

**Año 3 Número 69 abril 2018**

**Contenidos de este número**

1. **The Unique Value of MathSciNet®**

**Librarians and researchers understand the value of a subject-specific database like MathSciNet®: they are focused and authoritative. Still, while most databases provide abstracting and indexing, MathSciNet® also provides users with 3rd party reviews of the published literature created by over 21,000 PhD reviewers. This approach dates back 75 years to the database’s origin as the publication *Mathematical Reviews* launched in 1940 by Otto Neugebauer. “We spend a lot of time getting things right,” says Edward Dunne, Executive Editor, Mathematical Reviews at AMS. Dunne expects their reviewers to answer the following questions: What is the context? What is the content? What might this lead to?**

**Specificity in searches matters in large part due to the sheer volume of research being published. Over the last 30 years, the mathematics literature has grown at a rate of approximately 3.6% per year with the entire body of work doubling every 19 years. By 2036, we can expect to have 250,000 mathematics articles published per year.**

**MathSciNet® offers an alternative to pure machine learning approaches to indexing the scholarly literature. “Part of what we do is human-aided computing and part is computer-aided human endeavor,” says Dunne.**

**Dunne provides us a few examples of how MathSciNet® helps researchers and librarians:**

1. **Andrea Bertozzi, a professor at UCLA, specializes in partial differential equations and their applications. In particular, some of her influential work is in the area of the mathematics of swarms. An example of one of her papers on swarms is Topaz, Chad M.; Bertozzi, Andrea L.; Lewis, Mark A., A nonlocal continuum model for biological aggregation. *Bull. Math. Biol.*68(2006), no. 7, 1601–1623, is findable in MathSciNet, but doesn’t have swarm in the titles. Here the reviewer connects “continuum model for biological aggregation” with “swarm”.**
2. **Another example of the value of searching with reviews is a paper that discusses cryptocurrencies where the title does not mention blockchains, the fundamental idea underlying all cryptocurrencies. However, this key term can be found in the review text. A mathematician might be interested in blockchains, which is where the mathematics is, more than the currencies. Blockchains can also be used for contracts, as explained in the paper and the review, and other transactional settings where security and verification are issues, explains Dunne.**
3. **An important active topic in mathematics is the Minimal Model Program, an area of algebraic geometry that has seen dramatic results in the last five years or so. A natural search is for the phrase “minimal model”. However, the constituent terms have a wide variety of meanings depending on context. For instance, a search in Web of Science for the phrase “minimal model” results in 4,541 matches. But 917 are in Endocrinology, 451 are in Physics: Particles and Fields, and 404 are in Mathematics. If you do the same search in MathSciNet, there are 1,685 matches. So, the subject-specific database not only covers more articles, but just as importantly, the researcher is confident that all of the matches have something to do with mathematics.**

**“As someone with a mathematics background and an appreciation of librarians, I am proud to be part of this effort to ensure the searchability and accuracy of the database of the mathematics literature,” says Dunne, who adds, “In many ways, mathematics literature is the wild, wild west, but if you want to efficiently and accurately tame the literature, MathSciNet® is the right tool for doing that.”**

**Edward Dunne is the Executive Editor for Mathematical Reviews. He has worked for the American Mathematical Society (AMS) since 1997. For the first seventeen years, he was an Editor for the AMS Book Program. Prior to coming to the AMS, he held academic positions at Oklahoma State University, Oxford University, and Rice University. For a time, he worked for Springer-Verlag in Heidelberg, Germany. He has PhD from Harvard and a BS from Santa Clara University.**

**MathSciNet® Data points:**

* **3,500,819 total publications**
* **882,474 authors indexed**
* **Over 1,800 current journals**
* **21,946 active reviewers**
* **2,154,340 direct links from MathSciNet to the full-text version of the paper**
* **12,961,827 matched citations (from reference lists)**
* **376,265 authors cited**
* **3,441 journals cited**
* **Approx. 125,000 items added to the database per year**

***\*As of January 24, 2018***

**MathSciNet®, compiled, edited and delivered by the American Mathematical Society, is the authoritative gateway to the scholarly literature of mathematics. MathSciNet® contains information on over 3 million articles and books, and includes expert reviews, author profiles, and citation information on articles, books, journals, and authors. MathSciNet® is also available from EBSCO Information Services as MathSciNet via EBSCOhost®. For more information and a free trial, [visit the EBSCO website.](https://www.ebsco.com/promo1/mathscinet" \t "_blank)**

**<https://lj.libraryjournal.com/2018/02/digital-resources/unique-value-mathscinet/?utm_source=ljsnewsletter&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_content=sponsoredcolumn&utm_campaign=mathscinet>**

1. **From Change Management to Change-Ready Leadership | Leading From the Library**

**By [Steven Bell](https://lj.libraryjournal.com/author/sbell/)**

**Leading change management is a critical task for leaders. In a constant change environment, leaders need to do more than manage change, they need to create a change-ready culture.**

**Perhaps it was the particular sessions I attended at the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting, but the one thing I heard discussed again and again, even in several Future of the Library Symposium programs, was change and how library workers are responding to it—or not. There’s no escaping the fact that [rapid change](https://lj.libraryjournal.com/2017/09/opinion/leading-from-the-library/leading-though-vuca-times-leading-library/), whether internal or external, is impacting libraries in every sector of the profession, directly or indirectly. For library leaders, that means more of their time is dedicated to thinking and acting in order to adapt staff to change. In some of the discussions, change meant rethinking organizational structures. In others it focused on establishing mechanisms for change management and providing staff with practical change strategies. In every session the dilemma of change resistance emerged as a universal challenge. Leaders have a plethora of resources to aid them in strategizing for change management, and I have my own favorites. Lately, however, I am thinking less about change management and more about change readiness. Here’s why.**

**STATIC CHANGE IS OVER**

**The pace of change is now accelerated to the point where we exist in a constant state of either adapting to it or anticipating it to stay ahead of the curve. [Kotter’s Change Model](https://www.kotterinc.com/8-steps-process-for-leading-change/) is a widely accepted approach for managing change, yet its first step is to create a sense of urgency about the need for change. That could apply to a large-scale change, for example, a library realizing its aging library management system needs replacement. But if change is constant, is change management still relevant? Do we still need a sense of urgency to motivate us to change? In their *Harvard Business Review* article “[Four Ways to Know Whether You are Ready for Change](https://hbr.org/2010/06/four-ways-to-know-whether-you),” Musselwhite and Plouffe write, “The organizations most likely to be successful in making change work to their advantage are the ones that no longer view change as a discrete event to be managed, but as a constant opportunity to evolve.” I support a variety of methods for change management but am increasingly convinced that it no longer makes sense to manage each change situation as a standalone situation. Instead, I advocate for adopting a new mindset of constant readiness that addresses library change as a holistic process, a cycle of activities with which we stay engaged.**

**READY TO BE A CHANGE-READY LEADER?**

**If you are ready to adopt this new mindset too, what does it require? According to Musselwhite and Plouffe, “Change readiness is the ability to continuously initiate and respond to change in ways that create advantage, minimize risk, and sustain performance.” They suggest four ways to assess whether you and your organization are in the right state to achieve change readiness:**

