmarks](http://ala.org/united/products_services/literarylankmarks).

permitted to attend. To register, visit [ala.org/lita/conferences/forum/2013](http://ala.org/lita/conferences/forum/2013).

### University of Minnesota Is 2014 Arbuthnot Site

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) has announced that the University of Minnesota's Children's Literature Research Collections in Minneapolis have been selected as the site for the 2014 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture. Each spring a lecturer presents a paper related to the field of children's literature. It is subsequently published in *Children and Libraries*, the journal of ALSC.

The 2014 lecture is to be delivered by Andrea Davis Pinkney, the *New York Times*-bestselling writer of more than 20 books for children and young adults, including picture books, novels, and nonfiction. She has launched many publishing and entertainment entities, including Hyperion Books for Children/Disney Publishing's Jump at the Sun imprint, the first African-American children's book imprint at a major

publishing company.

The Children's Literature Research Collections, part of the University of Minnesota Libraries, includes the Kerlan Collection, one of the world's great children's literature research collections. It includes books, original illustrations, and manuscripts, including those of Pinkney, that are significant in the history of children's literature.

The date of the lecture has yet to be announced. For details, visit [ala.org/alsc/arbuthnot](http://ala.org/alsc/arbuthnot).

### AASL Names Best Teaching Apps

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) has announced its 2013 list of Best Apps for Teaching and Learning. The list of 25 apps provides a new technology resource for school librarians and their teacher collaborators. Chosen for their embodiment of AASL's learning standards and support of the school librarian's role in implementing career and college readiness standards, the apps are organized into five categories:

■ **Books:** Bats! Furry Fliers of the Night; Al Gore—Our Choice: A Plan to Solve the Climate Crisis; Cinderella; Shakespeare in Bits—Hamlet; Fam Bam: Got to Have Music;

■ **STEM:** Science 360; NASA; Operation Math; Simple Physics; Tinkerbox;

■ **Organization and Management:** EasyBib; Dropbox; Evernote; Schoology; Socrative;

■ **Social Sciences:** Ansel & Clair's Adventures in Africa; Barefoot World Atlas; Britannica Kids; Ancient Egypt; MyCongress; News-O-Matic; Daily for Kids;

■ **Content Creation:** Educreations; Toontastic; Kidblog; Garageband; Videolicious.

The annually compiled list is based on feedback and nominations from AASL members. Descriptions and tips for the 2013 list can be found at [ala.org/aasl/bestapps](http://ala.org/aasl/bestapps).

School librarians can nominate their favorite apps for the 2014 list at [ala.org/aasl/bestapps](http://ala.org/aasl/bestapps). Nomination must be submitted by March 31, 2014. ■



# Paperless Libraries

When the stacks disappear



At the University of Texas at San Antonio's Applied Engineering and Technology Library, the missing elements are the book stacks.

**W**hat's a library without books? That's the question a lot of people will be asking when Bexar County, Texas, opens its all-digital library, dubbed BiblioTech, in September. The bookless facility will serve an unincorporated area outside of San Antonio, offering more than 10,000 titles available for digital download and 100 e-readers on loan, as well as computer stations, digital literacy classes, and a coffee shop.

BiblioTech will allow the county to open a library in an area that previously had none, for less money and in less space than it would cost to open a facility with physical materials.

BiblioTech's head librarian, Ashley Eklof, says the facility will allow her to focus more on helping patrons connect with information and less on circulating physical books.

"My primary purpose as a librarian is to provide information access," said Eklof. "Of course, there is a technological focus when working at an all-digital

library, but I feel that it is necessary for libraries and librarians in general to be tech-savvy in order to meet the changing needs of the patrons."

Because the library doesn't have to build or maintain a large facility or a physical collection of books, budgeting for e-content is easier than for most public libraries. BiblioTech will license its content through

3M Cloud Library, an ebook lending service for public libraries. 3M's system includes touch-screen "discovery stations," kiosks where users can browse ebooks on a large screen and then download them directly to the library's e-readers, or read them through an app on their own device.

In addition, the digital format allows Eklof to tailor the library's col-

lection to the interests of her patrons.

"One perk of having our content in an electronic format is that if a patron asks for a book that we don't have in the collection, I have the ability to add it for them instantly," said Eklof.

*"My primary purpose as a librarian is to provide information access."*

Another goal of BiblioTech: narrowing the digital divide. The library will serve Bexar County's low-income residents who may not have home internet access or other technology tools.

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) decided to open its all-digital Applied Engineering and Technology Library for much the same reason—to serve a population that includes many low-income Hispanic students, many of whom are first-generation college students. Grads told administration that what they needed was a space to ask questions and get help with their homework. But the college was short on space. They had to fight to get just two labs in the new engineering building on campus.

“In such a small space, we decided that the least important thing there was the physical books,” said Krisellen Maloney, dean of libraries at UTSA.

The Applied Engineering and Technology Library has computer stations and modular furniture that can be moved around to accommodate groups of students, as well as a staff that can answer questions and offer tutoring. Students can access the more than 50,000 e-journals and 470 databases the library subscribes to both in-house and at home on their computers or mobile devices. Maloney says the two small rooms are always full

and are used by 1,900 students every week.

But Maloney also acknowledges that being solely digital wouldn't work for libraries housing other kinds of subject matter, such as the humanities.

“A lot of what the engineers use is already online. For that particular population, having a digital library is exactly what they need,” said Maloney.

She added that she doesn't think the all-digital movement is a threat to traditional libraries. Instead, it showcases the real services libraries have always provided.

“What I'm seeing is this movement acknowledging that these services libraries provide are as important as the books,” said Maloney. “Libraries are being acknowledged as to how central they are to communities.”

In fact, when news stories first appeared about the UTSA's “bookless” library, touting the extensive services they offered, Maloney's staff didn't understand what all of the fuss was about. “They told me, ‘This is just a lot of hype. This is just what we do.’”



Chicago journalist Megan Cottrell won the 2013 Studs Terkel award for writers who excel at telling stories of everyday people.

## CELEBRATE TEEN READ WEEK™



See all available Teen Read Week products at [alastore.ala.org/trw](http://alastore.ala.org/trw).

Order by September 26, 2013 to receive your products in time for Teen Read Week.

Find out more at [www.ala.org/teenread](http://www.ala.org/teenread).

**yalsa**  
Young Adult Library  
Services Association  
[www.ala.org/yalsa](http://www.ala.org/yalsa)



# Libraries Stress Neutrality As They Prep for Queries on Health Care Law

Library workers nationwide are educating themselves about the next implementation phase of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which is slated to begin October 1 (see page 6, this issue). On that date, the Health Insurance Marketplace opens to an estimated 7 million people who are uninsured so they can select a health-insurance policy.

“Libraries have a long tradition of making information available to their patrons and we will make health and insurance information available to them as they need to make choices around the Affordable Care Act,” said Emily Sheketoff, executive director of ALA’s Washington Office.

Although the role of libraries seems clear to most in such a rollout—the neutral provision of information and resources about ACA to those who need it—some critics aired concerns that libraries were being used as pawns to advance a partisan agenda.

“Our staff is busy enough as it is without having to deal with all the extracurricular activities revolving around this,” Brown County, Wisconsin, Supervisor Brad Hopp said in the August 7 *Green Bay Press-Gazette*. “We do not have the resources—financially, administratively, or expertise-wise.” To ward off the problem he perceives as exposing the county to such woes as “protesting, picketing, and media scrutiny,” Hopp has proposed an ordinance that would bar county workers, including those employed by the eight-branch Brown County Library, from using county resources for “nonmandated” ACA-

related activities. Hopp is also calling for a fee of \$1,500 per hour to use county property for an ACA activity.

“Our responsibility is to provide information to people who need it,” Brown County Library Director Lynn Stainbrook said in the *Press-Gazette*, noting that answering reference questions about ACA is no different than explaining how to apply for unemployment benefits.

“As a licensed health insurance agent,” Jason Wisneski commented on the newspaper website, “I can tell you with certainty that it is absolute LUNACY for ANY government workers, let alone librarians, to try to assist consumers in making a major medical insurance purchasing decision.”

Elkhart Lake (Wis.) Public Library Director Betty McCartney assured Wisneski online that libraries will limit themselves to helping patrons “navigate the website and making sure they have the information they need to make an informed decision.” As for Hopp’s initiative, she said, “Librarians’ interactions with their patrons are considered confidential. Are the police going to be at every library and every library computer preventing us from assisting patrons? I think not.”

Hopp’s proposal was slated for consideration by the county board on August 21.

## Information, not propaganda

There was also confusion in Brevard County, Florida. “I may need to discuss with the board if the information is accurate or just political propaganda,” District 5 Brevard County Commissioner Andy Anderson emailed Library Services Director Jeff Thompson, according to the July 4 *Brevard Times*.

To set the record straight on a national level, ALA President Barbara Stripling issued a statement July 12. “Just as our communities turn to libraries for help to learn about citizenship and passport requirements, use public access computers to get disaster relief information, and obtain assistance with copyright and patent questions, we expect libraries will receive many inquiries from the public about the Affordable Care Act.” She added, “Decisions about how libraries will respond to inquiries about the ACA will be made by local libraries. As always, libraries do not promote specific programs or points of view, but provide the public with balanced, unbiased access to information.” —Beverly Goldberg

## RESOURCES AT A GLANCE

As you consider how to address your community’s information needs regarding the Affordable Care Act (ACA), you may find the free information tools useful at [webjunction.org/explore-topics/ehealth.html](http://webjunction.org/explore-topics/ehealth.html). The resources were funded by a grant to OCLC’s WebJunction from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

For additional information and background on ACA, visit [ala.org/tools/affordable-care-act](http://ala.org/tools/affordable-care-act).



# How the Marrakesh Treaty Opens Vistas for Print-Disabled Readers

Because it's so costly to produce accessible-format copies of copyrighted works, the ability to share such copies across borders would benefit print-disabled people everywhere.

This summer, a diplomatic conference of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), which was held in Marrakesh, Morocco, adopted the "Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print

Disabled."

The treaty is designed to achieve the objective spelled out in its title by obligating the countries (known as contracting parties) that sign it to make exceptions in their copyright laws for the creation and distribution of accessible-

format copies both domestically and across borders.

As the first treaty devoted to copyright exceptions, the June 28, 2013, agreement represents a significant development in international copyright law. (The 1886 Berne Convention contains exceptions for quotations, illustration in teaching, and news reporting.)

ALA worked closely with the US delegation throughout the negotiating process. Through the Library Copyright Alliance, ALA's views were represented in WIPO meetings in Geneva and the diplomatic conference itself in Marrakesh.

The copyright law in many coun-

tries presents a barrier to the creation and distribution of copies of works in formats accessible to people who have print disabilities. The making of a copy in an accessible format such as Braille, without the authorization of the rights holder, could constitute an infringement of the rights to reproduction and to prepare derivative works; unauthorized distribution constitutes yet another infringement. Similarly, the export or import of accessible-format copies could trigger infringement liability. For this reason, more than 50 (primarily developed) countries have adopted exceptions that allow the creation and distribution of accessible-format copies.

However, more than 130 WIPO countries, in which the majority of print-disabled people live, do not have such copyright exceptions; those that do don't always allow the import or export of accessible-format copies. Because it's so costly to produce accessible-format copies, the ability to share them across borders would benefit print-disabled people everywhere.

## Dismantling barriers

The Marrakesh Treaty addresses these problems by requiring contracting parties to adopt copyright exceptions that allow accessible-format copies, under certain conditions to be: (1) created; (2) distributed domestically; (3) exported outside their country of origin; and (4) imported. Further, contracting parties are given great flexibility in implementing their obligations through "exceptions specifically for the benefit of beneficiary persons,

other limitations or exceptions, or a combination thereof," as noted in Article 10(3). The treaty creates minimum standards for exceptions, with a ceiling presented by existing obligations under the Berne three-step test.

## Next steps

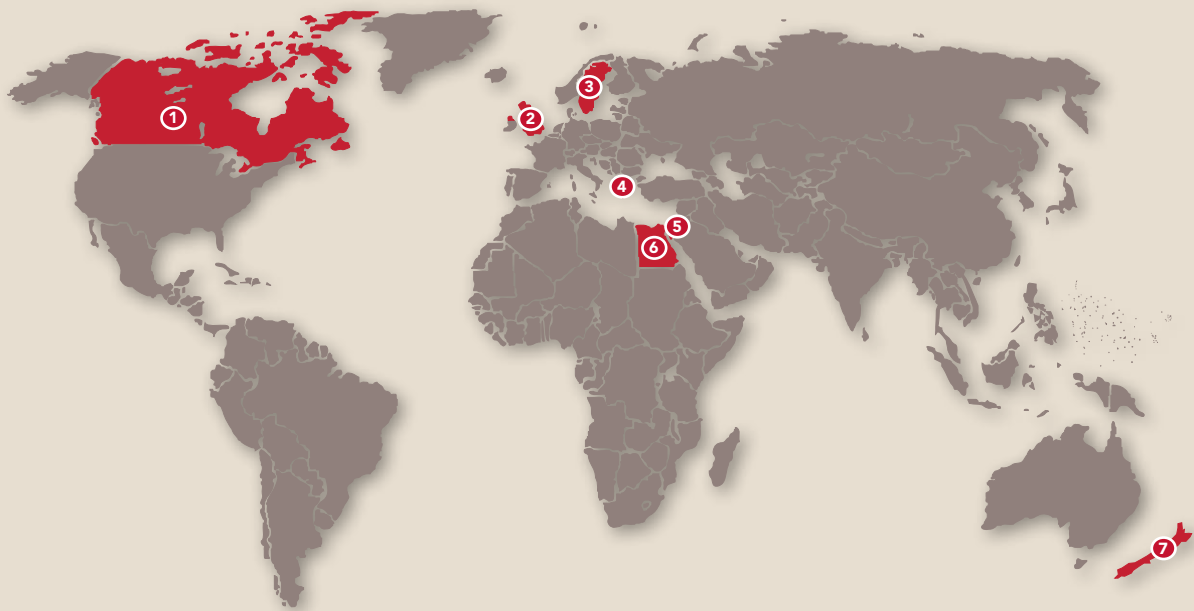
It's no accident that many aspects of the treaty (for example, the focus on actions by "authorized entities") appear similar to the exception for people who are print disabled in the Chafee Amendment to the US Copyright Act (17 U.S.C. § 121): The treaty is based on a proposal originally drafted by the US delegation.

Although 51 countries signed the treaty it does not take effect until 20 countries ratify it. Even then, it is only binding on the ratifying countries. (Under international law, signing a treaty indicates a country's support, but is a lesser step than ratification.)

Since US law currently complies with the treaty's requirements, lawmakers here do not need to pass any amendments in order to ratify the treaty. The treaty should nonetheless benefit print-disabled readers in the US by facilitating the import of more accessible-format copies from other contracting parties. For instance, an authorized entity in the UK would be able to export an accessible-format English history book to a print-disabled person in New York. Likewise, an authorized entity in Spain could export an accessible-format Spanish novel to a print-disabled person in California.

—Jonathan Band, legal consultant and copyright expert, Washington, D.C.

# GLOBAL REACH



## CANADA ①

The fatal train disaster that obliterated much of Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, on July 9 also destroyed its library, including irreplaceable items outlining the history of the town and the surrounding area. Nothing but ash is left of the building, which bordered the railway tracks, and some 60,000 books and other materials are gone. The lost library archives were personal—more than two dozen families had donated various documents, items, and heirlooms since the library opened in 1991. Many authors, publishers, and artists are offering books and artworks to help rebuild the collection.—*Canadian Press*, July 14.

## UNITED KINGDOM ②

Library advocates accuse the UK government of hiding the scale of budget cuts that they predict will force the closure of 400 more libraries by 2016, bringing the total number of library closures since 2009 to more than 1,000. According to the Library Campaign, which has aggregated local newspaper reports to come up with national figures, a drop of almost 25% since 2009 has been camouflaged by the piecemeal nature of the cuts.—*The Guardian*, July 12.

