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-ANONYMOUS

Strategic Library™



Issue 22 // November 15, 2015

Big Read, Big Benefits

» **Creating sustainable partnerships across communities through an NEA grant.**

BY PAIGE MANO

“**L**iving at risk is jumping off a cliff and building your wings on the way down.” (Ray Bradbury)

To put it mildly, for the small staff of the University of Wisconsin-Parkside Library, applying for a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts’ (NEA) Big Read program was a risk. Following a successful collaboration in 2013 with a local public library on its Big Read programming, we formed a team of librarians and support staff, took a leap of faith, and applied for our own Big Read grant from the NEA.

Every aspect of the process, from writing the grant to planning the events, was new for the members of the committee, but the results were greater than anyone could have hoped: sold out events, rave reviews from participants and local media, participation from businesses and residents in two large cities, and best of all, sustainable partnerships with local organizations for future campus and library programming. This is the story of one library’s rise from outdated “book warehouse” to a major focus of the university and its surrounding communities.

PERSPECTIVES

The University of Wisconsin-Parkside (UW-Parkside) campus is located between Milwaukee and Chicago. More specifically, is nearly equidistant between downtown Kenosha and Racine, two cities each with a population of about 100,000 people. It is a small public university with an enrollment of about 4,500 students, 85 percent of whom are Wisconsinites. Statistics show that 25 percent of the student body is considered diverse, either because of their status as “adult students” or because of their ethnic background. The University places a strong emphasis on community engagement and has been recognized by the Carnegie Foundation multiple times for this focus.

The campus provides outreach to the community in many ways typical for a university, including musical and theatre performances, sporting events, science nights and educational lectures, adult enrichment courses, continuing education for professionals, and art galleries. Despite the popularity of these offerings, it had consistently been difficult to attract members of the campus community, not to mention the

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

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ARTICLES BY ISSUE

ARTICLES BY SUBJECT

Collections/Circulation
Community Leadership
Emerging Technologies
Fundraising/Budgeting
Legal Issues
Strategic Planning

AUTHORS

LIBRARIES

CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS



Figure 1: This distinctive logo was a key component of the marketing plan.

community at large, to library programming. Common complaints included issues with parking, not thinking the library was open to the public, or a belief that the library was just too far out of the way for most people. As a result, our programming ideas became stagnant and uninspired.

In 2012, a newly-hired library director quickly transformed our lifeless library atmosphere into one that embraced a culture of change, understanding that change always starts with people. Under her leadership, our tiny library staff, just 14 people, began its transformation by believing that we were now in an environment that encouraged experimentation, where our successes are celebrated and our failures are a learning experience.

That same year, our library staff began making changes to more closely reflect the needs of our students and to align with the university's outward reaching vision—from policy changes (allowing therapy dogs to visit the library for stress relief) to space changes (medicine balls as seats, bean bag chairs for group work, lowering shelves to let in natural light) and to new permanent programs (Art in the UW-P Library, a Copyright Day mini-conference). As a result, the library began to interact with users in ways that no one had imagined.

So, with this encouraging environment, we began to reach out to the community with baby steps, first answering the call from Kenosha Public Library to partner with them on an initiative called the Big Read. Sponsored by the NEA, the Big Read is essentially a month-long community party themed around classic literature. We loved the idea of partnering with a local public library because the events sounded like fun, there wasn't a huge expense to our library, and, most impor-



Figure 2: Local firefighters held extinguisher training sessions for students.

tantly, they already had a built-in "fan base" that we could draw to our library.

In short, our Big Read collaboration was a huge success. Along with featuring student art, interactive displays, short films, crafts, snacks, and costumed interpreters at an evening event, the library sponsored film showings and book discussions on campus. Immediately (as in, an hour later) following our final event, our Big Read team began plans to apply for a grant ourselves for the following year.

No one in our group had any experience in grant writing, but since I love filling out forms, I volunteered to take on the narrative portion. Another team member said she enjoyed math, so she took over the budget work. We contacted the Kenosha Public Library and asked for their help; they were ecstatic and loved that we were also planning to invite the Racine Public Library to participate. Staff from Kenosha Public Library met with us during the grant writing process, providing advice and suggestions to make our application the strongest it could be.

Finally, at the end of April 2014, we learned that we had won a \$15,000 NEA grant. So from September 22nd to October 25th, we would host a Big Read, featuring *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury (see Figure 1). We chose that book because our director at the time was good friends with Sam Weller, a professor at Columbia College in Chicago, best known for being Ray Bradbury's authorized biographer, and he was happy to work with us. Also, one of our librarians contacted *F451* graphic novel illustrator, Tim Hamilton, who agreed to come to Racine (at our expense) to do a talk and a book signing.

FORGING PARTNERSHIPS

Our challenge now was to develop new partnerships with a variety of entities both on- and off-campus, beginning with our library staff. The staff includes those with degrees in art, those who are gifted in public speaking, and those who are just 100 percent ready, willing, and able to help out with all the incidentals that come with working on a large program such as the Big Read. We were also able to further our reach to the UW-Parkside campus as a whole. At times it was a bit of a challenge to show faculty that being involved with something like the Big Read was worth their time and effort. However, once we showed them how we could pair our programming with their discipline, the collaborations really began in earnest.

As we brainstormed event ideas with our partners, we realized we really needed to think outside the box, even at the campus level. This allowed us to incorporate everything from fire extinguisher training sessions (by Safety & Risk Management staff, (see Figure 2), to "hot, hot, hot!" karaoke nights in the campus rec lounge (thanks to Campus Activities), and to an extremely popular "Science Night" lecture about the ignition point of paper (with help from the Chemistry department). Our partnerships in the surrounding communities were just as creative. In addition to partnering with Racine and Kenosha public libraries, we also worked such groups as the local fire department, two microbreweries, local restaurants, correctional facilities, a credit union, the local women's club, a bike shop, a Scandinavian bakery, a cartooning festival, and a nature sanctuary.

Lessons Learned. Our best advice when it comes to forming local partnerships? Ask!



Figures 3 and 4: Restaurants in the community supported The Big Read with food and event specials.

And then ask again. Focus on public libraries and school districts and make connections with private schools and technical colleges. These institutions all have their own built-in audiences, and working with them will help get your events out to wider audiences. And don't forget—food and other freebies are always a great way to lure potential partners to your meetings.

MARKETING

Once we had successfully connected with community partners and created innovative Big Read events—including *Fahrenheit 451*-inspired beer, \$4.51 food specials in local restaurants (see Figures 3 and 4), and a 451-kilometer biking competition—our next task was marketing.

We began with our identity. We asked and received permission from the NEA to alter their standard logo with the flame behind it, which became the logo for the UW-Parkside Big Read and was used consistently throughout the event in all of our marketing. We printed 5,000 copies of our events brochure (beautifully designed by our Creative Services department (see Figure 5), and handed them out at events prior to the Big Read kickoff. We gave brochures to all of our community partners to distribute and stuffed them into the free copies of *Fahrenheit 451* to be distributed to the public.

Before the Big Read kickoff had even taken place, our team members were busy at late summer community events, thrusting brochures into the hands of innocent passersby, while sticking Big Read-embellished temporary tattoos on kids and tying flame-patterned bandanas on dogs. Along with creating magnets, posters, flyers, and table tents, we “set the library on fire” by

using the building itself as a means of advertising. Our library has floor-to-ceiling windows that face some of the busiest areas on campus, so large-scale posters and brightly painted ads were great attention getters (see Figures 6 and 7).

Using a www.cafepress.com coupon, we ordered Big Read tee shirts for our Big Read team and all of our community partners as a way to tie all of the events together. The tee shirts proved to be an incredibly popular marketing tool, and even people not associated with Big Read events asked about getting their own tee shirts to wear.

We only paid for two advertisements prior to kickoff—one in the *Kenosha News* and the other in the *Racine Journal Times* to advertise our keynote speaker, Sam Weller, and the book signing with F451 graphic novel illustrator, Tim Hamilton. Most of our marketing efforts took the form of our own print and electronic materials.

Figures 6 and 7: The library itself provided opportunities to promote The Big Read, inside and out.



Figure 5: The library's Creative Services department designed brochures to promote various events.

Electronic media played a huge part in advertising the Big Read. We created a Big Read page on the UW-Parkside website and used it to advertise events (book distribution sites, \$4.51 specials) and to promote our partners' websites. We also made heavy use of social media, especially Facebook and Twitter. The library and the UW-Parkside's Creative Services department posted regularly about upcoming events, which were picked up by other university outlets and community partners. We also shared the posts from our partners on our social media sites.

For example, Sam Weller shared his Twitter handle with the students he met at area high schools and universities and invited them to contact him about their favorite Ray Bradbury books and creative writing. Twitter was also used to post about the



success of our events and to attract people to future events. Email blasts to the campus, interviews with local radio stations, and weekly press releases sent to area newspapers got our events even more coverage. We found a great partner in our University Relations department when it came to contacting local media outlets.

THE RESULTS

So what were the fruits of our labor? The month-long extravaganza included 50 events, with more than 300 people attending the keynote event alone. Another 300 middle- and high-school students were reached through workshops and presentations. In addition, 20 businesses participated in the \$4.51 food specials, and we held 14 book discussions, both public and private. Total attendance at all events was 3,700, and 2,750 books were distributed at no charge to our campus and community members.

And we received great feedback. Both the *Kenosha News* and the *Racine Journal Times* wrote about our Big Read programs, including two front-page articles from Kenosha. Less publicized but no less rewarding were student letters showing their appreciation for presentations that took place in local grade schools, as well as shout-outs from Sam Weller himself on Twitter and Facebook. Perhaps the most rewarding was the great feedback from our own campus. One long-time faculty member said that our keynote event was the best thing that he attended on campus. Students gave positive feedback as well, sharing their favorite events with us in person and on social media.

