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Announcements

On Monday, July 20, 2009, the **Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Library System**, and the **Board of LIMRiCC** will meet. The LIMRiCC meeting will convene at 5:30 p.m., the MLS Board meeting immediately following. Meeting agendas can be found at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/board>. Both meetings will be held at the MLS Burr Ridge Office located at 125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527.

Congratulations to the following **MLS attendees at this year's 16th annual Small Public Library Management Institute** : Cathy Alberts, River Grove Public Library District; Jim Deiters, Blue Island Public Library; Kelley Nichols, University Park Library District; Lisa Korajczyk, Steger-South Chicago Heights; Lori Craft, Hillside Public Library; Michael Davis, Chicago Heights Free Public Library; and the **Institute for School & Public Librarians**: Brigida Arreola, Berwyn Public Library and Janis Elmore, Steger-South Chicago Heights Library.

Input Needed On Administrative/Leadership Standards for Library Systems. The Library System Standards Committee recently approved a draft of the Administrative/Leadership standards for comment by the Illinois library community. The standards are posted on WebJunction Illinois at <http://il.webjunction.org/il-systems/-/resources/discussion/68492291>. Please take the time to review and submit your comments. A WebJunction account is not needed to view the draft, but is needed to post comments. The next committee meeting is July 23 at the Illinois State Library.

Free Demco ALA Exhibit Hall passes are available at <http://www.demco.com/goto?ALAPASS&BWN0000>. Requests received will be available onsite at McCormick Place.

Sign up for Wilson Select Plus for 2009/2010. The Illinois Library Systems have secured pricing for FY2010 for the Wilson Select Plus databases. To purchase access to this database visit http://www.illinoislibrarysystems.info/si_Wilson.html. All new or returning institutions must sign a new agreement prior to September 14, 2009 to ensure uninterrupted access to this resource. For additional information contact Amanda McKay, Special Projects Coordinator, Illinois Library

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[[Permalink](#)]

SLA Conference, Centennial Celebration

The 100 year SLA conference, June 14-17, 2009 in Washington DC, had a centennial theme from start to finish. The week offered lively presentations, evening networking events, time with the exhibit vendors, and an unexpected Presidential motorcade sighting.

[[Permalink](#)]

[Read full article http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2009/03_13/slaconference.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2009/03_13/slaconference.asp)

Continuing Education Events

After you attend an MLS CE class, please remember to look for the electronic evaluation in your email! Your feedback is key to planning for future classes and for making decisions on bringing back instructors. If you don't receive an evaluation after a class, please contact Yvonne Riley at riley@mls.lib.il.us.

[Local History Special Interest Group](#), Mr. Terry Tatum, Chicago Commission on Landmarks, Thursday, July 23, 2009, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., MLS Burr Ridge

[Basic Troubleshooting Tips for Non-IT Staff](#), Toby Greenwalt & Adam Wisniewski, Thursday, August, 13, 2009, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., MLS Burr Ridge

Black Belt Librarian: Handling Difficult Customers, Warren Graham, Thursday, August 20, 2009, [9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.](#) **Black Belt Librarian: Self-Defense Tactics for Front Line Staff**, [1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.](#); both workshops at MLS Burr Ridge

[Digital Content Management for Libraries](#), Alyce Scott, Tuesday, August 25, 2009, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., MLS Burr Ridge

[Licensing of Resources for Libraries](#), Barbara S. Dunham, Wednesday, August 26, 2009, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., MLS Chicago

For more information and to register, visit the MLS CE Calendar at <http://www.librarylearning.info/?LibSys=MLS>.

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Grants & Awards

The **Tom's of Maine's "50 States for Good" initiative** is celebrating and rewarding nonprofits from across the country whose efforts are focused on lasting, positive change in the community. Tom's of Maine is hoping to inspire participation from nonprofits of all sizes and is excited to hear about the community projects that matter most to them. 501(c)(3) organizations from across the country are encouraged to apply. 5 organizations demonstrating immediate achievability, positive impact in the community, and engagement and mobilization among members of the community will receive \$20,000 each. Deadline to apply is August 30, 2009. For more information and to download an application visit

<http://www.tomsomaine.com/community-involvement/project-sponsorships.aspx>.

