

ALA Pulls Accreditation from SCSU MLS Program

After years of struggling to get its house in order, the Master of Library Science (MLS) program at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU), New Haven, lost its American Library Association (ALA) accreditation last week. While faculty and administrators hope to take the withdrawal as an opportunity to focus their efforts at revitalizing the troubled program, the loss of ALA accreditation is a serious blow to the school.

According to interim dean of graduate studies Gregory Paveza, the withdrawal was owing to ALA's continuing concerns regarding faculty productivity at SCSU, as well as worries that the curriculum was not sufficiently up-to-date to be relevant. The ALA's Committee on Accreditation (COA) also expressed concerns that SCSU was not listening enough to students and failed to incorporate feedback from students and alums to make changes to the program.

SCSU had been conditionally accredited since 2010, but documents released showed problems with the program dating back as far as 2003, when its ALA-accredited status was renewed. After being put on conditional

status in 2010, SCSU was responsible for developing a plan to bring the program up to ALA standards. "After several iterations, the COA accepted the plan put forward by the faculty," said Paveza. "The faculty had been moving ahead with that plan."

Not quickly enough, it would seem. At its summer meeting ending July 1, the COA made the decision to withdraw SCSU's ALA accreditation. SCSU appealed that decision, but on October 27 the COA denied that appeal, and SCSU's MLS program was stripped of its ALA accreditation.

Karen O'Brien, director of the Office of Accreditation at ALA, described the decision to withdraw SCSU's accreditation as a difficult one but necessary. "This was one of the toughest reviews I can remember a panel having to do," O'Brien told *Hotline*. "It's disappointing when a program doesn't meet our standards and accreditation has to be withdrawn."

The decision is not necessarily a death knell, said Paveza. There is no official impact on graduates, and the 134 currently enrolled students will have two years from the date of the withdrawal to complete the program and keep their status as having attended an ALA-accredited program.

Paveza is hopeful that foreign stu-

Interview

ALA's Pat Scales

Pat Scales, chair of the American Library Association's (ALA) Intellectual Freedom Committee, fields readers' questions about school library censorship.



A teacher in my high school can't do a unit on telling fact from opinion because some parents complained.

Has your school district adopted Common Core

State Standards? These support your case for the unit.

I developed programming based around bullying but was told it had no place in middle school.

Let the principal know that creating awareness doesn't mean that the school has a problem, but the school does have a problem if it doesn't help students understand these social issues.

A teacher told students they weren't allowed to read a book that wasn't in our library. What do I do?

Turn to the policy manual of your school district. This teacher is clearly allowing her personal beliefs to abridge the rights of kids to choose books that interest them.

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Parents Challenge Allende in NC6



Paralibrarian of the Year

Library Journal will honor one support staffer with the 15th annual Paralibrarian of the Year award, sponsored by DEMCO, in its March 1, 2014, issue.

Learn more to submit your nominations at ow.ly/qKztF.

Postmark deadline: January 13, 2014

dents, as well as those living in states that don't require librarians to graduate from a program certified by ALA, will continue to sign up for SC-SU's online program, but he admits that the school's ability to attract students will likely be diminished. Connecticut residents will now be forced to leave the state to pursue an MLS, as SCSU's program was the only ALA-accredited one in the Nutmeg State. With that seal of approval removed, students will have to look at programs in neighboring states like Massachusetts and New York—and the increased tuition and time spent commuting that comes with them.

Asked whether this marks the beginning of a tougher stance on accreditation from ALA, O'Brien told *Hotline* that the reasons behind a program moving to conditional accreditation status can vary widely. "Programs are clear on what's at issue, what's at stake, and when a decision to release them from conditional status or withdraw their accreditation will be made," she said. But, she added, "It's good for programs...on conditional [status] to know that that is not just words."

YALSA Badges To Gauge Youth Librarians' Skills

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) has been working tirelessly to finalize the soft launch, now set for later in November, of its long-awaited badging program, which aims to provide a uniquely interactive opportunity for skill-building in its seven Competencies for Librarians Serving Youth.

