

Persepolis Restored to Chicago School Libraries

After a directive by Chicago Public Schools (CPS) to restrict student access for all grades below 11 to *Persepolis*, Marjane Satrapi’s award-winning illustrated memoir about growing up during the Iranian Revolution, CPS CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett quickly issued a memo clarifying that the graphic novel should remain on library shelves, as per its own collection development policy.

“Let me be clear—we are not banning this book from our schools,” Byrd-Bennett said in her memo to principals. “It was brought to our attention that it contains graphic language and images that are not appropriate for general use in the seventh grade curriculum.... Due to the powerful images of torture in the book, I have asked our Office of Teaching & Learning to develop professional development guidelines, so that teachers can be trained to present this strong, but important content.”

Byrd-Bennett said that CPS would also be considering whether the book should be included in grades eight to ten, although there is no official time line for these decisions.

However, the clarification has not stemmed the tide of protest from librarians and other educators who remain wary about the classroom restrictions, prompting the American Library Association’s (ALA) Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) and the Freedom To Read Foundation (FTRF) to respond.

Barbara Jones, director of ALA’s OIF and FTRF executive director, responded in a letter addressed jointly to Byrd-Bennett, president of the Chicago Board of Education David Vitale, and Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel seeking an explanation and urging that the book be returned to classrooms. “While we applaud the CPS Department of Libraries for adhering to its own very well-crafted policies on school library collection development...we remain exceedingly troubled by the standing directive to remove the book from classrooms,” Jones said.

Jones also called the directive to restrict access “a heavy-handed denial of students’ rights to access information” that “smacks of censorship.” Although the CPS maintains that the mounting protests have been “much ado about nothing,” according to Dave Miranda, deputy press secretary for CPS—who characterizes the reevaluation of the book’s appropriateness as “just a shift in the curriculum”—the decision was so surprising (and so abrupt) that FTRF has filed a Freedom of Information Act request for documents related to it.

Many educators seem perplexed at the efforts to “recall” *Persepolis*, since the book is identified as an instructional text as part of Chicago’s Common Core State Standards.

Aside from an unsuccessful challenge in 2009 in the Northshore School District, WA, *Persepolis* has been widely recognized as an outstanding work since its first publication in France. Since its 2003 publication stateside, *Persepolis* has received numerous accolades including two Eisner Award nominations, and *Newsweek* included it in its list of the top ten fiction books of the decade. It was also adapted into

Interview

Rebecca Knuth

This interview with Rebecca Knuth, *Library Journal* 2009 Teaching Award Winner, is part of a series sponsored by ProQuest. Knuth is a full professor of library and information science at the University of Hawai’i, Manoa.



What are the most important issues in library education?

Maintaining focus on access and the library as a place for individual and community development. Fostering leadership and an advocacy orientation. Internalizing and actualizing change and reinvention, making libraries vital places.

Is there a difference between online and in-class programs?

Some things are more difficult in an online program—making friends, developing networks, participating in student organizations and service activities, building a sense of community, and developing oral and face-to-face communication skills.

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing your current class?

Integrating technology and business thinking without losing sight of librarianship’s humanistic, people orientation.

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an animated film, which was awarded the Jury Prize at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival and was nominated for an Academy Award.

Commissioners To Control Douglas County Board?

The Douglas County, CO, Board of Commissioners is making a bid to take over the naming of library trustees.

Since the mid-1990s, new trustees have been nominated by the existing trustees; the commissioners then ratify the appointment.

In the *Castle Rock News-Press*, the commissioners called the current process unique in Colorado, but, according to Megan McDermott, assistant director of communications, Colorado Department of Education, that's not the case. "Many public libraries in Colorado have a similar setup to an appointment process," McDermott told *Hotline*.

The *News-Press* quoted board chair Jill Repella as saying, "[the library is] the second- to fourth-highest taxing entity in the county, yet the board is non-elected." Of course, a commissioner-nominated board would also be nonelected.

Library district trustees objected to the change in appointment procedures at the February 12 meeting where it was proposed. "I was aghast to see this resolution to pull back recommendation authority from trustees to the Board of County Commissioners," said Mark Weston, library trustee. The trustees were particularly concerned that "we did not really have any dialog with them prior to this showing up on their agenda," David Starck, vice president of the library board, told *Hotline*.

