

Yaki-talk

September 1997

The Yakima Valley Regional Library Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 8

We got the grant!

Yakima Valley Regional Library was awarded an LSCA Title II matching grant on Friday, Sept. 12, at a meeting of the Washington State Library Commission. Grant funds will be used to help finance an upgrade of the automated circulation system, scheduled for the spring of 1998.

The new automated system will be installed in all community libraries, both for the public and staff to use. Through on-line public catalogs in each library, customers will have author, title, subject and keyword access to all books and media in the system. All libraries will check out books and materials on the computer, rather than by using the old Gaylord or hand-charge systems.

Installation of a new automated system raises many questions we will work together to resolve. How should materials be routed around between libraries? Should reserves be mailed or picked up at the nearest library? What about overdue fines, and other circulation policy issues?

There are many changes in store for library staff--and the public. Overall, they will mean major improvements in the service we offer the public. But even good change can result in stress, so all staff are encouraged to get training in dealing with change at upcoming meetings (see schedule below).

***General Staff Meeting Friday,
September 19, from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.
in the auditorium at Headquarters.
Come early for coffee and rolls.***

***Upcoming meetings for
all staff:***

October 14, 8-10 a.m. (Tues)

October 28, 8-10 a.m. (Tues)

March for Literacy in Sunfair Parade

Yakima Literacy Coalition members and friends will be marching in Yakima's Sunfair Parade on Saturday, Sept. 20. Coalition President Sister Georgette Bayless has invited "anyone interested in literacy and reading" to join them.

Coalition members will be assembling at 9:00 a.m., at the corner of South 16th Avenue and Chestnut Avenue, on the southeast corner of the Central Lutheran Church parking lot. The parade starts promptly at 10:00 a.m. Look for the Coalition banner, and join the fun. Questions? Call Linda McCracken at 452-8541.

Selah Library Closed for Remodeling

The Selah Library was closed Sept. 8 through Sept. 17th to allow workmen to repair the ceiling and replace the carpeting. The library sustained water damage last winter when the roof leaked during the floods. The contractor estimated the work would take one week, but he extended that to Monday, then Tuesday, and now Wednesday of this week. He says they will open Thursday, Sept. 18, "for sure." Librarian Clara Eustis is driven to ask, "Do you know how much a contractor's word is worth?"

While Selah was closed, Clara took some vacation time (when she wasn't attending meetings or checking on the remodeling progress). Assistant Shirley Ramsey worked a week in Circulation and Media at Headquarters--and was a real life-saver for that short-handed department. Thank you, Shirley! This week they are both back at Selah, gently "encouraging" the workmen, cleaning up after them, and getting the books back in order.

Staff Changes (Again!)

In Community Outreach, Deborah Warner resigned in September to pursue a new career with her husband as carpenters. All the experience they gained building their home in Naches paid off when they both recently tested out as journeymen carpenters in the union exam. Deborah's Library Assistant II job is currently posted for internal candidates.

At Terrace Heights Library, Katie Ruffcorn has started as the library assistant. (There is no truth to the rumor that she was hired because her father-in-law volunteers to do magic tricks for the kids each summer during Summer Reading Club programs.) Welcome, Katie!

Last of the Internet Responses:

Cynthia,

We have found the internet to be a great addition to our list of library services. Our library and the surrounding libraries in the northern lower peninsula of Michigan have found the addition of the internet a great idea. Our patrons are impressed with the access to information, and our ability to find info that our book collection lacks. Our image with the public was greatly enhanced after the introduction of internet services. If anything, people come into the library to see about internet, and find that the library offers other services that they need. Internet is a big plus for libraries.

Roger Mendel, Director, Alpena County Library,
Alpena, MI

These are [answers to your] questions: *Do library walk-ins increase?* As with most questions, the answer depends on a lot of variables. If the library is already a vital part of the community, walk-ins will increase. It may take a while to convince people it's worth their time if the library is not already meeting needs.

Are library services perceived as more/less relevant? The Internet definitely adds value to the library. Training for staff, then for the community at large is very necessary.

Do patrons' requests for more traditional library services increase/decrease i.e. periodicals, reader's

advisory? I suspect that Internet users are just that. They come for Internet access. You may experience a different patron population. Most of the regulars are a bit apathetic or not so wow'd. Regular library patrons may not feel the need for increased information access as keenly.

What is the patron learning curve time line? Most of the learning curve is learning to manipulate the computer; mouse, icons etc. The WWW is so responsive it sucks the learner/user in. Learning to find productive, specific materials is a different story. Teaching how to use all of the wonderful search engines is important, for staff and patrons. Search logic, and familiarity with what is available on the web (specific search engines) is important. Lots of tutorials are in print and available on the web.

Can traditional library services effectively compete with the Internet for limited library resources? Yes, they must. Federal, private and local grants are geared now towards technology i.e. LSCA morphs to LSTA and your own dear Gates Foundation. Use your precious operating money for traditional services. Programming, materials must be a vital part of the community enhancing the quality of life or there is no reason to fund the library. Learn to integrate technology (Internet or multimedia) into library programming. Lots of people of all ages are dying to learn computers and the Internet--be the trainers.

Also, any suggestions on other listservs that would be helpful?

publib for public libraries

lm_net for school libraries

Harry Willems, Consultant, Assistant Dir.,
Southeast Kansas Library System

***Surplus gift books
and library discards
available now for
Book Sales.***

***Please consider having a book sale to
benefit your library. Contact Amy to
reserve boxes of books now!***

Expanded Hours in Libraries: Terrace Heights

The Terrace Heights Library Board voted to change the library's hours to a more predictable schedule. The library was open for three days a week, with different hours on each day and closures for meal breaks.

