

Accessing the internet in public libraries ■ Crowdsourcing the library & archive ■ New Kazakhstan library ■ Twitter in research projects

# welcome



With the busy autumn conference season over (MMIT Conference in September, see page 27) and Internet Librarian

Conference in October, we're now in the throes of planning our own 2016 conference. There's a sneak preview on page 37 and we'll be posting regular updates to our blog.

Warm regards,

Catherine Dhanjal, Managing Editor

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**We'd love to hear your ideas for articles, reviews or case studies.**

**Just email the editor:**

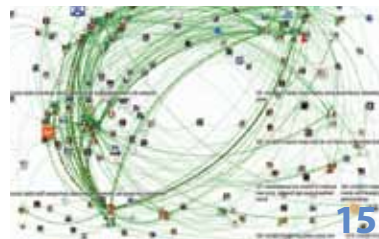
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# technology roundup

## Tech gift ideas

Are you looking for a high-end Christmas stocking filler for the technology geek in your life? Then look no further.

Here are four products that should impress:

### Kangaroo mobile desktop computer £75

Yes, this really is a handheld computer that you can carry around in your pocket or bag. It is a full powered PC with an

Intel Atom X5-Z8500 (1.44 GHz), 2 GB RAM running Windows 10 Home (see Figure 1).

It runs on battery power. That means you just plug in a cable if you wish to connect it to a PC monitor. No need to plug it in to begin working. It should be good for up to 4 hours. A good use-case would be where you have a presentation to do. Just connect this to the projector and you are good to go.

Visit: [www.infocus.com/kangaroo](http://www.infocus.com/kangaroo)

### Polaroid ZIP Instant Photoprinter £86

This pocket-sized device pairs wirelessly to any smartphone or tablet via Bluetooth 4.0 or NFC and uses a dedicated mobile app available for iOS or Android, allowing you to instantly edit and print 2x3" full-colour photos.

You should be able to print in less than 60 seconds. It is compatible with ZINK Zero Ink Paper 2"x3" providing smudge-proof photos with a sticky back for extra fun.  
Visit: [www.polaroid.com/products/zip-instant-photoprinter](http://www.polaroid.com/products/zip-instant-photoprinter)

### Amazon Echo £120

You interact with the standalone device through your voice. It plays all your music from Prime Music, Pandora, iHeartRadio, TuneIn, and more using just your voice. It hears you from across the room with far-field voice recognition, even while music is playing. It can answer questions, reads audiobooks and the news, reports traffic and weather, gives info on local businesses, provides sports scores and schedules, and more. You can use it to control lights and switches with compatible WeMo, Philips Hue, Samsung SmartThings, Insteon, and

other connected devices.

The Echo is currently only available in the US.

Visit: [www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00X4WHP5E/ref=ods\\_xs\\_ae\\_shurl](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00X4WHP5E/ref=ods_xs_ae_shurl)

Watch the video: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkOCeAtKHlc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkOCeAtKHlc)

### Axis Aerious — world's smallest quadcopter £25

This is an ultra-compact drone with a storage/transport compartment where you can even place the drone inside the controller. It is a fun way to practice flying drones indoors. It measures only 3cm x 3cm x 2cm. It has a 5-7 minute flight time per 15 minute charge via USB cable. It has 2-speeds which are pre-programmed for a desired level of flight sensitivity and a headless mode allows for beginners to ensure flight orientation. The 6-Axis gyro stabilisation keeps the drone stable and centered.

Visit: <http://axisdrones.com/products/aerious-the-new-worlds-smallest-quadcopter?variant=3928888260>



Image: © Polaroid





### ► Wearable gadgets to help you keep fit

The future trend for helping keep fit is wearables. Wearables will become more ubiquitous than computers in the near future. This makes sense as you can wear multiple devices on one's self as opposed to carrying one or two computing devices. The wearable technology market is a growth area for mobile technology as smartphones reach a 70 percent saturation point in developed markets including the US and UK. In 2014, 90m wearables, including fitness trackers and smartwatches were sold worldwide, and this number is expected to reach 200m in 2015.

One does not have to read too much tech news to see that a lot of attention is being showered on new arrivals in the wearable tech space. We are seeing more wrist-wrapped devices with increased processing and power in addition

to many more sensors for reading heart rate, bio data, steps taken, estimated calories burned, quality of sleep and more. Helping people stay fit is one such niche area of this. The arrival of wearable devices has been made possible by advancements in miniaturising electronics and also in part to advances in battery technologies.



#### Hexoskin

The latest wearable trend is single function devices such as activity-specific clothing, such as Hexoskin which monitor workouts or indeed wearable medical devices such as Vital Connect, which is a patch that tracks your vital signs and allows doctors access to the data. Visit: [www.hexoskin.com](http://www.hexoskin.com)

#### Sony h.ear £150

Another example of a single function wearable useful when working out is earbuds that simply block out much of the background noise in daily life. Basically 24/7 noise cancellation. The Sony h.ear in NC High-Resolution Noise Cancelling Headphones are one example. Visit: [www.sony.co.uk/electronics/headband-headphones/mdr-100aap?cid=sem-4262](http://www.sony.co.uk/electronics/headband-headphones/mdr-100aap?cid=sem-4262)

#### Multisensor watches

There are many other multi-function wearables such as the Basis multisensor watch that monitors movement, heart rate, and skin temperature to track your activity and sleep. We are seeing more wrist-wrapped devices with increased processing and power in addition to many more sensors for reading heart rate, bio data, steps taken, estimated calories

burned, quality of sleep and more.

For example, the Epson Pulsense line of watches and wristbands for fitness, health, and wellness monitoring can monitor heart rate, activity levels, calories burnt, and sleep patterns. The Pulsense Band and Watch detects and stores the user's heart rate without the use of a chest strap, using only sensors within the wrist device which measure light reflected from red blood cells and records heart beats accordingly by tracking the changes.

They claim that this device can more accurately determine calories burned using algorithms based on gender, age, and weight because it performs both heart rate monitoring and activity level tracking.

Visit: [www.mybasis.com/en-GB/](http://www.mybasis.com/en-GB/)  
[www.epson.co.uk/gb/en/viewcon/corporatesite/cms/index/11219/](http://www.epson.co.uk/gb/en/viewcon/corporatesite/cms/index/11219/)



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Image: © Sony

# coming soon...

## February 2016

Features, including:

Copyright & licensing

Interactive learning on The Cold War

Privacy and security on the internet

News

Reviews

Marketing insight

Technology roundup

## MMIT Conference 2016

September 2016, Sheffield, UK.

"The library's role in digital citizenship"

Find out more on the Group's blog: [mmitblog.wordpress.com](http://mmitblog.wordpress.com)



coming soon...

*Your articles, photographs, reviews, thoughts and suggestions for the journal are always welcome, just contact Catherine Dhanjal on [catherine.dhanjal@theansweruk.com](mailto:catherine.dhanjal@theansweruk.com) or call +44 (0)800 998 7990.*



Image: <https://pixabay.com/en/users/AdaMiranda-54498/>



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