BOARD TO BOARD DIALOG

The Board of County Commissioners requested a meeting with the library Board of Trustees and tabled the agenda item until March 26. The meeting with the trustees took place on February 25.

According to notes taken at that meeting, the gist of the commissioners' concern is not with the specifics of the library board's process but that, unlike other county boards, it is not the commissioners' own process and that this creates ambiguity about who is ultimately responsible for any complaints or issues from taxpayers.

Starck told *Hotline*, "Their concerns were an issue of accountability at an elected-official level. The Board of

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Trustees' position was that that is already in place given the current process. The [library] board is not making the final decision; they're just recommending. The Board of Trustees is open to having continued dialog on what process it takes going forward; we would welcome a modification with greater involvement by the commissioners."

IS THIS ABOUT LARUE?

According to the *News-Press*, while at the February 12 meeting, Repella had said the motion was no reflection on the library Board of Trustees, it

turns out that at least one of the commissioners had some substantive beef with the trustees' decisions after all.

In particular, Commissioner Jack Hilbert, District 1, who was not at the February 25 meeting, told the *News-Press* that he objects to the high public profile of Douglas County library director Jamie LaRue, who is well known on the national library stage for his stance on ebook ownership. LaRue, as a county taxpayer, is also a plaintiff in a case against the Douglas County School District's voucher program.

"I believe that loss [in the 2008 elec-

tion, when 52.6 percent of the voters said no to a library mill-levy increase] was a direct reflection of how people feel about some of the activities of the director," Hilbert said. "We have an obligation as elected officials to make sure we achieve our greater mission. The fact is that bringing up issues that irritate the community has no benefit. You cannot separate your job title from what you're doing. If you do anything that jeopardizes our mission, we really need to bring that into question."

According to LaRue, however, the library board hasn't shared Hilbert's belief in a lack of separation between LaRue's personal and his professional lives. "I used to write newspaper columns, and I would tackle all kinds of interesting issues," LaRue told *Hotline*. "When I would offend somebody, the board would say, 'He's not writing for the library; he's writing for himself.' They totally get the difference between an individual stand and an institutional stand."

Mark Silverstein, legal director, ACLU of Colorado, told *Hotline*, "Mr. LaRue has never involved his public position in the pending challenge to the vouchers program." (On February 28, an appeals court ruled against LaRue and the ACLU, but the case will be appealed to the Colorado Supreme Court.)

Hilbert said his opinion does not reflect the opinion of the commissioners, something borne out by comments by Repella and commissioner Roger Partridge at the February 25 meeting. When library board president Bob Morris noted that statements had been made by the commissioners, individually, about the library director, Repella replied that the commissioners as a board have not made statements, and Repella and Partridge both said they have no issue with the director and no complaints about him.

LaRue did not seem upset by Hilbert's comments. "Jack is in fact a very good man and a very good commissioner," he told *Hotline*. "We have dis-

Ad Students Aim To Bring the Library to Commuters

A speculative ad campaign has demonstrated that, even without Internet access, a digital information exchange on the subway is possible—and could boost library readership. The one-minute "Underground Library" commercial from students at the Miami Ad School promotes an as-yet-nonexistent library program that would allow smartphone users to download book extracts from the New York Public Library (NYPL) during their commutes.



The ad, which can be viewed online at video-sharing service Vimeo, shows subway passengers scanning an NYPL "smart poster" with their smartphones to access the first ten pages of a current best seller—no Wi-Fi access required. The information transfer process, known as near field communications (NFC) technology, uses short-range interacting electromagnetic radio fields to communicate. "The data is stored in a poster in a tag containing [radio-frequency identification] technology," explained Miami Ad School student and Underground Library art director Keri Tan. "Subway passengers just have to hold their phones close enough to the tag for the data to transfer." Upon exiting the subway, commuters' devices would alert them to the location of nearby branch libraries.

The idea for the program began as a class assignment to boost NYPL membership, according to Tan. "Max [Pilwat, the ad's other art director] mentioned that the subway ad space kind of looks like a shelf, and we ran with the idea." She and Pilwat, with copywriter Ferdi Rodriguez, created the ad.