Lessons Learned: The most important lessons we learned during the process can be summarized as follows:

Adapt. Change is the only constant in life, and you have to be able to work with it. We learned quickly that not everyone responds in the same way, and some don't respond as well as others. The ability to adapt plans and schedules to produce the best result was a major part of the planning process.

Variety is the Spice of Life! Much of the

success of the Big Read can be attributed to the diversity it offered. We had programs for middle school, high school, and college-age students, as well as adults, seniors, and families. We offered *Fahrenheit 451* in several formats: English, Spanish, and graphic novel versions were purchased from a book wholesaler; the film was shown to the public; and a live radio performance was done by a local group that specializes in "old time" radio shows. Programming was available for the Kenosha and Racine Literacy Councils and the men's and women's prisons. The events and locations were varied, as were the marketing formats we used. This allowed us to target very diverse audiences who attended some or all of our programs.

Hand-Holding. When you work with different people from different organizations, you deal with a wide range of schedules and levels of commitment. It can be frustrating and tempting to let them go.

But we had to remember that, at the end of the day, the UW-Parkside name was on all the programming. Sometimes hand-holding is necessary, and ultimately, worth it.

Be Present. Regardless of the location of the event, partners appreciate seeing UW-Parkside library staff at their events. We made sign-up sheets for internal use to be sure a team member was at every event. That commitment helped to strengthen the partnerships.

Organization. With as many events that we had to keep track of, organization was key. Timelines, schedules, and sign-up sheets were all gathered into a Google Drive folder that the team could access from anywhere.

Ask for Help. As more events were scheduled, organizing everything became overwhelming. We reached out to the rest of the library staff and student workers to attend events and promote others.

Give Kudos. A five-week event is a big undertaking and takes a lot of help. It's important to make sure that people feel appreciated. We tried to do so with gifts of our *Fahrenheit 451* t-shirts to our partners, and the team personally signed over 80 thank you cards.

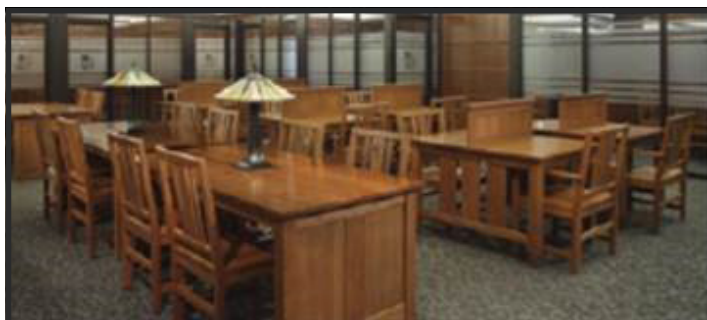
RETROSPECTIVE

Hosting the Big Read was the most challenging, time-consuming, and exhausting thing that we have done as a team in our library—and it was the best. We have made strong partnerships on campus and in both of our communities, and we can now build on those alliances. The Kenosha Public Library has received a Big Read grant for 2015, and both the UW-Parkside Library and the Racine Public Library are participating as community partners. We look forward to helping a local technical college apply for the grant in 2016.

With the *Fahrenheit 451* Big Read, we followed the spirit of the "Wisconsin Idea" by reaching out to, and spending time with, the communities that Parkside represents. And we've seen what we can accomplish when we come together as a caring community.

Speaking of kudos, I must give a huge thank you to my fellow presenters at the Association of College and research Librarians (ACRL) 2015 conference in Portland, OR: Melissa Olson, Anne Rasmussen, and Heather Spencer. To see the original presentation from ACRL 2015 including many more photographs, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/bigreadbigbenefits>. For a full listing of the events from our Big Read program, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/f451events>. ■

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Location, Location, Location

» Putting your library on the map.*

BY LORI AYRE AND JIM CRANER

Over the past several years, we've witnessed a virtual explosion of geospatial software, services, and tools—that is, software and tools that enable us to easily map people, places, things, and data. Libraries are uniquely poised to take advantage of these new tools to improve operations and decision-making and to engage their patron communities. These software tools are frequently referred to as geographic information systems, or “GIS.”

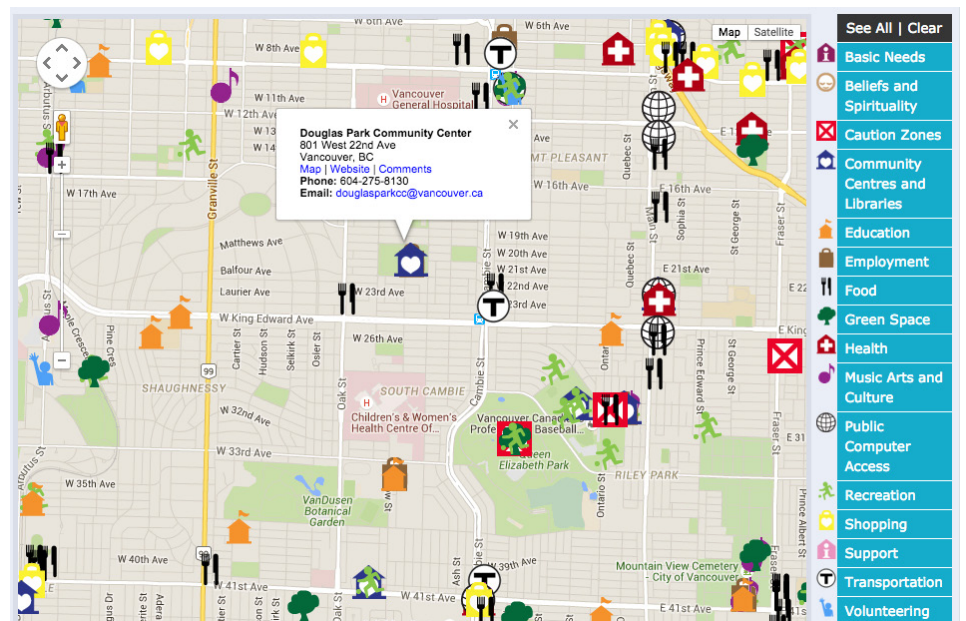
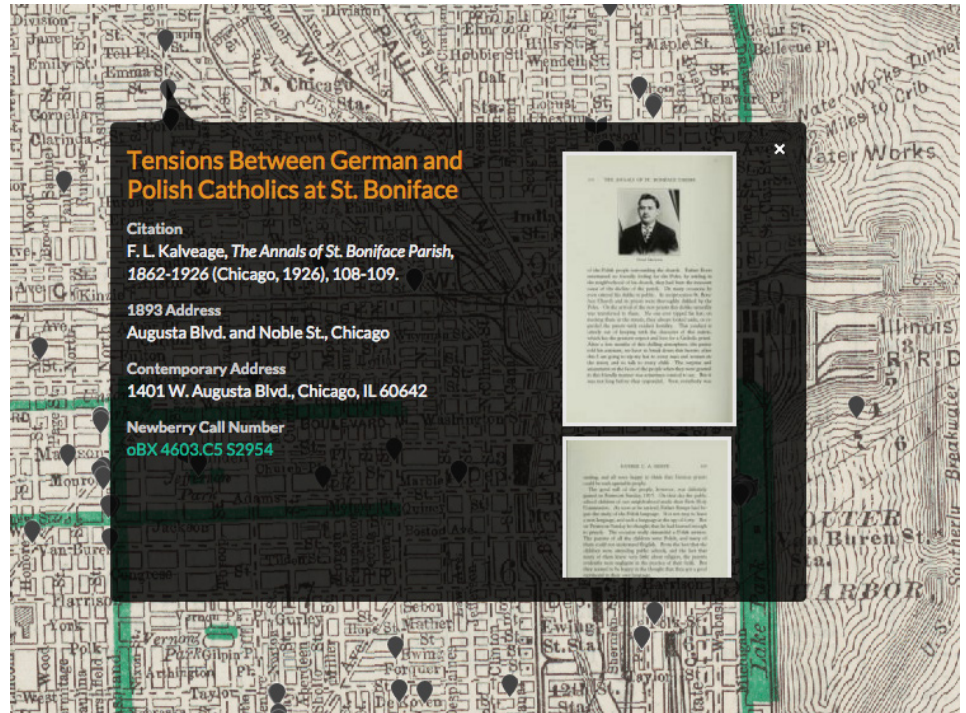
GIS can be (incredibly) oversimplified to the concept of “digital maps.” Humans have been using maps for thousands of years—we’re “location-aware,” to borrow a phrase from the software industry. Maps are a way to visualize data, much like pie charts or bar graphs—but in the case of maps, we’re visualizing the physical world around us. And even as libraries deliver more services virtually, they remain physical centers of the neighborhoods and cities they serve. And spatial data can help us learn more about the neighborhoods and cities where our libraries are anchored.

In other words, maps help us learn and share the stories of the community around us. And if there are two things that librarians know, it is stories and their communities.

IMPROVE SERVICE DELIVERY AND OPERATIONS

The communities that our libraries serve can change rapidly these days, and so do the needs of our patrons. How do we ensure that we are properly serving these dynamic communities? How can we identify the services that our populations need if we don't really know who they are?

The good news is that tools, data, and expertise are available to help libraries understand more about the people living in the shifting neighborhoods that make up their service areas. Forward-thinking libraries are combining their existing patron data with other data sets to generate custom maps of service areas, patron activity, and more. These maps can be used for specific



Top: Historical record displayed on Newberry Library's "Faith in the City" map.

