Has the Library Outlived its Usefulness in the age of Internet? You’d be surprised

Article Submitted by MaryLei Barclay

The Conversation by Donald Barclay (Released 4/28/2016) - U.S. Institutions of higher education and U.S. local governments are under extraordinary pressure to cut costs and eliminate from institutional or governmental ledgers any expenses whose absence would cause little or no pain.

In this political climate, academic and public libraries may be in danger. The existence of vast amounts of information—a lot of it free—on the Internet might suggest that the library has outlived its usefulness.

But has it? The numbers tell a very different story.

In spite of the findings of a survey in which Americans say they are using public libraries less, the usage numbers reported by libraries indicate the opposite.

In the last two decades, the total number of U.S. public libraries slightly increased— inching up from 8,921 in 1994 to 9,082 in 2012 (a gain of 2.14 percent). Over the same period, the data also show that use of public libraries in the U.S. went up as well.

Here’s what data on circulation and annual visits to public libraries reveal.

The number of books and other items borrowed from U.S. public libraries increased from 6.5 items per capita in 1993 to 8.0 items per capita in 2012. Over the same time span, the number of visits to U.S. public libraries rose 22.5%.

The one major public library usage measure that did decrease was the number of times library users asked questions of reference librarians, dropping 18 percent from 1993-2012.

The popularity of U.S. public libraries is it seems, at least as strong as it was before the web became a household word (much less a household necessity).

For academic libraries, the data are more mixed. Circulation of physical items in U.S. academic libraries has been on a steady declined throughout the web era, falling 29% from 1997-2011.

More tellingly, over the same time span and among the same academic libraries, the annual... Article

MDE and MetaMetrics® this year to provide opportunities for summer reading and math learning. The Summer Reading and the Summer Math Challenge engage families and students in summer learning. Find out more about MetaMetrics® summer learning opportunities, including materials you can use to promote these programs, on the MDE website.
Kids & Teens Broadcast

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**Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth—PLA**—Federal agencies have released a second call for bold proposals to improve education, employment, and other key outcomes for disconnected youth. Seven federal agencies are inviting state, local, and tribal communities to apply to become a Performance Partnership Pilot (P3) to test innovative, outcome-focused strategies to achieving better outcomes for disconnected and at-risk youth.

The P3 initiative allows pilots to receive customized flexibility in using discretionary funds to overcome barriers and align program and reporting requirements across their programs. Libraries are encouraged to coordinate with their community partners on applications to make sure their valuable education, employment, literacy and other services are connected. Visit Performance Partnership Pilot web page for more info.

**Plan a town hall meeting to prevent underage drinking**—American Libraries Direct—Nearly 9 million American youth drink alcohol, illegally and dangerously. Underage drinking costs communities billions annually. Ever thought about holding a town hall meeting to prevent underage drinking in your community? The US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration offers assistance to libraries. Learn how to plan your event and register by June 30 to receive a $500 planning stipend. More information.

**National Summer Learning Day & Resources**—The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) will celebrate National Summer Learning Day on July 14 to raise awareness of the importance of summer learning and recognize the work of the many organizations that #keepkidslearning. Libraries are encouraged to connect to a vast network of education leaders by taking NSLA's pledge to keep kids learning this summer and adding their summer learning programs and events to NSLA's interactive map. Add your events by June 1. Click here for a list of summer learning resources.

**Summer Reading Program**—by MaryLei Barclay—With the Summer coming, don’t hesitate to contact me to put supply needs, flyers for programs that you want advertised, craft projects you think other libraries may want to see, or any other information you may want included in the Weeder.

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**It’s a LEGACY Thing**

By Alexis Leitgeb

**COMPAS Artists Tres Mundos’ performance of The Music of “Three Worlds”** - June 13-17 at Various Locations—COMPAS Artists, Tres Mundos explore the exciting multicultural mix of histories, languages, dances and cultures that have shaped the music of the Americas. With their unique personal roots, the members of Tres Mundos bring the soul of these sounds to this program.

