

## ProQuest Acquires SIPX Platform

ProQuest, through its affiliate Bowker, on April 8 acquired SIPX, the creator of a cloud-based digital course materials solution designed to eliminate redundant spending and address copyright concerns for universities and academic libraries. SIPX cofounder Franny Lee will continue to lead the company, reporting to ProQuest senior VP for strategy and business development Ben Lewis. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Developed at Stanford University prior to becoming an independent company in fall 2012, SIPX is designed to simplify the creation of digital course packs, automatically determining whether a university is already paying for access to selected journal articles or ebooks, or whether that content is available via public domain, open access, or as an open educational resource (OER).

For content that is not free or already licensed, SIPX streamlines licensing (including factors such as regional or country-based pricing), purchasing, and invoicing processes into a seamless online transaction for professors, librarians, and support staff. The system integrates with a wide

range of platforms, including Learning Management Systems, course websites and wikis, library course reserves, and global massive open online courses (MOOCs) to make it easy for students and professors to access the content.

SIPX customers have reported that the platform helps students save an average of 20 to 35 percent in materials costs in courses where it is used. Lee said that becoming a subsidiary of ProQuest will help SIPX with another key goal—enhancing the visibility of academic libraries and simplifying access to library content. In particular, SIPX will benefit from ProQuest’s knowledge base and expertise in discovery.

ProQuest CEO Kurt Sanford added in a statement that “SIPX’s contributions to the Higher Education community align with ProQuest’s mission to connect libraries more deeply into the day-to-day research and education needs of students and faculty.... With our support, customer relationships, and investment, we will rapidly increase the availability and richness of SIPX’s services.”

SIPX charges a setup fee to academic customers and bundles a small transaction fee in with any articles or ebooks that require royalty payments. Free content does not incur these fees. Although she noted that it is still early, Lee said that SIPX plans to continue operating with the same business model following the acquisition by ProQuest.

## Banned Books Week 2015 To Focus on YA Lit

This year’s Banned Books Week (BBW), September 27–October 3, will celebrate books written for teens, the

## Interview

### Rebecca Stavick

In February, Rebecca Stavick was appointed executive director of Omaha’s first digital library, named Do Space, to launch in November. The new role bridges her five years as staff development specialist at Omaha Public Library (OPL) and her work as cofounder of Open Nebraska, a civic application development organization.



### How would you describe Do Space?

Do Space is a public technology library and innovation space for everyone in the community, and it’s totally free. We’re developing interesting and unique programs to serve everyone, from total beginners who might be using a computer for the very first time through more advanced folks who may want to use AutoCAD to design something, or a 3-D printer to prototype the next big thing.

### What are some of the features you have planned?

We’re going to have all the basic software. In addition, we’ll have more advanced software, like the Adobe Suite and AutoCAD-type tools. We’re going to have a central production station with printers, including a large-format printer. We’ll have a bunch of ereaders and an ebook kiosk—we’re partnering with OPL to ensure that its collections are available in the space. We’ll have flexible conference and meeting rooms for group work, a dedicated children’s area, and a dedicated teen space. I’m looking at a few professional-level machines that would help facilitate architectural 3-D modeling, [even] medical prototyping.

## INSIDE

- Bill Would Renew DMCA Exemptions.... 4
- Celebrating L.A. Times Book Prizes ....5
- When the President Visits Your Library...5
- Branching Out .....6
- More International Picture Books.....6

BBW National Committee announced on April 22.

YA literature is an often-challenged category. The American Library Association (ALA) announced the Top Ten Most Challenged Books of 2014 in mid-April, and the majority of them were books for teens. The six YA titles on the list include Sherman Alexie's National Book Award-winning *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (Lit-

## News in Brief

**John Cabot University**, an American university in Rome, Italy, selected OCLC WorldShare Management Services as its library management system.

**Backstage Library Works** expanded its Metadata Services Division with a second location. It is operating from its Preservation Service Center in Bethlehem, PA.

The **Federal Library and Information Network** announced the winners of its national awards: **Fort Knox U.S. Army Garrison's Barr Memorial Library**, KY, was named Large Library/Information Center of the Year, and **Walter Reed National Military Medical Center's Darnall Medical Library**, Bethesda, MD, was named Small Library/Information Center of the Year.

