

Louisville Libraries Train Talent for Tech Jobs

Kentucky's Louisville Free Public Library (LFPL) is teaming with government agencies, nonprofits, and businesses in its community to teach people to develop websites and program software—and, once those skills are honed, getting them placed in tech jobs around the region.

Like many cities, Louisville hosts a thriving technology sector, but companies have had some trouble addressing shortages of qualified software developers, a perennial problem in the industry. In fall 2013, former LFPL director (and *Library Journal* 2010 Librarian of the Year) Craig Buthod and LFPL director of communication and outreach Julie Scoskie met with Michael Gritton, executive director of the workforce investment nonprofit KentuckianaWorks. The aim of the meeting was to figure out ways that LFPL's license for the online education tool Treehouse could enhance the city's existing workforce training efforts, with a particular eye to filling Louisville's programming positions.

The result was Code Louisville, in which local employers detail the pro-

gramming knowledge that applicants will need to fill specific job openings and sometimes provide mentors to assist in training programs. Local residents who wish to participate and learn these skills can access the Treehouse online training at no cost via



an LFPL card. Code Louisville has already attracted national attention, with President Barack Obama recently visiting the city to laud the program as a model for the administration's Tech Hire initiative.

Buthod retired last year, but Code Louisville is going strong, according to interim LFPL director Lisa Sizemore, who said the initiative is a hallmark of the library's commitment to community education and lifelong learning.

Treehouse offers a solid platform

for Code Louisville thanks not only to the quality of its training modules but also to its portability, which makes it easy for folks to get started at the library and then continue at home or elsewhere, learning to code where and when it fits their lives.

City and local government agencies provide funding support as well as coordination functions, with KentuckianaWorks leading the project and managing the collaboration of trainees and mentors already working in Louisville's tech sector. Trainees complete the 12-week courses in website and mobile software development in their own time, then meet in two-hour weekly classes in which they have the opportunity to interact more closely with mentors.

The classes are open to anyone. Code Louisville is attempting to recruit candidates who are underrepresented in the tech industry or otherwise might not get a chance to learn the high-tech skills that are in demand from employers in the area.

So far, the approach is working, with women making up 41 percent of applicants, well outpacing their representation in the tech workforce. In the long term, Code Louisville also aims to become an established pool of local tech talent from which busi-

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Digital Shift: Libraries Connecting Communities

Library Journal and *School Library Journal* are looking for a wide variety of program proposals for this virtual event, to be held on October 14, 2015.

Visit www.thedigitalshift.com/tds/call-for-proposals-the-digital-shift-2015/

Deadline for submissions is May 12.

nesses can hire. To effectively recruit the first few classes and ensure they can provide support when needed, staffers at LFPL branches had to become more familiar with Treehouse.

“Frontline staff were given information about Treehouse and encouraged to log on and view videos,” said Sizemore. “All staff were given talk-

ing points so they could answer questions and...explore.”

A few took their familiarization to the next level, putting their new skills to use creating digital resources for the library, including new mobile apps for both Android and iOS that have improved patron access to library materials—while also saving LFPL thousands of dollars in development fees.

“The positive response from the community and local businesses has exceeded our expectations,” said Sizemore. “The results helped KentuckianaWorks secure a federal grant to extend Code Louisville to surrounding counties.”

Since it launched in late 2013, more than 160 people have enrolled. The latest expansion to the program, funded by a federal grant of nearly \$3 million, will see Code Louisville partnering with nearby Jefferson Community and Technical College, which will offer certificates and credit equivalencies for people who complete the program. In addition, information company the Learning House will be offering an intensive coding boot camp to participants later in 2015. The current goal of the program is to have 850 Code Louisville participants employed by local tech companies by 2018.

Faculty Rallies To Support UO Archivist

More than 100 faculty members at the University of Oregon (UO) have signed a letter to the university administration supporting archivist James Fox, who has been informed that his contract will not be renewed in June. Fox, along with digital archivist Kira Homo, is at the center of a controversy involving the release of over 22,000 pages of unfiltered UO presidential archives to professor of economics Bill Harbaugh in November 2014.

The material, part of the Special Collections and University Archives at

Interview

Roger Jänecke

Hotline recently spoke to Roger Jänecke of Visible Ink Press about trends in reference and how his company has responded to them over the years.



Visible Ink Press started in 1989. What changes to the reference market have you noticed?

