Zeroing in on Overdrive

It’s been four months since we started offering e-books. How are things going? What are people reading? How does circulation of e-book titles compare with that of print? These are questions we look for answers to. Developing an e-book collection is tricky—we’re limited to what’s available from Overdrive, and we’re limited by budget. Many bestsellers are too expensive for us to buy ($70-$80 per title) so we choose the latest Overdrive offerings. Are people reading whatever’s available, or are they selecting what they really want to read?

We currently have 384 titles available, and we’ve circulated 1,459 items since going live in mid-March. Users have also downloaded about 200 of the thousands of free Project Gutenberg titles available. We have a nice selection of children’s and young adult titles, though the majority of what we own is adult fiction. What’s the most popular title? Divine Evil, by Nora Roberts has circulated more than any other title, with William Landay’s Defending Jacob running a close second. Also popular are Barbara Freethy’s The Sweetest Thing, Robyn Carr’s Redwood Bend, Ransom Riggs’ Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children, Jonathan Safran Foer’s Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close, and another Nora Roberts title, Genuine Lies.

The most heavily circulated titles are mystery/thrillers and romances—a pattern that holds true for print books as well. The hottest title right now is Cheryl Strayed’s Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail, which was just added to our collection and already has five holds. Another often-requested title is James Patterson’s Alex Cross’s Trial, which was published in 2009 but is popular nevertheless. Divine Evil is even older (1992) but still in demand. Much of what we can purchase in e-book format is not the newest books, but there are some good (and popular) titles we’re able to offer.

To spread our spending dollars further we usually purchase only one copy of each title, which means many titles have holds on them much of the time. People seem to read their e-books quickly, however, and the wait for a title is generally a week or so. Not bad, and often better than what we can offer in print. Do people read more books with their Kindles and Nooks? Do they read faster? Based on anecdotal evidence, people with ereaders read a lot of e-books a bit faster than they read print copies.

The reports we can access from Overdrive allow us to track the numbers of circulation, holds and turnover rates for each title. I’m always interested in circulation statistics and trends, so I’m having a good time with Overdrive’s extensive reporting capabilities. We have a lot of summer residents who seem to be using our e-book collection, which is excellent. Circulation of print titles hasn’t dropped noticeably, perhaps indicating that we’re serving different populations with e-books than we do with print copies.

This foray into electronic materials has been a learning experience we’ve been able to enjoy. We’re hoping to continue to have the same amount as this year’s e-book budget in coming years; usage statistics indicate that there’s a significant demand for more e-books. Publishing trends will dictate what’s available, and there’s a lot going on in the publishing world these days. We’re always interested in what CEFLS readers are enjoying and will keep monitoring our reports. --Elizabeth Rogers, CEFLS
News From Clinton County Libraries: 

Rouses Point Dodge Memorial Library

Time is flying by! The library is buzzing with many visitors from the local marinas and seasonal residents. This year we fielded three teams at the June 30 Take A Bite Out of Books competition. Students who participated in this program attend Rouses Point Elementary, Mooers Elementary or NCCS Middle School. We would like to express a huge thank you to everyone who helped us: school principals, Kate Woodward, Darcie Gregoire and parents. The kids had a wonderful time and many of them are talking about next year. Being part of this program and working with kids at this age has been very enlightening and reassuring. Kids love to read! We ended the TABOB with a pizza party and the movie When Zachary Beaver Came to Town.

Our summer reading program is in full swing. For the sixth year, “Speedy” Arnold kicked off the program with many of our favorite songs, nursery rhymes, and book illustrations. The kids and parents who attended “Speedy’s” show helped him to write a song. To date, over 60 children have registered for the program.

Throughout the summer we are hosting events and activities four days a week in celebration of summer reading. Every Tuesday will feature a preschool story time; on Wednesday we will welcome a variety of guests and hold some special events (Nan Hoffman, Hampstead Stage Company, Kim Donnelly, The Olympics Game Day); Thursday – Youth Commission Reading Program; and every Friday will include a variety of programs and artists; Amano Studio, Crafts with Nicci or movie matinees. These programs were made possible, in part, from funding received from the Decentralization Grant through the Council for the Arts.

The library continues to undergo renovations and upgrades. In addition to a new slate roof last year, we have installed new drainage around the building, added insulation in the basement, sowed a new lawn and two new maple trees, and added new lighting in the library. Recently we received a Library Construction Grant to help upgrade the parking lot. Currently there is only parking for three vehicles. With the upgrade there will be parking for ten vehicles including a handicapped parking space. We are also installing a new book drop box in the parking lot.

Kate and I have already begun planning activities for the fall. We will start in October with the Knit/Crochet Club, quilting classes, Adult Beading class with Amano Studio, One-Stroke Painting workshop series, Movie Nights, Book vs. Movie Book Club and we will continue with preschool story time.

- Donna Boumil, Director

Beach Bag Reading

Readers from around the system toted these books to their favorite sunny spot or shady nook.

