

The Lamplighter



IN THE SYSTEM

Antigo Public Library Staff Explore Databases

Cynthia Taylor, Director of the Antigo Public Library, has implemented a very assertive campaign to inform her staff and the public about all of the available databases at her library. Taylor spoke about her program as a way that "... will help staff better serve our customers and will increase awareness in the public about the tremendous information at their fingertips."

Taylor went on to say, "Anything I can do to make using these resources easier will also benefit the community." Taylor has written several articles for her local newspaper featuring the various databases and promoting how the library can help people with their information needs. "But awareness is the first step," added Taylor. "These are rich resources we couldn't begin to afford on our own."

She has created wonderful brochures she shares with the public on each of the databases. She has also made it a requirement for all her public desk staff to attend training sessions on the products wherever available. "Most of them have been free webinars, and we've all learned a lot."

Taylor found another way to reach into her community

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and provide valuable information about the library databases by preparing a power point presentation for her area high school. This program was a huge success for the library and now students are aware of the Learning Express, OverDrive, Career Library, and Opposing Viewpoints as they start their new school year.

Taylor did not forget about how important the Antigo Public Library's website (<http://www.antigopl.org/>) can be for library users. She has created direct links to most of the databases on the front page of their website. "Whether the resource is provided by BadgerLink or WVLS, I think it's important for users to be able to access a database as directly as possible..." Taylor emphasized. "This makes it much easier to reach the appropriate database, instead of having to study a long list of databases to find the right one."

Another nice thing about all of this is that Taylor is willing to share the content of her training programs, the promotional flyers she has developed, and how to create these direct links for your library's website. Please contact her at: ctaylor@antigopl.com

(Inese Christman, WVLS)

New Professional Resource Available to WVLS and Library Staff

The Wisconsin Valley Library Service has started a subscription to "*Library Technology Reports: Expert Guides to Library Systems and Services*". This publication is issued eight times a year and covers topics such as: "Open Source Public Workstations in Libraries", "Collaboration 2.0", "Gaming and Libraries", and "Building the Digital Branch: Guidelines to Transform Your Website". If anyone from a WVLS library would like to be placed on the routing list for this publication, contact: Leora Young at: 715-261-7254 or e-mail at: lyoung2@wvls.lib.wi.us.

"Top Ten List of Phrases Library Personnel Fear Hearing"

Well, folks, I have survived three years as director at the Colby Public Library. Time sure flies when you are having fun!

As I begin my fourth year, I want to share with you my "Top Ten List of Phrases Library Personnel Fear Hearing." (The names, if given, have been changed to protect the guilty.)

10. I was listening to TV/radio this morning and heard about a book being released today. Do you have it?
9. I was reading in the bathtub...
8. I was going to return these movies last week, but it was way too cold (or too hot) to stop in, so they have been riding around in my car for the past week. **(YIKES!)**
7. You won't believe what Fido did to the books we have checked out...
6. Where is your bathroom? Down the hall and to the right? I hope we can make it that far. When Sally has to go, she really has to go. Oops, too late...

5. Those library magazines that are overdue on my account? I think we threw them in your donation box last week...
4. Sorry to call you at home so late at night, but I just wanted to let you know that your outside bookdrop is full...
3. Tommy doesn't really understand the concept of turning pages in a book yet...
2. Do you still have a book that is green and is either paperback or hardcover that I read about 20 years ago? I don't know the title or author, but I am pretty sure it is green or maybe brown....

And the number one phrase that library workers dread hearing is:

1. Johnny stayed home from school today with the flu, but he was getting bored so I thought I would bring him in to pick out some movies before he throws up again...

Seriously, we have wonderful patrons who make our job very interesting. But sometimes, they do say the darndest things!

(Vicky Calmes, Director of the Colby Public Library)

Carol Ruth Wessler Scholarship Report

"Introduction to Reference Services and Resources" is a three credit course offered as part of the Master in Library and Information Science (MLIS) program at UW-Milwaukee. I was able to take it during summer 2009 as part of my MLIS studies. This course was taught by Professor Thomas Walker and took place from the dates of May 26-July 10, 2009.