## SWEDEN ③

Two rare books stolen by an employee from Sweden's National Library were returned July 24 at a ceremony in New York City after the antique bookseller in Baltimore who purchased them agreed to hand them over to the FBI. The chief of the Royal Library's Manuscript Department, Anders Burius, stole at least 56 volumes during his 10 years of employment. The two recovered were *Description de la Louisiane*, a 1683 description of Louisiana in French written by Louis Hennepin; and *Das illustrierte Mississippithal*, a 19th-century illustrated volume about the Mississippi Valley.—*Bloomberg BusinessWeek*, July 24; *National Library of Sweden*, July 24.

## GREECE ④

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation is investing \$747 million to build a Cultural Center that will host the National Library of Greece and

the Greek National Opera. As part of the project, the foundation is also funding "Future Library," an effort that aims to transform public libraries into media labs and hubs of creativity, innovation, and learning, attracting many groups who now spend little time there—entrepreneurs, students, the unemployed, and immigrants. So far, nine municipal libraries are participating from all over Greece.—*Google Europe Blog*, July 25.

## ISRAEL ⑤

The city of Tel Aviv inaugurated a new library July 9 at the Metztizim Beach, near the city's port, allowing tourists and beachgoers to check out books for free during their leisure time there in the summer. The library, which consists of a two-wheeled cart stationed on the promenade, contains 523 books in five languages: Hebrew, Arabic, English, Russian, and French. Visitors can also use their tablets to connect to free Wi-Fi and download electronic reading material.—*Jerusalem Post*, July 9.

## EGYPT ⑥

The Greek Orthodox monks of St. Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai Desert have accelerated a program to digitally copy biblical scripts with the help of multispectral imaging specialists from around the world, while simultaneously renovating and modernizing the monastery library itself. The Sinai library houses 1.8 million pages of script, including essential texts that document the early church.—*Time*, July 21.

## NEW ZEALAND ⑦

The National Library's book digitization pilot program has successfully produced its first ebooks. Thirty-six titles made up of 12,700 pages have been digitized and turned into PDF and EPUB files. They have been loaded into the National Digital Heritage Archive for preservation. The books cover a range of topics from volcanic eruptions to government reports on famous plane crashes and run between 42 and 920 pages. All of the books are in the public domain, and the library made an effort to find material about Maori and the Pacific, as well as government publications.—*National Library of New Zealand*, July 22.

## NEWSMAKER: SKIP PRICHARD

**D**avid "Skip" Prichard became president and CEO of OCLC on July 1, succeeding Jay Jordan, who retired after 15 years at the helm of the nonprofit library consortium. He had most recently served as president and CEO of Ingram Content Group in Nashville, and before that was president and CEO of ProQuest Information and Learning.



### What are your first impressions of OCLC?

**SKIP PRICHARD:** My first few weeks have been meeting the OCLC staff, attending the Americas Regional Council meeting, ALA Annual, and preparing for the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). I've also been reviewing our research and speaking with librarians around the world. Listening to our members is my highest priority right now as I learn what they need to succeed and how we can help.

There is a tremendous amount of positive energy and enthusiasm among OCLC staff and members. It's clear that the board, staff, and members are dedicated and passionate about libraries, technology, and the principles of cooperation that continue to guide the organization.

**What's the biggest challenge facing OCLC this year?** The challenges facing OCLC are many of the same challenges facing libraries.

Information technology continues to move at an extraordinarily rapid pace, and we have to make sure we are providing the services to help libraries make the most of those technologies and, at the same time,

reduce costs. As library users' expectations continue to grow, we have to make sure we meet and exceed those expectations, whether the user is in the library, at home or in the office, or tapping into library resources using a mobile device.

### There are lots of leadership styles.

**What's yours and how will it help OCLC?** I am passionate about my work, and inclusive in my approach to guiding an organization. Leadership is about leveraging strengths and creating new opportunities. I enjoy and look forward to doing both.

**How's the transition to WorldShare Interlibrary Loan going?** WorldShare Interlibrary Loan is designed to simplify workflows and extend options for libraries to fulfill patron requests beyond traditional interlibrary loan.

The migration is taking place over nine months so libraries have a good deal of flexibility in when and how they start to use WorldShare Interlibrary Loan. More than 20% of our active application users have already made the move and are using the new application. We're planning for a spike in activity toward the end of the year.

### WorldCat now has two billion holdings. What's next?

Three billion! I don't mean to be flip, but adding these library location listings is essential to helping users find what they need in libraries around the world. It took member libraries 34 years—from 1971 to 2005—to add the first billion. OCLC members have added another billion in less than eight years. We will continue to provide the infrastructure needed to add these holdings to WorldCat, which increases the reach and visibility of library holdings worldwide.

### What's the coolest thing OCLC is doing?

We believe that anything we can do to help libraries collaborate and innovate is pretty cool. OCLC has been developing WorldShare library services over the past several years to offer libraries a cooperative strategy and technology platform that enable shared efficiencies and innovation. The cooperative approach is consistent with OCLC's founding principles of cooperation and collaboration—with the best technologies available today.

These cloud-based services are helping libraries to concentrate computer resources, applications, and data to deliver benefits to large numbers of users through the web.

### How do you plan to meet everyone's expectations and appeal to the wide range within your audience?

As a membership cooperative, OCLC has to address the needs of our member



libraries. We develop the products and services that best meet the needs and expectations of our users. In addition to our services designed to take full advantage of the latest technological advances, OCLC provides infrastructure and services for professionals to share information and best practices for libraries of all types and sizes. WebJunction, for example, provides online courses, workshops, and other learning opportunities for library professionals to share experiences and best practices in service to their users.

OCLC also serves the greater library and information science communities through research and other advocacy programs and activities.

**Can you name some groups you'd like to partner with?** On any given day, OCLC is in discussions with a variety of potential partners who we

believe will add value to the OCLC cooperative. Already in my few weeks here, I've had the opportunity to participate in or start some of these discussions. We are engaged in very successful partnerships with publishers, e-content providers, websites, information providers, industry vendors, and others who provide the kinds of services our member libraries need. Our goal is to collaborate when it serves our public purpose and our members.

**Tell us everything that's on top of your desk right now.** On my desk at work are two files labeled "strategy" and "IFLA." I'm new to OCLC, so it's important for me to review the strategy of the organization and continually focus on that and how we can deliver for members. IFLA is also top of mind as I prepare to visit Singapore.

At home, my desk is not visible. It

is literally buried under moving boxes. My wife is a mastermind at moves, and she won't let me keep it this way for long.

**What are you reading now?** Three books on my current reading list are *The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America*, by Douglas Brinkley; *Caravaggio*, by Andrew Graham-Dixon; and *Under the Dome*, by Stephen King. I enjoy reading all types of books, fiction and nonfiction, and like to exchange ideas about them through social media.

**You have a pretty busy schedule. What do you do to relax?** Reading, writing, and blogging. My family enjoys music of all types, so we are always attending concerts or finding live music venues. That was easy in Nashville and we are on the hunt here in Columbus, Ohio. ■

## Boring newsletters got you down? Stop scrolling and start clicking.

**Booklist ONLINE EXCLUSIVES**

**Get 125+ free Booklist reviews and online-only content—like original interviews of your favorite authors—when you sign up for Booklist Online Exclusives!**

All of Booklist's e-newsletters are free, fun, and help make your job easier. Sign up to brighten your inbox: [booklistonline.com/newsletters](http://booklistonline.com/newsletters)



**Booklist**

# Guide to Reading Levels

Demystifying computerized reading programs

by Regina Powers

**B**y now, we've gotten used to the idea that many children's books identify a Reading Level (RL) somewhere on the jacket or back cover. This number is handy for parents and children's librarians trying to find books of an appropriate comprehension level for young readers.

But where does the number come from? It is generated by a mathematical readability formula.

Invented in the 1920s after science teachers expressed a desire for more simplified texts for their students, readability formulas were created to count the number of syllables and words, and rate the complexity of sentence structure in a given passage; the higher the number, the more difficult the text.

Technology ensures that readability formulas are here to stay, embedded within the children's book industry. Some publishers use them to provide adults with a handy age range or RL on the back of the book to make selection easier. Additionally, many schools have adopted a computerized reading program like Reading Counts (RC) or Accelerated Reader (AR), which use readability formulas to identify

RLs as well as a number of points to be awarded for passing a comprehension quiz after reading a book.

However, since each publisher and each computerized reading software company subscribes to a different set of readability formulas, finding an appropriate book to read can get a bit confusing. The same title can have several corresponding levels and points attached to it, depending on the formula used.



**For young readers' sakes, librarians must de-emphasize**

**the impact of readability formulas. Good literature doesn't deserve to get buried beneath a bunch of numbers that ultimately have nothing to do with quality or content.**

Readability formulas are not sophisticated enough to measure the complexity of content.

This explains why books written by the same author, that are part of the same series, have differing RLs and point values. Nor are RLs intended to coincide with grade level. *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker, for ex-

ample, includes some explicit sexual content and may be considered appropriate only for older readers. The book, however, is identified by AR as a "book level" of 4.0, by Reading Counts as a "grade level" of 7.2, and has a Lexile Level of 670.

If your head is spinning, imagine what young readers and their parents are going through.

We want readers to feel confident

in their ability to select a book to read. So, here's what you can do to prevent Reading Level anxiety:

- Make sure your library's catalog and website provide links to any and all of the computerized reading programs to which your local schools subscribe, such as Accelerated Reader (Renaissance Learning), Reading Counts (Scholastic), and Lexile. Links should allow readers to verify that there is a corresponding quiz for what they want to read;

- Train students and parents to use these links to look up a book's corresponding point and quiz value on their own;

- Encourage readers to first find books on the shelf that they are interested in reading and *only then* to look them up to find out whether a quiz exists or a point value is issued;

- Spread the word: Authors don't write books to a targeted reading level. Authors write stories or fact-filled books that they hope readers will enjoy.

For young readers' sakes, librarians must de-emphasize the impact of readability formulas. Good literature doesn't deserve to get buried beneath a bunch of numbers that ultimately have nothing to do with quality or content.

Just as reading is a lifelong skill, so is knowing how to select a book. ■

**REGINA POWERS** is a teacher turned public youth services librarian in Anaheim, California. She writes frequently about library and education-related issues on her blog *NittyGrittyGal.com*.



TITLE	PUBLISHER'S RL	AR BOOK LEVEL	AR POINT VALUE	RC RL	RC POINT VALUE	LEXILE
<i>Frog and Toad Are Friends</i> by Arnold Lobel (Frog and Toad Books)	Level 2 HarperCollins	2.9	.5	2.4	2	400
<i>Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus</i> by Barbara Park (Junie B. Jones Series)	2.0 Random House	2.9	1.0	2.1	3	380
<i>Junie B., First Grader: Shipwrecked</i> by Barbara Park (Junie B. Jones Series)	2.3 Random House	3.1	1.0	2.5	3	410
<i>Bozo the Clone</i> by Dan Greenburg (Zack Files Series)	2.4 Grosset & Dunlap	3.1	1.0	3.5	3	450
<i>Dinosaurs Before Dark</i> by Mary Pope Osborne (Magic Tree House Series)	3 Scholastic	2.6	1.0	2.5	3	240
<i>Night of the New Magicians</i> by Mary Pope Osborne (Magic Tree House Series)	3.4 Scholastic	4.0	2.0	3.1	5	590
<i>Battle of the Labyrinth</i> by Rick Riordan (Percy Jackson and the Olympians Series)	N/A DisneyHyperion	4.1	12.0	3.3	21	590
<i>Mark of Athena</i> by Rick Riordan (Heroes of Olympus Series)	N/A DisneyHyperion	4.8	20.0	4.3	30	690
<i>Unwind</i> by Neal Shusterman (Unwind Trilogy)	N/A Simon & Schuster	5.0	14.0	4.5	23	740
<i>Unwholly</i> by Neal Shusterman (Unwind Trilogy)	N/A Simon & Schuster	5.8	18.0	5.6	27	860





# What They Said

"Libraries should, and have in many instances, extend that same treatment to new technology that is promising. Few will be as disruptive as the internet, but resources like Chicago's maker lab will bring in people who might have never had the chance to build something otherwise. Dozens of people build prototypes and products or even run their businesses out of TechShop, where they also meet other makers full of new ideas. Imagine if libraries offered similar opportunities."

SIGNE BREWSTER on how public libraries' embrace of computers and the internet led to their widespread use by increasing access, in "Why Public Libraries Should Follow Chicago's Lead and Build Maker Labs," *GigaOM*, July 8.

"And the thing that is most boring about defending libraries is the imputation that an argument in defense of libraries is necessarily a social-liberal argument. It's only recently that I had any idea that how a person felt about libraries—not schools or hospitals, libraries—could even represent an ideological split. I thought a library was one of the few sites where the urge to conserve and the desire to improve—twin poles of our political mind—were easily and naturally united."

ZADIE SMITH in "The North West London Blues," *New York Review of Books*, June 2.

"What to do with an abandoned Walmart?... Convert the whole thing into a library. The result has everything from study rooms to public meeting space to computer labs (including 16 specifically dedicated to kids and teens). And in case you're worried about kids reading amidst industrial shelving and linoleum, never fear. The

store has had a total makeover and the ambiance is awesome. Unsurprisingly, library membership has increased 23% since the new space opened. I mean who wouldn't want to join? I kind of want to join and I live a thousand miles away. And as an added bonus, at 124,500 square feet, it's also the largest single-story public library in America. Well, I guess everything is bigger in Texas."

EMMA CUETO on the new main branch of the McAllen (Tex.) Public Library in a building that formerly housed a Walmart store, in "Town in Texas Turns an Abandoned Walmart into a Library," *Bustle*, Aug. 5.

"Our community public library cannot have as a mission to collect and preserve all of the non-Watertown historical materials that researchers may want to view. We are not an archive or research library but we are fortunate to live in an area that has extensive archives and reference materials."

LEONE COLE, director, Watertown (Mass.) Free Public Library, on the decision to remove some titles from the library's history room, in "Watertown Library Director Explains New Collection Development Policy," *Boston.com*, July 22.

"Some hotels are giving the humble book another look as they search for ways to persuade guests, particularly younger ones, to spend more time in their lobbies and bars. They are increasingly stocking books in a central location, designating book suites, or playing host to author readings. While the trend began at boutique hotels ... it is expanding to chain hotels. For these chains, a library—or at least the feel of one—allows a lobby to evolve from a formal space to a more home-

**"The library is much more than just a book depository. It is a community center; it is there for everyone to use. We're never closed. There is good access for families and therapists to come and borrow the material and use it. They just have to use their library card and come here and borrow the toys."**

LOIS EANNEL, assistant director, Palm Harbor (Fla.) Library, on the lending of interactive toys meant especially for children with developmental issues, in "Library Offers Interactive Toys," *Palm Harbor Beacon*, July 11.

like atmosphere, one that younger customers seek."

AMY ZIPKIN on hotels creating library-like spaces to appeal to travelers, in "Hotels Add Libraries As Amenity to Keep Guests Inside," *New York Times*, July 29.

"The point is to make people realize this happens, and it has happened throughout history all the time. And we want to really do something big and a little extreme to make it hit home, so we can really appreciate the freedom we have to information, to access whatever we need."

AMANDA JACKSON, director, Gadsden (Ala.) Public Library, on temporarily removing banned books from circulation, in "Banned Books to Vanish from Library Shelves," *Gadsden Times*, July 27. ■

# The Toxic Middle

Here's to the new blood surging into the profession

by Joseph Janes

**W**asn't it considerate of the folks in Chicago to arrange for that unexpected (and most welcome) stretch of lovely, clement weather? I was steeling myself for the typical onslaught, packing the sweater for icily over-air-conditioned meeting rooms, only to be greeted by blue skies and 70 degrees. And a couple million hockey fans.

