

ShelfLife



Staff Newsletter of the Metropolitan Library System

November 2006

New Databases

ReferenceUSA
An infoUSA Company

A politician from Texas once said that "if you stand still, you're going to move backward," and that's as true of services offered by libraries as it is of public affairs. It's one of the reasons why MLS is constantly adding new databases to our growing collection.

Here are a pair of our latest.

Recently, the Aug. 29, 2006, edition of *The Wall Street Journal* sang the praises of a new database, ReferenceUSA.

You can find it under the "Telephone Directories" tab on our Databases web page.

You choose between Business and Residential sections—Business contains information on 13 million American businesses, and Residential can inform you about 120 million households.

For residents, just plug in a name and a city, if you know either one or both, and click Search. Up pops the information narrowed down as much as possible given what you had to start with.

The Journal quoted Susan Phillis, director of the Brooklyn Public Library's Business Library, saying, "Putting that kind of information together can help people make more knowledgeable decisions."

Check out Reference USA. You'll find it useful in a lot of ways.

And one more database to check out is the AT&T Greater Oklahoma City telephone directory. "We were able to load the database on a server and make it available through the web. We have added it to the databases under the Telephone Directories tab," said **Anne Fischer**, MLS Director of Information Technology.

It has Yellow Pages as well as Residential and Business White pages.

"The first time you access it," Anne concluded, "it will require you to click an 'I accept' button which then brings up a tutorial."

Give these databases a try. Find out how well they can work for you.



In this issue:

New Databases.....Page 1
Temporary Changes at REPage 2
Annual LeavePage 2
Hats Off to ITPages 3

Flunking the Third Grade.....Page 3
Life is Better at Luther.....Page 4
Customer Appreciation at WAPage 4
Moments to Remember.....Page 5

Feelin' LuckyPage 5
People.....Page 6
B-Days & Anniversaries.....Page 7



Temporary Changes at Ralph Ellison

A couple of weeks ago, Kay Bauman, MLS Deputy Executive Director / Library Operations, sent out an email announcing some temporary changes to the staff of the Ralph Ellison Library and ShelfLife wants to make sure everyone gets a chance to see it. If you call RE and hear a voice on the phone you've not heard there before, this is why.

"As you know, the Ralph Ellison Library has been without a manager for several months. Not having a manager on a daily basis can be a hardship for the library staff in terms of being



short staffed and handling crisis situations."

"Since it will still take a few months before we hire a new RE manager, we would like to help alleviate this situation by giving the staff a 'reprieve' from these circumstances. In the next few months, we will be letting the full time Ralph Ellison staff work at different library locations in the system. We think that working in a supportive and relaxed setting will be valuable as they bridge to work with a new Ralph Ellison manager.

"Several staff have volunteered to switch places with the Ralph Ellison staff. Beginning October 23, three RE staff will be at three different libraries for six weeks. On December 4, the original three will go back to RE, and two more RE staff will switch places for six weeks with other library staff."

We know that soon, RE will be up and running at full speed again.

Annual Leave: *Your Loss Is No One's Gain*

You can carry your weight. You can carry a mortgage. You can "Carrie" your high school prom—if you set the gym on fire. (If you don't get that one, ask a friend who reads Stephen King.)

What you can't carry is more than 25 percent of your annual leave over to next year, so check mlsHRPay to find out how many hours of AVL you still have and how many you have to use up before the end of CY 2006. Check it, schedule it, take it.

Here's the rule from Employee Leave Policies, note 3:

"An employee may carry over no more than

25% of his/her AVL from one calendar year to the next. Exceptions may be granted by the Executive Director, Director of Human Resources, or the appropriate Administration Team member; any excess carryover not authorized will be lost on January 1 if not used by then."

If you're in your first six months of MLS employment, the



computerized Wizard Behind the Curtain will automatically carry over all leave you've accumulated but haven't been able to use yet.

We at ShelfLife wish we could say that any leave you don't use could be transferred to us, but it wouldn't be true. And would we lie to you?

Use it or lose it. That's the fact.



Hats Off To IT

Do you ever wonder how often customers look at the MLS website? Here are some stats, sent to us by **Jimmy Welch**, MLS Deputy Executive Director, Technology, we don't see very often.

The number of hits for the 3rd quarter of this year.

	Internal	External	Combined
Jul-06	13,243	57,136	70,379
Aug-06	16,228	61,983	78,211
Sep-06	15,830	55,121	70,951

Despite what we used to think, computers do make our lives easier.

Do you remember what it was like a few years ago when you came to work one morning and there was a com-

puter sitting on your desk for the first time? Remember how intimidated you felt by it, how certain you were that you could never figure it out and while you were trying you'd accidentally enter the right combination of letters to hack into the Pentagon system and send a nuclear warhead on its way to Luxemburg?

