

Libraries & Archives Monthly

News from the Kentucky Department
for Libraries and Archives

September 2009

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Cindy Brown Retires



By Becky Kempf
Boone County Public Library

When Cindy Brown began working as director in April 1985, Boone County Public Library had one building, one computer and 25 employees. Under her direction, the library has grown to serve a population of more than

Newburg Library Opens

By Paul Burns
Louisville Free Public Library

The dream of a library in Newburg became a reality in August. On Saturday, August

15 the library celebrated the grand opening of the brand new, state-of-the-art Newburg Library at 4800 Exeter Avenue. "When I first came to Newburg in elementary school, my school teachers were telling us about a library we were going to have," said Gloria Allen, president of the Newburg Friends of the Library. "I'm an old lady now, but this day has finally come."

[Read more...](#)



Photo: Grand opening of the Newburg Library in Louisville, KY

Research Opportunities in the State Archives - General Court

By Tim Tingle
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Many researchers interested in the early judicial records for Kentucky may not be aware that the court system was reorganized a number of times within the first few decades of statehood. Several courts existed for only a limited time, including the Court of Quarter Sessions, the Court of Oyer and Terminer, and the District Court. The various jurisdictions of these courts were redistributed to other court systems. The General Court was a product of these early reorganizations, but it continued on for over fifty years. Often overlooked by researchers, the records of the General Court can be a useful and interesting resource.

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Library Support Through License Plates

By Linda Kompanik
Director, Logan County Public Library

There are many "vanity"



112,000 residents from six locations with more than 100 computers and 150 employees. Library collections offer more than 400,000 books, videos, DVDs, audiobooks and CDs, and last year circulation topped one million.

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Trustee Tip

By Paul Poland
President, Scott County Board of Trustees
pmpoland@roadrunner.com

Due to the problems some public and nonprofit boards in Kentucky are having lately with oversight of their respective organizations, I wanted to pass along the Auditor's Alert from Crit Luallen's office.

I suggest each of you go to the Auditor's website - www.auditor.ky.gov, or Google "KY State Auditor" and look for the *Recommendations for Public and Nonprofit Boards*. Look at all 28 of the recommendations, then discuss each during one of your Board meetings as soon as possible. [Read more...](#)

Shared Idea Results in Early Literacy Program

By Shannon Kruer
Oldham County Public Library

I really had no idea what I was getting into when I

license plates available today. You can spell out your name or passion, show support for your alma mater, or support a worthy cause with a specialized license plate.

Some states have begun producing plates that show support for libraries. The Kentucky Library Association is hoping to bring a library license plate to Kentucky.

[Read more...](#)

Photo: New York is an example of a state that has a library license plate available to residents.

National Book Festival

By Judith Gibbons

The National Book Festival is an immense gathering dedicated to reading and literacy. About 120,000 people attend this free literary event held in front of Washington D.C.'s Smithsonian Institute. Rain or shine, the National Mall will be packed from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. President and Mrs. Barack Obama will serve as honorary chairs on Saturday, September 26th for the ninth annual event. [Read more...](#)



Photo: Approximately 120,000 people attend the National Book Festival in Washington D.C. each year.

Inspired Prose: Teens Battling Problems Through Creative Writing

By Lee Ann Jessee
Director, Adair County Public Library

The Adair County Public Library received a Library Programming Grant through the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives to implement "Inspired Prose", a creative writing program for teens ages 15-19. This program was the brain child of Aleina Milligan, children's librarian and Lee Ann Jessee, library director. Aleina and Lee Ann had been considering the idea of doing a creative writing program for teens for quite some time. They had both read how creative writing was one way to battle depression, stress and self-esteem issues. Aleina had access to the teen population through her daughter and knew that the teens were very interested in this type of program. [Read more...](#)

Costume Ball Attracts Local Teens in Marshall



became a children's librarian. My days are full. They are full of laughter during Toddler Time. They are full of crafty fun at story time. They are full of wacky adventure with our after school kids. And they are full of wonderful books of all kinds. In no other job can you spend part of your day finger painting, making tie dye t-shirts or putting Mentos in Diet Coke to watch it explode. But perhaps one of the most wonderful things about being a children's librarian is how helpful other children's librarians are. [Read more...](#)