"We're getting closer and closer," said Linda Braun, the project's manager. "And the dream is that by the [American Library Association] Midwinter [Meeting in January 2014], it will be full-fledged, and we can say, 'Here, come participate!'"

For the beta stage, YALSA is using "a bit of an agile approach," with a mix of school and public library staffers, administrators, consultants, and library school students lined up to try out the site and directly email their feedback to her project team, Braun explained.

To earn a badge in a particular competency area, a participant—regardless of career level or library specialty—must prove his or her knowledge by creating and then posting an original "artifact" to the site, which could be anything from a Twitter professional learning network to a plan for a new program to a video, Braun said. YALSA expects that to create most of these artifacts, potential badge-earners will have to work directly with teens and their own local community.

"We...wanted to use the YALSA competencies; that was the foundation for the badging project," Braun said. "We wanted to make sure that we could have online continuing education, self-paced, that would give library staff working with teens the opportunity to participate in this format. We loved the idea of visual credentialing."

YALSA is counting on these visual elements—both the badges themselves and what Braun's team hopes will be an expansive collection of artifacts from participants—to have a big impact in the wider world, not just among those in the profession, Braun said.

LIBRARY REFERENDA

If you had/are having a referenda for capital improvements and/or operating funds between December 1, 2012 and November 30, 2013, tell us how it turned out at www.libraryjournal.com/referenda.

The results will be included in *Library Journal's* feature in April 15, 2014.

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“It’s that kind of visual that [we] hope that employers and academic institutions will start to recognize as much as they recognize grades or other kinds of systems,” Braun told *Hotline*. “These badges can be used by employers, potential employers, and academic institutions. That’s actually a big movement, really helping to get this idea out there that you can learn these skills online, you can gain skills and competencies, and we’re going to give you this very visual opportunity to show what you know.”

YALSA’s program got its start in April 2012 through the fourth annual Badges for Lifelong Learning competition, sponsored by Mozilla with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Advanced Collaboratory.

“One of the things we learned—and it was a great learning experience—was what we really needed on the back end: a learning management system. And we had to have an evaluation system,” said Braun. “So we’ve developed rubrics and all these activities; people will post their artifacts, members of the community will give them thumbs up or thumbs down and comments. Based on the rubric, once they get to a certain number, they will be awarded the badge.”

Dept. of Commerce Seeks Input on Digital First Sale

In advance of a public meeting scheduled for December 12 in Washington, DC, the U.S. Department of Commerce sought public comment from all interested stakeholders on the issue of first sale doctrine and digital files, including ebooks.

The agency, along with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, will be considering “the legal framework for the creation of remixes; the relevance and

Toronto’s Kitchen Library Brings Appliances to All

Patrons have long been able to borrow a cookbook from the library. In some places, they can even borrow a cake pan to go with it. But what if that cookbook calls for a pasta maker, food dehydrator, yogurt maker, or other piece of specialized kitchen equipment they don’t already possess? Now, if they’re in Toronto, they’re in luck, since the city is home to the Kitchen Library (pictured), a new nonprofit kitchen tool lending library. For a \$50 (Canadian) annual fee, members can borrow space-taking and often expensive kitchen appliances for three to five days. The library, which opened October 15, is currently open 20 hours, four days a week, including weekends. At present, the collection includes about 40 items.



The Kitchen Library was founded by Dayna Boyer, who also works full time as the senior web and copy editor in the communications department of Toronto’s George Brown College. Boyer got the idea from the Toronto Tool Library (TTL), whose 1,900 square foot East End branch also houses the Kitchen Library. TTL, which launched in March and is run by the local nonprofit Institute for a Resource-Based Economy (IRBE), has a collection of close to 2,000 hand and power tools, enabling its 300-plus members to do everything from yard work to plumbing. According to Ryan Dymont, executive director of IRBE and a TTL co-founder, TTL was inspired by similar initiatives, especially the Tool Lending Library, which has been part of California’s Berkeley Public Library system since 1979.