* **Assess for Current Change Awareness: The organization is ready to adopt change as a holistic element of operations. Change is no longer a thing it prepares to do and then figures out how to get done. Instead, staff is in a constant state of change acceptance and is skilled at adapting for change. At ALA Midwinter I went to several “get ready for the future” sessions, and all repeated the mantra of environmental scanning, identifying trends, and planning for the future. In essence, the message was “be change-ready.”**
* **Staff Agility for Pending Change: Thinking about change and having ideas for change certainly help, but a change-ready leader empowers staff to have work flexibility and the capacity to shift resources to quickly meet new needs. That makes the difference when the library implements an innovative new project. Leaders, in addition to modeling a change-ready mindset, also need to put into place the conditions for executing on agile change.**
* **Rapid Change for Crisis Response: No matter how ready the organization is for change, it will encounter a crisis for which it’s unprepared. A change-ready leader typically thinks ahead about the risks involved in a crisis that unexpectedly forces the organization to change. That means going beyond the typical emergency response plan. Change-by-crisis is hard for any organization, but a change-ready library staff is better poised to work through that situation.**
* **Well Defined Mechanism for Change: Change typically involves going through some process of goal setting, integration with existing systems, and assessment. Being change-ready means being well experienced in these mechanisms for achieving a successful change process. What leaders want to avoid is having to constantly re-engage with a multi-step change management routine in response to any new change. Instead, the change-ready leader has an organization and staff able to adapt to change on the fly.**

**https://lj.libraryjournal.com/2018/03/opinion/leading-from-the-library/change-management-change-ready-leadership-leading-library/**

1. **Creating Change in the Cataloging Lab | Peer to Peer Review**

**By Violet Fox on March 1, 2018 [Leave a Comment](https://lj.libraryjournal.com/2018/03/opinion/peer-to-peer-review/creating-change-in-the-cataloging-lab-peer-to-peer-review/" \l "respond)**

**To library staff, cataloging can seem to consist entirely of complex and impenetrable rules. Overworked catalogers, besieged by staff reductions and constantly changing standards and systems, can feel that other staff aren’t interested in what they do. But in my experience, other librarians are keen to learn more about what shapes the catalog records they use every day. I set out to bridge this knowledge gap with a website that would allow all library staff to more fully understand (and potentially make changes to) one of the most essential parts of a catalog record—subject headings.**

**UNDERSTANDING THE SYSTEM**

**Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) are maintained by the Library of Congress (LC); proposals for new headings or changes to existing headings are reviewed and approved by LC’s Policy and Standards Division. Although LC maintains control over the vocabulary, since the 1980s there have been programs in place to foster development of LCSH via cooperative contributions from other institutions. The Subject Authority Cooperative (SACO) program is designed to allow librarians to propose new subject headings and revisions to existing subject headings. But many institutions don’t have the time or internal resources to participate in SACO; staff at public or school libraries are rarely involved in the program. Even when a library is a SACO member, typically only cataloging staff are involved in the work. Other library staff are left in the dark about how LCSH are created and how they can be changed.**

**In fact, although the rules around constructing subject headings can be complex, *anyone* can submit a proposal for a new or revised subject heading. But not many librarians know that!**

**After a few years of cataloging as a professional, I had heard many complaints about inadequate or inappropriate subject headings, but only a handful of people I knew had the institutional support necessary to dedicate time toward submitting proposals for improving LCSH. Public-facing library staff usually have the most awareness of how patrons are using library catalogs, including whether current subject headings are meeting user needs, but they’re far removed from the LCSH approval process.**

**After the fervent response to [the years-long efforts to change the “Illegal aliens” LCSH](https://lj.libraryjournal.com/2016/06/legislation/library-of-congress-drops-illegal-alien-subject-heading-provokes-backlash-legislation/) (which has still not been changed!), it seemed clear to me that people were interested in understanding more about how LCSH are decided upon and how the vocabulary could more accurately reflect the words that users are searching for.**

**CREATING THE SITE**

**The idea for the Cataloging Lab was based on a workshop on “demystifying” the subject approval process that I copresented at the ACRL (Association of College & Research Libraries) 2017 conference with Catherine Oliver, metadata & cataloging librarian, Northern Michigan University; Jessica Schomberg, media cataloger/assessment coordinator, Minnesota State University Mankato; and Netanel Ganin, librarian/cataloger, Library of Congress National Audio-Visual Conservation Center. Working with these dedicated librarians encouraged me to move the conversation beyond LCSH’s flaws to making positive changes.**

**In January I launched the [Cataloging Lab](http://cataloginglab.org/), a wiki where people can collaborate to construct subject heading proposals. Those who are familiar with MARC and the research requirements for justifying new subject heading proposals can assist those who are knowledgeable about the subject matter being proposed, and vice versa.**

**Suggesting and editing headings proposals via an open, collaborative platform like the Cataloging Lab has a number of benefits. Because the proposals are open to the wider community, others can chime in on whether a particular preferred term is better established than another, or suggest related terms. Because more than one person is viewing the proposals, errors like typos or missed references can be spotted more easily, resulting in stronger proposals which save the time of those approving the headings at LC. In addition, making the process more transparent has the potential to produce library staff who are more invested in the LCSH vocabulary and feel empowered to suggest changes that might better serve their users.**

**The Cataloging Lab itself is built on a WordPress site with a knowledgebase wiki plugin, allowing users who have created accounts to add their own headings proposals and edit or make comments on others’ work. Once a proposal has been researched and properly formatted, it is tagged in the wiki as “proposed,” and the person who initially created the entry will email the completed proposal to LC, which will evaluate and either accept or reject the proposal, or ask for further information.**

**In response to the “Illegal aliens” LCSH controversy (specifically, the House of Representative’s May 2017 direction to LC “to make publicly available its process for changing or adding subject headings”) LC has published information on the [Process for Adding and Revising Library of Congress Subject Headings](https://www.loc.gov/aba/cataloging/subject/lcsh-process.html) on its website and has clarified the considerations used for evaluating subject proposals. These are excellent steps towards making LCSH more responsive. The Cataloging Lab is a tool that can help more librarians be a part of making improvements to the vocabulary that so many libraries use.**

**https://lj.libraryjournal.com/2018/03/opinion/peer-to-peer-review/creating-change-in-the-cataloging-lab-peer-to-peer-review/**

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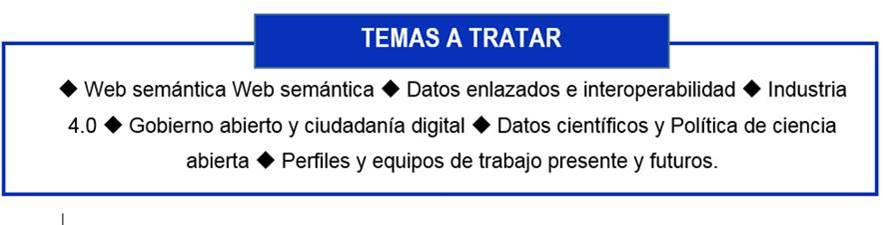
**Distinguido Colega,**