**Norman Public Library Central**, OK, was designated a national Literary Landmark. It received the distinction for its possession and display of the 1958 Newbery Award medal, which was presented to the library by author Harold Keith (1903–98).

**Purdue University Libraries**, Lafayette, IN, received the Excellence in University Libraries Award from the **Association of College and Research Libraries**. The honor came with a \$3,000 grant.

The **Regional Automation Consortium**, Alta., selected **Boopsie Inc.** to develop a customized mobile app to provide patrons with access to library resources anywhere.

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tle, Brown, 2007), which took the first spot, and Raina Telgemeier's graphic novel *Drama* (Scholastic, 2012).

"Young adult books are challenged more frequently than any other type of book," said Judith Platt, chair of the committee. "These are the books that speak most immediately to young people, dealing with many of the difficult issues that arise in their own lives, or in the lives of their friends."

Librarians are often caught in the middle of book bans and challenges, especially because they are often the ones who report when a book is in danger of being removed from the shelves. "Good Comics 4 Kids" blogger and teen librarian Robin Brenner, a 2007 *Library Journal* Mover & Shaker, shed light on the difference between a challenge and a ban in a recent roundtable discussion about *Drama's* frequently challenged status:

"The American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom annually tracks the formal challenges to titles in library collections.... [T]he ALA press release states, 'A challenge is defined as a formal, written complaint filed with a library or school requesting that a book or other material be restricted or removed because of its content or appropriateness.' So, this is not a person walking up to a librarian and questioning a title's appropriateness but instead...someone putting in writing their objections to a title and requesting its restriction...or removal from a collection entirely. The Office of Intellectual Freedom relies on libraries to report challenges, using a confidential form."

Librarians and book lovers can promote the freedom to read by encouraging read-outs, displays, and community activities that raise awareness of censorship. BannedBooksWeek.org is a hub for information about how individuals and institutions can get involved. Last year, tens of thou-

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- Kristin Antelman, *Caltech's University Librarian*

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sands of people participated in BBW online, posting more than 500 videos in a virtual read-out. Live events also took place in bookstores, libraries, schools, and universities nationwide.

## People

**Chris Brown** was named Deputy County Librarian of Community Library Development at Santa Clara County Library District, CA. He was previously Senior Community Library Manager at Contra Costa County Library, CA.

**Natalia Ermolaev** was named Project Archivist for the Prokofiev Archives at Columbia University's Rare Book and Manuscript Library, New York. She was previously the Digital Humanities Project Manager in the Center for Digital Humanities at Princeton University Library, NJ.

**Tessa Killian** was promoted to Executive Director of the Southeastern New York Library Resources Council, Highland. She was previously its Associate Director.

**Cathy Lantz** retired as Children's Librarian at Pataskala Public Library, OH. She had worked for the library for nearly 40 years.

**Beth McNeil** was appointed Dean of Iowa State University Libraries, Ames, effective July 15. She is currently Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Purdue University Libraries, Lafayette, IN.

**Jonathan M. Torres** was named Business Librarian at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, effective June 1. He is currently Reference and Instruction Librarian at Bergen Community College's Sidney Silverman Library, Paramus, NJ.

## In Memoriam

**William Powell**, former Librarian of the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, died on April 10. He was 95 years old.

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## Bill Would Automatically Renew DMCA Exemptions

Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO) on April 16 introduced the "Breaking Down Barriers to Innovation Act," a bill that would make significant changes to Section 1201 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), which gives the Library of Congress (LC) the power to grant exemptions to DMCA's ban on circumventing digital rights management (DRM) software, encryption, or other digital restrictions.

Since its passage in 1998, DMCA has made it a criminal offense to circumvent copy protection and security technology on consumer products, even when the ultimate use of the protected content does not violate copyright. Critics have long described DMCA as too broad. It was intended to target piracy, but the letter of the law also makes it illegal to circumvent DRM to enable text-to-speech functionality for vision-impaired readers, or to unlock a smartphone, enabling a consumer to switch cellular providers, to cite just two of many issues that have arisen in the past 17 years. Section 1201 was conceived as a "fail-safe" mechanism, giving LC broad powers to grant exemptions to DMCA in a process that occurs once every three years.