Boyer, a TTL volunteer, was helping the organization with its website and social media efforts when it occurred to the cooking and baking enthusiast that a similar program for kitchen items would be great “for big-city living, where people tend not to have a lot of space.” In August, Boyer presented her idea to Dymont, who was enthusiastic, and, said Boyer, “He immediately offered the Kitchen Library space in the new branch of TTL,” which was due to open in October.

Currently the Kitchen Library has about 20 members, some of whom are also members of TTL; Boyer hopes membership will increase to about 100 by the end of the year. The fledgling Kitchen Library has five part-time volunteer staffers and a three-member board, which Boyer predicts will also grow within the next few months.

While Boyer would love to see the inventory expand, she plans to limit the collection to small to medium-sized appliances, to ensure the library’s collection remains accessible to space- and cash-strapped urbanites: “The biggest pieces of equipment we have are the countertop roaster and the KitchenAid stand mixer. All of the items can be carried by just one person, and we’re pretty close to public transport. We don’t want anything that will require anyone to rent a vehicle,” she said.

Photo by Corbin Smith.

scope of the first sale doctrine in the digital environment; the appropriate calibration of statutory damages in the contexts of individual file sharers and of secondary liability for large-scale infringement; whether and how the government can facilitate the further development of a robust online licensing environment; and establishing a multi-stakeholder dialogue on improving the operation of the notice and takedown system for removing in-

fringing content from the Internet under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA),” according to the notice published in the *Federal Register*.

Mary Minow, Follett Chair of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Dominican University, and executive editor of Stanford University’s Copyright & Fair Use website, encouraged librarians to contribute their voices to this important issue. Although the case did

not involve digital content, the Supreme Court’s *Kirtsaeng v. Wiley* decision in March, “has reawakened interest, on the content owners’ side, to revise first sale,” Minow told *Hotline*. “Perhaps that’s even part of the impetus behind this call for public comment. The energy is there to revise copyright law in its entirety, including first sale. If libraries aren’t speaking up about what it is that we need, we’re just going to be bulldozed...”

Under U.S. law, once a person buys a print book or DVD boxed set, the book or DVDs are theirs to do with as they see fit. In theory, without the first sale doctrine, people would have to ask for a publisher’s permission to resell a college textbook or even to give a book as a gift. In order to lend books, U.S. libraries would potentially have to compensate copyright holders each time a print book circulated, such as under a public lending rights system, which is the norm in more than two dozen countries outside the United States.

The Department of Commerce encouraged librarians and other interested parties to file comments electronically before the November 13 deadline.

MELSA, 3M Let Consortia Share Ebooks More Easily

In partnership with Minnesota’s Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA), 3M has developed CloudLink, a new feature for its ebook lending system for consortia. Many consortial arrangements involve member libraries contributing ebooks to a common pool that patrons from all libraries can use. In addition to this functionality, CloudLink enables any patron from any MELSA library to check out ebooks from the private collections of any other MELSA library, provided there a holds list does not exist for the title.

“The Twin Cities Metro Area has a long history of resource sharing,” said

Branching Out



Augustana College, Rock Island, IL, has converted 39,000 square feet of its Thomas Tredway Library and added 35,000 square feet to create the **Center for Student Life** (pictured). The \$21 million project, designed by BLDD Architects, includes dining facilities and a rehabbed student center in order to provide “a unique fusion of social interaction, study, and recreation.” Reducing space devoted to book displays, adjustable compact shelving was installed. The new amenities include a larger coffeehouse, an outdoor patio, student organization offices, a reading and writing center, a computer lab, private and group study space, a digital game room, a three-story fireplace, and a 700-person-capacity multipurpose room. With expansive use of natural light and

a more energy-efficient scheme, the library has achieved Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design certification.

The **San Antonio Public Library (SAPL)** has collaborated with the **Southwest School of Art (SSA)** to create within SAPL’s Central Library the **Marie Swartz Art Resource Center**, which opened on November 12. The center encompasses 4,500 square feet on the library’s second floor. The focus is on access to print materials, periodicals, and art databases for SSA students and the general public. The construction cost of \$200,000, which features new carpeting, electrical upgrades, track lighting, and new furnishings, among other changes, was underwritten by Mary Elizabeth Droste, who established the Droste Library and Resource Center at SSA.

