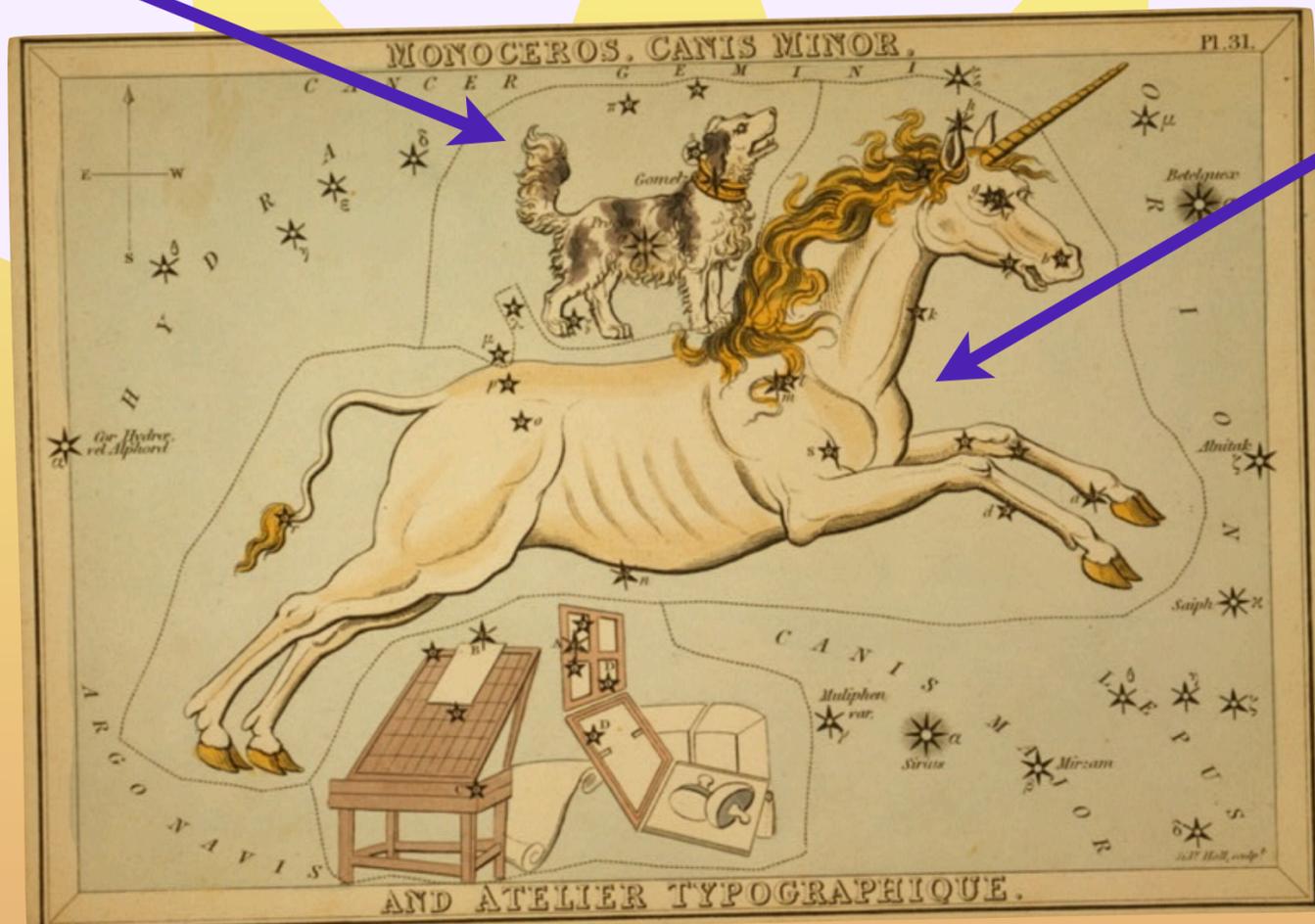


# Now More Than Ever!

*It's a great time to be in libraries.*

me

libraries



Thanks so much for having me here. Many promises appear to have been made about this talk: "eye watering" I'm not sure what I can do about that or exactly what it means, Inspirational... how about more like "infectious" which is more my speed, and oxford commas which you'll have to trust me I am using in my notes. I had nothing to do with the cake, except being a fan of it.

Thanks for having me, for those who don't know me I'm a library technologist and a bit of a civil liberties activist, I live in Vermont, I've had a library blog since the nineties and I wrote a book about the digital divide. Thanks to a combination of good humor, charm and speedy typing I am the most famous librarian on the internet ... maybe. I mostly work at the Internet Archive's Open library project. More on that a little later.

Thanks, library of congress, for this image.

# Why the public library is different from anything else (and maybe better)



I often give serious-ish talks about the importance of fair use or rural technology instruction and so this is going to be a little ...looser and talk about some of the general high points in the past few years of library progress. I call it "Why the public library is different from anything else (and maybe better)"



# McDonald's?

According to me, it's always a good time to be in "the business of" libraries. When other people say this they often trot out statistics like "Hey more libraries in the US than McDonalds" 16,766 libraries (in the US). Seems like sort of a low bar "We're easier to find than junk food!" but I can be snotty about this, I live in the only state in the country with a capital city with no McDonald's.



