



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 to Build a Desk Statistics Tracker in Less Than an Hour Using Forms in Google

(Computers in Libraries, October 2011, p12)

The University of Minnesota-Duluth library, which serves more than 11,000 students and 500 faculty members, is primarily an undergraduate library. Until recently, reference librarians had been collecting daily usage statistics on a paper tally sheet, which a student worker then transferred to a spreadsheet. In 2008, the reference team decided to investigate digital tracking tools. The article presents the procedure and the successful result.

2. Library Tech Strategies: Efficiency or Innovation?

(Computers in Libraries, October 2011, p28)

"Is the need to be efficient contradictory to the impulse for innovation in technology? While it might initially seem that the mandate to automate in ways that maximize an organization's cost savings might also subdue its creative spirit, I think that efficiency and innovation go hand in hand. In this article we explore employing technology not only in ways that help the library make the best use of its resources but also in ways that color outside the lines of traditional work patterns."

3. Librarians and Technology Skill Acquisition: Issues and Perspectives

(Information Technology and Libraries, September 2011, p12)

Libraries are increasingly searching for and employing librarians with significant technology skill sets. This article reports on a study conducted to determine how well prepared librarians are for their positions in academic libraries, how they acquired their skills and how difficult they are to hire and retain.

4. E-Books and Libraries

(Public Libraries, July/August, 2011 p.8)

"A recent survey conducted by Unisphere Research, a division of Information Today Inc., found that of 1,201 libraries polled in North America, 41 percent report an increase in patron requests for e-books over the past year.¹ Individual libraries see this reflected in increased demand for OverDrive's downloadable books service and NetLibrary's digital titles. Publishers and libraries are working through the challenges of compatibility, digital rights management (DRM), and format types, among other issues, and are seeking creative ways to develop a model that provides the service to library patrons. Digital rights management for e-books, in the form of copy protection to satisfy publishers' desires not to see unauthorized copies proliferate, should be largely invisible, platform-independent, and serve only to prevent the creation of additional complete unauthorized copies."

5. Choose Civility: Public Libraries Take Center Stage

(Public Libraries, July/August 2011, p32)

Choose Civility is a communitywide initiative that invites everyone in Howard County to choose respect, empathy, and consideration at every opportunity when interacting with others- at work and in their personal lives. Why focus on civility? Because in an increasingly fragmented world where relationships tend to be conducted through social media, civility connects and unites us on a personal level. Because civility is crucial to the very fabric of our community's quality of life- especially for our youth, who represent the next generation of leaders.

6. The Evolving Book Group

(Library Journal, September 1, 2011, p24)

The article presents a discussion of the changing format of book groups since the advent of electronic book readers and ebooks. The author says that although the format of books has changed, what is unchanged is that readers love to discuss books with other readers. She relates how libraries are using online book discussions to attract new users and designing book groups to fit a particular community's needs.

7. Is Your Library Accessible

(Library Journal, Fall 2011, June 2011, p9)

The article discusses how to make libraries more accessible to physically-handicapped individuals by describing renovations at the Haston Free Public Library in North Brookfield, Massachusetts. The Haston project created access for all library patrons to each of the buildings three levels while making better use of the facility's space and improving work flow.

8. Promoting a culture for reading in a diverse world.

(IFLA Journal, June 2011, p109)

Drawing on the research linking literacy and libraries, this paper provides a conceptual framework for promoting and encouraging children's reading for librarians working in diverse library settings around the world. Current successful examples of reading promotion programs from around the world are shared to demonstrate how different libraries take the lead in promoting literacy and building a culture for reading in their communities.

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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