

BookCon To Expand to Two-Day Event in 2015

This year, the industry trade show BookExpo America (BEA) opened its doors to nonindustry types, giving readers one day to flood New York’s Jacob K. Javits Convention Center and connect with literary superstars at BookCon, a fan-driven event that grew out of the previous years’ Power Readers Day. While BookCon was a hit with many, bringing thousands of readers out to fill the show floor and rub elbows with their favorite authors, the event was not without some hiccups. Changes are already in store for next year’s iteration.

More than 10,000 industry aficionados, including librarians, publishers, and booksellers, were on hand for the BEA portion of the event, while BookCon was a sold-out show, moving all 10,000 tickets that were made available. Organized by ReedPop, the pop culture-focused arm of Reed Exhibitions, which hosts BEA proper, BookCon took cues for its feel from the company’s more established outings, such as the New York Comic Con (NYCC), emphasizing the chance for fans to interact with authors in events such as panels and Q&A sessions. And, of course, attendees had the opportunity to pick up some free swag.

“For us, BEA and BookCon were a terrific three days,” said Penguin Random House spokesperson Stuart Applebaum. “Our two children’s divisions were thrilled by the fan frenzy over their authors at BookCon, and all of us were very glad about the many opportunities we had for our authors to meet librarians and booksellers at our BEA booths’ book signings,”

The frenzy that resulted will be familiar to anyone who has attended the events that BookCon used as a model. “The show floor is eerily similar to NYCC, and I’m beginning to suspect that all ReedPop conventions look exactly the same,” youth services librarian and comics blogger Ivy Noelle Weir wrote in a post about the show. That vibe didn’t sit well with many attendees who had complaints about lines and crowds in the Javits Center. At the Bawdy Book Blog, reviewer Jennifer James described the lines for author signings as being “like a horrible mosh pit without any good music to justify being there.”

Next year, BEA will run from Wednesday, May 27, to Friday, May 29, and BookCon will be in full effect on Saturday and Sunday, May 30–31. The hope is that expanding the schedule will alleviate some of the criticisms that attendees had about crowds and lines.

“To those that had complaints

Interview

Gene Yang

When author Gene Luen Yang discovered obscure comic character the Green Turtle, he realized he had possibly unearthed the first Asian American superhero. In *The Shadow Hero* (First Second, Jul. 2014), Yang and illustrator Sonny Liew reimagine the hero as Hank Chu, the son of Chinese immigrants in San Francisco.



Where did the Green Turtle begin?

He was created in the 1940s by Chu Hing, one of the first Asian Americans in comics. Rumor is Chu wanted to make

Green Turtle Chinese American, but his publisher wouldn’t let him.

How does Hank Chu become a hero?

Hank’s journey mirrors the process many immigrants’ kids go through to become American. They’re torn between a culture they’ve experienced through their parents’ stories and a mainstream culture that is both alluring and hostile.

Do you think that diverse superheroes resonate with readers?

I hope so. As a superhero fan, I find myself reading more diverse superheroes, maybe because more of them exist now.

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about BookCon—with lines, crowding, etc... Those complaints were valid and this split will allow us to mitigate all of those issues,” BEA event director Steve Rosato said in a blog post.

But making the two events separate also means publishers will have to pay twice for a seat at the table—once for BEA and once for BookCon—which makes exhibiting a pricey proposition and perhaps prohibitively so for smaller publishing houses. Dennis Johnson, founder of Melville House Press, said BookCon was a good experience that helped the publishing house get in front of a lot of readers—especially young readers—whom it wouldn’t ordinarily reach.

Even though the experience was positive, the cost of exhibiting, which had prevented Melville House from coming to BEA for the last five years prior to 2014, remains a concern for the press. According to Johnson, that’s especially true with the split into two events driving those prices up next year. “We’ll be doing it next year, though we’re extremely distressed about the pricing,” Johnson told *Hotline*.

BookCon’s ups and downs started even before the doors of the Javits Center swung open. The one-day event got off to a bumpy start earlier this year, when a lineup of all white authors prompted a social media uproar calling for more diversity in the slate of guests scheduled for BookCon. The response included a hashtag campaign, #weneeddiversebooks, that attracted loads of media attention. It

also resulted in the creation of a well-attended panel at BookCon, addressing the need for more diversity in literature for kids and teens.

EBSCO Integrates with Infotrieve Mobile Library

EBSCO Information Services and Infotrieve this month launched a new partnership that will pair the metadata and search functionality of the EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) with the e-content access and management features of Infotrieve’s Mobile Library, enabling “mutual customers to combine their search, content access, rights management, and document delivery into one platform,” according to a joint announcement. Essentially, the deal will let researchers purchase immediate access to content that shows up in EDS search results but to which they don’t already have full text rights.

Infotrieve serves more than 8,500 clients in 113 countries, including corporate research and development departments, pharmaceutical firms, and corporate libraries. Its Mobile Library service is a cloud-based document delivery service offering access to e-content including databases, research literature, and corporate repositories.

Prior to this new arrangement, EDS had always linked to Mobile Library content, but the relationship was a passive one, explained Joe Tragert, EBSCO’s senior director of market development. This new integration will streamline the discovery

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Library Hotline Is Moving Downtown

Please note that as of July 21, the staff of *Library Hotline* will be settling into new offices in New York City’s Financial

District. Our emails, phone numbers, and fax numbers will remain the same.

However, please plan to send materials for review and other mail to our new address: 123 William Street, Suite 802, New York, NY 10038.

and downloading of content, whether it is accessible via an existing subscription or must be purchased in a pay per use scenario.

When users conduct a search via EDS, one of their most common objectives is getting access to a full-text resource, Tragert said. EDS automatically queries a library's rights metadata against a users' search results to point the user toward any full-text resources to which their institution subscribes. Of course, EDS also discovers and displays citations for relevant content even when an institution does not have a subscription to a particular electronic journal or other means of access to the full-text version. Many corporate customers of EDS wanted a simple way for their researchers to buy that content when needed. The integration with Mobile Library facilitates those transactions.

"The main integration benefit is that if you're a Mobile Library customer already, you can now access ten times the content with EDS," Tragert told *Hotline*. By itself, Infotrieve searches about 60 million citations, while EDS searches about 750 million.

"And you can access it through the familiar EDS interface," he added. "After we've done that full-text filtering to decide whether you can get [access to] the full text immediately with money you've already paid or subscriptions you already have, the Mobile Library tool kicks in to assess the digital rights requirement, the price you'd have to pay, and then facilitates the delivery of that document directly."

This simplified search, discovery, and download process could also help drive more use of Mobile Library, which would in turn enhance data collection by Infotrieve's content usage analytics, license and subscription administration, and budget management services, noted Christine Wyman McCarty, director of product management for Infotrieve.

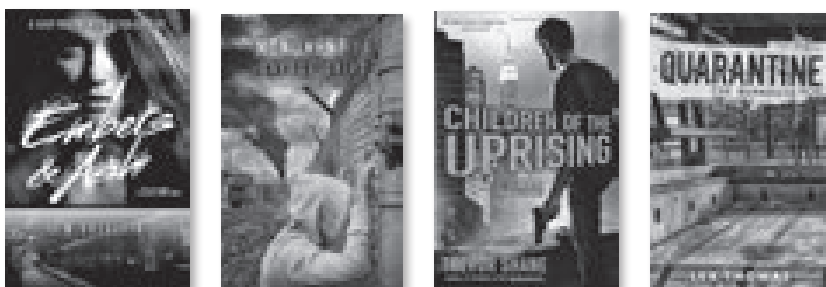
Collections for Juveniles on the Inside

Amy Cheney is a librarian and advocate, serving the underserved including students in juvenile halls. A 2006 Library Journal Mover & Shaker, she instigated YALSA-Lockdown, an electronic list for librarians serving youth in custody. Here she talks about the collection needs of these special patrons.

Few people are aware of what really goes on inside juvenile prisons, even though the United States incarcerates more youth than any other nation in the world. Incarcerated youth may be unable to see the big picture. Designing a library collection for them is a special challenge and one that requires input from the young people who will be using it to get it right.

When I give guests a tour of my library one of the first things they notice is the way it is organized—the entire library is geared toward people of color. Because that is who is in here.

I always say, and make very clear, this is because of disproportionate minority confinement. Youth of color are overrepresented at nearly every point of contact with the juvenile justice system—and this disproportionate minority contact is disturbingly persistent over time. Youth of color are more likely to be incarcerated and to serve more time than white youth, even when they are charged with the same category of offense.