FedEx?

Then there's "more circulation than FedEx"

[fun fact, when I was trying to recall this tidbit from my shoddy memory I asked some people online because I was frustrated that searching google for UPS wound up finding the plural of the word "Up" and then made searching impossible... turns out the reason I couldn't find it was because it was Fedex all along....."]



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# Netflix?

"loaning more movies than Netflix"

This sounded like a big deal when the stat came out a few years back, but nowadays even in my sleepy rural town (Randolph Vermont) people are streaming, or trying to.

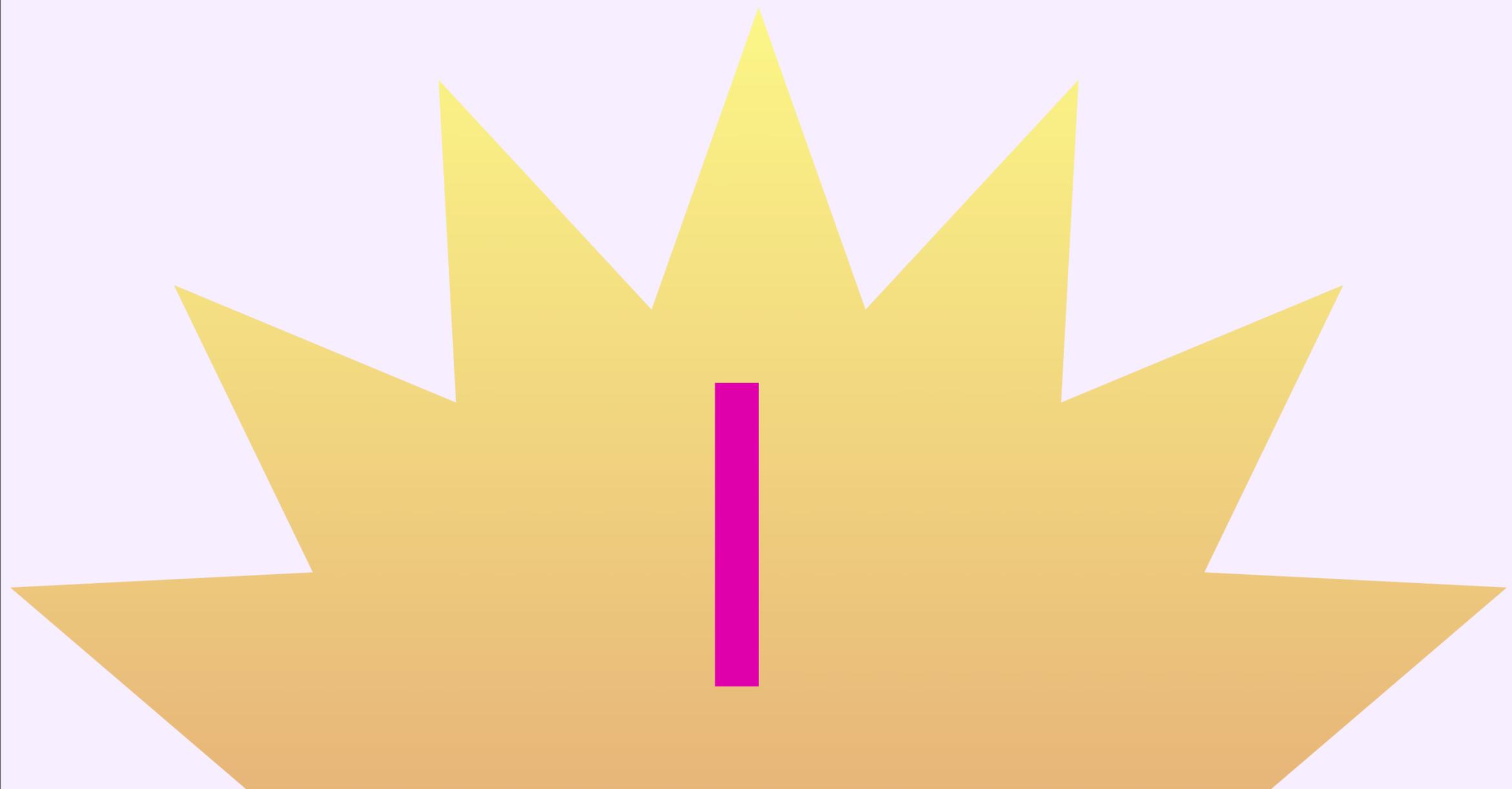
An HD Netflix movie is about 3-4 GB of bandwidth which is about half your monthly allotment if you have satellite internet. You better really want to watch that movie....



# Why the public library is different from anything else (and maybe better) a list!

So here's a short list of things that \*I\* think are great about where libraries are at right now, and not just "Oh we sort of "compete" with businesses" which, as you know, is not actually what we're trying to do anyhow. So, good that we're doing good at it, I guess, but that's not what's so great. That's not what's better.

So here's a short list. If I've learned anything from the popular internet it's that people love lists.



## One. The Library Bill of Rights!

Adopted by the American Library Association Council on June 19 1939. 75 years this week! I know this because I do a "this day in history" tweet for Open Library and I am always looking for library-ish things to promote.

Key values: access, advocacy, openness, freedom, inquiry.

More to the point, this document which has been the profession's guiding document all this time says that libraries are for everyone (including children, non-citizens, weirdos &c) about everything, proactively inclusive, affirming of free access to ideas, materials, and the public spaces they offer. This version is a somewhat fustily worded variant of the more plain-speaking version now available. It's a living document. So great.

# Library BILL OF RIGHTS\*

The Council of the American Library Association reaffirms its belief in the following basic policies which should govern the services of all libraries:

## 1

AS A RESPONSIBILITY of library service, books and other reading matter selected should be chosen for values of interest, information and enlightenment of all the people of the community. In no case should any book be excluded because of the race or nationality, or the political or religious views of the writer.

## 2

THERE SHOULD BE the fullest practicable provision of material presenting all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times, international, national, and local; and books or other reading matter of sound factual authority should not be proscribed or removed from library shelves because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

## 3

CENSORSHIP OF BOOKS, urged or practiced by volunteer arbiters of morals or political opinion or by organizations that would establish a coercive concept of Americanism, must be challenged by libraries in maintenance of their responsibility to provide public information and enlightenment through the printed word.

## 4

LIBRARIES SHOULD ENLIST the cooperation of allied groups in the fields of science, of education, and of book publishing in resisting all abridgment of the free access to ideas and full freedom of expression that are the tradition and heritage of Americans.

## 5

AS AN INSTITUTION of education for democratic living, the library should welcome the use of its meeting rooms for socially useful and cultural activities and discussion of current public questions. Such meeting places should be available on equal terms to all groups in the community regardless of the beliefs and affiliations of their members.

---

\*By official action of Council on 3 February 1951, the Library Bill of Rights shall be interpreted as applying to all materials and media of communications used or collected by libraries.

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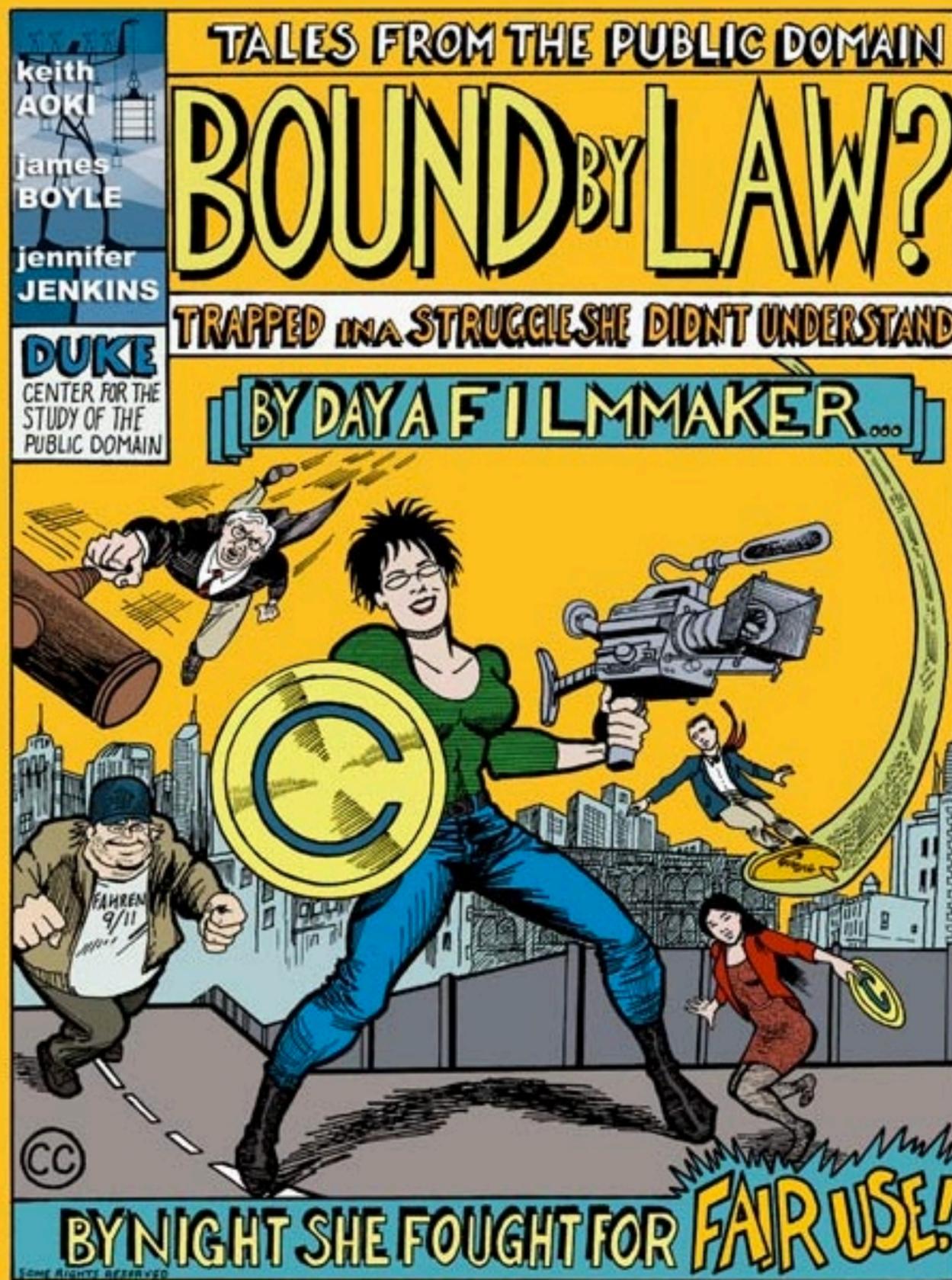


# 2

Two: Google!

Well really more like LAWSUITS. The last few years have seen a number of fair use lawsuits winding their way through the courts and arriving at nice library&sharing affirming verdicts. These include the Georgia State case (on e-reserves), the Hathi Trust decision (allowing scanning and indexing), Kirtsaeng v. Wiley (reaffirming right of first sale), YouTube vs Viacom (fair use and youtube not having to be copyright police, more than they already are), and the the Google Books decision.

All of this paves the way for smaller libraries with teenier collections to be a little bolder about being able to share them without worrying about being sued by random people or corporations. This wasn't true about the library environment of even five years ago.



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# 3

## 3. Rights and metadata. Sort of connected to lawsuits...

While google can do totally annoying things like this... it also was a fairly early adopter of allowing us to search for things that we could not just look at, but also USE. Other big organizations are using their big organization super powers to be more practice about the shareability of their stuff including MOMA and the British Museum. You know, not the usual hippies.

Do you guys know about Creative Commons?

The DPLA just received a major grant to look into creating another licensing scheme for things that have no \*known\* copyright owner. This may be because they're old and their status is unknown or they're within copyright window but maybe the publisher has gone out of business or the rights owner has died or can't be found. These things are often called "orphan works"



libraries lending books statistics

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About 4,780,000 results (0.60 seconds)

Did you mean: libraries lending **ebooks** statistics



3

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rather than user. A non-exclusive license is granted to use the selected material free of charge.

- [The Los Angeles County Museum of Art \(LACMA\) Image Library](#)

A growing body of high resolution images (between 10–40 MB) from LACMA's collection which are believed to be in the public domain—available without restriction, free of charge.

- [National Gallery of Art](#)

Through NGA Images, the National Gallery of Art implements an open access policy for digital images of works of art that the Gallery believes to be in the public domain. Images of these works are now available free of charge for any use, commercial or non-commercial.

- [The Walters Art Museum](#)

Images of objects from the Walters' collections are available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike license.

- [Yale University Art Museums](#)

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tools

cation ▾



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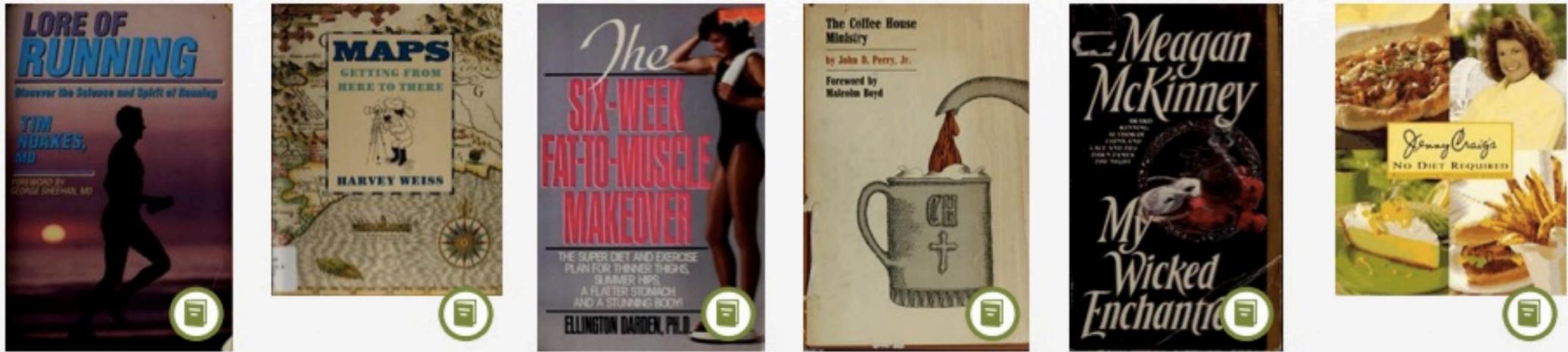


3.5 Envelope pushing

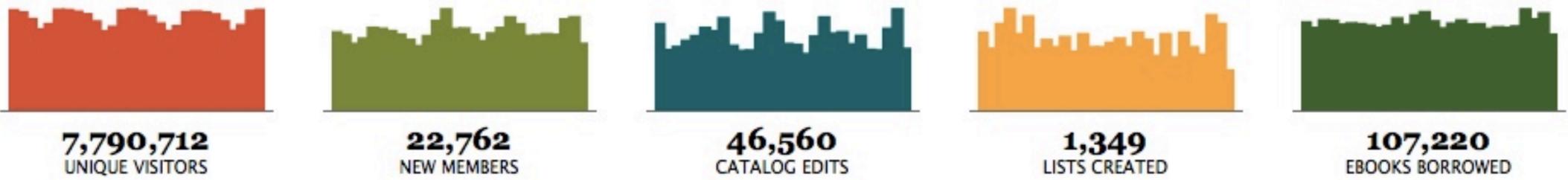
OPEN LIBRARY GOES HERE



**Books to Borrow** Here's a sample of recently returned books from the [eBook lending library](#).

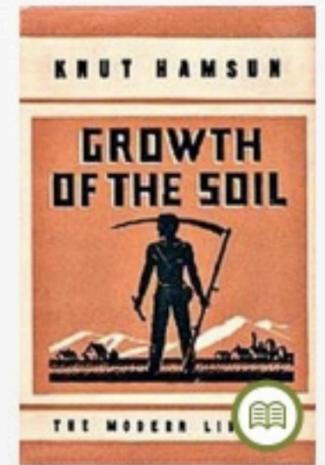
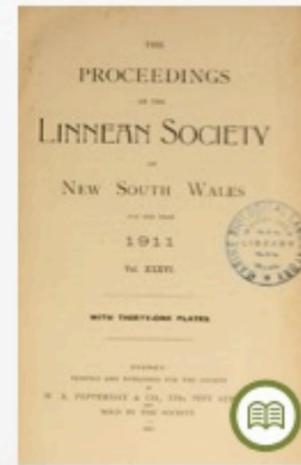
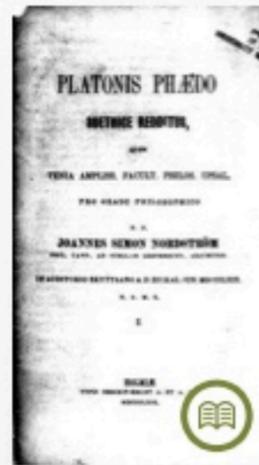
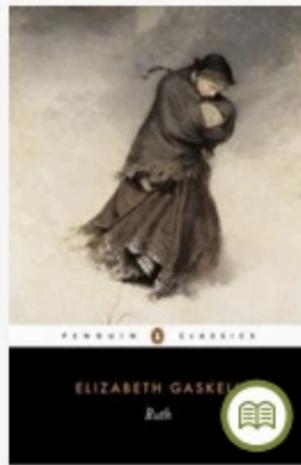
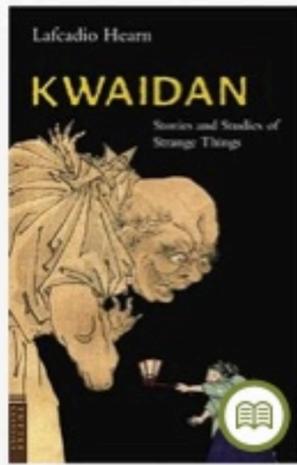
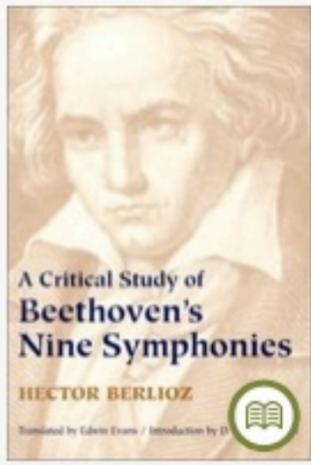


