

Pinal County Library District Newsletter

Director's Column

Last January the consuming topic of interest in libraries was of the upcoming universal service fund, or e-rate, and the possibility of deep discounts on telecommunications services. The promises in the sky had supercharged the atmosphere, and we indeed were envisioning sugar plums in the form of fast and cheap internet connections. Now, one year later, the second round of applications begins with less excitement and more stoicism. After a year of applications and delays, many libraries still have not received funding commitment letters. In spite of the rocky start of this program, I have applied for discounts for FY1999-2000, hoping that this year will be managed better than last. The application "window" opened 12/01/98 and will continue until 3/11/99. During this period, all applications must be posted on the internet for 28 days to allow vendors to bid. The District Library is applying on behalf of the affiliate libraries on the network. To date, twelve applications have been filed.

Internet access for the rural libraries has become a reality.

January/February 1999

The County Information Technology Department (IT) has selected the Library District as a beta-site for direct internet access, beginning December 11. Full access with e-mail capabilities will become available when IT completes firewall testing. The direct connection is available to those libraries in the county that have a 56k line, wireless, or T1. John and Antoinette will be scheduling site visits to get each library connected. At the same time, they will be completing an inventory of PCLD equipment and testing hardware and software for Y2K compliance.

LSTA

Over one million dollars is available for competitive grants under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) in specific categories. We will apply for a technology grant to purchase additional equipment (network-aware laser printers, PCs, barcode scanners, fax machines) that will aid in completion of the online project. LSTA has included a category for digitization projects. The District is investigating what opportunities exist to digitize historical photographs, which could then be mounted on the library's server and made available to the public via the internet.

Online Project

We have ordered Win98 licensing for the District Library and all county-owned PCs in the affiliate libraries. Updating to Win98 will make toggling between the OPAC and internet much easier for library patrons.

AutoGraphics Inc. has begun the de-duping and mapping of our gap tape. It will take approximately 5-6 weeks to complete the upgrade.

Acquisitions, the final training module, is scheduled for January 19-22. The acquisitions module will allow us to order books and materials electronically, store the order record so patrons know a certain title is on order, and track encumbrances and expenditures. Please let Ellen know if you plan to attend.

Finally, it is that time of year when **Library Legislative Day** rolls around. This year, it is scheduled for January 26. I will be making appointments to meet our local legislators to let them know how much libraries appreciate their support and to give an update on library projects and activities. Additionally, I want to stress the importance of libraries for the vitality of our communities. Please consider attending with one of your local board members or library supporters to let our legislators know that the general

public and patrons value library services and are vitally interested in the well-being and success of their community libraries.

Denise Keller, Director

REFERENCE & OUTREACH SERVICES

Ellen and I have been keeping ourselves quite busy travelling to affiliate libraries for training on the Innopac. As each library comes online, we are teaching those who could not attend the training sessions how to barcode, enter and attach item records, issue library cards, and perform circulation procedures. I have created a binder of printed materials that have been useful to us in learning and using the system, which I will be copying and distributing to all affiliates shortly.

For those libraries who would like to take advantage of the Innopac's Serials Module, which allows libraries to check in periodicals (similar to a Kardex card) upon arrival, keep track of subscriptions, and circulate materials, I am available to provide training and help with your initial setup. A great advantage to using the Serials Module is that it will create a very current, online Union List of periodicals held by all affiliates using the Innopac, including dates held and most recent issue received.

April 16 at PCLD, 8:30 - 4:00:

REFERENCE TRIAGE: The Fine Art of Question Handling:

Developed for reference service information professionals, this course will focus on the steps involved in clarifying with the client what the reference question is, and constructing an appropriate strategy for tackling the question. The course will identify the variables that affect the question handling process: "internal" variables, such as the mission of the library, as well as the resources available and "external" variables relating to the client such as age, native language, educational level, and status. Please RSVP to me at 868-6460 if you would like to attend.