So I'm blissfully making my way through the weekend, when I find myself ascending an escalator at the convention center (Egads! I've led seminars that were shorter than some of those bus rides to the convention center). I start noticing that everybody descending looks about 15 years old. Those of us on college campuses get used to this, but after that moment, I couldn't help being struck by the number of young faces everywhere at Annual.

It's the same thing I see in our recent graduates and in programs like Emerging Leaders and Movers and Shakers; it's heartwarming and reassuring to witness new librarians making their way in the profession. I also see, time and again, strong leadership at the top of so many of our institutions, and am privileged

to know a number of heads of public and academic libraries, big and small. In large part these are smart, talented people who see the potential in what libraries and librarians can be and want to navigate their organizations towards brighter futures.

If only it were that easy. If only our profession would authentically and wholeheartedly embrace the ideas and enthusiasm of our new colleagues. If only our leaders could engage those ideas and use them to effect change. If only.

I've heard this story so many times. A new idea, proposed by a recent hire, floats across the table at a meeting. There's a moment, pregnant with possibilities, as the assembled staff considers. Then a voice from the corner emerges, from a face weary with decades of experience, perched above a body leaning back, arms folded: "I don't know.... We tried something like that 20 years ago, and it didn't work then, so...."

I don't know if I just coined the phrase "toxic middle" for this layer of people—often of my generation—who act like wet blankets all the time. Is it any wonder some of our newly minted colleagues blog and

tweet about restlessness, disillusionment, and even despair? Or worse yet, leave for greener pastures in other professions?

If you recognize yourself in this portrait, it's not too late. Engage these newbies. Mentor them. They really do want the benefit of your experience. But bear in mind that they have a lot to share with you as well, and their ideas are worth serious consideration. They see the world differently than those of us who learned *Dialog* as a survival skill, and that's good. We are stronger professionally with all these generations and worldviews, and we'll serve our clienteles and communities more effectively together.

For those who don't see themselves here but who nonetheless block and dodge and defer and discourage: Knock it off, or get out. It's not nice and it's not fair.

I can't help recalling my own first ALA conference: Philadelphia 1982. I got sick as a dog, won a Guinness Book, and dragged home a few dozen publisher catalogs, ready to take on the world. At the 2014 Annual Conference, in Vegas (20,000 of us laden with tote bags trudging up and down the Strip), which first-timers will get the innovation bug and begin forging exciting new paths for libraries? I hope I get to meet them... but that's another story. ■

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



**Engage these newbies. Mentor them. They really do want the benefit of your experience. But bear in mind that they have a lot to share with you as well, and their ideas are worth serious consideration.**

# Don't Dumb Down

A new mantra for the mobile web

by Bohyun Kim

In the early days of mobile devices, the mantra for the mobile web was “Keep it simple,” both in the visual design of a mobile website and in its content. This claim was based on the assumption that mobile device users would be distracted, in a rush, or only engaged in simple tasks. In this worldview, a mobile website

is a companion to the full desktop site that has only such basic data as address, directions, contact information, or hours of operation. For anything beyond the minimal and mobile-appropriate, smartphone users were expected to visit the full desktop website.

People's behavior on smartphones, however, increasingly challenged this assumption. Web designer and developer Luke Wroblewski classified mobile usage into the following four interaction types on page 50 of his book *Mobile First* (A Book Apart, 2011):

- **Lookup/Find** (urgent info, local): I need an answer to something now (frequently related to my current location in the world);

- **Explore/Play** (bored, local): I have some time to kill and just want a few idle distractions;

- **Check In/Status** (repetition, microtasking): Something impor-

tant to me keeps changing or updating and I want to stay on top of it;

- **Edit/Create** (urgent change, microtasking): I need to get something done now that can't wait.

Smartphone users' tasks are not necessarily microtasks in the sense that they are easy or simple to complete. Looking up or finding certain types of information is complicated

and cannot be completed in a matter of minutes. The Edit/Create type often requires a considerable amount of time and concentrated effort. Those are microtasks

in the sense that they are elements of a larger project or broader workflow. People are willing and able to turn to their mobile devices for complicated tasks that can take longer than a few minutes.

It's also a myth that mobile users are in a rush. People do not use mobile devices only when they are on the move. Studies by Nielsen, Yahoo!, and Compete.com show that a significant portion of mobile internet use takes place at home.

In fact, a growing number of people are mobile-only internet users. The UK mobile research company On Device Research conducted a survey of more than 15,000 people in 12 countries in 2010. The results showed that in the UK and US, a surprising 20% of internet users are

already mobile-only; in African and Asian markets, the number is greater than 50%. International Data Corporation, an American market research firm, also predicted that in the US the number of consumers accessing the internet through mobile devices would surpass the number doing so on PCs for the first time in 2015.

After the introduction of the tablet, people's expectations about the mobile web have only gone higher. The boundary between mobile devices and desktop computers is already beginning to blur in people's minds.

Library users are no exception to this trend. As seen from a 2011 MIT Libraries survey, patrons are willing to use library mobile websites for research and are interested in such sophisticated features as annotating academic papers and ebooks.

The mobile web is no longer an inferior or a complementary means of accessing the internet. It is a competitor to the desktop web and may soon be accessed more frequently than the desktop web. That is why offering only a basic set of information and limited features on the mobile web is no longer a viable strategy. Wroblewski wrote in 2011: “Don't dumb things down on mobile” (*Mobile First*, p. 22). This is the new mantra for the mobile web that reflects today's user behavior. ■

BOHYUN KIM is digital access librarian at Florida International University Medical Library. This article is adapted from her August/September 2013 *Library Technology Report*, “The Library Mobile Experience: Practices and Expectations.”



The mobile web is no longer an inferior or complementary means of accessing the internet. It is a competitor to the desktop web.



# Community Creativity

Enabling local publishing in libraries

by Meredith Farkas

In every town, there are probably community members who have written novels, poetry, and other works that have never seen the light of day. There are probably others who have the creative potential to write the great American novel but are daunted by the idea of getting it published. Those works, both written and potential, represent much of the creative voice of the community.

Through education, tools, and actual publishing and distribution mechanisms, public libraries are making it easier for patrons to publish their work, whether it's just for themselves, to make their writing freely accessible, or to sell it. Today, libraries of any type can help their patrons give voice to their muse.

A small number of public and academic libraries have made Espresso Book Machines available for community publishing. These print-on-demand machines can print and bind a quality paperback book in just a few minutes. They can print anything from novels to zines to cookbooks to photo travelogues. Due to the high cost of owning and maintaining these machines, the printing of a patron's book usually comes at a cost to the individual author. Some libraries also offer layout and design services in conjunction with the printing, but these also come at a cost. Still, it enables rapid, local, and affordable book printing—something that doesn't exist in most communities.

In addition to offering a grant-funded Espresso Book Machine to physically print books, Sacramento (Calif.) Public Library (SPL) has created I Street Press ([saclibrary.org/Services/I-Street-Press](http://saclibrary.org/Services/I-Street-Press)), a center for community writing and publishing. The library has offered workshops on writing, self-publishing, and design and layout to help patrons create a product of which they can be proud. Authors are encouraged to print an extra copy of their work and donate it to the library's growing local authors collection. By creating a self-published local authors collection, SPL is essentially archiving the creative output of its community.

For most libraries, the costly Espresso Book Machine is not an option, but they can still support community publishing. Many public libraries, such as Shaler North Hills (Pa.) Library and Denver Public Library, offer workshops on writing and self-publishing. For libraries that don't have self-publishing expertise in-house, the chances are good that someone in your community does. Libraries can provide a great service to the community by hosting events with local authors or independent publishers who have experience in self-publishing. The library doesn't necessarily need to do the printing to have a major impact on community publishing.



Today, libraries of any type can help their patrons give voice to their muse.

Even as print on demand has grown, online publishing has also become a major force with the explosion of the ebook market. Provincetown (Mass.) Public Library recently started Provincetown Public Press with a \$3,000 donation, some software, and an enthusiastic literary community. The new digital imprint seeks to publish 10–20 local works each year that are selected by a panel of librarians and local established authors. The selected works will be made available in iBooks and EPUB format. The press recently published its first ebook, appropriately entitled *Confessions of an eBook Virgin*, which is available through iTunes and Amazon.

In the age of self-publishing and digital publishing, libraries have a tremendous opportunity to enable, make available, and collect the creative output of their communities. Whether they can afford an Espresso Book Machine or can spare the time and technology to publish their community members' works online, there are ample opportunities for libraries large and small to become dynamic publishing hubs in their communities. ■

MEREDITH FARKAS is coordinator of general education instruction at Portland (Oreg.) State University. She blogs at [Information Wants to Be Free](http://Information Wants to Be Free) and created [Library Success: A Best Practices Wiki](http://Library Success: A Best Practices Wiki). Email [librarysuccess@gmail.com](mailto:librarysuccess@gmail.com).

# Honoring Excellence & Leadership

2013 ALA AWARD WINNERS

By Mariam Pera

Each year, the American Library Association recognizes the achievements of more than 200 individuals and institutions with various awards. Chosen by juries consisting of colleagues and peers, this year's award winners were chosen for their

leadership and vision, as well as their continued investment in the profession through mentorship. The following honorees represent only a portion of those cited in 2013.

See more award winners at [ala.org/awardsgrants](http://ala.org/awardsgrants).



## Carrie Russell

**ABC-CLIO/  
GREENWOOD AWARD  
FOR BEST BOOK IN  
LIBRARY LITERATURE**  
of \$5,000 recognizes  
those who improve man-  
agement principles and  
practice, understanding  
and application of new  
techniques, or further

the education of librarians or other information  
specialists.

**Donor:** ABC-CLIO

Policy analyst Carrie Russell, director of the Program on Public Access to Information in the Washington, D.C.–based ALA Office for Information Technology Policy, specializes in copyright, ebooks, and accessibility to information for people with disabilities. She was applauded for her ability to present a complex topic such as copyright in a refreshing way with universal appeal and applicability. Her book *Complete Copyright for K–12 Librarians and Educators* emphasizes the role of K–12 librarians in maximizing fair use through critical thinking rather than focusing on arbitrary guidelines and old institutional policies.



## Beacher J. E. Wiggins

**MELVIL DEWEY MEDAL**  
and \$2,000 are awarded  
for creative professional  
achievement in library  
management, training,  
cataloging and classifica-  
tion, and the tools and  
techniques of librarianship.

**Donor:** OCLC

As director for acquisitions and bibliographic access at the Library of Congress (LC), Beacher J. E. Wiggins has overseen the historic merger of LC's acquisitions and cataloging functions. He has cochaired the US National Libraries RDA Test Coordinating Committee and co-led the New Bibliographic Framework Initiative that will replace MARC. Wiggins was lauded for his leadership in building a flexible and robust framework for sharing bibliographic and other metadata related to cultural heritage objects, along with his willingness to mentor colleagues and share knowledge.



## Claire Alexander, Sarah Lean, and Harry Mazer and Peter Lerangis

**SCHNEIDER FAMILY BOOK AWARDS** of \$5,000  
honor authors or illustrators for a book that embod-  
ies an artistic expression of the disability experience  
for children and adolescent audiences. Recipients are  
selected in three categories: young readers (ages 0–8),  
middle readers (ages 9–13), and teen readers (ages  
14–18).

**Donor:** Katherine Schneider



In Claire Alexander's *Back to Front and Upside Down!* which won the young readers' award, a boy learns how to ask for help after discovering, while writing a birthday card for his principal, that for him, letters come out back to front and upside down. In *A Dog Called Homeless*, this year's middle readers' winner, Sarah Lean tells the story of a 5th grader who has stopped speaking after her mother's death but manages, eventually, to find her voice. In *Somebody, Please Tell Me Who I Am*, which won the teen readers' award, Harry Mazer and Peter Lerangis explore the effects of war injuries and autism.





## Kathleen Reif

**THE SULLIVAN AWARD FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY ADMINISTRATORS SUPPORTING SERVICES TO CHILDREN** is given to an individual who has shown exceptional understanding and support of public library service to

children while having general management, supervisory, or administrative responsibility that has included public service for children in its scope.

**Donor:** Peggy Sullivan

Kathleen Reif, director of St. Mary's County (Md.) Public Library, has worked diligently to promote public libraries and their benefit to children and families, with particular attention to early literacy and learning and Every Child Ready to Read (ECRR), a parent education outreach initiative. She also created and has nurtured relationships and partnerships with Judy Centers, Head Start, social services, and local businesses to further early literacy. Reif developed and chaired the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators' Birth-to-Four Task Force in 1998, which led to a statewide campaign titled "It's Never Too Early," and was instrumental in developing an ongoing relationship between public libraries and "Ready at Five," a statewide public/private partnership that gives voice to young children in Maryland.



Carol Damaso, library director, Scottsdale (Ariz.) Public Library.

## Scottsdale (Ariz.) Public Library System

**H. W. WILSON LIBRARY STAFF DEVELOPMENT GRANT** gives \$3,500 to a library that demonstrates merit in a staff development program that furthers the goals and objectives of the library organization.

**Donor:** H. W. Wilson Company

With this grant, the Scottsdale (Ariz.) Public Library System plans to create the "Leadership Skydiving" program to develop leadership skills among library supervisors. The program consists of a workshop for supervisors based on principles outlined in the book *Strengths-Based Leadership*, followed by a team-building retreat and a final leadership presentation drawn from Arizona State University.



Janie Hermann, public programming librarian (left) and Leslie Burger, director, of the Princeton (N.J.) Public Library.

## Community Collaboration for Enhanced Technology Services

**ALA/INFORMATION TODAY, INC. LIBRARY OF THE FUTURE AWARD** of \$1,500 is awarded to an individual library, library consortium, group of librarians, or support organization for innovative planning for, applications of, or development of patron training programs about information technology in a library setting.

**Donor:** IIDA and Information Today, Inc.

The goal of the Community Collaboration for Enhanced Technology Services at the Princeton (N.J.) Public Library was to create a place in town where one could receive excellent technology assistance and discover technological innovations. The Princeton team noted that they "provided an opportunity for unique groups to form professional relationships in a welcoming, accessible, and inspiring environment, actively contributing to the larger evolution of the times while addressing and helping define customers' needs." The team successfully drew in young businesspeople, highly creative entrepreneurs, and technology experts, cementing the future of their library as a "cornerstone of technological education and innovation." Additionally, the program allowed the library to promote existing services, such as ebooks, and better serve existing users who rely on the library for both access to technology and classes on its use.





Diana Sussman, director,  
Carbondale (Ill.) Public Library.

## Carbondale (Ill.) Public Library

**ALA EXCELLENCE  
IN LIBRARY  
PROGRAMMING  
AWARD** of \$5,000 recog-  
nizes a library that dem-  
onstrates excellence in  
library programming by

creating a cultural/thematic program type or program series that engages the community in planning, sponsorship and/or active participation, addresses an identified community need, and has a measurable impact.

**Donor:** ALA Cultural Communities Fund

Carbondale (Ill.) Public Library and its community partners created “11 Days for Compassion” in response to a local Occupy movement and a strike at nearby Southern Illinois University that triggered discussions and peaceful protests, but also abusive rants in the newspaper. The intent was to give the community a safe way to reflect and to learn more about compassion for future interactions. The program demonstrated proactive community engagement involving 35 partners, and led individuals to host, lead, and promote compassion-themed discussions and events. The program was partly funded through a grant from ALA and the Fetzer Institute: “Building Common Ground: Discussions of Community, Civility, and Compassion.”



The University of  
Massachusetts Amherst  
Library.

## The University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries

**GALE CENGAGE LEARNING FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD** of \$2,500 is  
presented to a library organization that exhibits meritorious achievement in creat-  
ing new means of funding for a public or academic library.