KDLA Welcomes New Trustees

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives would like to welcome the following new trustees:

Jonathan Carroll (Daviess County); Polly Reynolds (Daviess County); Karen Ray (Ohio County); Stuart Alexander (Calloway County); Daniel Rock (LaRue County); Trudy Loudon (Trimble County); Sonia McElroy (Trimble County); Helen Crutcher (Todd County); William Wheaton (Robertson County); Michelle Y. Dean (Breckinridge County); James J. Bates, Jr. (Henderson County); Brenda Royse (Clark County); Juanita Hughes (Estill County); Billie Goodwill (Jessamine County); Dr. Lourente B. Tigas (Greenup County); Zack Vallance (Greenup

County

By Tammy Blackwell
Marshall County Public Library

In Marshall County some students find themselves spending their entire summer wishing for it to end. No, it is not the lure of the classroom that has them counting down throughout June and July, but the annual end-of-summer mega-event hosted by the Marshall County Public Library. [Read more...](#)

Photo: Jamie Logsdon and Meg Mahoney enjoy the Costume Ball at the Marshall County Public Library

Prime Time Family Reading Program a Community Effort

By Shannon Sandefur
Daviess County Public Library

The Daviess County Public Library hosted the Prime Time Family Reading Program this summer thanks to a grant received from the Kentucky Humanities Council. Prime Time is a six-week program of reading, discussion and storytelling at public libraries and other venues for at-risk families with children between the ages of six and ten. Meals and transportation are provided to remove any obstacles that could keep a family from attending. The goals of the program are to reinforce the role of the family by bonding parents and children around the act of reading, encourage parents and children to read and discuss books together, introduce the public library to the participants, and encourage low-literacy, low-income parents to enter or continue their own educational programs. [Read more...](#)

Archival Photo of the Month

Public Records Division photo, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.



Delivering books from Ary, "Homeplace", Perry County, Kentucky.
Sept. 1930.

County); John Jay Ellis (Rowan County); D. Kay Freeland (Rowan County); Susan Wimpee (Allen County); Mary Marshall (Russell County); and Debra Taylor (Hancock County.)

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives provides equitable access to quality library and information resources and services, as well as helps public agencies ensure that legislatively mandated documentation of government programs is created, efficiently maintained and made readily accessible. For more information, visit <http://www.kdla.ky.gov> or call 502-564-8300 ext. 315.

Please send questions, comments and story ideas for Libraries & Archives Monthly to editor Paige Sexton at paige.sexton@ky.gov or call 502-564-8300 ext. 315.

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Newburg Library Opens

The dream of a library in Newburg became a reality in August. On Saturday, August 15 the library celebrated the grand opening of the brand new, state-of-the-art Newburg Library at 4800 Exeter Avenue. "When I first came to Newburg in elementary school, my school teachers were telling us about a library we were going to have," said Gloria Allen, president of the Newburg Friends of the Library. "I'm an old lady now, but this day has finally come."

The Newburg Library is the first new public library to open in Louisville in 13 years. The new 8300 square foot library is education driven. With two middle schools and three elementary schools nearby, the focus is on study space, books and computers to help children and teens succeed in school. It is outfitted with the latest technology for computers, internet access and media production. The children's area is large enough to accommodate plenty of books and kids - and grandparents reading to kids. A teen area, study tables, study room, and space for tutoring help ensure that young people are encouraged to do their homework. "My students can't wait to hang out there after school," says Shannon Wilson, librarian for Newburg Middle School. "The Newburg Library is going to be a great resource for the neighborhood and the school community. This is just another example of how libraries connect people!"

The Newburg Library is for everyone. With more than 30 touch screen computers available for adults, teens and children, a comfortable corner to sit quietly and read, and a versatile multi-purpose room, the library is ready to serve individuals and groups alike. Newburg neighborhood organizations have already expressed interest in having their regular meetings in the space - truly making the library a community gathering place.

Building this library has also been a community effort. The Library Foundation contributed a half-million dollars to Newburg, providing furniture, books and technology. In addition, Newburg residents and Friends groups from across Louisville donated time, money and books to make this branch a reality. As a result of this

community investment in Newburg, widescreen computers with "Touch-smart" technology are the standard. The sleek, all-in-one design touch screen computers are ideal for homework research or just checking your Facebook page. In addition, a "multi-touch" computer is available for educational programs, creative play and interactive learning. Multi-touch technology allows you to use both hands on the screen to control the computer and manipulate images or data. The large multi-touch is a sample of the cutting-edge technology that drives the Newburg Library.

Newburg Library also features exclusively self-service check out - like no other you have seen in a library. Using RFID technology you will quickly and easily check out your own materials, including multimedia items like books on CD and DVDs. Also, from the self-service kiosk you can manage your library account and pay any fines or fees using a credit card.

Newburg customers will also benefit from new technology for library staff too. Librarians will have use of an ultra-portable tablet PC with a built in barcode scanner that will be connected wirelessly to allow them to assist customers with information from anywhere in the building.

But computers aren't the only hi-tech features at Newburg. The building incorporates advanced "green" technologies and architectural design to save energy and be eco-friendly. Green features include geothermal heating and cooling, daylight harvesting interior lighting that adjusts depending on the amount of sunlight coming in from outside, and energy efficient windows. A high insulation white roof funnels rainwater directly into a native rain garden, filtering it naturally through the ground.

"This library is truly a library of the future," said Library Director Craig Buthod. "Our hope is that it will serve as a symbol for what the future of the Louisville Free Public Library system will be."

For more information on the Newburg Library please visit www.lfpl.org.

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Research Opportunities in the State Archives - General Court

Many researchers interested in the early judicial records for Kentucky may not be aware that the court system was reorganized a number of times within the first few decades of statehood. Several courts existed for only a limited time, including the Court of Quarter Sessions, the Court of Oyer and Terminer, and the District Court. The various jurisdictions of these courts were redistributed to other court systems. The General Court was a product of these early reorganizations, but it continued on for over fifty years. Often overlooked by researchers, the records of the General Court can be a useful and interesting resource.

The first reference to the General Court occurred in an Act of the Legislature in 1796, which provided for the creation of a "General Session" of the District Courts. Three years later, this "session" was officially named the General Court. This new court held jurisdiction in cases involving public debtors and in disputes between residents and non-residents of the Commonwealth. The General Court could also hear certain limited cases concerning the ownership of land. Under the constitution of 1799, the General Court retained its previous jurisdictions, and additionally could decide new or difficult questions involving land titles. In 1825, the jurisdiction of the Court was limited to cases involving amounts in excess of \$500. Finally, in 1850 the legislature abolished

the General Court and transferred its powers to the Franklin Circuit Court.

The collection of General Court records available at the State Archives includes a complete set of Order Books, and over 2500 individual case files. These records document most of the actions heard by the Court over the course of its existence. Public Records Division staff recently compiled indexes to the case files in an electronic format, which allows a researcher to search on either plaintiff or defendant name.

Some of the most notable names in Kentucky history are represented in the records of the General Court, including Isaac Shelby, Simon Kenton, Humphrey Marshall and Green Clay. In 1803, for example, George Martin, "a citizen of the Northwest Territory" and therefore a non-resident of Kentucky, brought suit in General Court against Simon Kenton, who was thought to be living in Mason County at the time. Isaac Shelby, during his second term as Governor of Kentucky, was party to a suit in General Court against a William Richards, who was charged with not performing his duty as tax collector in Scott County and therefore forfeiting his bond.

The jurisdiction of the General Court was fairly broad. Researchers who are unable to locate specific case files in other courts might find a search of the General Court records worthwhile. The General Court collection is also a good source of documentation of land title disputes, suits involving non-residents and cases concerning debts owed to the state.

