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# Back Talk: Paradise Will Be A Kind of Library

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In the case of the subtitle example above, that would be:

$page->subtitle()

The worst thing I could say about Kirby is that it prescribes a directory structure and naming scheme to a certain extent. Visible content should be in a subdirectory of Kirby's *content* folder, named according to *number-name* scheme such as "01-blog" or "02-comics." Unnumbered folders are "invisible," meaning they are still Web-accessible but do not appear in auto-generated navigation. Subdirectories follow this same scheme, with the numbers starting over from *01* in each folder.

Again, I found this hierarchy sensible and didn't consider it limiting to the project at hand. Admittedly, it does mean that media content like my image files are spread out in each individual post subdirectory. If you need to house all media together in one directory or in another structure, as I could see being useful for a digital library admin who didn't want to reinvent a wheel, you could get around this limitation with Kirby's custom metadata fields.

After considering your projects needs, I recommend experimenting with each of these flat file systems to see if it's right for the project and the people working on it. All are available on GitHub (Kirby's licensing is based on the honor system). Jekyll is very capable and probably fairly simple to use and maintain if you develop in Ruby. If you're more comfortable in PHP, Pico and Kirby are very similar on first, and even second, glance. I found Kirby easier to work with and extend. Plus, if I had problems Kirby's documentation cleared things up faster than Pico's did.

And then there's the fact that I was making a Webcomic, and what comics creator could resist a name that recalls the King, Jack Kirby?

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ways imagined that paradise will be a kind of library." I think this is 100% true and that is why we should all try to help others find this paradise before they cross the veil between this and whatever is coming next.

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*against the grain*
## people profile

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### Jennifer Lohmann

**BORN AND LIVED:** I've lived all over the place! I grew up in southern Idaho and Salt Lake City, went to college in Chicago, taught English as a Foreign Language in Shanghai, and then moved to Durham, North Carolina. My first three books are set in Chicago, a city I dearly love.

**IN MY SPARE TIME:** Between writing and working full-time, I hardly feel like I have spare time! I read a lot, both for work (I run two book clubs) and for fun. I like to cook and eat, so I like going out to restaurants and I read a lot of cookbooks. I run and enjoy hiking. I'm interested in quilting, but have only made two baby quilts (though I've bought fabric for several other quilts).

**FAVORITE BOOKS:** I've been telling everyone I meet to read *The Black Count* by **Tom Reiss**. I'm also a big fan of *Wolf Hall* and *Bring Up the Bodies* by **Hilary Mantel**. For romance novels, I love *The Outsider* by **Penelope Williamson**, anything **Carla Kelly** writes, *Simply Love* by **Mary Balogh**, and **Jennifer Crusie's** *Faking It*. I'm sure if you asked me on a different day, you'd get a different list. Asking a librarian this question is a bit like asking a mother to pick her favorite child.

**PHILOSOPHY:** Perfect is the opposite of good. **Anne Klinefelter**, the director of the **UNC Law Library**, told me that my first year of graduate school. Honestly, if I waited for perfect, I would never get anything done (can you tell that I'm a big picture person, instead of a detail-oriented person?).

**MOST MEMORABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT:** I have two careers, so I'll answer for both of them. Winning the **RWA Librarian of the Year Award** was fantastic. And getting the phone call from **Megan Long** for my first book was a wonderful feeling. I had been having a really terrible month of May. When **Megan** told me the production schedule and how quickly I'd have to turn the book over, she said, "Do you think you can do that?" My exact response was, "I've spent the past week force feeding a cat. I can do anything." It took **Megan** a couple seconds to respond with anything more coherent than a "um, okay."

**HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS:** eBooks and self-publishing are changing the market a lot (which we all know). Even though libraries and publishers are fighting out the role of libraries and eBooks, with brick-and-mortar stores struggling and the number of books available online is skyrocketing, I think authors and publishers will start placing greater value on the unique role of the library and librarians in getting books into the hands of readers (there are many authors and publishers who recognize this already).

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Speaking of *ATG profiles*, I noticed that **Anneliese Taylor** (p.30) noted that in her spare time, she enjoys anything that gets her away from a computing device. Ain't it the truth?

And reading the *Forbes* interview with **Anthea Stratigos** (see above) I was interested to see that she and her husband, **Greg Chagaris**, make a point of going computer-less when they vacation. This may be a growing trend?



Check out **Lindsay Barnett's** new couch. Do you think Charlie was watching the Academy Awards?

One last thing before I go, what do you think is the sexiest part about being a librarian? Got this from **Ileana Jacks** who found it on Instagram.

Now I gotta go! But be sure to visit the *ATG archive* on the **Purdue University Press** website not to mention the proceedings as well.

