



Announcements

The Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Library System will meet on Monday, June 18, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. at the MLS Chicago office.

The board packet will be posted on the MLS website at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/board/index.asp>.

REMINDER: Voting for MLS FY08 Board of Directors is open through June 14, 2007 at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/board/elections.asp>.

MLS E-nnounce has been in production for over 6 months, and we are looking for your input. An outcome of last year's Strategic Direction planning, the newsletter was implemented to meet the needs of MLS members desiring a main communication vehicle from MLS staff.

Please complete the survey at <http://fs8.formsite.com/mlsystem/form711839885/index.html> by June 20, 2007. Results will be shared in a future issue.

MLS is looking for four members to serve on the 2007 MLS Awards Committee. This committee of one member from each library type, a MLS board member, and a MLS staff member will coordinate the nomination process and select the winners, presented at the annual meeting. Interested members should email Gretel Stock-Kupperman at stockg@mls.lib.il.us.

MLS Links

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Editors

Jeannie Dilger-Hill,
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The FY2008 Illinois Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid grant requires that libraries must submit a Disaster Plan adopted after October 15, 2005. To access information about state library suggestions for Disaster Planning visit http://cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/what_we_do_equalizationgrant.html#percapita. Libraries are encouraged to utilize dPlan(tm): The Online Disaster-Planning Tool, available at <http://www.dplan.org>. Questions, contact MLS Consultants at consultants@mls.lib.il.us.

Gretel Stock-Kupperman,
stockg@mls.lib.il.us

Christina Stoll, stollc@mls.lib.il.us

Libraries applying for E-Rate funding need to submit Item 21 Attachment for one or more of their FY2007 FRNs online at <http://www.sl.universalservice.org/menu.asp> using their Form 471 application number and security code. For more information visit http://www.usac.org/sl/applicants/step07/form471-attachments.aspx?WT.mc_id=sl-newsbrief-20070330. [[Permalink](#)]

School Librarian for a Day is a Hit!

Over fifty individuals from Chicago Public School libraries and Metropolitan Library System member libraries contributed to the success of the first School Library for a Day (SLFAD) event, which took place April 23, 2007. Funded by a LSTA grant, this event brought together CPS librarians and MLS librarians in the hopes of creating long-term partnerships. [[Permalink](#)]

[Read full article http://www.mls.lib.il.us/announce/2007/01_10/SLFAD.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/announce/2007/01_10/SLFAD.asp)

Continuing Education Events

The MLS Chicago Office will be under construction from July 1 to mid

September. All Chicago workshops have been moved to another downtown location or to the Burr Ridge office. Please check the [MLS CE Calendar](#) for exact locations.

[Project Management](#), Dan Wiseman, Monday, June 18, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Burr Ridge.

[We've Got to Stop Meeting Like This: Meetings That Matter](#), Dan Wiseman, Monday, June 18, 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Burr Ridge.

Supervisor's Series (#1 of 12): Managing People, David Seleb and Gretel Stock-Kupperman, Tuesday July 17, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., [Burr Ridge](#) and 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., [Chicago *Construction Location*](#).

For more info and to register, visit the MLS CE Calendar at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/calendar>. [[Permalink](#)]

Library Invaded by Teens and Technology

The Blue Island Public Library has been invaded by teens and technology, thanks in part to the creative talents of staff member Darren Thompson and his use of library 2.0 technologies to create a space for young adults within the library. The Tech Annex also provides a wide range of services for all library patrons including a recording studio, enclosed computer classroom, 3D Animation software, and video editing equipment. [[Permalink](#)]

[Read full article http://www.mls.lib.il.us/announce/2007/01_10/blueislandteenstech.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/announce/2007/01_10/blueislandteenstech.asp)

SWAN Tech Users Group Meeting

The next [SWAN Tech Users Group](#) meeting will be Thursday, June 14, 2007, 10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Burr Ridge.

The topics will be Web PAC Pro Demo, Installation of MilCirc using Microsoft Vista, IUG Report, SWAN Projects Update and SWAN Announcements. Join your colleagues from SWAN member libraries and central site staff for an informative presentation, networking and sharing best practices.

For more info and to register, visit the MLS CE Calendar at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/calendar>. [[Permalink](#)]

Meet MLS Staff: Lynette Glenn

With a strong belief in providing excellent customer service, Lynette Glen, Administrative Assistant for the Consulting and Continuing Education Department, stands by her values. Working for MLS for the past seven years, Lynette's main areas of responsibility include CE registration, membership and serving as the System's main phone operator. [[Permalink](#)]

[Read full article http://www.mls.lib.il.us/ennounce/2007/01_10/mlsstafflynette.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/ennounce/2007/01_10/mlsstafflynette.asp)

Member Spotlight: MLS Local History Group

Did you know that MLS has member library networking groups in a variety of interests and subjects? Ranging from young adult to solo librarians to library staff interested in graphic design and reference, these member networking groups provide an opportunity for library staff to network and share ideas outside of their library. Up first is the

MLS Local History Networking group. [[Permalink](#)]

[Read full article http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2007/01_10/localhistorygroup.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2007/01_10/localhistorygroup.asp)

Next Issue

The next issue of *MLS E-nounce* will appear June 20, 2007.

[[Permalink](#)]

School Librarian for A Day is a Hit!

by Christina Stoll, MLS

Over fifty individuals from Chicago Public School libraries and Metropolitan Library System member libraries contributed to the success of the first School Library for a Day (SLFAD) event, which took place April 23, 2007. Funded by a LSTA grant, this event brought together CPS librarians and MLS librarians in the hopes of creating long-term partnerships. The day included a shadowing opportunity for MLS librarians at their partner school followed by an afternoon program to meet and recognize participants and discuss ways to continue the partnership.

School Library, Abuzz with Activity

Sarah Kaufmann, Information Services Manager for The RJA Group, Inc. (<http://www.rjagroup.com/>) was paired up with librarian Ms. Katie Terry from Lindblom Math and Science Academy, a grades 9 and 10 school.

Kaufmann was amazed by the amount of activity the library received by students outside scheduled classroom time. Both before school and during lunch she witnessed the library abuzz with activity. Students were either working at the computers, reading in comfy chairs or sitting in groups at the tables. Throughout the day, classes would filter in and out of the library either freely utilizing the space and the resources, or Ms. Terry would provide formal instruction to students on the resources available.

“Overall, I had an extremely positive experience with the SLFAD. I was immensely impressed with the library, the teachers, the administrators, and of course, the librarian,” says Kaufmann.

7th and 8th Graders Learn About Library Hospitality

Josephine Kujawa, librarian at Lexington College (<http://www.lexingtoncollege.edu>) a women’s college offering Associate and Bachelor degrees in Hospitality Management, was blown away by the librarian and students at Mitchell Elementary.

Half-time librarian Ms. Anne Marie Strom, who also serves as librarian for another school, impressed Kujawa with her collaborative work with teachers on the school’s reading program. Welcomed with a banner and breakfast, Kujawa not only shadowed the librarian, but met with the principal and teachers, and had the opportunity to speak with students in several classrooms. She even sat in on a student council meeting and library club meeting. During her visit with 7th and 8th grade girls, she talked about opportunities that await them in the field of hospitality. The students even came prepared to ask questions.

The day ended with talk about continuing the relationship between the schools with future student visits to Lexington. “I was very pleased with the entire School Librarian for a Day Program,” said Kujawa. She even had the SLFAD afternoon event participants laughing when she mentioned that after her day with these students, they all wanted future careers as wedding planners!

MLS Staff Shadow CPS Library Members

MLS staff also took part in the SLFAD event. MLS Executive Director Alice Calabrese, Consultants Jeannie Dilger-Hill, Gretel Stock-Kupperman, and Christina Stoll, and Interlibrary Loan Bibliographic Assistant Semi Grady’s’ experiences follow:

Calabrese was paired with the Andrew Jackson Language Academy, where K-8 students learn Spanish, French, Italian, Japanese and Chinese as part of the curriculum. Librarian Ms. Susan Knibbs utilizes the library as both a learning space and a community space for faculty and staff. An up-to-date collection of 15,000 books reflects the support of the principal, faculty and parents. “Ms. Knibbs is to be congratulated for her efforts in creating an environment which encourages a love of learning and reading,” remarked Calabrese.

Dilger-Hill visited Granville T. Woods Academy, a K-8 school with nearly 700 students, all served by solo librarian Ms. Collins-Lee. With \$2000 budget to purchase books, Ms. Collins-Lee was also assisted this past year by a donation from the Book Worm Angels (<http://bookwormangels.org>), a nonprofit organization

established to address the lack of books in Chicago elementary schools. The media center has 10 new computers funded by a grant but is not automated, and Ms. Collins-Lee does all of the cataloging and circulation by herself.