Visible Ink started as a unit of Gale, and we spun off in 2000 just as the Internet was influ-

encing the reference market. Today, it's not enough to provide information that people want on a particular topic. Subjects need to elicit a passion or interest that can't be satisfied with the Internet... The desire for information hasn't gone away...but looking for the quality or depth of content found in books (or a visit to the local library) requires extra motivation.

Can you tell us about your niche and how you're making it work?

When we settle on a topic, we try to make the books engaging. We're information junkies, but we also like a good story. All of our titles are clearly references—they always have multilevel indexes and bibliographies, for example, but we try to present information so that it can be read cover to cover. Not all subjects lend themselves to a narrative approach, of course, but those that do tend to have greater appeal, and it has become a factor in deciding whether to cover the topic.

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- Social space and opportunity for shared experiences
- Integration across institutions and their systems

SUSTAINABLE

- Accessibility on any device
- Streamlined workflows and tasks
- Enduring architecture for future technology and emerging trends

PERSONALIZED

- Individualized engagement
- Responsive to personal profiles and preferences
- Easy access to the right resources



Knight Library, located on UO's campus in Eugene, included emails, reports, and other papers relating to the administrations of four former UO presidents. UO administration has publicly stated in a number of university documents that the material was released without oversight for compliance with state and federal privacy laws.

Harbaugh has taught economics at UO since 1995 and chairs the budget and finance committee of United Academics, the UO faculty union. He also writes a blog about the university, *UO Matters*, and often consults public records about the school's finances, athletics, and governance. In November he emailed the UO special collections department with a request to access the presidential archives.

As Harbaugh described the transaction to *Hotline*, an archivist instructed him to provide a USB key for transfer of the material, advising that he "should understand that there may be confidential documents in there that are protected by FERPA [the Family Educational Rights and

Privacy Act] or some other law, and you're responsible for not releasing those documents." As a public institution, Oregon law requires that UO release information upon request.

Two weeks later, special collections returned Harbaugh's USB key, loaded with a couple of gigabytes' worth of documents. He found what he was looking for: a 2012 memo from UO's then-general counsel sent to 2012 interim president Bob Berdahl and several others that proposed dissolving the university senate, although the plan was never carried out. Harbaugh posted the memo, along with his own commentary, on *UO Matters* on January 4.

In January, Harbaugh received a letter from Doug Blandy, senior vice provost for academic affairs. The letter stated that the material was provided to him in violation of state and federal law and demanded that he return the USB drive to UO dean of libraries Adriene Lim, destroy any and all copies he had made, and remove any documents that he had posted online.

"The incident itself," Lim later explained, "was more of a data breach, because we have policies and procedures regarding the breach of FERPA-protected personal information.... What I really had to do was follow university policies."

On January 20, UO interim president Scott Coltrane sent an email to colleagues announcing that "a significant number of archived records from the President's Office have been unlawfully released. These records contain confidential information about faculty, staff, and students, but our current understanding is that no social security numbers, financial information, or medical records were shared."

Fox and archivist Homo were placed on administrative leave pending investigation into the documents' release. In a statement on March 25, UO spokesman Tobin Klinger announced, "The employees related to this incident will not be returning to their positions in this library."

Fox, previously a non-tenure track associate professor in UO's history department and the university's Robert D. Clark Honors College, had been the director of UO special collections and university archives since 1999. He worked with such noted collections as the papers of authors Ursula K. Le Guin and Ken Kesey. "Under James Fox's leadership," the letter of support noted, "Special Collections and University Archives—recognizing the lack of a viable records management program at the UO—created the first position in records management on this campus, located it in the library, and raised funds for it."

Homo was a UO employee for the past eight years and had served as the special collections digital archivist since 2010. She was also secretary of United Academics.

Fox, said UO professor emerita of English and environmental studies Louise Westling, has not been permit-

People

Stephanie Anderson was promoted to Assistant Director for Public Services at Darien Library, CT, effective July 1. She was previously the Head of Reader Services.

Sarah Campbell was promoted to Executive Director of Portland Public Library, ME. She was previously its Associate Director.

Pat Conley has retired as Director of Washington County Library, Woodbury MN. She

has been in the position for more than 11 years.

Wilma Grey announced she will retire as Director of Newark Public Library, NJ, later this year. She has held the position since 2005.