[[Permalink](#)]

Behind the Curtain: How a Library Joins SWAN

MLS recently had its 80th library join the System Wide Area Network (SWAN). In this article we'll go behind the curtain and learn how a library joins SWAN. What happens at both the MLS office and at the library; how the library and MLS SWAN staff are involved in the migration process; and how a successful launch is celebrated.

[\[Permalink\]](#)

[Read full article http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2009/03_13/joinswan.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2009/03_13/joinswan.asp)

Member Spotlight: MLS Libraries Go Green

Seems like everywhere you go these days you're given a canvas bag, hear about an earth-friendly option or educated on how to reduce your carbon foot print. Libraries and their staff are also finding ways to go green and be more environmentally conscious. This article shares the green practices of several public, school, and special MLS libraries, in the hopes that others will follow.

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http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2009/03_13/librariesgogreen.asp

Next Issue

The next issue of *MLS E-nounce* will appear July 22, 2009. [\[Permalink\]](#)

SLA Conference, Centennial Celebration

by Christina Stoll,

The 100 year celebration of the Special Library Association conference did not disappoint. Held in Washington DC June 14-17, 2009, the event saw 5,856 attendees from 30 countries, with 299 Exhibitors at 462 booths, 48 of which were first timers.

The centennial celebration theme was present from start to finish, . The conference kicked off with a ribbon cutting and champagne toast at the opening of the Info-Expo.

Other themes included a strong presence of green efforts and a change in vendor giveaways. From my conference bag made of recycled materials to the paperless presentations (<http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/ac2009/Conference/handouts/index.cfm>), the green efforts carried on throughout the conference right up the very end when one lucky attendee won a smart car. The raffling off of big prizes was a pleasant change, from Kindles to Video I-pods.

The opening general session began with a presentation of the *SLA Awards & Honors* (<http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/awardsrecognition/index.cfm>) followed by keynote speaker former Secretary of State and Retired General Colin L. Powell. Funnier than I expected a former Secretary of State to be, General Powell shared his experiences bringing the US embassies into the 21st century technology to his own personal change into retirement and learning how to Instant Message his grandchildren.

The week offered spotlight speaker presentations, evening networking events, and time with the exhibit vendors. While the conference focus is on Special libraries I was able to connect with vendors that cater to our other library types. The Association of Independent Information Professionals (www.aiip.org) booth offered services that new and experienced librarians may wish to consider if they decide to work for themselves one day. A representative from the British Library (www.bl.uk) shared with me article and database resources that our academic libraries may find of interest, while the folks at the www.galaxypress.com booth gave me a book and DVD samples of their L. Ron Hubbard series which our school and youth services members may want to explore further.





Opening Ceremony of the Info Expo at the SLA 2009 Conference

While I'm an experienced conference attendee, this was my first SLA annual conference. As a first timer, I thought I'd see what the *First Timers and Fellows Connect* event was about and found this to be a wonderful opportunity to meet both SLA fellows and other first timers. I connected with current library school students as well as a librarian from the United Kingdom, and won a Centennial Celebration t-shirt. As a Dominican University's GSLIS alumni I was asked to sit at their table during the *SLA Alumni & Student Connect*, which served as another great opportunity to meet special libraries from all over the country.

The sessions that best stood out for me included:

George Scott, Director of Channel Marketing for Springer (www.springer.com) presented *ROI 2.0 Corporate*, where he shared his company's five step process on how a special library can convey their Return on Investment to the larger organization. The complete presentation can be found at <http://www.slideshare.net/libraryzone/sla-hot-topic-roi-20-corporate-libraries>.

Jay Liebowitz, author of *Social Networking: The Essence of Innovation* spoke about the power of social networking within an organization and how it can support the flow of information and knowledge sharing and potential innovation. This is a practice I've followed in that that you have to share knowledge before you can capture and use it. Often the first step towards implementing a knowledge management initiative is to review your organization's culture, possibly conduct a social network analysis to determine who on your staff are the key people others go to for information versus those isolated, and then determine how to make a stronger flow of information.

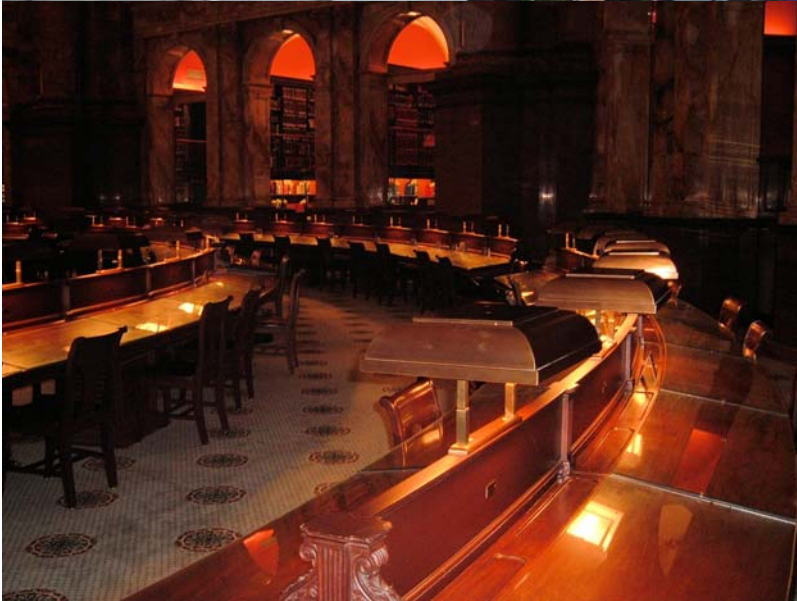
The *SLA Hot Topic: Wikis, Tweets, and Blogs, Oh My!* included panelists Keith Kupferschmid, Senior Vice President, Intellectual Property Policy and Enfo, SIIA, Jill Hurst-Wahl, *President*, Hurst Associates, Ltd., and Laura Malone, Associate General Counsel, The Associated Press. Their discussion focused on the impact of social networking and new media, particularly what is considered correct copyright practices in a world where both individuals and journalists are using social networking to not just convey a story, but in some cases become the story.

One example given to show the changes of social networking on the media was the <http://www.huffingtonpost.com> use of writers they do not pay. Another example was the speed in which events happen and how newer technologies in some cases are just better equipped to report a story vs. traditional news sources, as was the case with CNN's reporting of the Iranian elections hours after the story had been broadcast through Twitter and YouTube.

I was slightly disappointed with the no show speaker for the session on *Forensics: Beyond the TV Shows*, but can you really question a Secret Service agent's priorities? This did give me the opportunity to hear author Steve Denning, someone I have followed throughout my own Knowledge Management work, talk about the power of storytelling. Denning's presentation itself was one story after another which honed in on his message

that anyone can convey a difficult concept to non-believers by breaking it down into a simple story. His presentation provided some of his key elements, from practicing your story, to honing your listening skills, getting insider your listener's world and capturing your audience's attention, to being aware that you're doing to disturb your listen's world, and yet stories can convey new ideas which can inspire change.

The *Awards and Leadership Reception* took place at the Library of Congress Jefferson Building, which offered the opportunity for attendees to tour the main reading room and the card catalog where I found two drawers with my ancestors' name of Blount/Blunt, William Blount having signed the Constitution for the then state of North Carolina.



Outside the Library of Congress Jefferson Building, and the main reading room.



Card Catalog room at the Library of Congress Jefferson building, and proof that even the Library of Congress uses carts!

The *Closing Keynote Session* included broadcast journalist Judy Woodruff who moderated a lively panel which included Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, who's work led Pluto losing its planetary status, John R. Patrick, former vice president of Internet technology at IBM Corporation and author of the blog <http://patrickweb.com>, and Robyn Meredith, Senior Editor, Asia for *Forbes Magazine*.

The group was posed with questions around the increasing amount of information and the speed in which it is coming at us and the role this offers to libraries and information professions. There was a strong consensus among the group that search engines miss the human ability to judge and interpret, offering information professions the role of interpreter, teacher, and selector of relevant information.

They also touched upon the generational differences of the value of privacy, and that while technology can open

some scary doors, individuals also have the ability to turn it off and be as private as they want.

Another example of the potential technology brings was with healthcare in its current analog form offering little to no security, and yet could be made more secure through digitization.

Globalization of information was a final theme the panel touched upon as their view of information in the future. Examples given included US education with regard to our poor test scores and how do we light a fire under our students to remain competitive with the rest of the world. Two solutions were given, the first being to offer more opportunities as grand as they once were during the Apollo mission that inspire students with the “go to the moon” bug so they are knocking down the doors to entire the fields of Science and Math. The other suggestion given was to use social networking technologies such as wikis to share lectures world-wide, so students everywhere have access to the best educational models.