This course covered many of the basics of reference services including ready reference, indexes, reader's advisory, evaluation of materials, and Internet resources. Using a variety of assigned exercises, I was able to practice answering several questions that would likely come up while working a reference desk. Through these exercises I was able to learn the best techniques for finding the best answers for these questions as quickly as possible while providing good customer service.

For our final project we were asked to write and document a Wikipedia page. This exercise showed us that, while anyone can edit a Wikipedia page, it is very difficult to create an article that is entirely up to Wikipedia's standards. Writing the Wikipedia entry helped me realize how useful Wikipedia can be. A thoroughly written Wikipedia article should have references at the bottom of the page or additional resources that can lead a researcher to solid sources. Wikipedia also can give the researcher a basic understanding of the topic. The professor did stress the importance of finding additional sources other than Wikipedia, because even though articles for Wikipedia need to be supported with references, it can still be unreliable at times.

This course taught me a lot about the resources we have in place at Marathon County Public Library - including the vast print resources available in MCPL's reference collection. This class has prepared me for a variety of reference questions that will come up while I work the reference desk in

any library. It also gave me the chance to practice answering such questions. This class was invaluable to me as an information professional. I am looking forward to using what I learned in this class at my job at Marathon County Public Library and in my future.

(Rachel Cornelius, Marathon County Public Library)

TRUSTEE'S CORNER

Updated Resource for Library Trustees

ALA Editions has released a second edition of *The Successful Library Trustee Handbook* (<http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=2752>) by Mary Y. Moore.

Designed to improve any board's effectiveness, this thoroughly revised resource includes updated state and federal legislation affecting public libraries, new tips on meeting management, and a new chapter on library technology. Practical checklists, tables, and "what have you learned?" review items will help anyone maximize the experience of serving on a board.

(American Libraries Direct, September 16, 2009)



YOUTH MATTERS

Teen Read Week 2009

Teen Read Week 2009 will be celebrated Oct. 18-24! This year's theme is: "Read Beyond Reality @ your library", which encourages teens to read something out of this world, just for the fun of it. Registration is now open at:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/teenreading/trw/trw2009/registration.cfm>. The first 100 registrants will receive a free graphic translation of *Fahrenheit 451*.

Teen Read Week is an initiative of YALSA, and started in 1998. Why is it important to celebrate? For a lot of reasons! Teens have so many options for entertainment, so it's important to remind them to spend time reading for pleasure: it's free, fun, and can be done anywhere! Research shows that teens who read for fun have better test scores and are more likely to succeed in the workforce. Also, it's a great chance to let your school or your public library communities know how important teen services are! Let teens know the possibilities that exist within your doors, and within the covers of books.

(From Rhonda Puntney's CEO; September 9, 2009)

Connect Troubled Teens With the Power of Reading

Apply by November 2 to receive a "Great Stories CLUB" reading and discussion program grant!

The American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) are now accepting applications for the next round of "Great Stories CLUB" grants. Electronic applications for the reading and discussion series will be accepted through

November 2 at <http://www.ala.org/greatstories>. Funding was provided for this program by Oprah's Angel Network.

The "Great Stories CLUB" (Connecting Libraries, Underserved teens and Books) is a book club program designed to reach underserved, troubled teen populations through books that are relevant to their lives.

All types of libraries (public, school, academic and special) located within or working in partnership with facilities serving troubled teens in the United States and its territories are eligible to apply for a "Great Stories CLUB" grant.

For more information on the "Great Stories CLUB", including guidelines, book titles and descriptions, application instructions and feedback from past participants, visit <http://www.ala.org/greatstories>.

(American Libraries Direct, September 2, 2009)

Youth Leaders for Literacy Grants Available

Grants of \$500 each plus books worth \$500 will be awarded to children and youth between the ages of 5 and 25 for working to increase literacy and reading among their peers. Deadline is **October 30, 2009** and applications can be found at: <http://www.cybergrants.com/ysa/yll/quiz>.

CPSC Issues Rule Regarding Lead Standards in Library Books

As the American Library Association (ALA) has emphasized since first enactment of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA), concern for children's safety is our first priority in providing materials to young patrons. On August 26, 2009, the CPSC's final rule on children's products containing lead was released. In the rule, CPSC confirmed that libraries have no independent obligation to test library books for lead under the law. CPSC will also release a Statement of Policy specifically providing guidance for libraries with regard to the treatment of older children's books that could potentially contain lead. According to our conversations with CPSC officials, that Statement of Policy should be released within the next several weeks.