Bottom: Youth Asset map created by youth as part of City of Vancouver's Sustainable Cities Initiative.

projects, such as identifying areas of population growth for branch expansion. They can also be used for continuous service improvement by ensuring that collections and services meet the needs of the populations they serve. They provide a place-based

context for the decision-making needs of library management and boards.

In 2011, Gina Milsap wrote an excellent article for *InfoToday* describing how the Topeka & Shawnee County Library management used commercial market segmenta-

tion data and GIS software while formulating the library's strategic plan (<http://tscpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/P.MLS-3368-R.pdf>). The article describes how the library and a consulting firm combined data beyond typical demographics—such as detailed marketing profiles of individual neighborhoods—to improve the relevancy of their collections and increase library usage. As a library system serving a diverse population of urban, suburban, and rural communities, this place-based approach to decision making was particularly useful for planning.

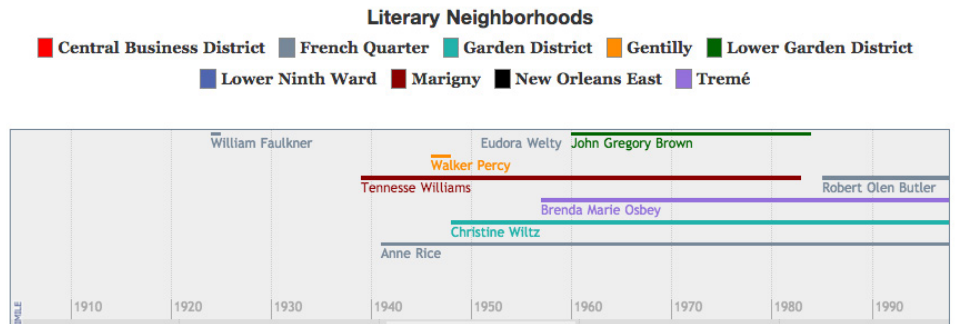
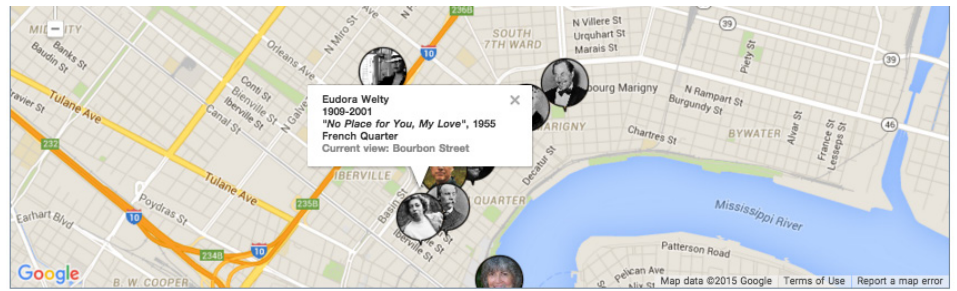
Ten years ago, many of these activities were limited to large library systems working with their municipal or county hosts' GIS departments, or those that could afford external consultants specializing in geographic analysis. The consultant mentioned in Milsap's article, Civic Technologies, now has competition from upstarts like Orange Boy and Gale. Esri, the largest and most well-known corporate and government GIS provider, has begun offering geospatial data and tools targeted at libraries.

But you don't have to have a GIS department in-house or an expensive consultant on retainer these days. In the past decade, hundreds of open source projects and free online services—many well-suited for entry-level mapping and analysis projects—have become available. From simple mapping solutions like Google "My Maps" (<https://www.google.com/mymaps>) to complex GIS analytics and visualization tools like QGIS (<http://www.qgis.org/>) and GRASS (<https://grass.osgeo.org/>), budding cartographers have no shortage of free options. In addition, a flood of open data sources allow libraries to create data "mash-ups" that would have been unthinkable just a few years ago.

ENGAGE YOUR COMMUNITY

Digital maps and GIS applications can also make compelling tools for engaging patrons and other members of your community. Check out just a few of the many great examples:

- Create a digital "literary map" of your city or region (or participate in your state's literary map). Literary maps are maps of a region with information about the genres, authors, and specific titles associated with that area: think Steinbeck's recurring use of the Monterey, CA area as a setting (<http://www.lib.umich.edu/online-exhibits/exhibits/show/litmaps/author/the->



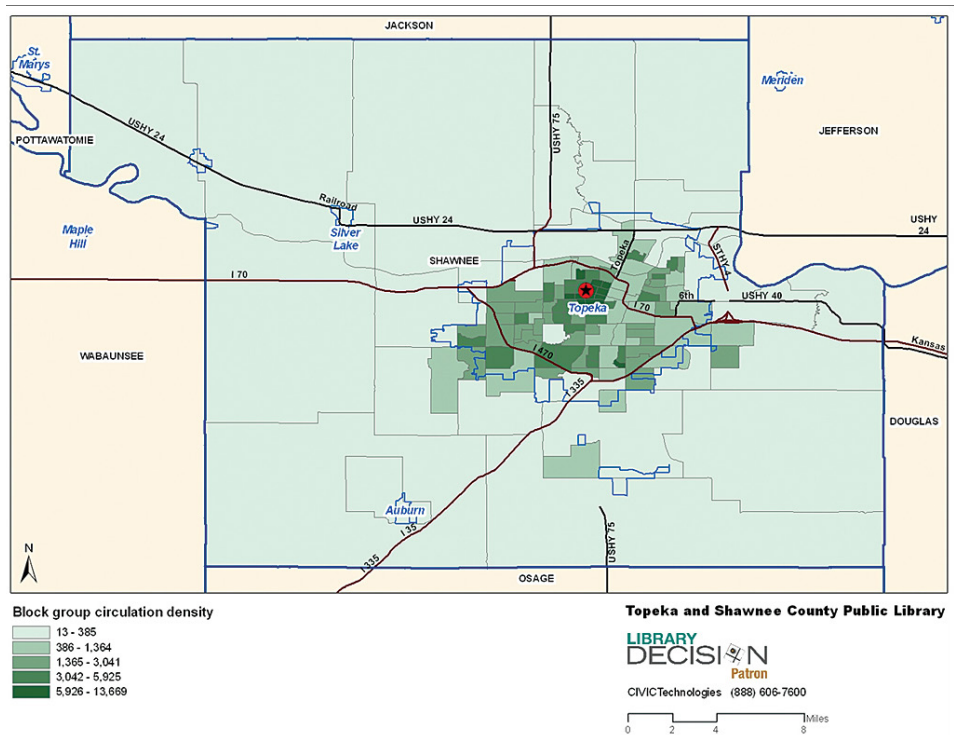
University of Richmond's Literary New Orleans map.

john-steinbeck-map-of-amer), or the city of New Orleans appearing in literature from Twain to Eggers (<http://dsl.richmond.edu/tocqueville/LiteraryNewOrleans.html>). These can be artistic, print-based representations of your region's literature or interactive maps with direct links to titles in your library catalog.

- Engage youth to take "asset mapping" to a new level: everyone views their communities differently and today's teens have a unique perspective. Download

some free GPS and mapping software for smartphones and tablets and lead "mapping tours" of your community or neighborhood. From hangouts and hot spots to schools and skate parks -- take a look at this integrated youth mapping program curriculum from Vancouver, BC: <http://sustainablecities.net/our-work/sustainability-projects/where-we-work/north-america/item/3-mapped-vancouver-youth-asset-mapping-project>.

- Tell the tale of your city through time:



Topeka/Shawnee County's circulation figures mapped by neighborhood/community area.

The screenshot shows the Data.gov interface. At the top, there is a search bar with 'Search Data.Gov' and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar are navigation links: DATA, TOPICS, IMPACT, APPLICATIONS, DEVELOPERS, and CONTACT. The main header area includes 'DATA CATALOG', a home icon, and tabs for 'Datasets' and 'Organizations'. The current page is 'Organizations / Institute of Museum and Library Services'. On the left sidebar, there is a profile for 'Institute of Museum and Library Services' with 0 followers, 2 members, and 43 datasets. Below this are topic filters and a note: 'There are no Topics that match this search'. The main content area shows '43 datasets found' and lists two datasets: 'Museums Universe Data File (MUDF) FY 2014 3rd Quarter' and 'Museums Universe Data File (MUDF) FY 2013'. Each dataset entry includes a brief description and download options for ZIP and CSV.

Data.gov is the Federal clearinghouse for freely-available statistical and demographic data.

work with your local historians to embed your oral history videos, archives, historical photos, and other records on historical maps. New York Public Library engages volunteers to crowdsource and correct data on historical maps of Manhattan and the outer boroughs (<http://buildingspector.nypl.org/>), as well as display the data in new and interesting ways (<http://www.nypl.org/blog/2014/05/05/historical-maps-minecraft>).

- The Newberry Library in Chicago has created Chicago Ancestors (<http://chicagoancestors.org>), a site that lets amateur genealogists and historians contribute and search historical sites throughout the city.
- Check out the StoryMap project (and free interactive map-building tool) from Knight Labs for some other great examples: <https://storymap.knightlab.com/>.

LEVERAGING OPEN DATA TODAY –PROCESS EXAMPLES

Let's look at how a library might put this technology to use. First, the library maps out its active patrons within the community,

then “overlays” a census map of income levels. By comparing these data visually, it becomes clear that pockets of low-income areas exist with relatively few library patrons compared to other similar areas of the community.

The library then “overlays” a map of the community’s public transit, where analysts see that a lack of reliable public transit in this neighborhood is a contributing factor to the neighborhood’s lack of library use. Equipped with this knowledge, the library’s management actively takes steps to engage this neighborhood by providing a self-service kiosk, increasing bookmobile coverage in the area, and partnering with neighborhood groups for outreach activities.

More useful examples: perhaps census data indicates that a relatively new immigrant community is growing within your city or county. A prudent step might be to analyze the services and collections of nearby branches to ensure the community is being adequately served. Thinking of seeking grant funding to support services to low-income households in your community? Overlaying your state’s free lunch statisti-

cal map can illustrate branches and nearby schools especially well-suited to participating in such a program.

These are just a few of the questions that can be answered with geo-aware data, if you are asking the right questions and leverage the available data to provide those answers.

GETTING STARTED: FINDING GEOSPATIAL OPEN DATA

Now that we’ve learned about the potential benefits and seen some powerful examples of GIS being used by libraries, let’s dig in deeper to see what this process can look like. To begin, where on Earth do we find data to put on our map?

The first part of any map is the “base layer,” the underlying “surface” of the map, displaying your city or district. If you’re working with your city/county government’s GIS team, they might provide access to a private online GIS service with relevant local data, such as library branches, city/county boundaries, neighborhood/ward boundaries, and school districts. Working on your own? You’ll want to check out the capabilities of various cloud-based mapping systems, such as Google Maps/Earth, Esri’s ArcGIS Online, CartoDB, or OpenStreetMap. Many of these services offer their core functionality free of charge.

You’ve likely already got your core patron data available within your library system, although most of these systems don’t yet offer built-in integration with GIS or geospatial analysis tools. You might need to do some “data wrangling,” as it’s known in the industry, to assemble reports and spreadsheets into a usable set of patron location data.

There are also important precautions to take when assembling patron data, such as ensuring anonymity and privacy; for instance, “fuzzing” addresses to ensure that location data can’t be reconstructed into a profile of any identifiable individual. Finally, there are technical steps to prepare this data, such as “geocoding,” the process of automatically transforming street addresses

The advertisement features a man in a red polo shirt and a red cap with 'BELFOR' on it, standing with his arms crossed. To the left is the BELFOR logo with the tagline 'PROPERTY RESTORATION'. Below the logo is a red button that says 'CLICK TO LEARN MORE'. To the right of the man, the text reads 'DOCUMENT RECOVERY. FROM PAGES TO PIXELS.' in large, bold, white letters. At the bottom right, it says '800.856.3333 • 24-HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE'.

» Recently, local, county, and state governments have instituted open data portals that allow you to search for and retrieve only data of a certain type or within a certain geographic area: this data can include transportation information and routes, public health data, educational data.

(e.g., “1060 W. Addison St, Chicago”) into usable geospatial coordinates (e.g., “41.947°N, 87.658°E”) so they can be integrated into a GIS application. Again, there are a number of free software tools and online services that can handle many of these steps for you.

Now we can add some other useful data from other sources. The rise of the open data movement has led to a flood of publicly-accessible data from all levels of government, corporations, academia, and the nonprofit sector. Libraries are especially well-equipped to access and take advantage of this data for use within their planning processes.

Census data, freely available for download from the US Census Bureau (<http://www.census.gov>) in common geospatial formats, is one rich resource that provides demographic information such as average income, age, types of housing, education, race, household composition, and much more. Modern census data is anonymized to protect citizen privacy, but neighborhood-level data within your service area can be compiled to provide insights about the people within the communities you serve.

Recently, local, county, and state governments have instituted open data portals that allow you to search for and retrieve only data of a certain type or within a certain geographic area: this data can include transportation information and routes, public health data, educational data. Universities and extension offices can also be valuable sources of spatial-enabled data. In addition, private data broker and marketing companies exist that can provide incredibly detailed information about certain neighborhoods, down to the level

of spending habits, favorite TV shows, and other behaviors.

OPEN DATA IS A TWO-WAY STREET

A note about the open data movement: as you work with publicly available data sources online, consider whether your library has any data that could be useful to other organizations. Libraries tasked with storing municipal or local newspaper archives could leverage that role into operating their own local data portals for community-specific data. In addition, libraries can educate patrons on the wealth of available open data that is meaningful to them: school-wide report cards, public safety and crime data, property tax systems, and more. One of this year’s most compelling Knight Challenge applicants is working on a pilot project to help libraries in the western United State become data educators: <https://www.newschallenge.org/challenge/data/entries/data-equity-for-main-street-bringing-open-data-home-through-local-libraries>

THE NEXT STEPS

Interested in learning more? The ALA’s “MAGIRT” interest group (Mapping and GIS) provides information for both full-time map librarians and for those just getting started with GIS and online mapping projects: <http://magirt.ala.libguides.com/resources>.

The New York Public Library, also provides a list of helpful resources for learning more about basic GIS concepts: <http://www.nypl.org/collections/nypl-recommendations/guides/gis>.**

So, before you take another strategic step, consider investing in spatial data. Learn what there is to know about the community

around you—and put the needs of your library on the map! ■

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**More information on how the New York Public Library is using data mapping can be found at http://www.slate.com/articles/technology/future_tense/2015/10/how_the_new_york_public_library_is_reinventing_itself_for_the_21st_century.single.html.

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Strategic Library: The Year in Review

» The collective body of knowledge in the ten 2015 issues provides a template for the future of successful libraries.

BY MARY ALICE DAVIDSON

The 2015 Editorial Plan for Strategic Library was based on the issues facing today's library decision makers. The plan was separated into six sections: Collections/Circulation, Community Leadership, Emerging Technologies, Fundraising/Budgeting, Legal Issues, and Strategic Planning.

Now, ten issues of Strategic Library later, those same sections clearly define the content our authors chose to discuss...and many subcategories were added as new topics surfaced. Whether through examples, experience, lessons learned, research, or experiments, seventy-one authors shared their insights with counterparts in all types of libraries: specialty, academic, and public. While the settings may vary, the issues facing today's libraries and their solutions are universal.

This Anthology dissects Strategic Library's January through November 2015 issues through different lenses. No matter when your subscription started, you'll see all **ARTICLES BY ISSUE** with links so you can refer back or visit anew.

ARTICLES BY SUBJECT includes topics in the original six sections and lists those articles that apply in each instance. Of course, every article could be listed under "Strategic Planning," since all zero in on some element that looks at how libraries can plan for the future. But libraries, librarians...and our authors...have specialties that are highlighted in the other sections. Perhaps, at first reading, you did not realize that a specific article had broader implications. A glance through the lists will give you a good review of the breadth of library topics covered in Strategic Library's 2015 issues.

Perhaps you recall an author, but are not sure what topic he or she covered in a certain issue. The full list of all sixty-six Strategic Library **AUTHORS** will point you to the right article. Or perhaps you remember an author represented a certain library or organization, but don't recall the specifics. All thirty-four **LIBRARIES** are listed along with twenty **CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS**, which includes leading library consultants and industry groups.

Now what? The 2016 Strategic Library Editorial Plan will soon be posted on the website, which can be accessed through <http://www.libraryworks.com/> or <http://www.strategiclibrary.com>. Guidelines for future authors will be there as well. Please consider joining our impressive list of authors by sharing your expertise with your peers.

Thank you for being a part of this second year of top-notch Strategic Library content. Moving forward, we will seek out authors that can illuminate emerging trends in the complex and rapidly evolving library landscape. Based on our success this year, Strategic Library will continue to foster creative, strategic thinking about the future, giving decision makers in all types of libraries the tools to explore, lead, and innovate. ■



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ARTICLES BY ISSUE

JANUARY

- [*Set Your Mind on Leadership Development*](#).....p. 1
by Jerilyn Veldof
- [*Community Users and the Academic Library*](#).....p. 5
by Andrew R. Grissom
- [*Why Should You Care About Google Glass?*](#).....p. 8
by Heather Ruland Staines
- [*Librarianship During the Unexpected*](#)..... p. 12
by Allen M. Lopez, MSIS
- [*Re-re-thinking the Integrated Library System*](#)..... p. 15
by Neil Block
- [*Developing a Library Content Services Portal*](#) p. 18
by Sean Crowe and James Van Mil

FEBRUARY

- [*Libraries and the Needs of People with Disabilities*](#)p. 1
by Axel Schmetzke, Cheryl Pruitt, and Michele Bruno



Who Needs a DAM Librarian?..... p. 6
by Deborah Fanslow

Serving Students Coming From or Traveling Abroad p.12
by Kathleen Stein-Smith

South by South What? p. 15
by Carson Block

Common Ground p. 17
by Carol Jean Godby and Ray Denenberg

MARCH

Bringing Money Smart Week to an Academic Library in Colorado p. 1
by Naomi Lederer, Louise Feldmann, Jimena Sagas, Nick Tertel,
and Cathy Cranston

Reflections from a New Public Library Trustee p. 8
by Martin Wolske

Superhero Showdown p. 12
by Thomas Maluck

A Library's Brand Should Lead to Knowledge Creation p. 16
by Carl Grant

Library Instruction Design: Learning from Google and Apple p. 18
by Di Su

APRIL

Reorganizing through Lean Principles p. 1
by John Novak and Richard Zwiercan

Bright Future with Library Clouds..... p. 5
by Sian Harris

Strategic Workflows for a New Library Culture p. 9
by Conny Leigl

Connecting What Students Use to Library Research..... p. 14
by Joe Hardenbrook

Advances Blur the Definition of Library Point of Sale Systems p. 16
by Bruce H. Lode

Data Scientist Training for Librarians: A Course and a Community p.18
by Jeremy Guillette and James Damon

MAY

Boost Summer Reading Results with Gold Star Partners..... p. 1
by Ana Devine

The Brand Management Audit: Aligning Your Story with Your Strategy p. 3
by James LaRue

Academic Libraries and Career Information..... p. 5
by Kathy Stein-Smith

iPads Can Augment a Library's Mission..... p. 7
by Dean Norton and Chris Ross

Libraries and Risk..... p. 10
by Guy Robertson

Research Defines and Guides Libraries..... p. 13
by Mary Alice Davidson

JUNE

A Library's Role in Preserving History p. 1
by Donna Bachowski

Data Mining on Vendor-digitized Collections p. 5
by Lindsay King

Library as Infrastructure p. 7
by Shannon Mattern

MARC Isn't Dying Fast Enough p. 11
by Lori Bowen Ayre

Debunking the MOOC Myth..... p. 13
by Simon Linacre

JULY

LASR Pointers..... p. 1
by Heather Johnson and Greg Voelker

Libraries Awarded National Medal..... p. 8

Data Mapping: Who Needs It?..... p. 10
by Trudie Thomas

Design Libraries as a Community of Learning..... p. 13

Managing the One-person Library..... p. 15
by Larry Cooperman

AUGUST

Technology Planning for Libraries p. 9
by Dr. Robert Burgin

User Outcomes Shape Library Services p. 6
by Neil Block

Spreading the Word, Sharing the Love p. 12
by Tom Bruno

2015 Survey of Mobile Technologies in Libraries..... p. 4

SEPTEMBER

Adding CPTED to Urban Library Security Strategies p. 1
by James H. Clark, CPP

Manga Comes to the Library p. 5
by Amy Seipke

Undergoing a Collections Overhaul p. 9
by Jennifer Dupuis and Stephanie Schmitt

Adopting Informed Systems Learning Theory..... p. 11
by Mary M. Somerville

Read Our LIPS p. 16
by Channele Pickens and Jessica Ordich

OCTOBER

Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries..... p. 1
by Susan M. Ryan and W. Tandy Grubbs

[Keep Safe & Study On](#).....p. 6
by Kimberly Goodson and Nancy Relaford

[Effective Library Wayfinding](#)..... p. 10
by Wendy Wilsher

[Book Clubs in the USA](#) p. 13
by Davina Morgan-Witts

[The Learning-Optimized Library](#) p. 16
by Mark Walters

NOVEMBER

[Big Read, Big Benefits](#).....p. 1
by Paige Mano

[Location, Location, Location](#)p. 5
by Lori Bowen Ayre and Jim Craner

ARTICLES BY SUBJECT

Collections/Circulation

Collection Management

[Librarianship During the Unexpected](#)January

[Manga Comes to the Library](#)..... September

[Re-re-thinking the Integrated Library System](#)January

[Spreading the Word, Sharing the Love](#)..... August

[Undergoing a Collections Overhaul](#)..... September

[User Outcome Shape Library Services](#)..... August

Discovery

[User Outcomes Shape Library Services](#)..... August

Interlibrary Loans

[Spreading the Word, Sharing the Love](#)..... August

Merchandising

[Keep Safe & Study On](#)October

Mobile Technologies

[2015 Survey of Mobile Technology in Libraries](#)..... August

[Undergoing a Collections Overhaul](#)..... September

Renovation/Restoration

[Undergoing a Collections Overhaul](#)..... September

Special Collections

[Manga Comes to the Library](#)..... September

[Read Our LIPS](#)..... September

[Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries](#)October

[Superhero Showdown](#) March

Community Leadership

Child/Youth Services

[Boost Summer Reading Results with Gold Star Partners](#) May

[Research Defines and Guides Libraries](#) May

[Superhero Showdown](#) March



Community Engagement

[Bringing Money Smart Week to an Academic Library in Colorado](#)..... March

[Book Clubs in the USA](#).....October

[Community Users and the Academic Library](#)January

[Design Libraries as a Community of Learning](#) July

[Effective Library Wayfinding](#)October

[Keep Safe & Study On](#)October

[A Library's Role in Preserving History](#)..... June

[MARC Isn't Dying Fast Enough](#) June

[Read Our LIPS](#)..... September

[Reflections from a New Public Library Trustee](#)..... March

[South by South What?](#)..... February

[Superhero Showdown](#) March

[Technology Planning for Libraries](#) August

Immigrant Services

[Research Defines and Guides Libraries](#) May

Literacy

[Book Clubs in the USA](#).....October

[Bringing Money Smart Week to an Academic Library in Colorado](#)..... March

[Read Our LIPS](#)..... September

[Research Defines and Guides Libraries](#) May

Library Policies

[Community Users and the Academic Library](#)January

[Design Libraries as a Community of Learning](#) July

[The Learning-Optimized Library](#).....October

[Libraries and the Needs of People with Disabilities](#)..... February

[Library as Infrastructure](#)..... June

[A Library's Role in Preserving History](#)..... June

[Managing the One-person Library](#) July

[Read Our LIPS](#)..... September

[Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries](#)October

[Technology Planning for Libraries](#) August

Marketing/Branding

Book Clubs in the USA	October
Boost Summer Reading Results with Gold Star Partners	May
Bringing Money Smart Week to an Academic Library in Colorado	March
Design Libraries as a Community of Learning	July
Effective Library Wayfinding	October
Keep Safe & Study On	October
Read Our LIPS	September
Reflections from a New Public Library Trustee	March
Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries	October
Superhero Showdown	March

Outreach

Academic Libraries and Career Information	May
Bringing Money Smart Week to an Academic Library in Colorado	March
Book Clubs in the USA	October
Boost Summer Reading Results with Gold Star Partners	May
Community Users and the Academic Library	January
Data Mining on Vendor-digitized Collections	June
Keep Safe & Study On	October
Libraries and the Needs of People with Disabilities	February
A Library's Role in Preserving History	June
Research Defines and Guides Libraries	May
South by South What?	February
Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries	October
Superhero Showdown	March

Non-Native English Speakers

Research Defines and Guides Libraries	May
Serving Students Coming From or Traveling Abroad	February

Partnerships

Boost Summer Reading Results with Gold Star Partners	May
Bringing Money Smart Week to an Academic Library in Colorado	March
Community Users and the Academic Library	January
Data Mapping: Who Needs It?	July
Keep Safe & Study On	October
Libraries and the Needs of People with Disabilities	February
South by South What?	February

Patron Services

2015 Survey of Mobile Technology in Libraries	August
Adopting Informed Systems Learning Theory	September
Book Clubs in the USA	October
Effective Library Wayfinding	October
Keep Safe & Study On	October
iPads Can Augment a Library's Mission	May
The Learning-Optimized Library	October
Libraries and the Needs of People with Disabilities	February
Re-re-thinking the Integrated Library System	January
Reflections from a New Public Library Trustee	March
Serving Students Coming From or Traveling Abroad	February
Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries	October



Superhero Showdown	March
User Outcomes Shape Library Services	August

Skills Training

Bringing Money Smart Week to an Academic Library in Colorado	March
Keep Safe & Study On	October
Read Our LIPS	September
Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries	October

Transforming Communities

Bringing Money Smart Week to an Academic Library in Colorado	March
Boost Summer Reading Results with Gold Star Partners	May
Community Users and the Academic Library	January
A Library's Role in Preserving History	June
Reflections from a New Public Library Trustee	March
Research Defines and Guides Libraries	May

User Experience

Book Clubs in the USA	October
Bringing Money Smart Week to an Academic Library in Colorado	March
Community Users and the Academic Library	January
Effective Library Wayfinding	October
Keep Safe & Study On	October
The Learning-Optimized Library	October
Libraries and the Needs of People with Disabilities	February
Reflections from a New Public Library Trustee	March
User Outcomes Shape Library Services	August

Emerging Technologies

Automation

LASR Pointers	July
Manga Comes to the Library	September
Research Defines and Guides Libraries	May



Data Models

- [Bright Future with Library Clouds](#).....April
- [Common Ground](#)..... February
- [MARC Isn't Dying Fast Enough](#) June
- [User Outcomes Shape Library Services](#)..... August

Digital Content

- [Bright Future with Library Clouds](#).....April
- [Data Mining on Vendor-digitized Collections](#)..... June
- [Manga Comes to the Library](#)..... September
- [Who Needs a DAM Librarian?](#)..... February

Integrated Library Systems

- [The Learning-Optimized Library](#).....October
- [Re-re-thinking the Integrated Library System](#)January
- [User Outcomes Shape Library Services](#)..... August

Makerspaces

- [Library as Infrastructure](#)..... June
- [Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries](#)October

MOOCs

- [Debunking the MOOC Myth](#)..... June

Mobile Devices/Apps

- [2015 Survey of Mobile Technology in Libraries](#)..... August
- [iPads Can Augment a Library's Mission](#) May
- [Undergoing a Collections Overhaul](#)..... September
- [Why Should You Care About Google Glass?](#).....January

Search Tools/Discovery

- [Data Mapping: Who Needs It?](#) July
- [A Library's Role in Preserving History](#)..... June
- [Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries](#)October
- [User Outcomes Shape Library Services](#)..... August

Social Media/Networking

- [2015 Survey of Mobile Technology in Libraries](#)..... August

Software

- [Data Mapping: Who Needs It?](#) July
- [Data Mining on Vendor-digitized Collections](#)..... June
- [Design Libraries as a Community of Learning](#) July
- [Research Defines and Guides Libraries](#) May
- [Managing the One-person Library](#) July
- [MARC Isn't Dying Fast Enough](#) June

Technology Planning

- [The Learning-Optimized Library](#).....October
- [Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries](#)October
- [Technology Planning for Libraries](#) August
- [User Outcomes Shape Library Services](#)..... August