Copyright lawyer and Library Copyright Alliance counsel Jonathan Band noted that the current statute grants the Copyright Office a great deal of leeway for determining how rule-making should be conducted. The problem is that LC has been very conservative in its approach and that the resulting system stacks the deck against those applying for exemptions.

The rule-making statute orders the register of copyrights and the assistant secretary for communications and information of the Department of Commerce to consult with each other and offer recommendations for ex-

emptions to the Librarian of Congress once every three years.

The Librarian of Congress is then required to gauge the need for and impact of each potential exemption using four specific standards: the general availability for use of copyrighted work; availability for nonprofit archival, preservation, and educational purposes; the impact that prohibition of circumvention has on criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, or research; and the effect of circumvention on the market or value of copyrighted works. A fifth standard allows the Librarian of Congress to consider "such other factors as the Librarian considers appropriate."

LC and its copyright office is tasked with weighing the access needs of U.S. citizens and organizations such as libraries against the needs of individual rights holders and corporations. But when determining whether exemptions are needed, the office places the burden of proof on the entity requesting that exemption, Band said.

Occasionally, demand for an exemption rises to the level of public outcry, as it did in recently when LC let lapse an exemption from 2006 and 2009 that had allowed consumers to "unlock" cellular phones to switch carriers. Congress ultimately intervened to pass the "Unlocking Consumer Choice and Wireless Competition Act," which President Barack Obama signed in August 2014, making the exemption permanent.

Still, generally speaking, citizens are dependent on nonprofit consumer advocacy organizations such as the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) and Consumers Union to write these exemption requests and mobilize support, and these organizations must argue their cases anew every three years, often going up against entrenched corporate interests.

The "Breaking Down Barriers to Innovation Act" orders LC to handle the rule-making and exemption pro-

cess differently. Notably, it would add language to DMCA prohibiting LC from assigning the burden of proof to the proponent of an exemption and ordering exemptions to be automatically renewed unless the Librarian of Congress determines that circumstances have changed. It also orders the Librarian of Congress, the register of copyrights, and the assistant secretary for communications and information of the Department of Commerce to conduct a study on ways to make it easier for people to request exemptions. The bill would also add language clarifying exemptions for encryption research, security testing, strengthening privacy, and reverse engineering and would empower LC, at its own discretion, to conduct rule-making outside of these current three-year reviews.

Regardless of the progress of this bill, the sixth triennial DMCA rule-making proceeding will take place this summer. LC and its copyright office will be considering several exemptions, including “jailbreaking” provisions for tablets and mobile devices to remove unwanted software, permission to circumvent DRM to extract fair use-protected clips from DVDs and Blu-ray discs, and even an exemption request for circumventing the firmware and software used to operate 3-D printers.

## Celebrating the 35th L.A. Times Book Prizes

Presented April 18 at the University of Southern California’s Bovard Auditorium, the 35th annual Los Angeles Times Book Prizes revealed a mix of titles that have already received praise and others that engaged readers will be glad to see get an extra boost. The poetry prize went to Claudia Rankine’s *Citizen: An American Lyric* (Graywolf), also a winner of the National Book Critics Circle (NBCC) Award in poetry after an unprecedented dual nomination in that category and criticism.

## When the President Visits Your Library

When ImaginOn manager Jason Hyatt got the word that his building had been selected as the site of a White House event with just four days to plan, he had confidence that he and his colleagues would somehow make it happen.

“I got the call on Friday at 9:15 p.m. from [David Singleton], my library director. He said, ‘I need your help with something. [President Obama] is coming to Charlotte on Wednesday, and he’s coming to ImaginOn,’” Hyatt recounted. Hyatt said he asked Singleton to repeat himself a few times because surely he had misunderstood. It was true, Singleton confirmed. As a collaborative venture of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library (CML), NC, and the Children’s Theater of Charlotte, ImaginOn was no stranger to hosting unusual events, but this was a first.