An Underground Library program might boost readership, but the ad's claim that library use has been declining "since the creation of the Internet" is incorrect: "Attendance, circulation and participation in our wide range of teen, computer, and literacy classes at the New York Public Library is up, not down in recent years," said Ken Weine, NYPL vice president for communication and marketing. Nonetheless, Weine said, the library's lab division has discussed initiatives similar to the Underground Library.

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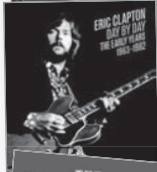
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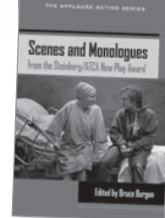
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agreed with each other on many occasions, which I think both of us have enjoyed. Is he trying to put pressure on me to resign? I don't think so."

NEXT STEPS

Repella told *Hotline*, "The Board of Douglas County Commissioners will take up the topic of the Library

District Board of Trustees appointment process as part of the March 26 business meeting, at which time it will clarify and hear public comment on the addition to the process it has in mind. Specifically, we believe the library district's Board of Trustees appointment process should include a link and accountability to the citizens

and taxpayers of Douglas County."

In what may be a foreshadowing of the discussion that will occur at that meeting, the library Board of Trustees wrote a guest column in the *News-Press*, which addressed the accountability issue, reading in part, "Library law is explicit about accountability: it is the Trustees, and only the Trustees, who are responsible for adopting a budget, for setting policy, for evaluation of the director, for the acquisition and disposition of property, and more."

Presidential Libraries Reform Law Reintroduced

According to the Sunlight Foundation, on March 20 the House of Representatives Oversight and Government Reform committee greenlighted a bill that would make the names of donors to the institution public. (In committee testimony, Sunlight Foundation policy counsel Daniel Schuman endorsed the legislation.)

The bill would require disclosure of all donations over \$200. Future presidential library foundations would have to report donors to the National Archives on a quarterly basis. The archives would then post them online in a searchable, downloadable database. (The National Archives also manages many, but not all, of the presidential libraries.)

The measure is sponsored by Rep. John Duncan Jr. (R-TN). "Presidential library fundraising organizations are formed while a President is in office and collect donations from individuals, corporations and foreign governments with no limit on the contribution amount. When there is no requirement for disclosing the donor or the amounts being donated, there is great potential for abuse," Duncan said in a statement. "I first introduced this bill in 1999 after learning that foreign governments from the Middle East were making very large donations to the proposed library

Branching Out



the Pizzuti Companies to create a plan for the new library, which will feature a mixed-use component. Per a January Request for Proposal, the library will grow from 7,700 square feet to 27,000 square feet, with increased street visibility; will have on-site parking; and will encompass as well a secondary

structure "that complements the library." "With a mixed-use approach," said CML CEO Patrick Losinski, "a new Northside Branch could be a community centerpiece that goes beyond what the library could accomplish on its own." Pizzuti and its team of NBBJ and Pepper Construction will now work up a design for CML consideration. The planning phase is expected to last six months.

The 17,500 square foot **Cañon City Public Library**, CO, has moved into Phase 2 of its renovation, according to the *Cañon City Daily Record*. The first phase involved a rehab to the basement, with updated plumbing and electrical work, plus a new teen zone designed by the teens themselves, library director Susan Ooton told the *Record*. The next part of the four-phase project involves creating a new children's area on the top floor of the three-level building. Planners hope to complete it by the beginning of April, an especially quick turnaround, per the *Record*. "We are a little ahead of schedule," said administrative services director Becky Walker.

Library doings Down Under revved up a notch in late February when comparatively young architects Felicity Stewart and Matthias Hollenstein of Stewart Hollenstein were chosen from among 167 entries from 29 countries to design the new library and plaza in Sydney, Australia. The "community living room theme" for the \$40 million project at **Green Square** (pictured) caught the attention of city fathers, per GalleyCat. The architects' intent is to incorporate "a garden, music practice, and even water games into the library experience." Per the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the concept for the below-ground space would feature a storytelling garden and a sunken garden reading spot. At \$8 billion, this is Australia's largest urban development effort, according to the *Herald*.

