

Morrison's *Bluest Eye* Challenged in AL Schools

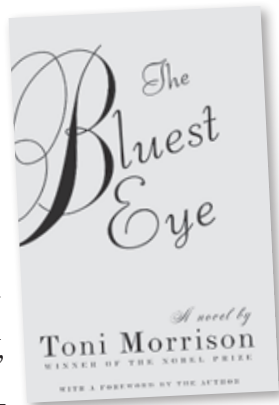
Toni Morrison's acclaimed novel *The Bluest Eye* (Holt, 1970)—which tackles such difficult subjects as racism, incest, and child abuse—could become the latest in a wide range of books that have been officially challenged in Alabama's 132 school districts in recent years, if State Senator Bill Holtzclaw (R-Madison) has his way. The book is included on the Common Core's list of recommended books for 11th graders, yet the legislator is calling for its removal from school libraries in the state, a position that has so far resonated with at least one local school board member.

"The book is just completely objectionable, from language to the content," Holtzclaw told Alabama Media Group's AL.com news site on August 28. According to Holtzclaw, a constituent had queried him about the book's inclusion on the Common Core reading list, and he has since brought the matter to the attention of State Superintendent Tommy Bice, AL.com reported.

Although Holtzclaw supports the implementation of Common Core in

Alabama—against the wishes of the state's Republican Party, which recently introduced a bill calling for the standards' complete repeal—Holtzclaw said he sees no value in requiring students to read the novel and that it should not be included on any required reading lists, AL.com reported.

School board member Betty Peters, who represents Alabama's District 2, agreed. She called the novel "pornographic" and "utterly inappropriate," according to AL.com.



The *Bluest Eye* is listed by the American Library Association as the 15th most commonly banned or challenged book during the years 2000–09 for its sexual content and, at times, graphic subject matter. However, the 43-year-old title has long been considered to be an important contribution to American fiction for its powerful themes and literary merit. It was named an Oprah's Book Club selection in 2000, and its author has been consistently praised for exploring similarly difficult themes in subsequent works. Morrison won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1988 for *Beloved* (Knopf)—itself the 26th most challenged book in re-

Interview

Neal Wyatt

In July, the American Library Association's



Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) presented *Library Journal* columnist Neal Wyatt with the 2013 Isadore Gilbert Mudge Award, which recognizes

"significant contributions to the field of reference librarianship."

Does one accomplishment stand out as a highlight of your career?

Whole collection [readers' advisory]—incorporating fiction, nonfiction, audio, video, comics, games, music, art, and more—and the creation of reading maps to illustrate these connections are two things I have been working on for a very long time.

What do you see as the future of RA?

Framing reference and RA as copartners in public service. When a patron asks about the American Revolution, David McCullough's *1776* or Jeff Shaara's *Rise to Rebellion* can offer as fine and fulfilling an answer as the best reference book. Being open to that possibility, to engage patrons in the most expansive of ways is the future of RA as part of reference—reference as a part of RA.

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Is Yours the Best Small Library?

Library Journal is seeking nominations for its annual Best Small Library in America award. Cosponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the award showcases the work of libraries that demonstrate outstanding service to populations of 25,000 or less (view eligibility requirements at ow.ly/oKBZD). The postmark deadline for nominations is October 14, 2013.

cent years—and she is also the recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature, in 1993, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, in 2012.

CHALLENGES IN ALABAMA

The Bluest Eye joins a motley crew of books challenged in recent years in Alabama schools and school libraries, according to a long-term study completed this summer by journalism students and reporters working at the *Anniston Star*. The list includes, but is not limited to, Pete Hautman's *Invisible* (S. & S., 2005), Janet Fitch's *White Oleander* (Little, Brown, 1999), Sheila Kitzinger's *The Complete Guide to Pregnancy and Childbirth* (DK, 1980), Jane Leslie Conly's *Crazy Lady!* (Harper-Collins, 1993), and Nicholas Sparks's *The Notebook* (Warner, 1996).