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Library Support Through License Plates

There are many "vanity" license plates available today. You can spell out your name or passion, show support for your alma mater, or support a worthy cause with a specialized license plate.

Some states have begun producing plates that show support for libraries. The Kentucky Library Association is hoping to bring a library license plate to Kentucky. In order for the Department of Motor Vehicles to produce the plates they must receive 900 applications. The KLA Awareness Committee has been collecting names and so far 214 librarians, library workers, trustees and friends have made the commitment to apply for and purchase at least one plate.

If the required commitments are obtained, the committee will collect the applications, which must be submitted at one time, along with a \$25 application fee. Once the plates are available each person will need to request the plate when renewing their tags at their local county clerk's office.

KLA will request a \$10 donation that will automatically be added to the cost of registration or renewal, unless the individual registering or renewing the vehicle registration opts out of contributing the recommended amount.

If you want to show your support for libraries by committing to one or more plates (one for each vehicle in your household!?) please contact Linda Kompanik at linda@loganlibrary.org.

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Cindy Brown Retires

When Cindy Brown began working as director in April 1985, Boone County Public Library had one building, one computer and 25 employees. Under her direction, the library has grown to serve a population of more than 112,000 residents from six locations with more than 100 computers and 150 employees. Library collections offer more than 400,000 books, videos, DVDs, audiobooks and CDs and last year, circulation topped one million.

As she looks back at her career, Cindy is most proud of expanding access to library services countywide. The board's goal in 1985 was to have a library within five miles of every Boone County resident. Today, more than 90 percent of the population lives within five miles of a library. "That was our number one goal: make library service as accessible as possible to as many as possible," says Cindy. "And I think we've pretty much achieved that."

Boone County Public Library was one of the first libraries in Kentucky to have a website and one of the first to offer wireless internet service. Today the library uses Twitter, Facebook, Flickr and You Tube to connect with Boone County residents. "It is a completely different world," says Cindy, "the basic purpose of the library doesn't change - just how services are delivered."

During her tenure as director, Cindy reached outside of the library and served on the boards of the Northern Kentucky Adult Reading Council, Greater Cincinnati Library Consortium (GCLC), Boone County Success by 6 and NKY Humane Society. She also served as president of Kentucky Public Library Association (KPLA), Kentucky Library Association (KLA), and GCLC and was on the Legislative Committee for KPLA and helped to write the Kentucky Public Library Standards. In 1996, Cindy was awarded the Outstanding Public Library Service Award from KPLA.

Cindy's vision and influence have made a tremendous difference both in Boone County and across the region. She is retiring to spend time with her family - moving with her three dogs and many cats to Marietta, Ohio, where her brother and her 90 year-old mother reside. She will be succeeded by Greta Southard, executive director of the Public Library Association.

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National Book Festival

The National Book Festival is an immense gathering dedicated to reading and literacy. About 120,000 people attend this free literary event held in front of Washington, D.C.'s Smithsonian Institute. Rain or shine, the National Mall will be packed from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. President and Mrs. Barack Obama will serve as honorary chairs on Saturday, September 26th for the ninth annual event.

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington states "The National Book Festival is a joyous celebration of reading and an inspiration for new generations of creativity...The National Book Festival has become a true American institution." Each year, about 70 authors celebrate reading and literacy at the event.

Former First Lady Laura Bush adds, "Discover new books and experience the joy of old favorites. Indulge your imagination as you meet award-winning authors, illustrators,

and poets. There are activities for all ages at the National Book Festival."

The Festival is housed in a huge white tent city. There are six author and illustrator pavilions grouped by genre including Children, Teens, Fiction, Mysteries & Thrillers, History & Biography, and Poetry & Prose. Nearby are a sales pavilion, *Let's Read America* tent and a large enclosure housing state exhibits.

The *Let's Read America* Pavilion hosts an eclectic variety of activities sponsored by funders and the host organization, the Library of Congress. Festival goers can get a photo with book characters including *Curious George* or *Clifford the Big Red Dog*. Kids line up to meet PBS television characters, tour the *Magic School Bus* and learn about reading aloud and family time.

