



# ShelfLife

STAFF NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPOLITAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

February 2012

## News from the MLS Shelf

**Building a Reading  
City**  
page 2

**Database Trials**  
page 3

**ShelfLife Quiz**  
page 4 & 5

**Mystery Person;  
Staff Profile &  
Lending Library**  
page 5

**MLS Employees**  
page 6

**Birthdays & Hire  
Dates**  
pages 7 & 8

## Literate Cities

Have you ever wanted to live in America's most literate city? (Sorry, but you don't.) Here's the 2011 list of Most Literate Cities in the U.S. as formulated by Jack Miller, president of Central Connecticut State University in, uh, central Connecticut. The list comes from data that includes number of bookstores, library resources, newspaper circulation and Internet resources.

1. Washington, D.C.
2. Seattle
3. Minneapolis
4. Atlanta
5. Boston
6. Pittsburgh
7. Cincinnati
8. St. Louis
9. San Francisco
10. Denver

Perhaps the most surprising finding of all is that "wealthier cities are no more likely to rank highly in literacy than poorer cities." Maybe Washington, D.C. scores so high because they count crime reports.



.....  
*Happy Birthday!*

## What the Dickens?

Everybody has a favorite author and everybody's favorite author isn't Charles Dickens, but he's the favorite of a lot of people and he's in the Top Ten of a lot more, so give him a shout-out on his 200th birthday. He was born on February 7, 1812, and maybe spend the evening reading something by him that isn't *A Christmas Carol*. (This seasonal favorite was considered a pot-boiler by its author who needed a story to make some money because his wife was pregnant (again.))

Another February-born artist who was mainly in it for the money was the man who has been credited with changing the course of opera-- Gioachino Antonio Rossini. His most popular work, *The Barber of Seville*, is still an audience favorite. Rossini was born on February 29, 1792, so this year marks his 220th birthday—or more correctly, since this is a leap year, the 55th anniversary of his actual birth date.

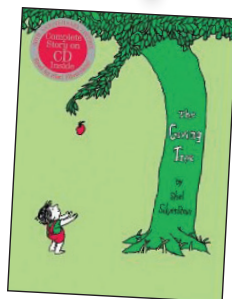
Oh yeah, Richard Ramirez and Eileen Wuornos were also leap year babies. Celebrate if you want to. We'll pass.

# Building a Reading City: ---Special Edition Chapter 2

You may remember that we sent out a system-wide email soliciting the titles of books that staff read to their kids when the kinder were young, or even those books that staff members liked having read aloud to them back in the day. We got so many replies we weren't able to print them all in January, so here we go with part two of your responses.

**Lisa Coker (MS):** Lisa Coker (MS)

When I first found out I was pregnant, I stopped by the bookstore I was working in at the time to purchase a copy of *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein, because it was my favorite book when I was a child. (My other favorite books were *The Monster at the End of This Book* and *The Poky Little Puppy*, which wasn't quite as delightful when I had to read it as a grown-up. If you've read that one to a



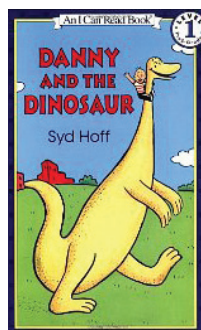
child, I'm pretty sure you know why.) I have a video of my eldest son reading *Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See* when he was about two years old. He mimicked the way I read it perfectly! My youngest son loved *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus* by Mo Willems. My eldest is not much of a reader, but my youngest enjoyed the *Captain Underpants* and *My Weird School* books when he was in grade school. He is currently a Wimpy Kid fanatic and is on book five of Harry



Potter.

**Jeanie Soles (DC):** I read to both of my daughters until they were eight or nine years old, and I still have lots of their books. My older daughter liked anything I would read. My younger daughter loved the Syd Hoff books, especially *Danny and the Dinosaur*, *Dr. Seuss*, *Curious George*. I discovered the Laura Wilder books when I was in sixth grade, and I believe they formed a good part of my core values. I named my older daughter Laura, and I have been to Laura Wilder's home in Missouri twice. I always made good grades in school, and my daughters made excellent grades. One was a valedictorian and a National Merit Scholar. I credit our reading.

**Laura Moody (BE):** I liked to read

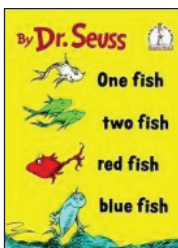


Beverly Cleary, R.L. Stine, Roald Dahl, and Dr. Seuss books when I was little.

**Dana Morrow (OUT):** My son always like Daniel Manus Pinkwater's *The Big Orange Splot* about a bird who dropped a big orange splot of paint on Mr. Plumbean's house on a street where all the houses were the same. Well - Mr. Plumbean liked the big orange splot, much to his neighbor's chagrin. He says "My house is me, and I am it. My house is where I like to be and it looks like all my dreams."



**Darlene Browsers (DN):** Besides the traditional Christmas story from the *Bible*, our family always enjoyed the book *How Come Christmas* by Roak Bradford. It is told in a dialect and is a quaint story set in an earlier time about how Baby Jesus and Santa Claus both fit in Christmas. I gave all my grown children a copy to have in their own homes and to continue to enjoy.



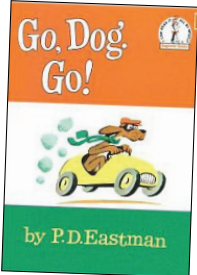
**Kelley Riha (OUT):** *I Love Animals* by Flora McDonnell, *One Fish Two Fish* by Dr. Seuss (just to name one), *Jemima Puddle Duck* by Beatrix Potter, and *Arthur's Really Helpful Word Book* by Marc Brown. Who else but my kid would like a dictionary? But hey, he was little and the first word he read was "toothbrush."

**Candy Turner (MC):** *Frindle* by Andrew Clements and *Thunderfoot* by Robert Hewitt, Sr.

**Christine Bassett (BI):** My son loved to hear the Roald Dahl stories particularly *Fantastic Mr. Fox* and *The BFG*. Also the stories by Avi were a favorite, including *Poppy* and *Poppy Returns*.

**Robin Sagal (MC):** I'm Robin Sagal, a library aide (still can't get used to that!) from Midwest City. My daughter Aprille is 22 now, but some of my favorite books to read to her were the "Corduroy" books. They were the best! I read her the series "*Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories*" and "*Uncle Arthur's Bible Stories*". These are old-fashioned books published by a small Seventh-day Adventist publishing house, but if people can get past the "old" label, they're nice books. One of my favorite series to read as a child was the "Little House" series, and I didn't discover L.M. Montgomery until young adulthood, but I've read almost everything she ever wrote.

## Building a Reading City: continued



**Patty Widhalm** (ED): My son loved *Go Dog Go*.

**Beverly Phillips** (SO): When my son Eric was in 4th-6th grade (can't remember exactly when), we would take turns reading pages from the "Redwall" books. He's 31 now, but as a child, he absolutely loved that series.

**Kim Cobb** (BI): I would read *Twelve Days of Christmas* and the summertime version *Twelve Days of Summer* by Elizabeth Lee O'Connell. Also she liked *Is Your Mama a Llama* by Deborah Guarino, *Just Like Me* by Angela Shelf Medearis, and *Jamaica Louise James* by Amy Hest.

# DATABASE TRIALS

**Susan Ryan**, who is the Egg McMuffin of Materials Selectors (sorry, Susan—it's a TV commercial reference that just slipped in, I don't know how), writes that MLS has trials to several databases running in February. As always, she asks that you take a few minutes to check them out and then let her know whether or not you think they'd be useful to our customers. This is a really terrific service for us so please take advantage of it if you can.

The databases we have trials to are Typing Instructor, MUZZY (the BBC language course for children), Business Decisions, and a pair of consumer services from Weiss.

*Typing Instructor* has links for both adults and children. You need to scroll down just a touch and click on the orange box that says "Getting Started." After you click this you will be prompted to register. Use the code provided below. The company has assured us that they won't sell users' information or send out ads.

Please Visit Typing Instructor Web Sample Sites:

Use this Code: 81a33029f

Typing Instructor Web :

<http://review.typinginstructor.com>

Typing Instructor Web Kids :

<http://review.typinginstructorkids.com>

Created by the BBC, the acclaimed MUZZY language learning courses target a child's "window of opportunity" years to learn a second or even a third language. The lovable MUZZY and his friends will guide your child on the journey to learning a new language.

<http://libraries.muzzyonline.com/entry/OklahomaCityOK>

Please click on the above link and then put the number 7 in the the library card field.

Our trial to *Business Decisions* lasts until Feb. 20th. Business Decision combines mapping technology from the world's leading GIS software company with extensive consumer household data, market segmentation data, consumer spending data, housing data, population forecasts and demographic data.

<http://www.businessdecision.info/bd/metropolitanlibrarysystem.html>

You should be able to log on to the "Express" account.

And finally, we have a trial to two of Weiss's databases until Feb. 6.