**Donor:** Gale Cengage, Inc.

The University at Massachusetts Amherst Libraries developed the Library Sustainability Fund to gain support from faculty, students, alumni, and Friends for a curriculum on sustainability studies. The libraries partnered with the school’s Annual Giving Office on the annual “Second Ask” campaign, which encourages donors to make one more gift to close out the fiscal year. Focusing on the Sustainability Fund, the “Second Ask” campaign succeeded in raising more than \$160,000 from 3,398 donors. Faculty from 18 departments and staff from seven co-curricular offices worked together to create a set of student learning outcomes for sustainability courses, resulting in the new Sustainability Curriculum Initiative.



## Elizabeth Martinez

**EQUALITY AWARD** of  
\$1,000 honors an out-  
standing contribution  
that promotes equality in  
the library profession.

**Donor:** Scarecrow Press,  
Inc., a member of the

Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group

Elizabeth Martinez, library director at Salinas (Calif.) Public Library, is well-known for leading with innovative ideas and advocating for cultural diversity. Martinez co-founded and helped organize Reforma, The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking, and the Committee to Recruit Mexican American Librarians in California. In 1984–1985 she cochaired, with Binnie Tate Wilkin, the ALA President’s Committee on Library Service to Minorities for ALA President E. J. Josey, which produced the seminal 1985 report *Equity at Issue*. As ALA executive director from 1994 to 1997, she was instrumental in developing the Spectrum Scholarship program.

# ALA AWARD WINNERS



**Jeannette C. Smith**

**KEN HAYCOCK AWARD FOR PROMOTING LIBRARIANSHIP** of \$1,000 honors an individual who has contributed significantly to the public recognition and appreciation of librarianship through professional performance, teaching and/or writing.

**Donor:** Ken Haycock

Jeannette C. Smith, grants/university relations officer at the New Mexico State University Library in Las Cruces, has spent almost four decades working to promote librarianship in various organizations and libraries. Whether in public services, technical services, public relations, or in her current position, Smith has been a strong voice in advancing the profession. Smith served on the administrative council for the Southwest and Border Cultures Institute, which she helped to create in 1998. She was also the recipient of the 1999 Edmund Lester Pearson Library Humor Award and was named a fellow of the Molesworth Institute for her library humor research. She published a book, *The Laughing Librarian: A History of American Library Humor* (2012), on the topic.



**Carla D. Hayden**

**JOSEPH W. LIPPINCOTT AWARD** of \$1,000 is presented annually to a librarian for distinguished service to the profession of librarianship, such service to include outstanding participation in the

activities of the professional library association, notable published professional writing, or other significant activity on behalf of the profession and its aims.

**Donor:** Joseph W. Lippincott III

Carla D. Hayden, executive director and CEO of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, boasts visionary achievements in service to the profession. Hayden's two decades of leadership at the Pratt Library have helped bring it to national prominence for its leadership in providing access to the internet and digital collections. As 2003–2004 president of ALA, Hayden spearheaded efforts to attract and train underrepresented groups to the library profession through the Spectrum Initiative and challenged the government's attempts to gain unwarranted access to library records using the Patriot Act. She was also a member of the steering committee overseeing creation of the pioneering Digital Public Library of America, and was a presidentially appointed member of the National Museum and Library Services Board.



**Heather Ketron**

**SCHOLASTIC LIBRARY PUBLISHING AWARD** of \$1,000 honors a librarian whose extraordinary contributions to promoting access to books and encouraging a love of reading for lifelong learning exemplifies outstanding achievement in the profession.

**Donor:** Scholastic Library Publishing

Heather Ketron, head of children's services at the Gum Spring branch of the Loudoun County (Va.) Public Library, has a passion for reading and learning that drives her to get books into the hands of children regardless of barriers, and to inspire a love of reading. She is constantly exploring opportunities to involve the community in library services and programming, and to increase the number and scope of community programming in the library. Ketron has given numerous presentations at the Virginia Library Association annual conference, as well as a presentation to the Chinese Library Association conference in Dongguan, China. She has played an instrumental role in school reading enhancement programs and services, and initiated the Open Door Special Needs Storytimes program for autistic children and their families.



## Ralph Peters

**W. Y. BOYD LITERARY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MILITARY FICTION** of \$5,000 is for the author of a military novel set in a time when the US was at war and that honors the service of American veterans.

**Donor:** W. Y. Boyd II

Ralph Peters, a retired US Army officer, gives a detailed account of the events leading up to and including the three days of the Battle of Gettysburg in *Cain at Gettysburg*. The story's major characters—Generals George Meade (Union Army), Robert E. Lee (Confederate Army), and James Longstreet (Lee's corps commander)—as well as the men in battle, experience all the aspects of war: carnage, politics, courage, glory, and defeat. Well-researched and provocatively written, Peters' telling of one of America's biggest battles revisits the experience of veterans at a historical moment through a modern lens.



## Elizabeth Aversa

**BETA PHI MU AWARD** of \$1,000 is for distinguished service to education for librarianship.

**Donor:** Beta Phi Mu International Library Science Honorary Society

Elizabeth Aversa's commitment to mentorship has marked her accomplished career. Aversa, professor of library and information science at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, spent eight years as director of the university's library school. Under her leadership, the school's enrollment grew, programs earned various awards and recognitions, and the school instituted an online program. In 2011, she returned to full-time teaching and research activities, continuing her tutelage of future librarians. She was named Alabama Librarian of the Year in 2011 and received the Association for Library and Information Science Education award for professional service in 2005.



## Judith Platt and Senator Russell Feingold

**THE FREEDOM TO READ FOUNDATION ROLL OF HONOR AWARD** recognizes individuals who have contributed substantially to the

foundation through adherence to its principles and/or substantial monetary support.

**Sponsor:** Freedom to Read Foundation

As director of Free Expression Advocacy for the Association of American Publishers, Judith Platt has led numerous coalitions that work to strengthen free speech and privacy rights, including Banned Books Week, the Campaign for Reader Privacy, the Kids' Right to Read Project, and the Media Coalition. First elected to the foundation's board in 1999, Platt served as president from 2007 to 2009, and was elected to her sixth two-year term in 2012.



Sen. Russell Feingold of Wisconsin was the only US senator to vote against the Patriot Act in 2001 due to concerns about civil liberties. He also led efforts in subsequent years to amend some of the act's most controversial elements, such as the FBI's ability to obtain library, bookstore, and business records outside

regular court channels. After leaving the Senate in 2011, Feingold formed Progressives United, a public education and advocacy organization founded in the wake of the *Citizens United* Supreme Court decision. ■



2013  
LIBRARY  
DESIGN  
SHOWCASE

american  
libraries

# Building the Future

By Phil Morehart

Welcome to the 2013 Library Design Showcase, AL's annual celebration of new and newly renovated libraries. These libraries are shining examples of innovative architecture that addresses user needs in unique, interesting, and effective ways.

See more selections at  
[americanlibrariesmagazine.org](http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org).







## ROOMS WITH A VIEW

### **A** SPARTANBURG COUNTY (S.C.) PUBLIC LIBRARY— MIDDLE TYGER BRANCH

Middle Tyger library's renovation took full advantage of the surrounding landscape by creating open spaces and reading rooms with windows that look out over the Middle Tyger River.

#### *Renovation*

Spiegle Architectural Group

Size: 13,000 square feet

Cost: \$250,000

Photo: Ian Curcio Photography



### **B** KETCHIKAN (ALASKA) PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ketchikan Public Library's design recalls the canneries, lumber mills, and Native American longhouses of the city's past. Large windows allow light to brighten the interiors, while also creating stunning views of the surrounding wilderness.

#### *New Construction*

Bettisworth Welsh Whiteley, LLC

Size: 16,250 square feet

Cost: \$8,792,217

Photo: Kevin G. Smith Photography

## TECH TEENS

### **C** SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP (ILL.) DISTRICT LIBRARY

Schaumburg repurposed office space to create a teen area comprised of a soundproofed multipurpose room with gaming stations, collaboration stations, connected discussion rooms, a quiet room, a café, and a professional digital media production studio.

#### *Renovation*

Dewberry

Size: 6,000 square feet

Cost: \$1.5 million

Photo: Mariusz Mizera



# 2013 LIBRARY DESIGN SHOWCASE

american  
libraries

D

E

## THE SHAPE OF THINGS

### D SAN JOSÉ (CALIF.) PUBLIC LIBRARY— SEVEN TREES BRANCH

Seven Trees branch's angular lines and turret-like walls give the library a unique look that nods to both the past and future. Large clerestory windows and an open layout on the second floor bring in an abundance of natural light. The functional design also allows for views of the hills east of San José.

#### New Construction

Rob Wellington Quigley, FAIA

Size: 15,567 square feet

Cost: \$8.9 million

Photo: San José Public Library

### E DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC LIBRARY—WILLIAM O. LOCKRIDGE / BELLEVUE NEIGHBORHOOD BRANCH

The William O. Lockridge/Bellevue Neighborhood branch is a commanding, positive presence in an impoverished area, featuring a large, three-story glass, wood, and concrete main building with three extending, geometric-shaped pavilions.

#### New Construction

Adjaye Associates

Wiencek + Associates

Size: 22,000 square feet

Cost: \$13.5 million

Photo: Maxine Schnitzer

F





## YOUTH SPACES

### F BEVERLY HILLS (CALIF.) PUBLIC LIBRARY'S CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

The renovations at Beverly Hills Public Library's Children's Library include the construction of a theater that accommodates 80 kids for storytimes and movies; an Enchanted Woods room that pays tribute to children's book illustrations; and a barrel vault and swooping archways that mimic pages turning.

*Renovation and Expansion*

Johnson Favaro, LLC

Size: 12,000 square feet

Cost: \$3.2 million

Photo: Richard Zale Rubins



### G DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC LIBRARY— FRANCIS A. GREGORY NEIGHBORHOOD BRANCH

The Francis A. Gregory branch's children's room mimics a treehouse. Painted different shades of green, it features reading nooks set into windows that look out into the surrounding trees.

*New Construction*

Adjaye Associates

Wienczek + Associates

Size: 22,000 square feet

Cost: \$13.5 million

Photo: Maxine Schnitzer



## OUTDOOR LIBRARIES

### H NEDERLAND (COLO.) COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Situated along the Peak to Peak Scenic and Historic Byway, the new Nederland Community Library was designed for full appreciation of Colorado's natural beauty, complete with a deck overlooking a small creek that runs alongside the library.

*New Construction*

OZ Architecture

Size: 4,500 square feet

Cost: \$1.3 million

Photo: Tim Murphy, Foto Imagery

### I NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY AT RALEIGH—JAMES B. HUNT, JR. LIBRARY

The award-winning design of James B. Hunt Jr. Library in Raleigh (also on p. 38) includes high-def video walls, a film studio, an exhibit gallery, and videoconferencing and telepresence facilities, but the Skyline Terrace with a panoramic North Carolina view steals the show.

*New Construction*

Snøhetta

Size: 221,122 square feet

Cost: \$93.75 million

Photo: Jeff Goldberg



# 2013 LIBRARY DESIGN SHOWCASE

american  
libraries

## SUPER SCHOOL

### SAINT FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA

Saint Francis High School's Sobrato Family Learning Commons and Cassin Family Library is a hub of student activity. With more than 40,000 square feet of new construction and classroom modernization, it features a student center on the first floor and the school on the second level.

#### *Renovation and Expansion*

HMC Architects

Size: 40,300 square feet

Cost: \$7.6 million

Photo: David Wakely







17.5

## REUSE AND RESTORATION

### **K** ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY—CENTRAL LIBRARY

The 100-year-old Central Library's award-winning renovation (also on p. 39) involved transforming a once-closed seven-story stacks area into a soaring atrium with mezzanine, and converting a former coal storage area into a 250-seat auditorium, expanding children's and teen rooms, and creating a new entrance with a reflecting pool. Overall, the restoration resulted in an 83% increase in public space.

*Renovation and Expansion*

Cannon Design

Size: 187,500 square feet

Cost: \$70 million

Photo: Timothy Hursley

### **L** UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, DARTMOUTH—CLAIRE T. CARNEY LIBRARY

One of the most significant examples of postwar Brutalist architecture, Claire T. Carney Library underwent a renovation and expansion that added a bright browsing area and a café, and redesigned reading rooms, teaching labs, service desks, and study areas for easier navigation.

*Renovation and Expansion*

DesignLAB Architects

Size: 190,000 square feet (total); 22,000 square feet (expansion)

Cost: \$40 million

Photo: Peter Vanderwarker

## SMALL WONDER

### **M** SAN DIEGO COUNTY (CALIF.) LIBRARY—LINCOLN ACRES BRANCH

Though small in size, the new Lincoln Acres branch of San Diego County Library is three times larger than the previous facility that served the community. The LEED Silver-rated building sports solar panels and a children's room adorned with a mosaic mural dedicated to teen staff member José Luis Rodríguez, who was the victim of a random, unsolved shooting.

*New Construction*

Safdie Rabines Architects

Size: 2,750 square feet

Cost: \$3.5 million

Photo credit: San Diego County Library



# 2013 LIBRARY DESIGN SHOWCASE

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O



N



P

## SERVICE FLEXIBILITY

### N DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY—POLK- WISDOM BRANCH

The Polk-Wisdom branch maximized its small size by focusing on flexibility. Mobile study rooms, storytime walls, shelving units, and staff workstations allow patrons and staff to create work spaces by simply moving furniture.

*Renovation and Expansion*  
Hidell and Associates Architects  
Size: 16,800 square feet  
Cost: \$2.9 million  
Photo: Patrick Coulie

## COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

### O DIXIE STATE UNIVERSITY, ST. GEORGE, UTAH— JEFFREY R. HOLLAND CENTENNIAL COMMONS

Dixie State University's new facility is an information hub for the campus. The library, with its showcase digital commons, shares space with the English department, a writing center, career services, and the IT department, allowing students and faculty easy access to services in one building.

*New Construction*  
Sasaki Associates  
VCBO Architecture  
Size: 172,000 square feet  
Cost: \$41 million  
Photo: David Becker, John Burns, Paul Richer

### P CAMDEN COUNTY (N.J.) LIBRARY SYSTEM— NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ DOWNTOWN BRANCH

Located inside the Paul Robeson Library on the Rutgers-Camden Campus, the Nilsa I. Cruz-Perez Downtown branch occupies 5,000 square feet of space that once held academic stacks. The compact branch also features offices, a programming room, a digital classroom, and public access computers.

*New Construction*  
Carlos Raul Rodriguez Architect  
Size: 5,000 square feet  
Cost: \$2.5 million  
Photo: Nicholas Henderson





## WIRED IN

### Q SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY, PHILADELPHIA—JOHN AND MARYANNE HENNINGS POST LEARN- ING COMMONS AT DREXEL LIBRARY

Saint Joseph's University has updated its library and added a new 35,000-square-foot learning commons to offer students and faculty the latest technologies, including a presentation practice room with video capabilities; an audiovisual multimedia lab; and a digital media zone with dual-monitor computers, comprehensive research content, and the latest software.

#### *Renovation and Expansion*

BWA Architecture + Planning

Size: 104,000 square feet

Cost: \$16 million

Photo: Don Pearce Photographers and Melissa Kelly/  
Saint Joseph's University

### R ANNE ARUNDEL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, ARNOLD, MARYLAND—ANDREW G. TRUXAL LIBRARY

Anne Arundel Community College renovated and expanded its library with a focus on technology, adding 20 tech-rich collaboration rooms and two information literacy labs. The spaces are tied together by a large commons area featuring quick-access computer kiosks.

#### *Renovation and Expansion*

EwingCole

RATIO Architects

Associated Architects

Size: 75,080 square feet

Cost: \$16.8 million

Photo: Barry Halkin Photography ■



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# AIA/ALA

## Library Building Awards

By Phil Morehart

The following libraries are winners of the 2013 Library Building Awards, sponsored by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and ALA's Library Leadership and Management Association. For the past 50 years, the biennial award has recognized distinguished accomplishment in library architecture by an architect licensed in the United States for any library in the US or abroad. The awards were presented at the AIA Chicago office in conjunction with the 2013 ALA Annual Conference.