The statewide investigation was an exercise in public document retrieval for newspaper interns pursuing master's degrees in community journalism at the University of Alabama, a *Star* news editor, Tim Lockette, told *Hotline*.

Though records of challenged books are public information, nearly one-third of the schools contacted did not respond to reporters at all, according to Lockette. Other than the nine districts reporting challenges, 77 districts acknowledged no challenges and 46 districts did not answer repeated requests for records, he said.

Fortunately, according to the *Star*'s research, "Most of these books didn't get taken off the shelves," Lockette said. "They remained in the libraries."

"It's not our idea to go in and

judge the requests," he added. "It's more to spark a conversation. These decisions are being made. The community is talking about books. It's usually a good thing."

As for *The Bluest Eye*, its fate remains to be seen. According to AL.com, the Alabama Department of Education was planning to respond to Holtzclaw's request, although officials did not immediately reply to inquiries about the matter. Requests for comment to the senator's office were not immediately returned.

However, Holtzclaw told AL.com that his goal was not to ban books but to ensure this particular novel would not be required reading for any student, noting, "There is a slippery slope, and there are folks that will find objectionable material in widely accepted classic American literature."

Judge Eases Restrictions in Apple Price-Fixing Case

Judge Denise Cote signed the final injunction against Apple on September 5; the company was found liable in July for allegedly conspiring with publishers to fix the price of ebooks in the iBooks Store.

The final terms take much of the sting out of a series of penalties suggested by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), which Apple's lawyers complained were excessively harsh. Among the most stringent of the proposed remedies would have been the five-year appointment of an external monitor who would be responsible for ensuring Apple's compliance with antitrust laws, with the possibility of the moni-

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
Library Journal & School Library Journal

VP, Group Publisher Ian Singer

Editorial Director Rebecca T. Miller

Editor Meredith Schwartz

Contributing Editors

Sarah Bayliss, Ian Chant, Kate DiGirolomo, Matt Enis, Bette-Lee Fox, Karyn M. Peterson, Henrietta Thornton-Verma, Wilda Williams

Art Production Josephine Marc-Anthony

Creative Director Mark Tuchman

TO CONTACT HOTLINE:

Editorial

Phone: (646) 380-0700

Fax: (646) 380-0756/0757

E-mail: LJHotline@mediasourceinc.com

160 Varick Street, 11th floor

New York, NY 10013

Advertising

Roy Futterman or your LJ rep

Phone: (646) 380-0718

rfutterman@mediasourceinc.com

Classified

Howard Katz, Classified Manager

Phone: (646) 380-0730

Production

JoAnn Powell, Production Manager

Phone: (646) 380-0741

Subscriptions

Phone: 800-588-1030

www.libraryhotline.com/sub

Outside U.S.

Phone: 515-247-2984

LIBRARY HOTLINE (ISSN 0740-736X) (RPUSA 123397467) is published weekly (every Monday except on the two Mondays nearest to the year-end holidays) by Library Journals, LLC, 160 Varick Street, 11th floor, New York, NY 10013. Randy Asmo, Chief Executive Officer; Ian Singer, VP, Group Publisher. Library Hotline is a registered trademark of Library Journals, LLC. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. SUBSCRIPTION: \$119.99 per year, Canada \$159.99, Other (incl Air) \$159.99, Single Copy (U.S.) \$5.95, and Single Copy (all other) \$10.00. POSTMASTER: Please send change of address to: Library Hotline, PO Box 5881, Harlan, IA 51593-1381 Telephone 800-588-1030. Outside U.S. 1-515-247-2984.

Printed in the U.S.A.

**BIG
NEWS!!**

THE ANNUAL ARCHITECTURAL ISSUE HAS MOVED UP

LJ's building feature is now in the **NOVEMBER 15, 2013** issue. Submissions are due on **SEPTEMBER 23, 2013**.

