Library Legislation Day is March 14 and Your Help is Needed!

Our annual Library Lobby Day is coming up on Tuesday, March 14th. Ewa and I will be leaving very early (6:30 to 7:00 a.m.) for Albany and have room in the car for three others - first come, first served. We would definitely welcome as many other people as would be willing to come with us, however, even if we can't promise transportation!

As you can see from the Albany Times Union article featured in this issue, libraries are way overdue for some increases! Ewa has stated in her e-mail to you that CEF will not benefit from the change to the 2000 census figures. We need you to emphasize that we need to have the $3 million for library systems passed in order to see any benefit locally!

This is the time we have to take action! Going to Albany for Lobby Day is fun and interesting! You get to meet our legislators and your presence does make a difference. NYLA is also promising free t-shirts to attendees at the legislative breakfast which will be held in Meeting Room 6 on the Concourse from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m..

Our appointments are at 10:00 a.m. with Assemblyman Chris Ortloff in Legislative Office Building Room 448, with Senator Betty Little in Legislative Office Building Room 903 at 11:00 a.m., and with Assemblywoman Theresa Sayward in Legislative Office Building Room 938 at 1:00 p.m.. You'd even be done in time to do some shopping at one of Albany's malls or the outlets in Glens Falls & Lake George and still be home in time for the evening. Please let Penny Cowan or me know if you can come so that we can set up a time and place to meet or meet us at the legislators' offices if you prefer.

If you can't come with us this year, please be sure to use the Advocacy link on the NYLA web site (www.nyla.org) often (every e-mail counts) to let your legislators know that their support is needed, especially for the $3 million for Systems!

Thanks so much! We appreciate your support!

~ Kathie LaBombard, CEFLS
Attention Grant Seekers!

CEF has recently purchased a one year subscription to **Grantstation**. This interactive web site allows grant seekers to identify potential funding sources through access to a searchable database of “thousands of foundation and corporate grant makers that are actively accepting proposals.”

Member public library staff members are welcome to explore this terrific resource which is accessible by password on a CEF workstation. In return, we will ask you to give us some brief feedback about your grant seeking experience so we can evaluate this tool (which is quite expensive at the regular price) for renewal in February 2007.

For more information or to book a work session and tutorial, please call Julie Weaver at 563-5190 x 18. We will search the **Grantstation** database for you by topic, but we really encourage potential grant seekers to take this new resource for a personal spin.

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**In Clinton County**

**Mooers Free Library**

The Mooers Library is having some repairs done to the interior. We now have a new roof and no more leaks. We are in the process of having the ceiling repaired and a fresh coat of paint has been applied to the ceiling and the walls, which was greatly needed. Once this is done we plan on having an Open House to show case the improvements and our new displays. After a very quiet holiday season, things are picking up and more and more people use the computers for all types of needs. I am so excited about our upcoming automation. It will be a wonderful new way for our patrons to use our collection. I hope everyone will continue to weather the winter with warm and cheery thoughts!

— Edie Morelock, Director, Mooers Free Library

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**In Essex County**

**Black Watch Memorial Library, Ticonderoga**

After fifteen years of service, Maureen Johns has retired as the director of the Black Watch Memorial Library. Throughout her employment, Maureen has strove to make the library a friendly and welcoming atmosphere for all who enter. It is obvious from our circulation and patron comments, that Maureen has achieved her goal of bringing the community in to see what we have to offer. In addition to her excellence in customer service, Maureen has also left us with a wonderful collection and a seamless transition to a new director. We wish Maureen well in her retirement and thank her for all of her hard work over the years.

As of January 2006, I have taken over Maureen’s position at the library. Although, I have some pretty big shoes to fill, I am confident that we will be able to provide the same level of service our patrons have come to enjoy. Our initiatives for this year focus mainly on finishing the automation process and promotion of our library through local media. We do plan to hold a special celebration on July 8, 2006 to celebrate our Library’s 100th Anniversary. This event promises to be memorable and we hope to see you there!

