



# Library Info Alert



## Selected articles by the Athens Information Resource Center November/December 2013 Issue 5

**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. Toy Libraries: A Place to Play**

(American Libraries, Nov/Dec 2013, p14-15)

There are about 400 toy libraries around the United States, about a quarter of which offer adaptive toys, estimates Judy Iacuzzi, executive director of the USA Toy Library Association in Evanston, Illinois. The nation's first toy library started in Los Angeles, around the Depression, when a store owner noticed children stealing toys because they couldn't afford them, says Iacuzzi.

### **2. Friday Night: Library Lights**

(American Libraries, Nov/Dec 2013, 30-32)

Brent Lipinski, a manager at Chicago Public Library's (CPL) Wrightwood-Ashburn branch, says he sees lots of people using the public computers to create their fantasy teams.

"Because we have computer access, people come in, they lookup scores, watch videos," says Lipinski. For those with an interest in athletics but without a computer at home,

the library is a lifeline; a 2010 report from the Institute of Museum and Library Services found that 44% of people in households living below the federal poverty line used public library computers and internet access.

### **3. Navigating the News**

(American Libraries, Nov/Dec 2013, 34-37)

To help high school students differentiate between fact and fiction in today's increasingly chaotic news-in which opinion-based cable news programs, blogs, and social media sites have proliferated-the American Library Association (ALA), in partnership with local library branches and a nonprofit media literacy organization, created News Know-How, a program that helps young adults become better, more savvy media consumers.

### **4. Follow the Leaders**

(School Library Journal, October 2013)

Washington state teacher librarian Stephen

Coker remembers the fateful email from October 2007 that sparked his commitment to advocating for his profession. It was a cry for help from Lisa Layera Brunkan and two other moms in Spokane, WA, where schools were facing the loss of their librarians. Looking at Brunkan's email on the Washington Library Media Association (WLMA) listserv, Coker, who once prided himself on not being a joiner, decided to get involved.

### **5. Digital Changes Everything: The Intersection of Libraries and Archives**

(Computers in Libraries, November 2013, p16-180)

The avalanche of born-digital records, digitization projects, digital curation in special collections, and new fields such as digital humanities has finally brought about an intersection of these various disciplines. Consortial collaboration on best practices for displaying, cataloging, contextualizing, and managing virtual objects promises rich rewards. In both libraries and archives, new technical skills are required to create and curate these digital collections.

### **6. The Social Life of Digital Collections**

(Computers in Libraries, November 2013, p23-25)

Each year during the summer session, University of California-Berkeley's Institute for Research on Labor and Employment teaches research skills to a diverse cohort of student interns, all of whom take internships in community organizations, local union offices, and nonprofit think tanks. Building a digital collection is

essentially a social process from start to finish. It begins with a search for sources wherever they may be and a willing suspension of preconceptions about where to look.

### **7. Semisocial Information Discovery**

(Online Searcher, Nov/Dec 2013, p16-22)

Those with eclectic interests who track many topics, both for business and pleasure, are exploring new means of discovering information. This involves social media. It's also moved into what you call semisocial information discovery, as companies create vehicles for people to gather the most recent and interesting information they've discovered through social media and disseminate it within their organizations or to the wider world.

Discovering what to read has led to tools presenting results with a bit of flare, moving from text to graphic interfaces, optimized for tablets and smartphones. These include: 1. scoop.it, 2. paper.li, 3. sulia, 4. spundge, 5. ping.it, and 6. TaDaweb. There are a number of tools that can offer insights into how you influence others through social media: Klout, Kred, and Topsy. It's unlikely that these will be the last word in social and semisocial discovery tools incorporating share and collaborate features for groups with related interests.

## **8. Managing your Digital Legacy**

(Online Searcher, Nov/Dec 2013, p43-48)

This article attempts to articulate why we should be concerned about good record-keeping in this digital age, tries to understand prevailing attitudes toward

personal digital records management, and to point to resources and tools that can help us preserve our own digital legacies or help others with theirs.

**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)**

**For information on the U.S. Embassy in Athens, please visit The American Embassy Homepage at <http://athens.usembassy.gov>**

**Also please visit <http://www.mosaiko.gr>**

**and**

**<http://www.amcorners.gr>**

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