November 2 marked the opening of the new **East Boston Branch** of Boston Public Library (BPL). The \$11.3 million, 15,000 square foot facility features an open floor plan, 55 public access computers, Wi-Fi access, a multipurpose room, and an East Boston history room. The dedicated children’s space has an early literacy nook, the first in the BPL system; the teen zone provides a new service area in the East Boston neighborhood. The building, designed by William Rawn Associates, has a reading porch that offers views of the Boston skyline.

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

Susan Nemitz, director of the Ramsey County Library. At the suggestion of Nemitz, MELSA approached 3M with the CloudLink concept. "We share our collections, and we serve each other's patrons."

Currently, unless a publisher has a policy that prohibits consortial lending, the CloudLink system will allow ebooks to be checked out by patrons from any library. It tracks which titles and publishers have consortial lending restrictions in place and prevents those titles from circulating outside of a library's private ebook collection. Via the holds list function, it ensures that the patrons of a particular library have the first opportunity to read new ebooks. Patrons of other member libraries can't place holds on these titles.

For example, "If [MELSA member] Washington County Library buys a Hachette ebook, only people from Washington County can check that out," explained 3M Cloud Library market-

Keng Wee Chuang was named Sales Director for Asia at Innovative Interfaces. He was formerly Senior Director at RealNetworks.

Rose Huling, Bookmobile and Outreach Coordinator at the Morse Institute Library, Natick, MA, received the John Philip Award for "outstanding contributions and prominent leadership by an individual in Bookmobile and Outreach Services." It was presented at the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services conference, held October 9–11 in Baton Rouge, LA.

Elena McVicar, Youth Services Librarian at the Bluford Branch, Kansas City Public Library, MO, received the Missouri Library Association's Outstanding New Librarian Award. She has been with the library for 18 months.

Mary Jane Mannherz announced her retirement as Director of the Margaret R. Grundy

Memorial Library, Bristol, PA, effective December 31. She first took the position in 1975.

Kenneth Sheinbaum announced his retirement as Director of the Monmouth County Library System, NJ, effective December 31. He has been with the library for more than 41 years.

Lori Ward Smith was promoted to Director of the Jackson–George Regional Library System (J-GRLS), MS. She was previously Manager of the Pascagoula Branch of J-GRLS.

Denise Soufi was named Middle Eastern Cataloger at the University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill. She was previously Islamic Manuscript Cataloger in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University, NJ.

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ing manager Tom Mercer. If a title is purchased from a publisher that permits consortial lending, “only people from Washington County can place a hold on that ebook, but once it’s sitting there underutilized, anybody across the consortium could check that book out.... Users are only presented with titles that they can check out or place holds on.”

Ramsey County had seen 105 percent growth in ebook circulation during the past year, but prior to the CloudLink beta test, patron choice was limited and users faced long waits, said Nemitz.

“To be honest, over the last year, the user experience has not been great,” she said. “Our ebook collection is the only collection where we have

more registered users than materials.”

CloudLink now enables Ramsey County’s patrons to access 60,000 other ebooks available via their MELSA partners, in addition to the 6,000 ebooks that the library had already purchased, Nemitz said. “We have seen our holds list diminish greatly.”

3M and MELSA recently concluded their test of the system, Mercer said, and 3M is now planning to offer the feature to other interested consortia for an additional fee.

“This idea that you can still service your community first and then share across your consortium is something that’s really resonating with a lot of people,” he said. “And from the libraries’ standpoint, they really like the collaborative nature of it.”

NC Parent To Appeal Over *The House of the Spirits*

The parent who objected to the use of Isabel Allende’s novel *The House of the Spirits* (Knopf, 1982) in North Carolina’s Watauga High School vowed she will appeal the decision of a school advisory committee that voted unanimously on October 25 to retain the book as part of the curriculum, the local *Watauga Democrat* reported October 26. Under school policy, an appeal must be filed within 15 days of the school committee’s ruling.

Notably, however, the parent also said more recently that she felt the book should not be banned, only that it should not be required reading for students, according to the *Watauga Democrat*.

