



NEWSLETTER

June 2005 Volume 8, No.2 135 Beaver Street Waltham, MA 02452-8424

Welcome Rita Gavelis

by
Sunny Vandermark

Metrowest is very pleased to welcome Rita Gavelis to the staff. Rita most recently was Supervisor of Technical Services at the Watertown Free Library. Her experience includes Regional Reference Librarian at the Thomas Crane Public Library in Quincy, Senior Information Analyst at ABT Associates, and Serials Assistant at the Ernst Mayr Library, both in Cambridge. Rita will focus on technology support, training and consulting for Metrowest members. Her primary responsibilities include database support, MassCat, union listing, and providing workshops on a variety of new technologies and other topics important to Metrowest members.

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Update on Membership Brainstorming from Annual Meeting: Report #1

by
Sunny Vandermark

At the November 2004 Annual Council of Members Meeting attendees brainstormed with their colleagues on new services or programs that Metrowest might implement. Metrowest has been investigating the proposals and in the next several newsletters will report on what is happening with the ideas. Report #1 deals with developing BiblioTemps for Metrowest.

The Executive Board invited Carolyn Noah, Regional Administrator of the Central Region to attend the February 2005 Board meeting. Carolyn gave an overview of BiblioTemps, a temporary library staffing agency for libraries in the Central Region (CMRLS). Carolyn distributed BiblioTemps brochures and highlighted the services of the organization and the process for placing personnel in libraries. Prospective employees apply on line and libraries requesting personnel receive price quotes and sign contracts. Board members had numerous questions about BiblioTemps. Carolyn explained that CMRLS has nine full time staff members, including professional librarians and paraprofessionals. The salary scale for BiblioTemps is based on figures listed on the MLIN website. In February BiblioTemps had seven library placements ranging from cataloging to interim library director. Carolyn Noah is optimistic that BiblioTemps will eventually become available for all Massachusetts libraries.

The Metrowest Executive Board was impressed with the BiblioTemps setup and recognizes that libraries need access to temporary library staffing. However, the Executive Board agreed that it does not make sense to duplicate this service in each region. Hopefully BiblioTemps will have such success in the Central Region that it can expand its services statewide shortly.

Metrowest Services are provided through state funds administered by
Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners



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School Librarians: Where will YOU be in September??

by
Carol Shilakowsky

As the seasons change, so do school environments. School librarians are excited about where they are off to in the summer. Metrowest is interested in where you will be in September.

Before you go, please check your library's listing in the MA Library Directory at <http://mblc.state.ma.us/libraries/directory/index.php>, and follow the prompts. In some cases, information varies in the "Librarian View" from the "Patron View." Check to see that you are represented at the correct library. If you are moving to another school or library in the fall, and know that now, please let us know, so that we can file the information, and make the appropriate changes. We need the following information:

School, Library name
Librarian's name, title
Personal email address; library's email address if different
Phone number of library; personal line or extension
Fax number

If you don't know all this for your next position, that is fine. Just make us aware that you will be either changing positions, retiring, leaving the Metrowest system, or remaining where you are. We will make changes between September and October. You can check then to see if the results are accurate, and incorporate any new changes.

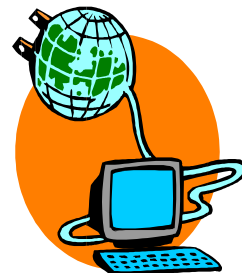
With more than 200 schools in our system, your help with this information will make the transition smoother. When the information is accurate, it becomes easier to network and correspond with your colleagues.

FY2006 Databases

by
Sunny Vandermark

Metrowest is very pleased to announce that member libraries and their users will have access to the same databases in FY2006 that are currently available. These include Newsbank, World Book Online, plus Spanish Student Discovery Encyclopedia, U. S. History, Law, and Political Research Libraries from World Book, and the InfoTrac databases provided in cooperation with the regions and MBLC. The New York Times Historical Newspaper is available for public libraries and remotely for library users with a public library card. First Search (World Cat and Union List) remains available for librarians in the region.

I wish to thank the members of the Reference Committee, a standing Committee that assists the Region in evaluating supplementary reference services provided by the contracting library, electronic databases, and related issues, for their assistance this year. Unfortunately our meetings were limited in this fiscal year because of Metrowest staff shortages. I look forward to additional productive meetings with the Reference Committee in FY2006.