New at PCLD Professional Reference:

Assessing Service Quality: Satisfying the Expectations of Library Customers:

"...puts customers at the center of the evaluation process. It provides cutting-edge measurement strategies and data collection methods to measure service quality in academic and public libraries."

A Practical Guide to Internet Filters:

Discusses pros and cons of various filters from a performance perspective; purchase planning; guidelines for evaluation; pros and cons of web rating systems; and various perspectives of librarians who have decided whether or not they will filter, and why.

--and finally my personal favorite,
Creating Web Pages for

Dummies, as I will be the dummy creating the PCLD web site in the near future.

*Linda Shaw, Reference/Outreach
Services*

CATALOGING CORNER

INNOPAC:

Our new County Library Catalog is moving ahead swiftly. Several libraries have access to it and some are already using it for circulation. I have started receiving electronic bibliographic records

from our new book vendor, Baker & Taylor, and from McNaughton for our leased books. There are still a few small glitches to work out but I

hope to be loading these electronic bib records soon.

When you receive a shipment of books from either vendor please be sure to check your packing slips against the material you receive and send the results to Antoinette so that she can pay the invoice.

ILL:

It is essential to send a complete and exact citation when requesting an Inter-Library Loan. If you do not have a citation please contact Linda Shaw at (520) 868-6460. Linda is our reference librarian and can help you to identify requested material.

Please keep Antoinette informed on the status of the ILL material. OCLC requires that we update

the records when we receive and when we send material whether we are the receiving or supplying library. An email or a fax to this office each time you handle ILL material will help us to comply.

Ellen Fallon, Technical Services and Systems

NEWS AROUND THE COUNTY

APACHE JUNCTION:

January 7 at 2 p.m. Joe Policastro and his dog Taz will present a program entitled "**Training Dogs for Personal Use and Therapy**". It is all about ways you may not be aware of that dogs assist people.

January 12 at 6:30 p.m. we will have Lloyd Clark. His presentation this year will be about "**Things You Might Never Have Known About Arizona had You Missed this Talk**". This program is made possible by a grant from the Arizona Humanities Council.

January 21 at Noon we will host "**Poetry at the Junction**". Rita Magdaleno will give a poetry reading. Participants are invited to bring a brown bag lunch for this. Dessert and drinks will be provided by the Friends of the Library. Rita's appearance is made possible by a grant from the Arizona Commission on the Arts.

February 4 William Kinnison from CAC will present a program about "**Desert Landscaping**" at 7 p.m.

February 11 at 2 p.m., we will have Judy Nolte Temple, head of women's studies at UofA who will present "**Pioneer Women's Diaries : Reading Between the Lines**". This program gives us a new view of pioneer families through the reading of private documents. It is made possible by a grant from the Arizona Humanities Council.

February 16 we will have an evening poetry reading by Dana Weimer. It is entitled "**Beyond the Edge of a Wilderness : the Landscape of Imagination**". This program is made possible by a grant from the Arizona Commission on the Arts. Time TBA.

February 25 at 7 p.m., the topic is "**New Concepts in Integrated Medicine**". The audience will learn about effective alternative medicines from Dr. Marlene Briggs, a chiropractic and naturopathic physician.

"**Tots and Books**" will meet each Wednesday morning from 9 - 11 a.m. beginning January 6 and running through February 10, 1999. This program is intended to show adults ways to share books and toys with their children. Class size is limited and registration is required.

Storytime registration begins on February 3. Storytime will meet on Wednesdays beginning February 17 and continuing until April 7.

The **Book Discussion Group** will meet on the second Wednesday of Jan., Feb., and March in the program room at 2 p.m. The theme for this year is "**New American Worlds : Writing the Hemisphere**". Seating is limited and registration is required. This program is made possible by a grant from the Arizona Humanities Council.

Free introductory classes on computer use continue. These are offered in **Microsoft Word, Internet and E-mail**. Classes are for all ages and are designed for those with little or no computer experience. Registration is required. The classes are made possible through a grant by the US WEST Foundation.

