

# SL Shelf Life

STAFF NEWSLETTER OF THE  
METROPOLITAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

August 15, 2017

## The Science of Star Wars

Library members experienced the science behind the force in one of the library's summer programs with the Science Museum of Oklahoma.

The program took children and their parents through a series of physics-based activities including moving an object with the force, taking a journey through the galaxy, and creating their own light saber.

Toy cars equipped with magnets on the back taught children the power to move objects with the force. They used another magnet, held in their hand, to repel the car across a table in a race.

A family game took them through the planets within the Star Wars

galaxy, and each child received one-on-one time to discuss the physics behind it with a science museum staff member.

Finally, an LED bulb and watch battery were transformed into a light saber that could be attached to each child's Jedi training certificate.



These programs, also referred to as science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics training (STEAM) include a variety of programs that complement the curriculum of the library's neighboring schools.

"The source of sparking an interest in a person is not only finding a way to connect it to them, but connecting it to what matters to them," events coordinator Mary Robinson said. "This program was as simple as making a recipe of science, fun and Star Wars."

Each year the Science Museum plans their own summer programs. Utilizing them as a resource not only makes the planning easy, but it allows the library to give members who may not be able to afford museum admission, the science museum experience.

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## Staff-Wide Events August 15th - Sept 1st

Eclipse - Aug. 21

### Intranet Briefs

Bethany Groundbreaking - Find photos from the groundbreaking on the [Metro Library's social media](#) pages or the [City of Bethany](#) Facebook Page.

**FREE Shirts** - Orders were due the 14th for the free Summer Reading Program shirts. Details will follow on how the shirts will be distributed.

**Brown Bag with Tim** - The first brown bag was on the 3rd and the turn out was great. Be sure to read Tim's email for detailed information on what was covered. The next brown bag is Sept. 13.

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**Contact Internal Communications**  
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## Tim Briefs



### You Did it Your Way -

The work our staff does is incredible! I think that everyday, but the Summer Reading Program has me smiling, shaking my head, and mumbling under my breath, "how did we do it?"

You folks saw the goal and figured out what we needed to change to get there - we beat last year's minutes read by more than 4.4 million - a 30 percent increase.

I want to thank every staffer for their hard work - it is truly a team effort...

## A Temporary Shift in System-Wide Programming -

Programs are planned through Oct. 31, but following that the new Education & Program Development department will need time to create the next generation of best-practice-based experiences.

Starting November 1 through at least January 31 - there will be no system-wide programming. This does not mean that libraries will be expected to add more programming locally. You are welcome to plan more local programming, but that is not expected.

We will begin implementing pilot versions of system-wide programs spring 2018, and the full-fledge version will begin in July 2018...

(For more information go to the intranet blog page)

## Library Discourse What would you do?



"A young man came into the library looking for materials to check out, and looking to join the summer reading program. However, he lived on the wrong side of the street. He was not considered a part of our service area.

He was a middle school student in DHS custody at a group home. Their house was considered Canadian county. Despite knowing they may not be able to get a card, he and other boys from his group

home came to the library anyway. They asked if there was any way they could become library members.

"I remember you," the boy said to me. "You came and talked to my class about the library. I go to Deer Creek."

We signed each of the boys up for a school library card, allowing them to check materials out from our library.

Each week the young man came to the library with his friends, checking out books and logging minutes for the summer reading program.

We were so pleased with the outcome of this story - we were able to put our members first, and give young men in a difficult situation a "yes" instead of a "no."

-Rondia Banks, Northwest Library

"WE GROW SMARTER COMMUNITIES,  
ONE PERSON AT A TIME"

## Employee Story

### Heidi Johnson

Technical Processing Manager  
 Heidi Johnson moved to the United States over 40 years ago. However her Bavarian-German heritage never left her, and she goes on frequent visits to her home country. Here Johnson shares with us some of the magic of Germany.

