

**Library Director's Report**  
to Multnomah County Library Advisory Board

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**Rockwood Library connects through Russian outreach storytime**

The power of library outreach was evident at Rockwood Library when a young girl and her mother came in this past December to get a library card and to check out books for the first time. The student remembered Bilingual Russian Library Assistant Natalia Myers from storytime at Christian Slavic Academy and proudly showed her all the books she was ready to check out.

"Responses like this to our outreach efforts are so inspirational," said Natalia. "That is why I come to work each day with a smile, ready to work on new creative programs for the kids."

That sentiment was echoed by the school's administrator, who said, "It is so helpful for us, like a drop of new and fresh air in our community."

**New streaming platforms offer magazines, comics and films**

On Dec. 15, Multnomah County Library launched two new streaming content platforms to increase access to magazines, comics and movies. With [Zinio](#), patrons can access 175 digital magazines, including *The New Yorker* and *National Geographic*. Patrons can read Zinio content online or download magazines to their devices for offline reading. [IndieFlix](#) offers more than 8,000 independent movies and a collection of classic television shows.

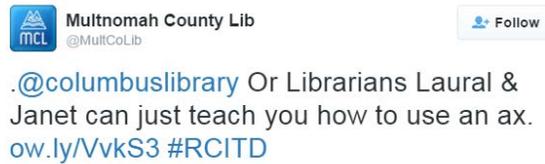
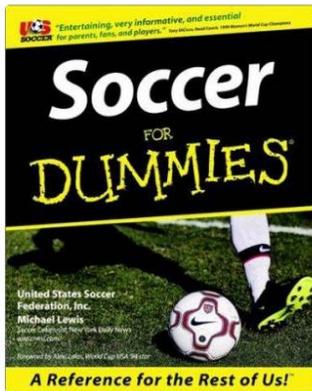
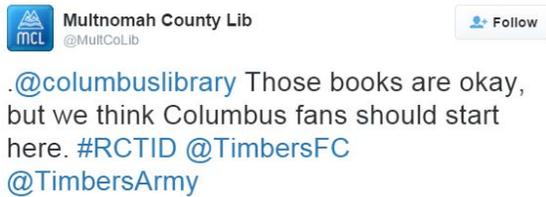
We're also excited that digital comics are now available on the [Hoopla](#) platform. That means patrons can now read titles from DC, Dark Horse, Image Comics and many more on their electronic devices.

In the first three weeks of service, we've had more than 5,000 checkouts on Zinio and about 1,000 on Hoopla. The top checked-out titles on Zinio so far are *The New Yorker*, *The Economist* and *National Geographic*. Popular comics *Saga* and *The Walking Dead* are currently the most checked-out comics on Hoopla.

**Quick thinking saves cherished family heirloom**

Northwest Library received a phone call from a regular patron, who said she had left a photograph of her grandmother inside a book she'd recently returned. With the title of the book, Clerk Greg Stevens was able to do some detective work and find out it was in transit to Albina Library. Greg called Albina, where staff found the book, retrieved the picture, and sent it over to Northwest Library.

The patron came in to pick up the photo and was thankful to recover a family heirloom. She said it had already gone through the wash and been to Paris. "It may have been precipitation from outside," said Greg, "but we noticed what looked like tears on the patron's cheeks as she was reunited with her beloved photograph."



### Libraries trade Twitter jabs during MLS Cup Final

As the Portland Timbers battled it out against the Columbus Crew in the MLS Cup Final, the teams' two libraries also joined the fight. Multnomah County Library and Columbus Public Library affably sparred on Twitter in the days leading up to the big game.

Both libraries traded spirited barbs, posting pictures of clever book titles and sports gear, with fans of libraries and soccer alike joining in the fun. The height of the battle culminated Dec. 4, just before the final game, with Multnomah County Library's top tweet peaking at 387 engagements, a combination of likes, retweets and other impressions.

Congratulations to the Portland Timbers on their win, and a big thank you to Columbus Public Library for joining in the fun.

### Troutdale Library Teen Council organizes Hour of Code

The teen council at Troutdale Library took a new approach to this year's Computer Science Education Week in December. Instead of doing a traditional Hour of Code, the teens planned a "Frozen" Hour of Code, inspired by the Disney movie.

The event focused around *Frozen*-themed code tutorials from code.org, and the teens also set up other interactive stations including Lego-building, snowflake-making and a bean bag toss. The event was a partnership with Pixel Arts and a kindergarten teacher from Troutdale Elementary, with 35 participants. "Not once did anyone bust out into a chorus of 'Let It Go,'" said Violeta Garza, Troutdale Library's bilingual youth librarian.

Many participants also enjoyed the Star Wars, Minecraft and Flappy Bird code tutorials. The Troutdale Library Teen Council is already planning a Minecraft Hour of Code for this spring.