Adults can crowd into tents to hear both critically acclaimed and popular authors. This year, the line-up includes lawyer turned novelist, John Grisham; popular cookbook author and television star, Paula Deen; U.S. Poet Laureate Kay Ryan; documentary producer and author, Ken Burns and a wide-ranging cross section of American writers.

A huge volunteer army is provided by the Junior League of Washington. Each year, the 1,200 member organization provides 400 working volunteers. They do everything from staffing information booths to shepherding authors. Members assist sponsors in distributing about 25,000 book bags and 30,000 water bottles to attendees. Dressed in matching shirts and sporting white Junior League caps, the young women are a tremendous asset in the Pavilion of the States.

Bluegrass State native Christina Vay has volunteered at the Kentucky booth since 2002, answering general questions and sharing information. This veteran notes, "Volunteers stamp the free map the Festival provides individuals, encouraging them to learn something about each state. I particularly enjoy talking with those who visit the table and promoting Kentucky as a great place to visit."

The Pavilion of the States is a hub of activity. It is sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and showcases reading, libraries and literacy activities around the country. Each year representatives of the Kentucky Book Fair distribute state maps, information about literary events and tourism brochures. The booth also showcases a book representative of the state. This year, Shutta Crum's *A Family for Old Mill Farm* will be featured. Reflecting on the honor, Crum said "Although I have lived most of my life away from Kentucky, my heart is held prisoner there. I find I still call it "going home" when I go for a visit, and many of my books have the sweetness of that home that I remember."

Connie Crowe, Kentucky Book Fair's Manager says, "The National Book Festival is such a fun event - it always brings out the dedicated readers, book lovers and anyone with a love of literacy! The Pavilion of the States takes on a 'carnival atmosphere'; especially with all of the kids as they try to make sure they visit all of the tables and get their maps stamped."

Armchair travelers can find out the latest Festival news and information with a variety of social networking features, including Twitter and Facebook. Author information, Festival day details and breaking news can be found on Twitter (@librarycongress, hashtag#nbf) or on Facebook (www.facebook.com/libraryofcongress).

The Library of Congress has a companion National Book Festival Young Readers' Online Toolkit. This can be used to create a Festival for libraries and schools. This toolkit provides information about authors of books geared to children and teens. It

also includes podcasts of readings augmented by activities and teaching tools. Using the toolkit, teachers, parents and kids can put together their own book festivals. The kit will be launched on September 3, 2009 and the link will be found at: <http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/>.

A highlight for participants and home viewers is the C-Span2 Book TV bus. For 2009, Book TV plans to be live from the Festival and will feature a variety of lectures, events, author discussions and updates from the National Mall. For further information, visit www.booktv.org.

If you can't make it to the nation's capital on September 26, mark your calendar for the Kentucky Book Fair on November 7, 2009. Now in its 28th year, the event at the Frankfort Convention Center provides Kentuckians a day dedicated to books, authors and reading. For more information, check out: <http://www.kybookfair.org/>.

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Inspired Prose: Teens Battling Problems Through Creative Writing

The Adair County Public Library received a Library Programming Grant through the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives to implement "Inspired Prose", a creative writing program for teens ages 15-19. This program was the brain child of Aleina Milligan, children's librarian and Lee Ann Jessee, library director. Aleina and Lee Ann had been considering the idea of doing a creative writing program for quite some time. They had both read how creative writing was one way to battle depression, stress and self-esteem issues. Aleina had access to the teen population through her daughter and knew that the teens were very interested in this type of program.

Aleina and Lee Ann approached the high school counselors, the drop-out prevention coordinator and the high school librarian about implementing this type of program and to gauge need. All agreed that this was definitely needed and planning began. After two meetings with the group, "Inspired Prose" was introduced to the students. The original plan called for only 20 students but due to the excitement created in the school about the program, 30 students were accepted.