In the mean time, ALA recommends that libraries take the following actions. If a library is aware that any children's book does indeed contain lead above the legal limits or otherwise presents a danger to children, it should remove it from public access, for instance by moving it to the non-circulating collection. We would also ask that if libraries do learn of any books containing lead to please let the ALA – Washington Office know so that we might share that information with other libraries.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jessica McGilvray, Assistant Director of the ALA Office of Government Relations at jmcgilvray@alawash.org or 1-800-941-8478.

(American Libraries Direct, September 2, 2009)

CONTINUING EDUCATION

What's New with BadgerLink?

Where: Marathon County Public Library, Wausau Room
300 N. First Street, Wausau, Wisconsin
When: Thursday, November 12, 2009, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Please join David Sleasman, Wisconsin Reference & Loan, as he explores BadgerLink's rich collection of information tools. David will share what's new with BadgerLink and provide valuable tips on how to best utilize this wonderful resource.



AGENDA:

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. - Coffee & Conversation
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. - BadgerLink

To register: send this completed form to: Inese Christman, WVLS, 300 N. First Street, Wausau, WI 54403, 715-261-7256, or e-mail: ichristman@wvls.lib.wi.us

NAME: _____ LIBRARY: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Registration Deadline: Monday, November 9, 2009

Workshop sponsored by the Wisconsin Valley Library Service. Continuing Education contact hours = 3 hours.

If you have questions or need special accommodations, contact: Inese Christman at 715-261-7256 or ichristman@wvls.lib.wi.us

What's New with BadgerLink?



2009 – 2010

College of DuPage

Online & DVD Learning Opportunities

WVLS has subscribed to the College of DuPage Library Learning Network. The following webinars will be available for WVLS members, staff, and trustees. Please register and get the link to the webinars or reserve the DVD of these online sessions from Inese Christman, 715-261-7256 or ichristman@wvls.lib.wi.us

The Library Learning Network consists of the "Soaring to Excellence" and the "Library Challenges & Opportunities" series. All teleconferences are 90 minutes in length from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Each session counts as 1.5 contact hours for public library certification.

Date	Time	Program
November 13, 2009	11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	"Millennials in the Library"
January 29, 2010	11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	"Making the Best of a Shrinking Budget: Creative Practices in a New Economy"
February 19, 2010	11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	"Cataloging: Where Are We Now? Where Are We Going?"
March 12, 2010	11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	"Information Literacy Education: A National Overview"
April 9, 2010	11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	"Technology Trends in Libraries: Tools, Skills, Staffing, Training"

For more details go to: <http://www.dupagepress.com/library-learning-network/>
or contact Inese Christman at 715-261-7256 / ichristman@wvls.lib.wi.us

INFO TO GO

Let's Make EBSCOHost Databases Easier to Use

I've learned that if you don't make the steps to accessing an electronic database as simple as possible, a potential database user gets very frustrated and won't use it. EBSCOhost has a little shortcut!

I stumbled across a way to make it possible for a database user to link directly with a BadgerLink resource from EBSCOhost without having to first access BadgerLink and then pick the resource the user wants from a long list (often the database they want is out of sight on the screen unless they scroll).

Before I had a user link to BadgerLink as part of my databases (<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=cpid&custid=s6252341&profile=AUTOREFCTR>) for all the state-funded resources like Auto Repair Reference Center, Student Research Center, Kids Search, Searchasaurus, etc.

Say that I want a patron to be able to go directly to the Auto Repair Reference Center, without first having to link to the above site. Solution: add &profile=AUTOREFCTR to the end of the BadgerLink URL (address). So, the shortcut URL for the Auto Repair Reference Center is:

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=cpid&custid=s6252341&profile=AUTOREFCTR>

It's exactly the same link, but you add the specific profile to the end of the BadgerLink URL.

Cool!