### **Northwest Library leads holiday performance for neighborhood**

On Dec. 1, a crowd of 175 preschoolers and caregivers enjoyed a festive holiday show at the historic Old Church in the Northwest neighborhood. The event was narrated by Youth Librarian Susan Smallsreed and included a performance by the XX Digitus Piano duo, patron Momoko Muramatsu and her partner, Maria Garcia. The duo performed Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" for the season finale of the Little Ears Concerts for Children.

"They avidly listened and danced along," said Susan. "Afterward, kids were given the opportunity to try on the tiara, tin soldier and Mouse King hats I wore throughout the performance. Great fun was had by all!"

### **Patron comments**

"Thank you Multnomah County Library for being my home library! My family couldn't afford books when I was growing up, but we had weekly trips to the library and brought stacks each time." — Laurie Foote, Dec. 7

"I just wanted to say what a great job **Christopher [Suero]** did today. He took his time out to assist me with several projects I was working on and made my job easy. It's workers like this that make the public library a great place to go. Thanks again." — Daniel, Dec. 16

January 12, 2016

“Thank you so much for the new Zinio feature. I love having such easy access to *The Economist*, *The Paris Review* and many other good magazines. Much appreciated!” — Malcolm Heath, Dec. 17

“I foolishly left a photograph of my grandmother in a library book for safekeeping ... forgetting that the picture was inside. The next day, I rang the Northwest branch ... and spoke to **Greg [Stevens]** ... It sounded like an almost impossible task to find the photo. I told Greg not to spend time on it, since it was completely my fault. Imagine my delight when, 24 hours later, Greg rang me to say that my picture was waiting at Northwest Library for me to pick up. I am so thrilled to have it back and I want to commend Greg for his kindness and efficiency ... I have already thanked him in person, but I wanted you to know that you have some very wonderful people in your employ. Thank you all.” — Bryony Tillett, Dec. 21

### In the news

[MLS Cup 2015: Portland Timbers and Columbus Crew fans trade barbs on Twitter](#) (*The Oregonian*, Dec. 4)

[MLS Cup becomes war of words](#) (KPTV.com, Dec. 4)

[MLS Cup Week banter hits the books as Portland, Columbus libraries go back and forth](#) (Timbers.com, Dec. 5)

[Libraries — they're not just for kids](#) (*The Oregonian*, Dec. 16)

[Library offers Hoopla – new, free streaming service](#) (*The Hollywood Star*, Dec. 24)

### Upcoming events

[Noche de Loteria / Loteria Game Night](#)

Jan. 12

Troutdale Library

[Music from Latin America / Música de Latinoamérica](#)

Various dates and libraries

[Engineering and Simple Machines: Quirky Contraptions](#)

Jan. 16

Rockwood Library

[Sherlock Holmes Takes the Case](#)

Various dates and libraries

[Dyslexia 101](#)

Jan. 16

Hillsdale Library

[What Goes Up!](#)

Jan. 16

Woodstock Library

[Coding for the Whole Family](#)

Various dates and libraries

[African Storytelling](#)

Jan. 17

Hillsdale Library

[Somatic Exercise — Learn to Move Well So You Can Live Well](#)

Jan. 19

Holgate Library

[Freedom and Dialogue in a Polarized World](#)

Jan. 20

Central Library

[Exploring the Music of Bartok and Beethoven](#)

Jan. 23  
Central Library

[Author Talk: Barbara Roberts](#)

Jan. 23  
Sellwood-Moreland Library

[Ballet Between the Books: Napoli Pas de Six and more](#)

Jan. 23  
Gresham Library

[Family Graphic Novel Book Group](#)

Jan. 24  
Hollywood Library

[Sharing Our Traditions / Compartiendo Nuestras Tradiciones](#)

Various dates and libraries

[Concierto de guitarra Latinoamérica / Latin American guitar concert](#)

Various dates and libraries

[Historical Oregonian](#)

Jan. 29  
Central Library

[From Our Past to Our Present opening reception](#)

Jan. 30  
Central Library

[White Out? The Future of Racial Diversity in Oregon](#)

Jan. 30  
Midland Library

[From Saving to Serving: On Intervening in the Lives of Others](#)

Jan. 31  
Central Library

[PBS POV Film Screening: \*The Storm Makers\*](#)

Feb. 2  
Kenton Library

[Words & Pictures: Black Comics](#)

Feb. 3  
North Portland Library

[Brown Bag Lunch and Learn](#)

Thursdays beginning Jan. 14  
Central Library

[Juba This and Juba That: A Collection of African American Folktales](#)

Feb. 6  
St. Johns Library

[African Song and Dance](#)

Feb. 6  
Central Library

[Free Outgoing: Contemporary Theatre from India](#)

Feb. 8  
Central Library

[Becoming Your Own Publisher](#)

Feb. 9  
Sellwood-Moreland Library

[Communication Challenges in \*The Book of Unknown Americans\*](#)

Feb. 9  
Central Library