**Around the Library** Here's what's happened over the last 28 days. More [recent changes](#).

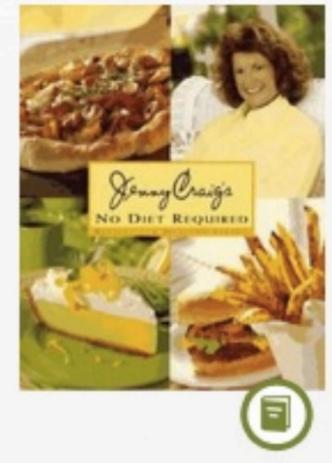
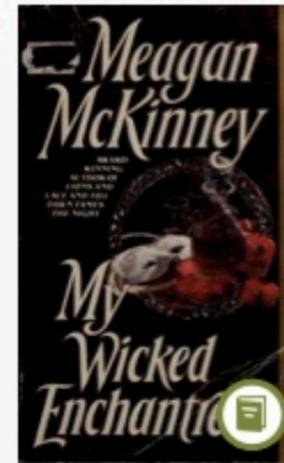
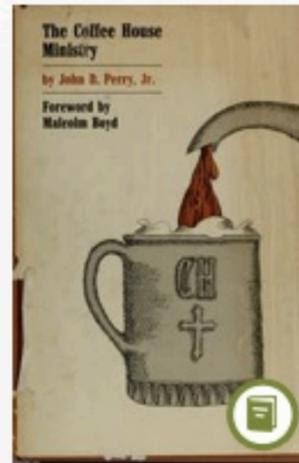
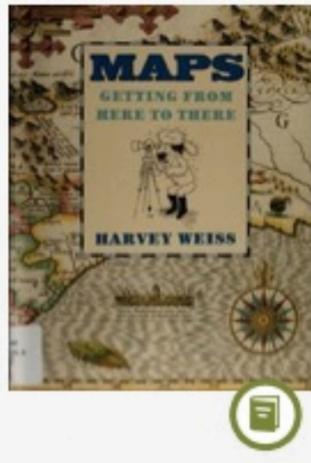
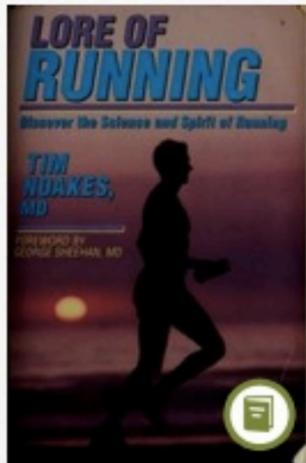


3.5 Envelope pushing

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**7,790,712**  
UNIQUE VISITORS



**22,762**  
NEW MEMBERS



**46,560**  
CATALOG EDITS



**1,349**  
LISTS CREATED



**107,220**  
EBOOKS BORROWED

3.5 Envelope pushing

OPEN LIBRARY GOES HERE



# 4

## 4. Library everywhere.

I have some bones to pick with the Little Free Library thing (they're NOT libraries, libraries are bookshelves + people!) they have definitely gotten people jazzed about not just being content consumers, but being content creators AND distributors. So they're not just reading, they're writing.... and sharing ... and helping other people read and write and share and discover. They're very popular and they get a lot of press, mostly good.

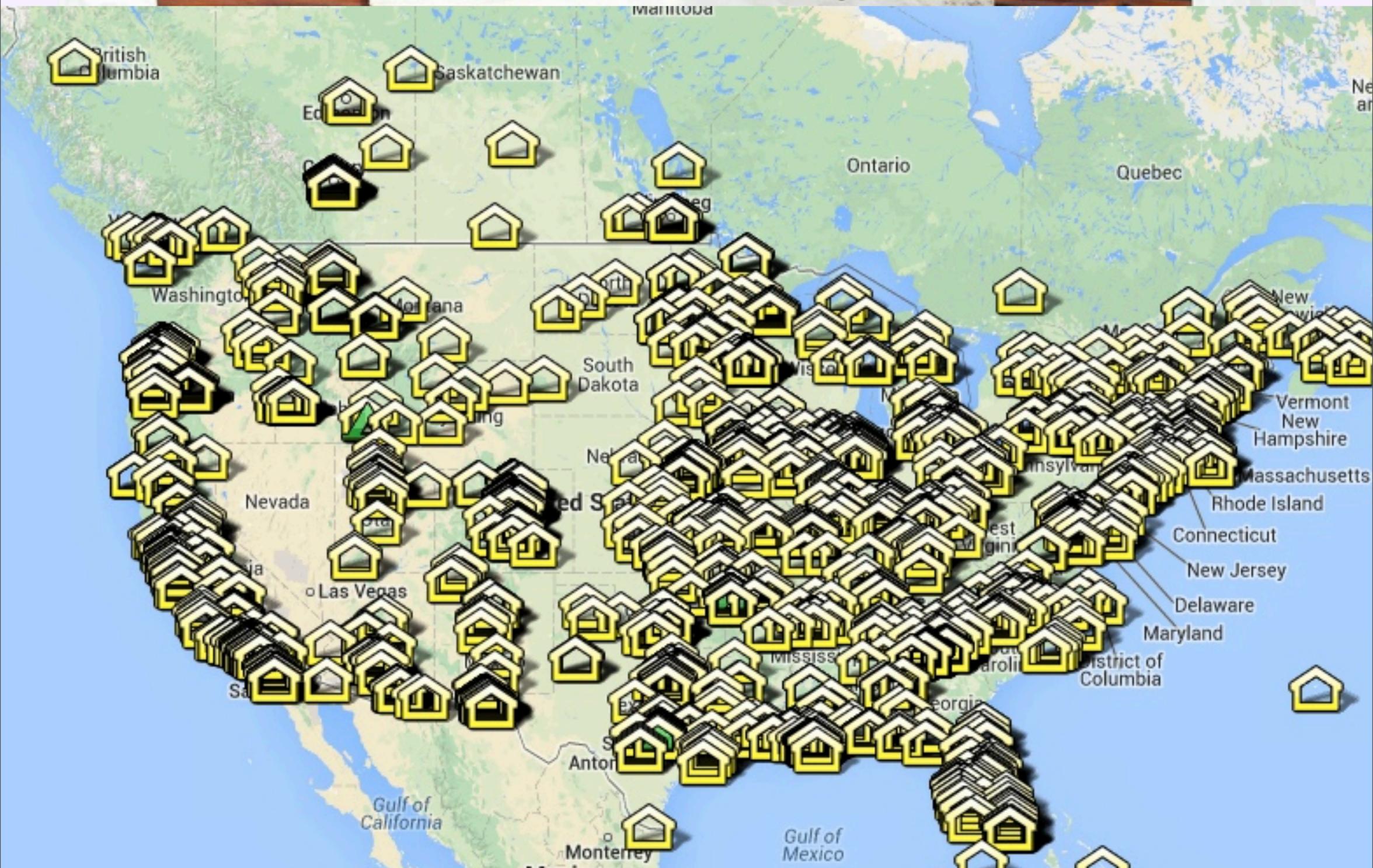
I went to go get some photos of cool little free libraries and, in a weird case of government imitating art... found this livre-service in Montreal. Basically newspaper boxes where you can take a book and leave a book. I am curious to see how this goes and whether it fills up with romances and spiders, but it's a neat idea, done by a government to complement the services libraries are already providing.



