



Library Info Alert



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Library Info Alert focuses on recent developments in the field of library science and information management in the United States. The Library Info Alert contains summaries of recent articles from leading library-related periodicals and recommended Internet sites. Our goal is to help the growing number of Greek librarians to maintain their libraries as centers for information and lifelong learning in the electronic environment of the 21st century.

1. Talk to Teens: They're Still Listening

(*American Libraries*, September/October 2011, p37)

"We asked teens to tell us about themselves- their school, work, family, friends, hobbies, favorite books, music, and movies. We asked what they did for fun, as well as what was hard about being a teen and how they handled it. We asked them to describe themselves in five words and to tell us about adults who have influenced their lives. Finally we asked about libraries."

2. Augmenting Your Reality

(*Computers in Libraries*, November 2011, p36)

"It can be a confusing time to talk about technology. On the one hand, we're constantly hearing about information overload and how people are drowning in the constant flow of data. On the other hand, some of the most exciting developments are taking place in information delivery and adding even more information to an individual's view of the world. Is there any reason to think that tossing more information in front of someone might help him?"

3. Fun(d) Running for the Library

(*Public Libraries*, September/October 2011, p24)

In times of dwindling budgets, fun runs are small yet effective ways of not only raising funds for the sustainability of

library services, but they serve as great ways of highlighting libraries as vital community institutions, while also reaching out to members of the community who might not be as interested in more traditional, literary programs.

4. Bells and Whistles

(*Online*, November/December, 2011, p.50)

"Once upon a time, several decades ago, librarianship was considered a career lacking in stress. Technology, as all information professionals know, changed that -- in actuality if not in perception. One phenomenon that keeps them constantly on alert is the announcement of new features in a database, or even a database's complete remake. For some database providers, this can happen as often as twice or more per year. New features mean new opportunities for users to do sophisticated searches -- or so the mythology goes. Sometimes those features actually improve searching. Sometimes you have to ask what the producers were thinking when they decided the changes were an improvement. It's as certain as death and taxes; database providers will constantly modify their products. More bells and whistles spell constant change. The essence of a balance between simplicity and complexity is to have both skilled searchers and intuitive databases."

5. The Ideal Library

(*Searcher*, October 2011, p4)

Who runs the show in the ideal library? Librarians, of course. In fact, clients who tap the invisible collection - or at least, a collection that requires no visible building to prove its existence - realize that library service really means librarian service. (That's probably why all the leading Library professional associations change the "L" in their names to Librarian.) Different communities have different librarians with different expertise in their areas of interest.

6. The librarian in the cloud: or beware of unintended consequences?

(*Journal of the Medical Library Association*, October 2011, p267)

"Perhaps the passing of the academic library will not matter much to academia in general, but for those of us dedicated to quality health care, guaranteeing the continuing existence of some entity (whether we call it a library or not) that ensures that physicians and patients still have access to high quality, accurate, health-related information should be a priority. [...] that day is already upon us."

7. Tell Me a Story

(*Public Libraries*, September/October 2011, p4)

Stories and their use in advocacy have been a mainstay in libraries for the last

decade. Now, it seems, the business leadership and executive coaching folks have caught on to what we have been doing for years. Books, blogs, and journals are filled with possibilities of how to reach others through storytelling. And why not? The age-old tradition of educating through story has a proven track record from Aesop to Daniel Pink, Seth Godin, or a myriad of other storytellers.

8. Ebook Lending: Asserting the Value of Libraries as the Future of Books Unfolds

(*Computers in Libraries*, November 2011, p24)

Low price points of selected materials through commercial ebook rental or sales channels do not diminish the need for free access to ebooks from libraries any more than discounted or used books diminished the need for libraries to loan printed materials. For public libraries, the immediate challenge lies more in the impact of ebooks than ejournals.

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**U.S. Information Resource Center, 91 Vas. Sophias Avenue, 101 60 Athens, Greece
Telephone: (210) 720-2888, Fax: (210) 720-2859
E-mail: AthensIRC@state.gov**