A



B

### A SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY LIBRARY, PHOENIX

This building integrates the varied uses of a public library with the needs of a state-of-the-art academic library, allowing each to function both independently and collaboratively. The design is modeled on an integrated circuit, providing insulation between disparate functions and promoting interaction and connection between like functions and spaces.

richard+bauer

Size: 51,600 square feet

Cost: \$16.3 million

Photo: Mark Boisclair

### B NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY AT RALEIGH—JAMES B. HUNT, JR. LIBRARY

Designed to LEED Silver requirements, James B. Hunt, Jr. Library features fritted glass and a fixed external aluminum shading system that helps diminish heat gain, maximize views of a nearby lake, and provide abundant ambient natural light. Ceiling-mounted, active chilled beams and radiant panels provide heating and cooling, and rain gardens and green roofs help manage storm water.

Snøhetta and Pearce Brinkley Cease + Lee

Size: 221,122 square feet

Cost: \$93.75 million

Photo: Jeff Goldberg





## C NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY— HAMILTON GRANGE BRANCH, NEW YORK CITY

Located on the previously empty third-floor space of Hamilton Grange branch library in Harlem, the teen center is New York Public Library's first full-floor space dedicated to teens. In an effort to attract and engage neighborhood youth, the space challenges the norms of library design. The light-filled floor is divided into specific zones that foster small-group interaction and socialization.

Rice+Lipka Architects  
Size: 4,400 square feet

Cost: \$1.8 million  
Photo: Michael Moran



## D ANACOSTIA NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY, WASHINGTON, D.C.

A small-scale residential context provided the inspiration for the design of this new branch library, located in a low-income, underserved neighborhood in Washington, D.C. The project not only fulfilled programmatic needs, but also provided a stimulus for community pride and economic development. The residential scale is reflected in the library design as a series of pavilions for program areas that require enclosure: the children's program room, the young adults' area, support spaces, and public meeting rooms. The remainder of the level-one plan is high, open space for the main reading room, stacks, computers, and public seating areas. A large green roof structure provides shelter over all program areas.

The Freelon Group  
Size: 22,348 square feet

Cost: \$10.3 million  
Photo: Mark Herboth Photography



## E ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY— CENTRAL LIBRARY

This 100-year-old grand Beaux-Arts library, a St. Louis cultural landmark, was in need of a transformative restoration that would increase public access and modernize it for the 21st century. On the interior, the centrally located hall is surrounded by five wings, four dedicated to public reading rooms and the fifth, the north wing, to a multistory book depository closed to the public. The transformation of the north wing brought the library into the next century. Old stacks were removed, and a new "building within a building" was inserted. A new multistory public atrium provides an accessible and welcoming entry.

Cannon Design  
Size: 187,500 square feet  
Cost: \$70 million  
Photo: Timothy Hursley

## F OAK FOREST NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY, HOUSTON

Built in 1961, this modern brick-and-glass structure needed renovations to meet the standards of the Houston Public Library system and the needs of the surrounding neighborhood. The original building's restored green-tile mosaic still graces the parking entry area on the north, but a tree-shaded second entrance and an outdoor reading room framed by new adult and teen areas on the west were added. The mosaic and the globe light canopy of the old circulation desk were restored to create a toddler-sized reading nook. Facilities, furnishings, and technology were updated to serve all age groups, as well.

Natalye Appel + Associates Architects/  
AWI/James Ray Architects  
Size: 12,000 square feet  
Cost: \$3.5 million  
Photo: Light Sensible ■



2013  
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By Peter Gisolfi

# Melding Minds to Make a Library

Successful libraries are designed collaboratively

**A**rchitects build for practical purposes. Ideally, they build in a specific setting for the people in that setting. Successful design comes from understanding the objectives of the building's owners, and collaborating with them to create a facility that reflects its objectives.



Left: The glass-enclosed atrium and staircase at Darien Library provide natural light and transparency throughout the building. Right: The Darien Library entryway invites patrons inside.



The best libraries are designed using such an approach. It's a process that requires listening to every voice with a stake in the outcome and establishing a clear set of goals and paths to meet them.

The first step is to form a building committee that represents various constituencies: political representatives of the wider community, the library board of trustees, the professional staff, frequent library users, interested citizens, and donors. All have vital ideas and opinions.

The design process involves analyzing the physical and cultural setting for the building, preparing a program of space requirements, establishing clear objectives for the project, and preparing and critiquing a series of alternative design approaches. Other considerations enter into the process: regulations, the budget, the schedule. Often, additional presentations are made to separate constituencies, including the town board, the planning board, and the architectural review board. The process is repetitive—alternatives are repeatedly developed and evaluated until consensus is achieved—but necessary to ensure that all parties' issues and concerns are addressed.

The collaboration is time consuming and rigorous. It moves forward, but its iterative nature may slow it down. This is to be expected and is ultimately worthwhile. As the project evolves, the architect, the building committee, and outside constituencies gradually move to a plan that satisfies everyone.

This process works. When successful, the library belongs in its physical and cultural settings, reflects the objectives and values of the various constituencies linked to the project, and is integral to the community and the citizens for which it was designed.

## Building Darien Library

Designing Darien (Conn.) Library was an intensely collaborative process. In addition to an active building committee, the library board of trustees, library administration and staff, Friends of the Library, donors, town selectmen, planning board, and architectural review board were all involved. After many discussions, stakeholders decided upon a series of objectives:

- Create a community cultural center, a marketplace of ideas and interaction, and a library of the 21st century;
- Retain the quiet, inspiring, and reflective aspects of a traditional library;
- Enable the professional staff and patrons to have easy, informal access to each other;
- Locate places for reading and study within the collections, not separate from them;
- Create a solid, traditional New England public building. (This was essential to the town board and the architectural review board);

It's a process that requires listening to every voice with a stake in the outcome.

■ Design the interior spaces to be timeless, modernist, and transparent, so that many activities within the library can be seen simultaneously;

■ Create a sustainable building to serve as an example of green architecture for the community.

Using these points as guides, I created a diagram of a four-story building. "Main Street" is at the ground level. It's a place for public interaction, community events, and casual socializing. At the lower level is the "power library," which focuses on digital media and digital instruction. The "traditional library," a quiet place, is located on the second floor and mezzanine. The four levels are connected by an open glass atrium with a stairway and a gallery that overlooks a reading courtyard.

A successful collaboration requires discipline and often sacrifice. This is best demonstrated by a series of ideas that our team developed for the four-story atrium. I had in mind that we would create an interconnected space behind the glass wall that faces the reading courtyard. The formal staircase would project into the courtyard encased in a masonry stair tower.

Alan Gray, then-assistant director of operations at Darien, objected to the proposed stair tower because it reduced transparency and produced a more enclosed feeling. We discussed this back and forth for two or three weeks, evaluating various schemes. Eventually, his point of view prevailed. An open stair was placed within the atrium because that design solution better supported the concept of transparency, which was one of our primary objectives. This anecdote shows how the owner and various constituencies are empowered by establishing clear and understandable design objectives. We found common ground by working collaboratively.

Darien Library opened to the public on January 10, 2009, on "Darien Library Day," as proclaimed by the state of Connecticut. The finished building is aesthetically beautiful, easy to navigate, accessible to all patrons, automated to the greatest extent possible, and Gold LEED certified. And it would not have been possible without all voices involved in the project coming together for the common good. ■



PETER GISOLFI, AIA, ASLA, LEED AP, is a licensed architect and landscape architect, and chairman and professor at the Spitzer School of Architecture at the City College of the City University of New York. He is also founding and senior partner of Peter Gisolfi Associates, Architects and Landscape Architects, LLP, in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York, and New Haven, Connecticut.



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# Is Your Library Plus-Size Friendly?



With obesity rates rising, libraries need to meet the needs of larger patrons and staffers

By Lori L. Smith

Most libraries are conscientious about providing accessible facilities and services tailored to specific populations, yet some forget the needs of their plus-size patrons.

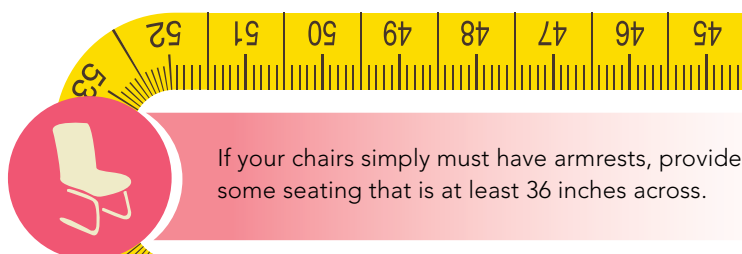
More than one-third of US adults and nearly 17% of children and adolescents were obese in 2009–2010, according to a January 2012 data brief from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics. Those numbers mean that every public service facility in the country—including libraries—should be prepared to meet the needs of plus-size patrons.

A few simple changes might make all the difference to an obese person's experiences as a user of your library. You may not be able to implement these changes immediately, but you should keep them in mind if you'll be building a new library or renovating an existing one.

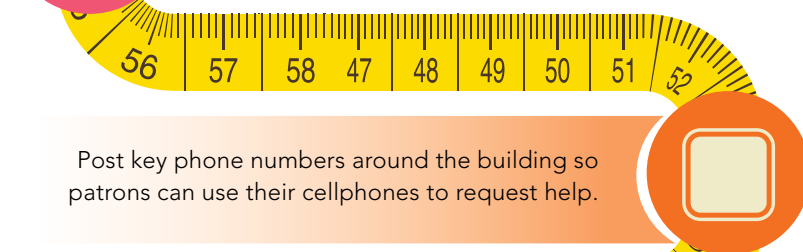
For me, the problems discussed below are not theoretical. As a, let's say, "generously proportioned librarian" who has encountered obstacles in all types of public facilities, I base many of these recommendations on my own experiences.

## Seating

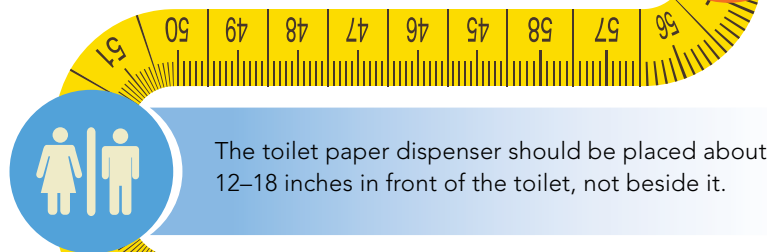
Narrow chairs with fixed armrests are the natural enemy of the obese. If we don't fit, we can't sit. Molded plastic chairs aren't much better. To be comfortable, a large person needs a sturdy, wide seating surface. A cushioned surface is preferable, but a hard one is fine as well. Couches, love seats, and benches are all good choices. Chairs are fine, but avoid those with armrests. If your chairs simply must have them, provide matching chairs in a variety of widths, including some that are at least 36 inches across. This seems to be the current trend in many hospitals and physicians' waiting rooms. An online search for "bariatric chairs" will turn up several examples.



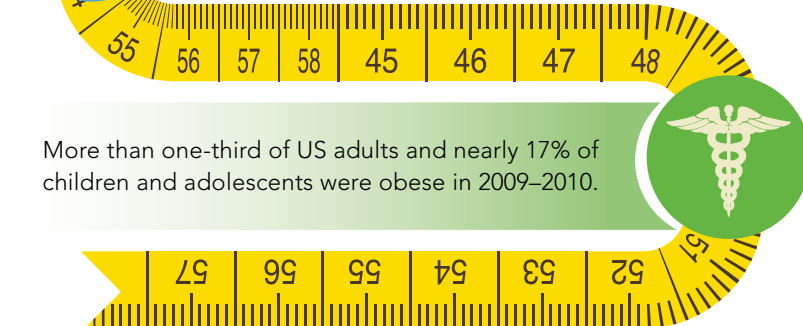
If your chairs simply must have armrests, provide some seating that is at least 36 inches across.



Post key phone numbers around the building so patrons can use their cellphones to request help.



The toilet paper dispenser should be placed about 12–18 inches in front of the toilet, not beside it.



More than one-third of US adults and nearly 17% of children and adolescents were obese in 2009–2010.

Ensure that seating areas are evenly distributed around the building for those patrons who can't walk great distances without resting.

If your library has classrooms, avoid at all costs the chair/desk combination in which the desk is attached to one arm of the chair. Chairs and desks should be separate pieces so that a chair can be moved to a comfortable distance from a desk. If possible, try

to leave plenty of room between your rows of desks.

Booths, too, can be problematic. If you have booths, ensure that tables are not affixed to the floor or wall but can be repositioned in relation to seats. Auditorium seats should have armrests that can be lifted completely out of the way so an individual can use more than one seat when necessary.





A few simple changes might make all the difference to a person's experiences as a library patron.

Don't forget about your conference room, if you have one. Conference rooms are notorious for having chairs with fixed armrests. I've often had to find a friendly staff member to lend me a task chair without arms that I could use during a meeting in a nearby conference room. Thankfully I'm not the type who embarrasses easily; otherwise that sort of experience could be mortifying.

Remember that obese staff members may also need special seating. They spend more time in the library than patrons, so their comfort is imperative. However, they may be reluctant to request a larger chair because they may not yet have realized that it is an issue. Library administrators should be proactive in asking staff members if their workstations are comfortable.

## Restrooms

Obese people need as much hip room as possible on both sides of the toilet, so in regular stalls the toilet should be placed in the center of the stall rather than off to one side. The toilet paper dispenser should ideally be placed about 12–18 inches in front of

the toilet rather than right beside it.

The taller toilet in the handicapped stall may be easier for obese people to rise from, and the rails may be helpful as well, so many will use that stall. Commonly, there's also more space surrounding the toilet in the handicapped stall.

When selecting a toilet, an oblong shape is a better choice than those that are smaller and rounder. Large people are not only large from side to side but front to back as well.

## Health and safety

In addition to health issues such as arthritis and heart disease, many obese people perspire more easily and therefore may face the possibility of becoming dehydrated. I personally can work up a sweat by just standing still for an extended period of time. To encourage proper hydration, make sure you have water fountains and that those fountains function properly.

Are your stepstools labeled with weight limits? That sort of information may be vital to an overweight patron trying to decide between retrieving a book himself or asking for assistance. It may also become a liability for the library if the patron were to take a spill.

If an obese person (or anyone else

for that matter) on an upper-level floor experiences a health emergency and has to be removed from your library on a stretcher, are your public elevators large enough to simultaneously accommodate both the stretcher and the health care personnel? If not, you may need to consider putting procedures in place that would allow emergency personnel to use your freight elevator.

## Signage

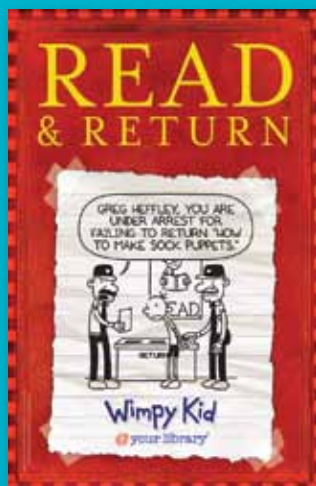
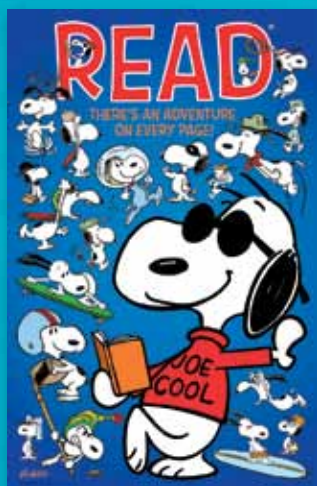
For obese patrons (and others) who have trouble walking, it would be helpful to post key phone numbers around the building so they can use their cellphones to request assistance. Posting QR codes leading to pertinent information on the library's website may also be beneficial.

## Looking ahead

The obesity epidemic is unlikely to go away anytime soon. In the meantime, libraries should continue their long tradition of offering a warm, welcoming space to people of all ages, races, shapes, and sizes. ■



LORI L. SMITH is head of the government documents department at Southeastern Louisiana University's Sims Memorial Library in Hammond.

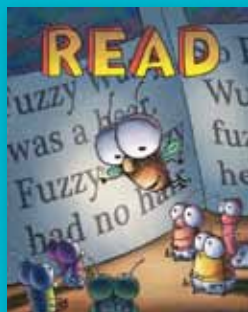
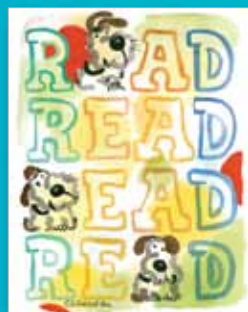


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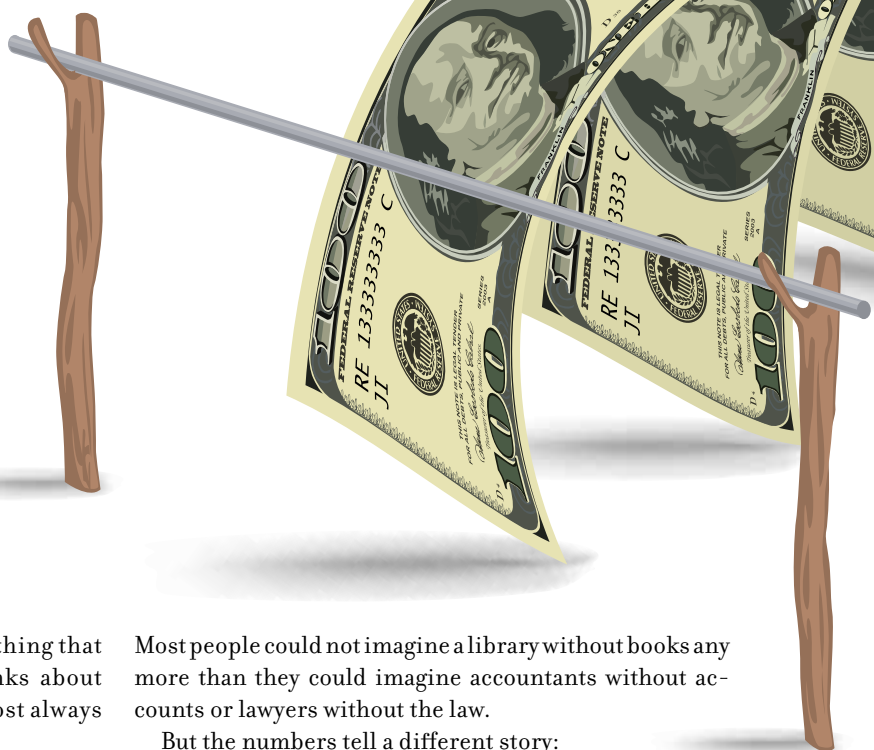




By Steve Coffman

# How Low Can Our Book Budgets Go?

More books are getting published, but public libraries are buying fewer



**A**sk the average Joe what's the first thing that comes to his mind when he thinks about libraries, and the answer will almost always be "books."

But don't just take Joe's word for it. OCLC's surveys on the "library brand" regularly turn up the same result. In fact, in *Perceptions of Libraries 2010*, OCLC found that in the previous five years libraries have become even "more strongly associated with books than they were before"—69% in 2005 vs. 75% in 2010.

Or ask any of the 1.59 billion people who came through our doors in an average year and you'll get a few who would say they were there to use a computer, fill out a job application, or attend a program. Fewer now would say they came to ask a question or find out a fact; but the vast majority of them would answer—just as they did in the earliest days of libraries—that they had come to get a book.

Most people could not imagine a library without books any more than they could imagine accountants without accounts or lawyers without the law.

But the numbers tell a different story:

■ **According to the most recent Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) data, in 2011 public libraries spent an average of only 11.4 cents of every dollar on books or materials of any kind.** That's much less than other companies spend that are also in the business of lending things to people. According to its 2009 Annual Report, Blockbuster spent 44% of its money on the movies it circulated, while Netflix spends an average of 55.9% of its revenues on content (Netflix 2011 Annual Report). Netflix doesn't have our buildings to maintain, but still it indicates the kind of money these companies are willing to spend to maintain adequate collections.



## Public Library Share of Total Book Market

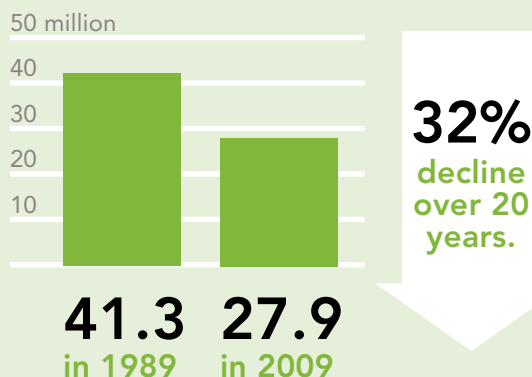


**4.31%** in 1989



**1.31%** in 2009

## Number of Books Added by Public Libraries



**Figure 1.** Books purchased and market share for public libraries, 1989 and 2009. Data from *Book Industry Trends*.

■ **The percentage of their budgets public libraries spend on materials has been trending steadily downward for many years now.** According to Robert D. Leigh in *The Public Library in the United States* (Columbia University Press, 1950), that figure was 25% in 1942. IMLS data shows the percentage had dropped to 15.6% by 1989 and to 11.7% by 2010. That figure would be had enough if we were spending it all on print books, but we are not. For at least the last 20 years, we've been stretching our declining materials budgets to pay for other things like databases, large VHS movie collections (which we soon threw away and replaced with DVDs), and now ebooks—all out of the same shrinking pot.

■ **The actual number of books added to public**

**library shelves has also dropped substantially over the past 20 years.** According to *Book Industry Trends* (the book industry's standard statistical report), in 1989 public libraries across the United States purchased a total of 41.3 million volumes, but by 2009 public libraries bought only 27.9 million books—a decline of more than 32% over 20 years (see Figure 1). As a result, public libraries' share of the total book market has plummeted from 4% in 1989 to 1% in 2009.

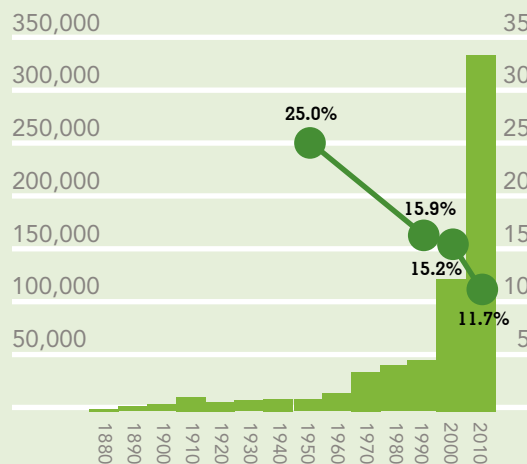
So it is small wonder that publishers pay little heed to our protests that “libraries buy books” or our threats to boycott them if they don't do what we want. When public libraries represent just 1% of the total book market, what do publishers have to lose?

## Books are booming

However, the real irony is that this decline in library book-buying has taken place right in the middle of one of the single greatest booms in book publishing in the history of this country and perhaps the world. Take a look at Figure 2. In 1950, when libraries were spending 25% of their budgets on materials, 11,200 titles were published in the US. By 1990, the number of titles published had increased by more than threefold to 46,743 per year, while our collection expenditures had dropped to 15.9%. By 2010, the number of US titles published had skyrocketed to 328,259—a 602% increase—while our collection spending had declined to 11.7%.

Those titles weren't just sitting around in warehouses either. People were buying them big time. According to

## Books Published vs. Library Budget for Materials



**Figure 2.** US book titles published 1880–2010 vs. percentage of public library budget spent on materials. Data from R. R. Bowker, *The Public Library Inquiry*, and IMLS.

*Book Industry Trends*, the number of books sold in the US exploded from 955 million in 1975 (or 4.4 per capita) to 3.1 billion in 2009—more than 10 books purchased for every man, woman, and child in the US. But while the American public was more than doubling its book purchases, library buying declined by over 32%.

Americans clearly have not lost interest in books, but I'm not so sure about libraries.

## Facing the consequences

Our protracted disinvestment in books and materials has very real consequences for libraries and patrons. Some of these are obvious:

- Months-long holding queues for bestsellers and popular titles;

- Whole sections of collections depleted by school assignments and runs on current topics;

- Outdated editions of travel guides;
- Old legal and medical books still on the shelves because we can't afford to buy the new ones.

Other symptoms are more subtle:

- A shift toward buying DVDs and bestsellers to balance circulation against a declining budget;

- The gradual aging of collections as we cut back on weeding;

- Thousands of books by less-well-known authors not purchased because the budget allows us to buy only popular titles.

According to the *Public Library Inquiry*, libraries serving populations of 100,000 or more purchased an average of 48,000 books in 1948—enough to buy more than four copies of every one of the 11,000 titles published in that year. The librarian's real problem then was not lack of funds, as the inquiry pointed out, but rather “to determine what is not worth having and the number of duplicates to buy.”

Today we have a different problem. According to the most recent IMLS statistics, libraries serving populations of 100,000 or more had a median book budget of \$433,185 in 2010. That was enough to buy about 21,659 books at an average price of \$20 each (about half the number of copies as in 1948). The difference is that in 2010, the US published 328,259 titles. Even if a library purchased only one copy of every title they bought, they could not afford to purchase more than 6% of all the titles published in 2010.

Bear in mind that we are talking only about large urban libraries here; the vast majority of libraries, which serve fewer than 100,000 people each, fare much worse.

I hear some of you saying, “Yes, but we must be doing something right, because we've heard library circulation has been increasing recently.” And you are right. From 1989 to 2009, as library book purchases were declining

32%, library circulation actually increased from 5.6 to 8.1 per capita—a 44% increase over 20 years. However, in the same 20-year period we also saw a stupendous increase in circulation of videos and DVDs, from almost nothing in the late 1980s to the point where (according to OCLC in *How Libraries Stack Up*, 2010) by 2010 we were lending 2.1 million of them a day, accounting for at least 31% of all public library checkouts.

In fact, the mushrooming of video borrowing has led some to suggest that many public libraries today more closely resemble the corner video store than they do the “cornerstone of democracy.” Couple that with an increasing focus on popular titles in the “Give 'em what they want” philosophy pioneered by former Baltimore County Public

Library Director Charlie Robinson, and it is not hard to see how you could still get significant boosts in circulation from small numbers of highly popular items even while overall investment in collections has been languishing.

We may not be able to enjoy that circulation boom for too much longer. The increasing popularity of streaming

media services like Netflix and Amazon and the growth of inexpensive DVD rental kiosks like Redbox are threatening to erode our DVD circulation. It may not be too long before libraries are back to just checking out books.

The first signs of this decline could already be here. According to 2011 IMLS data, after years of increases, overall public library circulation was down 1% and per capita circulation decreased 3.13%—from 8.31 to 8.05 per capita—between 2010 and 2011.

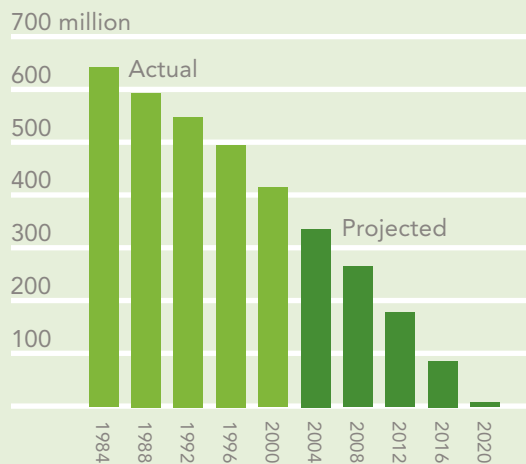
If you want to see where all of this ends up, look no farther than Britain. Just as in the US, libraries in the UK have been spending less on books since at least the early 1990s. In a 2002 report, the Audit Commission—a government agency charged with “assuring proper stewardship of public finances”—found that spending on books had dropped by a third, from 15% to 10% of total library budgets between 1992 and 2002, even while overall library funding remained largely stable and consumer book purchases increased by over 25% in the same period (*Building Better Library Services*, [bit.ly/19iO4j1](http://bit.ly/19iO4j1)).

Unlike the US, however, UK libraries have suffered significant declines in both circulation and visits as a result. The Audit Commission found that library visits were down an average of 2% annually and book circulation had “fallen by almost one-quarter” since 1993–1994—a trend that, if continued, would reach zero in around 20 years' time. See Figure 3 for a dramatic chart of this decline that was prepared for the *Who's In Charge* report ([bit.ly/18AIYxj](http://bit.ly/18AIYxj)) using Audit Commission data.

The most recent reports show that the situation has not

In 2011, per capita public library circulation decreased 3.13%.

## Actual and Projected Book Loans in UK Public Libraries



**Figure 3.** Actual and projected book loans in UK public libraries. From *Who's in Charge*, prepared from data in the Audit Commission Report, *Building Better Libraries*, 2002.

improved. The 2012 Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Annual Libraries Survey ([bit.ly/14J6qrP](http://bit.ly/14J6qrP)) showed that spending on books had dropped to 7.2% of total library budgets, and that both visits and circulation were continuing to decline. In fact, the situation has become so dire that UK councils have been closing libraries at a steady pace: 347 since 2009–2010, and 201 in 2012, with an increasing number being run by volunteers (more than 170 in 2012).

So why is the UK suffering from a decline in library services while the US has so far managed to sidestep it? There are two clear differences between public libraries in the UK and the US. First, UK libraries are spending about 25% less per capita than we are on books. Secondly, they don't have a robust AV circulation to cover it up. According to the most recent CIPFA statistics, audio-visual formats account for only 7.5% of total circulation, as opposed to the 30+% that is typical for libraries in the US. So, while we are not there yet, with the continued decline in our materials budgets and the impending erosion of our DVD circulation, US libraries could quickly find themselves in the same straits as our cousins in the UK—unless we are willing to do something about it.

## Solutions

So what can we do? First, we need to acknowledge we've got a problem. Most of us have been gradually nibbling away at our book budgets for so long that we think it's perfectly normal to spend less than 12 cents (and drop-

ping) of our budget dollar on materials, even while the number of books published and the number of books people are buying is increasing dramatically. I'm not sure what the right number is; clearly no book budget today would be big enough to get us back to the 1950s, when we could afford to buy four copies of every title published. We all need to determine what budget is necessary to ensure that libraries can offer a broad, current, and relevant selection, allowing patrons who walk through our doors to have a reasonable chance of finding what they want (as well as a few things they didn't even know they wanted) without having to wait for months.

Second, we need to examine how we are spending our current book budgets. Not only are funds shrinking, but we've been spending much of what's left on everything but printed books (databases, DVDs, audiobooks, videogames, and ebooks). If we want to experiment with new formats, we should find new funding sources for them, not merely carve them out of inadequate book budgets.

Third, we should closely examine every area of library operations to see whether there are more efficient or less expensive ways of doing things, then pour any savings back into materials. Clearly, the first place to look is staffing because it accounts for by far the largest portion of our budgets (67%, according to IMLS statistics). New technologies and approaches now make it possible to staff libraries more efficiently than we have in the past. But we should not stop there. I'll just give you one egregious example: Why does it cost us anywhere from \$2 to \$5 and up (typical price range for vendor processing) to catalog and process a book when bookstores are doing the same thing for just pennies?

Finally, we also need to think long and hard before we divert precious money in pursuit of the latest "shiny new object"—such as makerspaces—until we can assure ourselves that we are doing a good job accommodating the needs of the vast majority of our public who come to the library expecting to find a great selection of books.