I’ve been reading paperbacks in the sun and couldn’t quickly come up with titles, but a few do come to mind. I recently enjoyed The Affair by Lee Child. This isn’t a mushy love story, but an action packed Jack Reacher mystery. I love his character. He’s such a Nomad/Dudley Do Right/ Hulk Hogan all rolled into one. My patrons have been telling me to read Defending Jacob by William Landay. It’s about a Massachusetts Lawyer and his son Jacob who is charged with murder of a fellow student. It’s a story about how our lives can change in an instant and how we often are ill prepared to deal with the fall out.

- Cheryl Blancard, Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro

I just finished reading The Homecoming of Samuel Lake by Jenny Winfield and thought it was very good. – Jackie Viestenz, Port Henry

Great beach reading: How to Eat a Cupcake by Meg Donohue; The Witness by Nora Roberts; Spring Fever by Mary Kay Andrews; Learning to Swim by Sara Henry; Road to Valor by Aili and Andres McConnon. The cover says it all. “A true story of World War II Italy, the Nazis, and the cyclist who inspired a nation.” It is the story of a two time winner of the Tour de France, Gino Bartali, and how he cycled, fought the Fascist government in Italy and helped to save Italian Jews from the Nazis. This is a really good read and a timely one with the Tour de France and Olympics coming up. Another favorite of mine is The Childrens Blizzard by David Laskin. It is a dark horse. The story tells about the winter of 1888 on the western prairie. It is also the story of immigrants coming to America and the westward movement. These were the first people who “grew” the country and it is the story of real people in a freak weather anomaly. A lovely book (Laura Ingalls Wilder is even mentioned). – Judy Harris, North Country Center For Independence
Tooting Our Own Horn

In a continuing effort to spread the word about the vital work that CEFLS does, we have been taking a look at the format and content of our public relations pieces. Are we really “telling our story” in the most effective way possible? Here is a list of some of the services that we provide to member libraries and local residents. Have we left anything out? What do these services mean to you and your patrons on a daily basis? Here is a piece from our new brochure:

We deliver more than books!

Public libraries and area residents benefit from cost effective resource sharing. The system provides:

- Resources in print and online formats that help job seekers of all ages update their skills
- Inter-library loan and van delivery service—if your local library doesn’t have it, we can get it for you!
- Collections of books, DVDs and audio titles that expand member library collections
- Continuing Education and training for library staff
- A shared online catalog and databases
- Support for the annual Statewide Summer Reading Program
- Cooperative grant administration that benefit residents of all ages
- Access to free talking books for the visually impaired
- Outreach and Literacy Services
- Support for the latest technologies

The System’s focus on resource sharing, cooperative delivery of goods and services and collaborative project management means we can deliver thousands of dollars worth of enhanced library services at a fraction of the cost of providing these services separately.

More from Clinton County…

Champlain Memorial Library

The Champlain Memorial Library kicked off its Summer Reading Club on Wednesday July 18. It has been difficult in the past to get many children to come to the summer reading programs although I never stop trying. This year I have a small group of about six girls who are interested in the program and it is their “dream” to conduct the meetings book talking and book sharing. I have some activities and crafts but let the girls take the lead.

On Saturday July 14 Mark Furman II held his Eagle Scout Dedication Ceremony at the library. Mark worked hard on earning the highest award given to a Boy Scout. Mark first came to me with his idea for his project of putting a couple of benches outside for our patrons who may wish to read or just relax on a pleasant day. Once working out all the details of his project with the Board of Trustees Mark started his project. First Mark had to break up and remove concrete that had buckled and cracked since it was first placed in 1970. He replaced the concrete with stone bricks and placed two benches on the patio. The result is a beautiful shady spot where one may sit and read or just rest.

It was during the dedication ceremony while listening to Mark’s speech that I started to realize that Mark was dedicating his Eagle Scout Project to me one of the first people he had met since moving to the area. Was I ever surprised! I first met Mark five or six years ago when he and his family were new to the area and came in and all received library cards. Mark had just recently seen a bit on television about sea monsters and the legend of Champy. Realizing Lake Champlain was just a stones throw away he was convinced he would be the one to prove Champy existed. So I got all the information I could on Champy and let his imagination take off and do the rest. Now several years later Mark is still coming into the library checking out books, now he can sit outside and enjoy all his hard work.

-Alison Mandeville, Director
Essex County News

Au Sable Forks Free Library

“And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer.”
— F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby

Summer at the library always feels like a fresh start. People are visiting and the influx of patrons increases as seasonal visitors mingle for a few months, joining our year-round patrons. Although summer is a time of relaxation with the sun shining, it is also a time of venturing out and exploring. Here in Au Sable Forks it has been a nice time to catch up and get ready for the next few months.

In July and August the library will be hosting the local youth commission program Playgrounds on Tuesday mornings. Local children get a chance to receive a library card and explore the library including checking out items for themselves—often these are children who would not usually have an opportunity to visit the library and we are excited to welcome them!

Backing up a bit—this spring we were grateful and pleased to learn that we had received grants from the HoneyBee Foundation and the New York State Public Library Construction Grant. The HoneyBee funds will help us to replace some of our older office equipment and the Construction grant went towards the cost of the library’s roof which was replaced late last fall.

Coming up in the next few months we will be holding two fundraisers: in August we will be having our annual book and bake sale. At the time of this publication the date is still to-be-determined, but it will be posted at CEF’s website, in the papers, on our Facebook page and in the Jay News. Also upcoming this fall, we are thrilled to announce the return of the Beer Run Association 5k to help raise general funding for the library. On Saturday, October 20 the B.R.A. will be hosting a Monster Dash, so get your running shoes laced and costume picked out!

And one final note: volunteers are wonderful, are they not? This summer we have a returning college student, a high school student and a middle school student joining us. They are a fantastic addition to our remarkable crew of year round volunteers. This library could not run without the support of our volunteers and I just want to take a special shout-out to thank all of them for their hard work and dedication!

—Susanna Carey, Library Director

Linda AuClair, director of the Goff-Nelson Library, Tupper Lake, is retiring at the end of August. Congratulations, Linda!

Laura Pritchard’s last day as director of the Dannemora Free Library was July 31. Laura was director for four years and she says “my best accomplishment is moving the library to its new location at the Dannemora Community Center Building. Penny Belton has been appointed to replace her. Penny has a two year degree in Library Technology, and has worked in libraries for about 10 years. She is excited to be working in a library again.

Susanna Carey has stepped down as director of the AuSable Forks Free Library. Susanna has been director since November 2009 and is a regular contributor to the Trailblazer. While Susanna will miss working with her colleagues in the CEFLS community, she is looking forward to exploring new opportunities in the Washington D.C. area.

We welcome Emily Castine (Clinton County) and Judy Cobb (Essex County) to the CEFLS Board of Trustees.

Remember: CEFLS has subscribed to Grantstation for another year. For more information on this powerful funding database or to book an appointment to come in and put it through its paces, contact Julie at CEFLS at 563-5190 x 18 or wever@cefls.org

AuSable Forks Free Library Summer Book Sale

Friday, August 24
4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 25
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

This will be a large sale with a great selection of fiction and non-fiction books, dvds, vhs tapes, audiobooks, and cds.

On Saturday, 8/25 there will be a town wide garage sale in AuSable Forks and surrounding area!
Still Digging in the Beach Bag:

I’m loving this hot weather. Wells Memorial had a successful 20th & Final Summer Yard Sale and I’ve been reading lots. I especially enjoyed a little epistolary novel by Jean Webster called Daddy Long-Legs: Anybody can rise to a crisis and face a crushing tragedy with courage. But to meet the petty hazards of the day with a laugh—requires SPIRIT. I also enjoyed Wonder, by R.J. Palacio. Cheers! - Marie-Anne Azar-Ward, Wells Memorial, Upper Jay

Slammed by Colleen Hoover is in my beach bag for sure. Amazon.com says:
“Following the unexpected death of her father, 18-year-old Layken is forced to be the rock for both her mother and younger brother. Outwardly, she appears resilient and tenacious, but inwardly, she’s losing hope. Enter Will Cooper: The attractive, 21-year-old new neighbor with an intriguing passion for slams. Within days of their introduction, Will and Layken form an intense emotional connection, leaving Layken with a renewed sense of hope. Daily interactions become impossibly painful as they struggle to find a balance between the feelings that pull them together and the forces that tear them apart.” I started this book at 10:00 p.m. and read until 2:00 a.m. to finish it. It is YA, but so good. Colleen was also generous enough to donate a signed copy of Slammed and the sequel Point of Retreat, which is told from Will’s point of view, to the library. It is now # 22 on the NY Times Best Seller List. – Samantha Baer, Wilmington

Nora Robert’s summer release The Witness is in my opinion one of her best books yet! She had me in tears at one point towards the end and cheering loudly and joyously in the first sentence of the next paragraph! The fortitude of the heroine of this novel is just amazing (even my cleaning lady agrees)! I can’t wait to crack Nora’s latest The Last Boyfriend. - Karen Ricketson, PPL

Essex County news continued...

Schroon Lake Public Library

Our library entered a “Dream Big. Read!” float in the town’s 4th of July parade and we won first prize! The photo below shows me and staff member Dee Bowen holding a banner in front of our float.

In the spring, we started a “Down to Earth” gardening club for children. Children meet twice a month at the library to learn about the exciting world of gardening. Utilizing the garden experience as well as library books, the children learn about such things as soil composition, helpful and harmful insects, botany and the interrelation of plants, animals and humans.

With a grant from the Charles R. Wood Foundation, we have purchased two Nook Colors and two Kindle Fires. These devices will be preloaded with an assortment of adult, teen and children's books and be available to our patrons to borrow for two weeks. This grant will allow patrons to try out the new technology without having to commit. We are very excited and can’t wait till they are barcoded and ready for circulation.

We hosted our annual House and Garden Tour on Sunday, July 29 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. This year six incredible homes and their respective gardens in Schroon Lake were on view. From a 1920’s Sears catalog house to Stone-Haven, a magnificent waterfront home built in 1986, participants were delighted with the variety of homes chosen. In addition participants also attended a gardening presentation by author Kerry Mendez, from Perennially Yours at 4:00 at the Boat House Theater. This is one of our many fundraisers hosted by our Friends of the Library group.

This year’s Wine and Cheese fundraiser was held on Monday evening, August 13. The event took place at Witherbee’s Carriage House on Route 9. Participants were offered six different wines to taste. A representative from the wine distributor was on-hand to give information on the wines such as type, vineyard grown, history and other information. Each wine was be paired with fruit, cheeses, crackers, and dessert. A good time was had by all at this popular educational event.

– Jane Bouchard, Director
Sherman Free Library, Port Henry

The Sherman Free Library kicked off the themed summer reading program, Dream Big Read! with a visit with Webster, a Newfoundland dog. This Canine Good Citizen came to the library to listen to the children's dreams. He was a very patient listener. We continued the programs on Thursday nights through August 9. Other summer reading program highlights included a presentation by All 'bout Critters from Ticonderoga who brought some night animals to the library on Thursday, August 2 and the grand finale on Thursday, August 9 which featured High Peaks Juggling.

Children are working to "Be a Reading Champ" this summer. They get one sticker for pages read according their grade in school. They also put their name in a bucket for a drawing for a weekly prize. "Be A Reading Champ" continues until August 18.

Paul Reese is restarting his genealogy programs about once a month. —Jackie Viestenz, Director

Note: Jackie and any other hosts of reading with canine friends can check out our new Tail Waggin Tutors collection that is generously made possible by our friends at Community Bank.—Ed.

E.M. Cooper Memorial Public Library News

This summer is a busy one! On Thursday, June 14, the Friends of the Library held their Annual Food and More Sale. We had a great turnout and we had a lot of happy people come through our doors. On June 30, our library fielded two teams in the TABOB competition that was held at Champlain Centre Mall. All team participants did very well and we are very proud of them!

We continue to have a youth garden this year. Our board member, Gail Mitchell works with local young people, teaching them gardening basics. The children maintain the garden and they get to keep what they harvest.

The Library will be participating in Wilmington’s Town Wide Yard Sale on Saturday, August 18. We will be selling books, and other items. One of our generous donor families has gifted us with a third generation 32 GB iPad WiFi to be used for a raffle. We will begin selling tickets at the Town Wide Yard Sale and the drawing will be held at the Friends of the Library Cookie Sale on December 8th, 2012.

Look for our booth at the Festival of the Colors on Saturday, September 8 where we will be selling books and raffle tickets.

—Samantha Bauer, Director
We get a wide variety of visitors here each summer. This season started out with a couple from Massachusetts looking for a site to renew their wedding vows, Turkish students looking to improve their English and “Waldo” looking for a place to blend into the woodwork.

Renewing Vows

Kent and Leslie Wright of Braintree, MA, were walking along Main Street with their family, looking for a likely site to renew their marriage vows when they spotted the lawn behind the library. “We knew right away that it was the perfect spot,” said Mr. Wright. The short ceremony was performed the next morning, which just happened to be the couple’s 60th wedding anniversary, by their son, Robert Wright who had become ordained for the occasion.

Visiting Students

As usual, the practical implication of the advent of Windows 8 will be that any NEW Windows computers you buy after October will probably have this new operating system. In our cash-strapped library environment, that may mean that you will still have a mix of operating systems as you try to keep the old ones going.

If you buy any new computers between now and the end of the Windows 8 rollout, you could keep your options open by getting Windows 7, but purchasing the ability to upgrade, which manufacturers such as Dell and HP are offering for $14.95. The dust will eventually settle, and people will probably come to love Windows 8 and expect to see it in your library in a few years.

For now, I would recommend sticking with Windows 7, which is definitely better (more stable, trouble-free) than XP and Vista. If you plan to buy any computers this year, the next few months would be a good time!

-Betsy Brooks, CEFLS

Searching for Waldo

A “Where’s Waldo?” event is being sponsored at the Bookstore Plus in Lake Placid during July and our library is one of the 20 hiding places where children can search for him. Kids must find him in at least 16 locations to qualify for a prize drawing. It’s been a lot of fun with whole families of local children and vacationers showing up to search the premises. It’s a great chance for many to experience the library for the first time.

Summer Reading Recommendations

People are always asking what the people who work here recommend. Linda Blair who has been on the desk for more than 34 years is great at it because she knows everyone and has learned what he or she likes. It’s not so easy for the rest of us, so we have begun a display of individual picks. First, Linda put up her favorites, next it was the turn of the ILL member of the staff and then the library director’s. Most picks were mainstream fiction, but the display helped introduce some older or off-beat little known books to our readers.

Door Opener and Painting

Getting here is a lot easier for our handicapped patrons now that an automated opener has been installed on the heavy front door. It was paid for with special funds donated to the library and matching funds from a NY State Education Department Development Grant. To go with the new door feature, the handicap ramp, flower boxes, seats, porch railings and window shutters in the front and on the side of the library are receiving badly needed coats of white and green paint.

-More from Essex County-

Lake Placid Public Library

Windows 8 Coming this Fall

Are you still using Windows XP? Vista? Windows 7? Have you got a mix of staff and public computers using different operating systems? You will be forgiven if you’re not too excited that a new version of Windows is due out this October 26, only three years after Windows 7 launched. Windows 8 will not offer many advantages in our environment, because it’s designed to enhance the use of touch screen monitors, which I don’t think we’ll be using in great numbers! It has a new interface, no start button, and is made to make the PC act more like a tablet.

As usual, the practical implication of the advent of Windows 8 will be that any NEW Windows computers you buy after October will probably have this new operating system. In our cash-strapped library environment, that may mean that you will still have a mix of operating systems as you try to keep the old ones going.

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For now, I would recommend sticking with Windows 7, which is definitely better (more stable, trouble-free) than XP and Vista. If you plan to buy any computers this year, the next few months would be a good time!

-Betsy Brooks, CEFLS
Lake Placid continued…

Children’s Rooms

The kids’ area is getting a lot of traffic this summer from local users as well as many tourists, who like to bring their children in for a quiet break and for a little reading. The weekly story hour for tots with Linda Blair has been attracting a full house and more than 30 older children were recently treated to an original story about bear wrestling offered by retired NY State Trooper Sean Donovan.

Ancestry/Genealogy Class

Taking a page from the Sherman Free Library in Port Henry and Plattsburgh Public, we have installed Ancestry.com Library Edition on our public computers and we have set up a class for late in July. This free class is for everyone, whether brand new to genealogy software or an old hand at it. Anyone who is interested is welcome to join us at 523-3200.

Paintings, Photos and Ironmen

Our small art gallery has been hosting back-to-back showings. A display of interesting paintings and sculpture by students from Saranac Lake High School and Northwood School were followed by an exhibit of excellent photographs by students from throughout the Adirondacks. That show is expected to travel to other libraries in the region during the summer. Our next show, going up as this is written, will be works by Nip Rogers, many with an Ironman theme, to coincide with that huge, annual event.

--Lisa Forrest, Lake Placid Public Library

Not at the bottom of the bag yet…

I have two recommendations for "Olympic" reads: The Triumphant Story of an Underdog Olympig! Written and illustrated by Victoria Jamieson (2012). Boomer (the pig) braves the Animal Olympics, even managing a gymnastic’s routine squeezed into a sequined leotard. A story with a moral of Olympic proportions.

Showdown at Shepherd’s Bush: The 1908 Olympic Marathon and the Three Runners Who Launched a Sporting Craze by David Davis (2012). The story not only of the 1908 London Olympic marathon, but of the modern Olympic movement and distance running. An enlightening read for sports fans and history buffs alike. - Karen Armstrong

Axton Landing and The Railroad by Tony Holtzman are the first two books in his Adirondack Trilogy. They are fast paced and fun historical novels that bring the familiar modern struggles between environmental protection and economic opportunity back to the early days of logging. Easy reading that asks hard (and still relevant) questions. Available from some member libraries or Cloud Splitter Press. Can’t wait for the final installment! - Suzanne Orlando, Librarian, Adirondack CF

I liked Learning to Swim by Sara Henry as a fast, suspenseful read. This was the author’s first novel, and is set in Lake Placid, Ottawa and Burlington. It begins when the main character, Troy Chance, sees a young boy being thrown off the Lake Champlain Ferry, and impulsively dives in to rescue him. Her life will never be the same. - Betsy Brooks, CEFLS

I just read The Sandcastle Girls - Chris Bohjalian’s newest one and I liked it very much. It’s the story of Turkey’s attempt at genocide of Armenians around the time of the First World War. As with all his books, there’s a moral dilemma and much to think about as well as a love story. Right now I’m reading and enjoying The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern. It’s about Le Cirzue des Reves or Circus of Dreams and the lives of two mystical people who are in a competition and ultimately fall in love. The thing about the Night Circus is that it arrives without warning and is only open from dusk to dawn. - Kathie LaBombard, retired!

Debbie Nazigian (Miss Snazzy) and her face painting team (Joanna & Amy) recently spent a fun day at Bright Beginnings Children’s Center bringing smiles and giggles all around. Thanks to Debbie and friends for helping us celebrate summer reading! Visit Snazzy Face Painting’s website at: http://snazzyfacepainting.net
Supervising Student Assistants and Volunteers Workshop Held in June

Over 20 participants from throughout the North Country attended the Northern New York Library Network’s class, “Supervising Student Assistants and Volunteers: Hire, Train, Retain” held June 14, 2012, at the Network in Potsdam.

Ben Hogben, Access Services Manager of the Ithaca College Library, used an interactive presentation method, and went over reasons people volunteer. He explained that understanding these principles help determine recruitment methods, and volunteer and student assistant jobs should build skills.

Mr. Hogben pointed out interviews ought to include open-ended questions, and some questions are to be avoided; volunteer and student-assistant trainers should make use of different learning styles; and people need to know exactly what is expected of them, and follow-up is essential.

The day’s program also focused on the fact that documentation and on-going evaluation are crucial. Techniques for a supervisor to have “The Difficult Conversation” with a subordinate include careful listening, rephrasing, depersonalizing and achieving closure.

The Library Assistants Committee assisted NNYLN Regional Service Coordinator Bridget Doyle with planning for the information-packed conference. The Committee welcomes new members. Contact NNYLN Director John Hammond for more information.

--- Pat Wiley, Saranac Lake Free Library

Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay

Dan Christoffel is exhibiting his portraits of Walt Whitman and Mark Twain through August. Dan's exhibit was inspired by Ernest Hemingway who said, "Whitman and Twain defined the course of American poetry and prose." An Artist's Reception was held on Friday evening August 3. Ben Ellis of Keene read from the works of Whitman and Twain. In May and June, Stephen Longmire exhibited photographs from his recent book Life and Death on the Prairie.

The library’s Books, Antiques and Treasures Sale was held on Friday, July 13 and Saturday, July 14 with the help of a large cadre of dedicated and hard-working volunteers. We are very grateful to all who helped with the fundraiser. Brunswick Middle School in Greenwich, Connecticut held a read-a-thon to help the library recover from flooding from Tropical Storm Irene. These generous readers raised $2,348.14 for the library. Many thanks to Brunswick Middle School! We also received assistance through Adirondack Community Trust from the Jay Flood Relief Fund. We greatly appreciate their donation of over $2,000 to help restore the library.

Music Appreciation for children age three to six with Julie Robinson Robards continues on the first Saturday of the month. July also brought the return of our popular Come As Your Favorite Character Ice Cream Social which was held on July 18. Marie-Anne Azar Ward, president of our board of trustees hosted this fun filled event again this year. We also welcomed local storyteller Cailin Mulvey on Saturday afternoon, July 21, and Rosamond Lincoln-Day, who presented a program on "Egypt: Arab Spring during Summer 2011" at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 21.

Quilters meet at the library the third Monday of the month at 4:30 p.m. Anyone with an interest in quilting is welcome. The Green Party of Essex County meets twice a month at the library. Please call Fred Balzac at 946-7861 for information on dates and times.

-Karen Rappaport, Director

Links You'll Like:

www.whatshouldireadnext.com
"I am constantly being asked to recommend authors or books to patrons. My brain goes on the fritz sometimes, so this website is wonderful. Just type in an author or title and similar genres/authors come up. Enjoy!" - Donna Boumil, Rouses Point

http://en.childrenslibrary.org/
ICDL - International Children's Digital Library
I just found this and it is delightful. Thought others might enjoy it.
- Judy Harris, NCCI

Garden writing is often very tame, a real waste when you think how opinionated, inquisitive, irreverent and lascivious gardeners themselves tend to be. Nobody talks much about the muscular limbs, dark, swollen buds, strip-tease trees and unholy beauty that have made us all slaves of the Goddess Flora.

- Ketzel Levine’s talkingplants.com
The Paine Memorial Library celebrated the 30th year of the Old Time Willsboro Craft Fair on Saturday, July 28. Over 50 vendors shared their handwork in a show classified as "Things Done Well By Hand". The fundraiser was started in 1982 by Janice Allen, past Director and Gretchen Boardman, current Trustee. It was a cozy event at that time with the booths surrounding the library. As the Craft Fair became more popular and grew, it was moved to the Point Road soccer field. It's really become a town-wide social event now. Many local musicians played under the picnic tent.

The library itself has been very busy this summer. The Friday Story Hour has been very well attended along with our other two summer reading programs. Our reading assistance program is especially popular. Suzette Montville, certified teacher, gives one-on-one reading assistance to children who need help. Our other reading program is a small summer reading library set up as part of our Town Summer Youth program. Around 80 children rotate into our summer reading library in small groups and read for 30 minutes each day for a six week period. The library looks over Lake Champlain. It's a wonderful site seeing children sitting outside the building under the trees reading with the lake in the background. It makes me want to be a child again! -

- Cheryl Blanchard - Director

### Get the Computer YOU Want

Getting ready to buy a new computer for the library? Here are some things to consider. Don't just take what the manufacturers want to give you, but get a good quality computer that fits your needs, and add the software that YOU want – not what they throw in! It is a little more work, but worth it in the end.

Consider where to buy. It's tempting to buy computers from a local store, such as Best Buy, Sam's Club or Staples. However, I think you get a better product shopping online for a business or local government version. One of the main problems with the store computers is "bloatware," or extra trial versions of software that are pre-installed and keep popping up asking you to activate them. I recommend using the [New York State Aggregate Buy](http://ogs.ny.gov/purchase/PCPurchase.htm), where you can get a good price on a variety of quality models. The warranties are generally better here than you would get in the store. You will save the taxes if you send your tax-exempt certificate. Once you establish an account with HP or Dell, it is easier to order the next time, and they can probably set up a credit account and bill you, rather than requiring a credit card.

You will have your own special space and audience requirements, but here's a sample recommendation for both a public and staff computer you could buy:

#### For the public:

HP Pro 3420 All-in-One Business PC from the NYS Aggregate Buy (see link above)

This is a space saving design, with the hard drive mounted behind the monitor. It has Windows 7 Professional (64 bit), a 20" monitor, a webcam, 4G RAM, a 500G hard drive, a wireless card, and a 3-year warranty, for $521. In my experience, they don't charge for shipping. Add Deep Freeze for $35.50 and MS Office for $31 (order and install separately). Total: $587.50

#### For staff:

Get the same model and add MS Office, but substitute Symantec Endpoint Protection ($5 from TechSoup) instead of Deep Freeze. Total: $557.

-Betsy Brooks, CEFLS
Three Life Time Arts Grants Awarded

The Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System is the rural system partner in a grant called “Creative Aging in New York Public Libraries: A Regional Model with National Applicability” that is funded by the IMLS. This project makes possible free instructional arts programs for older adults, and supports collaborations between professional teaching artists and public libraries.

The project provides host libraries funding and professional development and ongoing technical assistance to introduce library staff to creative aging policies, best practices and regional arts resources. Older adults benefit from professionally led skill building workshops that foster mastery of a variety of mediums, and promote meaningful social engagement.

Three CEFLS member libraries submitted proposals to LifeTime Arts and all three were funded. Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay received $2,475 to fund Observational Drawing classes with local artist Grace Pottast. Rouses Point Dodge Memorial Library received $1,800 to fund Painting a Landscape in Pastels. $2,250 was awarded to the Schroon Lake Public Library for a series on Beginning to Paint Using Watercolors. Stay tuned for details about the public receptions for the projects accomplished by participants “aged 55 and better” during these sessions! Congratulations to the applicants for bringing these invaluable sessions to community residents.

“It Takes a Town” Fall Workshop Slated

SAVE THE DATE! The latest installment in our “It Takes a Town to Raise a Reader” series with Ann Sayers and Karen Armstrong will be held on Monday, September 24 in the second floor auditorium of the Plattsburgh Public Library. Ann and Karen are currently putting together a terrific day long session that will examine the mission of the library and other community institutions in the digital age.

In the morning, we will work in small action groups, sharing strategies that work to brand the library, and educate the public. The afternoon will feature a look back at your summer reading successes, and book talking “Timely Reads 2012” and “Family Reads 2011-2012”. Participants will have a chance to browse the newest titles, which is always a treat. Stay tuned for complete details coming your way soon, but meanwhile, save the date and plan to join us!

This workshop series is made possible by a generous grant from the Lake Placid Education Foundation.

Franklin County News

Saranac Lake Free Library

Over 100 people attended the Welcoming Reception for our new director Peter Benson held June 15, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., in our Cantwell Community Room. A highlight was a book display, Peter, This Is Your Life! that showed some of Peter’s main interests—libraries, guitar, writing, rock climbing and curling. It was a “green” party with cloth napkins, and plates and glasses borrowed from local organizations. Board member Shirley Morgan headed the Reception Committee assisted by staff and volunteers.

The 18th annual Mary MacIntyre Summer Reading Program, with its theme Dream Big, Read! will meet for three Wednesdays, July 11, 18 and 25, from 10:00 a.m. until noon. The pre-K, first and second and third and fourth grade groups will enjoy reading, crafts, snacks, and special guests. The children will create a huge mural for the Community Room that emphasizes the Dream Big, Read! theme. The series will end with a parade through the library and an ice cream social, courtesy of Stewart’s Shop.

The 57th annual Come to the Fair will run August 7 to 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Along with thousands of hardcover and paperback books for sale, the event will also include white elephant items, jewelry, toys, baked goods, and a Picnic Café. A special opening for those who have contributed to the 2012 Membership Campaign at the supporting $35 level or higher will take place from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 6, as a thank you for yearly financial support of the library. - Pat Wiley, Library Assistant

Preschoolers participating in the Summer Reading Program enjoy reading with volunteer leader Sunita Halasz in their “indoor tent” surrounded by animals in the Dickert Wildlife Room of the Saranac Lake Free Library.
Maximize Your Access to Ebooks With a New York Public Library Card

Did you know that every New York State resident is entitled to a free New York Public Library card? The card provides access to many databases and resources that you can use from your home computer or device, including free downloadable content such as Ebooks, downloadable audiobooks, even downloadable music and videos. NYPL has a much larger collection than many other libraries, so you can really expand your horizons with this card! The process for getting a card is a little hard to find, so follow these steps to request your free card:

1. At the library’s website www.nypl.org, click on the menu that says “Using the Library,” then on “Get a Library Card.”

2. In the section “How do I Apply for a Library Card?” it states that identification cannot be submitted by mail or fax. However, there is an exception for non-Metro area state residents. Click on the “Apply Online” link to fill out a form, and then click on the “Apply” link in the section headed “I Want to Receive my Card by Mail.”

3. Wait to receive your card in the mail, then email scans or copies of the required forms of identification to patronaccounts@nypl.org. Alternatively you can fax the information to (212) 621-0278. You can find out what forms of id are needed at http://www.nypl.org/help/library-card/terms-conditions#Eligibility.

To further explain the library’s requirements, here is some information from the http://www.nypl.org/help/library-card/terms-conditions#renew page:

“New library card applicants from these areas [outside of the NYC Metro area] who applied for their card online and elected to receive it in the mail must first e-mail the above-mentioned form(s) of identification after receiving their card to validate it before full cardholder privileges can be extended. Both the library card number and required identification must be included with any renewal/validation request. Incomplete and/or unreadable information will not be accepted and will delay the continued use of your card.”

If you or your patrons use this service, we’d be interested to hear about your experience!

-Betsy Brooks, CEFLS

World Book Night 2013

Library Participant Applications are due September 1!

If you attended the LPEF funded “It Takes a Town to Raise a Reader” workshop with Ann Sayers and Karen Armstrong this past spring, you’ll likely remember Karen’s story about passing out books in the Lake Placid Price Chopper Parking lot! This is your chance to hop on the band wagon and join the fun.