#### Germany Fast Facts [From Culture Grams]



Above: Flag of Germany

**Capital:** Berlin  
**Population:** Over 80 Million  
**Adult Literacy:** 99 Percent  
**Common Greeting:** Guten Tag (meaning: Good Day)  
**Famous Germans:** Johannes Gutenberg (inventor), Albrecht Durer (artist), Martin Luther (religious reformer), Ludwig van Beethoven (composer), Brothers Grimm (writers), Karl Marx (philosopher), Friedrich Nietzsche (philosopher), Pope Benedict XVI, and others.

#### What are you most proud of from/about your home country?



- Franconia, Bavaria where I was born - It is lush and green.
- Cleanliness - People will sweep their sidewalks on a weekly basis.
- Food, wine & beers - Many of them produced from very old recipes, some going back hundreds of years.
- The living history- Whether it is old castles, old houses built in the Middle Ages, or Bronze Age graves.
- Social engagement - People still visit each other, and since Germany is a small country it is easy to take day trips to other European countries like France, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Hungary, and Poland.

#### What is the first thing you like to do when you go back to Germany?

Have a Bratwurst at my favorite Bratwurst stand, with lots of mustard.

#### If you could share one thing with Americans about Germany, what would it be?

Most Germans know at least some English, but if you don't speak any German fluently, try to use a German phrase. Even if mispronounced, Germans will appreciate the effort and go out of their way to help you.

#### You said you are from Bavaria - what is unique about this part of Germany?

Bavaria is the state bordering on Austria and Switzerland, so there are the Alps and Mad King Ludwig's castle (including Neuschwanstein which is the model for Disneyland's Sleeping Beauty castle). You will also find many milk cows, beautiful scenery, good beer, good food, and let's not forget the annual Oktoberfest held in Munich. The Bavarians are known for their Bavarian accent which at times cannot be understood, even by other Germans.



## Resource Highlights

**Hoopla** - This is a resource for members to stream books, audio, music, comics, TV, and movies from the web to their favorite device. The service launched Monday, Aug. 14.

**RBDigital** - This will replace Zino as the system's digital magazine provider.

**SIRS Discoverer** - A database designed for elementary and middle school learners, researchers, and educators. The resource covers current events, history, health, language arts, math, science, social studies, and technology.

**SIRS Knowledge Source** - Both an integrated search portal and a standalone resource for compelling multidisciplinary learning assets for enhancing student achievement.

**Signing Savvy** - A sign language dictionary with high resolution photos of American Sign Language (ASL) signs, finger-spelled words and other common signs. This is currently a trial version - for sign on information visit Sadie's intranet post.

For more information on these databases, contact Sadie Bruce.

## 2017 Solar Eclipse 101



Information from [NASA's Website](https://www.nasa.gov)

#### What causes an eclipse to occur?

Eclipses occur due to the special coincidence of the moon and the Sun being the same angular size. The Sun is 400 times wider than the moon, but it is also 400 times farther away, so they appear to be the same size in our sky.

#### What was the most famous total solar eclipse in history?

King Henry I of England, the son of William the Conqueror, died in 1133 CE. This event coincided with a total solar eclipse that lasted over four minutes on Aug. 2. Historian William of Malmesbury recounts this "hideous darkness agitated the hearts of men." After King Henry's

death, a struggle for the throne threw the kingdom into chaos and civil war.

#### Isn't this 'safety' issue about eclipse viewing, a bit overblown?

No. Human eyes have not evolved to look at the sun without suffering severe damage. There are no higher organisms on this planet that can do so and not run an enormous risk of being blinded.

#### Is there anything I can do to make this event personal?

Other than watch it with your family and friends, you may want to create a time capsule, which you would open on April 8, 2024 when the

next total solar eclipse occurs over the continental United States.

#### Can I photograph the eclipse with my smartphone?

Yes, but of course you have to be careful that you minimize glimpsing the bright sun with your eyes without the benefit of a proper filter. As for your camera, there is no valid reason why you would want to point your smartphone camera at the brilliant, un-eclipsed sun without putting a filter over the lens. During totality, you do not need the filter, of course!