Share Your Success Stories

Concord Reads

by
Fayth Chamberland

During the month of April, the Concord Free Public Library presented a town-wide reading program. On the Same Page: Concord Reads selected the book *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes. This is classic tale chronicling the adventures of a young silversmith apprentice during the days before the American Revolution. It has inspired the library to develop a wide-ranging series of programs that reflect the interests of patrons living in historic Concord.

Special programming and exhibits were presented throughout the month of April. There was a special exhibit in the Library's Art Gallery of *Johnny Tremain* and Walden prints by nationally acclaimed wood engraver Michael McCurdy. The official kickoff party on April 9 began with four Minutemen shooting off muskets. David and Ginger Hildebrand followed with a program of American Revolution period music. Other events included: free museum day at the Concord Museum, books discussions, Esther Forbes program presented by James Hench of the American Antiquarian Society, and a living history workshop on The Militia presented by Jim Hayden. Craft programs during vacation week featured quilting, pottery, and metalsmithing. The Boston by Foot *Johnny Tremain* walking tour ended the On the Same Page celebration when a bus load of patrons traveled to Boston on May 15.

The library developed a truly community-based program by working closely with senior centers and the New England Correctional Center. Library assistant Mary Taylor put together an exciting outreach program at the three senior housing units and working with the Council on Aging. The staff and volunteers at the Correctional Center prepared an educational unit featuring *Johnny Tremain* that attracted over 75 participants.

This month-long celebration beginning April 1, 2005 was made possible by a grant awarded to the Concord Free Public Library by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

The next grant round begins in Fall '06. Watch for details at the MBLC website.

FY06 MARLS Coop

by
Judy Zomer

Information for the FY06 Massachusetts Regional Library Systems Materials and Supply Cooperative will be sent to all members who joined the coop by the beginning of June. This mailing will have specific information regarding vendors, contact information, bid numbers and discounts. Please keep the information handy as it will be your resource for purchasing through the coop through the year.

If you have not received the packet by the first week in June, please call the Metrowest office at 781-398-1819.

Information regarding the coop is available at the WMRLS website: <http://www.wmrls.org/coop/index.html>



Firefox Tips

by
Beth Gallaway

Firefox is the new browser from the folks that brought us the Mosaic and Netscape browsers. Download it at <http://www.mozilla.org/products/firefox/> and enjoy customizable features, more control over pop-up windows, stronger privacy and security features, live RSS feed bookmarks, and more! Cool Features and Tricks:

- If you have a mouse with a clicking scroll wheel, you can "middle click" on a link, and it will open in a new tab
- Create a bookmark instantly by dragging the icon for the page you are on (located in the URL line in the browser) to the personal toolbar or bookmarks folder
- Customize your toolbar by right-clicking on the buttons and dragging them to a new location
- Press <CTRL> and the + or - keys to enlarge or reduce the text on the screen

See <http://www.mozilla.org/support/firefox/tips> for other tips.

Pocket Poetry

by
Pam Watts-Flavin
Children's Librarian
Robbins Library, Arlington

Want a way to celebrate National Poetry Week? How about celebrating spring? Are you searching for a way to bring the whole town or the whole school together? Here's what we did at the Robbins and Fox Libraries in Arlington...

On April 12 and April 14 we celebrated National Poetry Week by organizing Poetry-in-Your-Pocket, an event for elementary school-aged children and the adults in their lives. First we invited the children to come to the library and pick up a pocket-sized poem (poems by Frost, Silverstein, Richards, Nash, Milne and more that I had trans-

ferred on to small, pocket-sized paper). Then we enlisted the services of our Poetry Bards who were child-friendly adults in the community – parents, teachers and librarians. Bards were instructed to be considerate of stranger danger and coached on ways to approach children.

On the Tuesday and Thursday of National Poetry Week (April 11-15), the Bards stopped children who they came across in their travels and asked them if they had a poem in their pocket. If they did AND if they read it, then the Bards were instructed to “pump their hand enthusiastically and hand them one of our yellow ‘Poem in Your Pocket’ certificates to redeem for a fabulous prize at the Robbins or Fox libraries.”

If the Bards found a child who did not have a poem in their pocket, we took care of that, too. The

Bards were told to burst into loud, soppy tears and hand them one of the red flyers that explained the program. I also included some extra pocket-sized poems that the Bards could slip to the children who were TOO disappointed.

