



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. How Public Libraries Are a Boon to Small Business (*American Libraries*, July/August 2012, p28)

"The library has many programs that are competing" for promotional resources, explained Mark Andersen, chief of Chicago Public Library's Business, Science, and Technology Division. Because business services are not highlighted, "a lot of people think the library is good for the kids and good for seniors. The nonprofit SCORE association, a resource partner with the US Small Business Administration, often sends counselors to meet entrepreneurs in libraries, and city development advisors and successful local business owners can lead workshops on government licensing and regulations, legal contracts, financing, hiring employees, accounting, paying taxes, marketing, and advertising.

2. How to Choose the Right Reading Device for You and Your Users (*Computers in Libraries*, July/August 2012, p13)

If you acquire electronic copies of your favorite books, you can store hundreds, even thousands of them in the palm of your hand in the form of simple ones and zeros. Add to that the ability to save notations, have an integrated dictionary, and share and discuss via the web, and we begin to see how technology has taken the traditional book to a whole new level. So what exactly are these devices? Well,

surely we've all seen them by now: net books, tablets, and e-readers. Each has its own array of makes and models. But which one is best for plain old reading? In my role as technical support professional for an academic library, I set out to find the answer. Let me share my results.

3. The Rise of the Digital Public Library

(*Computers in Libraries*, July/August 2012, p17)

Excerpted from 'The Digital Squeeze: Libraries at the Crossroads: The Library Resource Guide Benchmark Study on 2012 Library Spending Plans' The economy may be healing, and more funds are flowing to North America's public libraries. The survey, conducted in December 2011 among libraries listed in ITF's American Library Directory, reveals current spending patterns for public libraries - defined as libraries supported by municipalities, counties, or communities - and provides projections for budgets and spending trends for 2012. More than two-fifths of public libraries, 42%, have increased spending on information technology hardware, software and related IT services (not including online subscriptions) over the past year (since fiscal 2010).

4. A Better Site Visit

(*Library Journal*, July 2012, p.12)

If there is a library school in the vicinity, your library probably gets the occasional

visit from a student on assignment. With the popularity of distance LIS programs, your library may play host even if there's not a program nearby. These students come to do coursework, but they're not just using your tables and chairs--they're learning by observing.

5. Standing Tall on Campus

(Library Journal, July 2012, p24)

After a successful launch of the inaugural New Landmark Libraries (NLL) in 2011 (*LJ and Library by Design* 5/15/11) focusing on public libraries, *LJ* is proud to present its second list of iconic NLL buildings. This time the spotlight is on academic libraries. Our five NLLs, plus two honorable mentions, will inspire and inform any building project. Don't hesitate to borrow the ideas and trends highlighted here for your library of the future, or use them to help change perceptions about what your library can do for your campus. Public and school librarians will also find inspiration and insight as the options are highly adaptable.

6. Overshadowing Library Services

(Information Today, July/August 2012, p21)

The technology that lies at the very foundation of a library is its integrated library system. This system contains all the information the library needs to know about its patrons and its collection. As these systems have evolved, there is a larger focus on the tools available to library patrons on the web catalog.

Libraries have often lagged behind the technology curve. Instead of innovating and creating tools and systems that help meet a library patron's needs, libraries are much more reactive to what is available to consumers. In order to remain relevant, libraries have continued to adapt to new content formats and information access needs. They need to not only keep adapting but to lead the way in providing access to information in ways that people will benefit from the most.

7. Working Part-Time After Retirement

(American Libraries, July/August 2012, p32)

Most of all, I like keeping my mind active. Because I love art, I visit the museum galleries when I need a break, and I enjoy special tours and employee discounts at the museum bookstore. [...] I can offer real-world suggestions for library-related employment. While still employed, I once investigated the possibility of working for a program that catered to college students from wealthy families who spent a semester cruising around the world while having classes on board the vessel.

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

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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