Hear the music of Carnival, sing a Cuban rumba, and dance to Latin jazz beats. Audiences tour the world with Tres Mundos! Tres Mundos, or “Three Worlds,” features pianist/vocalist Viviana Pintado from Cuba, percussionist Eliezer Freites-Santos from Brazil, and saxophonist/flutist Douglas Little from the United States. Their collective accomplishments include Latin Grammy nominations, international tours, and multiple CDs. Their music blends salsa, samba and jazz to create an authentic and original sound. Tres Mundos will amaze the audiences!

For more information about Tres Mundos, and other COMPAS artists, visit compass.org.

**Climb Theater's presentation of The Tortoise and The Hare**—June 27-July 12 at Various Locations—Speedy the Hare keeps teasing Sal the Tortoise because Sal is slower than Speedy. So Sal decides there’s only one solution: to beat Speedy in a race. But how? Sal discovers that instead of worrying about what he isn’t, he can build on what he is. Sal is steady. Sal is focused and determined. Sal can train hard. And in the end, Sal discovers that being a winner is about much more than who crosses the finish line first.

CLIMB Theater’s mission is to create and perform plays, classes, and other creative works that inspire and propel people - especially young people. This mini-play is about 30 minutes with a 10-15 minute activity session that is sure to engage children and families.

**Legacy Links to Know:**

Legacy Blog
Legacy Pinterest
Legacy Storify
Legacy Public Art Projects
Events Calendar
Thinking Outside Minnesota
Articles Submitted by MaryLei Barclay

Library of Congress returns historic Christopher Columbus letter to Italy—The Columbus Dispatch by Domenico Stinellis (Released 5/18/2016) - The United States has returned to Italy a letter written by Christopher Columbus in 1493 about his discovery of the new world that was stolen from a Florence library and un-wittingly acquired by the Library of Congress. Article

Dangerous books behind lock and key: Exploring Australia’s hidden library collections—ABCNews by Story Hunters (Released 5/15/2016) - Beyond the rows of shelves in many of Australia’s libraries you can find ancient magic tricks, books on euthanasia and secret family histories—if you know what to ask for. But at the National Library of Australia (NLA), in a padlocked room known as a giftschrank, lies the country’s biggest collection of completely off-limits materials. Article

Library staff rescues 7 ducklings from storm drain in West Jordan—Fox News by Mark Green (Released 5/15/2016)—Staff and Patrons at the West Jordan Library helped a mother duck reunite with several duckling who were stuck down a storm drain. Staff at the library saw several of the ducklings fall into the storm drain Saturday, and they rushed back to the area with additional help along with buckets and a ladder. Article

New library shelves 3,400 bottles of wine—Cornell Chronicle by Matt Hayes (Released 5/19/2016) - The newest library on campus contains no books and offers no borrowing privileges. These shelves only offer learning of a certain vintage: space to hold more than 3,400 bottles of wine. When fully stocked, the John Wilkinson Family Wine Library will give Cornell students in viticulture and enology courses access to wines sourced from regions across the world. Article

LaSalle library’s past proves useful as ‘Marshall’ filming commences—WBFO by Michael Mroziak (Released 5/23/2016) - It’s currently a satellite location within the Niagara Falls Public Library System. But the LaSalle Branch is proving to be a useful setting for makers of the film Marshall, and for more than just library space. Crews began work Monday morning at the LaSalle Branch on the film portraying a case early in the career of Thurgood Marshall. Article

Flooding from pipe break forces 3-month Iowa library closure—Post Bulletin (Released 5/25/2016) - The water pipe break that caused flooding in much of the Bettendorf Public Library will keep it closed for at least three months. Officials say the pipe broke in the library’s second-floor bathroom, triggering an alarm that went off around 5 a.m. Friday. Article

Freeland [MI] fifth grader amasses about 2,000 Accelerated Reader Points—MLive by Lindsay Knake (Released 3/26/2013) Article submitted by Chris Carlson- To say Matthew Staley is a big reader is an understatement. The 11-year-old fifth grader at Freeland Elementary School has amassed about 2,000 Accelerated Reader Points, including more than 770 this school year. Article

