

STAFF NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPOLITAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

September 2009

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Executive Director Q & A

From Executive Director **Donna Morris**

want to take a minute to congratulate and thank all MLS staffers for their outstanding work this summer in managing summer reading and summer programs for kids and teens, for handling increased computer usage, and for helping the many, many customers with a wide variety of informational needs. As you all know, library use was up this summer and that resulted in more people checking out materials, attending programs and using our public computers. I know it can be a stressful time and all staff deserve a pat on the back for a job well done!

Fall promises to be just as busy with the scheduled openings of Ralph Ellison and our new MLS service center. The opening of the new service center will bring some new ways of doing business related to delivery and book processing and I appreciate everyone who is working on various committees to make sure we receive feedback and ideas on how these new processes will impact business at all of our locations. Your feedback is invaluable to making sure that everything works as well as it can throughout the system.

I also want to thank everyone who is participating in the special ad hoc committees who are working on issues identified in the cultural survey that was done last year. We have a wide variety of staff from throughout the system who are gathering information and feedback on how we can work together better and improve our system.

The library commission approved the final budget for 09-10 on August 27 which was about 5.8% increase over last year's tax revenues and a 3.8% increase from the preliminary budget. As you know, we have been very fortunate in Oklahoma as our economy has not suffered as much as other areas of the country. Libraries across the country are reducing hours, cutting staff and even closing libraries; so we have been very lucky. Our revenues are stable and we are conservative in our expenses which has resulted in a very steady and stable growth pattern for our system.

Good end of summer to everyone.

ShelfLife



SUMMER @ THE LIBRARY

If you missed the email that went out recently from the Summer at the Library gang in Outreach, it bears repeating not just for the pat on the back it gives all MLS staff, but because it represents a great team spirit.

Dana, Emily and Lisa work hard to put on a good show for our youth and teen customers—check out the simplified version of the final numbers below—and it should make all of us glow to see that they recognize the parts staff outstandingly play.

"Dear MLS Staff,

We wanted to thank each and every one of you for making possible such a successful Summer at the Library.

From Materials Selection/Cataloging/
Tech Pros/ILL for getting and processing the books; to Maintenance for delivering supplies and books all summer; to Marketing for making us shine; to Volunteer Services for recruiting packet stuffers and all those wonderful teen assistants; to Business Office for making the money flow; to Security for keeping us safe; to Circulation Clerks for happily checking in and out those thousands of books to children and teens all summer long; to Pages for shelving all those books all summer long; to Managers, Librarians, & Extension Specialists for keeping those

smiles on your faces as the masses of children and teens stormed your doors each day; to **Friends** and **Endowment** for believing in and supporting what we do; to **Planning** for keeping us on track and training us well; to **IT** for keeping the internal techno machine running; to **Human Resources** for keeping us well-staffed and healthy; and last of all—our **Administration** for their continual guidance in this ginormous (it really is a word now) summer project.

And we thank everyone who wore (& danced in) the Spoticus costume in the horrific Oklahoma summer heat— you know who you are!!!!

Your appreciative **Outreach** Staff, Lisa, Emily, and Dana"

Now, those final figures. Teen sign-ups were up 8.6 percent; Children's up 35.5 percent. Total: 30 percent average. Teens reaching Goal I were up 8.2 percent; Children up 21.8 percent. Total: 19.4 percent average. Teens reaching Goal 2: up 7.6 percent; Children up a whopping 39.3 percent for a total average of **33.4 percent over 2008.**

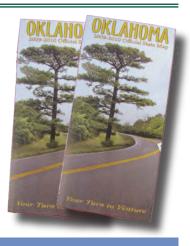
Wow!



MAPS - And We Don't Mean an Increase in Sales Tax

Just a quick reminder that Marketing Dept. has boxes of official Oklahoma State Road Maps we can send to libraries that want some for customers. These are the 2009 editions, not some old ones the state decided to clean out of closets at the capitol. The maps are available now, and will soon show up on the MAC supply catalog on the Intranet.