Everyone had a GREAT time! We gave out a record number of prizes – books from our donated collection, of course. Our best advertisement was our Parent Posse. Once they spread the word, the program really took off. One of the parents sent me an email that started, “What a great excuse to go to the library!” and ended with, “I think you should do it again in the fall.” I made her a Bard.



What's Happening @ YOUR Library?

by
Carol Shilakowsky

In our never-ending quest to discover HOW librarians in the Metrowest Region are using the *It's happening @ your library* @LSTA grant-funded promotional materials we distributed to our membership (materials still available), Shirley DiCenza, acting director of Millis Public Library, provided details about her library's promotion to “inform residents about the possibility of a new library.” They had placed library-created tri-fold brochures into a basket on the circulation desk, and would ask patrons to take them. This turned out to be several versions, through many updates, wanting to keep patrons constantly informed. Several patrons balked about having to take yet another brochure. Cleverly, Shirley and staff had a page put together packets one evening that were just a bit different and attention getting.

The library had previously purchased promotional green flashlights, the kind you get from Positive Promotions... in bulk... that are inexpensive, have the library name, phone number, and address imprinted, and there was also a key ring attached. The page punched holes in the latest revision of the brochure about the impending new library, punched holes in the static clings and bookmarks provided by Metrowest, and threaded the material onto the chain attached to the green flashlights. They placed these “new and improved” packets into the basket at the circulation desk.

“Packets just flew out of the basket from then on,” states Shirley. After the flashlight caught their eye, patrons noticed the paper materials and commented favorably. A trustee took the last of the basket contents to a local fireman's muster...and people who were not regular library users became familiar with what was “happening” at the library. Shirley estimates that 100-125 packets were ultimately distributed.

This shows a creative method of adding the grant materials to your library's regular promotions.

Youth Services News

by
Beth Gallaway

New Young Adult Standards Announced

At their breakfast annual meeting at MLA conference, the Youth Services Section of MLA unanimously passed and accepted the newly revised Statewide Standards for Library Service to Young Adults. The standards can be viewed, printed and downloaded at <http://www.masslib.org>. A printed copy is also available from the Metrowest MA Regional Library System office in Waltham – we'll be happy to loan you a copy!

Changes to the standards include reorganization to create a working document, updated and revised bibliographies, incorporation of technology, and alignment with YALSA's Competencies "Young Adults Deserve the Best" and "New Directions in Library Service to Young Adults," specifically in areas such as youth participation and developmental needs.

Virtual Author Visit

Conduct a book discussion program in June or July, and your patrons can chat directly with author M.T. Anderson on Thursday July 28 at 7:00 PM! This is a great, FREE, ready-made program. Consider ordering extra copies now of *Feed*, *Burgerwuss*, *Thirsty*, *Handel: Who Knew What He Liked*, *Whales on Stilts*, *The Game of Sunken Places*, or *Strange Mr. Satie*. M.T. Anderson's new book, *The Serpent of Gloucester*, is forthcoming.

If your library would like to host a book discussion with one of Anderson's titles this spring or summer, please let Beth Gallaway know. Beth is even

available to co-host evening programs! Discussion Guides with questions, reviews and biographical information are now available on Continuing Education page of our website, under "Selected Workshop Materials" at <http://www.mmrls.org/materials/materials.html>

Regional "Going places @ your library" portal updated

Bookmark this link and check back over the summer! New updates for June include:

- A credit line to copy and paste and add to all your publicity documents
- Kickoff dates and events of participating libraries
- PDF versions of coupons
- Online version of Bright Ideas newsletters
- Link to April's Make & Take program handouts (listed above)
- Photos of library events – coming soon!

Handouts and More Online

If you haven't visited our Continuing Education page recently, please do so to find booklists from Pat Keogh, Reading Incentive program handouts from Judi Paradis and Pam Watts-Flavin, and tons of Make and Take handouts. Thanks to Fayth Chamberland, Lee Donohue, Deborah Foley, Cynthia Fordham, Melissa Forbes-Nicoll, Janice Roddy and Ann Russo for their contributions and ideas! Make & Take handouts include: ABC's of Going Places (fill in the blank reproducible), Going Places Acrostic (fill in the blank reproducible), Kite (craft), Marbleized Paper (craft), Metrowest Towns Crossword Puzzle, Paper Plate Travel Game, Plastic Tubing Bracelet (craft) Roxaboxen storytime program and craft, Seashell Picture

Frame (craft), Stoplight (craft), Train Storytime and craft, Transportation (storytime program and 4 crafts), Travel Tic Tac Toe (craft), Travel Trunk (craft), UFO (craft), Under the Sea (craft), and Yogurt Cup Drum (craft).