<http://www.financialratingsseries.com/>

*Weiss & The Street Financial Ratings & Analysis Series Online* offers the library community a single source for financial

strength ratings, investment analysis and financial planning tools covering Banks, Insurers, Mutual Funds, Exchange Traded Funds and Common Stocks. This series is designed to direct consumers and business professionals toward safe banking and insurance options and strong investments while helping them avoid unnecessary risk that could lead to financial losses.

*Weiss Ratings Medigap Buyers Guide & Premium Calculator*

This powerful new resource will inform, educate and guide consumers through the often difficult decision making process of selecting a Medigap plan. Each customer can obtain step by step guidance and learn how to select a Medigap insurance plan.

Don't forget to give Susan a call or send her a note with your comments.



## The ShelfLife Quiz:

### Famous Last Words

In February, our fancy naturally turns to love and all that stuff. Here are some last lines from well-known movies, all of which are in reference to romance, tragic or otherwise. See if you can match the line with the name of the movie.

1. It was Beauty killed the beast.
2. "You hear what I said, Miss Kubelik? I absolutely adore you." "Shut up and deal."
3. Emily, I have a little confession to make. I really am a horse doctor. But marry me, and I'll never look at any other horse.
4. Remember, honey, on your wedding day, it's all right to say "yes."
5. Ah, think of it. Three of them married, and the other two just tottering on the brink!
6. Well, we're going to marry and raise fat children and watch our vineyards grow.
7. Love means never having to say you're sorry.
8. When I want to kiss my wife, I'll kiss her anytime, anyplace, anywhere. That's the kind of hairpin I am.
9. Sex and death. Two things that come once in a lifetime. But at least after death, you're not nauseous.
10. Kiss me, stupid

#### Movie titles:

- a. *A Day at the Races*
- b. *Mark of Zorro*
- c. *Love Story*
- d. *King Kong*
- e. *The Strawberry Blonde*
- f. *The Apartment*
- g. *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*
- h. *Sleeper*
- i. *Pride and Prejudice*
- j. *Kiss Me, Stupid*

Answers on page 6

## How Short Can You Get?

The world's shortest science fiction story has been credited to Fredric Brown: "The last man on earth sat alone in his room. There was a knock on the door."

But a new form of short story has been created from the concept of Twitter-speak. If you don't Tweet you might be unaware that the messages you send have to be limited to 140 characters or less, including spaces and punctuation. If we tried to send this paragraph on Twitter, it would have cut off after the third "you."

Now some mad genius has decided that 140 characters are all that are needed in order to tell a cohesive short story, and want to see how well MLS staff can do writing a story in this highly demanding form—it's like a haiku for prose fiction.

See what you can come up with and send your stories to [dbentin@metrolibrary.org](mailto:dbentin@metrolibrary.org) for inclusion in a later issue of ShelfLife.

Here are some examples that appeared online:

*I met Mary in the grocery store. She smiled at me and I fell in love instantly, missing the red flag that she was wearing only one shoe*

*I handed Tom his birthday present. Awkward pause. "Didn't you get ME anything?" I asked. "I forgot." We're not the closest of twins*

*Psst! It's me...I mean you, from the future. Don't worry, it works out. You'll be wrongly convicted but meet your true love in prison*

### Wedding Bells

No, we're not getting excited that Brad and Angelina may soon tie the knot. Here in ShelfLife's lavish office suite we couldn't care less about such trivia.

What we do want to bring to your attention is the recent wedding (December 31) of Cataloger **Jenny Rempel** to Matt Bodenhamer. Congratulations to the new Mr. and Mrs. Bodenhamer and may their happiness show other couples how it's done.





## Lending Library: Books to Help With Professional Growth

### Questionnaires: Design and Use

by Doug R. Berdie

The second edition of *Questionnaires: Design and Use* has been greatly expanded from the original edition, which has become a standard reference and training text for people using survey research techniques. It is a complete source of information on questionnaires for lay persons and professionals—an authoritative discussion of issues combining a review of previous writings with the author's 15 years of professional experience with questionnaires. Covered are such topics as how to choose between mail surveys and interviews, designing a study using questionnaires, questionnaire format, how to write questions, discussion of response rates, and brief recommendations on analyzing data.

A highlight of the book is the funny annotated bibliography containing 494 sources of important work related to survey research conducted over the past 50 years, with a table of contents organized by topic. This is extensively illustrated.

#### QUESTIONNAIRES DESIGN AND USE

second edition

Doug R. Berdie  
John F. Anderson  
Marsha A. Niebuhr



### • MYSTERY PERSON •

Here are the clues to this month's mystery person.