And what happens if we don't do something about our declining materials budgets? Then we will begin to lose the confidence of the average Joe and Jill and their kids that the library is a great place for books. In relatively short order we could find ourselves dealing with declining usage and closed libraries—just like the UK—and facing the imminent demise of a once proud and important institution from a self-inflicted wound. ■



**STEVE COFFMAN** is vice president of Library Support Services (LSSI). Email him at [Steve.Coffman@lssi.com](mailto:Steve.Coffman@lssi.com). The opinions expressed here are his alone and do not necessarily reflect those of LSSI or the libraries it manages.





ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia, January 24-28, 2014

**T**he ALA Midwinter Meeting will once again offer dozens of formal and informal opportunities to engage, learn, and network, with a focus on digital content and ebooks, technology in libraries, innovation, books and authors, leadership, library advocacy, community engagement, and library marketing.

The Midwinter Meeting continues to evolve thanks to what attendees tell us in surveys, social media, and other conversations. You want to go back to your libraries and other institutions with new tools and ideas for successful innovation and incremental improvements, as well as a renewed sense of energy. You want participatory sessions offering current content. You want to learn from selected experts and from formal and informal dialogue with colleagues and peers. Be on the lookout for *American Libraries'* coverage in the next few months about the many ways ALA continues to create opportunities for conversations and interactive sessions.

We'll be continuing a popular new series introduced at the 2013 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Seattle, "News You Can Use," offering an expanded

series of updates from a wide range of internal and external groups and partners, with a focus on new and current research, data, and predictions. Key topics in 2013 included federal legislation, regulation, public policy, ebooks and digital content, technology, accessibility, LIS research, book industry data, RDA, grant priorities, and library user research. Presenters and partners included ALA Washington Office, other ALA offices and divisions, and a number of external agencies.

Last year's well-attended conversations about the evolving needs of our communities and how we can transform libraries and librarianship to meet their challenges will continue in Philadelphia.

And of course, you want to have good social events and fun along the way—and there's no shortage of

those opportunities given the attendees and what Philadelphia offers. We look forward to keeping you informed as you make your plans.

Make your case for attending! If you need to start showing how you'll be more valuable to your institution after attending ALA Midwinter Meeting, the Making Your Case to Attend resources at <http://alamw14.ala.org/steps-in-making-the-case> can get you started.

Registration and housing for ALA Midwinter Meeting open October 1 at [alamidwinter.org](http://alamidwinter.org).

## Highlights

### ★ ERT/BOOKLIST AUTHOR FORUM

Friday, January 24

An exciting panel of authors discussing their new books.

### ★ RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY & ALA/ERT EXHIBITS OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, January 24

Visit your favorite exhibiting companies and meet new ones while enjoying food, entertainment, and prizes.

### ★ BOOK BUZZ THEATER

Saturday, January 25, and

Sunday, January 26

Come hear the latest buzz about the

newest titles from your favorite publishers.

★ **ARTHUR CURLEY LECTURE**  
Saturday, January 25  
Ishmael Beah, author of *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*

★ **ALA PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM**  
Sunday, January 26  
Join ALA President Barbara Strippling for this exciting session.

★ **YOUTH MEDIA AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
Monday, January 27

★ **WRAP-UP/REV-UP CELEBRATIONS**  
Monday, January 27

Celebrate the wrap-up of the Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits and rev-up for Annual Conference in Las Vegas.

**PLUS:**

- 200+ discussion groups and other sessions on hot topics, including "News You Can Use" key policy research, and other updates from leading institutions and offices, and the popular ALA Masters Series;

- Auditorium and other memorable speakers and events throughout—thought-leaders and bestselling authors;

- 450+ exhibitors highlighting new and favorite titles, products, and services, and related fun events at exhibit hall stages and pavilions—and hundreds of authors;

- Midwinter Institutes offering in-depth professional development;

- Library Unconference on Friday, Library Camp on Monday, and Networking Uncommons;

- ALA JobLIST Placement Center, connecting job seekers and employers, and offering free career counseling.

Visit [alamidwinter.org](http://alamidwinter.org) for the developing list of speakers and events. ■

# BUNDLE YOUR 2014 REGISTRATIONS

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Save when you register for 2014 ALA Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference in one package.

The conversation starts here . . . in Philadelphia in January, and continues as we work on Transforming Our Libraries, Ourselves in Las Vegas in June. Don't miss out on all this:

- **Programs:** Over 500, presented by your peers and industry experts on a wide range of hot topics, from digital content and ebooks to tools for advocacy, leadership to community engagement, makerspaces to social media, and dozens more;

- **Institutes and Preconferences:** 50+ topic-specific professional development events hosted by AASL, ALCTS, ACRL, LITA, OLA, YALSA, and ALA state chapters;

- **Exhibits:** The latest and best products, publications, and services from around 1,000 exhibitors—the largest exhibits in the library world. Plus 100s of authors, Live @yourlibrary Reading Stage, PopTop Stage, poster sessions, ARCs, special Pavilions, What's Cooking@ALA Cookbook and Graphic Novel/Gaming Stages, "Artist Alley," and more;

- **Speakers:** Provocative, high-profile thought-leaders and authors as Auditorium Speakers, plus ALA President's Programs, Arthur Curley Memorial Lecture, ALA Masters Series, Conversation Starters, Ignite Sessions, and other events;

- **Authors and Illustrators:** Exhibit hall stages and in-booth appearances featuring hundreds of authors and illustrators, plus "Book Buzz Theater" introducing new and upcoming titles across all genres;

- **Timely Updates:** From the ALA Washington Office, ALA divisions and offices, and other leading institutions;

- **Award Announcements and Celebrations:** Including Newbery, Caldecott, Printz, Odyssey, Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence, ALA Notables, ALA, and other awards;

- **Peer-led Opportunities:** Unconference, Library Camp, Networking Uncommons ;

- **ALA JobLIST Placement Center:** Tips, techniques, and opportunities for finding jobs and advancing your career.

Bundle your 2014 Midwinter and Annual Conference registration between September 9 and September 30, 2013 to get the most at the best price. Register at [alamidwinter.org/bundle](http://alamidwinter.org/bundle).

Midwinter-only registration and housing open October 1, 2013. Annual-only registration and housing open January 14, 2014.



# Currents

■ August 1 **Grover Baker** became user services librarian for the visual and performing arts at the James E. Walker Library of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro.

■ June 3 **Robena Barton** became technical services librarian at Oconee County (S.C.) Public Library.

■ July 28 **James C. Cooke** became assistant director for support services at Baltimore County (Md.) Public Library.

■ July 31 **Linda Dahl** retired as public information manager of the Stark County (Ohio) District Library.

■ July 26 **Margaret C. Danziger** retired from her position as deputy director of the Toledo-Lucas County (Ohio) Public Library.

■ July 24 **Michael DeVries** stepped down as branch manager of the Oak Grove Public Library in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, after six years.

■ June 21 **Susan Forbes** became director of the US Environmental Protection Agency Library in Research Triangle Park, in Durham, North Carolina.

■ July 1 **Gerald "Jay" Gaidmore** became director of special collections at the College of William and Mary's Earl Gregg Swem Library in Williamsburg, Virginia.

■ July 1 **Melissa Grygla** became director of the Saratoga Springs (Utah) Public Library.

■ July 1 **Alisha Hall** became technology training assistant at the Katy branch of the Harris



Margaret C. Danziger



Gerald "Jay" Gaidmore



Patricia Hartman



Terran McCanna

County (Tex.) Public Library.

■ June 3 **Larry Hansard** became integrated systems librarian at the James E. Walker Library of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro.

■ June 10 **Patricia Hartman** became a reference and instruction librarian in the subject specialties of science and mathematics at Auburn (Ala.) University Libraries.

■ July 1 **Robin E. Hosey** became branch manager of Oak Grove Public Library in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

■ August 31 **Julie V. Hunter**, associate director of the Broward County (Fla.) Public Libraries Division, retired after 47 years as a librarian.

■ June 15 **Scott Jarzombek** became director of the North Castle Public Library in Armonk, New York.

■ July 29 **Charissa Jefferson** became business and data librarian for the Oviatt Library at California State University, Northridge.

■ July 22 **Charles A. Julian** became director of Paul Meek Library and assistant professor of library science at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

■ June 17 **Bryan Kratish** became children's librarian at the Katy branch of Harris County (Tex.) Public Library.

■ July 9 **Rachel Langlois** became virtual services librarian at the main branch of New Hanover County (N.C.) Public Library.

■ August 30 **Marilyn Laubacher** retired as director of the Baldwinsville (N.Y.) Public Library after 30 years of service.

■ July 1 **Lauren Magnuson** became systems and emerging technologies librarian in the technical services department for the Oviatt Library at California State University, Northridge.

■ July 1 **Terran McCanna** became program manager of the Georgia Public Library System's Public Information Network for Electronic Services (PINES).

■ June 6 **Sheila Mikkelsen** became director of William Jeanes Memorial Library and Nicholas and Athena Karabots Center for Learning in Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania.

■ July 1 **Lisa Nickel** became associate dean of research and public services

## CITED

■ June 28 **Susan Adkins**, longtime board member of the Seattle Public Library Foundation, and **Corinne Hill**, director of the Chattanooga Public Library, were honored at the 2013 Urban Libraries Council Annual Forum. Adkins received the Urban Player Award in recognition of her civic leadership on behalf of the library as well as her commitment to expanding learning services, particularly for children, and Hill received the Joey Rodger Leadership Award, which provides \$5,000 for a director or senior manager to strengthen skills through a structured professional development program.



at the College of William and Mary's Earl Gregg Swem Library in Williamsburg, Virginia.

■ July 1 **Mary-Catherine Oxford** became learning resources director at College of the Sequoias Library in Visalia, California.

■ August 1 **Karen Reed** became user services librarian for education at the James E. Walker Library at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro.

■ May 20 **Barbara Roark** became assistant director for Hancock County (Ind.) Public Library.

■ May 16 **Lydia Morrow Ruetten** became dean of Governors State University Library in University Park, Illinois.

■ July 15 **David Smolen** became director of the Conway (N.H.) Public Library.

■ June 30 **Kendra St. Aubin** retired as head of collection development and acquisitions services at Bridgewater (Mass.) State University after more than 40 years as a librarian.

■ July 1 **John W. Tombarge** became university librarian at Washington and Lee University's Lexington Library in Lexington, Virginia.

■ August 31 **Margaret Van Patten** became director of



Barbara Roark



Lydia Morrow Ruetten

## OBITUARIES

■ **Toni Benson**, 50, local history librarian at the Van Buren District Library in Decatur, Michigan, died July 5 of cancer.

■ **Lorna Daniells**, 94, died June 11. Daniells was a prominent research librarian who worked at Harvard Business School (HBS)'s Baker Library from 1946 until her retirement in 1985. During her nearly 40 years at HBS, she served as chair of the library's reference department from 1970 to 1974, head of the department from 1974 to 1979, and as bibliographer from 1979 to 1985. In 1978, Daniells published a book titled *Business Information Sources*, which for many years was the leading comprehensive financial information source guide for universities and business leaders across the country.

■ **William C. Highfill**, 77, dean of libraries at Auburn University from 1973 to 1995, died July 10. Highfill led Auburn University Libraries through a period of unprecedented expansion. Under his guidance the library collection tripled in size and the Ralph Brown Draughon Library more than doubled in size through an expansion completed in 1991. He was a founding member of the Network of Alabama

Academic Libraries and the Southeastern Library Network. In addition, he served in leadership roles within ALA and several other professional organizations. Prior to Auburn he served as the director of libraries at East Texas State University.

■ **Francis X. Scannell**, 95, former Michigan State Librarian, died on June 17. At the time of his appointment in 1968, Scannell was the head of Michigan State University's reference department. He also worked as head of reader services at the Michigan State Library (Library of Michigan) from 1953 to 1965. Scannell led the state library through major changes, including significant austerity measures due to cuts in federal and state funding and a controversial new reorganization of library services around the state into a system of regional cooperatives. Scannell resigned as Michigan's State Librarian in 1983, having worked at the state library for a total of 27 years.

■ **Edward Supplee Terry Jr.**, 77, former head science librarian for the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a decades-long stalwart of Baltimore's Arena Players, died July 1 of leukemia.

Baldwinsville (N.Y.) Public Library.

■ June 10 **Kimberly White** became assistant director and children's librarian at Plainville (Conn.) Public Library.

■ August 5 **Karen Williams** became dean of libraries at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

■ July 31 **Dare Wilson** re-

tired as children's librarian at Lexington Library with the Davidson County (N.C.) Public Library after 35 years of service.

### At ALA

■ August 1 **Casey Bayer**, graphic designer/production editor for ALA Editions, has left.

■ June 17 **Mark Cum-**

**mings** became editor and publisher of *Choice* magazine, ACRL's review journal for undergraduate libraries.

■ July 18 **Jeff Dong**, association management systems administrator for ITTS, has left.

■ July 18 **Jim Kanis**, manager of operations for ITTS, has left. ■

Send notices and color photographs for *Currents* to Mariam Pera, [mpera@ala.org](mailto:mpera@ala.org).

# Sponsored by Your Library

And now, an important message about imaginative play

by Abby Johnson

**W**hat does a commercial-free space mean to you? With corporations doing their best to surround children with advertising from birth, providing commercial-free spaces is essential to our continued democracy, which depends on creativity and critical thinking, skills that pervasive marketing can repress. Libraries, with our continual campaign for intellectual freedom, are the perfect places to provide a commercial-free space for children.

At this summer's ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, Susan Linn of the Campaign for a Commercial-



**Should character toys be in libraries?**

Free Childhood (CCFC) described how pervasive corporate messaging aimed at children is.

Many corporations want to surround children with advertising, creating brand loyalty and imprinting on their psyches that buying things will make them happy. A movie or TV show is no longer simply a story but a platform from which to launch an entire line of toys, games, books, and (often unhealthy) foods plastered with character images. These branded character products actually discourage creative play, an essential element in children's healthy growth and development. Character products come predefined with roles, storylines, and even catch

phrases, eliminating the need for children to use their imaginations.

Should we include these branded characters in our libraries? Librarians need to find a comfortable balance, of course, and it's unrealistic to expect a library to expunge their shelves of all TV-character books. We serve our communities and need to respond to patron demand. But could we stock less commercially generated fare?

In a May 14 post on the ALSC Blog, children's librarian Sara Patalita of Allen County (Ind.) Library's Georgetown branch said she decided to rid her storytimes and play area of branded characters. There are still character books in the collection, but staffers are encouraging imaginative play by providing non-commercial toys and coloring sheets.

Consider, also, sponsorships for events such as the Summer Reading Club. Many libraries have limited funding and may depend on donations of prizes or funds from large corporations. But could libraries rely less on that? Again, it's a balancing act. Instead of offering a half-dozen fast-food coupons, consider seeking out local businesses and attractions in your area. With concern growing every year about childhood obesity, some libraries are concentrating on experiential rewards like coupons or passes that allow families to do something fun together. What about partnering with local museums, zoos, parks, or historical sites? Your Friends group

could support a local charity by donating a certain sum for each summer reading club book read or every child who completes the program. Provide a list of fun, free things families can do in your community, or put together kits with which families can design a board game together or lists of things to spot on a nature walk or a stroll through town.

It's important to stay on message when changing your library's collection or programs. You can garner community support for what you're doing by providing information about the dangers of targeted advertising and educate parents and caregivers so that they can make informed decisions for the children in their care. CCFC provides many online fact sheets that are ready for you to share with curious patrons.

Each year, CCFC holds Screen-Free Week, during which families are encouraged to turn off the TV and other screens they use for entertainment. This event ties in perfectly with library values. Celebrate the library as a place for families and community by holding family programs and encouraging everyone to read together. Partner with other nonprofit attractions in your community to provide family-friendly entertainment alternatives.

Start small and you may find yourself making a big difference—in your library and your community. ■

**ABBY JOHNSON** is children's services/outreach manager at New Albany-Floyd County (Ind.) Public Library. Find her on the web at [abbythelibrarian.com](http://abbythelibrarian.com).