We recently received an email that brought all those fearful memories back to us. Take a look at these supposedly true interactions between some company's IT department and the computer "population" they serve.

Customer: I have problems printing in red...

Tech support: Do you have a color printer?

Customer: Aaaah.....thank you.

Tech support: What's on your monitor now, ma'am?

Customer: A teddy bear my boyfriend bought for me at the 7-11.

Customer: My keyboard is not working anymore.

Tech support: Are you sure it's plugged into the computer?

Customer: No. I can't get behind the computer.

Tech support: Pick up your keyboard and walk 10 paces back.

Customer: OK

Tech support: Did the keyboard come with you?

Customer: Yes

Tech support: That means the keyboard is not plugged in.

Customer: Yes, there's another one here. Ah..that one does work...

Customer: I can't get on the Internet.

Tech support: Are you sure you used the right password?

Customer: Yes, I'm sure. I saw my colleague do it.

Tech support: Can you tell me what the password was?

Customer: Five stars.

Tech support: How may I help you?

Customer: I'm writing my first e-mail.

Tech support: OK, and what seems to be the problem!

Customer: Well, I have the letter 'a' in the address, but how do I get the circle around it?

And last but not least...

Tech support: "Okay Doug, let's press the

control and escape keys at the same time.

That brings up a task list in the middle of the screen. Now type the letter "P" to bring up the Program Manager."

Customer: I don't have a P.

Tech support: On your keyboard, Doug.

Customer: What do you mean?

Tech support: "P".....on your keyboard, Bob.

Customer: I'm not going to do that!

Flunking the Third Grade

Have you seen the FedEx commercial with the guy trying to find China on a world map? He guesses Russia and then Greenland before "accidentally" tripping and ripping the map from the wall.

We won't mention any names, but someone on staff recently sent us this web address:

http://www.pibmug.com/files/map_test.swf and suggested we check it out. It's a simple—well, not simple, but let's say basic—map quiz to find out how good you are at placing every state on the map of the U.S. Sound easy? Ha! It's timed and, in our case, when we hit the upper northeast panic set in.

We'll give you a hint to get started—Texas is the big one and West Virginia is the one that looks like a plucked turkey. Sorry, but the two gimmees, Alaska and Hawaii, are excluded.

Take it home and give it a try, but don't let your kids see you do it. It's fast, it's fun, and it gives you even more reason to hate Delaware.





Life at an Extension Library

Every so often **Angie Paeltz**, MLS Extension Specialist at the Luther Library, counts her blessings when she remembers what her work life used to be like before she and the library moved into their new home at 310 NE 3rd in Luther.

There's now room for public access computers. "The kids who come in after school used to have to sign up and wait for computer time," she said. "There's still some waiting because the computers are more popular than they used to be, but we dou-

... the floor around the public computer was covered with papers that spewed from the printer. As she watched, more paper came from the printer and drifted to the floor.

bled our number of computers and now there's more room to wait in."

Here's a great story from the old days. It was the time that Angie closed the library for lunch and went across the street to get something to eat. When she returned to the old trailer/library,



Luther Library

the floor around the public computer was covered with papers that spewed from the printer. As she watched, more paper came from the printer and drifted to the floor.

It was kind of creepy, but it turned out that during some work done by one of the IT Technicians—no longer employed by MLS—signals got crossed and every time someone tried to print at the Jones Library, the Luther printer went to work. If it was mystifying at Luther, it was just as frustrating at Jones because no matter how often the customer tried to print, nothing happened. Nothing at Jones, anyway.

"Also, we've come a long way from the old trailer with no bathrooms," Angie said. "I even have two bathrooms now. I don't have to wait until someone comes back from lunch at one of the businesses or hope someone is at the funeral home so I can use the bathroom.

"It's a shame when the funeral home is the best business in town when you really have to go. You know what I mean."

Customer Appreciation Month @ WA

It's a terrific Customer Appreciation Month idea. You combine free stuff, eating and football—three of the seven things that make life worth living.

"This is a book display we put up for our Customer Appreciation Month," said WA librarian **Rondia Banks**.

The books can be checked out any time, but the rest of the display is made up of prizes to be given away to WA customers.

"The chair and grill," Rondia said, "were donations from MidFirst Bank. We received a very generous gift of four chairs, two each from OU and OSU, and four grills."

What businesses in your service area might be willing to help out with some promotional items? You never know until you ask.





Moments To Remember

MLS' own weekly television program, *Read About It*, has managed to pull off one of the major coups of the Oklahoma Centennial year by asking former Governor George Nigh to temporarily join the crew of the show, and having him accept.