*http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg/*

**Happy Spring!**

Column Editor: **Anthony (Tony) W. Ferguson** (Interim Library Director, NYU's Shanghai Campus) <awf2@nyu.edu>

As I was contemplating what I might write, and how I might jazz it up a bit, it occurred to me that I simply needed to use the same technique that **Darren Aronofsky** used in his new movie, *Noah* — change the facts to create controversy in order to gain attention, and then hope my readers won't lose the central thought just because I strayed from the truth a bit.

In *Noah*, **Darren Aronofsky** kept to the general plot — there was going to be a lot of rain and an ark was needed to save the animals and the members of his family. But that wouldn't do much to fill the 138 minutes of the film. Interest generating conflict was what was needed. *Noah*, the movie, is full of it. There is a villain named Tubal-Cain who opposes Noah generally, who leads a hoard of saber wielding infidels intent on taking over the ark, personally stows himself away on the ark to escape the flood, and fights Noah to the death. There are also conflicts between Noah and his sons over who they can marry. Noah's wife has to convince Noah to decide not to kill his two new twin grand daughters. And there are stone giants with hearts of gold to battle the vicious hoards. None of this is in the *Bible* but it gets everyone's attention.

In the end I decided to talk about the new **Pew Foundation** report on public libraries that shows that 69% of Americans like and/or use libraries to some degree and others don't. Not too exciting, right? Definitely not movie material. Not even as exciting as the basic too-much-rain and only one huge ark story in the *Bible*. So I was truly tempted to give the real reasons why public libraries were not lovingly embraced by the other 31 or so percent. It is not because 4% simply don't see libraries as relevant to their lives; its not because 7% of the people surveyed are transients, ignorant about libraries; it's not because another 7% are living with disabilities or other roadblocks which prevent them from using or knowing about libraries; it's not because another 10% are older and poor; and its not because a final 4% are poorly educated and "disengaged" from their communities generally. What is the real reason? In the spirit of the movie *Noah*, I can now reveal it is the fault of the Tea Party corrupted Republican Party. The Republicans, especially those in the House of Representatives, understand that poorly educated poor people are more likely to be scared by evil stories about the White House run by a Kenyan and will consequently vote for Republicans. Therefore, they are doing all that they can to increase the number of ignorant paupers to insure that they can maintain a Republican House and hopefully win control of the Senate. That this erodes support for public libraries is just tough luck. I was tempted to do this, but decided against it.

So, at the risk of putting you all to sleep, I would like to talk seriously about the Pew Report (How Americans Value Public Libraries in Their Communities, *http://libraries.pewinternet.org/files/legacy-pdf/PIP_Libraries%20in%20communities.pdf*) and what we might do to increase what is already a very positive margin of support for public libraries, or indeed all libraries.

The authors of the Pew Report identified nine types of library users from "Library Lovers" to "Off the Grid," but then grouped them into four larger categories — high engagement, medium engagement, low engagement, and none [absolute no engagement]. They explain the reasons for each of these levels. What I would like to focus on are the types of people in the low and zero engagement [none] categories, and ask what we might do to move each of them up toward a level of higher engagement. Based upon my own reading of this report, here are the five major reasons for lower levels of library engagement:

1. Some people, for some reason or another, have negative views about libraries and barring some as-yet-unexpected experience, will continue to hold to this opinion.
2. They are transient members of, or simply "disengaged" from, their communities. Libraries simply don't have a role in their lives, these folks don't even know where the nearest public library is located.
3. Some, while they don't deny the value of libraries for others, have personally never used a library.
4. About 7% of the people studied are saddled with challenges that make going to a library difficult, e.g., are elderly, have a disability, live in a remote location, or are caring for a sick person in their family.
5. Some have low household incomes and/or low levels of education.

There is not space here to list all of the things that might be done to increase engagement with, and/or support for, libraries — other than putting the blame on the Republicans —but here are some ideas that I have seen pursued elsewhere, or which have occurred to me, and invite you to think seriously about what you might do in your community or library setting:

1. Develop a "Top 10 Things Your Library Can Do For You" handout and mobilize patrons, scouting and religious groups, etc., to take a copy to every household along with an invitation to go to the library.
2. Figure out how to identify new members of your community, give them a copy of the Top 10 list, a map showing where the library is located, and something telling them how to get a library card.
3. Hold non-library events of all sorts in the library to get those who have never been to the library to go there. Invite community groups to hold their meetings in the library — and don't charge them.
4. All libraries have unneeded books, magazines, DVDs, etc. Give/revolve collections of these sorts of things to nursing homes, offices, housing centers, etc. Make sure every item has an invitation to visit the library affixed to it.
5. "Facilitate" the ability of those who visit/help the elderly, the sick, the poor to take good but no longer needed library materials to these members of our communities. These helpers will welcome such materials as a way of not simply going to hear about how their friend/client's gall bladder is doing every time they visit. Maybe they can also take an inspiring biography or book of poems to read to the person they are visiting.

I have a souvenir T-shirt from one of the **University of Hong Kong Library's** annual library leadership retreats that has the following statement by the Argentine writer and librarian **Jorge Luis Borges** written on it: "I have al-