Go to www.libraryjournal.com/PublicArch2013

Contact **Bette-Lee Fox** at blfox@mediasourceinc.com

Put Your Press Releases to Work



According to a marketing survey conducted by Library Journal last year, 94% of libraries count on media coverage to communicate with their communities, yet only 24% thought it was the most effective channel. It's no wonder. We know local newspapers are

pressed for space and are usually only interested in the big stories or calendar listings.

Don't despair — press releases can still be an effective tool to get your message out to your community, even if the local paper never picks up the story. You can pitch stories directly to your community through search and social media.

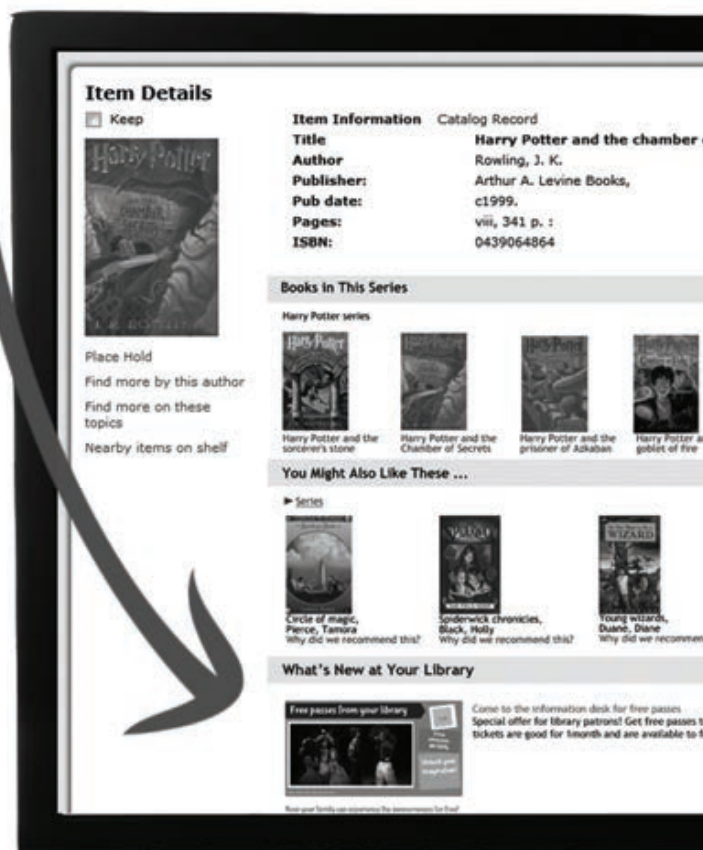
These 5 simple steps will help you increase the reach of your press releases:

1. Write a brief, interesting press release that reads like a great newspaper article. Make sure you include who, what, when, where, and why.
2. Write a dynamic title that demands attention.
3. Include a few keywords in the title and body to make it easier to find in an online search and link to relevant websites, including your own.
4. Post the release to your website with an individual URL.
5. Post the headline to Facebook and Twitter with a link back to the URL.

As you prepare for back-to-school, look to create press releases that combine the services you offer that present a solution to the problems faced by parents and students. Consider creating a series of articles on Common Core and how your library can help. Make sure you let parents know they can sign up for emails and get reading lists directly on their phones. This will probably be a topic your local paper will want to know more about as well, and could generate some great stories for your library.

Nancy Dowd is Product Lead for LibraryAware, a product from NoveList, a division of EBSCO Information Services.

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tor being required for up to five more years at the court's discretion. Another requirement that raised the hackles of Apple's lawyers would have forced Apple to allow other ebook retailers—such as Amazon and Barnes & Noble—to link their iOS apps directly to their own online bookstores, bypassing the iBooks Store and allowing consumers easily to compare prices.

In the final agreement, Apple lawyers and DOJ representatives compromised on some of the remedies

while jettisoning others altogether. While a monitor will still be required, the position will only be in place for two years, with the possibility of a one-year extension, and will primarily advise on training procedures for antitrust compliance, rather than reporting on Apple's day-to-day business. The plan to let other retailers link out to their ebook stores, meanwhile, was entirely scrapped.