ARIZONA CITY:

Our membership drive is nearing completion. We are going to run some reports and see how much we have received and compare to see who gave last year vs. this year. We are down a couple thousand from what we took in last year.

Jan 19th will be the start of our **GED classes**. We are trying to get space at the firestation to hold them. They will run till May 14th, two nights a week. We have 25 people signed up at this time.

January 30th we are having our **Annual Book Sale** corresponding with the Rock and Mineral show. It will be outside the library doors from 8AM till around 2PM. This is usually our biggest and best sale.

The Friends of the Library are co-sponsoring with the Triad, an **Arizona City Heath Fair** from 10am till 2PM in the Community Center and outdoors between the community center and the Library, on February 6th.

February 22nd will be our annual **Friends of the Library Board Meeting** where the new officers will be elected. Certificates will be awarded to the volunteers. At 7PM, refreshments will be served and the public is encouraged to come.

March 6th from 10AM till 2PM we will sponsor an **outdoor art sale** for the Arizona City artist. It will be paintings, arts and crafts and baked goods. There will be no entry fee but 20% of all sales will go to the library budget.

CASA GRANDE:

TAB (Teen Advisory Board) meets on January 8, 4:00 - 5:00, to plan new and exciting activities for area teens and to effect change in the library to better serve young adult customers.

4th American Girl program, "Addy," for girls in grades 2 - 6, Wednesday, 3:30 - 5:00, January 13. Addy escaped from slavery in 1864 with her mother and fled to Philadelphia. Girls will have a chance to play an African game, make an abacus, jump rope, and sample some old-time dishes. Registration: January 4 till filled (421-8710).

Winter Series of Storytimes starts on January 11 through February 25.

Nursery Rhyme Time: for toddlers ages 2 - 3 ½ and their adult, Tuesdays at 10:00 - 10:30.

PreSchool Stories: Children ages 3 ½ - 6, Wednesdays at 10:00 - 10:30.

LapSit: newborn to age 2, Thursdays at 10:00 - 10:20.

New Book Discussion Series sponsored by the Arizona Humanities Council and the Casa Grande Public Library: **"Families,"** led by Dr. Charles St. Clair, Tuesday, January 19, 4:00 - 5:30, first in a series of three, The Shipping News, by Annie Proulx. Books available at the circulation desk.

Desert Solitaire, by Edward Abbey is the January selection for the **"Writers of the Purple Sage" Brown Bag Book Discussion Series** on Thursday, January 28 from 11:00 - 12:30. Readers may bring a lunch; beverage provided. Paperback copies of the book are available for purchase at the library.

FLORENCE:

Upcoming programs and events for January and February, 1999:

Thursday, January 14, 1999 at 6:30PM: **Taxes: The Good, the Bad, the Confusing:** Nedra Quick, local businesswoman and certified public accountant, will present a program on what's new in tax laws and procedures, which will be of interest to all local residents. She will address issues

that may impact senior citizens, school districts, and other groups.

Saturday, January 16, 1999 at 10:00AM: **E-Mail Workshop:** Kay Williams, library aide, will present a two-hour program introducing E-Mail via the Internet with Hotmail, a free of charge e-mail server. Space is limited. Registration is necessary to participate in this workshop. Anyone interested in learning more about e-mail and how to get in on the communication connection sweeping the world is invited to register for this workshop.

Friday, January 22, 1999 from 7:00PM until Sat., January 23, 1999 at 10:00AM: **Pajama Party Overnight:** Children ages 7-10 years of age are invited to wear their pajamas and bring their sleeping bags to the library for an overnight pajama party. There will be stories and videos - snacks and refreshments - plus a bit of breakfast in the morning. Registration is required for this program.

Last week of January; time and date TBA: **Here's Lookin' at You, NAU:** Brenda Sutton, the local area coordinator for Northern Arizona University will present a program on what is new at NAU and how local residents can access NAU programs at the Central Arizona College campus.