We recently ordered around 1500 of them to meet library needs, and a couple of weeks ago the state sent us 1400 more. We really do have plenty so don't hesitate to ask if you want some more of them. Either that or the kids in our neighborhood are going to find them in their trick-or-treat sacks this Halloween.





Trial Databases —Check 'Em Out

ow often these days do you get to try before you buy? (That's a purely rhetorical question and it's supposed to make you think to yourself, "Not often.")

The beauty of many databases Material Selection considers adding to our online collection is that we get a chance to sample them on a trial basis before MLS pays for a subscription. Here are some you can take a look at now.

Global Road Warrior:



http://www.globalroadwarrior.com/directclient_index2.asp?c=mls
This is not your father's atlas style reference work. It contains a lot more
information than just imports/exports, political system, mainstream
culture and famous landmarks. With this one you can also explore "traditions, habits, and social norms of people around the globe. From cultural
stereotypes and superstitions, to social and business etiquette, to women's
role in society - everything from dating rituals, holidays and festivals, to
classic recipes for each country, and visa and passport information. After
you take a look at Global Road Warrior, actually visiting the country might
be kind of redundant.

A to Z Maps Online



http://www.atozmapsonline.com/a-z_maps_online_home.asp?c=mls You want maps? Well, this is the place. A to Z Maps Online features "maps of all kinds, including modern outline, political, thematic, topographic, scientific and animated maps, as well as tens of thousands of antique maps of the world, individual countries, U.S. states, and U.S. towns and cities."

Oxford Music Online



www. oxford music on line. com

"The online product contains the full text of the acclaimed 29-volume New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians (2nd edition), the 4-volume New Grove Dictionary of Opera, and the 3-volume New Grove Dictionary of Jazz. It includes 50,000 articles, sophisticated search and browse capabilities, Sibelius-enabled musical examples, and extensive links to musical sites on the Internet, making it the unsurpassed authority on all aspects of music." There is more to this one as well. It does everything but sing at weddings.

Check out these potential database subscriptions and let **Susan Ryan** in Material Selection know how useful to our customers you think they'll be. You'll be glad you did!



Lending Library Review:

Evaluating Training Programs



by Donald Kirkpatrick

The MLS Planning Department pulls the plow when it comes to training staff, but every employee has some degree of responsibility for training as well. It may just be showing the new kid in the office how to use the coffee machine, but all of us have to become teachers once in awhile.

For that level of training, Donald Kirkpatrick's book presents way more information than you need to know, but if you want find out how to evaluate training programs for possible future reference, take a look inside.

One reviewer wrote of the book, "Donald Kirkpatrick is probably the most often cited authority on corporate training. Virtually everyone in the know is familiar with his four levels of evaluation. [With this new book] Donald Kirkpatrick has done it again. This is a practical, comprehensive and informative work that is 'must reading' for all learning and development managers."

Kirkpatrick describes the book as "a 'how-to' book, designed for practitioners in the training field who plan, implement, and evaluate training programs. For those who have planned and conducted many programs, as well as those who are new to the training and development field, this book is a handy reference guide that provides a practical and proven model for increasing training effectiveness through evaluation."





Ve were thinking not long ago about the MLS staffers who have hidden—and not so hidden—artistic talents of one kind or another that don't relate to their daily jobs. For instance, everyone knows that Rick George, in our own Marketing and Communications Department, is an artist and graphic designer of remarkable ability, but did you know that he plays guitar in a classic rock band on weekends? (He hasn't trashed a hotel room in a long time and his groupies tend to be at least middle-aged, but he can still, as George Harrison sang, "rock like Gibraltar."

Other musicians on staff? Dana Morrow and Anita Roestler, OUT, are both into folk and traditional music.

DC's Lindsay Egle rocks out with a band in Norman, and Planning's Stuart Williamson, although currently on hiatus from music, was on drums with the band The Rounders. Maintenance's Russell Pierce is the founder of the folk-Celtic-acoustic rock band Boru's Ghost. DN's Jim Nimmo has played viola for the OKC Philharmonic, and we know there are many other MLS staffers who are or have been professional musicians.

Now, take five.



So you better watch out. No, it's not Santa Claus. It's much better than that.

