



# 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. Toughing It Out

(*American Libraries*, November/December 2012, p30)

"You're all alone- with thousands of other information professionals- pursuing a library job in a down economy. If not for sheer stubbornness and hard-won self-respect, you might consider a career in the fast food industry. But don't despair, said David Connolly, who compiles ALA's JobList, a resource for career advice and job search information. The market is back to pre-2008, he said."

## 2. Live at Your Library

(*American Libraries*, November/December 2012, p46)

It's hard to miss the ever-growing enthusiasm for the "buy local" movement. People want locally grown food, locally made handicrafts, locally created products. Now is the best time for libraries to join that movement and provide space in their collections for local content, particularly for local music.

## 3. We're in This Together: Creating Synergies With Collaborative Ventures

(*Computers in Libraries*, December 2012, p12)

"In this article, we share two examples of collaborations that have resulted from partnerships among units in the Halle Library and how those collaborations are transforming the user experience and librarians' own perceptions of roles they may play in support of teaching and

learning. Both projects involved the creation of new, jointly staffed spaces within the library."

## 4. Everybody's Doing It, but Everyone Could Use Some Help

(*Computers in Libraries*, October 2012, p30)

"I recently gave a workshop for a lively group of librarians. Motivated to learn something new, they had plenty of good questions about practical applications of the ideas we discussed. I barely covered two-thirds of the material I'd prepared for the half-day workshop because the discussions were so fruitful and the participants did not want to gloss over the details. I left the workshop buoyed by their enthusiasm for the topic and inspired to approach my work with a renewed sense that trying out new things mattered. So, what was so hot about our discussion topic? 3D printing in library maker spaces? Alternate-reality gaming in libraries? Writing your own library catalog app for Android?"

## 5. Good Will Funding

(*Information Today*, December 2012, p32)

"Using technology in a public library to promote literacy may sound like a pretty basic service, but to 11-year-old Lucy, it's much more than that. Lucy is a familiar face at the Ngwerere Lubuto Library, one of two indigenously designed libraries that are part of the Lubuto Library Project, an ongoing international development initiative launched in 2005 in Zambia dedicated to serving its most vulnerable

children. Lubuto, a Zambian word for "light" or "enlightenment," provides a ray of hope for many underserved children."

## **6. New Search Gizmos From Google**

*(Information Today, December 2012, p20)*

Last year, Google closed Google Labs, which was a development area for dozens of search and utility apps. It was a high-tech petting zoo where you could observe tech tools in their fuzzy puppy stages. Many of these experiments went nowhere, but occasionally, they would "graduate" to the status of an official Google app. Commenting on the reason that it was shutting down the Lab, Google provided some corporate speak about concentrating on core tasks. For years, Google Trends was a simple tracking tool for search query occurrences. Google also had another search tracking app called Insights for Search, which provided a separate tool set for search research. Google Knowledge Graph was announced in May 2012 with a level of self-importance that seemed excessive even for Google. The best thing about Google is that you don't have to learn anything to use it.

## **7. Taking Initiative**

*(Public Libraries, November/December 2012, p21)*

"State library associations across the

country are engaging their membership and their communities in new and interesting ways. From developing a new generation of library leaders to providing a forum for residents to tell their library story to innovative initiatives that improve the lives of all of its citizens, state library associations are assisting our patrons like never before. "

## **8. Embracing the Long Game**

*(Public Libraries, November/December 2012, p15)*

Take a breath and a bow, librarians. Barring a Mayan apocalypse or a clumsy intern tripping over the Internet's master control switch, we've survived yet another year. To deal with technology is to constantly deal with change, and 2012 certainly brought its fair share of changes to our doorstep.

**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](mailto:AthensIRC@state.gov)**

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