



## A Glimpse Into the Future

by Laurie D. Borman

The Future of Libraries, our special section in this issue, does not include crystal balls or tarot cards, but there are fun tech toys like robots and drones and other cool trends to consider. It's all part of a discussion on what's on the professional horizon for academic, school, and public libraries. The future involves community engagement, integrated media in assignments, and collaboration with colleagues and new library partners, among other initiatives. Our section also profiles the latest group of ALA Emerging Leaders, who will be at the forefront of this new world, as well as reflections by 2007 Emerging Leader Alexia Ward Hudson on how the program has been transformational for her. Learn more in our section beginning on page 28.

The future of libraries hasn't been decided. That's up to you.

Your future career may not look much like it does today. It might not even be in a library. Many new grads and career changers seek nontraditional positions with library vendors, governments, and nonprofits. "The Bohemian Librarian" by Ellyn Ruhlmann, on page 68, covers some of the paths outside a library, and how you can find them.

The future of the next ALA presidency is about to be decided, and this year there are four candidates, and each has provided a statement to *American Libraries*. They begin on page 14.

Back in 1972, only 4.6% of academic leadership positions were held by women. A 2004 feature in *College & Research Libraries* covered the new, increased numbers (by then 52.1%) of women in those roles. Our story by Marta Mestrovic Deyrup on page 65 revisits some of the women featured in that 2004 story to see how predictions, ideas, and situations have changed. Another feature, by Greg Landgraf, on page 60, returns to interview four women managers from a 1985 *American Libraries* story.

Libraries have always offered new learning opportunities, whether through books, lectures, films, or hands-on classes. It's no surprise, then, that learning to code—HTML, JavaScript, and app development—is now available via the library. Learn more about how a few public libraries are making it happen in the article by Kate Silver, on page 56.

Thirty-three years ago this month, Beverly Goldberg came to *American Libraries* to temporarily assist with a project of "Who's Who of Librarians." By July, she was hired full time as an editorial assistant to work on classified ads. Last month, Bev retired as senior editor of *American Libraries*. Over the years, she covered library news and wrote features and blog posts, graduating from typewriter to word processor to computer and internet. She didn't have an LIS degree but says she "learned the library lingo right away" and felt like an honorary librarian due to her years immersed in this world. We are thankful for her many years of service. ■

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50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611  
 americanlibrariesmagazine.org  
 email americanlibraries@ala.org  
 toll free 800-545-2433 plus extension  
 local 312-944-6780 • fax 312-440-0901  
 online career classified ads: JobLIST.ala.org

Editor and Publisher  
 Laurie D. Borman • lborman@ala.org • x4213  
 Managing Editor  
 Sanhita SinhaRoy • ssinharoy@ala.org • x4219  
 Senior Editor  
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 Senior Editor  
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 Associate Editor  
 Phil Morehart • pmorehart@ala.org • x4218  
 Associate Editor  
 Mariam Pera • mpera@ala.org • x5282

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Katie Bane • kbane@ala.org • 312-280-5105

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