Sherry Sakovich is now Director, Decatur Public Library, AL. She previously worked at Alabama's Huntsville-Madison County Public Library and Birmingham Public Library.

In Memoriam

Steve Hanschu, Research Librarian and Instructor at the William Allen White Library at Emporia State University, KS, died on April 10. He was 62 years old.

Hikyung Yoon Lee, retired librarian at Princeton University, NJ, passed away on March 17. She was 80 years old.

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ted access to campus—including his office—without supervision. Homo, according to a statement on United Academics' website, resigned in March to pursue a graduate degree full-time.

Harbaugh has been vocal about Fox being unfairly targeted for the office of the president's lack of oversight when depositing the documents into the archives. "They're trying to find a scapegoat," he told *Hotline*, "and I'm not that scapegoat because I've got tenure."

"We respect the faculty's right to support their colleague," Lim said in a statement to *Hotline*. "Mr. Fox's contract was not renewed, however, for reasons unrelated to his work with faculty or special collections. Given that this is a personnel matter, we are not in a position to comment further."

NetObjex Enters Market with SmartLibrary

Newport Beach, CA-based NetObjex, developer of turnkey "Internet of Things" (IoT) device management solutions for commercial enterprises, recently announced the launch of SmartLibrary, a system that enables libraries to transmit targeted, location-relevant messages to their patrons' smartphones and mobile devices. IoT is a new area of computing and includes smart devices such as beacons and sensors that enable machine-to-machine communications. The company joins library app developers Capira Technologies and BluBeam, with each separately having announced the launch of beacon services in fall 2014.

Beacons are small, coin cell battery-powered wireless devices that transmit Bluetooth signals within an adjustable range of one foot to 250 feet. For example, a beacon placed in a library's computer area could be programmed to send a schedule of upcoming computer courses only to patrons who approach or enter the area.

Using Comics To Teach English-Language Learners

Dawn K. Wing, media and reader services librarian (pictured, a comic book rendering of herself) at Suffolk County Community College, Selden, NY, discovered the power of graphic novels as a language-learning tool while teaching English in Japan in 2006. As a non-Japanese speaker, she was encouraged by colleagues to learn more vocabulary by reading manga or comics.

From 2008 to 2011, Wing taught English as a Second Language (ESL) at Pan American International High School in Elmhurst, NY. Fortunately, she had colleagues and literacy coaches who were already experienced in creating curricula around teaching graphic novels like Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis* (Pantheon) and Gene Luen Yang's *American Born Chinese* (First Second) that supported English-language learners' (ELL) development in multiple literacies. Wing developed curricula that enabled students to practice their English-language skills across all modalities by reading and creating visual narratives.

From survey results gathered at the beginning of the semester, Wing realized most of her 11th grade intermediate and advanced ESL students wanted to learn more about world history. Using online educator resources such as the International Literacy Association's Read Write Think website, she decided to teach Art Spiegelman's *Maus* (Pantheon), the Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel about his father, a Holocaust survivor.

To help students understand the historical context of the story, Wing did in-class activities about Polish ghetto life. During class, students read aloud select pages from *Maus* while writing thoughts and responses to questions in reading guides Wing created. They were prompted to review what happened in a scene, foreshadow what might happen later, and analyze the symbolism Spiegelman used in the story. Students were asked why they thought the author chose to represent Jews as mice and Germans as cats and how this device was effective to convey key concepts.

After collectively analyzing *Maus*, students were asked to write a comparative literary essay using this story and another work of literature. Wing created a packet that scaffolded the essay writing process to help prepare students for the required New York State English Language Arts Regents exam.

Students enjoyed producing personal narrative comics about their experiences immigrating to the United States and learning English. The opportunity to combine text with pictures enabled them to communicate the complexities of their stories while integrating new vocabulary into their writing.

To guide students in creating coherent narratives, Wing provided templates with panels and word prompts containing transition words and phrases. They also went over key vocabulary words relating to places, travel, and immigration. She created handouts with sentence prompts that served as drafts for students to practice their writing, as well as drawings that they were able to use as practice templates to read, review, and self-correct with guidance.

Wing's students were genuinely excited about this project as it was a way for them to be heard and to share with others how they were dealing with their current circumstances. When they saw their comics project complete and published, many wanted to send them to parents still living in their home countries to let them know how they were doing in the United States.