The panel also addressed the impact of September 11 and the increased difficulties visiting students are having with getting visas to not only study within the United States, but to remain here adding to our country’s knowledge vs. going back home and taking their knowledge with them.

The closing session also provided the opportunity for SLA CEO Janice Lachance and current SLA president Gloria Zamora to share some of the recent and up and coming changes to the association.

<http://www.slatv.org> was launched as an additional way for SLA to connect with its members. The organization will also consider a name change as part of SLA Alignment Project (<http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/alignment/index.cfm>).

Conference photos are available at

http://slablogger.typepad.com/sla_blog/2009/06/photos-from-sla-2009-now-available-for-download.html

Attendees could also access the SLA wiki for conference information

(<http://wiki.sla.org/display/SLA2009/Welcome+to+the+2009+Annual+Conference+Wiki%21>), Twitter during the

conference @sla2009, or read the conference blog posts at

http://slaconnections.typepad.com/conference_blog.

I could not have asked for a better time. Even the trip back to the airport was eventual, my taxi stopped as the President’s motorcade drove right in front of me. Let’s see how next year’s conference can top that in New Orleans, June 13-16, 2010.

Questions about this article can be sent to stollc@mls.lib.il.us.

Behind the Curtain: How a Library Joins SWAN

by MLS SWAN Staff

MLS recently had its 80th library go live on its integrated library automation system called SWAN (System Wide Automated Network).

Recently the Bridgeview Public Library (<http://www.bridgeviewlibrary.org/bridgeview>) was the 80th library to join SWAN. The Brookfield Public Library (<http://www.brookfieldpubliclibrary.info>) joined in October 2006, and the Thornton Public Library, which was not automated prior to joining SWAN, is currently completing its file building with anticipated circulation on SWAN to start in fall 2009. Up next is the Oak Park Public Library, which was recently approved for SWAN membership.

What did each of the libraries in SWAN go through to become a member of this service? What happens at the MLS Burr Ridge office during migration? What is the role of the MLS staff, and how are staff at the library joining SWAN involved in the process? These questions and more will be answered as we look behind the curtain in this article at how a library joins SWAN.

Joining SWAN means a library's collection will be added to and begin circulating on the SWAN catalog <http://swan.mls.lib.il.us>, through the Encore browser <http://swanencore.mls.lib.il.us/iii/encore/app> as well as be searchable by other SWAN libraries. Items can be placed on hold, loaned, and borrowed among SWAN libraries.

On average, joining SWAN can take from twelve to 18 months. A staff of 19 at MLS, along with a 2-3 Innovative Interfaces Inc. project team, and the staff at the joining library are all involved in the project at some point.

Beginning the Migration Process

Typically joining SWAN starts when an interested library contacts Aaron Skog, Director of SWAN Services at skoga@mls.lib.il.us to discuss the cost and the process involved.

"After I get off the phone, I push this giant red button on my office wall, and the migration is completed," says Aaron with a straight face. "Actually the button is just a drawing. I wish there was a button!"

The first part of the migration process is to conduct an impact study in order to identify a library's needs. The library's size, current hardware and software compatibility, extent of the collection's automation, and if the current SWAN network is capable of supporting the new library are all factors that play into the eventual cost and timeline of the project.

Once a library has completed its impact study the SWAN membership votes on approving its membership. If a library is approved the MLS SWAN staff get started on creating a project plan and timeline.

Middle Migration Process

Any technology upgrades at either the library's end or on the SWAN network are identified, purchased, and targeted for installation. For example both the Brookfield and Thornton Public Libraries required new patron computers, whereas other migrations have required the SWAN network to be upgraded.

In addition to preparing the technology for the migration, a library's collection, its patron's records, and other data needs to be mapped, so it can all be added to the SWAN system. The MLS SWAN staff will meet with library staff to determine how best to translate the current records to something that means something similar in SWAN. This migration process will vary depending on the automation circumstances of the joining library.

If a library joining SWAN is already automated with another vendor, more than likely their records are already organized in a particular way. The records will need to be mapped into parameters used by SWAN.