Along with plans for the Main Library of the Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML), OH (see *Hotline* 2/4/13 and 3/8/13), CML is moving closer to an enlarged facility to replace the current **Northside Branch** on High Street. A major step toward that end was the recent selection of

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Rendering courtesy of Stewart Hollenstein.

for President Clinton. However, this is not a partisan issue. I introduced and have supported this legislation under both Democratic and Republican Presidents,” Duncan continued.

Elijah Cummings (D-MD), a ranking Oversight Committee member, concurred. He became a cosponsor of the bill on March 14, stating, “This should not be a partisan measure.”

The next step will be a vote in the House, but it will not be for the first time: the bill passed the House in 2002, 2007, and 2009, but died in the Senate each time.

Donations to President Clinton’s library were voluntarily released after his wife, Hillary Clinton, was nominated to the position of Secretary of State. George W. Bush’s foundation has kept donors to the library private so far, even as the library readies itself to open on May 1 on the campus of Southern Methodist University, Dallas, according to the *Miami Herald*.

By getting out of committee, the bill has already beaten GovTrack’s odds: the site predicted it had a 28 percent chance of making it this far and only an eight percent chance of being ultimately enacted.

Fail4Lib: Problems Create Constructive Conversation

At the recent Code4Lib 2013 event, held at the UIC Forum at University of Illinois at Chicago, a group of librarians found, during their Fail4Lib pre-conference workshop, that discussing failed or problematic projects can be as constructive as discussing success.

“There’s starting to be a confluence of different types of activities along these lines,” noted Jason Casden, lead librarian, digital services development at North Carolina State University (NCSU), Raleigh, who organized the preconference with his colleague Andreas Orphanides, NCSU’s librarian for digital technologies and learning. “May-

The **South Carolina State Library**, Columbia, was one of 20 libraries to be awarded a \$1,000 grant from the American Library Association’s Young Adult Library Services Association. It will be used to fund a summer reading program for teenagers.

The **Blanchester Public Library**, OH, and **Wornstaff Memorial Public Library**, Ashley, OH, went live on Evergreen, an open source library system, bringing the total of Evergreen libraries in the Consortium of Ohio Libraries to eight.

The **SwetsWise Online Content** database, a catalog of scientific articles, has partnered with **Ex Libris Group**, a provider of automation solutions for libraries, to make the SwetsWise content searchable through Ex Libris’s Primo Central Index.

Credo, a provider of information skills development software, was named a finalist for the 2013 **Software & Information Industry Association** Education CODiE Awards for Best Education Reference Solution for its Literati Academic platform. The winner of the award will be announced on May 6.

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be attitudes are changing about how to talk about failure and its relationship to risk and its relationship to our work.”

The start-up business world has even developed its own jaunty business-speak euphemism for failure, Casden noted.

When business people say “*pivot*,” it’s basically a nicer way of talking about failure. You’re saying, “The thing you were trying to do no longer makes sense. What do you do?” And it’s being sold as a central part of idea development and product development. I feel like the culture, at least around technical work, is shifting in a way that is more willing to accept failure as a part of innovative work.”

This hasn’t always been the case.

McGraw-Hill Professionals selected **Semantico**, a digital publishing solutions company, to revamp its AccessScience content platform. The online database will now be delivered through Semantico’s Scholaris platform.

Soutron Global has partnered with **EBSCO** to integrate EBSCO Discovery Services with Soutron’s Library and Knowledge Management systems. The agreement allows users to perform research within a single search environment.

OCLC launched its WorldShare Interlibrary Loan service in the United States. Libraries can register now, though expansions will continue to be made in the future.

Thomas Reuters announced its first Metrics Mania competition. Universities competing in the National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball championships will also vie for the best research center.

Reprints Desk Inc., a business software and information services company, began a new open access filter for its document deliveries. The filter will take users to the source of requested journal articles and identify open access content for them.

Failure “is something we don’t talk about very much. Especially in libraries, but also in IT in general,” said Fail4Lib participant Cynthia Ng, innovative technologies librarian for c & Archives (RULA), Toronto. “I find that in public institutions, there can be this resistance to failure, I guess because they see it as having wasted resources and money. And, of course, public institutions are getting budget cuts every year.”