**El Instituto de Investigaciones Bibliotecológicas y de la Información de la UNAM, a través del Seminario de Investigación de Metadatos, se complace en invitarlo al Congreso Internacional sobre Metadatos 2018 que tendrá como tema general “La revolución de los datos”. El evento se celebrará del 28 de mayo al 1 de junio del 2018 en el Auditorio Alfonso Caso**

**Los actuales tipos de metadatos están permeando cada aspecto de nuestra vida diaria. Los dispositivos móviles en los automóviles, los posicionadores GPS, las redes sensoriales, entre otros, han desarrollado el movimiento de la “meta-información” clara y orientativa. En nuestro campo de estudio, el estudio de la información digital, los datos y los metadatos han tomado un calificativo en particular como puede ser la era digital, el futuro digital, la era de los datos o la más común reconocida como la revolución de los datos masivos (*big data* en inglés). Los datos masivos se han entendido como algo que puede hacerse a gran escala, pero no a una escala inferior, para extraer percepciones o para crear nuevas formas de valor que, de alguna manera,**

**transformarán los mercados, las organizaciones, las relaciones de los ciudadanos y los gobiernos.**

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**Al asistir a este evento usted,**

**  Comprenderá la importancia de la interoperabilidad y los datos enlazados.**

**  Evaluará el impacto del gobierno abierto y la ciudadanía digital.**

**  Calculará las diversas formas en que los datos científicos interactúan en dominios y comunidades específicas**

**  Conocerá los cambios suscitados a los perfiles profesionales y ajustes a los programas académicos sustentados en la producción y uso de los datos educativos.**

**  Proyectará la visión, a mediano plazo, respecto a lo que sucede con la Industria 4.0.**

**  Contará con los puntos de vista de especialistas involucrados en la aplicación de los datos masivos en distintas disciplinas.**

**El Congreso Internacional de Metadatos contará con Conferencias Magistrales, Páneles de Discusión, Talleres y Ponencias. Se desarrollará de las 10:00 a las 15:00 horas cada día y la sede es: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Auditorio Alfonso Caso, Circuito Escolar s/n Ciudad Universitaria, Coyoacán, 04510 Ciudad de México.**

**Para el todos los integrantes del Seminario de Investigación de Metadatos, será un placer saludarle personalmente en el evento.**

**Lo invitamos a llenar el formato de registro y enviarlo a inscripec@iibi.unam.mx**

**Afectuosamente,**

**Dr. Ariel Rodríguez García**

**Coordinador del Seminario de Investigación de Metadatos**

**Investigador del IIBI**

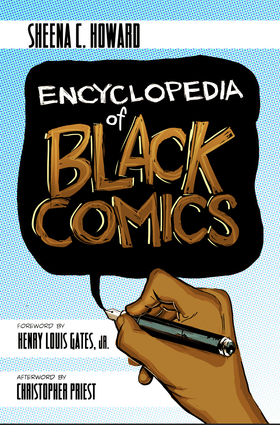
**Secretario Académico del IIBI**

**NOTAS IMPORTANTES:**

* **El programa puede ser modificado siempre por motivos ajenos al IIBI.**
* **El día del evento debe presentar el original del comprobante de pago y su formato de inscripción.**
* **Descuentos de grupo: Se considera grupo a partir de 3 personas.**
* **Cupo limitado.**
* **Para la prensa: Deberá acreditarse con anticipación para asistir al evento.**

**5. Best Reference Titles of 2017**

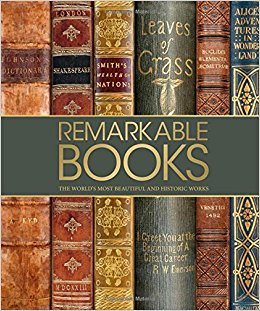
**BY [LJ REVIEWS](https://reviews.libraryjournal.com/author/ljreviews/" \o "LJ Reviews) ON FEBRUARY 28, 2018 [LEAVE A COMMENT](https://reviews.libraryjournal.com/2018/02/reference/best-reference-titles-of-2017/" \l "respond)**

**IT’S BEEN A ROBUST YEAR for reference, as reflected in our best of list. While you’ll find tried-and-true reference, such as the most recent edition of *Oxford Atlas of the World*, we also attempted to surface the unusual—it’s not every year we see an*Atlas of Beer*! Though it was a particularly good year for history texts (with books on the Renaissance, the Holocaust, and the Vietnam War), we are particularly excited about the offerings that explored subjects that have gone unacknowledged, such as the *Encyclopedia of Black Comics* and *Unseen: Unpublished Black History from the New York Times Photo Archive*. Speaking of photos, many of these books are just as visually stunning as they are informative, such as *Endangered*, *Natural Wonders of the World*, and Thomas Schiff’s lush and lovely *The Library Book*. Finally, be sure to check out our roundup of the top databases of 2017 and the best free resources, which include amazing apps, websites, and additions to works you already know and love.—Mahnaz Dar**

**ARTS & LITERATURE**

**Betzina, Sandra. All New Fabric Savvy: How To Choose & Use Fabrics. Taunton. 256p. illus. index. ISBN 9781631868412. pap. $26.95.**

**Betzina, a sewing expert and host of the popular *Power Sewing* web series, updates her guide to fabrics, adding new selections and techniques. Readers will find 107 fabrics, listed alphabetically, from the common (cotton, wool, and silk) to the less used, such as camel hair, shearling, and rayon viscose (made out of wood pulp). Along with a visual glossary and frequent color photos, the author weaves in details on the materials that comprise each fabric and valuable information on cutting methods, threads, needles, and stitch lengths. The essential handbook for sewists of all skill levels. (*LJ*9/15/17)**

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**Collins, Michael & others. Remarkable Books: The World’s Most Beautiful and Historic Works. DK. 256p. illus. index. ISBN 9781465463623. $30.**

**Sweeping in scope (from 3,000 BCE to the 20th century), this lush ode to influential books celebrates, among many others, John James Audubon’s *Birds of America*, Sun Tzu’s *The Art of War*, and Beatrix Potter’s *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. Collins (*Pope Francis: A Photographic Story of the People’s Pope*) and several contributors place these titles in historical context, examine their authors, and provide gorgeously reproduced excerpts. While not an exhaustive guide, it’s a delightful treasure trove of classic works, bound to turn even casual browsers into ardent bibliophiles. (*LJ* 11/1/17)**

**The Definitive Shakespeare Companion: Overviews, Documents, and Analysis. 4 vols. Greenwood. 1,987p. ed. by Joseph Rosenblum. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781440834448. $415; ebk. ISBN 9781440834455.**

**Updating 2005’s *Greenwood Companion to Shakespeare*, Rosenblum offers a through look at the Bard, his plays, and his poetry. With new material such as excerpts from literary and historical sources and reviews of modern productions, this dynamic guide provides a nuanced perspective: not merely plot summaries and character descriptions but an exploration of language and imagery, authorship, and the cultural legacy of the work. Students, general readers, and those involved in the theater will come away with a richer understanding of Shakespeare. (*LJ*9/15/17)**

**Howard, Sheena C. Encyclopedia of Black Comics. Fulcrum. 280p. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781682751015. pap. $23.95.**

**In this targeted, much-needed encyclopedia, Howard (communications, Rider Univ.; coeditor, *Black Comics: Politics of Race and Representation*) collects short biographies of creators, inkers, illustrators, website designers, and others of African descent in the comic and cartoon industry. The frequent color and black-and-white illustrations add vibrancy to entries on notables such as Ta-Nehisi Coates (who worked on a *Black Panther* reboot) and visual cultural historian Deborah E. Whaley, among many others. (*LJ* 10/1/17)**

**Race in American Film: Voices and Visions That Shaped a Nation. 3 vols. Greenwood. 1,026p. ed. by Daniel Bernardi & Michael Green. illus. index. ISBN 9780313398391. $293.99.**

**For any cinephile—and who isn’t?—this meticulously researched set brings together a varied group of cinematic experts who write with aplomb about U.S. movies, actors, directors, and genres, from the early days of film to present day. Although the focus is squarely on the ways race has been depicted on the silver screen, an even larger theme is how the motion picture industry influenced how Americans viewed race. Outstanding finding aids, stimulating topics, and authoritative content make this indispensable. (*LJ* 11/1/17)**

**BUSINESS & ECONOMICS**

**Encyclopedia of African American Businesses. 2d ed. Greenwood. 1,032p. ed. by Jessie Smith. ISBN 9781440850271. $198.**

**This accomplished and distinguished work, covering from the late 18th to the early 21st century, improves on its 2006 edition in every way, with more entries, statistical tables, and photographs. This iteration focuses on how African American businesses have developed over the last decade and the areas in which they have expanded during that time. In particular, Smith adroitly addresses the role of women and the emergence of African American businesses in global markets. (*LJ* 3/1/17)**

**FOOD**

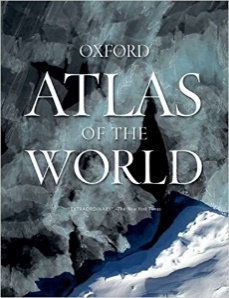
**The Chicago Food Encyclopedia. Univ. of Illinois. 344p. ed. by Carol Mighton Haddix & others. photos. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780252087240. $34.95.**

**This sumptuous volume demonstrates why Chicago is widely regarded as one of the world’s major food destinations. More than 300 alphabetically arranged entries by local scholars, journalists, authors, and food industry experts cover prominent restaurants, signature dishes, and famous chefs that have influenced the city’s cuisine. An outstanding resource for those traveling to the Windy City or anyone who just relishes food.**

**Hoalst-Pullen, Nancy & Mark W. Patterson. National Geographic Atlas of Beer. National Geographic. 304p. ISBN 9781426218330. $40.**

**Though lavishly designed, with spectacular photographs and detailed maps, this global look at beer is no frothy coffee-table book. Beer experts Hoalst-Pullen and Patterson provide rich historical context and insightful commentary and pour out helpful advice (where to find the best North American festivals, how to order a pint in Germany). As practical as it is gorgeous.**

**GENERAL REFERENCE**

**Oxford Atlas of the World. 24th ed. Oxford Univ. 448p. maps. index. ISBN 9780190843625. $89.95.**

**Cell phones do many things well, but displaying the grandeur of planet Earth’s geography is not one of them. This oversize book features breathtaking aerial photography and updated extensive front and back matter (country summaries, world city maps, population, health and wealth statistics, and more). A remarkable way to become familiar with the countries of our world.**

**Purcell, Mark. The Country House Library. Yale Univ. 352p. illus. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780300227406. $55.**

**Libraries covering British or Anglo-Irish history, library science, and architecture won’t want to pass up this meticulously researched, detailed volume on country house libraries of Britain and Ireland. Examining dozens of collections and collecting habits and bibliographic treasures from Roman Britain to today, the work also serves as an example of how bibliographic essays are best written and documented. It is heavily illustrated, with images from old and rare works and of the sumptuous homes where the volumes highlighted their owners’ erudition and wealth. (*LJ* 2/1/18)**

**Schiff, Thomas (text & photos). The Library Book. Aperture. 232p. ISBN 9781597113748. $80.**

**We love our information palaces, even as content now flows through the ether. Photographer Schiff’s astounding images, many wide-angle, showcase a range of architecturally arresting libraries around the United States. Novelist and editor Alberto Manguel’s knowledgeable essay on the history of the American library, from its elite subscription-member beginnings, adds depth. A feast for the eyes, this volume also asks us to consider the mission and cultural role of the public library. Road trip, anyone?**

**HEALTH & MEDICINE**

**Human Medical Experimentation: From Smallpox Vaccines to Secret Government Programs. Greenwood. 322p. ed. by Frances R. Frankenburg. index. ISBN 9781610698979. $89; ebk. ISBN 9781610698986.**

**Acknowledging that breakthroughs in medicine often have grim roots, namely experimentation on human subjects, this enlightening encyclopedia highlights events such as the Tuskegee study, experiments performed by the Nazis, Timothy Leary’s work with LSD, and much more. Though it zooms back to early medical history with Hippocrates and Galen, the bulk of the volume focuses on the 19th century onward. Featuring useful primary sources and reflecting excellent research, this enthralling title shines a light on an aspect of history that has often been glossed over; lay readers and researchers alike will be captivated. (*LJ* 4/15/17)**

**HISTORY**

**Byrne, Joseph P. The World of Renaissance Italy: A Daily Life Encyclopedia. 2 vols. Greenwood. 797p. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781440829598. $198; ebk. ISBN 9781440829604.**

**Broadening our attention from social and artistic elites to ordinary people and providing context for the renowned art of the period (1350–1600), polymath Byrne offers concise yet detailed articles on such varied topics as non-Europeans in art, pharmacopoeias, female mystics, nutrition, painting techniques, women’s letter-writing, and much more. Students of social history and those who fantasize about being dropped into 15th-century Florence will find a reliable guidebook here. (*LJ* 10/1/17)**

**Everleigh, Darcy & others. Unseen: Unpublished Black History from the New York Times Photo Archives. Black Dog & Leventhal. 304p. ISBN 9780316552967. $29.99.**

**Though many of the subjects captured here for the *New York Times* are famous—Aretha Franklin, Rosa Parks, Ralph Ellison, Jesse Jackson—quite a few are unknown. And this book is much more than photos: there are interviews, quotations, photographer anecdotes, context-rich captions, and commentaries. A half-­century of a history that has been submerged lives again.**

**The Family Tree Historical Atlas of American Cities. Family Tree. 224p. ed. by Allison Dolan. ISBN 9781440350610. $34.99.**

**This attractive book offers detailed maps of the 16 historically largest cities in the United States from 1800 to 1920, including New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, and Los Angeles. During this ­period, American cities expanded greatly owing to immigration and the arrival of a large number of erstwhile rural residents in search of jobs. Genealogists and historians will find these maps invaluable in providing details about where their ancestors lived and worked.**

**Gates, Henry Louis, Jr. 100 Amazing Facts About the Negro. Pantheon. 496p. ISBN 9780307908711. $40; ebk. ISBN 9780307908728.**