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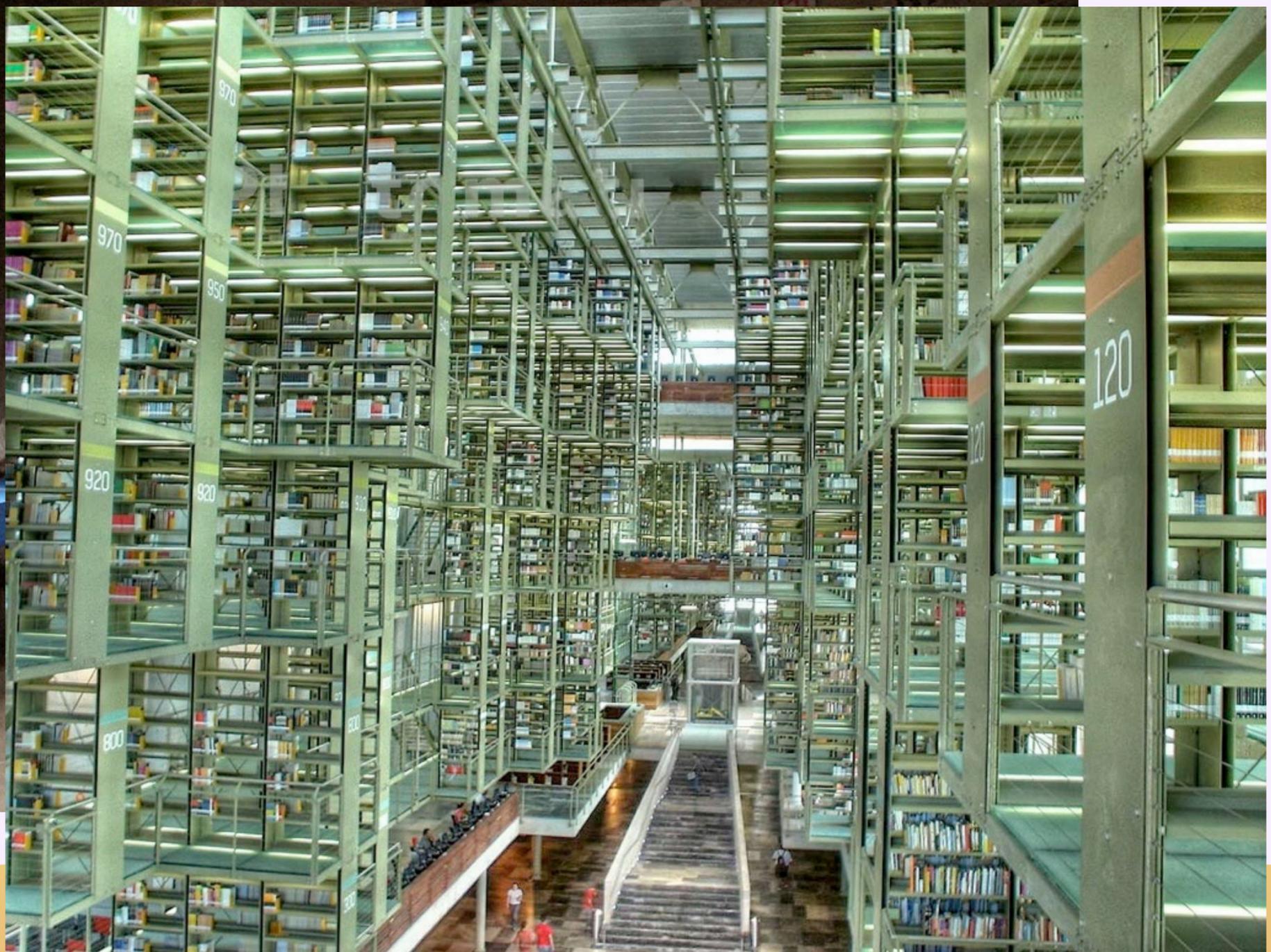
## 5. Special collections

All of this egghead stuff is well and good but more to the point, we're reaching more people than ever before and getting in places where we haven't been before whether it's little libraries (Ethiopia) or giant ones (Mexico City) or at my library (pictured) or yours (here) we can all be different but still are recognizable as the same thing, and it's not just because of the books.