Stock-Kupperman spent her day at the Jordon Community School, a diverse K-8 school on the north side of the city. Taking up most of the third floor, this spacious library is served by Ms. Debra Toporek. Ms. Toporek's duties include checking in and out materials, shelving, reader's advisory, and organizing Jordan's first ever Battle of the Books team.

Stoll's day was spent at O.A. Thorp Scholastic Academy shadowing another solo librarian, Ms. Cathy Ruszel. The day included a visit from three different elementary classes and a puppet show on American Revolutionary History. With occasional assistance from parent volunteers and student teachers, Ms. Ruszel is responsible for classroom instruction, storytelling, circulation, cataloging, shelving, and material selection. The library only has four computers, making it challenging to ensure all students get access to online resources.

Grady meet with school librarian Connie Amon from the Orozco Academy in the Pilsen neighborhood. On the day of her visit the library was hosting the Scholastic Book Fair. Her day also included a tour of the library, and several classroom visits. Grady participated in reading a bilingual story to a fourth grade class as well as meeting several teachers attending the book fair.

Chicago Public School Libraries

During the afternoon portion of the SLFAD event, Paul Whitsitt, Director for Libraries and Information Services for Chicago Public School (<http://www.cps.k12.il.us/aboutcps/departments/libraries>) presented the challenges and the achievements of the CPS libraries. Whitsitt also shared ideas on how other librarians can help support CPS libraries in need:

- . Offer library resources through donations of library books, databases, computers, furniture, software, and equipment.
- . Provide funding for professional development opportunities for CPS librarians such as conference attendance, trainings and networking.
- . Volunteer either at a CPS library or at field trips, family reading night, book fairs, school competitions and events.
- . Advocate for school libraries.

For additional information about the SLFAD event, contact Christina Stoll at stollic@mls.lib.il.us or (630) 734-5117. For information about the Chicago Public School Department of Libraries, call their main phone line at (630) 553-6210.



School Library for a Day Participants at the afternoon reception



O.A. Thorp Scholastic Academy Library Story time Area



Granville T. Woods Academy Media Center

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Library Invaded by Teens and Technology

by Christina Stoll, MLS

The Blue Island Public Library (<http://www.blueislandlibrary.org>) has been invaded by teens and technology, thanks in part to the creative talents of staff member Darren Thompson, IT Manager and Technology Programming, and his use of library 2.0 technologies to create a space for young adults within the library. The Tech Annex also provides a wide range of services for all library patrons, including a recording studio, enclosed computer classroom, 3D Animation software, and video editing equipment.

The Perfect Community Partnership

The idea for creating the technology and teen space came from Thompson's prior work experience in a school setting, where he witnessed student involvement with technology in the art, music and TV studio production departments. His dream of creating a similar type space for student use in a public library setting took shape when he came to work for BIPL.

Thompson approached teachers and staff at the Eisenhower High School District 218, and quickly discovered that his idea provided them with the perfect solution to a problem he wasn't even aware existed. Use of technology by Eisenhower students was limited by school hours and lack of staffing. Coincidentally, the school's video editing studio had been recently been flooded.

But wait, the BILP has space and staff available outside of schools hours. Why not provide the same resources that support the school district's curriculum, create an afterschool space for teens, and enhance the technology resources available to the entire community? This was the proposal that Thompson presented to library administration and the board.

The Tech Annex is Born!

Originally used to house historical community artifacts, the Tech Annex is paving the way for the future achievements of its residents. Intended to be a multi-purpose, advanced technology space, the room provides:

- . A safe place for young adults to be creative and hang out.
- . An enclosed computer classroom.
- . A recording studio.
- . Additional patron program and staff meeting and training space.

Some of the resources available in the Tech Annex include:

- . 3D Modeling and Animation
- . Audio Sound Recording
- . Video & Image Editing
- . Web Development Station
- . 10.1 Megapixel SLR Digital Camera
- . Sony Playstation 2
- . Yamaha keyboard, microphones, mixers and headphones

Check out this slide show presentation of the Tech Annex at <http://www.blueislandlibrary.org/library/6a.htm>.

Teen Advisory Board

The Tech Annex space wouldn't be what it is today without the support of the Teen Advisory Board. As the Tech Annex grew in popularity among kids and teens, Thompson saw a need for structure around the use of the room and to ensure the entire community had access. This led to the creation of the Teen Advisory Board or TAB. TAB's mission is to "strengthen relations between youth and the community by creating new programs

and encouraging opportunities for youth to give back to the community.” TAB meets monthly, focusing its efforts on

- . Helping the library pick materials and create programs and services geared towards YAs.
- . Creating an avenue for YAs to volunteer to help the Library and community.
- . Creating a social network for YAs

For more information about TAB, check out their MySpace page at <http://www.myspace.com/122318522>.

