Guest Column

By Shawn Flecken

Library District Updates

In our February newsletter, the Director's Column discussed three points:
• applications for the Emerging Technologies Librarian position,
• an update on the digitization station project,
• and an update on the library survey

In this article, I will be providing updates on all three of those items.

First on the list is the District's effort to hire a new Emerging Technologies Librarian. It thrills me to report that I am that new librarian! Since April, I have been working on the library website and updating our social media presence. Prior to joining the Pinal County Library District, I worked four years in the Maricopa County Library District, first as a "Deweyless Librarian," classifying materials and updating catalog records, then as a Youth and Adult Services Librarian at the Southeast Regional Library in Gilbert, AZ. Prior to that, I worked eight years at Pima County Public Library, including six years as Electronic Resources Librarian—which gave me a good handle on library technology and online services. Now that Summer Reading has come to an end, I will resume my plan to visit all our library affiliates in the coming months.

I have also been involved on the tail end of our digitization station project. The grant is nearing its completion and we are in the process of writing our final report. To that end, we surveyed staff to assess whether the project had an impact on their comfort and familiarity with digitization technologies.

From all accounts, the program has met its goal of giving staff an opportunity to learn about and familiarize themselves with these technologies. Two-thirds of survey respondents reported an increased comfort level when it comes to helping patrons digitize materials, with nearly 27% reporting a dramatic increase. One-third reported that their comfort level remained about the same, and none of the respondents reported feeling less comfortable. This high comfort level is in spite of the fact that 60% of respondents said they had no experience with digitization when the program began. 87% of survey respondents report having a greater level of familiarity and experience with digitization as a result of this program.

Finally, LeCroy & Milligan delivered the results of the library patron survey in late July. After revisions are completed the final report will be sent out to be printed and bound. Steven Wind of LeCroy & Milligan will join Library District Director Denise Keller to deliver a presentation about the survey and its results, at the Arizona Library Association Conference in November.

I.U.S. History In Context

U.S. History In Context provides a complete overview of our nation’s history that includes elections, wars, conflicts, political and cultural movements, court cases, and biographies. It provides comprehensive information on topics ranging from the arrival of Vikings in North America, to the stirrings of the revolution, through to the Civil Rights movement, 9/11 and the War on Terror.

U.S. History In Context also brings a personal perspective to history with more than 5,000 rare primary source documents such as:
• Excerpts from former slave William Wells Brown’s Narrative of the Life of William Brown (1847)
• Excerpts from Henry David Thoreau’s Walden (1854)
• President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s Japanese Relocation Order (1942)
• The papers of President John F. Kennedy

To find U.S. History in Context go to pinalcountyaz.gov/library then click the RESEARCH tab, then look for it in the History section. Contact your local public library to get a FREE library card.
APACHE JUNCTION

Summer Fun

The Summer Reading Program was a huge success for all ages! Over 1500 youth signed up, and more than 225 people showed up for each of our biggest programs: the Phoenix Zoo, Magician Eric Giliam, and the Radical Reptile Guy.

One hundred happy girls enjoyed the American Girl Tea Party.

Carrie from the Phoenix Zoo with a Spectacled Owl.

Our readers helped build three Lego Towers, three bricks at a time. Watch this slide show to see their progress: http://bit.ly/2bgaJEE

CASA GRANDE

Everything, Everything!

The Casa Grande Libraries wrapped up a fantastic Summer Reading Program! Over 2,000 people signed up and more than 5,000 attended our programs! To kick off the Ready, Set, Read theme we had registration at Palm Island Family Aquatic Center. It was a big splash, to say the least! Our community’s favorite programs this year included the Scavenger Hunt for kids, Yoga for Teens, and Senior Olympians discussion for the adults.

Hands down our most anticipated and well attended event was the closing ceremony: the 2nd Annual Comic Con! Nearly 1,000 costumed people walked through our doors to take pictures with the 501st Legion of Dune Sea Garrison, receive sketches by real comic book artists, play with 3D printing, watch superhero movies, play video games, try out Oculus Rift (Shout out to Maricopa Library!), watch the martial arts demonstration, meet the Copper Queen Roller Derby Team, learn costume design from the ladies of ThermoCosplay, get make-up tips from the United Zombies of America, listen to the Casa Grande Paranormal Investigations, and to participate in a jaw-dropping costume contest!