Students were given journals and were encouraged to write in them daily about anything that was going on in their lives. They were also encouraged to share with the group what they were writing during sharing time. The library was also able to bring to the students local authors and nationally known authors. Clare B. Dunkle, Jerri Oughton, Patsi Trollinger and Tracey Barrett all spent afternoons with the students. The authors shared their works with the students but they also shared how writing had helped them deal with their own issues. They were all very open with the students and no subject was off limits.

What did we accomplish with "Inspired Prose"? We were able to see several students blossom before our eyes with increased self-confidence. It was also very evident that the school system has some very talented writers who were finally able to showcase their stories. Because of "Inspired Prose" the high school librarian and one of the English teachers have partnered together this year to create a program for reluctant readers. They found that some of the students were writing their own stories because they did not want to read what was suggested by the school's Accelerated Reader list.

"Inspired Prose" also helped the library to cement the partnership with the high school. We had always worked together on certain projects but we now feel that we are all on the same page when it applies to these teenagers. We are more determined than ever to provide quality programs for this age group and have implemented this program into our own library budget for the coming year.

It is truly amazing what people can do with limited funds and staff if they are passionate and determined to make a difference in someone else's life.

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Trustee Tip

Due to the problems some public and nonprofit boards in Kentucky are having lately with oversight of their respective organizations, I wanted to pass along the Auditor's Alert from Crit Luallen's office.

I suggest each of you go to the Auditor's website, www.auditor.ky.gov, or Google "KY State Auditor" and look for the *Recommendations for Public and Nonprofit Boards*. Look at all 28 of the recommendations, then discuss each during one of your Board meetings as soon as possible.

This suggested list is not a fix-all for every public or nonprofit board, but merely a list of items to be discussed by your Board of Trustees as a whole to fine-tune policies and procedures to make everyone better stewards of your community's tax dollars and to insure Board meetings are conducted in a legal manner.

The Scott County Board of Trustees spent the better part of one meeting comparing the recommendations with our own policies and procedures. Because of the guidelines, we made changes that we're all more comfortable with.

In any adversity, we have the opportunity to see what we can do to improve a given situation. With this list of recommendations, I believe we all have the opportunity to evaluate how we do things and hopefully, be able to do them better in the future.

If you and your Board of Trustees have already done this, I commend you! If not...take a look at it; it's a great opportunity!

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Costume Ball Attracts Local Teens in Marshall County

In Marshall County some students find themselves spending their entire summer wishing for it to end. No, it is not the lure of the classroom that has them counting down throughout June and July, but the annual end-of-summer mega-event hosted by the Marshall County Public Library.

"This event is the culmination of an entire year of planning by the Young Adult Advisory Panel," says Tammy Blackwell, YA Librarian. "The teens are active in all stages of the planning process, from the time we start throwing ideas around in September to fine-tuning the details weeks before the event. I'm continually impressed by their creativity and ability to handle responsibility. Through this process

I see self-confidence being built and leaders emerge."

As for the teens that actually plan the events, they enjoy the planning process almost as much as the event itself. One YAAP member, fifteen year old Jake DeVore, stated "This event was amazing. I can't wait to see what we do next year."

This year's event, The Express Yourself Costume Ball, invited all area teens to enjoy an evening of games, prizes, snacks and live musical performances by area teens. The event attracted 56 participants in grades seven through 12 with approximately 15 adults and other non-participants who came to see their child or sibling perform.

"It was totally amazing," said 15 year old YAAP member Emily Mason. "So many people came and participated. The live music was awesome, too!"

The night's activities included a library scavenger hunt and multiple book related trivia games. Participants earned tickets from these activities which they used to register for a variety of door prizes, including exclusive Twilight merchandise, certificates for the upcoming YA book *Catching Fire*, and even a beta fish or two - the night's most popular prizes. Three musical acts performed; singer-songwriters Abby Potts and Bree Paige and the ska band, Engaging 6 and 7.

"I love playing music for people. It was a lot of fun playing at the library," said Engaging 6 and 7 bassist Jordan Lynch. "We had a great crowd and lots of energy."

"An event like this takes tons of planning and hard work, but it is worth it," said Blackwell. "It is an opportunity for the kids to come out and have a good time while giving me a chance to prove that the library is more than musty books and shushing librarians. Our main goal with the back-to-school mega-event is to get more young people involved with the library and excited about reading."