Downtown librarian **Buddy Johnson**, who writes the Oklahoma Images feature in our monthly magazine/calendar, will provide scripts for what *Read About It* producer **B.J. Williams** calls "Oklahoma Moments." These scripts will tell viewers about something significant or unusual from Oklahoma's history, and each one will last about one minute.

Governor Nigh has agreed be our spokesperson. He has already recorded the first

ten Moments. Ten more have been written, and Buddy is hard at work on a third set of ten.

The first set includes memories of Woody Guthrie, Will Rogers, Jim Thorpe, and lesser known figures from state and territorial history as well.

"We are glad we got Governor Nigh to agree to help us out with this project," said B.J. Williams. "A frequent

guest on the show, Bob Burke, who has written or co-written more books about Oklahoma history than anyone*, knows Governor Nigh. When he found out what we wanted to do, he contacted the governor on our behalf and asked him to work with us."

Oklahoma Moments will begin a year-long run on *Read About It* and on the MLS website in November.

**Note: MLS owns over 40 of Bob's books.*



Governor Nigh

Feelin' Lucky?

Kellie Bradford, MLS Planning Services Specialist, looks like such a nice person. But don't be fooled!

Not long ago she and **Stu Williamson**, Researcher for Planning & Training, bought some fake lottery tickets and the dark lamp of practical joking was lit above Kellie's head.

You remember those old cartoons in which kindness was represented by an angel sitting on a character's right shoulder and meanness was a devil on the left? Kellie's left side won out and she made a quick and successful trip to the Dark Side.

She told **Stacy Schrank**, our Employee Development Coordinator and Kellie's

other colleague in Planning, that she and Stu bought a few lottery tickets and that theirs were losers. She then offered the third one to Stacy with the proviso that if he won anything he had to share it.

By the time Stacy got finished scratching off the dots, he thought he'd won \$25,000.

Take a moment to imagine how you'd feel if you won \$25,000. Sweet, isn't it?

"I've never won anything before!" Stacy gasped.

"He was shaking all over," Kellie said. "His legs were like Jell-O."

Note: As Kellie told us this story, she was feeling no remorse. We could tell that she

wished Stacy would forget all about it so she could do it to him again.

The truth finally came out and, after a couple of minutes Stacy got a laugh out of the situation. Or maybe that was choking ...

Remember the adage from the Talmud, that living well is the best reward—but only if you can't think of a sneaky way to get even.

Be afraid, Kellie and Stu. Be very afraid.



Stacy Schrank



People

HELLO TO & RE-HIRES

Matilde Olivera Page, CH
 Nicole Chaney Page, SO
 David Derringer Graphic Designer, MAC
 Jordan McCabe Page, MC
 Aaron White *no photo* Page, WA

PROMOTIONS

Mary Sholly From Page, WA, to Circ Clerk, CH
 Lisa Wood From Library, VI, to Children's
 Srvs. Coord., OUT

TRANSFER

Barbara Parr From Tech. Asst.,
 to Circ Clerk, SO
 Rena Gibson From Tech. Asst.,
 to Circ Clerk, SO
 Tim Fisher From Asst. Mgr of
 LO, DN, to BI (JEOP)
 Debbie Robertus From Asst. Mgr of
 LO, BI, to MC (JEOP)
 Fariba Williams From Asst. Mgr of
 LO, MC, to DN (JEOP)

RETIRED

Carolyn Abernathy Librarian, SO
 Sharon Wenzle Circ Clerk, CT

GOODBYE TO

Elizabeth Scott Page, DC
 Nicole Campbell Circ Clerk, SO

FOR SALE

Rollaway bed in good condition, \$50. Please
 contact Pauline Rodriguez in Cataloging.



Matilde Olivera



David Derringer



Nicole Chaney



Jordan McCabe

Congratulations!

To Kristin Brewer, RE, and Stuart
 Williamson, PLA. The couple were
 married September 29.
 Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs.
 Williamson!



NOV Birthdays

SELMA ZUHDI	11/1
YVONNE M. DYESS	11/2
PENELOPE GREER BIRD	11/4
KELLEY L. RIHA	11/4
RENI LINN CREEK	11/5
LINDA J. HOLMBERG	11/5
CHERYLL R. SMITH	11/7
SUSAN E. HALL	11/9
LOVINIA M. NICHOLS	11/10
BETTY ANN SCOTT	11/11
FELICIA ANN HAYES	11/11
MATTHEW E. EVANS	11/11
MARGARET J. COLLINS	11/11
SHARON DAVIS JORSKI	11/12
ROY S. BALLOU	11/13
RANDY L. KNUTSON	11/13
STACY G. SCHRANK	11/13
RYAN BLAINE TAYLOR	11/15
TERI L. REDENBAUGH	11/16
DONNA L. MORRIS	11/16
MICHELLE R. PORTER	11/18
LISA K. BRADLEY	11/19
ROBERT A. JACKSON	11/19
JABARI A. TOURE	11/20
SARAH M. FRENCH	11/20
ELIZABETH HOLSHOUSER	11/22
KRISTIN JOY SMITH	11/23
PHYLLIS A. DAVIDSON	11/26
LISA DAWN COKER	11/27
RAMON LIRA	11/27
DEANNA L. BIDDLE	11/29
RACHEL A. HUDSON	11/30
J. PRESTON BELL	11/30

