Library Info Alert

Selected articles by the Athens Information Resource Center
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Issue 1

> *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 to Get THE EDGE on Technology Access
(American Libraries, January/February 2014, p36-39)
New Braunfels (Tex.) Public Library Director Gretchen Pruett is speaking of her library's experience with the Edge Initiative, a management and leader ship tool library staff can use to evaluate and strengthen public access technology services to achieve community goals.

2. 2013 Year in Review
(American Libraries, January/February 2014, p28-31)
A Big Win for Fair Use After an eight-year court battle with the Authors Guild, search-engine company Google won the right on November 14 to continue digitizing millions of copyrighted materials for its Google Books project. Government Shutdown On October 1, after the US Congress failed to pass a bill to fund the government, all its "nonessential" offices and services shut down for 16 days, including the Library of Congress, National Archives, all presidential libraries, and federal museums.

3. Uncertainty and the future of libraries: here are 11 questions to ask about how the future will turn out for your library
(Computers in Libraries, December 2013, p4)
"Public libraries have changed significantly since my childhood. Gone are the card catalog and the abundant staff (replaced by fewer staff and various forms of automation). And in many local libraries, only a few research items, such as encyclopedias, remain. Research libraries with their large stacks and historical collections retain an air of legacy, but they too have changed. The most significant changes for all libraries lay ahead."

4. Crowd funding: what's in it for us as librarians?

(Computers in Libraries, December 2013, p8)

"By now, most librarians have heard the term "crowd funding." In a nutshell, crowd funding is the process of raising money, usually online, for a cause, project, or business enterprise. But nutshells can take you only so far. In this article, I will discuss some of my own experiences as a backer of crowd funded projects."

5. Library technology forecast for 2014 and beyond

(Computers in Libraries, December 2013, p18)

Libraries continue to face enormous challenges as they continue to deal with woefully inadequate budgets at the same time that almost every aspect of their work has become more complex. In these times when search engines, social networks, and ecommerce sites set an almost unreachable bar for user experience and breadth of content, libraries have to make extraordinary efforts to impress their patrons with the information resources and services that they offer on the web while remaining true to core library values. Thus, the stage is set.

6. Why and When to Turn to Grant Seeking

(Public Libraries, November/December 2013, p26-28)

"Maybe we can get a grant to do this..."

The idea of applying for a grant to help meet a need is very appealing. Interestingly, the fact that it is usually an "impersonal" request is part of the appeal. If you are turned down, it doesn't feel uncomfortable in the same way that an individual who declines your personal request might make you feel. But is this the best reason to consider applying for a grant? The best reason to apply for a grant is that you believe you are doing something important that meets a funder's goals.

7. Growing Like a Read

(Public Libraries, November/December 2013, p44-49)

Pioneer Library System (PLS) in Central Oklahoma offers Growing Like a Read (GLAR), an early literacy program based on Every Child Ready to Read @ your library (ECRR), an initiative of PLA and the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), divisions of the American Library Association (ALA). The goal of GLAR is to increase parents' and caregivers' knowledge and behaviors that positively impact pre-reading skills development in children from birth through age four. Incentives provided by community partners and branded giveaways provided through a foundation grant are offered as part of the program. Strong community partnerships are an integral part of the GLAR program from development through operation.

8. Managing your Digital Legacy
(Public Libraries, November/December 2013, p38-42)
According to the most recent available figures from the U.S. Census Bureau, 13.2 percent of the population is age 65 or older with an additional 5.7 percent turning 65 within the next five years. This segment of the American population is an important part of the library's user group, and one which we must consider as society and the public library become more digital. The study found that twenty-four of the twenty-six respondents used email, and that both of those who abstained from using email for their political activities did so because they felt they didn't have the required skills. Since they did use email for other communication, this indicates a lack of skill with navigating the Internet or using electronic mailing lists.

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