This is typically called “data mapping” during a library migration. The library will have their data mapped by SWAN staff and Innovative staff into the new configuration and then tested repeatedly by taking a small sampling and loading it onto the SWAN Test server. Both the MLS SWAN staff and the library staff will review the results. Anything that is not correct will need to be re-mapped, and the test repeated until all errors are resolved.

If a library is not automated, as was the case with the Thornton Public Library, the library’s collection needs to be hand entered, a process SWAN calls “file building,” which the MLS SWAN staff will train the library staff to perform.

Throughout all of this, the SWAN department heads Sandy Hayes, SWAN Network Administrator, Tony Siciliano, SWAN Database Manager, and Heidi Bruss, SWAN Software & Training Manager along with Aaron Skog, Director of SWAN Services, and Nancy Ciesiel, Automation Administrative Manager who oversees much of the project management, will begin to meet weekly. Throughout the project there is continued communication with the project manager at Innovative, and the Library Director and key library staff.

End Migration Process

When the final test of the data mapping has been completed, a final go live date can be identified. The final load of data will be done during off hours, so as not to impact the other SWAN libraries.

Training takes place throughout the project. This includes MLS SWAN staff instructing the joining library staff on what’s in a record, how a record is coded, how to conduct searching in SWAN, enter items, create reports etc. This training can take place at either the library or the MLS Burr Ridge office or a mix of both.

Going live onto SWAN involves a final pull of the data. A previously automated library will need to use both their old and the new SWAN system for a set time period, referred to as a “gap period.” The reason for this is just before a library “goes live” on SWAN data is pulled from the library’s existing automation system and then dumped into SWAN. The library finishes one business day using their old system and begins the very next day using the new system. Since materials have been checked out on the old system, the library will maintain the old and new systems until all checked out materials have been returned or resolved.

Go Live – Milestone

Celebrating a library going live on SWAN is always a major milestone. With the recent launch of the Bridgeview Public Library onto SWAN on April 27, 2009, the MLS SWAN staff brought treats to the library on the morning of the launch to celebrate with the library staff. The SWAN staff then had their own celebration back at the office later in the week once the launch was a success.

Some libraries elect to do a soft launch and then announce to the public more formally a week or so later. This gives library staff time to adjust before the community is fully aware of the changes.

Post Go Live Training Phase

The work is not over once a library has gone live on SWAN. Additional steps need to be completed by both the MLS SWAN staff and the library staff. Additional training and checking in with the library staff over the upcoming months continues as they use the system. Creating certain reports, using features for the first time live that were only experienced by the library staff during the training and other components can only be addressed as they happen.

Rose Taylor, Library Director at the Bridgeview Public Library provides a few comments and tips about her library’s experience joining SWAN:

“The SWAN staff held our hands throughout the entire process. They were very patient, went through every step as well as provided very complete written instructions. Anytime we had a question, we’d call them and they’d answer. Even after we went live, the SWAN staff continued to come out to the library and conduct training.”

Rose's tips for a smooth migration:

“During training and the migration keep things up beat and fun. We did this by having lunch brought in for the staff during training and providing lots and lots of chocolate. Stay positive. Don't let the project overwhelm you and your staff. Especially during the initial stages, there is a lot of repetitive work setting up your parameters. This work pays off when you go live and don't have to make as many changes then. Joining SWAN, made life at the Bridgeview Public Library a whole lot easier!”

At the end of every SWAN project, the MLS staff gathers to review what went well and what lessons were learned. This is where some of the most valuable information is gathered which is then applied the next time a library comes aboard SWAN.

Any questions about this article should be sent to Aaron Skog at skoga@mls.lib.il.us.

Published **July 8, 2009** in vol. 3, iss. 13 [[View](#)]

Member Spotlight: MLS Libraries Go Green

by Christina Stoll, MLS

Seems like everywhere you go these days you're given a canvas bag, hear about an earth-friendly option or educated on how to reduce your carbon foot print. Libraries and their staff are also finding ways to go green and be more environmentally conscious. This article shares the green practices of several public, school, and special MLS libraries, in hopes that others will follow.

From library-wide initiatives to small individual efforts, each of these libraries are doing their part to go green.

Susan Kubinski Dienes, Programming and Community Relations Coordinator for the **Tinley Park Public Library** (<http://www.tplibrary.org>) reports that her library's green efforts began after the completion of their new building five years ago.