A separate beacon might be deployed in a local café or commuter rail station to transmit more general messages about the library and upcoming events. Beacon messages also facilitate sharing. An individual can easily forward a message about an upcoming event to a friend who might be interested, or post the event on social media platforms if he or she plans to attend.

In a message sent to *Hotline*,

NetObjex officials added that the system works with beacons/sensors from any vendor and can also be used for asset tracking, or to generate “heat maps” of patron traffic and activity within a library building by gathering data on the number of messages that were sent by each of its beacons during a specific time frame.

The NetObjex SmartLibrary is a cloud-based platform as a service

(PaaS) that includes a suite of components for using the IoT devices, including a content management system for creating messages, a point-and-click device registry and admin interface for controlling the beacons/sensors, an analytics service, and a custom mobile app that patrons can download to begin receiving messages.

NetObjex is currently beta testing LibrarySmart with two library systems and expects it to be widely available beginning in June.

Branching Out



The last of three projects approved in 2007 as part of the Better Denver Bond Program, the **Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales Branch** (pictured) of the Denver Public Library opened on February 28. Named for Denver native Gonzales (1928–2005), a poet and civil rights activist who worked for educational, economic, and political equality for Denver’s Latino community, the 27,000 square foot facility was designed by Studiotrope Design Collective “as a community space that will bring residents and visitors together in new and special ways,” said recently retired city librarian Shirley Amore. The \$14 million building is clad in steel, concrete, glass, plastic, and stucco, with powder-coated aluminum bands of bright colors “meant to symbolize the ‘threads’ of diversity,” according to the

Denver Post. Amenities feature a children’s Story Tower, a cantilevered reading area, an open courtyard, and a coffee bar. The energy-efficient structure—featuring daylighting, reflective roofing, and subfloor air distribution, among other elements—is seeking a minimum of Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification.

The **William T. Cozby Public Library**, Coppell, TX, is looking toward a major renovation. Established in 1974 and in its current Town Center location since 1995, the library has big construction plans that include the addition of 6,000 square feet of space, the renovation of the existing 28,000 square feet, the development of extra parking, and the reconfiguration of the entrance and exits. The estimated yearlong, \$7 million effort, designed by Hidell and Associates Architects, will begin in September.

The renovation of the **Jamaica Plain Branch** of the Boston Public Library will begin on August 1. This first overhaul in nearly half a century will include the creation of a 700 square foot glass-walled reading room and computer lounge, according to the *Jamaica Plain Gazette*. The effort will also feature a new teen zone and an enhanced children’s area. Additionally, the library will now house a dedicated Maker space, with access to a 3-D printer and graphics-editing software. The project is helmed by Boston-based architects Utile, Inc.

S. & S. Donates Ebooks for National Library Week

In a promotion launched April 8, publisher Simon & Schuster (S. & S.) donated a free electronic copy of Academy Award-winning producer Brian Grazer’s new book, *A Curious Mind: The Secret to a Bigger Life* (pictured, page opposite), to school and public libraries for every ebook or hardcover book sold at retail, up to 5,000 copies. The book, coauthored by three-time Loeb Award-winning journalist Charles Fishman, chronicles the “curiosity conversations” that Grazer (*Splash; A Beautiful Mind*) has conducted for decades with accomplished individuals from Barack Obama to Jonas Salk and Amy Tan.

Interested librarians signed up through OverDrive, which facilitated the promotion, and as part of the deal were also registered to receive one of ten autographed copies of the print version.

MARKETING WITH A CAUSE

The promotion came about, explained S. & S. VP and associate publisher Richard Rhorer, “when the author challenged us, saying that he would love to have a cause marketing campaign for his book like the one by TOMS shoes [which helps a person in need for every product purchased]. We came up with the idea that we would donate one copy for every copy

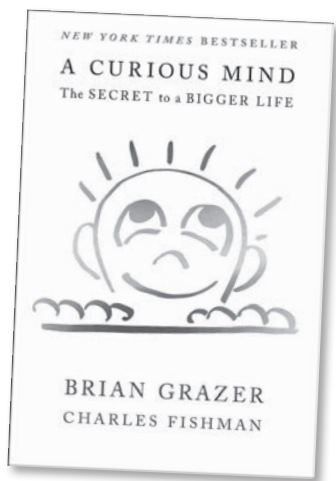
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bought and thought that the best possible cause would be the library. It fits so perfectly with the theme of book, the quest for knowledge.”