Ng’s personal example was an issue tracking system (ITS)/support ticket system that RULA wanted library staff to use when they were experiencing technical problems. So far, the system has not caught on.

“We’ve had the issue tracker and the form up for more than half a year

now, and I can probably count on my two hands the number of times we've had a staff member report an issue."

In retrospect, she said, the pilot test of the ITS may have become too closely associated with a single project. Telling staff to use the system only for one specific project, while continuing to report all other problems in other ways, may have generated confusion and allowed old habits to become further ingrained as the system was rolled out.

"We're trying to learn from that right now, and we're coming out with a new approach and trying to push it again, especially now that we've up-

dated to a new version and worked out how we will do it."

The new approach will involve, in part, increased outreach efforts to explain to staff how the system works.

Participant Becky Yoose, discovery and integrated systems librarian for Grinnell College Libraries (GCL), IA, reviewed challenges that GCL faced when the time lines for two mission-critical projects collided during the summer of 2012. The library was working with Discovery Garden and had planned to have an instance of digital repository Islandora ready for launch by spring 2013.

GCL had also signed up to be an

early development partner with Innovative Interfaces Inc. for its Sierra Services platform. When Islandora required more extensive testing prior to launch, and Sierra moved to its beta test phase faster than GCL had anticipated, the staff suddenly found their hands full with two major projects that could not fail.

"We survived, mostly because we had planned a little bit for worst-case scenarios," Yoose said. Contingency planning included having two project managers assigned to each project, for example. At one point, this allowed Yoose to drop out of the Islandora project and shift her focus to the Sierra project.

Overcommitting can also lead to other issues, noted Erin White, web systems librarian for Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), Richmond.

While developing an instruction scheduler "as a young project manager, I didn't know how to say 'no,'" White said. People made lots of requests for tweaks and changes in the system, and White would take action without asking questions or standing her ground for the sake of the interface.

"It ultimately resulted in a bloated interface," she said. "Two years after we built it, we're still maintaining it, and I'm still cursing some of the decisions I made that allowed it to bloat. In some ways it wouldn't be considered a failure, because it's out there and being used heavily. But at the same time, it's just a huge burden."

At the preconference, White explained how that project had helped her learn "to look further down the road than just getting the project complete and to look for opportunities to standardize whenever possible."

Ironically, the inaugural Fail4Lib preconference workshop was such a success that a scheduling failure occurred. In three and a half hours, the group only made it through the first of several prepared discussion units.

People

Susan Brown was named Director of the Chapel Hill Public Library, NC. She was previously the Marketing Director for the Lawrence Public Library, KS.

The Juliette K. and Leonard S. Rakow Research Library of the Corning Museum of Glass, NY, named **James Galbraith** as its new Chief Librarian. He had previously been the Associate Director for Collections and Scholarly Resources at DePaul University, Chicago.

Pat Herndon joined Georgia Public Library Service, Atlanta, as the Director of Georgia Libraries for Accessible Statewide Services. Her previous position was as Manager for the Gwinnett County Public Library's Hamilton Mill Branch, Decula, GA.

Paul Peters was named the new President of the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA). He is one of OASPA's founders and served as the Chair for its an-

nual conferences for the past four years. He is also the Chief Strategy Officer for the Hindawi Publishing Corporation.

Joel Silver was promoted to Director of Indiana University's Lilly Library, Bloomington. He was previously serving as the Interim Director of the library.

The George Mason University Libraries, Fairfax, VA, has made two new hires: **Kathleen Butler** as its Science and Psychology Liaison Librarian and **Helen McManus** as its Public Policy and Management Studies Liaison Librarian.

Dominican University's Graduate School of Library and Information Science, River Forest, IL, announced three new faculty changes: **Janice Del Negro** was named Associate Professor, effective in the fall; **Sujin Huggins** was named Assistant Professor, effective immediately; and **Mary Minow** was reappointed as Follett Chair for the 2013-14 academic year.

In Memoriam

Susan Gilroy, an Online Librarian for the American Public University, has died. She'd been with the university for the past six years, after serving as Library Director for Travis Air Force Base, CA.

Christine Harris died on March 8 at the age of 59. She had worked as Acquisitions Manager for the San Francisco Public Library before her retirement.

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