**Joel A. Rogers’s iconic 1934 work, *100 Amazing Facts About the Negro with Complete Proof*, was among the first to celebrate black history and accomplishments, but critics often found fault with the journalist’s lack of scholarship. With this loving, impeccably researched tribute, Gates rectifies that flaw, interrogating our understanding of history (“Is most of what we believe about the Underground Railroad true?”) and calling attention to examples of black excellence (“Who was the first African-American writer to investigate and report the wrongdoings of a world leader?”). (*LJ* 8/17)**

**Gilbert, David T. Civil War Battlefields: Walking the Trails of History. Rizzoli. 336p. ISBN 9780847859122. $50.**

**Created in association with the Civil War Trust, the leading organization in Civil War battlefield preservation, and with a foreword by novelist Jeff Shaara, this impressive look at 32 major battlefields contains essays, detailed maps, historic photographs, and suggested hikes (ranging from .2 to 14 miles). Most striking are the images of the battlefields as they look today: beautiful, hallowed landscapes.**

**The Holocaust: The Definitive Encyclopedia and Document Collection. 4 vols. ABC-CLIO. 1,890p. ed. by Paul Bartrop & Michael Dickerman. ISBN 9781440840838. $415.**

**This concise, accessible resource stands out from other encyclopedias on the ­Holocaust for several reasons. It offers numerous recent survivor accounts, is incredibly up-to-date (the last comparable work was published in 2009) and easy to use, and features a uniform format. Not just for academics, this is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in human history and our potential for good and evil. (*LJ* 2/1/18)**

**The Vietnam War: The Definitive Illustrated History. DK. 360p. illus. index. ISBN 9781465457691. $40.**

**In partnership with the Smithsonian Institution, editors at DK have selected striking visuals and well-written essays on Vietnam War topics, arranged chronologically and heavily illustrated with maps, photographs, and graphics. Fifty years after the U.S. troop withdrawal, this is an engrossing look at a complex subject. Approachable for high school students, with thoughtful time lines and information of interest to all readers. (*LJ* 9/1/17)**

**LANGUAGE & LINGUISTICS**

**Sergy, Lauren. The Handy Communication Answer Book. Visible Ink. (Handy Answer Book). 416p. illus. index. ISBN 9781578595877. pap. $21.95; ebk. ISBN 9781578596522.**

**Acknowledging the importance of all forms of communication (writing, public speaking, social media, etc.), Sergy, a writer, professional speaker, public speaking coach, and *LJ* reviewer, answers general and practical aspects of the topic in this user-friendly guide. Via Q&A format, she explores real-world examples of the topic, such as Secretary Hillary Clinton’s use of a private email server and President Donald Trump’s reliance on social media, and, of particular note, offers a selection of 13 sample speeches and a debate, plus analyses. (*LJ* 5/15/17)**

**LAW & POLITICS**

**Roberts, Priscilla. Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Documentary and Reference Guide.Greenwood. 350p. ISBN 9781440843907. $108.**

**Why is this conflict not just a localized dispute? Who are the players? What efforts have been made already, and why have they failed? Readers can follow the history (back to World War I) through primary documents, supported by the illuminating commentary provided here. Roberts gives context for each document, a brief assessment of its significance, and a paragraph analyzing its causes and consequences, followed whenever necessary by a historical summary bridge to the next document, in concise and judicious prose. If we can’t solve it, might we at least ­understand it?**

**The State and Federal Courts: A Complete Guide to History, Powers, and Controversy.ABC-CLIO. 513p. ed. by Christopher P. Banks. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781440841453. $105.**

**Banks (political science, Kent State Univ.) provides a current, succinct, timely overview of the complex U.S. judicial system. Covering both the state and the federal levels in a single volume, he highlights the interplay between the two. This title also reviews the judicial system’s impact on society and politics. This excellent update to older titles such as Susan Low and Vicki C. Jackson’s *Federalism: A Reference Guide to the United States* tackles more recent topics, including the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, the Affordable Care Act, and same-sex marriage. (*LJ* 4/15/17)**

**RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY**

**Fieldhouse, Paul. Food, Feasts, and Faith: An Encyclopedia of Food Culture in World Religions. 2 vols. ABC-CLIO. 671p. photos. index. ISBN 9781610694117. $189; ebk. ISBN 9781610694124.**

**Simultaneously wide-ranging and in-depth, this work establishes connections among food, culture, religion, and history—and makes good on its subtitle’s claim. Fieldhouse (human nutritional sciences, Univ. of Manitoba, Winnipeg) notes the essential components of any religion; examines social science, health science, and ethical dimensions of the subject; cites the roles of dietary codes (and their many variations and evolution); and describes the different functions of food within faiths. This richly informative work efficiently and accessibly adds to readers’ understanding of the subject and provides a solid jumping-off point for further research. (*LJ* 8/17)**

**War and Religion: An Encyclopedia of Faith and Conflict. 3 vols. ABC-CLIO. 1,095p. ed. by Jeffrey M. Shaw & Timothy J. Demy. illus. maps. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781610695169. $310.**

**A thought-provoking work on the relationship between warfare and religion throughout the ages. Cogently organized and wide in scope (a smattering of its entries include the Crusades, Hezbollah, and the Ghost Dance movement), with useful primary sources, it sets itself apart by exploring the impact of a range of faiths beyond Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. “How can people today learn from the past in hopes of minimizing the potential for future conflict?” this volume asks. The insight found here will go a long way. (*LJ* 6/1/17)**

**SCIENCES**

**Cheshire, James & Oliver Uberti. Where the Animals Go: Tracking Wildlife with Technology in 50 Maps and Graphics. Norton. 192p. ISBN 9780393634020. $39.95.**

**The geographic information system (GIS) and other advances allow us to see where animals go, whether by land (mountain lions, fishers, pythons, ants), sea (sharks, seals, otters), or air (gulls, storks, vultures, bees), not only during migrations but in mundane travels. Technology and data have never looked more beautiful than in these 50 four-color maps and watercolor images. This astute text conveys our latest understanding of animal behavior as revealed by this sophisticated tracking.**

**Flach, Tim (text & photos) & Jonathan Baillie (text). Endangered. Abrams. 336p. ISBN 9781419726514. $65.**

**It is impossible to look away from photographer Flach’s nearly 200 expressive, large-format images of animals whose gaze alone is a mute appeal—even without the informed commentary by zoologist Baillie. These exquisite color portraits make a compelling moral and aesthetic case for preserving the many birds, mammals, and other creatures and ecosystems under immediate threat. The poignant possibility is that some of the animals so beautifully portrayed will be preserved only in these pages.**

**Hoyt, Erich & others. Encyclopedia of Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises. Firefly. 300p. illus. maps. index. ISBN 9781770859418. $49.95.**

**Like humans, the class of social mammals known as cetaceans (whales, dolphins, porpoises) have large brains relative to their body size. Hoyt (research fellow, Whale and Dolphin Conservation; *Creatures of the Deep*), with the help of illustrations and stunning natural photographs from Brandon Cole, immerses readers in the world of these marine mammals. An excellent balance of scientific study combined with a deep concern for conservation and habitat preservation. (*LJ* Xpress Review 11/17/17)**