It's FOCUS 2009, with the televisionary theme —Tune In!

All we can tell you at this time is that a slider will appear on the Intranet on September 3 so the registration process can begin. More information will follow in Metro U's "Training Times" for Sept./Oct. and here in October's ShelfLife. It's all good, and it's all coming your way.

ShelfLife Quiz: Now We'll See How Tough You Really Are

oming up in October is the 2009 edition of The Big Read. This year's book is Dashiell Hammett's classic noir detective novel. The Maltese Falcon. Most movie lovers have seen the 1941 film version with Humphrey Bogart, and rolled around in its great dialogue, most of which came from the novel. Here are some more quotable lines from famous noir thrillers. See how many of the lines you can match to the films they came from. The movies are:

- a. Out of the Past
- c. Get Shorty
- d. Mildred Pierce
- f. Kiss Me Deadly b. The Big Sleep
 - h. Harper
 - i. Murder My Sweet j. Double Indemnity
- e. Stranger on a Train
- g. The Maltese Falcon

- __ 1. "Just get out, will you? I have to sleep in this room."
- 2. "When you're slapped, you'll take it and like it."
- __ 3. "You shouldn't kiss a girl when you're wearing that gun... leaves a bruise."
- 4. "She tried to sit in my lap while I was standing up."
- __ 5. "You want to avenge the death of your dear friend. How touching. How sweet. How nicely it justifies your quest for the great whatsit."
- 6. "I once asked this literary agent, uh, that kind of writing paid the best... he

- said, 'Ransom notes."
- ___ 7. "I used to be a sheriff until I passed my literacy test."
- ___ 8. "They say all native Califor nians come from lowa."
- ___ 9. "Personally, [she]'s convinced me that alligators have the right idea. They eat their young.
- 10. "Oh, Daddy doesn't mind a little scandal. He's a senator."

Bonus Question:

What's the last line in The Maltese Falcon?

Answers on page 7.

Delivering Change: Yes We Can!

Are you ready for change? Fall is a time of change—change in seasons, change in weather, time change.

And it's a time for MLS to make some changes in our delivery system.

A meeting was held on Aug. 19 to discuss the upcoming changes in the MLS delivery system.



Stuart Williamson, Planning, conducted the meeting.

The reason for the delivery route change is because of growth:

- 1. System reserves have increased putting a larger demand on space and on the delivery drivers.
- With the addition of the Northwest Library, interagency mail will increase and will add another stop for the drivers.
- The new service center will allow even more materials to be purchased and processed.

As a result of these changes a third delivery route is needed. And with it involves more stops, resulting in speedier service.

Library Managers and anyone else attending the meeting were asked to give

feedback and to take the information back to their staff so all may start thinking about the upcoming changes and how it will affect their library.

The meeting also allowed those involved (Maintenance, IT, etc) to absorb the information received from the meeting and go on to finalize a delivery

route.

The timeline for the changes will unfold throughout the Fall months.

The actual finished delivery route change will not go into effect until October, so preparation is key to the success.

The timeline for the changes can be fluid.

"After soliciting feedback at last month's meeting, the new delivery routes are now being finalized.

In September, library managers will be making preparations at their agencies while IT works behind the scenes to optimize reserve assignments under

the new system. MTC will also be busy hiring and training two new delivery drivers to take on the additional routes.

If all goes well, look for the new routes to begin in October with the Saturday route being added soon thereafter. The final piece of the new system will be the Service Center's RFID sorter and the new bins that work with it. Look for these bins to arrive at your library once the delivery drivers begin operating out of the Service Center in late 2009 or early 2010," said Stuart.

Watch for updates on the intranet and in the October issue of ShelfLife.

Schedule and Power Point link: http://morris/GotInfo/report_stats/index.htm#a

Latest on Lead

You may remember the brouhaha that developed some months ago when it was determined that the ink in older books—including those for children—might contain considerable levels of lead. ShelfLife reported that many agencies and individuals showed concern about the safety of young children making contact with these books. No one in the library world was quite certain what we were going to have to do, if anything.