A provision that would have forced Apple to end its existing deals with pub-

lishers has been softened as well. Rather than terminate the arrangements the company had with publishers, Apple will now be obliged only to “modify” them. The new agreement also narrows its focus to Apple's iBooks Store, ensuring that the DOJ won't try to regulate Apple's App Store more generally.

The measures outlined aren't meant to punish Apple but to help restore balance in the ebook market. From a legal standpoint, the DOJ's initial recommendation was something of a wish list from the plaintiffs, outlining the sternest measures the agency thought appropriate. According to antitrust lawyer William White, who has been following the case, judges commonly “split the baby” when rendering judgment in cases like these, meaning the final agreement was always likely to be a compromise between the two sides.

NEXT STEPS

That's not to say there won't be punitive damages, but those are likely still to come. While the DOJ is concerned mostly with ensuring that Apple plays fair in the future, a class-action suit is still aiming to recover money for consumers who feel they overpaid for ebooks thanks to Apple's pricing practices. Hearings over what sort of compensation Apple may be liable for to consumers are scheduled to begin in May 2014.

While damages against Apple remain an open question, the publishers named alongside the computer giant in the initial suit have already closed the book on the affair. Hachette, HarperCollins, and Simon & Schuster all reached settlement agreements in short order last year, while Penguin and Macmillan settled this spring. The final settlements will see Penguin and Macmillan pay a combined \$95 million, bringing the total of the settlements paid by all five publishers to just over \$164 million, damages those

Kid Lit Cartoonists Plan September Fundraisers for Oklahoma School Libraries

Later this month, cartoonists Jeff Kinney, Dav Pilkey, Lincoln Peirce, and Stephan Pastis will present “Drawn Together: Cartoonists Benefit Moore, Oklahoma School Libraries,” two fundraising events for the city of Moore at which the kid lit stars will discuss their inspiration and creative processes and answer questions from the audience. Moore was hit directly by an EF-5 tornado on May 20; it destroyed two elementary schools and partially collapsed a third.

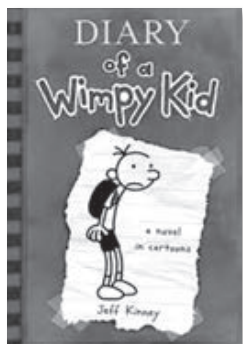
The event, which will run at Tulsa's Cox Business Center on September 27 and at the Lloyd Novel Center in Norman on September 28, is the brainchild of Kinney, award-winning author/illustrator of the “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” series (Scholastic), who wanted to help Moore's kids and teachers regain a sense of normalcy after the tragedy.

Kinney reached out to friends and fellow book creators Pilkey of the “Captain Underpants” series (Scholastic), Peirce of the “Big Nate” books (HarperCollins), and Pastis of the “Timmy Failure” titles (Candlewick), all of whom signed on without hesitation. All proceeds will benefit the Moore Public Schools Foundation for rebuilding the three school library collections that were damaged or completely destroyed by the tornado.

The two events are sponsored by Tulsa City-County Library (TC-CL), *TulsaKids* Magazine, Universal Uclick, GoComics, the Preservation Framer, the Metropolitan Library, the Pioneer Library, Scholastic Books, Abrams Books, HarperCollins, and Candlewick Press.

“These authors have never been together under one roof before,” said Gary Shaffer, TC-CL CEO. “This is going to be an awesome event for a most worthy cause. It's exciting to present these best-selling authors in Tulsa for the first time and to share in the rebuilding of school libraries.”

The event will include the sale of autographed books—200 donated from each author's publishing company—along with one-of-a-kind posters featuring artwork from each author. There will also be raffles of autographed original artwork from each author and other cartoonist memorabilia.



who brought the case hope will make publishers think twice before trying to game markets in the future.

“We believe that the injunctive relief agreed to in settlements with the publisher defendants, and the injunction imposed on Apple by the court yesterday, will ensure that competition is restored to the ebooks market and consumers can once again benefit from that competition,” said a spokesperson for the office of Texas attorney general Greg Abbott, one of 33 attorneys general involved in the case. “The injunctions provide mechanisms for monitoring the market activities of Apple and the publishers to prevent them from engaging in similar illegal conduct harmful to ebook purchasers in the future.”

Long Island Libraries Roll Out Custom App

New York’s Jericho Public Library (JPL), Hampton Library, and Mattituck-Laurel Library (MLL), located on Long Island, each recently launched customized versions of CapiraMobile, a new suite of native apps for Apple iOS, Android, Kindle Fire, and NOOK devices developed by Medford, NY-based Capira Technologies. Features of the service include a library card sign-up module that enables users to provide proof of residency remotely by taking a photo of a utility bill and a digital library card presentation module that allows patrons to display and scan their library card barcode using their mobile device.

The digital library card feature was “a big selling point” for MLL, according to Assistant Director Jeffrey Walden. Walden was familiar with barcode-displaying apps developed for retail loyalty card programs and had been searching for a similar solution for his library for about a year and a half.

The app also features direct ILS integration, self-checkout and remote re-

Deborah Bodner retired from her position as Head of Youth Services at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library, MI. She had been with the library since 1999.

Stephanie Robinson Borgman announced her retirement as Children’s Specialist for Harris County Public Library, TX, effective September 30. She has been in the field for 40 years.

Juliet Grames was promoted to Associate Publisher at Soho Press. She was previously Senior Editor for the company.

Karen Grigg was appointed Science Librarian at the University of North Carolina Libraries, Greensboro. She was formerly Collection Development Services Librarian at Duke

University Medical Center Library and Archives, Durham, NC.

Sarah Meisels announced her retirement from the position of Director of the Wheaton Public Library, IL, effective at the end of September. She has been in the field for 47 years.

Paula Miller was named Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at Columbus Metropolitan Library, OH. She was formerly CFO and Treasurer at Diamond Innovations Inc.

Daphne Silchuk-Ashcraft was appointed Director at the Orrville Public Library, OH. She was previously the Children’s Department Supervisor at the Medina County District Library, OH.

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newal capabilities, a searchable events calendar, and notification systems that enable libraries to send individual patrons reminders about items on hold, for example, or to push a mass alert to all users regarding special events or local emergencies. In addition, an integrated database module allows patrons to search a library’s digital resources within the app.

JPL director Barbara Kessler said that when they launched their app, one goal was to offer enhanced services to the many daily rail commuters in the library’s service area. JPL selected CapiraMobile because of its customizable design and features, as well as its ability to provide offline access to many resources, according to Kessler and Carlos Munoz, JPL’s head of technology services.

At JPL’s request, Capira recently developed a new “family card” feature for

the library’s app, which will allow families to link their library cards. Parents can then use the app’s digital library card to check out and return books and movies for their children, even when they don’t have their kids’ card handy. Patrons will have to sign a disclaimer form to enable the card-linking service, Kessler noted, but she expects the feature to be popular. “This was patron-driven,” she said.

The base price for the suite of native apps is \$8,500, although Capira negotiates discounts for small libraries and consortia. All packages include consultations regarding design, customization of the app to each library’s specifications, and integration with the library’s ILS and third-party content vendors.

“We meet with a library’s staff and talk about two pieces: one is the flow of the application. What menus do you want, what order do you want them in,



what kind of features do you want, what text do you want on certain screens?” said Michael Berse, managing member and lead software engineer for Capira Technologies. “The second piece is always from a graphical standpoint.... What are you thinking in terms of colors, design, layout?... We also handle all of the heavy lifting in terms of programming and integration.”

Like all of Capira’s founders, Berse comes from a library background. Pri-

or experience includes a stint as network and systems specialist at the Hauppauge Public Library, NY. Berse is also the former manager of IT services and information businesses at Media Source, Inc., *Hotline*’s parent company.

IMLS Awards Grant to Preserve Video Games

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded the

International Center for the History of Electronic Games (ICHEG) at The Strong (a combined museum, library, and archive of play) a grant in order to help preserve and curate a significant portion of its collection of approximately 50,000 video games and related artifacts, one of the world’s most extensive public collections.

“Over the past half century, video games have transformed our society. Museums and libraries struggle with the challenges of ever-changing technology to preserve that cultural legacy,” said ICHEG’s director Jon-Paul Dyson. The grant enabled the center “to test the functionality of approximately 7,000 games in the collection and ensure that we have all the necessary hardware and software to run the programs,” Dyson said.

“When we test the games, we also capture ten to 20 minutes of video of the game play for each game. This program of video capture has emerged as an important preservation tool.”

Dyson also notes that the grant is helping the center to pioneer methods that other institutions can use to preserve video games and record their impact on society.

2013 Hugo Awards Crown SF Winners

In San Antonio, at LoneStarCon 3, the 71st World Science Fiction Convention, John Scalzi and Brandon Sanderson were honored with 2013 Hugo Awards, one of sf’s most recognizable and prestigious literary prizes. The rocket ship trophy for Best Novel went to Scalzi’s *Red Shirts: A Novel with Three Codas*, a satirical look at a certain 1960s TV sf show, on which the lower-ranking crewmen of a particular starship always died on away missions. Sanderson’s *The Emperor’s Soul*, a stand-alone fantasy set in the same world as depicted in *Elantris*, was named Best Novella.

News in Brief

Columbia University Libraries, New York, received a \$175,000 Scholarly Editions grant from the **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)** for its *Selected Papers of John Jay*. The money will fund the publication of volumes four, five, and six of the project.

Ten finalists were chosen for the **New York City Neighborhood Library Awards**, which honor the role of libraries within communities: **Aguilar Library**, New York; **Corona Library**, Queens; **Kings Bay Library**, Brooklyn; **Macon Library**, Brooklyn; **New Dorp Library**, Staten Island; **Parkchester Library**, Bronx; **Queens Village Library**, Queens; **Seward Park Library**, New York; **Sheepshead Bay Library**, Brooklyn; and **Tremont Library**, Bronx.

Credo added three new Subject and Publisher Collections to its holdings: **Intelecom Intelligent Telecommunications**, an all-video database; the **Anthropology Collection**, which includes materials on archaeology, biological anthropology, and ethnography; and the **Sociology Collection**, which includes materials on social change, social psychology, social work, race and ethnicity, and urban sociology. It also updated 15 of its existing collections.

The **District of Columbia Public Library** was chosen for the **2013 Small Press Expo Library Gift Program** from the **Small Press Expo**, an exhibition of independent comics, graphic novels, and political cartoons. The

library received a collection of 63 graphic novel titles selected by its collections specialist.

The **National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)** and **University of Massachusetts**, Amherst, launched the **National Arts Policy Archives and Library**, a collection relating to the history of arts and cultural policy in the United States. It contains publications and research reports from the NEA and 38 years of records from the university’s arts extension service.

EBSCO Information Services debuted its **Ebook Business Collection**, a subscription collection of more than 9,400 business ebooks for student research and projects.

JSTOR added 12 new publishers to its **Books at JSTOR** program: **American Schools of Oriental Research**, Boston; **Amsterdam University Press**, Netherlands; **Georgetown University Press**, District of Columbia; **Hebrew Union College Press**, Detroit; **Liverpool University Press**, UK; **MIT Press**, Cambridge; **Rutgers University Press**, New Brunswick, NJ; **University of Georgia Press**, Athens; **University of Illinois Press**, Champaign; **University of Massachusetts Press**, Amherst; **University of Pennsylvania Press**, Philadelphia; and **University Press of Colorado**, Boulder.

RCN Publishing has made its nursing journals available on **Atypon’s Literatum** platform. Users can access content through both HTML and PDF versions and reference linking.