That means we have to make sure our collections are geared toward these kids and make an effort to reflect their experiences. I have the popular African American fiction section, a Latino section, biography, horror, and sf—all of these feature books as much as possible by, for, and about people of color. The holdings are labeled with 21 different genre stickers to help readers identify titles of interest. Toni Morrison is not in the popular African American section, she is in the classics section, because my library assumes that people of color want to see themselves in all genres.

I have a catch-all group, which is actually where most of the white authors' books live. John Green's titles are there, although few of my patrons really read them. The most popular titles right now are T.M. Goeglein's heart-pounding Mafia action-adventure *Embers & Ash* (Penguin, 2014); Emmy Laybourne's disaster-packed survivor story *Savage Drift* (Feiweil & Friends, 2014); Trevor Shane's *Children of the Uprising* (NAL, 2013), and Lex Thomas's next entry in the war and intrigue "Quarantine" series, *The Burnouts* (Egmont USA, 2014).

While I also include titles such as Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* in this section. In my institution, it is critical that I understand the worldview of my teens and how they approach YA lit, however unusual it may seem to youth librarians serving those in outside populations.

If you're looking to add diversity to your YA collection, or build one that considers your community's demographics, consider titles like Nell Bernstein's *Burning Down the House*. A passionate advocate for children, Bernstein highlights teen's voices and experiences throughout the book, which adds humanity and insight to the statistics. In fiction, new titles from Patrick Jones and Na'ima Robert will feature on my shelves, and Coe Booth's new middle school book *Kinda Like Brothers* could go on to win both the Coretta Scott King and the Newbery awards.

“As researchers are asking for documents, behind the scenes [Infotrieve is] gathering detailed usage statistics,” she explained. “So we have information on the site the user is associated with and the department that the user is associated with. And for organizations that are facing budgetary pressures, these statistics are hugely valuable.”

Departments can leverage these usage statistics in a number of ways.

Justifying the maintenance or cancellation of subscriptions to journals and other resources is one of the most straightforward uses. Presumably, simplified access to a much broader pool of content could offer new insights into which resources a company’s researchers would prefer to use.

This new arrangement is the latest of many partnerships that EBSCO has been brokering with EDS, includ-

ing integration efforts with integrated library system (ILS) vendors such as SirsiDynix, OCLC, Innovative Interfaces Inc., and Kuali OLE. Tragert said this partnership with Infotrieve reflects how EBSCO is working to position EDS for use in special libraries and businesses.

“We’re looking at other segments in the same way, where we’re not going to be the core value stream provider, but we’re going to partner with those that are,” Tragert said. “Because EDS has such a vast array of content, it appeals and applies to so many places. With the [application programming interface] that we use, it’s easy to plug it in to somebody else’s application and therefore plug into their workflow.”

Software Solutions Help Readers and Librarians

It wasn’t too long ago that people thought reading books on a computer could never replace the real, ink-and-paper feel of a good old-fashioned book. And while people continue to appreciate books in their traditional form, sales of Amazon’s Kindles topped \$4.5 billion last year, according to research by Morgan Stanley. More telling, though, is how normal it seems to read a book on an electronic device. But scientists and developers haven’t stopped there. New technology continues to challenge our notions of what we read, how we read, and who has access to reading.

Researchers at Stony Brook University (SBU), NY, have developed a program that they say can predict future best-selling books, by tracking similarities in style, word choice, and sentence structure that have been shown to exist among books that are already best sellers. They say they’ve achieved an 84 percent success rate when applying their program to already published books.

Branching Out



forward with a renovation and expansion project that will double the size of the library. Under the guidance of Minneapolis firm Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, the 88,000 square foot facility will grow to 168,000 square feet during the \$50 mil-

The 93,000 square foot main facility of the **Boulder Public Library**, CO, has been undergoing a multiphase renovation, which began earlier this year. The \$3.73 million project, designed by Studiotrope Design Collective, is supported predominantly through a 2011 bond measure. The effort, which is looking to a late 2014 completion, includes renovating and relocating the children’s space; developing a larger teen area; upgrading and moving the fiction, music, and movie collections; updating electrical systems; repairing the clerestory windows; making Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)–compliant improvements; replacing worn-out flooring; and adding a café. The curved glass wall to the north of the library entrance will be enhanced with the sculpture *Yes!* (rendering), by Florida-based artists Rosario Marquardt and Roberto Behar.