From that moment, it was full speed ahead for CML, starting with an 8:30 a.m. meeting the next day that found Hyatt; library CEO Lenoir “Lee” Keesler Jr.; the executive director of the children’s theater that shares the building; and representatives from library security, marketing and communications, technology, and operations and facilities on hand for a walk-through of the building with White House staff.

Four hours and another walk-through later, White House staff put together a proposal for how they would use the venue for the presidential event. Hyatt said White House staff seemed especially interested in making sure there were plenty of books to serve as the backdrop for the event. “We thought that was fantastic because everybody says books are going away, but to have [President Obama] recognize the importance of books in such a visible way was perfect.”

At that point, the staff had been told only that it was to be a town hall meeting, with a specific audience, that wasn’t open to the public and that all communications about the event had to be approved by the White House. This made the library’s public relations task daunting. In comparison, when the CML was chosen to host *The Daily Show* to coincide with the Democratic National Convention in 2012, staff had almost a year to plan the communications. For this one, they had less than 48 hours.

Said Hyatt, “As the event came to an end, one of the White House staff said, ‘It isn’t quite yet over for you.’ I was then escorted back to the meet and greet area where I was introduced as the library manager and I shook the president’s hand and had an official photo taken. He also signed an ImaginOn brochure for me.”

Hyatt took away several lessons from the experience:

- 1) Flexibility is important. Staff had to move service desks, alter schedules, relocate programming to alternate locations, and be very thoughtful about how to communicate these changes to our patrons and the community.
- 2) Take time to check in. Said Hyatt, “Because of the speed with which these events unfolded, and the level of detail that was required from a variety of departments, there wasn’t often time to ensure we were all on the same page. I would recommend that libraries in similar situations try to make that time.”
- 3) Take time to enjoy. “Between when the doors opened and the event started, I had the chance to watch the audience members enter the building. The smiles on their faces gave me more joy than I [could have] imagined.”

(It was also a *Library Journal* [LJ] Best Poetry Book.) Elizabeth Kolbert's *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* (Holt), an LJ Best Book, NBCC finalist, and *New York Times* best seller, just named a Pulitzer Prize winner in non-fiction, won in science and technology.

In fiction, Siri Hustvedt's *The Blazing World* (S. & S.), which made nine best books lists but not the NBCC or National Book Awards (NBA) nomina-

tions, got a shout-out here. Tom Bouman's *Dry Bones in the Valley* (Norton), a LibraryReads pick, triumphed in the mystery/thriller category, a nice showing for a debut novel.

The graphic novel/comics prize went to Jaime Hernandez's *The Love Bunglers* (Fantagraphics). And NBA 5 Under 35 honoree Valeria Luiselli won the Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction for *Faces in the Crowd* (Coffee House).

The biography and history prizes went to deeply researched books, both by previous Wolfson History Prize winners: Andrew Roberts's *Napoleon: A Life* (Viking) and Adam Tooze's *The Deluge: The Great War, America and the Remaking of the Global Order, 1916–1931* (Viking), respectively. But the separate current interest category gave another nonfiction title a chance to shine: Jeff Hobbs's *The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace: A Brilliant Young Man Who Left Newark for the Ivy League* (Scribner). The prizes also showed their commitment to non-fiction in Young Adult Literature, which crowned Candace Fleming's *The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia* a YALSA finalist and Sibert honor book.

Two awards announced in advance gave the prize ceremony extra reach. Actor LeVar Burton received the Innovator's Award for *Reading Rainbow*, which he hosted on television, then turned into an app to help at-risk kids. T.C. Boyle was given the 2014 Robert Kirsch Award, which acknowledges the lifetime contributions of writers from the West.

## Experts Call for More International Picture Books

*School Library Journal* blogger and New York Public Library youth materials specialist Betsy Bird and others spoke about the importance of pushing picture books published in other countries at "Where the Wild Books Are," an event at New York City's New School on April 18 that celebrated these works and sought to determine why they encounter resistance in the United States.