**Jackson, Tom. The Elements Book: A Visual Encyclopedia of the Periodic Table. DK. 208p. illus. index. ISBN 9781465456601. $22.99.**

**Each element has its moment of glory as Jackson (*Mathematics: An Illustrated History of Numbers*), in conjunction with the Smithsonian and the graphic artists at DK, showcases the history, everyday uses, and sheer physical beauty of elements in the periodic table. Full-page photographs of shining metals and callout boxes with information on scientists add further interest. Providing an extra scientific kick, this gorgeous volume organizes entries not alphabetically but by molecular structure. (*LJ* 7/17)**

**Natural Wonders of the World. DK. 440p. illus. index. ISBN 9781465464170. $50.**

**DK, long known for its breathtaking ­visual works, has outdone itself with this dazzling exploration of landscapes, geological marvels, and other awe-inspiring features worldwide. Through photographs that rival the likes of an IMAX film, detailed diagrams, and pithy prose, the book makes natural history accessible. The Grand Canyon, the Serengeti, and the Great Barrier Reef have never looked so good—and that’s saying something. (*LJ* 1/18)**

**Rousseau, Élise. Horses of the World. Princeton Univ. (Field Guides). 536p. illus. by Yann Le Bris. tr. from French by Teresa Lavender Fagan. photos. maps. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780691167206. $39.95.**

**Covering every known breed of horse (including extinct wild horses), this oversize guide boasts ample photos, maps, and succinct entries. The remarkable and detailed illustrations highlight the horses’ various colors, sizes, and markings, helping with identification. Front matter includes general topics (history and domestication, coat colors, growth patterns). Excellent for browsing or answering more specific questions about traits, population statistics, and geographic distribution. (*LJ* 9/15/17)**

**SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**America’s Changing Neighborhoods: An Exploration of Diversity Through Places. 3 vols. Greenwood. 1,277p. ed. by Reed Ueda. photos. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781440828645. $309; ebk. ISBN 9781440828652.**

**Author and historian Ueda explores the origins, developments, heritage, and traditions of the country’s ethnic and immigrant neighborhoods. He seamlessly ties these developments to contemporary U.S. society, offering a better understanding of our complex modern world. What distinguishes the work is its uncommon approach to the subject, excellent writing, and myriad useful demographics. An appendix of enclaves with the highest proportion of a particular ancestry is superb. (*LJ* 1/18)**

**Infinite Suburbia. Princeton Architectural. 784p. ed. by Alan M. Berger & others. illus. maps. index. ISBN 9781616895501. $75.**

**This remarkable collection of essays on suburban design and development is visually pleasing and dynamic. The photographs, aerial drone shots, drawings, plans, diagrams, maps, and charts alone are enough to make the work essential, but the erudite writing and scholarly research elevate it into an even higher level of accomplishment. (*LJ* 11/15/17)**

**The SAGE Encyclopedia of Psychology and Gender. SAGE. 2,064p. ed. by Kevin L. Nadal & others. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781483384283. $550; ebk. ISBN 9781506353241.**

**Presenting a general overview of the psychological effect of gender on society, entries ranging from abortion, androgyny, and anorexia to breast-feeding, Native Americans and transgender identity, nature versus nurture, and spirituality and gender concentrate on psychological issues involving gender and its role in society. The narrative chronology of psychology and gender from the mid-1800s through the early 2000s presents a fascinating view of gender psychology through the ages. (*LJ* 2/1/18)**

**200 Women: Who Will Change the Way You See the World. Chronicle. 395p. ed. by Geoff Blackwell & Ruth Hobday. ISBN 9781452166582. $50.**

**Businesswomen, philanthropists, novelists, activists, fashion designers, chefs, athletes, journalists, artists, and more are featured in this work, which introduces influential persons such as primatologist Jane Goodall, author and feminist Roxane Gay, and Black Lives Matter cofounder Alicia Garza. They each respond to the same questions: what is important, what makes them happy/unhappy, what they’d change, and what one word most defines them. The portraits and interviews are fascinating and inspirational; an archive of a memorable moment in social history.**

**TRAVEL**

**Journey: An Illustrated History of Travel. DK. 440p. illus. maps. index. ISBN 9781465464149. $50.**

**Travel all over the globe—and back in time—with this survey of voyages and discovery through the ages. Lavish ­modern and period maps, photos, diary and correspondence excerpts, and reproductions of ephemera galore (Viking coins, a Greek passport, the health inspection card of an immigrant to the United States) enhance compact, accessible text. Spanning ancient times to the age of flight, this delightful volume will have even the most ardent homebodies booking their next trip. (*LJ* 11/15/17)**

**Rhoads, Loren. 199 Cemeteries To See Before You Die. Black Dog & Leventhal. 240p. photos. index. ISBN 9780316438438. $27.99; ebk. ISBN 9780316473798.**

**Far from morbid, this fascinating travel guide may have readers planning excursions to a burial ground for champion race horses or a Viking graveyard in Norway. Rhoads (cemetery consultant, *Travel & Leisure*; *Wish You Were Here: Adventures in Cemetery Travel*) provides striking photographs and a riveting narrative of roughly 100 U.S. cemeteries (the rest are global sites). Armchair travelers will appreciate the atmospheric images of monuments and vistas, while those with a bucket list can add destinations for future exploration. (*LJ* 11/1/17)**

**The World: A Traveller’s Guide to the Planet. 2d ed. Lonely Planet. (Travel Guides). 992p. ISBN 9781786576538. $29.99; ebk. ISBN 9781787012493.**

**Produced by the world’s largest travel guide publisher, this impressive guidebook contains entries on every country on Earth from A to Z (Afghanistan to Zimbabwe). Each chapter includes a brief country overview, the top recommended travel experiences, and information on how best to get around. The guide is supplemented with colorful maps, practical travel info, suggested itineraries, and almost 1,000 gorgeous photographs. Highly recommended for travelers trying to decide their next vacation destination and for those eager to learn more about the world overall.**

**Mahnaz Dar is Reference & Professional Reading Editor, LJ and School Library Journal; Maggie Knapp is a Librarian,Trinity Valley School, Fort Worth, TX; Patricia Lothrop retired from teaching at St. George’s School, Newport, RI; Dave Pugl is a Librarian, Ela Area Public Library, Lake Zurich, IL; Laurie Selwyn formerly worked at the Grayson County Law Library, Sherman, TX; Christine Sharbrough is the Librarian, First Baptist Church, Bellville, TX; and Rob Tench is a Librarian, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA**

**https://reviews.libraryjournal.com/2018/02/reference/best-reference-titles-of-2017/**

**6. Report: “EU Research Chief’s Next Act: Changing the Future of Academic Publishing”**

**Filed by [Gary Price](https://www.infodocket.com/author/gprice/" \o "Gary Price) on February 28, 2018**

**From [Science Business:](https://sciencebusiness.net/framework-programmes/news/eu-research-chiefs-next-act-changing-future-academic-publishing)**

**Robert-Jan Smits, one of Europe’s most powerful figures in research, has been appointed as a special envoy on open science at the European Commission, to help push efforts to make all publicly funded research in Europe freely available by 2020.**

**Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker proposed Smits, the outgoing director-general of research and innovation, for the role on Wednesday.**

**“I will be the ice-breaker for open access publications,” Smits said in an interview to mark his last day in his current post, which he has held for eight years.**

**Clutching a letter sent in the morning by Juncker informing him of his new position, Smits explained how he would be working alongside member states and research funders to change the world of academic publishing. His official title will be senior advisor on open access within the European Political Strategy Centre, the Commission’s in-house think tank.**

**[Clip]**

**His task will be to help accelerate momentum towards making publicly funded scientific papers and data freely available by 2020 – a target set by the Dutch government, and agreed upon by the other 27 member states, back in 2016.**

**[Clip]**

**Right now, compliance with the EU open access demand is 67 per cent across all Horizon 2020 projects, Smits said.**

**“But it needs to go to 100 per cent; this is serious stuff,” he said. “We want all funders to be like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Wellcome Trust. Europeans have to lead on open access too.” The organisations he mentions have begun making grants contingent on open access, as well as possibly to the underlying data.**

**“Researchers should not see the act of going open access as playing the good Boy Scout. It’s more than that,” Smits said.**

**Read the [Complete Article (approx. 1780 words)](https://sciencebusiness.net/framework-programmes/news/eu-research-chiefs-next-act-changing-future-academic-publishing)**

**https://www.infodocket.com/2018/02/28/report-eu-research-chiefs-next-act-changing-the-future-of-academic-publishing/**

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**Library Collection Development: Let’s Talk About Hold to Copy Ratio**

**Thursday, February 22, 2018**

**As I sat down to write an article about holds to copy ratios, I felt compelled to note early on that this blog post has more questions than answers. I have always worked with libraries that had limited budgets and really intelligent people who are very conscientious and want to spend those limited dollars in the smartest ways possible. Therefore, the holds to copy ratio on books was always an issue that I never felt I had a good solution for, or even that I was thinking about it correctly. For all of my friends with great library budgets who have 2:1 holds to copy ratios, you can stop reading and count yourself lucky! For the rest of you in my situation, I would welcome your feedback.**

**Usually, most of the libraries I have worked for and with, have a ratio of 3:1 or 5:1 – sometimes as much as 15:1 with items that have a high turnover rate such as DVDs. Making that way more complicated is the e-world, where you also have to take into account pricing, leases, etc. Sometimes it was hard to keep that ratio when it was a 7-day wonder book that cost many more times than the print. Compiling on top of that, we had a software issue at one point that floated *Large Print* to the top of the lists when you searched a title, so our holds on *Large Prints* were out-of-wack. And finally, all of this talk of holds queues totally leaves out the patrons, who don’t place reserves on books and instead, wonder why they never see new bestsellers on the *New* shelves. I remember one library I worked with, where the lamented *Guernsey Literary Pie* (sic) book was not on the shelf for the first two years of its life. I also remember the *Madonna* book that came out when I was in college working for my local public library – it didn’t survive the holds queue before falling apart and becoming unavailable for purchase! It never did end up on a shelf at the library where I worked, which in retrospect is okay, as I am sure it would have been immediately stolen.**

**Most libraries I know allow titles to show in their PAC pre-publication date, so patrons can build up the holds queue and they know what to purchase. This method works great for predictable titles with authors who are writing in their known genre. Knowing how many copies to order of the new Stephanie Plum book is not usually an angst-inducing job. However, who would have ever predicted that those runaways, first-time bestsellers and sleeper hits would build holds as fast as they would? I don’t think any of us predicted the success of *Hillbelly Elegy* and definitely, no one predicted the craziness of *Fire and Fury*. And then, just as difficult, when a known writer goes completely outside of the genre s/he usually writes in. For example, when Janet Evanovich writes that future *Vampire Amish*book, all bets will be off on how well it will do.**

**So, what happens so many times, we don’t trust ourselves and over-buy with the chance that the title will tank or we under-buy and then rebuy and rebuy as we chase the holds queue. This oftentimes then sums up the works for patrons, watching their number on the reserve list stay in the hundreds and public services staff fielding constant questions and affirming that the book will eventually get to the person standing before them. Not to mention, the [collection development](https://www.ingramcontent.com/libraries/collection-development" \t "_blank) person, acquisitions, receiving person and possibly the [catalogers and processors](https://www.ingramcontent.com/libraries/cataloging-and-processing" \t "_blank) in the library, have to touch the additional copies again and again.**

**I have never done the [analysis](https://www.ingramcontent.com/libraries/lp/edelweiss" \t "_blank), but I think under-buying on the initial purchase, or even the second, ends up costing the library a lot more in time, frustration and money. Salaries, patron and staff frustrations, and shipping and handling are legitimate costs that need to be factored in when chasing that holds queue multiple times.**

**So, even though none of us have crystal balls or magic wands to accurately predict just how many copies we should buy, I think we should continue to work on tools to do better predictive analysis and be ready to overspend a bit, in hopes of not repurchasing a title multiple times.**

**And then, it begs the question about [floating collections](https://www.ingramcontent.com/blog/floating-collections-how-it-can-work-in-a-public-library" \t "_blank) and if I buy the right amounts, do I really need that “lucky day” collection or are new books getting to the new shelves in time?**

**So, for those of you who do have a crystal ball or, even better yet, a good tool for predictive analysis, send me your secrets for sharing amongst us friends.**

**When I am not on the road visiting library customers on [Ingram](https://www.ingramcontent.com/libraries" \t "_blank)’s behalf, I am answering email. Let me know what you are thinking and all advice is much appreciated**

**[https://www.ingramcontent.com/blog/Lets-Talk-about-Hold-to-Copy-Ratio#utm\_campaign=ils-blog&utm\_source=lj-sponsored-content-feb&utm\_medium=get-a-hold-on-holds](https://www.ingramcontent.com/blog/Lets-Talk-about-Hold-to-Copy-Ratio" \l "utm_campaign=ils-blog&utm_source=lj-sponsored-content-feb&utm_medium=get-a-hold-on-holds)**

**7. Paralibrarian of the Year 2018: Orquidea Olvera**

**By [John N. Berry III](https://lj.libraryjournal.com/author/jberry/) on March 6, 2018 [Leave a Comment](https://lj.libraryjournal.com/2018/03/awards/paralibrarian-of-the-year-2018-orquidea-olvera/" \l "respond)**

**Monterey County Free Libraries, CA**

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***Photo by Douglas Peck Photography***

**The Reading Safari van of the Monterey County Free Libraries (MCFL), CA, makes regular visits to preschool classrooms and the 18 MCFL branches throughout the 3,000 square miles of Monterey County. From its driver’s seat, Orquidea Olvera runs the system’s Early Literacy Mobile Outreach (ELMO), which carries literacy and science programs to preschool classrooms and some 450 preschoolers. Called the “driving force of the programs” by Berenice Astengo, managing librarian, literacy, outreach, and programs, Olvera has maintained the program’s vibrant curriculum for the past five years. Children and teachers alike love Olvera, who speaks Spanish and English fluently, improving the ability of MCFL to serve the county’s large Spanish-speaking population. It’s part of the reason Orquidea Olvera is *LJ*’s 2018 Paralibrarian of the Year, sponsored by DEMCO.**

