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ACT NOW

School Libraries and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) why YOU should care and what YOU can do! Every single person in the country who cares about libraries should contact their U.S. Senators in Washington at 202-224-3121 or at their local offices in your state about the importance of including school libraries in the reauthorization of ESEA.

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The New Digital Divide

FOR the second year in a row, the Monday after Thanksgiving — so-called Cyber Monday, when online retailers offer discounts to lure holiday shoppers — was the biggest online sales day of the year, totaling some \$1.25 billion and overwhelming the sales figures racked up by brick-and-mortar stores three days before, on Black Friday, the former perennial record-holder. Such numbers may seem proof that America is, indeed, online. But they mask an emerging division, one that has worrisome implications for our economy and society. Increasingly, we are a country in which only the urban and suburban well-off have truly high-speed Internet access, while the rest — the poor and the working class — either cannot afford access or use restricted wireless access as their only connection to the Internet. As our jobs, entertainment, politics and even health care move online, millions are at risk of being left behind. [Read more...](#)



Librarian Blogger's Love for Ryan Gosling and Libraries

Gwendolyn Nixon-Carter, a public librarian from the DC area, shares her story behind her blog <http://librarianhevgirl.tumblr.com>, which is dedicated to her love for Ryan Gosling and Libraries. "I started this on a whim, fueled by jealousy over the public historian



Booklist Review of the Day



Stay Close.
Coben, Harlan (author).
Mar. 2012. 384p.
Dutton, hardcover,
\$27.95
(9780525952275).
REVIEW. First
published February 1,
2012 (Booklist).

Coben's title describes perfectly how the suspense in this tour-de-force stand-alone works. It stays close in an unbelievably sustained way, giving the reader a steady stream of jolts and sinking feelings, as Coben's three main characters face danger from without and from their own tricky psyches. These three characters are mired in the past. They all got stuck there when a family man with a secret lif...

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Digital Library of the Week

Duke University's *Emergence of Advertising in America: 1850–1920* contains more than 9,000 images that illustrate the rise of consumer culture and the birth of a professionalized advertising industry in the United States. Duke Library's earlier *Ad*Access* project similarly contains thousands of print advertisements from mainly US magazines and newspapers. Likewise, private collector Jay Paull, 42, began collecting vintage print ads as a child and has since amassed more than 10,000 American ads dating from the 1830s to the 1920s. [Read more...](#)

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Do you know of a digital library collection that we can mention in this AL Direct feature? [Tell us about it.](#)