Gnomes Across Massachusetts



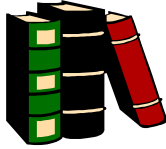
Take your gnome with you wherever you go, Gnomes are lots of fun you know!

In fitting with this year's Summer Reading Program theme Going places @ your library® you are invited to welcome a gnome into your library, then send him traveling to libraries statewide! Similar to the "Flat Stanley" project, this activity will feature whimsical traveling gnomes. Paper or plastic gnomes can be sent statewide via delivery.

Participate by hiding a gnome in your library and host a contest for children to locate the gnome, handing out paper gnomes for children to cut, color and take on excursions, or participating in the regional traveling gnome program. Why gnomes? Gnomes are well-known travelers, charming and whimsical!

Participating Metrowest libraries as of May 13, 2005 include Arlington, Franklin, Lincoln, Medway, Metrowest Office (Waltham), Sherborn, Somerville, Wellesley, and Woburn. To join in the fun email Janice McArdle: tjmcardle@comcast.net

For more information about Gnomes Across Massachusetts, please visit <http://www.wmrls.org/>



From the Regional Reference Service at the Newton Free Library

by
Elinor Hernon

We in Newton are close to completing our first year as your Regional Reference Library. It has been our pleasure to field your questions and have you here at our building for programs and orientations. Thanks for your participation and for your suggestions, as we tried to fill your reference service and programming needs.

Our new web site is now up at www.newtonfreelibrary.net. You will find a link to Regional Reference Services when you click on Reference & Databases on the home page. This is a way to ask us questions from your location at any time of day or night. Please take a look at this new interface and let us know what you think.

We were pleased to have a capacity crowd for our "Reference Service of the Future" program last month, which featured Susan Shoemaker of the Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science. The discussion about what we may expect in the future of reference work was lively and informative. We are hoping to continue our relationship with the Simmons faculty for similar programs next year.

By the time this newsletter appears online we hope that you

have received some useful items to help you keep in touch with us. The magnet, the pad of paper, and the bookmark brochure all have our contact information on them. Find some convenient locations in your libraries for these items, and continue to keep us in mind when you need additional reference help.

As always, we welcome your suggestions for services and programs. Enjoy the upcoming summer months. Cheers!

Annotated Bibliography Recent Acquisitions

Campbell, Jonathan A. & William W. Lamar. *Venomous Reptiles of the Western Hemisphere*. Ithaca, NY:Comstock Publishing, 2004. ISBN:0-8014-4141-2. \$149 R597.961 Campbell 2004

This scholarly 2-volume set fits the needs of very serious snake-lovers, herpetologist and researchers, but heavy use of Latin names and the extreme depth of detail may be a minus for lay-readers. The authors describe all 192 species (many discovered in the last fifteen years) of venomous snakes and lizards in North, Central & South America. For each reptile you learn local and English name, etymology, distribution, habitat, diet and description. Vivid color photos show males, females & juveniles. Graphs, distribution maps and black & white head shots are abundant. The color photos of snake bite victims is not for the squeamish.

Nelson, Lyle Emerson. *American Presidents Year by Year*. Armonk, NY:M. E. Sharpe Reference. 2004. ISBN:0-7656-8046-7. \$225 R973.099 Nelson 2004

The author takes a novel approach - year by year from 1732 to 2000 we see what the current president and the former and future presidents are doing in the same year. In 1840, the fourth year of President Martin Van Buren's term, we learn that past President John Quincy Adams was still involved in the Amistad court case, past President Andrew Jackson made a triumphal return to New Orleans, future President Abraham Lincoln twice debated Stephen A. Douglas, and future President Chester A. Arthur was an eleven year old schoolboy in upstate New York. The full index is in all three volumes. There is at least one portrait of each president and often an illustration of a key figure, event or place of that year.

Philanthropy in America: A Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia. Dwight F Burlingame, editor. Santa Barbara, CA:ABC-CLIO. 2004. ISBN:1-57607-860-4. \$285 R361.7 Philanthropy 2004

Whatever you call it - third sector, non-profits, charities, this is the first comprehensive book on the topic from the early 1600s to the present. The first two volumes hold 200 A-Z entries on selected people, events, associations, theories, legislation... The third volume is a collection of 75 primary documents. A timeline of key events goes from the 1600s to 2000. A selection of articles: Underground Railroad, think tanks, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Islamic philanthropy, tax deductions, stewardship, James Smithson, consumer cooperatives.

