
District Services Newsletter, October 2008

District Services

Continuing Education Opportunities for Staff and Trustees

Teleconferences in November

Reversing the Ratchet: Basic Technology Adoption Strategies for Library Workers, Friday, November 7 at 12 noon, Lecture Hall, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Main. In a technology landscape where gadgets, gizmos, software and Web2.0 innovations hit us at an ever accelerating pace, how do we successfully manage technology adoption in our libraries? This presentation addresses the challenge of the technology ratchet and how to keep it from tightening its grip on library workers. Steven Bell, Associate University Librarian for Research and Instructional Services at Temple University, will share ideas and techniques for regaining control over library technology with an exploration of better ways to identify, adopt and leverage the technologies that make sense for us and that create a better library user experience for our communities.

Information Literacy for Life, Friday, November 21, at 12 noon, Lecture Hall, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Main. Experts will explore how public librarians, school librarians and academic librarians can collaborate to create comprehensive information literacy programs that span a user's lifetime.

Audio Conference in December

Future Savvy: Trend Impacts and Organizational Responses, Wednesday, December 10, 1PM, Director's Office Conference Room, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Main. Andy Hines, Futurist and Director of Custom Projects for Social Technologies, LLC, will discuss how public libraries can better anticipate and translate the impact of emerging trends on their library. Hines will also introduce members to the firm's "futures maturity index", which provides in-depth guidance for implementing organization-wide futures practices. This December's Urban Libraries Council (ULC) audio conference will wrap up this year's series on topics related to the ULC Foresight 2020 agenda: helping our member libraries imagine, learn and innovate faster.

The teleconferences are sponsored by the Pittsburgh District Library Center through the College of DuPage and funded by LSTA dollars. The audio conference is sponsored by the Pittsburgh District Library Center through the Urban Libraries Council. The audio and teleconferences are open to all library staff and trustees and offer 1.5 hours of continuing education. Please pre-register with Phyllis DiDiano, District Services at didanop@carnegielibrary.org or call her at 412.665.2332.

Shipping Department Update

Tina LaMark, Assistant Director, Technical and Access Services

Fall is a time of change and there will be a very welcome change coming this

Fall to the Library Support Center, Shipping Department. Amidst the golds and reds of autumn's leaves, comes the arrival of our Automated Materials Handling system (AMH). While not as colorful, it is a very welcome addition at a time of continued increasing volume and will allow us to continue to use our red and green hampers and our grey bins. A PowerPoint presentation [Shipping Department Update: We Look to the Conveyor!](#) which was recently presented at two district meetings, includes a brief background of Shipping, statistics on volume and productivity, as well as some pictures of the chosen vendor's system-FKI Logistex-at the Minneapolis Public Library.

I have also included answers to questions that arose out of recent discussions concerning the new automated sorting system AMH, and the process involved: [Questions & Answers AMH and Process](#). Please contact me at 412.920.4520 or lamarkt@carnegielibrary.org if you have further questions concerning any of the information presented. I would be happy to hear from you!

Youth Services

Kelley Beeson, Youth Services Coordinator, Allegheny County Library Association

At the recent Pittsburgh District Advisory Council meeting, I provided an overview of the youth services initiatives and assistance offered to all the ACLA libraries throughout the year. Initiatives such as CE opportunities with David Lee King and Joan Frye Williams; bi-monthly podcasts with Johnny Hartwell; and plans to expand cooperation on Summer Reading Committee 2009 with 4 other districts are included in my report-[2008: A Year in Review and Looking Ahead](#).

I am always available to assist with any and all that is related to serving children through libraries in Allegheny County. Please contact me anytime with questions, suggestions via telephone at 412.921.1123 or email at beesonk@eninetnetwork.net

Teen Services

Karen Brooks-Reese, Teen Services Coordinator

Despite often being underserved in libraries, teens nationwide are using public libraries in greater numbers than ever before. Offering exemplary service to this population is a challenging yet essential aspect of library services today. My PowerPoint, [Teens and Librarians: Everybody Wins](#), found on the Pittsburgh District Library Center web site(scroll down to Teen Services), discusses how teens are different but uniquely loveable, shares reasons why your library should create a special place for teens, reveals what teens enjoy and why, calls attention to teen service statistics and highlights the teen services provided through the Pittsburgh District Library Center.

I am available to assist with teen collection development and program planning, teen space design, teen reader's advisory and training for teen staff. If directors, library staff or library trustees have any questions about this PowerPoint or anything to do with teen services, give me a call at 412.578.2599 or drop me an email at: brooks1@carnegielibrary.org

Pennsylvania Department

Two New Databases Available for Library Staff and Customers

The Pittsburgh Courier and the New Pittsburgh Courier newspaper archives from 1911-2002 are now available for library access searching. This full-text archive was acquired through a cooperative project of the Pennsylvania and Microfilm Departments and ProQuest Historical newspapers; ProQuest staff

came to CLP - Main in June and scanned issues in the CLP collection which were missing from the ProQuest holdings. The Pittsburgh Courier can be found in the database listings at

<http://www.carnegielibrary.org/research/news/newspapers.html>

Within the Pennsylvania Department there is now access to Footnote Database thanks to the generous gift of the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society. This database, only accessible through the PA Department PC's, is a rich source of original American documents relating to the Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI, WWII, US Presidents, historical newspapers, naturalization papers, and many other historical documents. This will be a valuable tool for customers who are researching their family histories or for anyone interested in American history. Visit the Pennsylvania Department and take a look at this information filled database.

A New Library Opens and an Old Library Closes

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Hill District has opened its new location at 2177 Centre Avenue. The two-day celebration included a sold-out Champagne Luncheon on Friday, October 24 to benefit the Library's Capital Campaign. The Pittsburgh Public Theatre kicked-off the luncheon by performing an excerpt from August Wilson's Joe Turner's Come and Gone.

On Saturday, October 25, more than 700 community members took the opportunity to tour and enjoy their new library at the community celebration. The community helped officially open the library with a book procession that delivered August Wilson's Radio Golf, the last book housed at the area's former library on Dinwiddie Street, to its new home.

The Emsworth Public Library will be closing its doors forever on Friday, October 31. This non-state-aided public library was founded in 1932 by the Emsworth's Women's Civic Club and had been operating with volunteers.

Commonwealth Libraries



Long Range Strategic Plan

Jim Hollinger, Director, Bureau of Library Development, will roll out the Long-Range Strategic Plan and Operational Objectives for 2008-2009 for the Office of Commonwealth Libraries at the Pennsylvania Library Association Conference in Valley Forge. The program, *New Directions: A Strategic Agenda for Pennsylvania's Public Libraries* will be held on Monday, November 10th at 9AM. A number of initiatives of interest to the statewide public library community will be discussed with a focus on the new library branding program that will recognize a new set of core "standards" for libraries, as well as recognition for those libraries that significantly exceed standards.

If you are not able to attend the session at PaLA, information concerning the initiatives will be sent to all libraries soon after the PaLA conference.

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