A library-wide effort, the library's go green initiative was staff-driven with strong administrative support. Staff volunteered to recycle paper, cardboard, and old books, while administrators oversee the recycling of materials such as ink cartridges, disposal of hazardous materials, and the adaption of the library's lighting and HVAC settings to reduce energy usage. Together the administration and staff take an active role in finding out the best method of disposal, often sharing the findings with colleagues on the MLS mailing list Reflist at reflist@mls.lib.il.us. Other efforts include:

- Staff identifying good homes for discarded books, even making arrangements for their pickup from the library.
- Using old paper for scrap paper and purchasing recycled paper products.
- Providing a collection box for old eye glasses and one for unused skeins of yarn for the library's Stitch Club.
- Motion sensors on the public washroom lights that shut off when not in use.
- Using a multitude of electronic resources in an effort to cut down on paper memos.

The reaction among staff has been very positive. These efforts have been fairly easy to implement and satisfying in that the staff know they are doing their part for the good of their community and the environment as a whole. Questions contact Rich Wolff Library Administrator at r_wolff@tplibrary.org.

The **Maywood Public Library District** (<http://www.maywoodlibrary.org>) started on-going green efforts as a major library initiative last year. They created a brochure and display held in their Reference Department, promoting resources within the library on various environmental topics. Books, CDs, and DVD's were included on topics from Recycling to Global Warming. Questions contact Victor A. Dixon at vdixon@maywoodlibrary.org.

The elementary school library within **LaGrange Highland School District 106** (<http://xbox.district106.net/html/modules.php?name=LRC>) emails their overdue notices to patrons instead of sending out paper copies reports librarian Stephaine Edell, sedell@district106.net.

Sharon O'Leary from the **Forest Park Public Library** (<http://www.fppl.org>) used this year's spring break week as a "Kids Go Green at the Library" week. The library supported a "Green Fair" which provided kids with opportunities to participate in "going green" activities. They had a craft program where children could make spring candy filled baskets out of water bottles, painted vases made from recycled glass, learn how to recycle crayons, received light bulbs and free trees, and browsed an exhibit that showcased what kids all over the world were doing to "go green." The rest of the week included crafts and story-times based on recycling, and they hosted a Kidworks show on global warming. They hope to repeat some of these practices year round. Questions contact Sharon at solarey@sslic.net.

The **North Riverside Public Library** (<http://www.northriversidelibrary.org>) has been recycling since 2001. Their green efforts include recycling newspapers, magazines, and printer toner cartridges; offering the option of a reusable tote bag instead of the old practice of giving patrons plastic bags to carry home books, and separating recyclable "trash" and have recycling wastebaskets for patrons. The staff and community have been cooperative and supportive of these efforts which don't cost much money, time or effort. Questions contact

Robert J. Lifka, Library Director at lifkar@northriversidelibrary.org.

The **Matteson Public Library** (<http://www.mattesonpubliclibrary.org>) has had a recycling program for years geared towards the staff and recently placed recycling bins out in the public space. This summer the library's Adult Reading Program's theme is *Go Green, Read Green, and Get Goodies*. Participants read a "green" related book to receive a "green" related prize. In addition they will show educational PowerPoint slides on their TV's display screen, and offer other adult programming throughout the summer that has a "go green" focus.

Library Director Tracy Ducksworth at the **Grande Prairie Library District** (<http://www.grandeprairie.org>) highlight's her library's green roof. "We opted for a newer greener solution when we replaced our 25 year old roof last fall," reports Tracy. For additional information contact the library at gpsreference@yahoo.com.

Kathy Spedale, school librarian at **Oak Lawn-Hometown Middle School, District 123** (<http://www.d123.org>) shares her library's green efforts. "We try to use flash drives whenever possible to house presentations rather than printing the project. We are also moving from poster type presentations to electronic presentations, and last year I received a grant for two classroom sets of flash drives plus thirty more to check out," stated Kathy. Questions contact Kathy at kspedale@d123.org.

Last year the board and staff at the **Crete Public Library District** (<http://www.cretelibrary.org>) participated in a long-range planning session which resulted in a goal of "position the facility and the community for a Green Society". The library has spent the past year working on various initiatives to help staff and patrons live a greener life.

Working with the nearby Crete Lions Club Recycling Center, the library collects paper, glass, aluminum products, cell phones, plastics and batteries to be recycled. They also bring leftover books from their Friend's book sales to the Will County Land Use Department's annual book recycling event.

