

## Libraries Reinvent Themselves

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"That's a group that libraries tend to lose, especially when they turn 16," says Kuhl. "It's a group that wants to create their own space, which is one thing that was keeping them from the library. They never felt welcome."

The New York Public Library opened its first full-floor dedicated teen space in a branch last year. The design, which won a 2013 American Institute of Architects/American Library Association Building Award, converted 4,400 square feet of unused space into a colorful environment with bleacher-style seating, akin to what project architect Lyn Rice calls "a clubhouse where teens can be themselves and a little louder."

Chicago's Harold Washington Library had the misfortune to open in 1991, just before the start of the digital era. The floor plan thus follows a traditional spatial arrangement for furnishings, reading areas and book displays. Bannon said a spatial study is underway to introduce "some experiments" — including the newly installed Innovation Lab, which features a 3D printer — and to create a more contemporary environment.

"We are looking at ways in which to align our services with what our patrons need," he says.

A Pew [Research Center's] Internet & American Life Project study this year found that 91 percent of Americans 16 years or older say public libraries are important to their communities. Yet just 22 percent say they know most of the services their libraries offer now, and 31 percent said they know little or nothing about such offerings.

New initiatives include Glenview's drive-up window for customers' pick-up orders; Oak Park, Skokie and Arlington public libraries' off-site book discussions; and Arlington's tech "petting zoo," which allows patrons to test various models of computer tablets.

Chicago Public Library recently rolled out several new services. All of its 80 branches offer Teacher in the Library, an after-school program to aid students with homework. In the summer, Chicago instituted the Summer Learning Challenge to counteract students' usual "summer slide" after school lets out: 71,000 students read a reported 2.1 million

books.

Libraries here and nationally are adding more meeting rooms for patrons to use for business appointments, community gatherings or private study. Glenview's community rooms are separate from the library area so meetings can be held after library hours.

Both suburban libraries feature computer labs where patrons learn tech skills. Arlington programs more than 50 tech classes each month on Microsoft Office and social media sites, such as LinkedIn, Pinterest and Twitter. Standard computer use is down slightly, reports Kuhl, but tech classes are booming.

"It's more about learning the tool than just providing the tool," he said.

Such an attitude reflects an emerging commitment by libraries to lifelong learning. The fast pace of new knowledge, college's high cost, plus the need to gain or maintain professional skills, will drive the demand for more adult courses now through 2020. A current hot topic among librarians involves introducing massive open online courses, or MOOCs. Margaret Donnellan Todd, County of Los Angeles public librarian, recently told a professional audience that she has put MOOCs into the library's new strategic plan.

Librarians have been touting their shift to community learning centers for about a decade, yet public perception lags behind, said Bannon, the Chicago Public Library commissioner.

"The challenge is that so many people perceive the brand of a public library solely with the checking out of a physical object," he said, noting that the library system is the city's most visited cultural institution, registering 12 million visitors annually. "Libraries of the future will be less about stuff we are providing than about how we are connecting with our communities."

And yet a recent Urban Libraries Council report argued that libraries' "stature as civic engagement leaders is far from confirmed." According to the report, libraries need to change both how they view themselves and how community stakeholders view them.

Chicago Tribune — December 13, 2013

## Innovation Flourishing at the Calcasieu Parish Public Libraries

The Calcasieu Parish [LA] Public Library is building an Innovation Studio that puts imagination, creativity and technology at the forefront of library services.

The library system recently received a \$24,000 Sparks! Ignition Grant for Libraries from the Institute of Museum and Library

Services in Washington, D.C. to help fund the start-up of the Innovation Studio. The goal of the project is to provide a creative space that enables and inspires a community of innovators and makers — people willing and able to create something in a shared learning environment.

The grant is being used to develop a maker

## Library Café Closing in New Lenox

The Bookworm Café will serve its last cup of coffee on Sunday, December 8, inside the New Lenox [IL] Library.

The café, which opened in September 2012 after months of uncertainty, is the latest coffee shop to abandon the library.

Since opening in 2001, the library has had four cafés open in a section near the front doors set aside for a restaurant. The first stayed open for four years. A second attempt lasted 18 months. The third operator lasted six months and closed when the owner became ill. Bookworm Café lasted a little more than a year.

Library officials had hoped Bookworm would succeed as the owners also operate a café inside the Oak Lawn Library. That location is not affected by the decision to close in New Lenox.

Library officials are shying away from seeking another restaurant and are considering installing a single-cup coffee machine for patrons.

