



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

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## Library Info Alert

Winter 2008

*Library Info Alert* focuses on recent developments in the field of library science and information management in the United States. It contains summaries of articles from leading library-related periodicals and recommended Internet sites. The *Library Info Alert* is published by the Information Resource Centers in Germany.

**Featured Internet Sites | Article Alert | Order Articles | Announcements**

(click on underlined headings)

### Featured Internet Sites

#### **Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study 2007-2008**

American Library Association, September 2008

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/plftas/0708report.cfm>

The study assesses public access to computers, the Internet, and Internet-related services in U.S. public libraries, and the impact of library funding changes on connectivity, technology deployment, and sustainability. The study builds on the longest-running and largest study of Internet connectivity in public libraries begun in 1994 by John Carlo Bertot and Charles R. McClure. The report provides information that can help library directors and library IT staff benchmark and advocate for technology resources in communities across the nation. The data are also of importance for policymakers at local, state, and federal levels, manufacturers of information and communication technologies, and the communities served by public libraries.

#### **Digital Youth Research**

Univ. of California, Berkeley, and Univ. of Southern California, November 2008

<http://digitalyouth.ischool.berkeley.edu/>

Website for a project that "explores how kids use digital media in their everyday lives" outside of school. In addition to a report and the book "Hanging Out, Messing Around, Geeking Out: Living and Learning with New Media," the site features project background, field stories, and a bibliography covering digital media and education, gaming, mobile phone culture, and related topics.

#### **Life Photo Archive**

<http://images.google.com/hosted/life>

"Search millions of photographs from the LIFE photo archive, stretching from the 1750s to today. Most were never published and are now available for the first time through the joint work of LIFE and Google." Searchable by keyword, or browse by decade (1860s to 1970s) or featured people, places, events, sports, and culture.

### **StoryCorps National Day of Listening**

<http://www.nationaldayoflistening.org/>

StoryCorps (a nonprofit that has helped more than 40,000 Americans record oral histories) "is declaring November 28, 2008 the first annual National Day of listening." On this day after Thanksgiving StoryCorps "asks you to start a new holiday tradition -- set aside one hour ... to record a conversation with someone important to you." Site features a DIY recording guide and video, question generator, a few online oral histories, and related material.

### **Policy Archive**

<https://www.policyarchive.org/>

Policy institutions around the United States spend a staggering \$1.5 billion on research each year. Many of them do an excellent job in terms of putting their policy papers, working papers, factsheets, and so on online for use by the public and scholars. Of course, it can be very difficult to locate some of them, and that's where the Policy Archive steps in. Sponsored by the Center for Governmental Studies (CGS) and the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) Library, the Policy Archive site brings together thousands of full text documents, reports, videos, and multimedia material generated by these various think tanks and institutions. First-time visitors can take a look at the "Featured Collections" on the right-hand side of the page, and then move on over to the topic quick links, which include everything from agriculture to technology. Additionally, policy institutions and the like can learn how to submit their own work to the archive. Visitors can also sign up to receive email newsletters about the latest research in the topic areas that are of interest to them.

### **C-SPAN: American Political Archive**

<http://www.c-span.org/Series/American-Political-Archive.aspx>

C-SPAN has created this online archive as part of their general mission, and educators and politicians will find much to search through on this site. On the top of the page, visitors can look through the most recent programs, which include broadcast audio recordings from a number of the Presidential Libraries, the Smithsonian, and the Library of Congress. Further down the page, visitors can look through the "Past Programs" area. Here they will find links to interviews with figures such as Shirley Chisholm, Lady Bird Johnson, and Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. Along the right-hand side of the page, visitors can make their way through a host of important web resources, including a collection of oral histories with former Secretaries of Defense and an interview with Harry Truman.

## **Article Alert**

### **1. Are PDF Documents Accessible?**

By Mireira Ribeira Turró

(*Information Technology and Libraries*, September 2008, pg. 25)

Adobe PDF is one of the most widely used formats in scientific communications and in administrative documents. In its latest versions it has incorporated structural tags and improvements that increase its level of accessibility. This article reviews the concept of accessibility in the reading of digital documents and evaluates the accessibility of PDF according to the most widely established standards.