Spring Delivery Survey

by
Judy Zomer

Results for the Spring Delivery Survey are finally in and it is clear that the numbers are up (again!). With all fifty-nine libraries on delivery reporting in, the numbers show a steady and dramatic increase over last year's numbers.

Thirty-four public libraries on delivery showed an increase, as did fourteen academic libraries. Four public libraries and three academic libraries reported a slight decrease. Four libraries remained about the same.

Increases for public libraries ranged from single percentage points to as much as 38%. On a percentage basis, the aca-

demical libraries also reported significant increases, in some cases as much as 45%, in spite of the fact that the volume for academic libraries is significantly lower than public libraries.

Overall, delivery is up 19% from the previous survey done in October 2004. At that time, some of you may recall, the numbers were down slightly from the 2004 Spring Survey. The difference between this year's spring survey and last year's survey shows an increase of 14%. Overall, if we compare the difference between this year's spring survey and the last survey done prior to the implementation of the Triple I System (April 2003), there is an increase of 42% in a two year period. What is also evident is that, with the exception of October 2004, delivery has continued a strong upward trend.

The challenges this presents for all of us are formidable in terms of budgeting, manpower, and the day-to-day management of delivery issues. As delivery numbers increase doing the bi-annual survey becomes more time consuming. However, the numbers you report on your survey are testament to the importance of tracking delivery.

Thank you to everyone who worked on the delivery survey and sent in the results promptly.



From The Book Shelf

by
Carol Shilakowsky

June is a quiet month at Metrowest as school libraries wind down and vacations begin, but we still have classes and are welcoming a new Trainer/Consultant, Rita Gavelis. In order to highlight the classes in PowerPoint, Collaborative and Emerging Technology, and Weeding we will present in June, here is a bibliography to help you master some of the subject matter:

Braun, Linda. *Technically Involved: Technology-Based Youth Participation Activities for Your Library*. Chicago: ALA, 2004.

Daffron, Susan C. *How To Use Microsoft PowerPoint 2000 (Visually in Color)*. Indianapolis, IN: SAMS, a division of Macmillan Computer Publishing, USA, 1999.

Finkelstein, Ellen. *PowerPoint 2000: Professional Results*. Indianapolis, IN: Osborne/McGraw-Hill:1999.

Haddad, Alexandria. *Teach Yourself Microsoft PowerPoint 2000 (in 24 Hours)*. Indianapolis, IN: SAMS, a division of Macmillan Computer Publishing, USA, 1999.

Slote, Stanley. *Weeding Library Collections: Library Weeding Methods*, 4th edition. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, Inc., 1997.

Wilson, Patricia Potter and Roger Leslie. *Premiere Events: Library Programs that Inspire Elementary School Patrons*. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, Inc., 2001.

Metrowest Continuing Ed Courses June 2005 CE Calendar



All courses listed below, unless indicated otherwise, are held at:
 Metrowest Massachusetts Regional Library System
 135 Beaver Street, Waltham, MA 02452
 Please register online with Metrowest at: <http://www.mmrls.org>

DATE	COURSE	TIME
June 1	Snap! Pop! Zing! Advanced Power Point Hands on Workshop	9:30am-12:30pm
June 7	Try it Yourself: New and Upcoming Technologies for Libraries Hands on Workshop	9:30am-12:30pm
June 7	Try it Yourself: New and Upcoming Technologies for Libraries Hands on Workshop	1:30pm-4:30pm
June 8	Librarian/Teacher Collaboration through Technology Infusion at Noble and Greenough School, Dedham	10:00am-2:00pm
June 10	Genealogy Workshop at the Newton Free Library	9:30am-11:00am
June 30	Weeding 101: For Anyone Who Needs a Jumpstart!	8:30am-10:30am

The Summer Continuing Education schedule is posted online at <http://www.mmrls.org/ce.htm> - classes include an online course on video games in the library, a visit from the MA Historical Commission to promote National Archaeology month, advanced PowerPoint and Publisher classes, Hacking Google, a virtual visit with author M.T. Anderson, and more!

******* PLEASE ROUTE THIS NEWSLETTER TO YOUR LIBRARY STAFF - THANK YOU *******

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