Chicago Tribune — December 3, 2013

## Orland Park Mayor Enters Library Porn Dispute

Orland Park [IL] Public Library board president Nancy Healy says she may be in favor of a new Internet policy that could limit patrons' access to pornography on adult computers.

"There are options open to us mirroring local libraries — none of whom have filters, but who may make a statement that pornography is forbidden," Healy said.

Her comments Friday, which came

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space inside Central Library, located at 301 W. Claude Street in Lake Charles, that will include a 3D printer, an interactive Smart TV, iPads, animation software, film editing software and sound recording equipment. The Innovation Studio also has microphones, green screens and various other audio and

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## Calcasieu Parish Public Libraries

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video technologies that will inspire local filmmakers and artists to enhance their creative sides.

"I am especially excited about how our project pairs perfectly with what McNeese is doing with its new Innovation Center," said Clare Coleman, the Central Library branch manager. "Everywhere I look in our community, I see leaders talking about innovation, job creation and new businesses. This is an exciting time to be living in Southwest Louisiana, and I'm thrilled that CPPL will be able to play a major part."

"We are one of only a handful of libraries in the country who are offering their communities an extraordinary opportunity to experiment with cutting edge technologies like 3D printing," says Library Director Dr. Gabriel Morley. "People all over the country keep talking about the new digital age and all the cool things being developed with state-of-the-art technology. Well, we're tired of talking about it. The library has made a commitment to jump start the local maker-movement by providing the necessary tools in an open environment that nurtures discovery and innovation."

*News Release - Calcasieu Parish Public Library  
- December 4, 2013*

## Library Porn Dispute

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three days after Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin sent Healy a letter asking her to change the library's Internet policy, were the first indication the library board might do so.

The library allows adult computer users to view anything legal in the adult computer section of the library, including pornography.

"I am aware that some computers have those filters but would it not be reasonable to consider filters on all computers?" he wrote.

McLaughlin's November 11 letter cited a 2003 Supreme Court ruling allowing the practice.

The library can filter Internet content, "as long as those filters could and would be disabled by a librarian upon the request of an adult, and as long as those sites were not illegal," McLaughlin wrote.

Healy, who was appointed library board president this month, said she thought that McLaughlin expressing his opinion was appropriate and said she "had no issue with it."

*Chicago Tribune - November 17, 2013*

## Foundation for BCPL Participates in Amazon Smile

**W**ant to shop and donate to the Foundation for BCPL all at once? You're in luck! The Foundation for BCPL is now a participating charity in Amazon Smile! What is Amazon Smile? It's Amazon's way of giving back. The Amazon Smile site is just like the regular Amazon site, with a charitable twist. Any time you purchase something through smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of the purchase price to your designated charity. Here's where we come in! You can give back in a few easy steps:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com.
2. Once you're logged in using your regular Amazon account information, search for "Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library."
3. Click on "select" when the Foundation's name comes up on the next screen, and you're set!

That's it! Now, any time you purchase something through the Amazon Smile site, 0.5 percent of your purchase will be donated to the Foundation for BCPL!

*Branching Out - Newsletter for Baltimore County Public Library - December 2013*

## County Library Board Embraces 3 Percent Raises for 2014

**M**ost Allen County [IN] Public Library employees will be getting 3 percent raises in 2014.

Library board members Thursday unanimously approved the pay increase package, which calls for 3 percent increases to the library's pay ranges except for the bottom four, which will see 6 percent increases.

Library Director Jeff Krull said the 3 percent increase this year was the first in six years. In that time, he said, the library's wages have become less competitive, making it harder to attract employees.

In the higher job ranges, he said, the minimum pay for the range is almost never used because the library pays what it has to pay to draw key talent. But the starting wages are paid at the lower ranges, he said,

and a larger increase is badly needed there.

"We do hire at those minimums," Krull said.

The wage and benefit package also includes a new incentive program that awards points to employees for activities that promote good health. Those points can be used at the end of the year to get a small reimbursement on some of their health care costs.

The library is self-insured for its health plan and uses PHP as its third-party administrator. So healthier employees translate directly to savings for the library.

"We think people will feel that by doing this, the institution cares about their health," Krull said.

*Journal-Gazette - December 4, 2013*

## Lawton Library Reducing Fines to Get Books Back

**N**early 13,000 people currently have overdue books or owe fines to the Lawton Public Library. With the library's current budget crunches, directors say there's no time like the present to settle up.

To motivate people to pay up, they're

going to reduce those fines by 50 percent, but that's a limited time offer. Anyone who has fines that were charged before November 1 can come in starting December 2 and take advantage of this offer. The library hopes with enough fines paid off, they can work

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