## **2. Bridging the Gap in Digital Library Continuing Education: How Librarians Who Were Not "Born Digital" Are Keeping Up**

By Chris Evin Long and Rachel Applegate

(*Library Administration and Management*, Fall 2008, pg. 172)

Continuing education (CE) for librarians is a ubiquitous topic in library literature. This is hardly surprising since, as professionals whose job it is to assist users with their knowledge needs, librarians recognize the necessity of remaining lifelong learners themselves in order to keep pace with the ever-expanding amount of available information. The area of professional practice experiencing the most rapid change over the last decade and a half has been information technology, especially the Web and its many applications. Librarians must not only know how to use these emerging technologies in their jobs, they must also decide which to implement in their libraries for today's users.

## **3. The Challenge of Acquisitions in the Digital Age**

By Martha Whittaker

(*Libraries and the Academy*, Vol.8, No. 4 (2008), pg. 439)

In the digital world, every decision a librarian makes about library materials—from the initial purchase to the library promotional material about the acquisition—has a very direct impact on how those resources will be used. In purchasing an electronic resource, the librarian must be familiar with licensing models, system requirements, file compatibility, authentication, proxy servers, and interface design. The mission of a librarian is, as always, to provide information access and preservation. That has not changed in the digital age, but the ways in which we do those things have changed radically.

## **4. Change Masters All: A Series On Librarians Who Steered A Clear Course toward the Twenty-First Century. An Interview with Dr. Jerry Campbell**

By Marcy Simons

(*Library Administration and Management*, Fall 2008, pg. 168)

Transformation is a key word in libraries today. American Library Association (ALA) 2007 President Leslie Burger created a series of Annual Conference 2007 programs based on the many ways that libraries have been transformed. The word "transformer," in every sense, fits Jerry Campbell.

## **5. Creating a Personal Information Portal With iGoogle**

By Esther Rosenfeld

(*Teacher Librarian*, June 2008, pg. 72)

iGoogle provides an easy way to create and maintain personalized "start pages". iGoogle is a personal information portal (sometimes called a personal learning environment) where you can cluster and group your resources and tools in one place online.

## **6. Examining Gender Issues and Trends in Library Management from the Male Perspective**

By Aloha Record and Ravonne Green

(*Library Administration and Management*, Fall 2008, pg. 193)

While there is much scholarly information-science literature devoted to gender issues in library management, the vast majority of it is written by, and focuses solely on, women in the profession. The intent of many of these studies has been to explain why, if women

numerically dominate the profession of librarianship, there are so few of them in top-level management and administrative positions.

### **7. Hot New Web 2.0 Tools**

By Jamal Cromity

(*Information Outlook*, August 2008, pg. 17)

There are some great combinations of Web 2.0 Tools that can enhance standard web pages, alerts, newsletters, and list-servers and they can be incorporated into your workflows right now.

### **8. A Hyperlink Analysis of U.S. Public and Academic Libraries' Web Sites**

By Rong Tang and Mike Thelwall

(*The Library Quarterly*, October 2008, pg. 419)

This article reports on patterns of links from and to the Web sites of 100 U.S. academic and public libraries with regard to the originating and targeted URL domain categories. Libraries, grouped into small and large by their collection size, were found to have numbers of inlinks proportional to their size, but public libraries, and particularly the smaller ones, hosted relatively fewer outlinks. While public libraries link largely to and attract links mainly from the .com and .org domains and U.S. regional sites, academic libraries link to a variety of domains, including .edu, .com, .org, and some overseas sites. Academic libraries also draw inlinks mainly from .edu and .com sites. The results reveal that there is little interaction between public libraries in the United States and U.S. universities, and this calls attention to the need for more collaboration between the two types of organizations.

### **9. Libraries Connect Communities**

By Peggy Barber and Linda Wallace

(*American Libraries*, October 2008, pg. 52)

Site visits to 63 public libraries reveal the power of technology - as lure to users.

### **10. The Library as Ecosystem**

By Scott Walter

(*Library Journal*, October 2008)

A new way of thinking about the profession embraces the concepts of mutual benefit and coevolution..