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Newcomer Mur Lafferty (*The Shambling Guide to New York City*) received the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Author.

Unlike other sf awards, like the Arthur C. Clarke award, the Campbell Awards, and the Kitschies, which are decided by an appointed jury, the Hugos are voted on by WorldCon attendees. *Guardian* blogger David Barnett reported that few awards divide opinion as much as the Hugos, which come under fire from critics every year both for their quasi-democratic voting system and their winners, who are, critics say, too often “The Usual Suspects”: the biggest-selling names with the most fans.

Still, Barnett argued that these awards serve a vital function. “Personally, I’ve always liked the Hugos, purely because they do follow the populist line. The sf world is richly represented by awards that honor different works for different reasons. The Clarkes go for the big, cerebral sf novels of the year. The Kitschies give a nod to the edgy and unconventional. The Hugos celebrate the popular. In a genre whose fanbase is often seen as elitist, this is a very good thing—especially when it comes to perhaps opening it up to a wider, mainstream audience.”

Dr. Seuss Ebooks Finally Available on September 24

Children’s classics such as *Green Eggs and Ham* (1960) and *The Cat and the Hat* (1957) will be available in ebook format for the first time beginning on September 24, said publisher Penguin Random House Children’s. Some 15 titles written and illustrated by Dr. Seuss (aka Theodor Geisel) will make their digital debut on that date, and by November a total of 41 ebooks will be available for children, parents, and educators. All the Seuss ebook titles will keep the



On September 3, the very busy Queens Library, Jamaica, NY (see *Hotline*, 8/26/13), opened the new library in **Glen Oaks** (pictured) on Union Turnpike. An award-winning project even prior to construction, the Marble Fairbanks–designed, three-story, 18,000 square foot library replaces the facility that was torn down in 2010; the library was originally founded in 1956. The \$17.1 million facility, funded by the city of New York, houses dedicated spaces for all three constituent groups: adults, children, and teens; computer workstations throughout the building; a sky-lit reading lounge; dual meeting and

program rooms; self-check kiosks; and an outdoor program area. For the project, artist Janet Zweig created a transparent, three-dimensional, two-sided, moving display LED sculpture, *North of the North Pole*, commissioned by the New York Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art program. The library, which increases the usable square footage of the old building twofold, has targeted Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification.

Also on September 3, Tulsa City-County Library opened the **Librarium**, initially designed as a location for the continuation of service during the Central Library’s two-year renovation. The 22,000 square foot Librarium “will showcase the latest in new library service, technology, and equipment, to meet the changing needs of the 21st-century customer.” The branch features a considerable e-materials collection, along with Wi-Fi-enabled printing. The collection eschews Dewey in favor of bookstore subject configuration. The facility features self-service checkout plus a Maker space, a technology discovery table, tablet computers for in-library use, a business center, 40 public access computers and free Wi-Fi, an automated holds locker service, mobile customer assistance through handheld-equipped staff, a materials sorter, and automated self-checkout for DVDs. The Central Library renovation, which will begin this month, will include major upgrades to the 135,000 square foot building, to the tune of \$47.8 million.

Photo courtesy of Queens Library

Send information on groundbreakings and ongoing and completed building projects to blfox@mediasourceinc.com

original layouts and iconic illustrations from their print editions.

