



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. Designing Space for Children and Teens in Libraries and Public Spaces

By Sandra Feinberg, James R. Keller
(*American Libraries*, April 2010, pg. 34)
The success of public libraries tomorrow may well lie in our ability today to serve young children, their families, and teens in a healthy, appropriately designed environment- one that introduces the library to new users, serves as a laboratory for experimentation and discovery about what the "future" library may offer, and presents an exciting opportunity for garnering financial support and political backing. After reaching some central decisions such as the ages of the targeted audiences, the estimated size and scope of the space, and the basic activities and collections to be included within the space, the project team needs to gather information and validate their ideas through research, site visits, conversation, and exploration. *Sandra Feinberg is director of Middle Country Public Library in New York. James R. Keller is director of library planning and design for Vitetta Architects and Engineers in Philadelphia. This article previews their new book, Designing Space for Children and Teens in Libraries and Public Places, forthcoming from ALA Editions.*

2. 14 Days to Have Your Say

By Andrea Peterson, Frank Haulgren
(*Computers in Libraries*, April 2010, pg. 29)
Frank Haulgren, collection services manager and assessment coordinator for

WWU Libraries, had read about this project and was struck by the idea that the blog environment allowed users to comment on each others' ideas and in some cases further develop and fine-tune previously posted ideas and suggestions. While many libraries use Drupal as a content management system for their websites, Drupal has more than 3,500 modules available for the current 6.x release, which provides functionality for everything from blogging to electronic commerce. *Andrea Peterson (andrea.peterson@wwu.edu) was a cataloged a director, and an instruction and reference librarian before discovering that the most fun in libraries is in IT. She has been the head of library IT at Western Washington University Libraries for 11 years.*
Frank Haulgren frank.haulgren@wwu.edu) is the collection services manager and assessment coordinator at the Western Washington University Libraries.

3. Getting the Most from Donations

By Tom Cooper
(*Public Libraries*, March/April 2010, pg. 31)
"In a recent informal survey, I asked librarians whether they considered donations of materials to their library a blessing or a curse - or somewhere in between. Not surprisingly, the responses were all over the map. Many praised donations as an unalloyed blessing, often despite the fact that they are a lot of work. Many gave them actual percentage rankings, ranging from 92 percent

bleasing to only 10 percent. Some told stories of unexpected gems discovered deep within dusty boxes, while others related horror stories of bug-ridden, mold-covered sets of ancient encyclopedias and Reader's Digest Condensed Books. Despite this wide disparity of response, several consistent themes emerged." *Tom Cooper is Director of Webster Groves (Mo.) Public Library; tcooper@wgpl.org.*

4. A Tale of Two Researchers

By Terence Huwe

(Computers in Libraries, April 2010, pg. 39)

"It can be very useful to study how users conduct new research projects, because such study can help reference providers stay aware of the obstacles that users confront. [...] here a few general characteristics that are shared by many of the undergraduates I encounter at the University of California Berkeley They are typically high achievers with top-notch grade point averages, and they come armed with a steely determination to find what they think exists. [...] I can't help wondering if, whenever we market a new technology or electronic resource, we need to be "embedded" in the message so that our users gain access to the best resource that libraries have to offer - ourselves." Terence K. Huwe is director of library and information resources at the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment at the University of California-Berkeley. His responsibilities include library administration, reference, and overseeing web services. His email address is huwe@library.berkeley.edu.

5. Digital Library Education Lab

(Journal of Education for Library and Information Science, Spring 2010, p. 48)

This paper discusses how a digital library education laboratory should be built to improve digital library education. A digital lab is defined as a Web-based collaborative space where students can learn and conduct research with real data and real digital libraries. The goal of the digital library education lab is to foster active and collaborative learning. As an example, this paper describes efforts in building a digital lab based on the Internet Public Library and introduces various class activities the lab currently supports.

6. Invest in Yourself

By Catherine Hakala_Ausperk

(American Libraries, April 2010, pg. 51)

With budget cuts, layoffs, reductions in hours, and new technology around every corner, no one has the time or money to devote to professional development! The good news is, without any money and with very little time- but a lot of commitment- you can build your skills, improve your performance, and enhance your opportunities. CATHERINE HAKALA-AUSPERK is a graduate of Kent State University and a 25-year public library veteran. She currently serves as deputy director of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights (Ohio) Public Library. Her book *Be a Great Boss* will be published by ALA Books this summer.

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