What do these teens do in the Tech Annex?

- . Record music, create podcasts, movies and artwork.
- . Create 3D models and animate them.
- . Compete in various contests.
- . Digitize the history of Blue Island.

While initially a male-dominated space, girls are gaining an interest and contributing to the Tech Annex. Here, 16 year-old Sarah adds her own artistic touch by painting a mural on the Teen Annex wall.



When asked what impact has the Tech Annex and TAB had on the library, Thompson replied,

“Due to the TAB, the Library has seen an increase in the number of high school students coming in to use the library on a regular basis who wouldn’t otherwise come. The library is better able to serve high school teens since TAB provides them an avenue to provide input and produce output.”

Technology for the Entire Community

The Tech Annex is not just for teenagers. Patrons of all ages use the space for computer classes or personal computer usage. One family is using the recording studio equipment to create their own personal experiences. 8 year-old Lena records readings from some of her favorite stories, while 12 year-old brother Ben creates book discussion podcasts. Even mom is getting into the technology by learning how to run the editing software. The library is hoping similar uses of the Tech Annex will become popular with other families in the community.

Blue Island’s City Planning Department has also used the Tech Annex when it needed a place to develop maps for future city planning. By using ArcGIS mapping software and a projector, the Tech Annex provided the perfect space for this project.

Creating Your Own Space

Factors to consider if you’d like to create a similar space in your library:

- . Get administration, library board and staff buy-in.

- . Select a good location within the library, asr noise can be a factor.
- . Make this a community-wide service, not just for teens.
- . Promote your space.
- . Support the technology by either training staff, hiring an external consultant or tap into the knowledge and skills of the teens in your community.

And the number one secret behind the success of the Tech Annex – provide pizza at all events!

By providing a space like the Tech Annex, Thompson says, “the BIPL has increased community awareness of the Library and what the Library has to offer the Community,” which is the real magic of this space.

For additional information about the Blue Island Public Library’s Tech Annex, contact Darren Thompson at dthompson@blueislandlibrary.org.



Teens using the Tech Annex computers.



Musical instruments being played for a recording in the Tech Annex.



A Guitar Hero (<http://www.guitarherogame.com>) Tournament.

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Meet MLS Staff: Lynette Glenn

by Christina Stoll, MLS

With a strong belief in providing excellent customer service, Lynette Glenn, Administrative Assistant for the Consulting and Continuing Education (CE) Department (<http://www.mls.lib.il.us/ce/index.asp>) stands by her values. Working for the Metropolitan Library System (MLS) for the past seven years, Lynette's main areas of responsibility within the Consulting and CE Department include CE registration and membership.

Under CE registration, Lynette assists staff from member libraries with completing their workshop registration, either online or by phone, fax or email. She processes CE billing, purchase orders for workshop costs such as food or speaker fees, and finalizes all participant cancelations, as well as creates all promotional workshop flyers. At a workshop, either in Burr Ridge or Chicago or at an off-site location, you've probably seen Lynette assisting a speaker or placing handouts at the back of the room. These are all part of her duties under CE.

If you ever called the main phone line at MLS, you may have spoken to Lynette. As the lead operator in the MLS call center, Lynette answers and forwards all phone calls coming into MLS that don't go directly to an extension number.

Unlike her ongoing CE and phone duties, Lynette's membership responsibilities vary at different times of the year. She ensures various member library reports are processed and that member libraries are notified of due dates and required content. These include the Non-Resident Public Library Card Agreements, Illinois Public Library Annual Reports (IPLAR), Public and System Per Capita Grants, and the System Annual Report.

Lynette also updates the System's Vendor Discount list, and orders the Blue and White "Support Illinois Libraries" Magnetic Ribbons, which can be ordered for \$.45 cents each for members or a \$1.00 each for non-members. To place an order for magnets or to get information on what vendor discounts MLS offers, contact Lynette at glennl@mls.lib.il.us or call at (630) 734-5145.

All new members approved by the MLS Board come through Lynette's desk, where she completes all of the necessary documents for the member, MLS, and the State Library. "I love reading and learning about the new libraries that join the system," says Lynette.

A Few Fun Facts You May Not Know About Lynette

- . She loves to travel and wants to visit Barbados.
- . Is a big sports fan, especially when it comes to basketball or football.
- . Enjoys bowling and visiting amusement parks, especially if they have go carts.