**The Safari Van, a 25′ minibookmobile emblazoned with pictures of colorful animals and filled with books, science materials, and, of course, stuffed lions, tigers, and chimps, delivers the library’s Reading Safari and STREAM (science, technology, reading, engineering, agriculture [and art], & mathematics) programs to children at the branches, classrooms, and sites throughout the school year. Olvera conducts learning activities such as story times, sing-a-longs, games, real-science experiments, and crafts, along with the opportunity to check out library books. She circulates more than 2,200—and gives away over 1,600 titles to help kids build libraries of their own.**

**While Olvera’s school year is also busy with classroom programs, her summers are full of outreach events. With a colleague, Olvera enthusiastically developed the MCFL Summer Science Extravaganza and took it to all the branches and rural schools. Playing the role of “mad scientist,” she performs entertaining experiments such as creating “elephant toothpaste,” balloon races, and exploding soda! The science experiments involve a special setup in every library. Olvera and others tell the kids what chemicals and ingredients they use. Parents often ask how to perform the experiments so they can amuse their kids at home. It turned out to be the most popular summer program in 2017.**

**OUTSTANDING OUTREACH**

**“Orquidea…has two qualities I admire, enthusiasm and empathy,” says MCFL director Jayanti Addleman. “She epitomizes what you want customer service to be. For her it doesn’t matter if you are a four-year-old child or an aging retiree, or if you are someone who doesn’t speak English, she will give you that very high level of customer service all the time.”**

**A key member of the MCFL Outreach team, Olvera drives the small bookmobile to events countywide as well as attends community activities, neighborhood block parties, health fairs, the National Night Out, art festivals, and school programs. Her bilingual skills and amiable demeanor allow her to engage with all community residents (for ­example, she serves as translator for a weekly English Language Learners class).**

**“We go to block parties,” she tells *LJ*. “We take the bus… open the doors, and let the kids play with our toys. I work with [hundreds of] children every month. Teachers make tags to help me remember their names, and I pretend I’ve known each child my whole life, and they accept that.”**

**PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS**

**In addition to building partnerships and collaborations with teachers at Head Start, the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation, and many other preschool classes, for several years Olvera has partnered with the Housing Authority for the County of Monterey. As part of that alliance, ­Olvera found a way to adjust her busy schedule to spend hours at each MCFL branch. She uses library computers and her bilingual skills to help people in need of housing sign up for the Housing Voucher waiting list. It is a long and difficult process that must be done annually by a deadline. Each patron gets a voucher proving registration for housing, and late in the year a small percentage of those registered are randomly selected to receive subsidized housing. This otherwise arduous and ­demanding procedure is made more tolerable by ­Olvera’s attentive, happy presence, her stories, and her receptive ­approach.**

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**A DRIVE ON THE WILD SIDE Olvera and her Reading Safari minibookmobile traverse the 3,000 square miles of Monterey County to bring STREAM programs to children, including those of migrant agricultural workers.  
*Photo by Douglas Peck Photography***

**Her fluency in Spanish is critical, as it is the language spoken by most of the agricultural workers using the program. Besides its coastal communities, views, and beaches, Monterey County is known as “the salad bowl” of America. Most of the lettuce in U.S. kitchens is grown there. The agricultural areas are less affluent and the people who work there are mostly of Mexican origin. Olvera’s mom, ­Noemi Guerra, is from Guatemala; her father, who died when she was small, was from Mexico. A phenomenon locals call “the lettuce curtain” separates individuals and can lead to discrimination. Effective outreach to those patrons is especially crucial.**

**“Agriculture is such an issue for us. So many people here work in the fields, and I’m not talking about the few who own them. They are so discriminated against it is very hard for many of them to rise out of that. To have Orquidea working on this [issue] is one of the best things we have ever done,” says director Addleman.**

**INSPIRATION FROM A TOUGH TOWN**

**Olvera grew up in the Watts neighborhood of Los ­Angeles. “Sadly, what you hear about Watts is true,” says ­Olvera. Several of her brothers’ friends were murdered in the neighborhood. “My mother tried to get us out of there as soon as she could,” something she achieved when Olvera was 15. Until then, her mother spent much time shielding her and her five brothers and one sister from trouble. One important resource to help do so was the library.**

**“The Los Angeles libraries played a huge part in my life. This is why I love libraries. I used to go to the Martin Luther King Library, a branch in Watts. We had to cross a railroad [track] to get to it. They always had free programs, and my mom would take us to them. We learned how to use the library computers and went to any programs they offered,” Olvera says.**

**Olvera tells *LJ* that her background encouraged her to keep to herself and stay close to home. “Life in Watts was difficult. It was hard to walk the streets by yourself. You had to learn what we call street manners, which are mostly to mind your own business and people will leave you alone. I used to hang around my close neighborhood when I was young. We had one neighbor across the street with a daughter about my age. I would only go to school, come home, and play with my neighbors. Maybe that is part of why I am a social introvert. When I go home, I kick my feet up and am happy to be by myself. For years, my Mom was a house cleaning lady. I do want to thank her for her love and care,” Olvera says. ­Olvera also thanks her immediate manager Courtney Amparo, who has become a close friend.**

**Today, Olvera lives with her mother in a little town called Greenfield at the southern end of Monterey. She drives an hour to an hour and a half to work each day. “My work here goes back to when I was a child…. During breaks and at lunch, I would be in the library.”**

**Addleman adds, surviving her early ­trials gave ­Olvera even more empathy for the have-nots among her patrons. Says the director, “She really knows what the little kids are ­going through.”**

**DOING WHAT SHE LOVES**

**“Orquidea Olvera is a superlative para­professional who regularly goes above and beyond in her service to the community,” ­Astengo said in her nomination of Olvera for the award. “She is dedicated to promoting library services and the joys and benefits of reading to community members and children. With her ebullient personality and cooperative attitude, she is an asset in maintaining positive relations with our collaborators. She is very deserving of [this] award.”**

**“She is so outstanding that she brings that combination of being always willing to work and being creative. Orquidea has made our long-standing partnership with the schools much more effective. It is such fun to see her at work. She has no compunctions about putting on an animal head over her face, or just anything to help and please the kids,” says Addleman.**

**Olvera’s own words help us better understand what makes her such a winner. “It feels so weird to win an award for doing something I love to do. Helping people has always been a strong feeling in me. Back in Watts, when we needed money or we needed resources, people helped us,” she says. “It makes me happy to work with so many people who want to help others.”**

**ljx170301webParalibDemcoLogoThe Paralibrarian of the Year Award is sponsored by DEMCO, Inc., of Madison, WI, which underwrites the $1,500 cash prize and a reception to honor the winner at the American Library Association annual conference in New Orleans, this June. The award recognizes the essential role of paralibrarians in providing excellent library service.**

[**https://lj.libraryjournal.com/2018/03/awards/paralibrarian-of-the-year-2018-orquidea-olvera**](https://lj.libraryjournal.com/2018/03/awards/paralibrarian-of-the-year-2018-orquidea-olvera)