NOV Anniversaries

PAMELA K. KOSTED	11/4/75
DANA L. MORROW	11/5/79
RANDY E. WAYLAND	11/16/82
DENYVETTA DAVIS	11/22/82
JOYCE MCCAULEY-JOHNSON	11/1/84
PERRY A. WILSON	11/16/84
PAULINE B. RODRIGUEZ	11/4/85
DEANNA L. BIDDLE	11/3/86
J. PRESTON BELL	11/25/86
KATHRYN A. WILLIAMS	11/9/92
TRACI N. JINKENS	11/30/92
SALLY K. PHILLIPS	11/21/95
DEBRA K. JACKSON	11/4/96
LOIS W. MCKENNA	11/23/98
KELLEY L. RIHA	11/13/99
DARRIE J. BREATHWIT	11/20/00
ELIZABETH ANN KESSLER	11/20/00
MARY L. STEPHENS	11/27/00
JABARI A. TOURE	11/6/01
DAVID WILLIAM FRENCH	11/15/01
CHERYL ANN COLEMAN	11/4/02
JOHN C. R. UTLEY	11/4/02
SERINA L. GARCIA	11/26/02
LISA DAWN COKER	11/10/03
LINDA A. ELSTON	11/24/03
PETER L. ROBERSON	11/24/03
LINDA LEE HYAMS	11/24/03
TULIN R. LAFOLLETTE	11/24/03
ALICIA M. RUZYCKI	11/24/03
ANDREW R. TOLLY	11/24/03
MARYL BAIRD	11/1/04
VANESSA L. SNYDER	11/22/04
JOSHUA H. GERNER	11/22/04
STACEY MARIE O'NEIL	11/23/04
FARIBA WILLIAMS	11/07/05
SALLY A. GRAY	11/7/05
AARON J. STEWART	11/21/05
LOIS F. CROSS	11/28/05
DEVON D. MCDANIEL	11/28/05

December Birthdays

GEORGE NIEBANK, III	12/1
CHRISTOPHER CARROLL	12/1
EMILY K. GREEN	12/2
KIMBERLY A. RICKEY	12/2
ABOLGHASEM SIAVASHI	12/3
MEGAN E. SMITH	12/3
MARY A. MAHAN	12/5
CHARLEEN K. MILLER	12/6
JO NITA WHITE	12/7
SHARON B. MOTLEY	12/8
DEBORAH MONTGOMERY	12/9
VICTORIA DIXON	12/10
LAUREN ASHTON ABRAM	12/11
ALICIA M. RUZYCKI	12/12
TRACI N. JINKENS	12/12
FAYE HORN	12/12
LORETTA G. FRANTZ	12/15
B. J. WILLIAMS	12/17
ROSEMARY A. CZARSKI	12/18
MARILYN CONLEY	12/20
SUSAN K. BECKETT	12/20
REGINALD WALKER	12/21
TERI LYNN WOOLEY	12/22
JENNIFER ADKISSON	12/22
ANGELA K. SANDERS	12/22
MATILDE ISABEL OLIVERA	12/22
DOUGLAS G. BENTIN	12/22
SHARON S. WENZL	12/23
JESSIE C. BISHOP	12/24
MARY E. TAYLOR	12/27
KIMBERLY A. EDWARDS	12/28
PHILLIP E. TOLBERT	12/28
VERONICA BERNAL	12/30

December Anniversaries

DARLENE R. QUINN	12/4/79	GAIL GARLOCH	12/26/00
SHARLOTT WHITE BROWN	12/2/80	DIANE RICE	12/23/02
DOUGLAS G. BENTIN	12/26/85	KRISTEN T. KEYSER	12/26/02
LOUISA M. SMITH	12/13/88	ANGELA K. RUPEL	12/7/03
ROSEMARY G. RYDEN	12/3/96	REGINALD WALKER	12/30/04
EDWARD AHAD MARAND	12/1/97	RICHARD ANTONISSE	12/12/05
JOSHUA N. SCHELL	12/12/97	MELISSA S. O'NEIL	12/12/05
JOAN G. KENDALL	12/20/99	PAIGE ALLYSON NIFONG	12/19/05
SHARON D. THOMPSON	12/11/00	BARBARA JEAN O'DELL	12/19/05