— Heather Johns, Director
**Essex County continued...**

**Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro**

The Paine Memorial Library held another successful Holiday Craft Sale which featured nine artisans. We also recently mailed applications for our 24th Annual Willsboro Folkcraft Fair, a Celebration of Things Done Well by Hand, which will be held on Saturday July 29th, 2006. Over 100 vendors and 2000 visitors attend this wonderful event. If you would like to exhibit, please contact Cheryl Blanchard at 518-963-4478. This show is for handcrafted items only; no flea market, collectibles, or used items are allowed.

We are pleased to start the first chess club in Willsboro. Meetings are held at the library on Wednesdays from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. and all are welcome. Our Friday Story Hour for three year olds continues to be held from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

The Paine Library is happy to announce that Lucinda (Cindy) Pytlak has joined our staff. Cindy was the former Director of Dodge Library in West Chazy. She also has the experience of volunteer work at Cumberland Head School library and the Clinton-Essex-Franklin library System. We are thrilled to have Cindy join us.

~ Cheryl Blanchard, Director

![Image of Cheryl Blanchard](image)

Cindy at her new post at the Paine Memorial circulation desk.

**Advocacy in Action: Your Help Needed NOW!**

By JAMES M. ODATO, Capitol bureau

First published: Wednesday, March 1, 2006

ALBANY - Assembly and Senate leaders say the state has a wealth of extra revenue for spending and tax cuts – more than $1 billion – just as budget talks with Gov. George Pataki's administration begin in earnest. The extra cash is on top of what legislative leaders say is a more than $3 billion surplus this year that lawmakers want to spend on their priorities. Pataki has sought to place much of the money in emergency reserves.

**WHAT ABOUT FUNDING FOR LIBRARIES?**

- There has been no new library funding legislation since 1990.
- There has been no increase in library aid since 1998.
- There was a CUT in library funding of $4.5 million two years ago.
- Current library aid is based upon the 1990 Census. The Education Law states that Library Aid should be based upon the current (2000) Census.
- The entire New York State budget for libraries is less than one tenth of 1% of the total state budget.

Now we learn that both the Senate and the Assembly agree there is a larger surplus - plus $1 billion – than anticipated. A recent Zogby poll shows that the majority of New Yorkers favor increased aid for libraries. Isn't it time our elected officials gave libraries their fair share of the pie?

Let your legislators know! Go to [www.nyla.org](http://www.nyla.org) to send a message to your legislators! Once on the NYLA web site, click on “Advocacy”. From here you can contact your elected officials and other state policymakers on issues of importance to the library community. NYLA has already drafted a letter for you to send out to state policymakers. All you need to do is type in your name, address and zip code and NYLA’s software will identify your state elected officials for you. Now advocating for your library services can be quick, simple and timely, plus there is no cost to you.
In Franklin County

Saranac Lake Free Library

The library sponsored two events as part of the Saranac Lake Winter Carnival festivities. The Third Annual Ceili Concert featuring the group Inisheer was held Wed., Feb. 8, in the Harriettown Town Hall, with proceeds benefitting the library. Two hundred fifty people attended the lively program that included traditional American, Irish and Scottish music. The 17th Annual winter Book Sale was held Friday and Saturday Feb. 10 and 11, in the Cantwell Community Room. There were hundreds of hard cover and paperback books for sale at nominal prices, along with a large selection of special books individually priced. Music lovers found many albums and sheet music for sale.

Our Student Volunteer program continues with three or four students volunteering every week for an hour each. Most have required community service hours as part of a school or scout program. The students are very efficient at shelving easy books, magazines and audio/video materials, dusting, cleaning plants and doing other appropriate tasks. We maintain a form showing their number of hours and tasks completed as many of the student volunteers must produce a short paper about their volunteer time or must submit proof of tasks completed.

The library’s front entrance showing the new signs on the left, the book bank decorated with animated books and the book sale banner.

Wead Library, Malone

It may be a new year, but the old one is still with us. We are involved with the annual trauma, which in this case is called the annual report for 2005. Preliminary indications are that the Library circulated 65,905 items last year. There were 6,659 reference questions recorded. Excluding Horizon requests, there were 555

Assemblyman Ortloff Helps to Automate Rural Libraries

Late last year, CEFLS received a $20,000 grant secured by Assemblyman Chris Ortloff to enhance library technology in rural areas. Part of the grant is being used to automate four member libraries: Chazy, Chateaugay, Mooers and Wadhams. The grant money is being used to purchase barcodes, library cards and two computers for these libraries. The other part of the grant will provide a new satellite dish and related equipment to allow the bookmobile to access the Internet and use the Horizon automated system. They currently operate on the PC Reliance backup system, so this will be a big step forward for them. Patrons will also be able to use the Internet on the bookmobile to search the catalog and other websites. Thank you, Assemblyman Ortloff!

~ Betsy Brooks, Automation Librarian

“I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape—the loneliness of it, the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn’t show.”

- Andrew Wyeth
Franklin County continued...

Wead Library news continued...

Four hundred sixteen items were received, and 695 items were loaned to other institutions during 2005, which indicates we’re a net lender. We'll avoid additional references to fishing or tennis. Two thousand four hundred ninety seven audio visual products circulated as did 11 art prints. We now have slightly more than 6,000 of our borrowers registered on the “Horizon” circulation system-catalog. We’ve added about 900 of those records during 2005. There were 34 story hour sessions last year which had a total attendance of 916.

The Library offers a weekly “Discovery Hour” this winter on Thursday afternoons. The free program is open to children ages 5 to 10. Kids are be able to explore math and science ideas using activities, games, and art projects. Of course, there are also stories. The Library is participating in a national program over the next four years called “What’s the BIG idea?” It is a project of Mother Goose Programs of the Vermont Center for the Book, and is being funded by the National Science Foundation. The program’s goal is to give public librarians and their patrons ideas, programming, and materials so that libraries can become centers of science and mathematics and serve as potential resource centers for young children and their families. Youngsters ages 5-10 and their families are welcome.

~ excerpted from a report by Director David Minnich

Goff-Nelson Library, Tupper Lake

Yes, Tupper Lake survived the latest windstorm – although we did lose a beautiful huge spruce tree from the front of the library. It had been there since the library was built, and was so big and nice that the town used it as a Memorial Tree at Christmas. “Gone with the wind” may be an appropriate title for our loss!

Now that the power has been restored to our village, we will resume our busy winter doings. We have inaugurated a series of book reviews that are written by our patrons and published monthly in our local paper. Patrons choose a title that they have read, tell us why they did or did not like it, and give a short recap of the book.

Lake Placid’s Olympic Heritage – Now on DVD

The DVD version of “Lake Placid: An Olympic History” by Marc Nathanson is now available through Amazon.com and regional outlets. The DVD, retails for $19.95, and features a compilation of archival still photos, 16mm film footage and network video that traces Lake Placid’s growth into “the Olympic Region”.

~ from an article in The Lake Placid News forwarded by Lake Placid Public Library Director Patricia Perez.

Editor’s Note: Another good addition to your Olympic or local history collection is Lake Placid, the Olympic Years, 1932-1980: A Portrait of America’s Premier Winter Resort by Chris and Stephen Ortloff.
**Tupper Lake news continued...**

This has been successful enough that we have reserve lists on some of the books that have been reviewed.

We have an imaginative display of birdhouses in one of our cases, the results of a fundraiser initiated by Adirondack Habitat for Humanity. Local artists were given pine houses to decorate, and what an outstanding job they all did! The amazing talent shown with the houses ranges from adorable to absolutely mind-boggling. These houses will be auctioned off on March 19 at the Wawbeek Resort, with the profits to help in the construction of homes seven, eight, and nine.

Our library was chosen to be an affiliate site for OneWorkSource. We have been given a dedicated computer, with links for both job seekers and employers, plus paper resources that are available to help with job searches. Since this work station was just set up in the last week, we haven’t yet had any lines forming to use it. However, once it is advertised a bit and the word of this great new resource gets out, we expect a better response from the job-seeking public.

As a service to our shut-in public, we have teamed up with “Meals on Wheels” to deliver books to people who cannot make it to the library and are desperate for a good read. At their request, we supply the books, and the good people who deliver “Meals on Wheels” bring food for body and mind right to their doorsteps.

We consider our library to be an antidote for the mid-winter blues that seem to settle in about this time of year, and we are doing our best to counteract this seasonal condition. The days are already getting a bit longer, people are talking about spring vacations, and things are looking up! Enjoy the rest of our so-called quiet time – Julie will soon be looking for news for the Spring edition of the Trailblazer!

- Linda AuClair, Director

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**Have You Heard?**

-Niki Koulofsky, Director of the Dannemora Free Library, welcomed the arrival of Ailyn Marie on the 21st of February. Mother and child are doing well and having fun. Congratulations to the Koulofsky family!

Former director of the Black Watch Memorial Library, Ticonderoga Maureen Johns retired in January after 15 years of service. Heather Johns is the Library’s new director. See Heather’s article on page 2 for details. Congratulations Maureen!

The CEF Library System welcomes the arrival of a new heavy duty Ford delivery van! Driver Rich Merritt says that our new road warrior will cope admirably with the increase in delivery volume that we continue to note with the addition of more member libraries to our online system.

The Champlain Memorial Library went live on Horizon on March 8 and the Elizabethtown Library will be going live next week on March 15. Congratulations to you both on completing your automation project! Requests will begin working for these libraries by the end of March.

CEF automated libraries will now include: Plattsburgh, Saranac Lake, Willsboro, Malone, Keene Valley, Schroon Lake, Port Henry, Akwesasne, Champlain and Elizabethtown. That’s 10!

-Ewa Jankowska, Sonia Long, Elizabeth Rogers and Julie Wever will represent the CEF Library System at the 11th National PLA Conference in Boston, Massachusetts from March 22-24. A preliminary conference program is available online at www.pla.org

If you have questions that you need answered or information hunted and gathered from the conference, please contact one of the above – we’ll be glad to save room in our tote bags!
National Library Week Celebrations Slated

Libraries and readers around the country will celebrate National Library Week from April 2-8, 2006. The theme of this year’s celebration is Change Your World @ Your Library. With the arrival of our new low-floor bookmobile, we are ready and raring to go in our continued quest to expand the reading horizons of rural readers!

The bookmobile will be featured during three open house events that are scheduled to be held during National Library Week at member public libraries. On Monday, April 3, Chateaugay will be the place to be between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. Join us to meet CEF Director Ewa Jankowska and talk with Chateaugay Library staff and trustees who are excitedly awaiting construction of their new library building. From 6:00 to 6:30 Stan Ransom (former CEF Director and current Connecticut Peddler) will share stories and songs, including, we hope, all six verses of “The Bookmobile Song”. From 6:30 to 7:30, Children’s Librarian Kathie LaBombard and Bookmobile Librarian Deb Crossley will entertain children in the crowd with stories and crafts while adults tour the CEF web site and see first hand why we are proud of saying, “We are all connected!”

On Wednesday, April 5, the festivities move to Clinton County and the Peru Free Library from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The agenda is the same as above—tour the library, admire the bookmobile, meet the staff, eat and enjoy!

On Friday, April 7, the Keene Valley Library Association will host the Essex County Showcase from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Library Director and master storyteller Karen Glass will treat the crowd to stories from 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. CEF staff, including the bookmobile’s own Deb Crossley will again provide a variety of stories and crafts for children, plus computer demonstrations for adults and seniors.

