

**Trustee Report**  
**Manske Library Board**  
**June 11, 2026**  
**Submitted by: Lee Alvoid and Paul Shultz**

### **Operating Libraries under Austerity and AI Interruption**

Library systems of all types are experiencing demands to produce more for patrons with fewer resources. Grand discontinuation, organizational and governmental budget cuts are impacting public, academic and PK-12 libraries. Vendors for library materials and management are having to become nimble to meet demands. Major suppliers of digital content are isolated in a few major companies. Some of those companies are experiencing leadership changes and corporate reorganizations and buy-outs. Traditional print, physical materials are less in demand than digital materials which can compound shrinking budgets and make use of space challenging. Often more computers are needed than print materials which causes a reevaluation of use of space. Library clients are needing increased personal direction from librarians at all levels. Reduction of staff due to budget constraints compounds the need for re-thinking allocation of funding. The speed of the interruptions from cuts and AI/digital innovations is daunting. Library Science programs are challenged to rethink preparation for future librarians. While all of the changes present challenge, they also present opportunities to rethink an important institution in communities and educational institutions of all levels. Exciting, but exhausting times for libraries and librarians.

The article also describes the top vendors for library organizational management and digital services in several countries. Industry forecasts are also included in the piece.

<https://librarytechnology.org/LibrarySystemsReport/2026>

### **Fifty-Five Moments that Redefined Librarianship**

This article describes historical breakthrough moments in library history from 1876 to the present. For example:

**1876-1889** included the founding of the American Library Association, the initiation of the Dewey Decimal System and the standard sized card catalog.

1890-1909 saw the Printing Act of 1895 centralized the printing of federal documents under the Government Printing Office and formalized a nationwide system for distributing them to designated libraries via the Federal Depository Library Program.

The first professionally trained librarian was assigned to a public school at Erasmus HS in Brooklyn, NY.

The first horse drawn bookmobile was launched in Washington County, VA in 1905. Bookmobiles peaked at over 1100 in the 1990's and are still a viable tool for community outreach.

More than 15 million immigrants arrived in the US between 1900 and 1915, many fleeing social, political, and economic upheaval in Europe. The New York Public Library was among the libraries that responded to the moment by stocking extensive foreign-language collections and hiring multilingual staff.

Other decades in the article described library services in war times, the civil rights movement, natural disasters like Katrina, and the onset of computers and digital services and the evolution of library services.

If you are a history buff, this piece is fun to read. It is part of the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Library Association.

<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/magazine/issues/may-2026/>

### **Describing Library Sustainability in National Parks**

Did you know that approximately 400 libraries are operated by the National Park Service?

The oldest was founded in 1923 at Yosemite National Park. That collection maintains over 10,000 books and other materials.

Zion National Park in Utah has over 3000 pressed plants in their herbarium from the region. Some samples were collected and catalogued in the 1920's.

The Teton (Wyoming) Park Library has kits that visitors can check out that include binoculars and guides for observing features of the Grand Teton area.

Thirty-five million items are catalogued at the Harpers Ferry Library including art, military uniforms and other historical items and documents from the civil war era.

The National Park network of libraries is a way to sustain history, documents and artifacts from the valuable park lands in America.

<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/tag/sustainability-in-libraries/>

## **Public Library Organizations Call For eBook Pricing Model Changes**

As the use of digital content continues to grow, a group of public library organizations have requested that the Big Five publishers collaborate with public libraries to address unsustainable eBook pricing models. Consumers pay on average only \$13 for permanent use of one eBook, but libraries have to spend \$55 or more for a two-year license. This higher cost many times results in libraries spending 50% or more of budgets on e-content licenses. This higher cost causes spending on fewer titles, which increases wait times and less spending on lesser-known authors. Small and rural communities rely heavily on eBooks, but it has become unsustainable with limited budgets. Some states have resorted to consumer protection legislation, but state-by-state solutions are difficult to regulate. Usage-based eBook pricing or perpetual use license options are solutions that would help libraries. Now that eBooks are no longer an emerging technology, it is hopeful that solutions can be agreed upon and implemented that make the marketplace more efficient.

<https://www.libraryjournal.com/story/news/public-library-organizations-call-for-ebook-pricing-model-changes>