Etienne Delessert, a Swiss illustrator, author, and publisher, assembled the panel after reading a blog post by Bird in which she observed that, despite literary merit, books with a European look are often dismissed by her

## Branching Out



The Chula Vista Public Library, CA, held the grand opening ceremony for its new community space, the Hub (pictured), in the Otay Ranch Town Center on March 10. The Hub encompasses an additional 2,000 square feet of space in the mall in what was a toy store near the Otay Ranch Branch (see *Hotline*, 5/7/12); it is open during regular branch hours. The Hub includes a U.S. Passport Processing Center managed by library staff and room for events, story times, meetings, tutoring, and classes. The passport center is the only one in eastern Chula Vista—the second largest city in San Diego County—and complements similar services provided by the Civic Center Branch. Rent for the partnership between the City of Chula Vista and the shopping center will continue

at \$1 per year, with no additional costs through April 30, 2017. Funding for the project came from the California State Library, Friends of the Chula Vista Library, and the Chula Vista Public Library Foundation.

Work is under way to renovate a former recreation center as the home of the Carrizozo Community Public Library and Archive, NM. The city's first library site is being restored by White Sands Construction and funded by the Cooperative Education Services program after wear and tear, neglect, and vandalism left their mark on the property, according to the *Ruidoso News*. In addition to maintaining security, the effort will include the installation of a new roof, floor, walls, and HVAC system. The design of the facility will hark back to the original building's 1960s and 1970s décor.

The Hedberg Public Library, Janesville, WI, is talking about renovations, the first in nearly 20 years, though the plan likely won't kick into gear for another two years. The work will center on the building's main floor, 28,000 square feet of the total 65,000 square foot facility. That area would include the children's section and the adult areas, as well as the service desk. The remodel would open up room for programs, computer use, and quiet reading. OPN Architects was hired to work on designs, which are expected to be presented, along with cost estimates, on May 22. The library is seeking community input on any plans submitted, according to *GazetteXtra*.

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colleagues. His co-organizer was author/illustrator Steven Guarnaccia, an associate professor of illustration at Parsons School of Design. The event drew several hundred attendees.

Children's book expert Leonard Marcus began with some historical context. England had traditionally been seen as the "motherlode of culture by most Americans," Marcus said. However, following World War I, the United States forged its own cultural identity, an attitude that extended to children's publishing. The Newbery and Caldecott medals, established in 1921 and 1937, respectively, explicitly celebrate American authors and illustrators.

Several children's literature experts examined noteworthy examples of European picture books taking novel approaches often absent from their American counterparts. Children's literature expert Denise von Stockar described the publishing climate fol-

lowing World War II in Germany. Avant-garde illustrators began producing dynamic new work, and publishing houses made risky choices, with highly original and groundbreaking results.

Giorgia Grilli, professor of children's literature and founder of the Center of Research in Children's Literature at Bologna University, rounded out the discussion by focusing on Italian artists, touching in particular on different illustrated versions of Carlo Collodi's *The Adventures of Pinocchio*. Though many Americans consider Collodi's original story an odd, even morbid choice for children, in Italy, it's a beloved classic that has been illustrated by renowned artists.

The day concluded with a panel discussion among Delessert, Enchanted Lion publisher Claudia Beldrick, and publisher and award-winning author and illustrator David Macaulay.

As to why there are so few wild

books in the United States, Delessert cast blame on publishers and the American attitude toward publishing. In France, he explained, independent publishers take financial and creative risks. In the United States, innovative thinkers don't establish their own companies; in his view they head imprints at large publishing houses, where their decisions are often guided by marketing departments.

Some disagreed. Editor Neal Porter, whose eponymous imprint at Roaring Brook (a Macmillan subsidiary) produces many high-profile picture books, commented that "kids' books are one of the few areas in our globalized world that remain culturally distinct. That's not necessarily a bad thing."

One of Bird's final comments echoed the consensus: "We have to be willing to be made uncomfortable. That's a really hard lesson, [but] the rewards [are immeasurable]."

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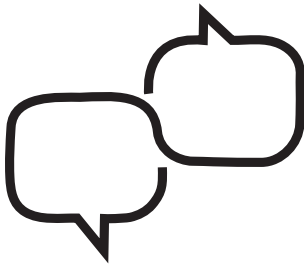
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