Kids Change Their World @ the Library

Libraries and readers around the country will celebrate National Library Week from April 2-8, 2006. The theme of this year’s celebration is Change Your World @ Your Library. In keeping with this theme, we asked CEF Youth Services Librarian Kathie LaBombard to give us a run down on the “best of the best”. As usual, Kathie exceeded herself, and came up with these great recommendations for young readers of all ages. The titles suggested are all available from CEF and the bookmobile, if they are not already on your shelves!

Award Winners:
Hello, Goodbye Window by Chris Raschka - Caldecott Medal Winner for best illustration for children
Criss Cross by Lynne Rae Perkins - Newbery Medal Winner for Juvenile Fiction
Looking For Alaska by John Green – Michael L. Printz Winner for Young Adult Fiction

Best Sellers!
A Family of Poems by Caroline Kennedy (ages 9 to 12)
Poetry Speaks to Children, edited by Elise Paschen (ages 6 and up)
Eragon by Christopher Paolini – Book 1 of the Inheritance Trilogy (ages 12 and up)
Eldest by Christopher Paolini – Book 2 of the Inheritance Trilogy (ages 12 and up)
Inkspell by Cornelia Funke (ages 10 and up)
The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall (ages 9 to 12)
Flush by Carl Hiaasen (ages 9 to 12)
Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo (ages 10 and up)
Mercy Watson to the Rescue by Kate DiCamillo (ages 6 to 8)

Popular Series:
Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling (ages 10 and up) boy wizard battles evil at Hogwarts school – Movie tie-in
Junie B., First Grader by Barbara Park (ages 4 to 8) popular school stories for girls
A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket (ages 10 and up) adventures of the Baudelaire siblings – Movie tie-in
Magic Tree House by Mary Pope Osborne (ages 6 to 9) time travel in a spinning tree house
Bartimaeus by Jonathan Stroud (ages 10 and up) A djinni and a magician’s apprentice battle evil plotters
Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants by Ann Brashares (ages 12 and up) A pair of magical pants changes four friends forever
Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer (ages 8 and up) Adventures of a magical criminal mastermind
Redwall by Brian Jacques (ages 8 and up) Battle of good and evil among mice, rats and other woodland animals

The BUZZ for Teens:
Twilight by Stephanie Meyer
A Best Book for Young Adults 2006! Kids say: “This book was so good. After I read the last page, I was dying from anticipation for her next book!” and “Everyone should read this book! A total page-turner!”
The Truth About Forever by Sarah Dessen
Kids say: “I think that any teenage girl could relate to the story and main character” and “This book is really, really good...every teenage girl should read it!!!”

New Books by Favorite Authors:
Anthony Horowitz, author of the Alex Rider Adventures – South by Southeast: A Diamond Brothers Mystery
Meg Cabot, author of the Princess Diaries series – Avalon High
Gail Carson Levine, author of Ella Enchanted – Fairy Dust and the Quest for the Egg
Cecily von Ziegesar, author of the Gossip Girl series – The It Girl
Elizabeth Kay, author of the Divide fantasy series – Jinx on the Divide

New Series:
The Door Within by Wayne Thomas Batson – an epic fantasy adventure in the tradition of the Chronicles of Narnia
Water Mirror: Dark Reflections Book One by Kai Meyer – fantasy set in Venice where magic is not unusual!

For Alex Rider Fans:
The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp by Rick Yancey
Mix in Excalibur, knights in hot cars and thugs on motorcycles and you have exciting adventure at every turn!
Ulysses Moore: The Door to Time by Pierdomenico Baccalario
An old mansion on the English coast holds twisting tunnels, strange artifacts from around the world and a mysterious, locked door!

- Kathie LaBombard, Youth Services Librarian

Facts You Can Use

Did You Know?