MaryLei’s Links Limited on Typing

- Searching for Video, Images, Audio, Gifs, Podcasts, Memes & Radio: Directory of Search Engines, Finders & Generators
- Here’s why the Internet hasn’t killed public libraries
- Minnesota school’s ban on graphic novel draws free-speech protests
- It’s Not Fine to Not Pay Your Fine
- This Handy Flowchart Helps You Select Your Next Great Read
- How to Make a Librarian Happy
- On Governors Island, Mountains of Junk Where Children Find Adventure
Engaged and Inclusive: Libraries Embracing Racial Equity and Social Justice—Public Library Association June 8, 1:00pm Central—Public libraries across the country readily embrace their role as centers for democracy and civic participation. But what role should libraries play in advancing social justice and addressing persistent racial inequities? When it comes to community transformation, how can a social justice lens and racial equity tools guide us to be more engaged and inclusive at all levels of our work? Register

Evaluating Youth Lit—Library Journal June 9, 4:00pm EDT—Writing or illustrating a book for kids is easy, right? Those of us who work with children’s books for a living can say emphatically that “no, it isn’t!” Sure, most people can read a book and tell right away whether it’s great or not-so-great. But what is it, exactly, that makes the difference? Join us as we cover the various elements that come together to create a book that kids will love, whether it’s the writing, the illustrations, or another bit of magic. Register

Tips for Story Time Success—Booklist June 14, 1:00pm CDT—Looking to spice up your story time repertoire? Katie Fitzgerald, formerly of the DC Public Library, will share tips and tricks for performing engaging story times from her new book, Story Time Success: A Practical Guide for Librarians. Register

LLAMA (Library Leadership & Management Association) webinar—June 8, 1:30pm Central fee $49-$59 for single person—LLAMA webinar helps you cultivate better supervisor relationships by “managing up.” How would you describe your relationship with your supervisor? Is it collaborative? Or, is it the dreaded top-down? If yours is a top-down relationship, you may be at risk for feeling powerless, disengaged and ultimately ineffective. Although you may not be able to change your boss, you can improve your relationship significantly by learning how to “Manage up.” Register

How to Run Great Webinars—ALA June 8, 1:30pm fee $55.00—No matter what kind of library you work in, you know that librarianship is a profession that requires constant training and constant learning. Webinars—live training session conducted online—are an easy and effective way to provide training to people regardless of their physical location. When you conduct a webinar, not only do you create an interactive, dynamic, and flexible training resource, but one that can be recorded for future use. Register
ALS to present Pushing Chain’s Folky Tonk Music at area libraries

MOUNTAIN IRON — The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to present Pushing Chain’s Folky Tonk Music, a free program being offered at the following dates and libraries:

- Wednesday, 1 p.m., Hoyt Lakes.
- Wednesday, 3:30 p.m., Aurora.
- Thursday, noon, Virginia.
- Thursday, 3:30 p.m., Eveleth.
- June 8, 1 p.m., Mountain Iron.
- June 8, 3:30 p.m., Gilbert.
- June 8, 6 p.m., Babbitt.

Hear the strong harmonies, kazoo, and songs of Pushing Chain duo Boyd Blomberg on guitar and vocals and Adam Moe on fiddle and vocals. Join the entertaining duo as they perform their original songs and jam with people they have just met.

Pushing Chain was formed in 2012 by Boyd Blomberg and Adam Moe. The duo, which has been performing together in various manifestations since 1997, plays roots and Americana music featuring Blomberg on guitar and vocals and Moe on fiddle and vocals. Pushing Chain plays original songs and some fresh new takes on old folk songs. The duo also features tight harmonies and a gonzo approach which keeps performances fresh and exciting, even if you have seen them before.

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, see our calendar at www.arrowhead.lib.mn.us/whats-new, find us on Twitter www.twitter.com/ArrowheadLegacy, on Pinterest at https://www.pinterest.com/alexisleitgeb/legacy-events, on Storify at https://storify.com/legacy2, on Wordpress at https://arrowheadlegacy.wordpress.com, or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ArrowheadLegacy.