Local Libraries Net Over $128,000 in Construction Funds

New York State Librarian and Assistant Commissioner for Libraries, Bernard A. Margolis, announced that the New York State Library has awarded 173 matching Public Library Construction Grants to public libraries and public library systems for 2009-10. The grants are supported by $14 million in capital funds appropriated in the 2009 State Budget for construction and renovation of public library and public library system buildings in New York State. Three CEF member libraries in Essex and Franklin counties will receive more than $128,000 in funding under this initiative.

The Keeseville Free Library was awarded $15,825 to make improvements to the basement, including removal of asbestos pipe insulation, relocation of the furnace, installation of a new hot water heater for the bathroom, and installation of split central air conditioning for the upper floor and basement. The Chateaugay Memorial Library will use $5,225 to erect partition walls in the children’s area. This will create a new space for reading and computers. Project activities will also include installation of new electrical outlets, and purchase and installation of shelving, furniture and equipment for this newly reconstructed space. The Goff-Nelson Library, Tupper Lake will undertake a major, multi-phase project, thanks to over $107,000 received from this grant stream. Work will include replacement of a boiler and removal of an in-ground oil tank, restoration of the library’s chimney and exterior walls, windows and roof, replacement of light fixtures and exit door, and installation of automatic door openers at the main entrance.

Are you inspired yet? Many projects, large and small, are fundable under this program. As Mr. Margolis’ message says, there is a documented need of more than $2.53 billion for public library construction and renovation in New York State. Some of the work to do is probably yours! The proposed 2010 Executive Budget includes $14 million in capital funds for the Public Library Construction Grant Program for 2010-11. Watch for program details coming your way soon and start planning now!
Member Library News
News From Clinton County

Mooers Free Library

Mooers Library continues to be with a new book club which began on Wednesday, February 24. Ten people signed up to participate, and it looks like it will be a success.

We have State Income Tax forms available and offer patrons the ability to print Federal forms from the Internet. We will also offer help in filling out the census form when it is mailed out. Our wireless Internet connection is very popular and more and more people are using it.

I can't believe that it is time to think about “splashing” into the Summer Reading Program but we are making plans to do so, and hope for another successful season.

- Edie Morelock, Director

Eric Gregory from ETS has temporarily replaced Kate Williams as the friendly face in the CEF front office. Welcome, Eric!

Since our last issue Susanna Carey has replaced Carole Osborne as Director of the AuSable Forks Free Library. Susanna has a MLS from Drexel University and has already been featured in a recent Plattsburgh Press Republican article. Welcome Susannah!

Jennifer Henry, Director of the CEWW School Library System has been appointed to the CEFLS Board of Trustees.

Mrs. Rose Waddell of Chapmanville West Virginia passed away on March 17. Mrs. Waddell was a longtime employee of CEF and served as Children’s Consultant and Head Cataloguer for many years. She was 97.

OneWorkSource

OneWorkSource is a coalition of agencies and schools working together to assist individuals who want to: enter or re-enter the workforce or advance in their jobs. OneWorkSource also provides services for local employers who are searching for qualified employees or trainees for positions in their companies.

 Agencies and schools represented at OneWorkSource include: NYS Department of Labor; Clinton Co. Employment and Training; CCC; CV-Tec; VESID; Evergreen Townhouse; Family Welcome Center; Small Business Development Center; Fidelis Low Income Health Insurance; Disability Navigator

OneWorkSource Locations:
194 US Oval, Plattsburgh, NY 12903; (518) 561-0430
103 Hand Avenue, Suite 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932; (518) 873-2341
158 Finney Blvd., Malone, NY 12953; (518) 481-5755

Hours: 8am to 4pm Monday through Friday

Website: http://www.ncworkforce.com/

Services (Self-Service or Counselor Assisted)

Job Search Assistance:
✓ Job Referrals
✓ Telephone Directories and telephones to contact employers
✓ Access to Computers and Laser Printers to write or update resumes
✓ Copy/Fax machines to use for job search purposes
✓ Workshops for intensive instruction in job search strategies, doing your own resume’ and interviewing tips
✓ Special Veterans Services

Job Listings
✓ Computer terminals with access to the Internet (America’s Job Bank and other WWW job listing services)
✓ Local Newspapers

Career Reference Materials
✓ Career Exploration; Interviewing Guides; Resume Writing Guides and Resume Writing Computer Programs
✓ Labor Market Information

Testing and Educational Services
✓ Interest and Skill tests; Employment testing; Civil Service Study Guides
✓ GED and Basic Skills instruction

Opportunities for Training
• CCC, CV-Tec, North Country Community College (workshops, one year and two year programs)
• On the job training
• Special programs for youth under 21

For more information call or email: Virginia Brady, Employment and Training Counselor; 561-0430 ext. 3032 or bradyv@co.clinton.ny.us
Plattsburgh Public Library Hosts Movies @ the Library!

Plattsburgh Public Library is turning down the lights and turning up the fun with a series of movies that are sure to please all ages. Colleen Pelletier, Reference Librarian at Plattsburgh Public Library, has obtained a Decentralization grant that allows the library to offer a themed movie series throughout 2010. Showings are held every Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and the theme changes monthly. A family movie will be featured on the second Saturday of each month from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Female viewers are advised to “grab your hanky and your girl friends and come to the library every third Thursday of the month to see a chick flick”.

In January, viewers geared up for the Olympics with Olympic and sports themed viewings. February’s theme featured African American History Month and Academy Award winning movies. March showcases movies about women in recognition of National Women’s History Month. Colleen reports that she is having a lot of fun picking out movies that both fit the themes and come under the library’s public performance rights license!

For further information, and a complete schedule, check the library’s web site (www.plattsburghlib.org), Facebook Page (I Love Plattsburgh Public Library), local newspapers, or call the library at 563-0921.

CEFLS launches iPhone App

It may be the first of its kind in New York State – an application for the iPhone that locates public libraries in our library system! It provides a phone number for ready dialing and a map and directions to each location.

Written and donated by Jesse Feiler, our local library supporter, software developer and author, the app is available to iPhone users by navigating to the address www.cefls.org/cefls. You can do this on any computer browser as well. The advantage of using it from the iPhone is that you can dial the number of any library by tapping on the telephone number, and the map function can give you directions from wherever you are (driving or walking!). One thing that isn’t working currently is the email link, but Jesse is working on that. iPhone users can either bookmark the app or add it to their Home Screen. Try it out and tell us what you think.

-Dony Boumil, Director

Clinton County news continued...

Dodge Memorial Library, Rouses Point

We have been extremely busy hosting programs and activities for children and adults. Beginning in January, an "Artist(s) of the Month" displays work in the multi-purpose room. Different artists will be featured throughout the entire year. January’s artists were Connie Cassavaugh and Arthur Penfield Tremblay. February featured the work of the Northeastern Clinton Central High School Advance Studio Art 2 class. Other artists include The Rouses Point Elementary School, Kim Donnelly, Mary Franke, Alex de Greef, the Northern Arts League, Harold Boyle, Marissa Barcomb, James Washburn, Champlain Children's Learning Center and Historic Views by local Historian Donna Racine. We anticipate that we will hold three art shows throughout the year.

We recently received a DEC Grant for art related programs. Beginning in March, a scrapbooking/card-making program will be provided to the residents of the local Senior Housing. Ongoing events will provide adults and children exposure to art related programs. In addition to the programs made possible by the DEC Grant, the Dodge Memorial Library also provides many outreach programs to local preschools and daycare providers, hosts a monthly book club meeting, a monthly North Country Music Club meeting, and activities and story hour program for children ages three and up.

I am in the process of putting the final touches on the Summer Reading Program and look forward to a fun and eventful spring and summer!

Thinking Green:

Library staff and directors: how will you celebrate Earth Day 2010 on April 22? Share your favorite websites, resources and ideas with us at our staff-only website: celflibraries.org. To login, use the 3-letter code of your library as the user name and CEFLS#1 as the password. Use all caps for both. After you login, look over to the right where you’ll find “New Forum Topics.” Click on the top one and add a comment. While you’re on the site, be sure to vote in the newest poll, found on the left sidebar.