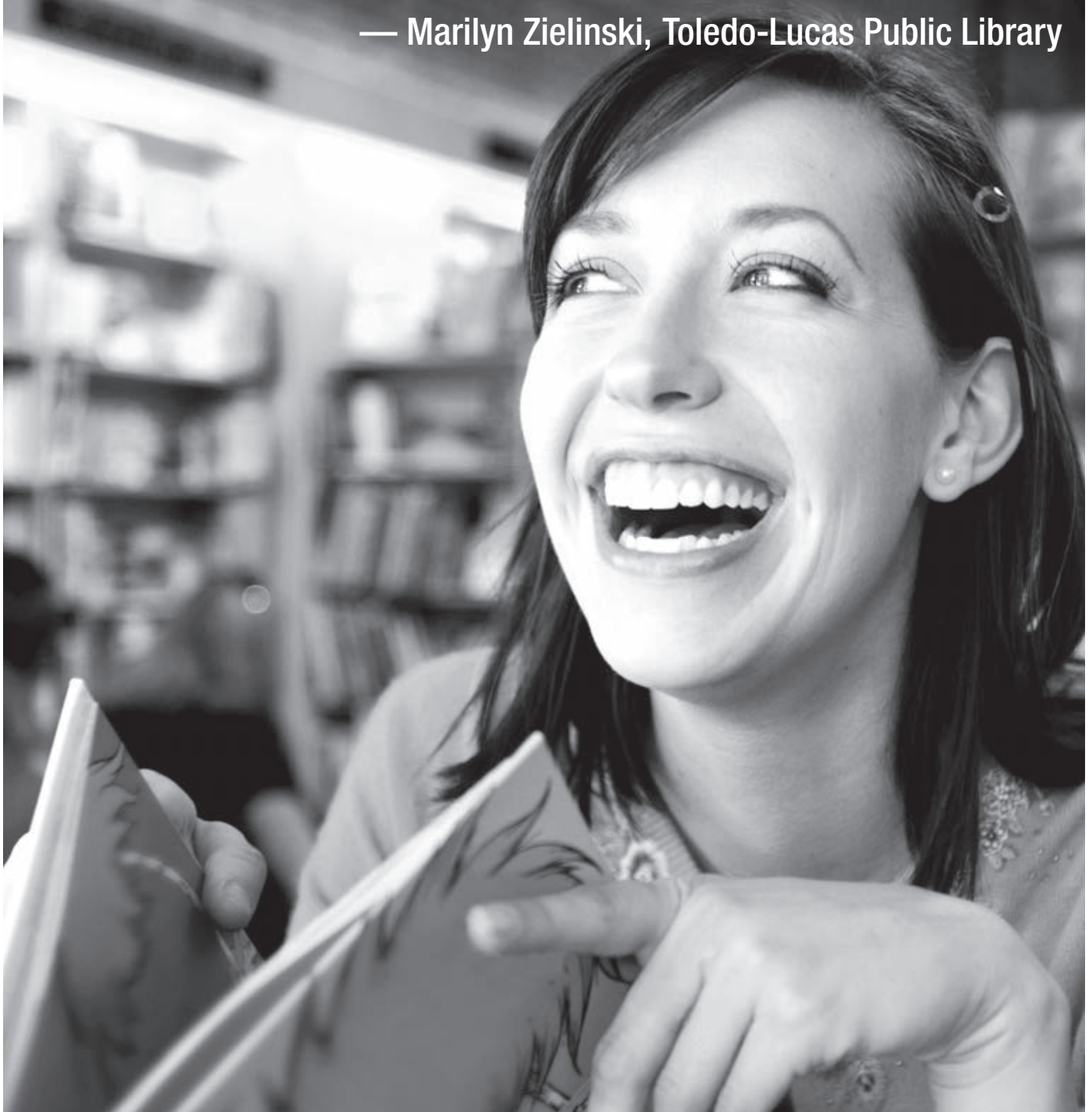
The digital versions will be published simultaneously with Read & Listen editions that feature brand-new audio recordings of the full text.

“The introduction of ebook editions to the Dr. Seuss canon is an exciting milestone that we know will enhance

Dr. Seuss’s legacy,” said Susan Brandt, president of licensing & marketing for Dr. Seuss Enterprises, L.P. “When Dr. Seuss wrote *The Cat in the Hat* more than 50 years ago, he revolutionized the way children learn to read. Today, we celebrate that his impact on reading will thrive for generations to come with these new ebooks.”

“It’s convenient, fast, and saves
our staff **A LOT OF TIME.**”

— Marilyn Zielinski, Toledo-Lucas Public Library



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