Trends in Technology

- [Bright Future with Library Clouds](#).....April
- [Research Defines and Guides Libraries](#) May
- [Library as Infrastructure](#)..... June
- [Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries](#)October
- [User Outcomes Shape Library Services](#)..... August
- [Undergoing a Collections Overhaul](#)..... September
- [Why Should You Care About Google Glass?](#).....January

Workflow Redesign

- [Developing a Content Services Portal](#).....January
- [LASR Pointers](#) July
- [The Learning-Optimized Library](#).....October
- [User Outcomes Shape Library Services](#)..... August

Websites/Apps

- [2015 Survey of Mobile Technology in Libraries](#)..... August

Fundraising/Budgeting

Audits

- [The Brand Management Audit: Aligning Your Story with Your Strategy](#) May

Best Practices

- [Adding CPTED to Urban Library Security Strategies](#) September
- [Effective Library Wayfinding](#)October

Budgets

- [iPads Can Augment a Library's Mission](#) May

Community Involvement

- [Bringing Money Smart Week to an Academic Library in Colorado](#)..... March
- [Keep Safe & Study On](#).....October

Cost Models

- [Advances Blur the Definition of Library Point of Sale Systems](#)April
- [Keep Safe & Study On](#).....October

[Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries](#).....October

Funding Models

[Advances Blur the Definition of Library Point of Sale Systems](#).....April
[Research Defines and Guides Libraries](#)..... May

Marketing

[Book Clubs in the USA](#).....October
[The Brand Management Audit: Aligning Your Story with Your Strategy](#)..... May
[Bringing Money Smart Week to an Academic Library in Colorado](#)..... March
[Effective Library Wayfinding](#).....October
[Keep Safe & Study On](#).....October
[Managing the One-person Library](#)..... July
[Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries](#).....October

Procurement/Purchasing

[Advances Blur the Definition of Library Point of Sale Systems](#).....April
[Spreading the Word, Sharing the Love](#)..... August

Trends

[Data Mining on Vendor-digitized Collections](#).....June
[Effective Library Wayfinding](#).....October
[Library as Infrastructure](#).....June
[Research Defines and Guides Libraries](#)..... May
[Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries](#).....October

Usage Data

[Spreading the Word, Sharing the Love](#)..... August

Legal Issues

Ethics

[Spreading the Word, Sharing the Love](#)..... August

Internet Access

[Research Defines and Guides Libraries](#)..... May

Strategic Planning

Career Planning

[Librarianship During the Unexpected](#).....January

Benchmarking

[The Learning-Optimized Library](#).....October
[Library Instruction Design: Learning from Google and Apple](#)..... March
[Spreading the Word, Sharing the Love](#)..... August

Brainstorming

[Library Instruction Design: Learning from Google and Apple](#)..... March
[Reorganizing through Lean Principles](#).....April

Brand Management

[The Brand Management Audit: Aligning Your Story with Your Strategy](#)..... May
[A Library's Brand Should Lead to Knowledge Creation](#)..... March
[Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries](#).....October

Change Management

[Adding CPTED to Urban Library Security Strategies](#)..... September
[Adopting Informed Systems Learning Theory](#)..... September
[LASR Pointers](#)..... July
[The Learning-Optimized Library](#).....October
[A Library's Brand Should Lead to Knowledge Creation](#)..... March
[Managing the One-person Library](#)..... July
[Reorganizing through Lean Principles](#).....April
[Strategic Workflows for a New Library Culture](#).....April

Collaboration

[Spreading the Word, Sharing the Love](#)..... August
[Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries](#).....October

Data Collection/Analysis

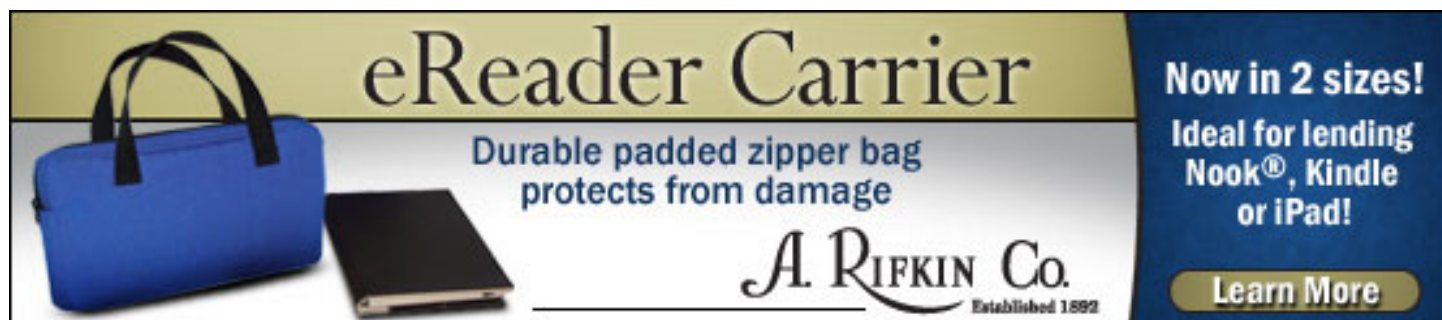
[Data Mining on Vendor-digitized Collections](#).....June
[Reorganizing through Lean Principles](#).....April

Design

[Adding CPTED to Urban Library Security Strategies](#)..... September
[The Brand Management Audit: Aligning Your Story with Your Strategy](#)..... May
[Design Libraries as a Community of Learning](#)..... July
[Effective Library Wayfinding](#).....October
[LASR Pointers](#)..... July
[The Learning-Optimized Library](#).....October
[Library as Infrastructure](#).....June

Disaster Management

[Adding CPTED to Urban Library Security Strategies](#)..... September
[Librarianship During the Unexpected](#).....January
[Libraries and Risk](#)..... May



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Educational Outreach

[2015 Survey of Mobile Technology in Libraries](#)..... August
[Book Clubs in the USA](#).....October
[Serving Students Coming From or Traveling Abroad](#) February
[Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries](#).....October

Emergency Response

[Librarianship During the Unexpected](#)January

Information Management

[Adopting Informed Systems Learning Theory](#) September
[Data Mapping: Who Needs It?](#) July
[Effective Library Wayfinding](#)October
[Who Needs a DAM Librarian?](#) February

Leadership Development

[Data Mapping: Who Needs It?](#) July
[Reorganizing through Lean Principles](#).....April
[Set Your Mind on Leadership Development](#)January
[Strategic Workflows for a New Library Culture](#).....April

Library Instruction

[Connecting What Student Use to Library Research](#).....April
[The Learning-Optimized Library](#).....October
[Library Instruction Design: Learning from Google and Apple](#)..... March

Marketing

[2015 Survey of Mobile Technology in Libraries](#)..... August
[Book Clubs in the USA](#).....October
[Effective Library Wayfinding](#)October
[Keep Safe & Study On](#)October
[Library as Infrastructure](#).....June
[A Library's Role in Preserving History](#).....June
[Managing the One-person Library](#) July

Measuring Success

[Spreading the Word, Sharing the Love](#)..... August
[Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries](#)October
[Technology Planning for Libraries](#) August

Organizational Development

[Adopting Informed Systems Learning Theory](#) September
[Bright Future with Library Clouds](#)April
[Data Mapping: Who Needs It?](#) July
[A Library's Brand Should Lead to Knowledge Creation](#)..... March
[Reorganizing through Lean Principles](#).....April
[Set Your Mind on Leadership Development](#)January
[Strategic Workflows for a New Library Culture](#).....April

Optimizing/Reconfiguring Space

[Adding CPTED to Urban Library Security Strategies](#) September
[Effective Library Wayfinding](#)October
[LASR Pointers](#) July
[The Learning-Optimized Library](#).....October

Outreach

[Book Clubs in the USA](#).....October
[Keep Safe & Study On](#)October
[A Library's Role in Preserving History](#).....June
[Serving Students Coming From or Traveling Abroad](#)..... February
[Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries](#)October

Partnerships

[Bright Future with Library Clouds](#)April
[Bringing Money Smart Week to an Academic Library in Colorado](#)..... March
[Keep Safe & Study On](#)October
[Libraries and Risk](#) May
[Reorganizing through Lean Principles](#).....April
[Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries](#)October

Patron Career Development

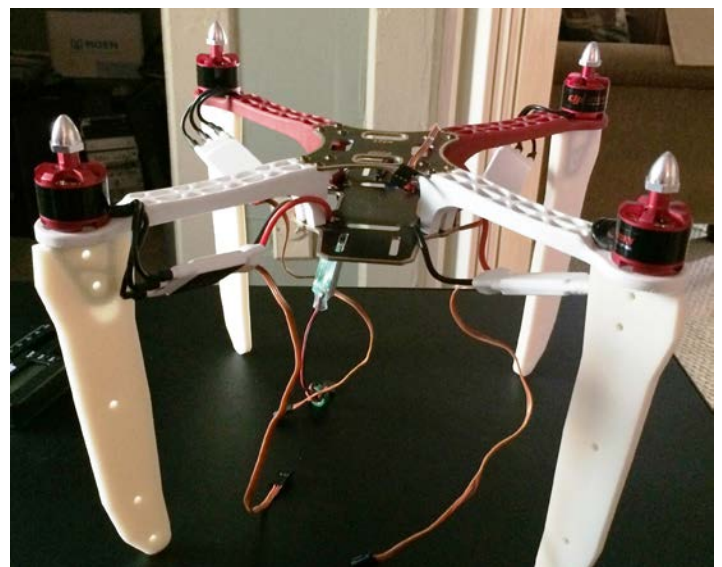
[Academic Libraries and Career Information](#) May
[Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries](#).....October