Beginning Sept. 4, the new hours are: 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Fridays.

The board and staff hope that the new hours will be easier for the public to remember. Current staff hours were rescheduled to cover the new schedule. Librarian Terry Walker and assistant Katie Ruffcorn will still have some time to work together, but work alone most of the time. They will evaluate how busy the library is during the first month or two to see if they can handle this many open hours, or if the schedule will need to be tweaked to get all of the work done.

Expanded Hours in Granger

Granger Library is also increasing its open time by rescheduling existing staff hours, after a recommendation by Librarian Nell Barrett to add morning hours. Beginning Sept. 22, the library will be open:

Monday: 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Thursday: 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday: 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Nell and her assistant Lupe Rodriguez will work together for brief periods during the week, but will cover the desk alone for most of the schedule. As at Terrace Heights, they will evaluate how workable the new schedule is.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

There are many training opportunities available to staff this fall (in addition to learning to deal with change!). They include:

- YVRL's own workshop on computers, for all

librarians, assistants, and substitutes (schedule to be announced next week).

- The "Soaring to Excellence" and "Dancing with Change" teleconferences (you can attend one session, several, or all of them).
- The WALE Conference Oct 2-4 in Spokane.
- A WLA workshop on the Internet and intellectual freedom, in Pasco on Oct. 22.

Contact Amy if you are interested in attending any of these. We pay your registration fees and for substitutes if your library needs them. And we are always looking for good substitutes who would be able to work in more than one library!

Abbreviated Statistics

Here are the statistics for the community libraries. I am rushing this newsletter to print before we have figures for Headquarters. Next month we should be back to normal--we won't have a big grant to announce, and Deborah's replacement should be hired and trained to do stats.

Library	JULY	
	Circulation	Reference
Apple Valley	0	0
Buena	522	0
Gleed	355	18
Granger	740	28
Harrah	218	0
Mabton	1,011	118
Moxee	1,300	182
Naches	580	7
Nile	260	0
Selah	3,785	143
Southeast	266	0
Summitview	16,851	203
Sunnyside	6,871	111
Terrace Hts	1,394	68
Tieton	332	8
Toppenish	3,004	82
Union Gap	1,990	123
Wapato	1,862	87
White Swan	425	23
Zillah	994	0
C. L. Sub-total	<u>42,760</u>	<u>1,201</u>

This article lists all winners in the system for the bookmark contest (and it has the cutest picture that Karen swears is not from 1962).

After winning library bookmark contest, Zillah boy still goes 'Go Wild About Books'

Yakima Valley Regional Library has announced the winners of its Create-A-Bookmark Contest.

Jason Friend of Zillah, and Devin Hawkins of Wapato, have been selected as Librarian's Choice award winners from among 312 entries.

The contest was part of the regional "Wild About Books" summer reading program, and was open to all ages.

"This is the largest number of people who have ever entered one of our contests," said Karen Spence, Children's Services Coordinator.

Jason Friend, 7, is a second grade student this year at Sunnyside Christian School.

He said he likes to read detective books, and went to the library about every week this summer.

His bookmark depicts an alligator, with its mouth wide open, and with "Go Wild With Books" written above its back.

Jason, rather pragmatic about all this attention, said he chose to draw an alligator "Because I just learned how to draw them."

The 17 winning designs will be reproduced and distributed throughout the Yakima Valley Regional Library system in late September. Entries were judged on imagination, creativity, and use of the "Go wild with books" theme.

The winners and their neighborhood libraries are:

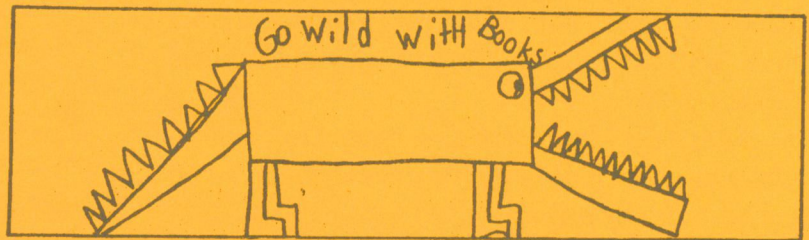
Preschool through first grade - Sydney Mutch, Yakima Library, and Nathan Banks, Nile Library; Second and third grade - Dustin Abramson and Caleb Reynolds, both of Summitview Library.

Fourth and fifth grade - Kendra Belles, Selah Library, and Sarah Noble, Summitview Library; Sixth through eighth grade - Serena Melik, Moxee Library, and Whitney Gibson, Yakima Library; Ninth through twelfth grade - Meagan Martin, Union Gap Library; Adult - Terry Munter, Summitview Library; Staff - Lorinda Bowden, Union Gap Library.

The Librarian's Choice Awards went to: Preschool through first grade - Jason Friend, Zillah Library; Second and third grade - Jorge

Campos, Yakima Library; Fourth and fifth grade - Camille Glanzer, Sunnyside Library; Sixth through eighth grade - Devin Hawkins,

Wapato Library; Ninth through twelfth grade - Kelly Scott, Yakima Library; and Adult - Sue Marquez, Summitview Library.



WILD WITH BOOKS. Jason Friend's bookmark was chosen a winner from among 312 entries in the Yakima Valley Regional Library's Create-A-Bookmark Contest. The contest was open to all ages and was part of a regional "Wild About Books" summer reading program. Jason, 7, is pictured above reading a book—something he did a lot of this summer with the books he borrowed from the Zillah Library.