Tuesday, February 2, 1999 at 6:30PM: **Hearts and Flowers:** Patti Freeman, owner of the Florence Flower Garden, will once again present a program on clever and cost-effective ways to

create floral arrangements for your favorite Valentine. There is nothing as romantic and thoughtful as a beautiful flower arrangement.

Thursday, February 11, 1999 at 6:30PM: **Financial Aid: Help and a Handshake:** Elisa Juarez, financial aid officer at Central Arizona College, will present an informative program on the Financial Aid process for those interested in continuing education. She will explain the different financial aid packages, the importance of accurate financial statements, and the variety of scholarships, grants, and loans available to students.

Saturday, February 13, 1999 at 12:00 Noon: **Valentine Videos:** This is a great opportunity for young readers to record a five-minute "book chat" onto videotape. This is not a glorified book report, but a chance for young readers to share a little bit of information about their favorite books. The book chat video will be shown at a later date.

Saturday, February 20, 1999 at 10:00AM: **E-Mail Workshop:** Kay Williams, library aide, will present a two-hour program introducing E-Mail via the Internet with Hotmail, a free of charge e-mail server. Space is limited. Registration is necessary to participate in this workshop.

Saturday, February 20, 1999 at 1:00PM: **Buffalo Soldiers on the Western Frontier:** African American Soldiers served in the United States Army in unprecedented numbers in the late nineteenth century. As members of the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 24th and 25th Infantry Regiments, they were the first African Americans in the nation's history to serve in the regular peacetime army. According to legend, members of the 9th and 10th Cavalry units were first to be called "Buffalo Soldiers" because the Native Americans who dealt with them thought their fighting spirit was much like the buffalo.

Monday, February 22, 1999: **Book Mark Contest Kickoff:** Library staff will be visiting local schools to promote National Library Week coming up in April. This program is to encourage students to use the library and to participate in the library's annual bookmark design contest. Book mark contest entry forms will be distributed to all school age children in the community.

KEARNY:

We have had two **Christmas story times** with the afterschool children on Dec. 17th and the preschool children on Dec. 18th. A "city" version of "The Gingerbread Boy" was read and then they made stockings. When finished, they received a

gingerbread boy to put in the stocking along with a small tree and a candy cane. The Friends of the Library sold See's candy for the holidays, always a profitable endeavor.

SUPERIOR:

The Friends of the Library are sponsoring their annual **Book Sale** throughout the month of January. Hardback books are 25 cents and paperbacks are 10 cents or 15 for \$1.00. Friends use the money to purchase new books, equipment or supplies for the library.

Superior held its first "**Christmas Light Parade**" on December 19, 1998. Thanks to Apache Junction Public Library for letting us use "Digger" the bookworm in our parade. "Digger" was all lighted up and entered in the parade by Eastern Pinal Literacy Council and Superior Public Library. We won a second place trophy in the marching category. Again "THANK YOU" to Liz and the Apache Junction Public Library!!

After the parade, activities were held in the Junior High School Auditorium. Superior Public Library had a booth where the children could come and listen to Christmas Flannel Board stories and make a bookmark to take home and hang on their Christmas tree.

Calendar of Events

January - National Book Month
www.nationalbook.org

January 15 - Celebration Conglomeration, a New Make 'n Take Workshop
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Coolidge Public Library

January 19-22 - Innopac Acquisitions Training, PCLD, Florence
(Last Innovative Training Session)

January 22 – AzLA Executive Board Meeting, Phoenix

January 26 – Library Legislative Day, Phoenix

February 12 – Pinal County Library Federation Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Arthur E. Pomeroy
Library, Kearny

February 25-26 - Arizona Convocation, Sierra Vista

February 26 – Systems Committee meeting, 1:30 p.m., Casa Grande Public Library,
Casa Grande

March 31 – County Librarians Meeting, Kingman

April 16 - Reference Triage, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
PCLD, Florence

May 15-16 - Arizona Convocation, Prescott