The *Library Journal* 2005 Library of the Year, **Fayetteville Public Library**, AR, has received approval from its Board of Trustees to move

lion effort. The plan would include the addition of a bridge over Rock Street, a Maker space, a 750-seat auditorium, enhanced print and AV collections, and new computers. Public comment on funding options and other features is being sought through meetings to begin in late summer.

In mid-June, ground was broken for the new 3,000 square foot **Cochranon Area Public Library**, PA, which will reside in the parking area behind the present facility, according to the *Meadville Tribune*. Roche Builders will undertake general construction on the \$550,000 project. The current library inhabits multiple locations, from community rooms in an 1800s house to the main library being in a former government building that dates from the 1940s. A capital campaign was begun in 2011 after structural issues were discovered. The new building will incorporate a community room and provide wireless Internet access. Once the new structure is complete, the existing building will be demolished.

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Michael Santangelo, the electronic services coordinator for BookOps, which handles selection, acquisitions, management, and distribution for New York Public Library (NYPL) and Brooklyn Public Library (BPL), said he'd be excited to try another tool that helps make the selection process easier. A 2011 *Library Journal* Mover & Shaker, Santangelo is already using the CollectionHQ service at NYPL and BPL for three years

"It uses evidence-based inventory management so you can see what's going and not going in your collection, so you can remove what's not moving," Santangelo said of that service, though he also noted that "we love technology to move us further along in the process, but we don't want to remove the person from the decision."

While a best seller predictor may influence what we read, a new app is aiming to change how we read, by using an old method of speed-reading and reworking it for the technological age.

News in Brief

Alumna **Alice Hastings Murphy** gifted the **University at Albany Libraries**, NY, with \$1 million. The money will be added to the university's Harry and Louise Clement Hastings Fund.

Queens Library, NY, received **Most Innovative Broadband Project** at the first **New York State Broadband Champion Awards**. It was honored for its work lending Google-powered tablets.

Ferguson Library, Stamford, CT, switched to **Innovative's Sierra Library Services** platform. It was previously using **LibLime's Koha** system.

The **Free Library of Philadelphia** received a grant from the **Pew Center for Arts & Heritage Exhibition and Public Interpre-**

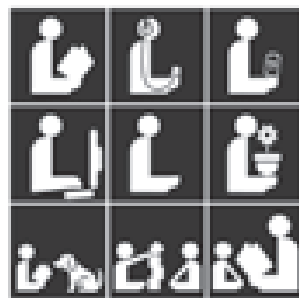
How Do You Library?

Jorge Luis Borges once famously proclaimed, "I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library."

While no single image can represent the diverse range of services modern libraries offer—never mind the diverse communities they serve—the well-known national library symbol can be repurposed, remixed, and reimagined by anyone to express their version of "Paradise," and that's exactly what #howilibrary is all about.

Are your patrons avid readers? Is your library the place where they discover new music and/or movies? Do they take full advantage of story time, Maker spaces, or free Internet access? Does your library double as a gym, tech center, or your community's third place? With this 21st-century community engagement initiative, we're encouraging patrons and librarians alike to reimagine the national library symbol and to share their love for their favorite libraries using the #howilibrary hashtag anywhere their community might see it!

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Spritz, an app available for mobile devices, shows a quick succession of single words, which developers say cuts the time your eyes spend searching for words on a page, can increase your reading speed, and is ideal for

reading text on small screens.

Barbara Chaparro, a professor at Wichita State University, KS, has authored several studies about the rapid serial visual presentation (RSVP) technology used by Spritz and said the app could be a good way to read on a mobile device. The app has already received criticism from experts who say reading comprehension suffers as the rate of words per minute increases, but Chaparro said speed wouldn't necessarily be the goal for users of the app—the usefulness may lie in its ability to be employed on tiny screens, such as Google Glass monitors or smartwatches. Also, Spritz can be set to run at 250 words per minute, which is about the average reading speed. "That's what RSVP was originally developed for, people who wanted to speed-read," Chaparro said. "But they weren't really thinking of these kind of applications at that time."