The Marshall County Public Library System has three branches located in Benton, Calvert City and Hardin, Kentucky. They offer YA programming throughout the year.

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Prime Time Family Reading Program a Community Effort

The Daviess County Public Library hosted the Prime Time Family Reading Program this summer thanks to a grant received from the Kentucky Humanities Council. Prime Time is a six-week program of reading, discussion, and storytelling at public libraries and other venues for at-risk families with children between the ages of six and ten. Meals and transportation are provided to remove any obstacles that could keep a family from attending. The goals of the program are to reinforce the role of the family by bonding parents and children around the act of reading, encourage parents and children to read and discuss the books together, introduce the public library to the participants, and encourage low-literacy, low-income parents to enter or continue their own educational programs. Award winning children's books are presented as a means to introduce humanities themes such as fairness, greed, courage, dreams and cleverness to the families. A scholar then leads a discussion revolving around the themes presented in the stories.

The library partnered with the H.L. Neblet Community Center for the program, which was held every Thursday evening June 18 - July 23. A total of nine families participated in the program each week. Cynthia Changaris from Louisville, Kentucky

was the storyteller and Dr. Ken Moran from Dale, Indiana was the scholar. Both reported noticing an increased interest in books and reading with the families by the end of the program. Cynthia stated in her final report that "it was a joy to watch the families bond, talk, respect, wonder and share with each other."

This was the first year that the Daviess County Public Library applied for the Prime Time Grant, which covers the cost of the training, books for the families, transportation for the families (if necessary), and the hiring of the storyteller and scholar. Due to community support, the library incurred few expenses outside staff time. Local restaurants and organizations adopted a night and provided meals for all participants along with door prizes each week. In addition, the library received a check from Kohl's department store as a result of their Kohl's Cares for Kids program. Finally, the local media was interested in the program, which resulted in the donation of a weekly newspaper to each family. Also, the library was featured in the newspaper and on the evening news.

Libraries across Kentucky are encouraged to apply for this grant and take part in this wonderful opportunity. The Kentucky Humanities Council is currently accepting applications for the 2010 program. For additional information please refer to the KHC website at http://www.kyhumanities.org/form_view.php?form_id=3.

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Shared Idea Results in Early Literacy Program

I really had no idea what I was getting into when I became a children's librarian. My days are full. They are full of laughter during Toddler Time. They are full of crafty fun at story time. They are full of wacky adventure with our after school kids. And they are full of wonderful books of all kinds. In no other job can you spend part of your day finger painting, making tie dye t-shirts or putting Mentos in Diet Coke to watch it explode. But perhaps one of the most wonderful things about being a children's librarian is how helpful other children's librarians are.

Librarians have to be among the most willing to share their ideas of almost any profession. We are lucky in Kentucky to have a forum at Widening Circles to share ideas with librarians from around the state. Last fall at Widening Circles, Boone County Public Libraries gave a presentation on how they were incorporating early childhood literacy into all of their programs, including the summer reading program. One program they had begun was Wee Readers, a summer reading program for their babies and toddlers. They were gracious enough to share a copy of their Wee Reader log. The Wee Reader log encouraged parents and caregivers to engage in pre-literacy activities with their babies. They are simple activities such as: to clap the syllables in a word, to play with rhyming words or to talk about opposites. Many of the ideas come naturally to parents and some do not, but all of the ideas are important steps in early childhood literacy.

I loved the idea of this program and wanted to share these ideas with Oldham County parents. We adopted it and had a Wee Reader program for the first time this summer. Children who participated and completed the Wee Reader program were rewarded with a board book, a book bag, a coupon to the local play place and a pass to our pool party. Parents were entered into a drawing for dinner for two at a local restaurant.

It was a win-win situation. Our library won because our circulation numbers increased this summer. But most importantly, our families won. They won not only a board book

and maybe a dinner for two, but also an increased understanding of how simple activities with your baby are actually setting the stage for them to become readers.

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