### **11. Library 2.0: The Consumer As Producer**

By Beth Evans

(*Information Today*, October 2008, pg. 1)

As more and more institutions are getting in the public involved in content creation, it's time for libraries to join the social revolution too,

### **12. Library Education: Its Past, Its Present, Its Future**

By Beverly P. Lynch

(*Library Trends*, Spring 2008, pg. 931)

This paper traces the history of library education primarily as it developed in the United States. The issues pertaining to curriculum, students, and faculty are presented as are the current questions of whether the educational program should have a professional, vocational, or discipline-based focus.

### **13. The 'Long Tale': Using Web 2.0 Concepts to Enhance Digital Collections**

By Andrew Bullen

(*Computers in Libraries*, October 2008, pg. 31)

The wonderful Web 2.0 is a famously slippery concept to define. The very ambiguity of the term is Escheresque, self-referential to its ever-changing meaning. As Tim O'Reilly, CEO of O'Reilly Media, described it, "Like many important concepts, Web 2.0 doesn't have a hard boundary, but rather, a gravitational core." As Illinois State Library's information technology coordinator, I have come to realize that embracing this essential Web 2.0 philosophy is a useful tool in unlocking the true potential of digital collections. In fact, the central premise behind this article is that until we embrace Web 2.0 concepts, digital repositories cannot evolve beyond very useful cataloging tools.

### **14. Managing Libraries for Multilingualism. Using the Web for Non-English Language Retrieval and Translation**

By Patrick M. Valentine

(*Library Administration & Management*, Fall 2008, pg. 199)

Librarians and educators like to talk the user-friendly talk, but do they walk the user-friendly walk when it comes to providing providing services for someone who is less than fluent in English? Excellence in a twentyfirst-century library would seem to demand attention to language matters. Information literacy in today's world requires a commitment to providing computer services by way of the Internet, as well as access to print resources for all library clients, including limited English-speaking patrons. Yet very little has been published about the library's role in the multilingual or cross-language aspects of information literacy, with most of the relevant research conducted in Europe and Asia.

### **15. Meeting Academic Needs for Information: A Customer Service Approach**

By E. Stewart Saunders

(*Libraries and the Academy*, Vol. 8, No. 4 (2008), pg. 357)

Should academic libraries seek to improve general satisfaction with their services, or are some services more important than others? This article asserts that faculty and students mainly want information resources. The research analyzes LibQUAL+™ data to determine which other library resources contribute to information satisfaction among users. The conclusion is that access mechanisms are very important predictors of information resource satisfaction, but library facilities and library staff are negligible predictors. This is true across different groups of users.

### **16. MyLibrary: A Digital Library Framework and Toolkit**

By Eric Lease Morgan

(*Information Technology and Libraries*, September 2008, pg. 12)

This article describes a digital library framework and toolkit called MyLibrary. At its heart, MyLibrary is designed to create relationships between information resources and people. To this end, MyLibrary is made up of essentially four parts: (1) information resources, (2) patrons, (3) librarians, and (4) a set of locally defined, institution-specific facet/term combinations interconnecting the first three. On another level, MyLibrary is a set of object-oriented Perl modules intended to read and write to a specifically shaped relational database. Used in conjunction with other computer applications and tools, MyLibrary provides a way to create and support digital library collections and services. Librarians and developers can use MyLibrary to create any number of digital library applications: full-text indexes to journal literature, a traditional library catalog

complete with circulation, a database-driven website, an institutional repository, an image database, etc. The article describes each of these points in greater detail.

### **17. Online Systems for Information Access and Retrieval**

By Carol Tenopir

(*Library Trends*, Spring 2008, pg. 816)

In 1973 F. W. Lancaster published the first textbook about online information retrieval (with E. G. Fayen). That text and his later writings and books on the topics relating to online searching set the precedent for many books to follow. His early work also advocated many changes to the state-of-the-art systems and anticipated many of the characteristics of modern online information retrieval systems. Although the basic underlying structure of modern systems is still similar to what Lancaster wrote about thirty years ago, many of the changes he advocated have occurred.

### **18. Protecting Traditional Cultural Expressions**

By Jonathan A. Franklin

(*Information Outlook*, August 2008, pg. 27)

Indigenous peoples are creating digital libraries for their traditional cultural expressions, while seeking the legal right to protect them.