Higher Ed Show Support for Common Core

The Common Core is set to change the way that K–12 education is administered across the United States. Or at least it was, until a backlash from ed-

tation. The money will support its **Framing Fraktur** contemporary art installation.

OverDrive entered agreements with several European publishers to distribute new content to its customers. More than 30,000 ebooks have added for library use.

The **California Room** of the **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library**, San Jose, CA, was given a **2014 Imagine Award by the Native Daughters of the Golden West**. The award was presented during the organization's annual convention.

Brooklyn Public Library received a two-year grant from the **New York Life Foundation**. The money will expand its **Brooklyn Connections** program, which offers students access to archival materials about the borough.

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ucators and politicians put the new set of education standards on hold in some states and rolled them back entirely in others. Now, higher education officials, who had previously been largely absent from the debate, are speaking up in favor of the standards and working to remind educators and parents why these stricter standards were agreed upon by 45 states in the first place.

The Common Core standards were developed in collaboration among educators, parents, and state and local governments, with the National Governors Alliance and Council of Chief State School Officers leading the development. The goal, according to the Common Core website, was to create “a set of clear expectations to ensure that all students have the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in college, career, and life upon graduation from high school, regardless of where they live.” That makes the standards important to higher ed professionals as well.

Most recently, college and university administrators across the country have formed the group Higher Ed for Higher Standards (HEHS) in response to attacks on Common Core. At press time, more than 200 higher education officials from across the country had signed on to show their support for the standards.

“At the heart of Common Core, it’s intended to ensure that larger proportions of high school grads are ready to do college-level work. At present that’s not the case,” University of Maryland chancellor Brit Karwin told *Hotline*. “As a result, too many students come to higher education needing to do remedial work that is very expensive and can be an impediment to getting a college degree.”

Karwin, who has signed on as a supporter of HEHS, is among a number of higher education leaders who have spoken up about the need for states to embrace the Common Core standards, which he said will result in

Leesa Benggio was appointed Acting Director of the South Carolina State Library, Columbia. She was previously its Deputy Director.

Susan Dillinger, Director of New Port Richey Public Library, FL, was named Librarian of the Year by the Florida Library Association. She has headed the library since 1990.

Mark Hasskarl was appointed Director of the New Milford Public Library, CT. He previously held the same title at Danbury Public Library, CT.

Rachel Hendrick was named Operations Manager of *Choice*, a publication of the

Association of College and Research Libraries. She was previously a Project Manager for Sotheby’s.

Rick McCarthy has stepped down from his position on the board of the Gail Borden Public Library District, Elgin, IL. He has been on the board for over 25 years.

Sara F. Slymon was named Director, the Public Library of Brookline, MA, following the retirement of **Chuck Flaherty**. She previously held the same title at Turner Free Library, Randolph, MA.

In Memoriam

Josephine F. Villata, former Assistant Librarian at Iona College, New Rochelle, NY, died on May 13. She was 92 years old.

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high school grads who are more prepared for college and spend less time and money taking remedial classes when they get there. A mass departure from those standards, he said, “would be a calamity.”

As it becomes clear how difficult some of the standards may be to meet, though, some educators are crying foul or asking for more time to implement Common Core. Meanwhile, some state politicians are experiencing cold feet about the program and pulling out altogether. The growing charge away from Common Core began in Indiana, which had, ironically, been an early supporter of the program.

These departures, which strike many observers as being driven by politics rather than policy, are bad news for American education, Karwin told *Hotline*.

When Indiana backed out of Common Core, Gov. Mike Pence suggested that the state’s exit could provide a model for other state governments. “I believe when we reach the end of this

process there are going to be many other states around the country that will take a hard look at the way Indiana has taken a step back, designed our own standards,” Pence told reporters at a March 24 signing ceremony for the bill that eliminated Common Core standards in his state.

In the months since, other states have indeed followed its lead, with South Carolina governor Nikki Haley signing a bill on May 30 rolling back Common Core requirements in that state, and Oklahoma governor Mary Fallin following suit on June 5. And those rollbacks are emboldening Common Core opponents in state legislatures nationwide.

To Karwin, that sounds like a worst-case scenario and one that could have grave impacts for America’s educational system and beyond.

“We face a great social issue in our country tied to the undereducation of the American public. It threatens national economic competitiveness,” Karwin said.



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