Patron Services

[2015 Survey of Mobile Technology in Libraries](#)..... August
[Book Clubs in the USA](#).....October
[Bright Future with Library Clouds](#)April
[Bringing Money Smart Week to an Academic Library in Colorado](#)..... March
[Data Mapping: Who Needs It?](#) July
[Effective Library Wayfinding](#)October
[Keep Safe & Study On](#)October
[The Learning-Optimized Library](#).....October
[Libraries Awarded National Medal](#) July
[Serving Students Coming From or Traveling Abroad](#)..... February

Planning Process

[Adding CPTED to Urban Library Security Strategies](#) September
[Adopting Informed Systems Learning Theory](#) September



[Bringing Money Smart Week to an Academic Library in Colorado](#)..... March
[Data Mapping: Who Needs It?](#) July
[Developing a Content Services Portal](#).....January
[Effective Library Wayfinding](#)October
[The Learning-Optimized Library](#).....October
[Librarianship During the Unexpected](#)January
[Libraries and Risk](#) May
[Library as Infrastructure](#)..... June
[A Library's Brand Should Lead to Knowledge Creation](#)..... March
[Reorganizing through Lean Principles](#).....April
[Strategic Workflows for a New Library Culture](#).....April
[Technology Planning for Libraries](#) August

Professional Development

[Bright Future with Library Clouds](#).....April
[Bringing Money Smart Week to an Academic Library in Colorado](#)..... March
[Data Scientist Training for Librarians: A Course and a Community](#).....April
[A Library's Brand Should Lead to Knowledge Creation](#)..... March
[Reorganizing through Lean Principles](#).....April
[Set Your Mind on Leadership Development](#)January
[Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries](#)October
[Strategic Workflows for a New Library Culture](#).....April

Research

[Adding CPTED to Urban Library Security Strategies](#) September
[Data Mapping: Who Needs It?](#) July
[Data Mining on Vendor-digitized Collections](#).....June
[The Learning-Optimized Library](#).....October
[A Library's Role in Preserving History](#).....June
[Research Defines and Guides Libraries](#) May

Security & Safety

[Adding CPTED to Urban Library Security Strategies](#) September
[Keep Safe & Study On](#)October
[Libraries and Risk](#) May

Stakeholders

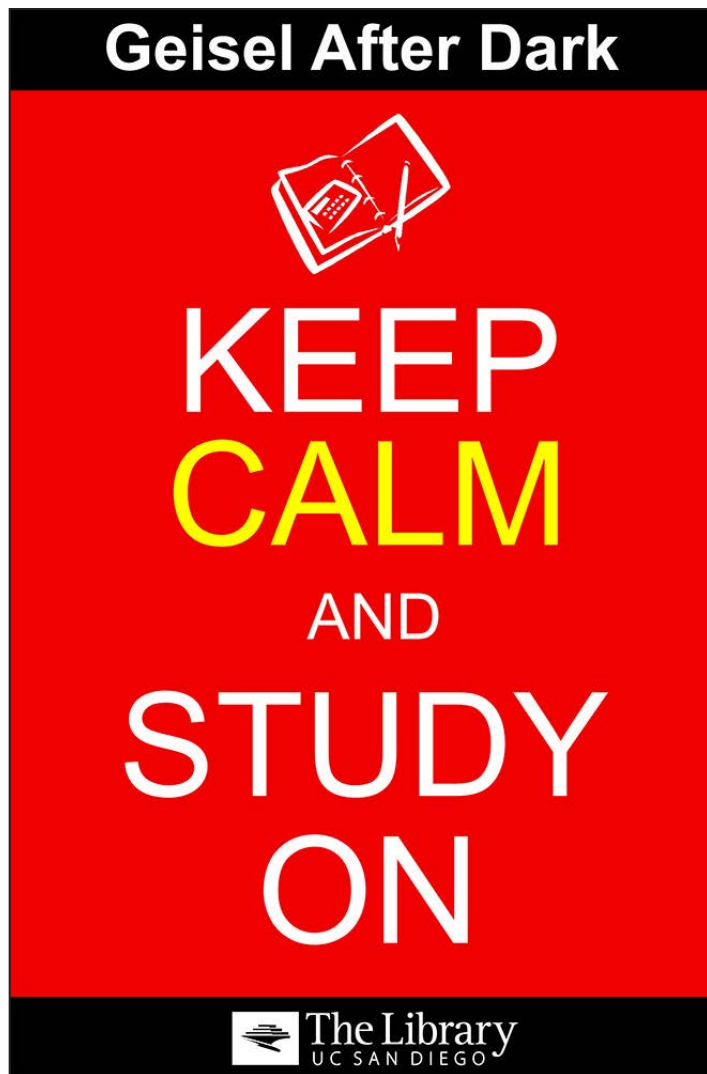
[Reflections from a New Public Library Trustee](#)..... March
[Technology Planning For Libraries](#)..... August

Staff Development

[2015 Survey of Mobile Technology in Libraries](#)..... August
[Bringing Money Smart Week to an Academic Library in Colorado](#)..... March
[Developing a Content Services Portal](#).....January
[iPads Can Augment a Library's Mission](#) May
[Keep Safe & Study On](#)October
[LASR Pointers](#) July
[Reorganizing through Lean Principles](#).....April
[Set Your Mind on Leadership Development](#)January
[Strategic Workflows for a New Library Culture](#).....April

Standards

[Adding CPTED to Urban Library Security Strategies](#) September



Surveys

[2015 Survey of Mobile Technologies in Libraries](#) August
[Book Clubs in the USA](#).....October
[Research Defines and Guides Libraries](#) May

Vision/Mission

[The Brand Management Audit: Aligning Your Story with Your Strategy](#) May
[Library as Infrastructure](#)..... June
[A Library's Brand Should Lead to Knowledge Creation](#)..... March
[Reflections from a New Public Library Trustee](#)..... March
[Reorganizing through Lean Principles](#).....April
[Strategic Workflows for a New Library Culture](#).....April
[Technology Planning for Libraries](#) August

Workflow

[Adopting Informed Systems Learning Theory](#) September
[Effective Library Wayfinding](#)October
[Developing a Content Services Portal](#).....January
[LASR Pointers](#) July
[The Learning-Optimized Library](#).....October
[Reorganizing through Lean Principles](#).....April
[Strategic Workflows for a New Library Culture](#).....April

AUTHORS

Ayre, Lori Bowen
[MARC Isn't Dying Fast Enough](#) June
[Location, Location, Location](#) November

Bachowski, Donna
[A Library's Role in Preserving History](#) June

Block, Carson
[South by South What?](#) February

Block, Neil
[Re-re-thinking the Integrated Library System](#) January
[User Outcomes Shape Library Services](#) August

Bruno, Michele; Axel Schmetske; and Cheryl Pruitt
[Libraries and the Needs of People with Disabilities](#) February

Bruno, Tom
[Spreading the Word, Sharing the Love](#) August

Burgin, Dr. Robert
[Technology Planning for Libraries](#) August

Clark, James H., CPP
[Adding CPTED to Urban Library Security Strategies](#) September

Cooperman, Larry
[Managing the One-person Library](#) July

Craner, Jim
[Location, Location, Location](#) November

Cranston, Cathy; Naomi Lederer, Louise Feldman, Jimena Sagas, Nick Tertel
[Bringing Money Smart Week to an Academic Library in Colorado](#) March

Crowe, Sean; and Van Mil, James
[Developing a Library Content Services Portal](#) January

Damon, James; Jeremy Guillette
[Data Scientist Training for Librarians: A Course and a Community](#) April

Davidson, Mary Alice
[Research Defines and Guides Libraries](#) May

Denenberg, Ray; and Carol Jean Godby
[Common Ground](#) February

Devine, Ana
[Boost Summer Reading Results with Gold Star Partners](#) May

Dupuis, Jennifer; Stephanie Schmitt
[Undergoing a Collections Overhaul](#) September

Fanslow, Deborah
[Who Needs a DAM Librarian?](#) February

Feldman, Louise; Naomi Lederer, Jimena Sagas, Nick Tertel, Cathy Cranston
[Bringing Money Smart Week to an Academic Library in Colorado](#) March

Godby, Carol Jean; and Ray Denenberg
[Common Ground](#) February

Goodson, Kymberly; Nancy Relaford
[Keep Safe and Study On](#) October

Grant, Carl
[A Library's Brand Should Lead to Knowledge Creation](#) March

Grissom, Andrew R.
[Community Users and the Academic Library](#) January

Grubbs, W. Tandy; Susan M. Ryan
[Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries](#) October

Guillette, Jeremy; James Damon
[Data Scientist Training for Librarians: A Course and a Community](#) April

Hardenbrook, Joe
[Connecting What Students Use to Library Research](#) April

Harris, Sian
[Bright Future with Library Clouds](#) April

Johnson, Heather; Greg Voelker
[LASR Pointers](#) July

King, Lindsay
[Data Mining on Vendor-digitized Collections](#) June

LaRue, James
[The Brand Management Audit: Aligning Your Story with Your Strategy](#) May

Lederer, Naomi; Louise Feldman, Jimena Sagas, Nick Tertel, Cathy Cranston
[Bringing Money Smart Week to an Academic Library in Colorado](#) March

Leigl, Connie
[Strategic Workflows for a New Library Culture](#) April

Linacre, Simon
[Debunking the MOOC Myth](#) June

Lode, Bruce H.
[Advances Blur the Definition of Library Point of Sale Systems](#) April

