



Library Info Alert



An IRC Publication
January 2010
Issue 1

Library Info Alert focuses on recent developments in the field of library science and information management in the United States. *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. Embracing Change for Continuous Improvement

By Peter Heron and Ellen Altman
(*American Libraries*, January/February 2010, pg. 52)

"Progress implies change. Not all change is progress, but all progress requires change. Change can be planned or unplanned. Libraries have experienced some serious unplanned changes in the recent past; they have been buffeted by changes in technology and scholarly communication and the downturn in the economy. Even so, most libraries have adapted wonderfully to the changes and challenges created by the new technologies. Now is the time to plan for improvements in customer service and to create a cadre of loyal customers..." *Peter Heron is a professor at the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science in Boston. Ellen Altman, now retired, was visiting professor in the Department of Library and Information Studies, Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand until 1997.*

2. Education for Changing Roles

By Gaye F. Colvin
(*Information Outlook*, October/November 2009, Vol. 13, Issue 7, pg. 21)
Ulla de Stricker, an independent information and knowledge management professional (as well as a speaker, trainer, and author), noted in 2000 that traditional library settings and roles have shifted in response to changing business conditions and technological innovations: With this in mind, I recommend that further exploration be conducted in these areas:

(1) MLS programs' outcomes and placement data; (2) feedback from business leaders and graduates in non-library settings regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of training; (3) curriculum revisions in terms of relevancy and currency; (4) the diverse needs of practitioners in library and information fields; and (5) the role and involvement of professional associations in addressing issues and challenges facing newly emerging MLS graduates.

Gaye Colvin works with the Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) in Asheville, North Carolina.

3. Keeping Up with Technology Requires Collaboration

(*Teacher Librarian*, December 2009, pg. 6)

During the American Association of School Librarians conference opening session, social media expert and researcher Danah Boyd challenged attendees to help all students learn by understanding how young people see and utilize social networking sites. Additionally, at the AASL conference, the Partnership for 21st Century Learning released their new MILE (Milestones for Improving Learning and Education) Guide that is a district planning tool For assessing where, among the initiative's three stages, districts are in implementing 21st century skills and what direction to take toward implementation.

4. Encouraging the New Librarian

By Debbie Schachter

(*Information Outlook*, September 2009, pg. 41)

Those who are entering the librarian's profession are bringing fresh ideas and perspectives that will help ensure a vibrant future for all special librarians.

Debbie Schachter is director of information technologies and collection management for the Vancouver Public Library (British Columbia).

5. From a Distance

By Kenneth Hartman

(*American Libraries*, October 2009, p. 8)

Library professionals have long been at the forefront of information technology, and they continue to lead the charge in learning with IT. So it should come as no surprise that education for librarianship continues its growing trend as being among the most popular online degree programs offered by institutions of higher education.

Kenneth Hartman is the academic director of Drexel University Online, headquartered in Philadelphia, and is national chairman of the 2009 National Distance Learning Week.

6. The Literature of American Library History, 2006–2007

By Edward Goedeken

(*Libraries and the Cultural Record*, November 2009, pg. 434)

"Historians of American libraries have spent many years puzzling over the function and meaning of libraries in American life and culture. Perhaps as Aristotle believed those long years ago, we need to peel away all the layers of mythology and mistaken assumptions and look anew at the function of the library in its many guises as a product and a producer of American culture. Recent efforts have shown that we have not shrunk from this duty; indeed, for the period 2006–2007 we have been blessed—for the most part—with another outpouring of scholarship relating to the history of libraries and librarianship."

Edward A. Goedeken is humanities bibliographer and collections coordinator

at Iowa State University, where he holds the rank of professor of library science.

7. It's the Content, Stupid

By Steven Escar Smith and Holly Mercer

(*American Libraries*, January/February 2010, pg. 48)

There is no disputing that the web as a research tool and venue is growing in impact and influence- blogs, wikis, podcasts, discussion boards, listservs, personal, discipline, and institutional websites are ubiquitous, and new e-forums, groups, and devices are being developed everyday. In North America, collaborative programs such as LOCKSS Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe: (www.lockss.org) from Stanford, DAITSS (Dark Archive in the Sunshine State: daitss.fcla.edu) from the Florida Center for Library Automation, are examples of the cooperative approaches libraries should take to share responsibility for sustaining digital scholarship. *Steven Escar Smith is associate dean for collections and services at Texas A&M University Libraries. Holly Mercer is head of digital services and scholarly communication at Texas A&M University Libraries.*

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