**Fave Music:** Western classical music (1810-1900 to modern pop, but to pin it down to one - GWAR  
*Return to Horror High*  
**Fave Movie(s):** I'll play baseball again if I can get the bat around  
**Fave Sports:** NYC or DC  
**Fave Vacation:** Baton Rouge in July – 26 hours in the back of a 300ZX with my . . . precious little brother  
**Worst Vacation:** I don't watch television – not out of pretentiousness, but more so because I have a fear of commitment . . .  
**Fave TV Show:** *And Then We'll Get Him* by Gahan Wilson  
**Fave Book:** Ridiculously spicy Thai  
**Fave Food:** Autumn  
**Fave Season:** Playing around on the guitar & photography  
**Fave Hobby:** Yep  
**Family:** I have a dog named Fishsticks  
**Fave Pets:** Facebookahhhh!  
**Fave Social Network:** Almost DSLR  
**Fave Smartphone App:** *Inner City Blues (Make Me Wanna Holler)* Marvin Gaye

**Current repeat song on iPod:** I have numerous skills, but most importantly, I can start a fire without matches or a lighter. Keep that in mind when December 21st rolls around . . .

**Special Skills:** *Illustrating creepy children's books or making screwball cartoons..*

**Do you have a bucket list and what's at the top of it?**  
*Discover the secret to immortality – and then keep it to myself.*

Answer on page 6

## STAFF PROFILE Fingerprints

**Robyn Icks**, TP tech, discovered audiobooks when she worked as a page at WA. Now at TP "I get to see everything that comes through the system first, so I spend a lot of time drooling over the new audios. I have hundreds on my "To Read" list patiently waiting for me."

The list includes everything from Harry Potter and Lord of the Ring books to Terry Patchett and Joseph Delaney reads.

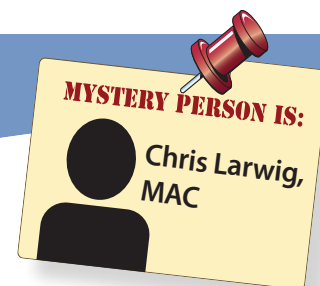
Along with books, music is a big part of her life. Her

tastes are eclectic and run from the BeeGees to They Might Be Giants to Nilsson.

Books and music are probably included in Robyn's vacation plans as she and her husband Sonny continue road trips to all 50 U.S. states. (As far as we know, Hawaii will not be in the "road trip" planner.) They've covered 28 so far.

At the end of the road trips and in the retirement years, Robyn wants to settle down in a cottage by the sea with her husband and a dozen cats.





## HELLO TO

Jessica Bennett..... Library Aide, BI  
Taylor Dalrymple ..... Public Comp. Spc., CH  
Jagtar Sanghera (rehire)..... Library Aide, ED

## PROMOTION

Jacson Melvin ..... From Public Comp. Spc., to  
Pub. Comp. & AV Spc. FT, DN

Mallory Weigl ..... From Librarian, VI, to Asst.  
Mgr of Lib. OP, NW

## RECLASSIFICATION

Cheryll Jones ..... From Assoc. Librarian to  
Librarian, SO

## GOODBYE

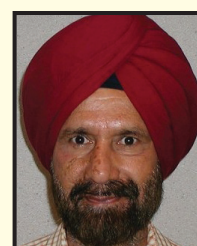
Natasha Irons ..... Library Aide, ED  
Cyndi Selinger..... Librarian, CT  
Chris Stevenson ..... Library Aide, ED  
Lyndsay Dearing ..... Library Aide, DN  
Mandi Dowding ..... Library Aide, WR  
Shannon Winters ..... Library Aide, ED  
Candy Turner..... Public Comp. Spc., MC  
Abigail Griffin..... Library Aide, WA



Jessica Bennett



Taylor Dalrymple



Jagtar Sanghera



## A Farewell to Ann

After 28 years of helping to make MLS the great system it is, **Ann Aliotta**, Assistant Manager of Library Operations/Edmond, has made out her last work schedule. To wish her well on her retirement, ED Library Aide **Dagmar Peery** designed and created the quilt pictured here.

"I cut up a t-shirt with the MLS logo to incorporate into the cup on the third shelf," Dagmar said. "The quilt, resembling a bookcase, has 'books' that include the names of employees substituted into the titles of books."