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5

Seed libraries all over the place, ukulele lending libraries (in Portland Maine) and this one Human Library in the Santa Monica CA public library where you can “check out a human” (in this case people get to spend some time with a police detective)

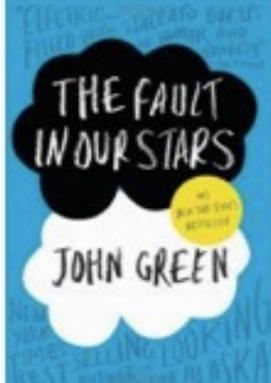
# Recently Awesome



The hidden law  
Nava, Michael.




Tusk

The fault in our stars  
Green, John




Subway  
Niemann, Christoph.




Oblivion



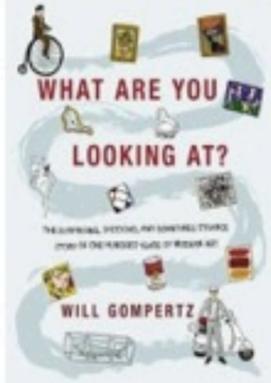

The King's Speech  
(DELETE AFTER HOLDS)  
Firth, Colin.




A true novel  
Mizumura, Minae




Gran Torino

What are you looking at  
Gompertz, Will



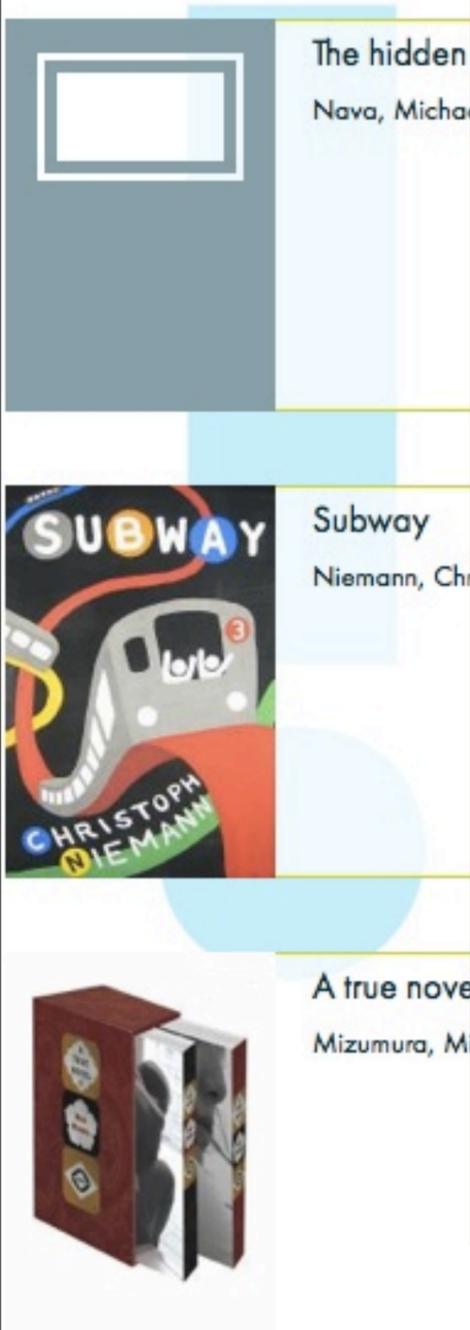
My favorite thing about libraries, at any time, is how you're allowed to take their good ideas and run with them in your own library. So somerville public has an awesome box. And I took a photo of it and my local librarian friend Virgil liked it and now Chelsea Vermont (population 1250) has one too.

So people tell you a lot of things when you're trying to figure out what you want to do. Follow your dreams, do what you can't not do and, most importantly...

Gandhi is quoted a lot as saying "Be the change you want to see in the world", but it's a bit of a paraphrase of his longer statement.

"We but mirror the world. All the tendencies present in the outer world are to be found in the world of our body. If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him.... We need not wait to see what others do."

Recent



The hidden  
Nava, Micha

SUBWAY  
Niemann, Ch

A true novel  
Mizumura, M

## AWESOME Items at the Chelsea Public Library!

### Awesome at Chelsea Public Library

Nausicaä of the valley of the  
wind

The silence of murder  
Mackall, Dandi Daley.

And the mountains echoed  
Hosseini, Khaled.

Americanah  
Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi

All the land to hold us  
Bass, Rick



stars

eech  
ER

looking

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*@jessamyn*

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