On August 26, 2009, the Consumer Product Safety Commission released its final ruling on children's products that contain lead. Their ruling is that "libraries have no independent obligation to test library books for lead under the law," according to Oklahoma Department of Libraries director Susan McVey, who went on to say that "according to [the American Library Association's] conversations with CPSC officials, a Statement of Policy should be released within the next several weeks.

"While we await the Statement of Policy, ALA recommends that libraries take the following actions. If a library is aware that any children's book does indeed contain lead above the legal limits or otherwise presents a danger to children, it should remove it from public access, for instance by moving it to the noncirculating collection. We would also ask that if libraries do learn of any books containing lead to please let the ALA – Washington Office know so that we might share that information with other libraries. When the Statement of Policy is released, we will promptly notify our members.

"If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jessica McGilvray, Assistant Director of the ALA Office of Government Relations: jmcgilvray@alwash.org or call 1-800-941-8478."

Banned Books Week Returns in Late September

very year, a ALA's Banned Books Week returns Sept. 26 – Oct. 1.

To get a look at which titles are being put on the griddle in which parts of the country, check out the Books Banned and Challenges, 2007-2009 map at this website: http://bannedbooksweek.org/Mapofbookcensorship.html

You'll find a map of the USA with little arrows on it. The arrows point to cities. Click on an arrow and a window opens with the name of the city, year of the challenge, title of the book, and reason for the challenge.

For example, one of the arrows pointing to Oklahoma brings up:

Marietta, Oklahoma

(2008) *TTFN* was removed from the Marietta Middle School library due to descriptions of sex and drug use.

Take a look. Finding out what's ruffling feathers around the nation is interesting.



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

Fave Music: Beatles, any classic rock

Fave Book(s): Thief of Always by Clive Barker and

anything by James Michener

Fave Sports: College football & basketball

Fave Vacation(s): Fishing at the lake **Fave Movie**: Elf, Napoleon Dynamite

Fave Food: Mexican

Fave TV Show:The Office, Amazing Race
Nothing beats a crisp Fall day **Fave Hobby:**Going to estate sales, traveling

Pets: Dogs

Family: Wife and daughter

Prefer PC or MAC: PC

What profession would you be in if you were not working in the library? Something involving travel, like a pilot.

Is there something you want to do or accomplish before you die? Visit all the continents (except Antarctica!)

Answer on page 7.



Susan Stinson, circ clerk at SO, has worked for MLS for 29 "fun-filled" years. She says her co-workers are the best thing about working. "We're one big family," she said. And her second best thing is the smell of new books!

She just got back from a great trip to Yellowstone "It is fantastic."

Susan, in her spare time makes birthday cards. Her hobbies include gardening and scrapbooking and reading. And says she is one of the best grandmothers in the world to Brooklyn and Benjamin, her grandchildren.

Susan says she "feels very happy and blessed to be where I am. I hope I've made a difference."



HELLO TO

Julie Henry	Ext. Spc., LO
Rosa Rubio	Ext. Spc., LO
Rachel Allen	Page, VI
Evelyn Brown	Page, VI
J.R. Day	Admin. Recept., Dir
Felicia Bennett	Page, VI
Randy Myster	Page, VI
Kristen Gadlin	Page, VI
Kendra Williams (rehire)	Page, DC
Paige Nifong (rehire)	Page, HR

GOODBYE TO

Ben Mount	Page, MC
Kaitlyn Gibson	Page, ED
Tariq Ahmad	Page, VI
Renee Launey	Page, WA
Alexis Austin	Data Entry Tech., TP
Mary Daugherity	Circ Clerk, BE

TRANSFER

Josh Lewis	From FT to PT, Circ Clerk, CT
Kevin Sendall	From PT to FT, Circ Clerk, CT

RETIREMENT

Joan Shelton..... Librarian, CH

SYMPATHY

To Regina Kirkham, BE, whose brother Paul Kirkham, died August 8, in Austin, Texas.

Sympathy also to Darlene Browers, DN, whose mother Mary Elizabeth Sangster, passed away Saturday, August 29.

Answers to ShelfLife Quiz

1.a 2.g 3.l 10.e 4.b 5.f 6.c 7.h 8.j 9.d

Bonus Answer: "Huh?"