-Betsy Brooks
Clinton County continues...

Chazy Public Library

The trustees of Chazy Library have held numerous extra planning meetings in order to decide how best to renovate our new historic building, which was formerly a doctor's office, into a library. The board is also challenged with obtaining the funds to do so. Each Trustee seems to bring a special area of expertise to this project. Our Board President, George Brendler, is doing an awesome job of collating information, getting it to everyone, and structuring meeting agendas to keep us focused. There is so much to think of, it's not easy to figure out a plan of action. Volunteer consultants Julie Weaver and Ewa Jankowska (CEF), Becky Pace (Peru Library), Jim Bennett and Lorna Forster have given us very helpful advice. We are also getting good ideas from many community members who have agreed to serve on various committees.

Meanwhile, back at our present library, our once a month Saturday Story Times are attracting a record number of children. An average attendance of 10-12 children may not sound like much, but they sure fill up our small children's room. And their parents fill up the rest of the library. We have a wonderful, craft-y group of readers. There is also a group from the local nursery school that visits the library monthly on a Wednesday morning. Once I misread my clock and was late getting here. The readers offered to go back to the nursery school and do the program there, but the children wanted to stay at the library. They all went next door for a tour of the Historian’s office and Town Hall until I got here to open the library. I am so lucky to have such creative and flexible volunteers for children's programs.

-Francie Fairchild, Director, Chazy Public Library

Kiwanis and Stewarts Support Helps TABOB

Make a Splash!

The Youth Services Committee of the Plattsburgh Noon Kiwanis under the leadership of CEF Board member Dr. Nancy Church has awarded $750 to the 2010 TABOB project. Funds will be used to help support “tween” summer reading in nine libraries.

The Stewarts' Holiday Match fund has also contributed $250 to TABOB 2010. Thanks very much to all of our local supporters. If you see a Kiwanian, please thank a Kiwanian for this group’s continued support of libraries!

On Friday, April 9, the Youth Services Section of NYLA will hold its Spring 2010 conference with a “Back to Basics” theme that looks useful for small libraries. A brochure can be found at www.nyla.org/content/user_12/springconferencebrochure2010.pdf Since the conference will be held in Albany, CEF is planning to pull together a car pool. As we “go to press” there is one seat left. If you are interested in reserving it, please contact Julie at 563-5190 x 18.

Youth Services News

The New York State Library's Youth Services web page has recently been updated with lots of news and Links you can use as you plan your summer reading activities. Check it out at http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/youthsvc/index.html

The first page gives a short overview and links to updates. Cyber Safety and the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act are two topics currently featured. The Summer Reading page of the CEF web site is under construction. Please suggest some links and topics that would be helpful to you!

The Clinton-Essex-Warren-Washington School Library System has generously extended access to a great database called Teaching Books to public libraries and patrons.

This “time saving portal” to thousands of online resources can be used to explore children's and young adult books and authors. Immediate access is provided to useful materials and exciting programs (short movies, audio book readings, book discussion guides and more) that add a “multimedia dimension” to reading in the classroom, library and home. Donna Boumil, Director of Dodge Memorial Library, Rouses Point and I attended a Teaching Books webinar at CEWW Headquarters in late January and left the session thinking that this is a great all around resource for summer reading, story hour planning, and for home schooling families. For login information, look for the Teaching Books link on The CEFLS web site (www.cefls.org) or call Julie at CEF at 563-5190 x 18.
News From Essex County

Sherman Free Library, Port Henry

To commemorate Women’s History Month, we will feature a show of art by women at the library during the month of March. This is the third year for the show. Paintings, knitting and quilting by eleven local artists will be featured. An opening and artists’ reception was held on Saturday, February 27 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

We are fortunate to be able to report that we now have seven computers thanks to the Gates Foundation grant. This is a great asset for our community.

The Take a Bite Out of Books competition will take place on Saturday, July 17 at the Champlain Centre Mall. Take a Bite Out of Books encourages fifth, sixth, and seventh graders to read books that they wouldn't otherwise pick up. Last year eight libraries fielded teams for this Jeopardy style competition. Last year's teams were quizzed on over 300 book based questions prepared by “retired” CEF Youth Services Consultant Kathie LaBombard. There is always room for more teams. Any library that is interested should contact Jackie Viestenz at 546-7461.

--Jackie Viestenz, Director

Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro

The Paine Memorial Free Library held its first ever "Chocolate Tasting for Serious Chocolate Lovers" on Sunday February 7. The Library was decorated with antique chocolate heart boxes that were collected by Janice Allen, the previous Library Director. The Friends of the Library group really outdid themselves and provided decadent chocolate baked goods. Colleen Blanchard, the current Director’s daughter, sang and played her guitar. We were really pleased with the attendance and the amount of money we raised during this first time event. Judging by the response of the attendees, we'll be planning another for next year.

On Wednesday, February 24, we hosted a program entitled "A Rock Gardener’s Whirlwind Tour of the West: A brief photographic tour of several Western US mountain ranges as seen through the eyes of Michael Peden, an avid rock/alpine Gardner". The scenes were a terrific remedy to the February cabin fever doldrums, and this “brief” tour was much too brief!

--Cheryl Blanchard, Director
Essex County continues...

E. M. Cooper Memorial Public Library, Wilmington

On December 2, the Friends of the Library hosted their Annual Cookies by the Pound sale. A huge assortment of cookies was offered, and they were all gone before noon. The Friends recently purchased a new interior door for the library. The old door was over 50 years old and was very drafty. We are so thankful for all that our Friends do for us.

On Wednesday, December 16, we had a holiday story evening for our local children. Frosty the Snowman came down from the North Pole to visit with us. After the story, the children had cookies and juice and everyone went home with a free book and an ice cream certificate from Stewart’s.

Our Children’s area recently underwent a small renovation thanks to the efforts of one of our local Boy Scouts. Joe Boyce chose our library to do his Eagle Scout service project. Joe and his crew of Scouts painted our basement floors and installed new shelving. The boys worked on the project for two weeks and did an amazing job. We are happy for his efforts and we are also happy to assist him in his quest for Eagle Scout.

-Samantha Baer, Director

Joe and Cody gave the library floor a new coat of paint. Payson, Ashleigh, Frosty and Jacob

AuSable Forks Free Library

The last few months at Au Sable Forks Free Library have been exciting ones! In early December during the annual Christmas celebration, we were fortunate enough to have a story hour with Mrs. Claus, children also got to enjoy a craft time to make Christmas ornaments while nibbling on cookies.

Story Time 2010 kicked off on January 23. Several children and their parents attended, and heard stories including Jan Brett’s Mitten after which they got to make their own mitten to take home with them. Story Time will continue through April 10 on the second and fourth Saturday of each month. Also please note that we will be having our annual Cabin Fever Book and Bake Sale on Friday March 5 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

--Susanna Carey, Director
More from Essex County...
Westport Library Association

The Westport Library Association has featured a lively and active winter program schedule. In addition to the regular monthly Book Club meeting to discuss a specific book, there is a very popular Mystery Book Group which also meets once a month to talk about mysteries and to share books that the members bring in and swap with each other. Another monthly meeting takes place to discuss, write and read poetry.

The Music Program has been wildly successful, bringing in larger groups each month, and fulfilling our hope of increasing the variety of types of people coming to the library. Our October 22 program was the jazz trio, “Spring on Jupiter”, November 10 featured “Ducts for Oboe and Clarinet”, and on December 17 we enjoyed piano music and singing of Holiday Songs and Carols with Dan Linder on the piano, and Westport Central School 7th graders under the direction of Janice Kyle, and huge audience participation. On January 21 a marvelous “Blues Night!” was held at the library, with guitarist and singer Joan Crane accompanied by Steve Feinbloom on bass. On February 14, the library hosted an exciting and well-attended Valentine’s Day Party with Jennifer Moore on the piano and a number of excellent singers, as well as several readers of love poems. A fine time was had by all.

Our upcoming programs include a Trio of Oboe, Clarinet and Piano; a Pianist and Sing-along of Cole Porter songs; and a Piano Concert in June with dates and details to be finalized.

-Ellen Few Anderson,
Board Member, Westport Library Association

Bookmobile Movers and Shakers

1. “Heavenstone Secrets” series by V.C. Andrews
2. Once in a Blue Moon by Eileen Goudge
3. Kindred in Death by J.D. Robb
4. I Alex Cross by James Patterson
5. Worst Case by James Patterson
6. Under the Dome by Stephen King
7. Big Girl by Danielle Steel
8. Have a Little Faith by Mitch Albom
9. Poor Little Bitch Girl by Jackie Collins
10. The Girl Who Played With Fire by Steig Larsson

- Deb Crossley
Essex County continued...

Black Watch Memorial Library, Ticonderoga

Sunshine coming in the windows, a fire in the fireplace and soft shades of green makes the Black Watch Memorial Library a comfortable place to be this winter. The easy chairs with tablet arms have been popular with our wireless laptop users. The children’s area has been very busy, especially on Saturdays. Our new fish rug has been filled with children reading and doing puzzles. Students from the Ticonderoga Elementary School visited and enjoyed our winter books, and the Ticonderoga Girl Scouts have been reading to children one Saturday a month in hopes of attaining their community badges. Young and not so young are completely enjoying our new area.

We have also been fortunate to still be receiving significant donations from our community. Business owners and patrons alike have been continuously supporting our expansion and many of the loose end we still need. We are especially grateful to WalMart Supercenter of Ticonderoga and International Paper for their recent significant donations. The Library has also been fortunate to receive the painting of The Noble Train of Artillery by Thomas Lowell from Fort Ticonderoga. This picture depicts Knox on his way to Boston, and fits in nicely with the restored artwork in the newly expanded section.

Our spring initiatives include a genealogy workshop presented by members of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Along with this, we are looking into providing valuable genealogy online resources for our patrons. We are also starting our planning for our grand opening celebration to be held in June.

-Beth Nadeau

Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay

Thanks to a creative crew of volunteers, December’s holiday and gift sale was our most successful one yet. Plants, Sid Ward cutting boards, library tote bags and Nick Woodin’s book The Exuberant Gardener, were also available for sale in support of library services.

Jeri Wright exhibited her photographs in November and December and generously donated a photograph of clowns for our children’s section. Stephen Longmire, author and photographer, is exhibiting works from his book Keeping Time in Sag Harbor through March. An artist reception was held on February 14 and included a discussion of his next book, Life and Death on the Prairie. With thanks to Stephen and hands-on assistance from board members, we have a new display system for art exhibits in the library. Joann Wilson will exhibit mixed media in April and May.

Story time on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. began on January 5. New volunteers Dau Woodin and Alison Haas are helping with story time, archives, shelving books and a picture books cataloging project. We distributed a survey with our annual appeal in the fall, and are pleased to welcome new volunteers as a result.

In Appreciation: Sylvia Norton has stepped down after twenty years of service on our Board of Trustees. She held every office, initiating and participating in vital projects and improvements. We are extremely grateful to Sylvia for her dedicated service and her many and varied contributions to Wells Memorial Library.

--Karen Rappaport, Director

Web Wanderings

Did you ever wonder what people actually do online? Check out http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/8562801.stm to explore an interactive graphic and find out which are the biggest sites on the Internet, as measured by the Nielsen company. A treemap (one way to analyze large amounts of data in a small space) depicts the top 100 websites in proportion to the number of unique visits they received in January 2010. The resulting “map” is pretty interesting.

Please plan to join us on Wednesday, April 28 to learn how to “Make a Splash with Summer Reading” with Ann Sayers. The afternoon session of this one day extravaganza will feature book talking for tweens and teens. Save the date and watch for more information coming soon!
A Bookmobile Snapshot

On February 18, bookmobile and member library patrons participated in “Snapshot NY: A Day in the Life of a Library”. This initiative documented in pictures, user comments and statistics just how busy and essential libraries area. Pictures and testimonials from libraries throughout the CEF Library System were compiled and featured with similar collections from around the state at Library Lobby Day, which was held in Albany on March 2.

We received and passed along over 50 “Dear Bookmobile, here’s what you mean to me” messages from appreciative patrons. However, a handwritten note from Mrs. Bessie Redmound, a devoted bookmobile fan at Lake Forest, is especially worth sharing.

“To the Bookmobile Staff:

I send my sincere thanks for all the help you give me now that I am 98. Thank you for taking my bag of books into the Bookmobile. Thank you for selecting books you know I will enjoy. Thank you for hunting through the System for a book a reserved. This is truly dedicated librarianship and makes me proud to have been a librarian for so many years! Keep coming.”

Wead Library, Malone

As the Frenchman had it, “the more things change, the more they remain the same.” Karla Parsons, who’s been a clerk at the Library for the past four years, is leaving Malone for Montana’s “big sky” country, the city of Havre, which is named after the French seaport. It’s a matter of following her husband, who has been transferred there. We wish the Parsons family well or, with a seaport in mind, “bon voyage.”

From now till mid-April we’re burdened with tax forms, both Federal and State. If we didn’t have paper copies for distribution they would have to be obtained via the Internet. That process would be both costly and time-consuming, for both patrons and staff. It’s puzzling that some people ask us for tax forms intended for employers, or they assume that we know all the Federal and State forms by number. If we had such information at hand, it would indeed make Alexander Pope’s phrase “loads of learned lumber” from his “Essay on criticism,” particularly appropriate.

We’ve had our share of building repairs this season, with more ahead. The building’s steam boiler which is at least 23 years old needs replacement. In the early 1950’s, the marble portico at the building’s main entrance, was disassembled and rebuilt, because the stonework settled and separated. The process needs to be repeated, as the settling process has repeated itself. However, this time there is another entry, which ought to make the situation less onerous. Additionally, after a long wait, due to shippers who were particularly wary of refrigerants, we finally have our handicapped water fountain replaced. A handicapped fountain had been installed in 1980 as a part of the building’s expansion. However, with age and “planned obsolescence” as parts wore out the old unit is not able to be repaired, thus making replacement the only option available.

On Tuesday April 27, taxpayers in the Malone Central School District will have the opportunity to vote on a change in the Library’s annual appropriation, raising it a bit.

-extracted from Director David Minnich’s March report
Franklin County News

Saranac Lake Free Library

Talk about an unusual fund raiser! Save the date! On Saturday, April 24, the Saranac Lake Free Library will present an exciting fund-raising event—Library Mini Golf. We have contracted with a company that will come in and turn the library into an amazing miniature golf course for a day. The course will consist of 18 different putting greens with an assortment of deflectors and obstacles to make an interesting layout. Greens are small platforms that allow players to stand on the green and putt into a real hole.

Players of all ages can purchase tickets to play a round throughout the building. The course will be designed to run upstairs and downstairs winding through the stacks, giving patrons a chance to see parts of the library they may never have seen. It is hoped that the event will draw new patrons to the library.

A demonstration hole is now set up near the Circulation Desk, so stop and try your skill! We have created a logo that will be used with all event materials. We are seeking business and individual sponsors for each of the 18 holes. Each sponsor will not only have a chance to help the library, but will get a good deal of publicity from being included on scorecards, tee markers and on the library web page.

The event will also include a food concession and two raffles, one a 50/50 and the other for a basket of 20 new children’s books. We invite everyone to come in and putter a round!

—Pat Wiley, Library Assistant

Goff-Nelson Memorial Library, Tupper Lake

Here in Tupper Lake in addition to dealing with the weather – a challenge for all of us at this time of the year as we are busy tying up loose ends. We are finishing up several construction projects and dealing with a few little glitches in that area. We are continuing to sell Mostly Spruce and Hemlock, a History of Tupper Lake, which our library recently re-published. Sales have leveled off leaving time for us to prepare for an anticipated increase in these sales as summer visitors arrive.

Staff members are navigating the learning curve of the Horizon system and while some of us seem to be navigating more quickly than others, we all expect to reach the “dock” very soon! A recent concert by the (now famous) Tupper Lake Choristers (TLC) and an upcoming class in Digital Photography for senior patrons round out our wintertime activities so far.

Though today at least, everything appears white, we realize that very soon warmer weather and a busier season will be upon us and so we are making plans for many summer activities, a couple of concerts, and our summer reading programs with that season in mind.

—Linda AuClair, Director

Calling All Grantseekers

CEF has renewed our 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 that is available 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 for renewal in February 2011.

Grantstation (and grant seeking) will be the topic of an upcoming Tech Friday. Meanwhile, for more information or to book a work session and tutorial, please call Julie Wever 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.

Joshiah Kiser (left), 9 years old, and Uriah Kiser, 12, SLFL patrons, practice on the demonstration hole currently set up near the Circulation Desk.

— Photo Pat Wiley
More Tech Talk

Ebook Readers Gain Mainstream Acceptance

The market for e-book readers began to take off in 2009 after being dormant for a long time. Before that, e-books were proliferating on the Internet, but they were mostly common domain titles, beginning with Project Gutenberg with over 30,000 titles and continuing with the more recent Google Books project, with millions of titles. Now, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Apple are driving increased sales of current, commercially marketed e-books.

Readers can now enjoy e-books on their computers and cellphones, but the best reading experience is found on dedicated e-book readers. The big three dedicated e-book readers are:

Amazon Kindle

The Kindle ($259 for the Kindle 2 and $489 for the Kindle DX) is the most well-known e-book reader due to Amazon’s marketing and the inexpensive price of most books for the Kindle ($9.99). Like the other dedicated e-book readers, it uses e-ink to create an easy-on-the-eyes image that uses very little power. Kindle uses a proprietary format (AZW) that cannot be viewed on other manufacturers’ devices, but it also reads pdfs. The free wireless network called “Whispernet” allows users to download books wherever they are, and is a major advantage the Kindle has over its rivals.

Sony Ereader

At $199 to $399, depending on options, the Sony Ereader has one major drawback: all but the $400 model must be used along with a computer since it has no wireless access. The Sony Ebook Store is larger than Amazon’s or Barnes and Noble’s, but the books tend to be more expensive. Sony’s devices also use the open EPub format, which is an advantage over the Kindle.

Some say that Apple’s iPad, (starting at $500) coming in April, will be a “Kindle Killer”. The big difference between it and the choices above are that it will be a multipurpose device and have a large color touch screen. It does not use the e-ink technology, so it will be harder to read outdoors or for long periods, and battery life will be shorter. But for many, its ability to act as an all around multimedia computer will more than offset those drawbacks.

Academic libraries have been earlier to adopt e-books, but more public libraries will be including e-books in their collections as e-reader devices gain popularity. The licensing models are still evolving, but they will probably continue to be like the Netlibrary and Overdrive subscription models. Overdrive has collaborated with the Sony EReader to provide e-books in the EPub format that can be downloaded from library websites.

Change Ahead

There’s a lot going on in this market, and a good blog to check for news is ireaderreview.com. Recently, they listed some top trends. Here are the first five:

Top eReader + eBook Trends for 2010

1. iPad vs Kindle - There is a possibility that Apple steals away Kindle #1 market position.
2. Multi Purpose Devices vs Dedicated eReaders - Will dedicated eReaders be able to survive the onslaught of do-everything devices?
3. Color eReaders - By end 2010 we should have color screen eReaders. We get to find out whether color really does increase sales.
4. Arrival of Flexible, unbreakable eInk screens - These eliminate the fragility of eReaders and make them much more usable for children.

For more trends, see http://ireaderreview.com/2010/03/05/top-50-ereader-ebook-trends-for-2010/
A St. Patrick’s Day wish from the Bookmobile Staff:

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face.
May you live as long as you want, and never want as long as you live.

CEF van driver (and substitute bookmobile driver) Rich O’Merritt was glad that the wind was at his back and the sun on his face when he filled in for Bob Welch on March 17.