



Library Info Alert



An IRC Publication
March/April 2012
Issue 2

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. Ebooks at the Forefront of the Tools of Change

(*American Libraries*, March/April 2012, p14)

Sponsored by publishers O'Reilly Media, the February 13-15 conference looked at the intersection of publishing and technology, addressing issues related to libraries, ebooks, copyright, and other hot topics in the digital era. New York Public Library's Micah May observed that ebooks aren't slowing down library business at all and said concerns about DVD circulation and internet access are more pressing than ebooks.

2. The Once and Future Library

(*American Libraries*, March/April 2012, p39)

So how do architects design libraries nowadays? They do it with humility and factor in the nature of the institution and its constituencies. Built-in flexibility in how spaces can be used now and reconfigured in the future is paramount. Thankfully, libraries have been migrating away from a reliance solely on books- and quietude- for years. The old model of one big room with a Queen Mary- sized circulation/reference desk and stacks in the back, while perhaps a fond memory for some, has long been passé.

3. New Technology, New Workflows, New Ways to Collaborate

(*Computers in Libraries*, April 2012, p20)

Here is a perennial challenge we all face: namely, how to keep up with successive waves of new technology, the new workflows they engender, and the new relationships they require us to form with our user populations.

4. Determining if Open Source is Right for You

(*Computers in Libraries*, April 2012, p.50)

Open source is a solution that is often thrown around these days as the answer to dwindling IT budgets and frustrations with traditional software tools that lock out access to data structures and business logic. But in today's complex environment, these are only two small considerations to make in figuring out the answer to the question, "Should my organization consider open source?" What are the benefits and the drawbacks? Finding a balanced solution can be tricky when considering open source, so it's important that you weigh all your options and, even more importantly, make sure you don't leave out any questions.

5. Survival Lessons for Libraries

(*Searcher*, March 2012, p24)

The article presents an overview of the benefits that special librarians can obtain from participating in continuing education opportunities. A discussion of strategies which special librarians can use to locate continuing education opportunities, and of resources, including the Special Libraries Association and school-based continuing

education programs, from which they can obtain additional information on continuing education, is presented.

6. Reaching the Wikipedia Generation

(Library Journal, 4/15/2012, p37)

The article presents a roundtable discussion on library reference services held at the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting on January 21, 2012. Topics include the online encyclopedia Wikipedia as a reference source, patron-driven acquisition (PDA) in the reference context, and comparisons of different business models for acquiring electronic media. The roundtable featured librarians and publishers including Sue Polanka, Brian Duncan, and Jennifer Pfau.

7. Stepping out of the Library

(Library Journal, 3/1/2012, p26)

The article discusses the user experience at libraries, providing advice on how library workers can develop skills to discuss the user experience and gain insights about their library. The author suggests that library workers should go on a Service Safari, a trip in which people visit parks, museums, stores, or other areas in order to study the customer service there. The author also says that library workers should discuss common activities which users undertake in libraries.

8. The Decline and Fall of the Library Empire

(Searcher, April 2012, p14)

The Decline and Fall of The past 30 years of library history is littered with projects and plans and sometimes just dreams of ways the library might play a more pivotal role in the digital revolution that continues to transform the information landscape around us. Some of those projects never really got off the ground.

9. The Changing Landscape of Libraries

(Information Today, March 2012, p.1)

The article presents an interview with Clifford Lynch, the executive director of the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI). When asked what developments, issues or events about the CNI surprised him, Lynch says that it took him a long time to understand how hard and slow it is to effect major change on a complex system. He comments on developments in the CNI that he would like to see. Lynch believes that at least for journal articles open access to research will be inevitable.

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