Julie Henry



Rosa Rubio



Rachel Allen



Evelyn Brown



J.R. Day



Felicia Bennett



Randy Myster



Kristen Gadlin





Bethany teen volunteers Kayla Feland and Jordan Thomas carry a banner in the 4th of July Centennial Parade in Bethany. The banner was to promote library awareness to the community. Behind the banner is Leo Fields, Daniel Fields' son, who carried a giant reproduction of Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Library staff and volunteers—14 in all—supported the parade effort. *Photo by Janet Bowen*.



September Bulletin Board

September Birthdays

MARY L. STRASNER	9/1
TERESA R. MATTHEWS	9/1
DANIELLE D. WALKER	9/2
KIM ELLEN MACARTY	9/2
AJAX S. C. DELVECKI	9/3
EKS WYE POLLOCK IV	9/3
RIKKI D. MARTIN	9/5
DARRIE J. BREATHWIT	9/6
PERRY A. WILSON	9/6
BURTON D. THURMOND	9/9
DIANE SARANTAKOS	9/9
TULIN R. LAFOLLETTE	9/10
LANNY B. MYERS	9/11
ABIGAIL ANNE MCGEE	9/12
PRISCILLA M. DOSS	9/12
CANDACE MCDANIEL	9/13
CHERYL E. PERNELL	9/14
KERBIE M. ADDIS	9/14
TRAVIS REID HOWELL	9/14
VINCENT D. ARMIJO	9/14
RUBY J. SOUTIERE	9/15
RICHARD H. MULLINS	9/16
KIMBERLY L. WADE	9/17
ANGELA M. PAELTZ	9/19
DONNA C. CANFIELD	9/19
ROSEMARY G. RYDEN	9/19
GERALDINE E. ADAMS	9/21
SHIRLEY ANN WOLF	9/21
LIANA C. MICH	9/22
ASHLEY JADE MAXWELL	9/24
LISA LEA HEINRICH	9/25
TINDLE J. ARNOLD	9/26
DEBRA K. JACKSON	9/27
KAREN R. BRAY	9/27
KAREN L. MARRIOTT	9/28
VANESSA ANN SPAETH	9/28
DAVID WILLIAM FRENCH	9/30

Employee's September Date-of-Hire

KAREN L. MARRIOTT 9/6/1977 SUSIE L. BEASLEY 9/18/1978 **FAYE HORN** 9/10/1979 JO NITA WHITE 9/25/1981 ROSEMARY A. CZARSKI 9/13/1982 ALMA LOUISE BROWN 9/16/1982 KAY L. BAUMAN 9/27/1982 **RUTH M. BUTLER** 9/17/1984 PAMELA S. BUCHANAN 9/10/1985 SUSAN E. RYAN 9/13/1989 SHIRLEY J. HENDERSON 9/3/1991 CHESTER KINZIE, JR 9/6/1994 JANA C. HAUSBURG 9/11/1995 **DEBBIE E. ROBERTUS** 9/11/1995 ANN L. MEEKS 9/11/1995 CRYSTAL L. SUPPES 9/25/1995 JOYCE A. HELMS 9/24/1996 MARY E. TAYLOR 9/16/1999 LINDA M. WILLIAMS 9/7/2000 D. DIANE SHARP 9/17/2001 ELIZABETH M. NEWLAND 9/10/2002 THOMAS P. GALLAGHER 9/16/2002 MATTHEW E. EVANS 9/17/2002 VAN R. BIELSTEIN 9/17/2002 STUART H. WILLIAMSON 9/19/2002 **EMILY R. WILLIAMS** 9/2/2003

BURTON D. THURMOND TERESA R. MATTHEWS MARY ANN JOHNSON AJAX S. C. DELVECKI C. GEORGE NIEBANK, III **EMILY K. GREEN CHRISTOPHER CADE** PENELOPE GREER BIRD **NICOLE DAWN CHANEY BRITTANY BARBER** DONNA C. CANFIELD KYNDALL OVERSTREET **CAROL L. ROBERTS** ROBIN C. SAGEL JENNIFER IRENE JONES KIMBERLY P. GREEN LYNDSIE RAE DOYLE **DARIN RAY SMITH** KRISTIN LYNN HILL CINDY J. FRAZIER MYRA DAWN DOVER 9/25/2008