Allende’s award-winning debut novel, a work of magical realism, tells the story of three generations of the Trueba family through triumph and tragedy. It was originally published in Spanish as *La casa de los espíritus*. It has been translated into more than 20 languages.

The parent filed her complaint—which, the *Watauga Democrat* had reported, centers on concerns that the book’s “challenging themes and ideas” are lost among graphic descriptions of violence—with the Watauga County Board of Education on October 14. The challenge to the book was met with national opposition in recent weeks.

In Watauga County, the challenge will go before a school committee, a Board of Education review committee, and, finally, the Board of Education at large. Decisions made by the board apply to all schools in the system.

An appeals panel including a media specialist, principal, and teacher from around the district has been appointed; the appeal will be heard at a date yet to be determined.

News in Brief

The nonprofit **Copyright Clearance Center** added 16 new publishers to its **Get It Now** service. Alcohol Research Documentation, Allerton Press, Allied Health, American College of Chest Physicians, American Psychiatric Association, American Society of Agricultural and Biology, American Society of Nephrology, Annals Publishing, British Editorial Society of Bone and Joint Surgery, Endocrine Society, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, Innovision Health, Oncology Nursing Society, Science & Medicine, Society of Leukocyte Biology, and Summit Business Media are now available through the service.

American Public University System received the 2013 **Creative Use of Technology Award** from the Association for Continuing Higher Education for its 21st Century New Millennia Textbook Engagement Project, which created online companion guides for academic courses.

Publisher **Gale** added 200 new children’s reference titles from *Encyclopaedia Britannica* to its Gale Virtual Reference Library.

A new **Patent and Trademark Resource Center** opened at the J. Robert Van Pelt and John and Ruanne Opie Library of Michigan Technological University, Houghton.

The **Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Library Alliance** received a grant from the **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** to assess library services for faculty research at HBCU.

Baker & Taylor (B&T) has partnered with the **Illinois State Library**, Springfield, and **Reaching Across Illinois Library System** to provide ebook services for the eRead Illinois project. The program will give state libraries access to a shared ebook collection through B&T’s Axis 360.

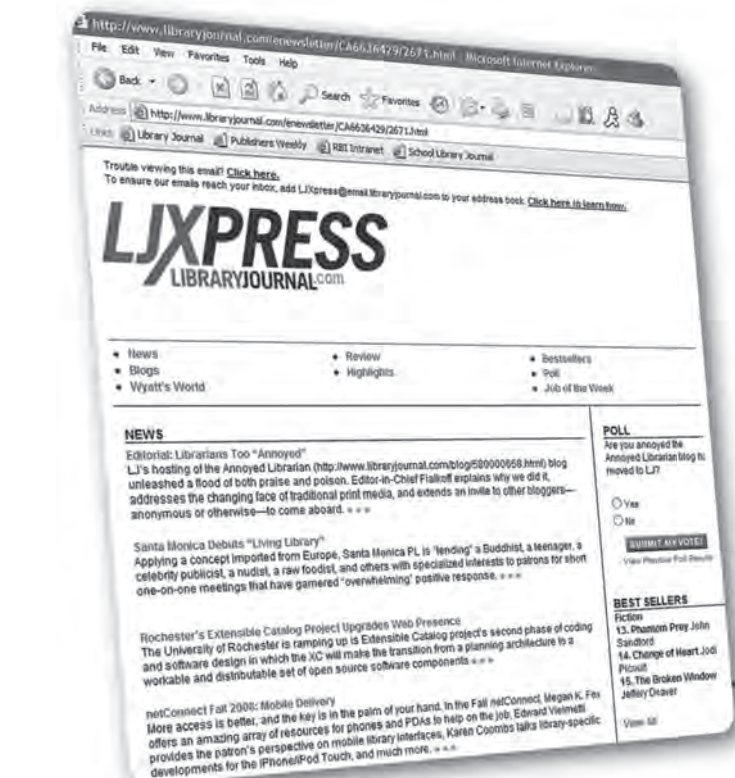
The **University of Cincinnati** joined two consortia—**Hydra** and the **Academic Preservation Trust**—in the hopes of building its own digital repository.