### **19. Rethinking the E-Rate**

By Carrie Lowe

(*American Libraries*, October 2008, pg. 62)

The pros and cons of why libraries should be tapping the largest available pot of federal dollars.

### **20. Show Me How. Instructional Videos on the Web**

By Irene E. McDermott

(*Searcher*, September 2008, pg. 49)

On a recent busy Saturday, a woman came to the reference desk looking for cooking videos. "You know, like Rachel Ray?" she asked. It turned out that she wanted to bake a wedding cake while following a recipe on a DVD. Well, our library didn't have any baking videos. I found a few older cookbooks for her, but she was not impressed. Print did not seem to constitute the way she wanted to get her information. She wanted videos to demonstrate baking techniques, to show her, not tell her, how to cook.

### **21. The Surprising Impact of Digital Repositories**

By Terence K. Huwe

(*Computers in Libraries*, October 2008, pg. 42)

The pace of online "content creation" has never been faster. The explosive growth in blogs and their growing influence, not to mention the money they create for entrepreneurs, is just the most obvious case in this point.

### **22. Ten Things We Learned While Building New Websites**

By Michael Porter and David Lee King

(*Public Libraries*, July/August 2008, pg. 24)

Michael and I have been hard at work for the last year or so, planning new websites for our respective organizations. And friends, let us both tell you up front—this is hard work! So as Michael and I sat sipping lowfat soy lattes, we started chatting . . . wait a

second. Actually, we started brainstorming at breakneck speed. We've been so busy working on our sites—we missed our article deadline! Yikes—let's get crackin'!

### **23. Thesauri and Facets and Tags, Oh My! A Look at Three Decades in Object Analysis**

By Candy Schwartz

(*Library Trends*, Spring 2008, pg. 830)

The field of subject analysis enjoyed a flurry of interest in the 1970s, and has recently become a focus of attention again.

### **24. Video and the Future of the Internet**

By Reid Goldsborough

(*Teacher Librarian*, June 2008, pg. 60)

Vuze ([www.vuze.com](http://www.vuze.com)), maker of a peer-to-peer video distribution program of the same name, recently contended that major phone and cable companies appeared to be targeting video content distributed with Vuze. Most are free sites, supported by advertising, while a few provide both free and pay options. You can view original content as well as snippets of content created or aired by major movie studios and television networks, including bloopers, famous scenes, and music videos.

### **25. Virtues and Values In Digital Library Architecture**

By Michael Cyzyk

(*Information Technology and Libraries*, September 2008, pg. 8)

At the Fall 2007 Coalition for Networked Information (CNI) conference in Washington, D.C., I presented "A Survey and Evaluation of Open-Source Electronic Publishing Systems." Toward the end of my presentation was a slide enumerating some of the things I had personally learned as a Web application architect during my review of the systems under consideration.

### **26. What We Need**

By Chrystie Hill & Meredith Farkas

(*Library Journal*, October 2008)

Each year, *Library Journal* recognizes 50 or so emerging leaders in the profession as Movers & Shakers. These library professionals are passionate about the work they do and are moving the profession forward, often in creative and innovative ways. Movers & Shakers ourselves, we each had different experiences following our recognition, which confirmed what we'd heard from our Mover & Shaker (M&S) colleagues. Some enjoyed and were encouraged by amazing institutional support and acknowledgement, while others received minimum internal support for their innovative work. This made us wonder how the entire cohort has been shaped, encouraged, or discouraged by our institutions. While we tend to be highly self-motivated on the whole, all of us are affected by organizational culture and management that can either spur us on or deter us. Do Movers & Shakers have supportive relationships within our institutions? What can organizations do to foster and encourage creativity and innovation in library service?