The next time you call MLS, you may just find yourself speaking to Lynette, so please give her a hello.

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Member Spotlight: MLS Local History Group

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The Metropolitan Library System (MLS) has several member library networking groups in a variety of interests and subjects. Ranging from young adult to solo librarians to library staff interested in graphic design and reference, these groups provide an opportunity for library staff to network and share ideas outside of their library. Up first is the MLS Local History Networking group.

The MLS Local History group kicked off its first official meeting last November at the Elmwood Park Public Library. The group is comprised of both librarians and interested individuals in the greater Chicago Metropolitan area who are involved with the development and maintenance of libraries' local history collections. The group's mission is to share its members' knowledge, skills, ideas, and interests with regard to developing, maintaining, and promoting local history collections. Group members also provide support and encouragement to each other for the benefit of the communities served.

Anyone who works with and/or has responsibility for a local history collection in relations with a library can join the group. You do not need be a librarian, nor need to work at a MLS member library, or even work at a library. The group welcomes participation from all library system members in northeastern Illinois, and even encourages library trustees and volunteers to participate. Keeping with its mission and focus the only criteria for membership is occupational or volunteer activity with local history collections in libraries.

To join the MLS Local History Group, you can do one of the following:

- Join their Yahoo Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MLSLocalHistory>

The Yahoo Group provides an online space for the posting of upcoming meetings, the sharing of questions and resources between group members and a listing of group members.

- You'll be prompted to provide your name, email address, library and a few words about your local history activity.
- You will need to sign up for a Yahoo ID, but you can use any email address.
- Email co-moderators Kathy Nicola at nicolak@eisenhowerpld.org or Rick Roche at rick@fordlibrary.org and provide them with your name, email address, library and a few words about your local history activity and why you'd like to join the group.

Many of the group's members have made rewarding connections and taken away valuable ideas to further the advancement of their own local history collections.

Maywood Public Library

The Maywood Public Library (www.maywood.org) has two librarians who have been active with the MLS Local History group for the past year: Carol Clover, Head of the Reference Department and Kris Flanders, Technical Services Department Head and Local History Librarian.

The library's reference department maintains a collection of pictures of Maywood, local history clippings, and an index to their local history collection. Additional information can be found on the library's web site at <http://www.maywood.org/library/Adult.htm#Local%20History>. For a complete overview of Maywood history, check out the library's part-time librarian and author Doug Deuchler's book *Maywood: Images of America*.

Last month the library celebrated National Historic Preservation Month (<http://www.maywood.org/library/HistoricPreservation.htm>). This included a library sponsored lecture and presentation by Jeanette Fields, renowned architectural columnist and architectural historian. The curator of Maywood's West Town Museum of Cultural History was also present to discuss Sears mail-order homes.

June's theme will focus on the 2007 Summer Festivals in the Chicago area. From the library's web site

(<http://www.maywood.org/library/Summer2007.htm>) patrons can link to Chicago events throughout the city such as at such venues like Millennium Park, Navy Pier, the Maywood Parks and Recreation activities and Ravinia.

By participating in the MLS Local History group, the Maywood Public Library gets exposure to local history collections of neighboring libraries, access to local history reference and research tools, and collaboration with other libraries on funding and assistance with grant proposals for local history projects.

Brookfield Public Library

The Brookfield Public Library (<http://www.brookfieldpubliclibrary.info>) has been a member of the MLS Local History Group since its beginning.

Christy Eyre, Adult Services Librarian at Brookfield was really excited when she heard about the possibility of such a group forming. "Not every community is fortunate enough to have a historical society. In those cases, the public library is often the only source for information relating to a community's history," states Christy.

Brookfield has a historical society with open hours every 2nd and 4th Sunday of May through September. One of the reasons the library joined the MLS Local History group is to improve its own small local history collection. The library is also looking for ways to improve their relationship with the town's historical society.

Hearing the successes and difficulties of other libraries' local history collections at group meetings has been very rewarding for Christy. The group shares ideas ranging from collection development tips to brainstorming grant ideas for future development of their collections.

"I come away from the meetings with ideas for ways to further develop Brookfield's Local History Collection." says Christy. "I think it's great to have a group like this because it helps make the task of maintaining local history collections much less daunting. We're able to learn from each other and help each other out."

For additional information about the MLS Local History Group contact Kathy Nicola at nicolak@eisenhowerpld.org or (708) 867-7828.

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