S. & S. immediately saw that, aside from being easier than printing and shipping 5,000 individual copies of the book, delivering free ebooks would mesh nicely with its efforts to expand its ebook presence in the library market. With Grazer’s blessing (“he said it was absolutely perfect,” said Rhorer), S. & S. approached the American Library Association (ALA) with the proposal at the end of March. Fortuitously, National Library Week was fast approaching, and the idea of tying the campaign to that event fell quickly into place.

Though the free ebook campaign came about because one author worked with his publisher to give back to libraries, ALA president Courtney Young also saw it as emerging from a larger conversation ALA has been having with S. & S. and indeed a wide range of publishers, distributors, and authors as the ebook market evolves. Said Young, “I am proud and pleased we have moved



from a time in which Simon & Schuster was not offering any titles for library ebook lending to small pilots to offering the full publisher catalog nationwide to where we are today. Even as we negotiate licensing and business terms, we need to keep talking and trying new approaches that cre-

The **Middle Country Library Foundation**, Centereach, NY, received a \$7,500 donation from Astoria Bank. The money will support multiple initiatives, including the Build It Up! Discovering Architecture Through Blocks exhibit in the Museum Corner; programming in the Read It area of the Nature Explorium; and the café at the library’s annual Women’s EXPO.

Los Angeles Public Library and Metropolitan Library System, Oklahoma City, both purchased **The Library Corporation’s CARL•Connect**, the company’s new integrated library systems product.

OCLC has signed agreements with publishers in the humanities, the social sciences, and

business to add metadata that will make their content discoverable through **WorldCat Discovery Services**. The publishers include **Bloomsbury Publishing, Harvard University Press, and MIT Press**.

Four products from **Elsevier** were named finalists for the 2015 SIIA CODiE Awards: Pathway Studio; Reaxys; Reference Module in Chemistry, Molecular Sciences and Chemical Engineering; and Reference Module in Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences.

Duke University Libraries, Durham, NC, has joined **BorrowDirect**, a resource-sharing partnership program. Eleven other universities already participate in the program.

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ate mutual value and success”—for authors, publishers, libraries, and, of course, readers.

Young hopes that the campaign has helped boost awareness that libraries are open online 24-7 for access to ebooks and other digital content.

That was part of S. & S.’s aim, too, said Rhorer. When asked whether he envisions similar promotions in the future, he said that he can’t predict anything yet. Publishing is truly a cottage industry, with books taken on a case-by-case basis. But he added that “we absolutely want to come up with ways to support ebook lending, and we hope that this will allow more people to realize that ebooks are in libraries.”

Washington Library Media Assn. Releases Op-Ed

A recent op-ed article by Craig Seasholes, president-elect of the Washington Library Media Association (WLMA), and Sharyn Merrigan, WLMA president, emphasized the connection between schools with certified teacher librarians and student achievement—and urged the public to take notice.

The article, “Look in School Libraries for Graduation Rates,” cited a recent WLMA impact study by Elizabeth Coker, “The Washington State School Library Impact Study: Certified Teacher-Librarians, Library Quality and Student Achievement in Washington State Public Schools.” Published on April 1, the study drew its data from a 40-question survey answered by officials at 1,486 K–12 schools in Washington State.

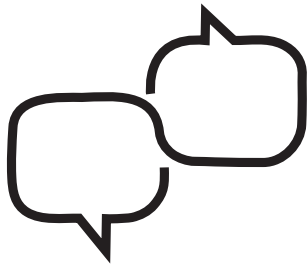
The op-ed piece, published on the Washington Library Association website, highlighted the study’s findings, which show a correlation between graduation rates and students attending “schools with certified teacher-librarians and quality library facilities.”

Washington State has cut “approximately 200 [certified teacher librarians (CTLs)] from schools for the past 15 years,” wrote Seasholes and Merrigan. However, “...results from a recently released new study show the huge profit to be made for us all by slightly increasing just one small premium: Investing more in CTLs for all of Washington’s public schools.”

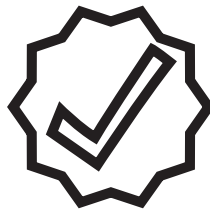
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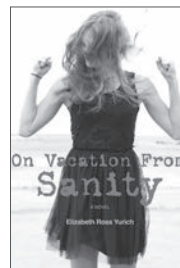
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