Tyler Public Library, TX, selected **Innovative Interfaces’ Sierra Services Platform** with integrated patron-empowerment capabilities to help users access its collections.

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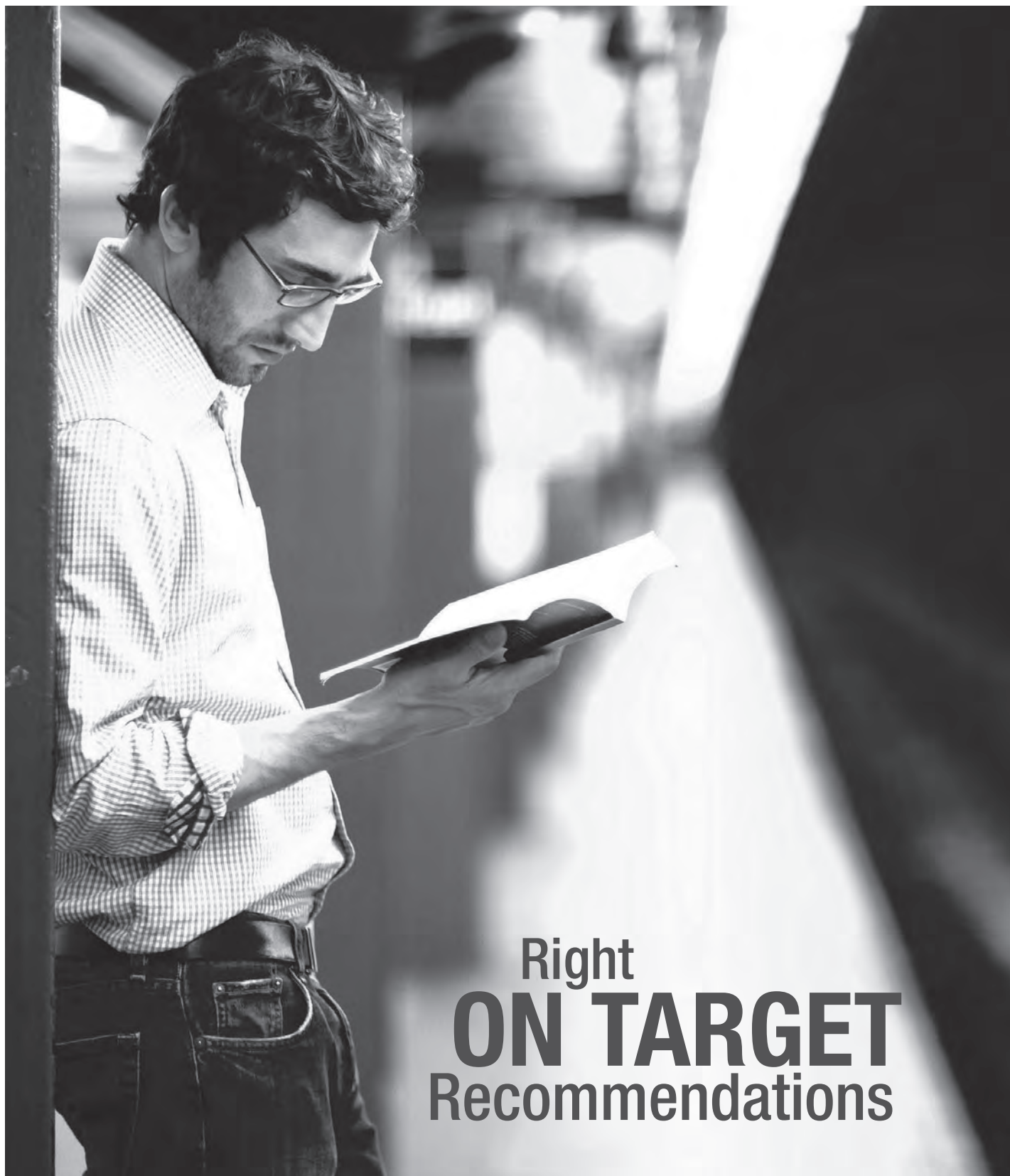
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