- Student Research Center direct URL = <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=cpid&custid=s6252341&profile=SRC>
- Kids Search direct URL = <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=cpid&custid=s6252341&profile=SRCK5>
- Consumer Health Complete direct URL = <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=cpid&custid=s6252341&profile=CHC>
- Searchasaurus direct URL = <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=cpid&custid=s6252341&profile=SAS>
- Literary Reference Center direct URL = <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=cpid&custid=s6252341&profile=LRC>
- NovelList K-8 direct URL = <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=cpid&custid=s6252341&profile=NOVELISTK8>
- Business Searching Interface direct URL = <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=cpid&custid=s6252341&profile=BSI>

Clearly this will only work with EBSCO's stand-alone databases; it won't work, for instance, with the categories of "Health and Medical Databases" or the "Business Databases."

But, for young users like children, my belief is that they get lost if you make them go through too many links where they have to make choices before they finally get to where they want to be. The same is true for our senior citizens brave enough to even sit at a computer.

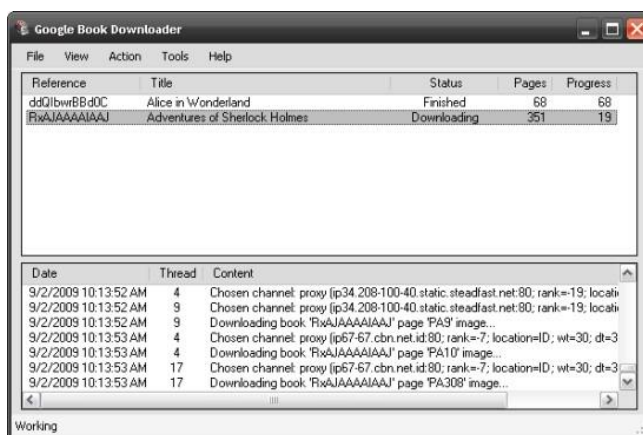
Now, maybe some of you at WVLS already know this, but I've never been able to get Antigo's users to make full use of BadgerLink because searching is just too complex for them. I am optimistic

that this shortcut to a lot of the databases will increase usage. I know it is very important to clearly state that a given resource is made available through BadgerLink or WVLS, and web sites need to say this. But that's no reason to make patrons jump through hoops to get what they want.

(Cynthia Taylor, Director of the Antigo Public Library)

Google Book Downloader

Have you ever wondered how you could download Google books ... ?



Google Book Downloader is a free utility that lets you download any book that's available in "full view" from Google Books (<http://books.google.com/>) Of course, most of these books also feature download links right on the web page, but *Google Books Downloader* lets you queue up multiple jobs and convert all of the downloaded books to PDF files.

The application is available for Windows and requires Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5 SP1. You can either install *Google Book Downloader* or download a portable version which you can simply unzip and run from your hard drive or a removable disk.

In order to queue up a book for download, just open the "add book" dialog in the file menu and copy and paste the book code, link, or ISBN number, click search, and then select the book that shows up. To begin downloading, right click a title and hit "start" and to export a file as a PDF, right-click and hit "export."

You can find more instructions in the tutorial found at:

<http://googlebookdownloader.codeplex.com/Wiki/View.aspx?title=How%20to%20use%20it%3f>

(American Libraries Direct, September 9, 2009)

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

100 Helpful Websites for New Teachers -

<http://www.teachingdegree.org/2009/06/21/100-helpful-websites-for-new-teachers/>

Classes have just started in many school districts and many new teachers are already getting a sense of what their coursework didn't prepare them to deal with. They'll find social networks and forums here, where they can ask their questions; they'll also find sites for videos, freebies, using technology,

blogs and Twitter in the classroom, and all-purpose sites aimed specifically at them.

(*Neat New Stuff I Found on the Net This Week*, <http://marylaine.com/neatnew.html>, Copyright, Marylaine Block, 1999-2009)

WVLS Technology Blog – “Adventures in Underland” - <http://blog.thisinstance.com/>

Follow our own Josh Klingbeil as he blogs about the wonderful “underland of technology”. He has chosen topics such as cloud computing, broadband, and screenshot tips for starters.

WVLS Digital Archive - <http://wvls.lib.wi.us/digitalarch.htm>

WVLS has created a webpage called “Wisconsin Valley Library Service Digital Archive”, which includes links to the *Central Wisconsin Digital Project*, the *Clark County History Archive*, and the *Withee Public Library Oral History Interviews on YouTube*.

MajorMania or UW HELP – <http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/majormanial>

MajorMania is a searchable web site of the UW System’s academic programs. The site contains more than 4,400 graduate and undergraduate majors, minors, emphases, teacher certifications, concentrations, and other type of academic programs.