9/16/2003 9/29/2003 9/13/2004 9/17/2004 9/27/2004 9/19/2005 9/11/2006 9/11/2006 9/26/2006 9/28/2006 9/10/2007 9/11/2007 9/24/2007 9/9/2008 9/9/2008 9/10/2008 9/11/2008 9/17/2008 9/22/2008 9/23/2008



October Bulletin Board

October Birthdays

LINDA A. TEMPLE	10/1
SHELDON L. BEACH	10/1
ANDREW R. TOLLY	10/2
EDDIE H. WATTS	10/2
MOLLY ELIZABETH ALLEN	10/3
RACHAEL RAMSEY	10/3
JEROD PAUL GERFEN	10/4
LISA E. MYERS	10/4
STACEY MARIE O'NEIL	10/6
BARBARA K. BEASLEY	10/7
KRISTIN WILLIAMSON	10/7
GEORGE M. MARSHALL	10/8
STANLEY A. TAUCER	10/8
LAVETTA KINSEY DENT	10/9
CHERYL ANN COLEMAN	10/11
MYRA DAWN DOVER	10/13
ROGER ALLEN BANKER	10/14
SHARON D. THOMPSON	10/14
JOSHUA H. WELLS	10/15
SYDNEY MARIE ASHBY	10/15
FANNIE HARSHBARGER	10/16
CHRISTOPHER L. LARWIG	10/17
MARY R. MCELROY	10/18
RONDIA K. BANKS	10/18
LACI REID BOWERS	10/19
MARYL BAIRD	10/19
TONDA FAYE KELLY	10/19
PAULINE RODRIGUEZ-ATKINS	10/20
WARREN ANDERSON	10/21
JOHN R. DAY	10/22
KAREN PETERS MILLER	10/22
RUTH M. BUTLER	10/23
BRYAN CONNOR SMYTHE	10/24
REBECCA F MASON	10/24
DEBORAH ANN GOSSET	10/29
HEIDI A. PORT	10/30
KARL LLOYD BLANKENSHIP	10/31

Employee's October Date-of-Hire

JIMMY C. WELCH	10/22/1970
FRANCIE L. PENDLETON	10/9/1972
RUBY J. SOUTIERE	10/1/1978
STEVEN B. JENKINS	10/5/1987
KAREN L. BAYS	10/2/1992
REGINA D. FIELDS	10/4/1993
CECIL L. PEADEN	10/18/1993
	10/24/1994
CYNTHIA A. MARTIN	10/24/1994
	10/6/1998
LINDA J. HOLMBERG	10/22/1998
	10/4/1999
	10/5/1999
	10/22/1999
PATSY A. GLOVER	10/16/2000
TODD S. OLBERDING	10/1/2001
CHARLES S. ISAACS	10/1/2001
SUSAN J HUTCHINS	10/7/2002
	10/11/2002
MELISSA K. WEATHERS	10/28/2002
	10/4/2004
SHELDON L. BEACH	10/5/2004
	10/3/2004
	10/12/2004
WENDY J. GABRIELSON	
	10/21/2004
	10/25/2004
PATRICIA RIVAS	10/26/2004
KATHRYN F. HATFIELD	10/3/2005
NICOLE E. BURESH	10/26/2005
JEROD PAUL GERFEN	10/23/2006
LIWANG	10/26/2006
	10/26/2006
HARRY DUY HOANG	10/27/2006
EVELYN CAROL GILBERT	10/22/2007
KIMBERLY VENTRELLA	10/22/2007
RICHARD H. MULLINS	10/25/2007
MACKENZIE PAIGE STEPHENS	
KERBIE M. ADDIS	10/6/2008
	10/6/2008
LEONDREA MAE-DIA GATES	
	10/7/2008
	10/7/2008
	10/8/2008
	10/10/2008
CHRISTOPHER KENNEDY	10/20/2008
AMANDA DOWDING	10/28/2008