## Announcements

For more upcoming events and further information, please check:

<http://german.frankfurt.usconsulate.gov/veranstaltungen.html>

### 4. Dezember 2008, 18:30

#### Hello USA! Schule, Studium, Praktikum, Au Pair

Ort: Amerikanische Bibliothek Karlsruhe, Kanalweg 52, Karlsruhe

Sie planen einen Aufenthalt in den USA als Schüler, Student, Praktikant, Au Pair...? Sie haben Fragen zu Organisation, Angeboten und Visum? Renate Vollmer von EducationUSA informiert und berät zu Austausch und Bildung in den USA und steht für Fragen zur Verfügung. EducationUSA ist der Informations- und Beratungsdienst der US-Regierung zu USA-Aufenthalten (<http://www.eduationusa.de>). Vortragssprache: Deutsch

### 5. Dezember 2008, 14:00 - 18:00

#### Schule, Job und Studium International - Bildungsmesse für Schüler, Studenten und Berufstätige

Ort: Stadtbibliothek Frankfurt, Hasengasse 4

Zusammen mit dem Beratungsdienst der Europäischen Union und der Agentur für Arbeit, Zentrale Auslandsvermittlung. Sie wollen im Ausland arbeiten, jobben, studieren, leben, oder zur Schule gehen? Neben der Beratung an Informationsständen zu individuellen Fragen, werden auf der Bildungsmesse grundlegende Aspekte in Vorträgen behandelt, z.B. Wie bewerbe ich mich im Ausland? Wie finde ich eine passende Arbeit, Schule oder Universität? Wie beantragt man ein (Nicht)Einwanderungs- oder Arbeitsvisum? Welche Möglichkeiten hat man nach dem Schulabschluss?

14.30 - 15.15 Uhr Studieren und Arbeiten im Ausland

Dr. Gunhild Loh, Bundesagentur für Arbeit, Zentrale Auslands- und Fachvermittlung (ZAV) Frankfurt

15.30 - 16.00 Uhr Von A (wie Au Pair) bis Z (wie Zivildienst): Möglichkeiten von Auslandsaufenthalten

Annette Luthringshauser, Eurodesk Deutschland, Bonn

16.15 - 17.00 Uhr Studieren und Arbeiten in den USA

Dr. Renate Vollmer, EducationUSA, US-Generalkonsulat Frankfurt

### 18. Dezember 2008, 20:30 Uhr

#### Konzert: David Liebman & Marc Copland

Ort: Romanfabrik, Hanauer Landstraße 186, 60314 Frankfurt

Eintritt: 18 € / Ermäßigt 15 €

Kartenreservierung: [Reservierung\[at\]romanfabrik.de](mailto:Reservierung[at]romanfabrik.de) oder Telefon: 069-490 848 29

Vorverkauf: Frankfurt Ticket, Telefon: 069-13 40 400

Eine Veranstaltung der Romanfabrik in Zusammenarbeit mit dem US-Generalkonsulat. Der Pianist Marc Copland gilt seit Jahren als Geheimtipp unter den Jazzpianisten. Seine CDs, vor allem die Balladen-CD *Haunted Heart* (hatOLOGY), haben überall große Begeisterung hervorgerufen. David Liebman wurde in den Siebzigern durch seine Konzerte mit Miles Davis, Elvin Jones und Chick Corea bekannt. Seit 2002 tourt Copland regelmäßig mit dem Saxophonisten David Liebman. Das erste Ergebnis dieser Arbeit, die 2006 erschienene Doppel-CD *Bookends* (hatOLOGY) bewies das vollendete Formen- und Motivenspiel der beiden Ausnahmemusiker, deren Improvisationen „verschlungen, unerhört, schwindelerregend“ sind (Jazz magazine). Wir sind gespannt, was die beiden Neues im Gepäck haben.

**16. Januar 2009, 15:30-17:00**

**Beratung: Schule, Job, Praktikum oder Studium in den USA?**

Ort: Stadtbibliothek Frankfurt, Hasengasse 4, 60311 Frankfurt

Interesse an einem Schuljahr in den USA? An Praktika, Au Pair, Jobben oder Reisen?

Sie brauchen Informationen wie man einen USA-Aufenthalt organisieren kann oder wo man Informationen findet? Einmal im Monat berät und informiert EducationUSA Frankfurt (US-Generalkonsulat) in Einzelgesprächen in der Stadtbücherei Frankfurt.

NOTE: Library Info Alert is available to subscribers only. You may contact us through e-mail to order the requested material. Full text of articles will be sent to you as soon as possible.

**Impressum:**

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