![Smithsonian Institution logo] **Smithsonian Institution**   # News

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Smithsonian Institution Libraries Celebrate 40th Anniversary

The Smithsonian Institution Libraries 40th Anniversary Ruby Red Gala, "Paint the Town REaD!," will be held the evening of Oct. 30 at the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture. The event aims to increase awareness and raise funds for the Institution's libraries. The libraries support the needs of the Institution's curators and researchers and are active public educators. The exhibition program and the digital library initiative bring rare and valuable works from the libraries' collection to a global audience through the Internet. The Web site receives 40 million hits per year.

The guest speaker at the Ruby Gala will be author David Baldacci. Baldacci has written 14 best-selling novels and recently released his 15th novel, "The Whole Truth." More than 50 million of his books have been sold in more than 40 languages.

The event will include a silent auction featuring behind-the-scenes tours of museums and local attractions and tickets to events such as "The Colbert Report." Corporate sponsors include Gryphon Technologies, ProQuest, Sage, MACRO International Inc., Edge Research and Alexandria Buick Pontiac GMC.

About Smithsonian Libraries

The libraries are an integral component of the world's largest and most prestigious museum and research complex. The collection, housed in 20 branches, contains more than 1.5 million volumes, including 42,000 rare books. Among the libraries' many treasures are the books and letters of Galileo and James Smithson's library. The "Paint the Town REaD!" Gala will raise funds to support the work of the Institution's curators and scientists and ensure that the many treasures in the libraries are accessible to a growing public constituency.

For more information about "Paint the Town REaD!," visit www.paintthetownread.com. For more information about David Baldacci visit www.davidbaldacci.com.

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