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# Librarian's Library

## Back to School

by Karen Muller

Whether we are going back to school or not, most of us sense new beginnings in the air. And whether we are in a school library or not, we are all part of the educational process.

Literacy and learning start before school. *Every Child Ready for School: Helping Adults Inspire Young Children to Learn* is a case study for a library-based school readiness program developed by Carroll County (Md.) Public Library. It is based on the premise that “libraries can motivate adults to inspire children to learn” (p. 14) and derived its inspiration from the ALSC/PLA Every Child Ready to Read program. The authors, Dorothy Stoltz and Connie Wilson, both librarians, and Elaine M. Czarnecki, a literacy consultant, review why it is important to train adult caregivers and how training for adults should be designed. They provide a step-by-step guide to a training package, with sample agendas, scripts, and other resources. INDEXED. ALA EDITIONS, 2013. 160 P. \$47. PBK. 978-0-8389-1125-9.

Mirah J. Dow, former member of the AASL Legislation Committee, has assembled a set of bibliographical essays addressing the key components of why school libraries are important to the education of our

youth. *School Libraries Matter: Views from the Research* looks at 10 facets of school library excellence. Each chapter, written by a researcher in the specific discipline, provides an overview of recent research that can be used for advocacy with school administrators or the broader community in promoting the value of school librarians essential to the learning process of today's students. The threads—on project-based learning, collaboration, language development, information seeking behavior, and academic achievement—are brought together in the final chapter with 10 statements on why school libraries matter. INDEXED. LIBRARIES UNLIMITED, 2013. 173 P. \$50. PBK. 978-161069-161-1. (ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK.)

According to the National Council of State Legislatures website, most states mandate some sex education in public schools. *Sex in the Library: A Guide to Sexual Content in Teen Literature* will go a long way in helping school librarians provide age-appropriate, informative, and accurate materials to support the curriculum. Its origins are the book talks the authors, Mary Jo Heller, a school librarian, and Aarene Storms, a public librarian, offered in their



Whether we are in a school library or not, we are all part of the educational process.

town. They provide tips for book talks that support the curriculum, particularly Common Core, for avoiding the “giggles,” and for gaining administrative and parental approval. There are topical lists of suggested titles, refer-

ences to reviews, and annotations, with age and content indicators to guide selection. INDEXED. VOYA PRESS, AN IMPRINT OF E. L. KURDYLA PUBLISHING, LLC, 2013. 190 P. \$40. PBK. 978-1-61751-028-1.

Time management is a critical skill, whether you are in an elementary school library where days are filled with instruction as each classroom visits the library for one period a week; a public library where there is always another reference question beckoning as you try to plan a literacy event; or a college library where meetings with faculty are balanced with reviewing the collection and developing new instructional units. *Time and Project Management Strategies for Librarians*, edited by Carol Smallwood, Jason Kuhl, and Lisa Fraser, provides an array of tips and tricks for managing one's own tasks, scheduling those of others, and managing projects so that they don't overwhelm. Not all suggestions will



# ROUSING READS

## PELECANOS, LOCKED AND LOADED

work for everyone, but this “Life-hacker vade mecum” should inspire at least one new (or renewed) practice to become more efficient.

INDEXED. SCARECROW PRESS, 2013. 308 P. \$55.  
PBK. 978-0-8108-9052-7. (ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK.)

Two revised editions round out our back-to-school library. *Enhancing Teaching and Learning: A Leadership Guide for School Librarians*,



3rd edition, by Jean Donham, covers the complexities of being a school librarian, from the local governance questions about building the collection and collaborating with the other faculty to understanding program evaluation and assessment of student learning. This edition has been updated to include the role of standards, influence of media, and the changing reading habits and educational needs of millennials.

INDEXED. ALA NEAL-SCHUMAN, 2013. 400 P. \$70.  
PBK. 978-1-55570-887-0.

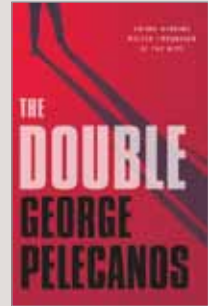
*Information Literacy Instruction That Works: A Guide to Teaching by Discipline and Student Population*, 2nd ed., edited by Patrick Ragains, addresses post-secondary-level student instruction, beginning with developing an ongoing relationship with teaching faculty and collaborating with various audiences on campus. Most essays are subject-specific, though there are separate discussions on teaching students with disabilities and distance learners.



INDEXED. ALA NEAL-SCHUMAN, 2013. 360 P. \$85.  
PBK. 978-1-55570-860-3. ■

KAREN MULLER is librarian and knowledge management specialist for the ALA Library.

I started reading George Pelecanos in 1997, when he published *King Suckerman*, which is, of all things, a fictional homage to the “blaxploitation” films of the 1970s. Combining the eccentric flash of *Pulp Fiction*, the noir soul of David Goodis, and the idiosyncratic heart of Elmore Leonard, this wildly violent novel effectively evokes the comic book heroics of the *Superfly* era while at the same time sucker-punching us with the humanity at its core. Naturally, I was hooked and immediately backtracked to all of Pelecanos’s earlier novels, especially enjoying those featuring salesman-turned-PI Nick Stefanos.



Lately, Pelecanos has become almost as well known for his film work as his novel writing—first as a producer and writer for the universally acclaimed HBO series *The Wire* (*Entertainment Weekly* recently declared it the best TV show of all time) and then as a writer for the current HBO series *Treme*. Those who have watched Pelecanos stretch his wings on television shouldn’t have been surprised. He has always been more than a crime writer. Over the course of his nearly 20 novels, Pelecanos has constructed a multifaceted fictional universe united by a common landscape—the streets of Washington, D.C.—and featuring an interlocking set of characters that eventually would span several generations. Pelecanos’s characters from different books intermingle with one another in Faulknerian fashion, and individual novels go back and forth in time, allowing the author to evoke the same streets and neighborhoods during different decades, from the 1940s through the present, and build context both in terms of character development and landscape.

It’s a remarkable fictional world, nearly Dickensian in its portrayal of working-class lives in Washington, both those that go horribly wrong and those that carve small personal triumphs from the inhospitable world around them. As the scope of his fictional world has widened, one’s respect for Pelecanos as a writer has grown significantly. And, yet, there’s a part of me that yearns for those early head-banging books. My yearnings were satisfied with the arrival in 2011 of *The Cut* and with the forthcoming novel *The Double*, to be published in October.

Pelecanos introduces a new character in these novels, Spero Lucas, who, like John D. MacDonald’s Travis McGee, comes to the aid of people who have lost something and keeps 40% of the take (McGee kept half). In *The Double*, Lucas helps out a fortysomething D.C. woman with bad taste in men. Her latest wrong choice has stripped her of a valuable painting and her self-respect. In a kind of homage not only to MacDonald (especially *The Deep Blue Good-bye*) but also to Charles Willeford and Don Carpenter (all three are mentioned in the acknowledgments), Pelecanos reinterprets and updates the theme of the charismatic sociopath who revels in draining the souls of his willing victims, bringing a heightened sensitivity and social consciousness to the story without losing the visceral terror that drives the narrative. Those who know their crime-fiction history will love the references to earlier masters, but, finally, it’s Pelecanos, locked and loaded, back in his wheelhouse, that is cause for celebration.



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

# Solutions and Services

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## bretford.com >>>

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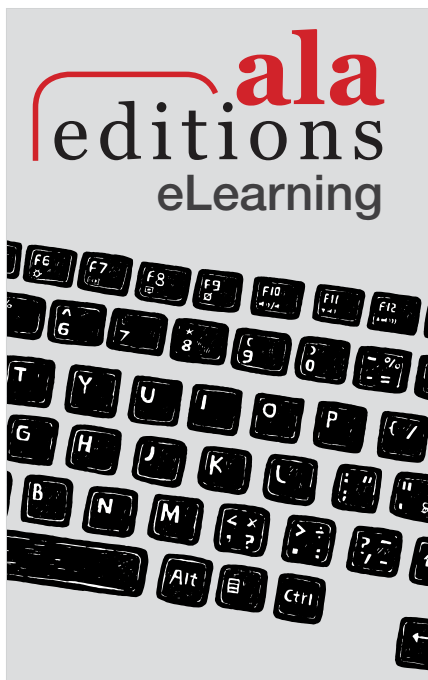
## ▼▼▼ bibliothea.com

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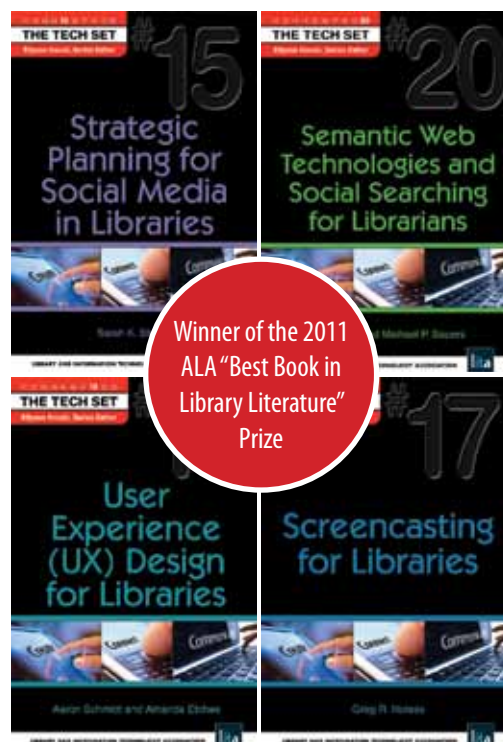
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E-content delivery solutions provider Impelsys has entered into a partnership with Barbados-based book distributor DataLore to offer ebookstores to educational institutions located throughout the Caribbean.

The new partners are currently developing a new cloud-based, streaming ebook platform as a part of the project. DataLore's Caribbean Shared Educational Resource Service will provide the customized ebookstores for participating schools and colleges. From these branded ebookstores, students will be able to purchase DataLore's etextbooks and other digital content, as well as access those ebooks at any time and from any device. The stores will be powered by Impelsys's iPublishCentral digital publishing software platform, which allows publishers to warehouse, deliver, distribute, market, and sell their ebooks without making significant capital or engineering resource investments on their own.



## NORTHWESTERN SELECTS EX LIBRIS ALMA

[EXLIBRISGROUP.COM](http://EXLIBRISGROUP.COM)

Northwestern University took steps to unify its library services in 2008 by adopting Ex Libris Group's Primo discovery and delivery solution. The unification continues with the implementation of Alma, Ex Libris Group's next-generation infrastructure that offers a single cloud system to replace multiple systems used for managing print, electronic, and digital collections. The integrated Primo and Alma systems provide an optimized user experience and synergy between user services and library operations.

"Alma enables us to integrate and deliver information more seamlessly for the staff, end users, and administration at Northwestern," said Sarah M. Pritchard, dean of libraries at Northwestern University. "We are now positioned to create a comprehensive, unified array of curated materials that can be easily accessed,

preserved, and promoted. By migrating our entire library operation to the Ex Libris cloud environment, we are making this vision come to life."

Alma delivers on the Northwestern University library

system's strategic plan, published in 2012, to find new ways to offer customized services to the Northwestern community by redirecting staff time and resources



away from the management of library collections by fully automating common workflows across print, electronic, and digital resources. The efficiency created by the Alma adoption enables Northwestern's libraries to continue providing core services while pursuing new strategic objectives. With cost savings identified through Alma's advanced analytics and collection analyses, the library system will be able to channel resources to support emerging areas of growth.

# Career Leads from

## ALA JobLIST

joblist.ala.org

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

**The Board of Trustees of the Putnam County Public Library is seeking a Library Director** for a district of 38,000 citizens in a town of 10,000, location of DePauw University. The director will

manage the staff, budget, collections, plans, programs, volunteers and facilities in consultation and cooperation with the Board. Our new director should be energetic and enthusiastic about library services to our public while looking for new and innovative approaches. The director will be the representative and champion of the library at public events and forums to inform and encourage the use of its services. The director should work collaboratively with the 26 library staff members (eight full-time and 18 part-time) and the Board in seeking innovative approaches to the improvement and growth of the library. The director should provide open and encouraging leadership focused on meeting the mission of the library and the goals and objectives identified in its strategic plan. An ALA-accredited Master's degree in Library Science with the ability to obtain and retain an Indiana Librarian Certificate 1 is required. Candidates should have management and supervisory experience in a public library setting, superior written and oral communication skills and demonstrated success in effectively promoting library services to the community. Candidates should also have experience in recruiting, mentoring, evaluating and retaining excellent librarians and other staff members. The starting salary range is \$60-70K with benefits, dependent on experience and qualifications. **Contact: Wesley Wilson, Putnam County Public Library, 103 E. Poplar St., Greencastle, IN 46135; [wwwilson@depauw.edu](mailto:wwwilson@depauw.edu) <http://www.putnam.lib.in.us>**

**FIT Fashion Institute of Technology**  
State University of New York

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**CONTACT** Email [joblist@ala.org](mailto:joblist@ala.org) or call 800-545-2433, Katie Bane, ext. 5105. Career Leads, American Libraries, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; fax 312-337-6787.

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### Employment Opportunity

## Library Services Director, Santa Monica Public Library



#### Library Services Director, Santa Monica Public Library

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# What About the Children?

And the kids shall lead them—to the library

by Will Manley

**A**fter decades of strong leadership, Livermore (Calif.) Public Library, where I am a trustee, now has an opening at the top. Library Director Susan Gallinger has retired and we are faced with the challenge of replacing her.

We spent the last board meeting with the city manager discussing the characteristics of her replacement. We talked about the changing landscape of libraries and how we need someone who is electronically savvy, technologically creative, and politically astute. We wondered, given this new environment, if we were measuring the right things in our attempt to determine whether the community was getting a fair return on its library tax dollar.

While the conversation was interesting and vigorous, it made me a little nervous. Weren't we ignoring something more important than technology, change, and statistics? In my mind, Susan's greatest gift to the community was not the beautiful

building that she built during her tenure, but the incredibly rich and diverse series of children's services that she implemented. Without the thousands of kids those programs attracted, our beautiful building would never have been built.

So I blurted out, "I want a library director who doesn't hate kids. Wait, that came out wrong. I want a library director who values children."

From my 40 years of laboring in the library vineyard, I have known a lot of library directors who hated kids . . . I'm sorry, who didn't value children. Kids are not programmable. There is no convenient "kid app." They are noisy, disruptive, obstreperous, and cantankerous. They pull books off the shelves in droves. They pee, poop, vomit, spill stuff into computer keyboards, destroy books, swallow puzzle pieces, and get lost. Plus, they smell funny.

And they have noisy, disruptive, obstreperous, and cantankerous parents. "My child is gifted and you have nothing to keep him challenged." "Your story hours are all at the wrong time. Can't you schedule one at 6:30 a.m. before I have to go to work?" "My child read more books than anyone else in the summer



**Children get the entire family into the library.**

reading program. Shouldn't he get a special prize?"

Let's not forget the adult library users who regard chil-

dren as though they were invasive vermin. Forty years ago I took over a sleepy little village library in rural Wisconsin and made kids a priority. Soon it was no longer a sleepy little library but a beehive of activity. An indignant woman marched into my office and declared, "This was a nice library before you got here and started pandering to children."

Well, that's exactly the kind of library director that we need at a time when the *raison d'être* of libraries is being challenged: someone who will "pander" to children. It's a very simple formula. Children are the catalysts who get the entire modern family involved in the library: nannies, parents, grandparents, stepparents, step-grandparents—the list goes on and on. We do things for our kids we never dreamed of. Last week I went to the absolute worst ballet in the history of the performing arts. Why? My 5-year-old granddaughter was a flower in the first two minutes of it.

Oh, and there's one more advantage to a kid-centric library director. If you can manage children, you can manage local politicians. ■

*WILL MANLEY has furnished provocative commentary on librarianship for more than 30 years, has written nine books on the lighter side of library science, and blogs at [willunwound.com](http://willunwound.com). Email [wmanley7@att.net](mailto:wmanley7@att.net).*



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