### The ShelfLife Quiz:

#### Answers

1. D     6. B
2. F     7. C
3. A     8. E
4. G     9. H
5. I     10. J



## February Bulletin Board



### Employee's February Date-of-Hire



DENESA BENNETT	2/28/1986
LINDA JAMESON	2/26/1990
SARAH KELLUM	2/14/1994
SUSAN MONROE	2/12/1996
DARLENE BROWERS	2/12/1996
JOANNE SCHNEIDER	2/19/1996
ROY BALLOU	2/8/1999
MARK MARSHALL	2/15/1999
SHAHIN ASGHARI	2/16/1999
SUSAN BECKETT	2/7/2000
TERI REDENBAUGH	2/16/2001
CAROL HUNTER	2/19/2001
CHERYLL JONES	2/3/2003
GLORIA TURNER	2/2/2004
TAMERAT ATLABACHEW	2/2/2004
CHRIS CARROLL	2/17/2004
LAWANA MORGAN	2/23/2004
JAMES GORDON	2/2/2005
DAVID RUSHING	2/4/2008
DAN HOLMAN	2/11/2008
GLORIA DELEON	2/23/2009
VANDA COLE	2/1/2010
ANGELA THORNTON	2/8/2010
KAREN CASEY	2/8/2010
PATTY WIDHALM	2/23/2010
GARRY SOUDERS	2/7/2011
MARGO ELLIS	2/7/2011



### February Birthdays



KAELI DUNN	2/1
JOANNE SCHNEIDER	2/3
JORGE MASCORRO	2/4
LEE MATA	2/6
CARA KOSZARA	2/6
ARMANDO CELAYO	2/6
DEBBIE MCPHERSON	2/7
KAREN LITTERAL	2/9
CAROL ROBERTS	2/9
ANN MEEKS	2/9
DEVON MCDANIEL	2/10
KRISTINE CHARTER	2/10
RUTH HARDER	2/11
KRISTIN HILL	2/17
PAULA TRAN	2/17
CAROL HUNTER	2/18
ERIC KING	2/18
DAVID MORAND	2/18
LAURA MOODY	2/18
KATHRYN SHEESLEY	2/19
KATHLEEN LAUGERMAN	2/20
DANIEL FIELDS	2/20
GARRETT YOUNG	2/22
JULIANNA LINK	2/23
JERRY O'HARE	2/24
BUDDY JOHNSON	2/24



# March Bulletin Board



## March Birthdays



GRANT YOKLEY	3/1
REAGAN KLOIBER	3/2
SHEILAH WISER	3/5
AHAD MARAND	3/5
KIRSTIE BROWN	3/5
SARAH KELLUM	3/6
DANIEL MARTIN	3/6
PATSY GLOVER	3/8
DARIN SMITH	3/8
EMMY VERDIN-CROWE	3/8
NANCY LYTLE	3/9
VICKIE ROSS	3/9
JULIE BALLOU	3/9
STEVEN ISAACS	3/12
SALLY MCCURRY	3/14
SERINA GARCIA FREEMAN	3/14
VINCI BARRON	3/15
TIM ROEMER	3/15
BARB PARR	3/17
ROBIN SAGEL	3/17
CHRIS CADE	3/17
DIANNA RUPP	3/19
AMY UPCHURCH	3/19
RUSSELL PIERCE	3/22
MARY SHOLLY	3/22
KATIE HATFIELD	3/22
ABE EJTEHADI	3/23
SHATIMA BENNETT	3/23
SHAHIN ASGHARI	3/25
GLORIA MELCHOR	3/25
NEIL PRUTHI	3/25
KIM COBB	3/26
PAM BUCHANAN	3/27
PATRICIA ORTIZ	3/30
TODD PODZEMNY	3/30
JANA HAUSBURG	3/31
SHEILA FIXEL	3/31



## Employee's March Date-of-Hire



DARCUS SMITH	3/28/1986
DENISE COURTS	3/16/1987
JILL VESSELS	3/19/1987
JOE POE	3/21/1987
TRACY STONE	3/17/1988
MARY STRASNER	3/6/1989
BEVERLY PHILLIPS	3/22/1993
LEE MATA	3/15/1994
MARGARET COLLINS	3/27/2000
VINCENT ARMIJO	3/26/2001
KATHY MARQUIS	3/27/2001
JESSICA MINTER	3/23/2005
JULIET ALAVICHEH	3/28/2005
JEFFREY FREDERICKS	3/13/2007
BEVERLY CUNNINGHAM	3/26/2007
DENISE RYAN	3/26/2007
REBECCA MASON	3/27/2007
ROBYN ICKS	3/17/2008
WANDA LITTLE	3/9/2009
GLORIA MELCHOR	3/23/2009
EMMY VERDIN-CROWE	3/23/2009
PHILL JO	3/1/2010
RUTH HARDER	3/8/2010
TARYN KINGERY	3/22/2010
JACSON MELVIN	3/8/2011
LINDA MORALES	3/21/2011
SHATIMA BENNETT	3/21/2011