World Book Night 2013 is a celebration of literacy by publishers, bookstores, libraries and individuals who love books and reading. On April 23, 2013, 25,000 “book givers” will each give away 20 copies of a specially-printed, not for resale WBN edition of a book they have read and loved (chosen from a list of 25-30 titles) to complete strangers who may have never owned a book of their own.

World Book Night 2013 library organizational participants are making a commitment to: be a site for individual “book giver” volunteers; to pick up their shipment of books; to be an active advocate in their community for World Book Night and literacy.

Complete details and a short commitment form can be found on the CEF web site at www.cefls.org/app_world_book_night.doc

Newcomb Outreach Collection in Full Swing!

CEFLS is reaching out to readers and former bookmobile patrons in the remote region of Newcomb and Winebrook Hills by providing library materials and ebook help in the Town Office. Two book collections have been delivered to date and enthusiasm seems to be growing among readers of all ages. The first deposit collection was delivered in June and 48 books were signed out. A total of seven patrons were registered with no-resident Schroon Lake Library borrower cards.

Chad Chase is also providing walk-in ebook help during his two hour “drop off” stints.

In the photo, Necomb resident Pamela Siers examines the August collection.
We've found these goodies at the bottom of the beach bag:

If you are looking for a good read this summer look no further than either of these two titles by Lorna Landvik: *Oh My Stars* or *Patty Jane's House of Curl.* Landvik's books are akin to sitting down with a friend over a cup of coffee and enjoying a story told in person. Landvik has the ability to introduce you to characters you feel you have always known and carries you through their lives as a friend rather than as a spectator. The novels are often witty, warmhearted, and bittersweet. - Susanna Carey, Au Sable Forks Free Library

I recommend *MIGHTIER THAN the SWORD: Uncle Tom's Cabin and the Battle for America* by David S. Reynolds for your summer reading list. Not typical light summer reading, but a fascinating account of how the book by Harriet Beecher Stowe stirred not just American minds, but people all over the world. – Ann Sayers

I am happily immersed in reading this summer and have quite a few suggestions for the bag. My top picks include *The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh; *Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka; *The Lost Saints of Tennessee* by Amy Franklin-Otsuka; *Only Time Will Tell* by Jeffrey Archer, and *A Dog's Purpose* by Bruce Cameron.  I loved this book and if you are a dog lover you should read this too! My “reading to-do list” includes: *A Good American* by Alex George; *A Dog's Journey* by Bruce Cameron, and *Sins of the Father* by Jeffrey Archer. – Alison Mandeville, Champlain

I don’t go to the beach, preferring to read in A/C comfort instead! I just finished the book *Sky Dragons* by Todd McCaffrey and Anne McCaffrey. It was another excellent example of life on Pern...a world created by Anne McCaffrey many years ago. Now her son Todd and his sister Georgeanne Kennedy are the two she picked to carry on writing the stories. So far, I’ve been very pleased with the books published by Todd. I also read the newest Mercedes Lackey at the beginning of June. That was "Home from the Sea" which featured both Puck and selkies! Another great read for those who enjoy fantasy and science fiction! How’s that for a "beach" read!  -- Colleen Pellitier, Plattsburgh Public

I’ve just finished reading *God's Hotel*, by Victoria Sweet, which I thought was great! Don’t know if anyone else has read it, but I recommend, especially if you are interested in health care. – Sue Wool, Wead Library, Malone

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**Doing a Computer Inventory**

The role of providing public access to the Internet for all kinds of activities is an important one. I know I’ve seen people applying for jobs, searching for scholarships and health insurance, and generally keeping in touch whenever I’ve visited your libraries. We need to keep this resource up to date and the best way to accomplish this is to systematically keep track of computers in your library. That way you’ll be able to tell which computers are the oldest and plan a technology budget that will replace your oldest computers on a schedule. A good rule of thumb is that computers that are four years old and older are on borrowed time. Of course, they aren’t always predictable!

One easy way to do this is by entering information at webjunction.techatlas.org. This inventory tool (and technology planning tool) is free to libraries. You may have a login there already, which you can retrieve if it was lost, or you can establish one.

At the inventory tab, the process of entering information about your computers is pretty easy, and there’s an automatic data gathering tool called the “local inventory tool” that you can use on each computer. After that, you can download various reports and a spreadsheet showing your computers. Then, just update your inventory as needed, about once a year when you are considering your budget. This is also a good tool also for using with your insurance company when insuring your technology or if there’s any damage.

--Betsy Brooks, CEFLS

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**Databases Up Close and Personable: A Look at NoveList K-8**

NoveList K-8 Plus will help you find the titles that will create those lasting memories of curling up with a good book. Select fiction or nonfiction, then an age group. There are reading lists for teens, ages 9-12, and ages 0-8. Browse through an extensive list of subjects, including an "if you like..." section which makes suggestions based on previous titles your kids have read.

Visit the CEFLS databases page to try out this fun, easy to use resource for teachers, librarians, parents, and young readers from Kindergarten through high school! - Chad Chase, CEFLS

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Congratulations go out to the Royals of the E.M. Cooper Memorial Library, Wilmington 2012 “Take a Bite Out of Books” Winners!!