Now that school has started, Vista Grande Library is off to a great start of a new year. The library has partnered with the Boys and Girls Club of Casa Grande to create The Lounge. Sounds pretty swanky, eh? The Boys and Girls Club have done an amazing job by creating a fun, safe place in the library’s community room full of games and laughter. The partnership allows the library to accommodate students for an extra hour who are waiting around for rides and the activities bus after 5 pm. It is now one of the student’s decisive “hang out” spots and we couldn’t be happier!

The grant period for the Vista Grande Library Makerspace is over. Now we’re on our own. Eeeeep! We’ve risen to the challenge with all new and revamped classes and schedules. One of our most anticipated offerings is SciTech Saturdays for kids. It will feature products from Pixel Press Technology and Vex Robotics. We are working on simple competition robots as well as videogame design.

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After a four year hiatus, J.A. Jance will be returning to Vista Grande Library! She will be promoting her latest book, “Downfall.” We’re thrilled to be hosting her again on Saturday, September 10th!

Contact the Casa Grande Libraries for more information on all of their programs: (520) 421-8710

COOLIDGE
Summer @ the Library

The children in Coolidge enjoyed their second annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover in May. After making a blanket and reading a bedtime story to their stuffed animal, the children left the animals and went home for the night.

Then the fun began. Fortunately Dani and Aubrey caught it all on film. Those animals got into all sorts of mischief while the library was closed! The children returned the next morning for breakfast and watched the 5-minute surveillance video of the night’s activity. You can watch it too: http://bit.ly/2b35Wme

The library kicked off the summer with an afternoon of BIG games! Families met at the Coolidge Youth Center to play giant darts, golf, Jenga, checkers, and more while they registered for the Summer Reading Program.

In addition to demonstrating a 3D printer, Chris also let participants experience a virtual reality headset. It was an excellent hands-on demonstration and residents asked when they could come to another workshop.

The End of Summer Reading Party was a great conclusion to a fantastic summer. Rather than bring in an entertainer for an afternoon program this year, the library invited the Arizona Science Center to come to Coolidge for a Family Science Night of Brain Games. This was the first time the end of Summer Reading Party was held in the evening allowing families to participate. There was a good turnout and the children played the games over and over.

The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension educated the children on water usage and healthy eating. The families also competed in some exercise challenges. Everyone burned off some energy before the day was over!

Chris Guerra from the Arizona State Library visited for a 3D Printer workshop in June. People of all ages – from 9 years old to adults – attended the workshop.

This fall the library, in partnership with Arizona Humanities and the Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records, is introducing FRANK Talks. These are thought-provoking, expert-facilitated discussions on important issues facing our communities. We will discuss Civic Engagement: What Is It & Why Is It Important? This is such a critical conversation to explore as we prepare for this fall’s election and consider how we can contribute to our community. Ryan Winkle, the Co-founder of RAILMesa will facilitate this valuable FRANK Talk.

For information, contact the Coolidge Public Library at: (520) 723-6030

FLORENCE
Programs

The Florence Community Library continues to offer regular programming for all ages. The library recently wrapped up its 2016 Summer Reading Program, which saw a better than threefold increase in the total number of minutes read!

Some recent Florence Community Library events include:

Friday, June 10, author Scott Hanson visited the Florence Community Library to share stories that he heard while researching his book, Who Is Gym? : The Stories Behind Arizona’s High School Sports Venues. Hanson, an Arizona native and former high school coach, interviewed school administrators, alumni, librarians, and local historians throughout the state to uncover how and why different gymnasiums were given their names. This program was supported by the Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records, a division of the Sec-

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Secretary of State, with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

With the help of the American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom and the Freedom to Read Foundation, the library presented an advance screening of To Begin the World Over Again: The Life of Thomas Paine! This filmed version of writer/actor/director Ian Ruskin’s one man play was screened at public libraries ahead of its public television debut. The film covered the life and work of Thomas Paine, whose Common Sense is credited as the spark that ignited the American Revolution. This 75 minute work brings this slice of American and World History to life with humor and even some music from the period! This program was made possible by the support of the Friends of the Florence Community Library.

Tuesday, August 2nd was National Coloring Book Day, and the library celebrated with free coloring fun for all ages! Coloring supplies were made available in the craft room, with children’s coloring and a separate adult coloring session. Response to the adult coloring was enthusiastic and the library plans to do future coloring events!