Lopez, Allen M. MSIS
[Librarianship During the Unexpected](#) January

Maluck, Thomas
[Superhero Showdown](#) March

Mano, Paige
[Big Read, Big Benefits](#) November

Mittern, Shannon
[Library as Infrastructure](#) June

Morgan-Witts, Davina
[Book Clubs in the USA](#) October

Norton, Dean; Chris Ross
[iPads Can Augment a Library's Mission](#) May

Novak, John; Richard Zwiercan
[Reorganizing through Lean Principles](#) April

Ordich, Jessica; Chanelle Pickens
[Read Our LIPS](#) September

Pickens, Chanelle; and Jessica Ordich
[Read Our LIPS](#) September

Pruitt, Cheryl; and Alex Schmetzke and Michele Bruno
[Libraries and the Needs of People with Disabilities](#) February

Relaford, Nancy; Kymberly Goodson
[Keep Safe and Study On](#) October

Robertson, Guy
[Libraries and Risk](#) May

Ross, Chris; Dean Norton



[*iPads Can Augment a Library's Mission*](#) **May**
 Ryan, Susan M.; W. Tandy Grubbs

[*Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries*](#).....**October**
 Sagas, Jimena; Naomi Lederer, Louise Feldman, Nick Tertel, Cathy Cranston

[*Bringing Money Smart Week to an Academic Library in Colorado*](#)..... **March**
 Schmetzke, Axel; Cheryl Pruitt and Michele Bruno

[*Libraries and he Needs of People with Disabilities*](#).....**February**
 Schmitt, Stephanie; Jennifer Dupuis

[*Undergoing a Collections Overhaul*](#)..... **September**
 Seipke, Amy

[*Manga Comes to the Library*](#)..... **September**
 Somerville, Mary M.

[*Adopting Informed Systems Learning Theory*](#) **September**
 Staines, Heather Rutland

[*Why Should You Care About Google Glass?*](#).....**January**
 Stein-Smith, Kathleen

[*Serving Students Coming From or Traveling Abroad*](#).....**February**
[*Academic Libraries and Career Information*](#) **May**

Su, Di

[*Library Instruction Design: Learning From Google and Apple*](#) **March**
 Tertel, Nick; Naomi Lederer, Louise Feldman, Jimema Sagas, Cathy Cranston

[*Bringing Money Smart Week to an Academic Library in Colorado*](#)..... **March**
 Thomas, Trudie

[*Data Mapping: Who Needs It?*](#) **July**
 Van Mil, James; and Sean Crowe

[*Developing a Library Content Services Portal*](#).....**January**
 Veldorf, Jerilyn

[*Set Your Mind on Leadership Development*](#)**January**
 Voelker, Greg; Heather Johnson

[*LASR Pointers*](#) **July**
 Walters, Mark

[*Design Libraries as a Community of Learning*](#) **July**
[*The Learning Optimized Library*](#)**October**

Wilsher, Wendy

[*Effective Library Wayfinding*](#)**October**
 Wolske, Martin

[*Reflections from a New Library Trustee*](#)..... **March**
 Zwiercan, Richard; John Novak

[*Reorganizing through Lean Principles*](#).....**April**

LIBRARIES

California State University
[*Libraries and the Needs of People with Disabilities*](#)..... **February**
 by Cheryl Pruitt, Axel Schmetzke, and Michele Bruno

California Polytechnic State University, Robert F. Kennedy Library
[*Strategic Workflows for a New Library Culture*](#).....**April**
 by Conny Liegl

Carroll University
[*Connecting What Students Use To Library Research*](#)**April**
 by Joe Hardenbrook

City University of New York, York College Library
[*Library Instruction Design: Learning from Google and Apple*](#)..... **March**
 by Di Su

College of Creative Studies (MI)
[*Manga Comes to the Library*](#)..... **September**
 by Amy Elizabeth Pell Seipke

Colorado State University, Morgan Library
[*Bringing Money Smart Week to an Academic Library in Colorado*](#)..... **March**
 by Naomi Lederer, Louise Feldman, Jimena Sagas, and Cathy Cranston

Fairleigh Dickinson University, Frank Giovatto Library
[*Students Coming From or Traveling Abroad*](#) **February**
[*Academic Libraries and Career Information*](#) **May**
 by Kathy Stein-Smith

Gail Borden Public Library District (IL)
[*Boost Summer Reading Results with Gold Star Partners*](#) **May**
 by Ana Devine

Harvard University, Fung Library
 Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics
[*Data Scientist Training for Librarians: A Course and a Community*](#)**April**
 by Jeremy Guillette and James Damon

Langara College
[*Libraries and Risk*](#) **May**
 by Guy Robertson

Library of Congress
[*Common Ground*](#)..... **February**
 by Ray Denenberg and Carol Jean Godby

MD Anderson Cancer Center
[*Librarianship During the Expected*](#)**January**
 by Allen M. Lopez

The New School (NY), School of Media Studies
[*Library as Infrastructure*](#)..... **June**
 by Shannon Mattern

Orange County Library System, Orlando, FL
[*A Library's Role in Preserving History*](#)..... **June**
 by Donna Bachowski

Rhodes College, Paul Barret, Jr. Library
[*Community Users and the Academic Library*](#)**January**
 by Andrew R. Grissom

Richland Library (SC)
[*Superhero Showdown*](#) **March**
 by Thomas Maluck

Stetson University, duPont-Ball Library and Learning Center
[*Strategic Management of Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries*](#).....**October**
 by Susan Ryan and W. Tandy Grubbs

Strategic Library
[*Research Defines and Guides Libraries*](#) **May**
 by Mary Alice Davidson

[*2015 Survey of Mobile Technologies in Libraries*](#) **August**

University of California Hastings College of Law Library
[*Undergoing a Collections Overhaul*](#)..... **September**
 by Stephanie Schmitt and Jennifer Dupuis

University of California, San Diego Library
[*Keep Safe and Study On*](#)**October**
 by Kimberly Goodson and Nancy Relaford

University of Central Florida
[*Managing the One-person Library*](#) **July**
 by Larry Cooperman

University of Cincinnati Libraries
[Developing a Library Content Services Portal](#).....**January**
 by Sean Crowe and James Van Mil

University of Colorado, Denver, Library
[Adopting Informed Systems Learning Theory](#)..... **September**
 by Dr. Mary M. Somerville

University of Illinois, Center for Digital Inclusion in GLSIS
[Reflections from a New Public Library Trustee](#)..... **March**
 by Martin Wolski

University of Minnesota Libraries
[Set Your Mind on Leadership Development](#).....**January**
 by Jerilyn Veldorf

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[A Library's Brand Should Lead to Knowledge Creation](#)..... **March**
 by Carl Grant

University of Wisconsin-Parkside
[Big Read, Big Benefits](#) **November**
 by Page Mano

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
[Libraries and the Needs of People with Disabilities](#).....**February**
 by Axel Schmetzke, Cheryl Pruitt, and Michele Bruno

UNLV University Libraries
[Reorganizing through Lean Principles](#).....**April**
 by John Novak and Richard Zwiercan

[LASR Pointers](#) **July**
 by Heather Johnson and Greg Voelker

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[Read Our LIPS](#)..... **September**
 by Chanelle Pickens and Jessica Ordich

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[Data Mining on Vendor-digitized Collections](#).....**June**
 by Lindsay King

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[Spreading the Word, Sharing the Love](#)..... **August**
 by Tom Bruno

CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS

American Library Association
[ALA Statement on Charlie Hebdo Attack](#)**January**
[Rapid Growth in 3D Printer Use Raises Public Policy Issues For Libraries](#).....**January**
[Research Defines and Guides Libraries](#) **May**
 by Mary Alice Davidson

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[Book Clubs in the USA](#).....**October**
 by Davina Witt-Morgan

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[South by South What?](#)..... **February**
 by Carson Block

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[Libraries and the Needs of People with Disabilities](#)..... **February**
 by Michele Bruno, Axel Schmetzke, and Cheryl Pruitt

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[Adding CPTED to Urban Library Security Strategies](#)..... **September**
 by James H. Clark, CPP

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[Re-re-thinking the Integrated Library System](#)**January**
[User Outcomes Shape Library Services](#)..... **August**
 by Neil Block

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[Who Needs a DAM Librarian](#) **February**
 by Deborah Fanslow

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[Debunking the MOOC Myth](#) **June**
 by Simon Linacre

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[MARC Isn't Dying Fast Enough](#) **June**
[Location, Location, Location](#)..... **November**
 by Lori Bowen Ayre

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[Undergoing a Collections Overhaul](#)..... **September**
 by Jennifer Dupuis and Stephanie Schmitt

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[Bright Future with Library Clouds](#)**April**
 by Dr. Sian Harris

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[The Brand Management Audit: Aligning Your Story with Your Strategy](#) **May**
 by James LaRue

Lode Data Systems, TAM Retail
[Advances Blur the Definition of Library Point of Sale](#)**April**
 by Bruce H. Lode

Macprofessionals
[iPads Can Augment a Library's Mission](#) **May**
 by Deab Norton and Chris Ross

OCLC, Inc.
[Common Ground](#)..... **February**
 by Carol Jean Godby and Ray Denenberg

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[Data Mapping: Who Needs It?](#) **July**
 by Trudie Thomas

RB Software & Consulting, Inc.
[Technology Planning for Libraries](#) **August**
 by Dr. Robert Burgin

SIPX, Inc.
[Why You Should Care About Google Glass](#).....**January**
 by Heather Ruland Staines

Steelcase
[Design Libraries as a Community of Learning](#) **July**
[The Learning-optimized Library](#).....**October**
 by Mark Walters

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[Effective Library Wayfinding](#) **October**
 by Wendy Wilsher

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