“Longshots” - <http://www.librarybeat.org/longshots>

Sarah Long, Executive Director of the North Suburban Library System, shares her weekly podcasts, called "Longshots," which explore the world of libraries through interviews with key library figures and commentary on issues that matter to libraries.

(*American Libraries Direct*, September 8, 2009)

Libraries Connect Americans with Online Government and Jobs -

http://www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/2008_2009/librariesconnectcommunities3.pdf

With national unemployment topping 9% and many Americans seeking online information and new technology skills, U.S. public libraries are first responders in a time of economic uncertainty. *Libraries Connect Communities 3: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study 2008–2009*, an ALA report released September 15, says libraries are serving as crucial technology hubs for people in need of free web access, computer training, and assistance finding and using e-government and job resources...

(*American Libraries Direct*, September 16, 2009)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

- October is: National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. For more details, go to: <http://nbcam.org/index.cfm>
- Oct 1** **V-Cat Council Meeting**, 9:30 a.m., Abbotsford Public Library
- Oct 7- 8 PLA Advocacy Training for Gates Foundation Grant, Hyatt, Minneapolis, MN.
- Oct 17** **WVLS Executive Committee Meeting** – Marathon County Public Library, 9:30 a.m.
- Oct 18 - 24 Teen Read Week 2009 – “Read Beyond Reality@your library”, details at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/teenreading/trw/trw2009/home.cfm>
- Oct 18 - 24 National Friends of Libraries Week. For more details, go to: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/altaff/altaff/fofweek/index.cfm>
- Oct 20 - 23 Wisconsin Library Association Annual Conference, Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton. For more details, go to: <http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/conferences/2009/>
- Oct 23 David Mulroy, “The Meaning of Oedipus Rex”, Nicolet College Library, 5:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER

- November is: National American Indian Heritage Month. For more details, go to:
<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/aihm1.html>
- Nov 1 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- Nov 11 Veteran's Day
- Nov 11 "Chuck Rybak: Tongue and Groove", Nicolet College Library, 5:00 p.m.
- Nov 12 WVLS Workshop on "What's New With BadgerLink?"** – Marathon County Public Library, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Nov 13 College of DuPage Online Workshop- "Millenials in the Library"**, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Register with Inese Christman for login information or to reserve the DVD at:
ichristman@wvls.lib.wi.us
- Nov 14 WVLS Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marathon County Public Library, 9:30 a.m.
- Nov 14 National Gaming Day @ your library For more details, go to:
<http://ilovelibraries.org/gaming/>
- Nov 26 Thanksgiving Holiday
- Nov 27 WVLS Office Closed**



DECEMBER

- December is: National Bingo Month. For more details, go to:
<http://www.brownielocks.com/bingo.html>
- Dec 2 "Kevin Brown: Cooking with Kevin", Nicolet College Library, 5:00 p.m.
- Dec 3 V-Cat Council Meeting**, 9:30 a.m., Antigo Public Library
- Dec 12 WVLS Executive Committee Meeting** – Marathon County Public Library, 9:30 a.m.
- Dec 24 & 25 WVLS Office Closed**

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation."
- Walter Cronkite



The **LAMPLIGHTER** is a monthly newsletter of the Wisconsin Valley Library Service, 300 N. First Street, Wausau, WI 54403. Back issues are available at:

<http://wvls.lib.wi.us/Newsletter/newsindex.htm>

(Note: Web links in past issues are not checked for currency and may no longer work.)

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Contributions are welcome! News items should be submitted by the fifteenth of the month. WVLS serves Clark, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, and Taylor counties. When the most recent issue becomes available, readers are alerted by a notice posted to WISPUBLIB, or sent an email. To subscribe to WISPUBLIB, send an email message to wispublib@badger.state.wi.us In the body of the message (subject line is ignored) type: subscribe WISPUBLIB. Then send your email. To have The Lamplighter emailed to you without subscribing to WISPUBLIB, contact Barbara Freimund at 715/261-7250, or email freimund@wvls.lib.wi.us You may copy, reprint or forward all or part of this newsletter to friends, colleagues or customers, as long as the use is not for resale or profit and the information/article is attributed to this issue of the WVLS newsletter, *The Lamplighter*.