On August 24 the library hosted back-to-back classes guiding job seekers and entrepreneurs to online library resources that can help them achieve their goals. The Job Seeker focused on sites to help people find the right job for them. The Entrepreneur was tailored to people with products or businesses to market.

The websites highlighted in both classes are part of the Digital Arizona Library (DAZL), available to all residents of Arizona through their public library website. This project was supported by the Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records, a division of the Secretary of State, with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

September will see the return of Family Storytime. Each Wednesday at 10 am, library staff will host a storytime filled with reading, talking, singing, writing, dance, and playtime. Children also get hands-on experience with books, iPads, and STEAM kits.

Other regular programs are ongoing. These include the monthly movie discussion and screening, as well as the book club the first Wednesday of each month at 6 pm. Plans are also in motion for some exciting guest speaker programs, with announcements expected to begin soon.

For information contact the Florence Community Library: (520) 868-8311

**ORACLE**

**Library & School Collaboration**

This year Oracle Public Library collaborated with the Mountain Vista school to offer the Summer Reading Program for youth in Oracle.

Contact the Oracle Public Library for more information: (520) 896-2121

**SUPERIOR**

**Summer Reading**

June 29th we hosted Duffy Hudson in his fast paced romp through the most loved and classic works of Dr. Seuss. Everyone enjoyed seeing Dr. Seuss stories come to life as we had never seen before in this unique and lively show.

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Our Summer Reading Program came to an end with our final party held on Wednesday, July 13th. Prizes and reading incentives were given to participants.

We also had a special performance by local resident, Jeffrey Karter, playing his Dulcimer.

He played his Dulcimer while reading a story to the children. Children really enjoyed his reading and playing the dulcimer. Refreshments were provided by the Friends of the Superior Public Library and some of the parents.

Our Coloring Club meets every Monday and Thursday from 2-3 pm. There is no charge and supplies are provided.

Contact the Superior Public Library for more information: (520) 689-2327

A special thank you to our teen volunteers Izzy, Angelita and Robert who helped with games, crafts and set-up.

And thanks to Olivia for her assistance in making this year’s Summer Reading Program a success, and to Lillian for providing t-shirts for all of the participants.

**DUDLEYVILLE**

More Summer Reading Fun

This year the kids in Dudleyville were amazed and astonished by our special guest Shawn Flecken. Shawn, Emerging Technologies Librarian for the Pinal County Library District, entertained us with magic tricks and shared some tips so the kids could learn to do their own magic.

We all had a great time reading stories, and playing games with bean bags and hula hoops at the Dudleyville Multi-Generational Center.

It’s nice to have a large cool space to enjoy crafts and play games during our long hot summer days.

Confusing Combinations

While hearing a discussion on the radio about the last VCR that was manufactured, I began musing about all the new formats we are seeing these days. I remember when the first DVD arrived at my former library in Florida, and how amazing it was. Now, the DVD is being pushed out by the Blu-ray Disc, and perhaps someday all of the hard discs will disappear in favor of streaming video. For now, though, libraries are still buying discs of some type, and that is where things can become confusing.

The simplest combination is what is called a Blu-ray/DVD combo. What is a library to do? A lot depends on finding a bibliographic record that matches. Many times we can find two bibliographic records, one for the DVD and one for the Blu-ray. For this solution, one needs to copy the container sleeve to put in a separate container for the DVD and simply attach each format to a matching bibliographic record.

Sometimes, though, the only record available is for the Blu-ray/DVD combo. That isn’t really a problem since a library can attach both item records to the Blu-ray/DVD combo bibliographic record. Again, one only needs to make a separate container for the DVD and each can still circulate alone.

What about a container that comes with a 3-D Blu-ray disc, a 2-D Blu-ray disc, and a DVD? Whew! Care must be taken to find a record that actually matches - either separate bibliographic records, or one that is a 3-way combo! As you can see, this can become quite complicated and confusing, but there is usually some kind of solution.

If you run into things like this while copy-cataloging and you aren’t sure what to choose, please feel free to send it along to me (Eileen) here at the Library District office and I will deal with it.

Don’t forget, we will be happy to answer any questions or help with any problem records.

Happy cataloging!
# Calendar of Events

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<td>Arizona Library Association Annual Conference</td>
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