Library Info Alert

> *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. O Sister Library, Where Art Thou?
(*American Libraries*, January/February 2012, p39)
According to Margaret Mead, Sisters is probably the most competitive relationship within the family, but once the sisters are grown, it becomes the strongest relationship. [...] sister library relationships usually involve pairing up with a library outside the United States. [...] the groundwork has been laid for such a concept to become a reality.

2. Reflecting our Communities
(*American Libraries, January/February* 2012, p36)
[...] a library that serves a highly diverse public urban population, as Brooklyn College library does, is likely to see slow change in its attempts to better reflect that population even as student demographics continue to shift with the arrival of new immigrant groups seeking opportunities for themselves and their children. The BC Library internship program is fortunate to draw on graduate students attending the five library schools in the New York City area, as well as students attending programs elsewhere that are spending time in the city or who live in the area but are studying via distance learning.

3. Blog Impossible
(Computers in Libraries*,* January/February 2012, p12)
In 2011, volunteers within the Special Libraries Association (SLA), including the authors, who spearheaded the project, set out to find how information professionals are adapting to the opportunities and challenges of the new knowledge economy. Over the course of the year, SLA's president Cindy A. Romaine encouraged information professionals to share their stories about how they are future ready; that is to say, how they grew more adaptable, flexible, and resilient in the new knowledge economy.

4. Responding to the Strategy Question One Road Map at a Time
(*Computers in Libraries*, January/February 2012, p.50)
Between dwindling and decreasing budgets, political and financial pressures to collaborate, major shifts in market trends, and new and emerging customer behaviors to support, the pressure to make the best choices when deciding where to put your library's limited resources can be overwhelming. To help in communicating the importance of back office/ infrastructure projects that often don't have any visibility to non-IT staff, the road map clearly delineates infrastructure projects (those above the timeline) from customer applications projects (those below the timeline) so that the organization understands the relationship and importance of continuously funding projects in both areas.

5. EBooks on Fire: Controversies Surrounding EBooks in Libraries
(*Searcher*, December 2011, p20)
Charles Hamaker, associate librarian for collections and technical services at UNC–Charlotte, takes a critical look at the challenges of print sources being usurped by electronic texts. Major issues that Hamaker addresses include how to ensure the long-term preservation and retention rights of e-texts.

6. Then and Now: Looking Back on 43 Years as a Librarian
(Searcher, December 2011, p12)
Edwin Perry, until recently an anthropology and engineering librarian, reminisces about how his role as a librarian changed from the early '70s, when students had to pore over broad category headings to find specific research topics, to the plethora of resources and services featured in today's libraries. He shares as well some of his favorite student encounters.

7. Using Assistive Technology to Meet Diverse Learner Needs
(*Library Media Connection*, January/February 2012, p22)
Implementing new and advanced technology for instruction and access to the curriculum for the increasingly diverse student populations in our schools can be a daunting task for even the most tech-savvy school personnel. This task can be even more challenging when devices, tools, and systems associated with assistive, or adaptive, technology are part of an individualized education program (IEP) for students with disabilities. School librarians should be knowledgeable about how assistive technology (AT) becomes part of a student's learning.

8. Moving to Outcomes
(*Library Journal, January 2012*, p28)
The author considers the use of outcome-based measurement at libraries. She emphasizes the importance of libraries providing what communities need and collecting data to demonstrate their outcomes and success to funders, donors, and voters. She offers outcomes important to libraries, which she says other organizations share, such as workforce development, reading readiness, and literacy.

NOTE: Library Info Alert is available to subscribers only. You may contact us through telephone, fax or e-mail to order full text of articles. The requested material will be distributed to you as soon as possible. Please send your comments and remarks to the American Embassy Homepage at AthensIRC@state.gov

---