To promote its new green efforts the library has a Green Tips Tree in their lobby where patrons can contribute ideas for reducing, recycling, and reusing. Tips are rewarded with a MLS "Libraries- the Original Recyclers" tote bag.

Several programs were offered around the green theme including "Ricky Recycle" and "Turn Off the TV" for kids and "Eco-friendly Landscaping". The library also held a Community Shredding event, allowing the community to bring in personal papers to be destroyed and recycled.

In the library's Adult Services department they have a permanent Green Scene bulletin board to keep patrons informed of green services, events, and programming. They also created "Kill-a-Watt" kits which include a gadget to measure electricity use and a book on saving energy in your home that patrons can check out for two weeks. Many of these green efforts are managed a part-time library employee who has been given the title of "Green Goddess".

With a year of its green efforts underway, Jane R. Schulten, Administrative Librarian comments about the future of the Crete Public Library District's green initiative, "Down the road we will be exploring a building energy audit, containing water run-off in our parking lot, and re-landscaping to cut down on lawn mowing." Questions contact Jane at schulten@sslic.net.

Anne Huston, Youth Services Manager at the **Riverside Public Library** (<http://www.riversidelibrary.org>) shares her library's green page available at <http://www.riversidelibrary.org/Green.htm>. The page lists the library's green efforts, headed by a Green Committee. The page also includes ways patrons can contribute to the library's green efforts, from using a canvas bag to bringing in their own coffee mug. Questions contact Anne at hustona@riversidelibrary.org.

Amy L. Affelt, Director of Database Research at **Compass Lexecon** (<http://www.compasslexecon.com>) was recently recognized by the Special Librarian Association with an Earth Day Green Initiative Award *"for demonstrating that taking the initiative with adoption of green practices can start as small changes, implemented by a single committed individual, and still have an impact on the entire organization as well as the environment."*

Amy was instrumental in preparing a green best practices document for her company. She personally followed some of these herself such as printing less documents, powering down the office computers and turning off lights when the space was not in use, and has placed a tag line in her email signature that reads "please consider the environment before printing this email". Read the complete story at

<http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/pressroom/pressrelease/09pr/pr2908.cfm>.

Christine Cigler, Marketing Coordinator for the **Indian Prairie Public Library**

(<http://www.indianprairielibrary.org>) shared the outcomes her library recently conducting an energy audit which resulted in upgrades to the library's lighting system and a future savings for lighting costs, but also a reduction in the amount of pollutants they release into the environment and savings in their air conditioning costs.

"The energy audit concluded that we would save \$23,000 a year with more efficient lighting," said Laura Birmingham, assistant director.

"We see it as our responsibility to the community to be as energy efficient as possible," said Jamie Bukovac, Library Director, "and so we pursued a grant opportunity with the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation." The Foundation awarded a grant to the library for energy efficient upgrades to the indoor lighting systems in the library, with the library paying for the remainder of the cost. The energy audit showed that the cost would be recouped in savings in about 6 months.

In addition, the library prints its newsletter on recycled paper, provides two recycling bins in its parking lot for recycling paper, newspaper, magazines, catalogs, shredded paper and mail. There are Lions Club recycling containers for cell phones, eyeglasses, keys and inkjet cartridges at the reception desk.

The staff provides recycling containers in its lunch room and paper recycling bins throughout the library. Many staff printers are loaded with scratch paper for printing and the library provides dishes, silverware and cups to cut down on staff use of disposable products.

The Youth Services Department has recently added a series of books considered "green", in that the paper is made using at least 10% recycled materials, and the cover boards contain 100% recycled fibers. The Computer Services Department recycles outdated computer equipment through a recycler that does not take spare parts from the computer and put the rest in landfills, but instead repairs computers and gives them away to underprivileged schools and organizations.

The library has a whole makes a concerted effort to recycle, contacting other libraries and schools to see if they could use equipment and supplies our library no longer uses. Recently several hundred DVD cases were donated to a small library. Miscellaneous pieces of furniture, office equipment and even lighting baffles have been sold in conjunction with the Friends' annual book sale. Questions contact Christine at ciglerc@indianprairielibrary.org.

Each of these libraries and their staff should be commended for their work towards creating a better environment. Questions or comments about this article can be sent to consultants@mls.lib.il.us.

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