According to a new national study conducted on behalf of the American Library Association, Americans’ use of library services is growing and libraries, librarians – and the services they offer – are clearly valuable to Americans. In a telephone interview of 1,003 adults, KRU Research and Consulting found that Americans overwhelmingly are very satisfied with their public libraries, agree more public library funding is needed, and believe public libraries will be needed in the future. Two-thirds of adult Americans (approximately 135 million people) visited their public libraries in 2005. Recent findings reveal that:

- Seven out of ten Americans report being extremely or very satisfied with their public libraries. This number is up 10 points from 2002.
- More than eight in ten Americans (85%) agree that their public libraries deserve more funding. 58% percent strongly agree with this idea!
- More than ½ of survey respondents (52%) believe $41 or more should be spent on local libraries. Americans currently provide an average of $25 per year per person in local tax support for public libraries.
- Ninety-two percent of survey respondents believe libraries will still be needed in the future – even with all of the information available on the Internet.
- More than 1/3 of Americans put the benefits of libraries at the top of the public services list, which includes schools, roads and parks. This number is up six points from 2002.
- The more frequent the user, the more satisfied she or he is with libraries. Americans’ use of library services has grown in almost every category – from taking out books (up 14 points) to consulting with librarians (up 7 points) to taking out CDs, videos and computer software (up 13 points) to attending cultural programs like speakers or movie showings (up 8 points).

For more background information on this study and the attitudes that it reveals, visit the ALA web site at www.alahome.org/ala/ors/reports/2006KRCReport.pdf

~ excerpted from NYLINE 2/23/2006
Patricia Perez Checks in From Library School

School has started! I’m off and running, trying to navigate my way through the web of Clarion University. So far, all attendees and instructors are quite supportive. The best support I have found so far was an article posted on the “Course Documents” section of a class titled “Introduction to the Information Profession.” Below are excerpts of the article that I found very insightful and would like to share with my colleagues.

Considerations for Getting Started with an Online Course

Taking an online course is quite different from a face-to-face class. It’s a myth that an online course is easier, faster, quicker, or takes less work than a regular face-to-face class. A total myth.

Consider the amount of vocal instruction a teacher gives in the average classroom then translate all that vocal instruction to reading the same thing in text format. In a class and going over the same information, it might take me a few minutes, but reading all of that online takes twice as long. The advantage is that you’ll have a hard copy of the information transmitted which is something you wouldn’t have in class unless you took extensive notes.

Check your email and announcements several times a week. Assignments are turned in through the Digital Drop Box and also in hard copy via any courier, but make sure it has signed receipt.

The grading system for this class is no different than a regular class. Participation includes online chats, assigned papers and timed exams. There is no mechanism for make up work.

Powerpoint presentations will be available for each chapter and other online lectures. Please use them as “guides” to advance through the text and what may seem like a veritable sea of material.

Reading everything is essential. Staying in Touch is essential. Turning in work on time is essential. Doing those essential activities will take the pressure off and will, Hopefully, make the course feel like a fun trip to the beach! (Well, for some.)

Wish me luck...

Your colleague,

Patricia Perez  Lake Placid Public Library

Mystery Men Redux

And the Answers (and Winners) Are:

Congratulations to Cheryl Blanchard of the Paine Memorial Library, Willards, and Becky Pace of the Peru Free Library for tracking down the mystery men in our last quiz. Readers were asked to match the author with the leading man in certain popular mystery titles. The answers are:

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<thead>
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<th>Leading Man</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alex Cross</td>
<td>James Patterson</td>
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<td>Alex Delaware</td>
<td>Jonathan Kellerman</td>
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<td>Barnaby Skye</td>
<td>Richard Wheeler</td>
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<td>Ben Kincaid</td>
<td>William Bernhardt</td>
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<td>Butch Karp</td>
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<td>Jarry Bosch</td>
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<td>Inspector Morse</td>
<td>Colin Dexter</td>
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<td>Jack Aubrey</td>
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<td>Lee Child</td>
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<td>Jack Ryan</td>
<td>Tom Clancy</td>
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<td>Jim Chee</td>
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<td>Joe Gunther</td>
<td>Archer Mayor</td>
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<td>Joe Pickett</td>
<td>C.J. Box</td>
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<td>John Corey</td>
<td>Nelson DeMille</td>
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<td>Lincoln Rhyme</td>
<td>Jeffery Deaver</td>
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<td>Lou Boldt</td>
<td>Ridley Pearson</td>
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LibraryU – A Place to Find Library Training Online

I’ve always thought it would be wonderful if, as soon as a question popped into my head, there would be an “answer generator” making contact with me through the ether. On the other hand, that would mean that somebody or something was reading my mind, a scary thought! In the real world, we still have to take the initiative to find answers and information. But the availability of information when you need it has improved greatly since the advent of the web. Colleen Pelletier, Reference Librarian at the Plattsburgh Public Library, recently recommended a library training web site to us, and after trying it I was very impressed.

The site: http://learning.libraryu.org/home/, also known as LibraryU, is a project of the Illinois Library Systems and the Illinois State Library, with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The site is open to everyone, although it does have some specific Illinois content. After you create a user name and password, there are many free short online courses you can take, and online events you can attend. Here are some of the titles:

Budgeting Basics
Master of Disaster: Developing a Disaster Plan
Partners in Learning: Collaboration with Teachers and Librarians
Boy Crazy @ the Library: Going Graphic with Your Collection
Planning Story Times for Children
Shelving with Dewey
Weeding the Library Collection
Basic Web-Based Reference

There are also courses on fundraising, marketing, e-mail for beginners, construction, and many more. The courses may take one or more hours to complete, and you can do as much or as little as you want in one sitting and return later.

I tried “Budgeting Basic”, and although it mentions Illinois law it was mostly applicable to any public library. Shelving with Dewey had fun-to-watch animations about the Dewey Decimal System and could serve as an introduction for patrons as well as staff. “Web-based E-mail for Beginners” is a tutorial that a library trainer could use with a patron who wanted to begin using e-mail.

In these times when budgets don’t allow for much continuing education and travel, this web site can really help library staff keep growing. I encourage you to set aside some time to try this website, and don’t forget to tell your board what you learn!

~ Betsy Brooks, Automation Librarian, CEFLS
Your Library System in Action

CEF's own Kim Fletcher and Kathie LaBombard were part of the merry band of barcoders at the Westport Library in mid-February.

And Access for All!

Stop, Drop, and Read!

April 12, 2006 has been proclaimed National "Drop Everything and Read Day" (D.E.A.R.). It is an initiative to encourage families to designate at least 30 minutes to put aside all distractions and enjoy books together - to make a special time to "drop everything and read." The 90th birthday of Newbery Award-winning author Beverly Cleary is the official national D.E.A.R. day, and Cleary's most popular book character, Ramona Quimby, is the program's official spokesperson.

In celebration of D.E.A.R. Day, the National Education Association (NEA) and the NEA Foundation, with support from HarperCollinsChildren'sBooks, is offering a funding opportunity called the D.E.A.R. Bookshelf. This program awards $250 for classroom, school, and public libraries to enrich book collections and offer titles that kids will want to drop everything for and read! The deadline for applications, available at <http://www.neafoundation.org/> www.neafoundation.org, is March 24, 2006. National D.E.A.R. materials for programming in libraries are available now at dear@harpercollins.com

~Kathie LaBombard, CEF
Pictured with the new bookmobile are CEF staff members (from left) Rich Merritt, Elizabeth Rogers, Director Ewa Jankowska, Kathie Labombard, Kim Fletcher, Karen Batchelder, Deb Crossley, Julie Wever, Betsy Brooks, Michael Spofford, and Bob Welch. Missing: Penny Cowan and Tracey LaBarge.