
WLS Department Reports June 2015

CATALOGING SERVICES

Contact: Douglas Wray, Manager [231-3243]

On May 21st, Manager of Cataloging Services attended a presentation by SirsiDynix at Greenburgh Public Library. Representatives from SirsiDynix discussed new developments, including the BLUECloud suite, which is expected to be completely web-based and will integrate physical and digital content and allow mobile access. SirsiDynix also spoke about their work with Zepheira to make the WLS catalog more visible via search engines like Google. This will bring new awareness of our libraries' holdings to the general public. Mr. Wray attended a webinar given by Zepheira to learn more about the product.

Three examples of original cataloging done by Mr. Wray recently include:

Ossining Girl Scouts: A History /by Maura Delohery

This local history project collects documents and photographs and assembles them scrapbook-style.

Cataloged for the Ossining Public Library.

Sleepy Hollow: Birth of the Legend /by Gary Denis

The author, a fan of Washington Irving's classic story, spent 7 years researching local maps, letters and other documents to identify actual residents on whom the characters were based, and to ascertain the real locations where Irving set key events. Cataloged for The Warner Library.

Ladies' Home Journal (braille edition)

The Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped facilitates the publication of braille versions of an increasing number of popular periodicals. Cataloged for the Somers Library.

Outreach Activities

Bilingual Story Time: Mary Esbjornson, Director of the Bedford Hills Library, has requested Ms. Coradin to co-facilitate a bilingual story time with their storyteller Rachel Izes as part of the centennial celebration of the library on Sunday, June 28th. After a couple of preparation sessions, Ms. Coradin co-facilitated the spring themed, bilingual story time with Claudia Denaro from West Harrison Branch Library on June 15th. Twenty-one attendees, including children, teachers, parents and guardians were in attendance.

Professional Development: Ms. Coradin attended the 2015 BookExpo on May 28th. She met and spoke to the sales representatives of Hoopla, an e-resource provider of movies, books, music and audio books. They promised to provide more information on what they offer to public libraries, including foreign language



materials. Ms. Coradin also attended the Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) Meeting and Brunch at the White Plains Public Library. Ms. Karwoski, Director of the Mount Vernon Public Library, asked Ms. Coradin assisting with planning and marketing for two film programs about Latino Americans. The Mount Vernon Public Library was awarded a \$3,000 grant to provide programs to highlight Latino Americans in cinema. The programs that will take place in the fall will be moderated by Latino scholars from Purchase College and will explore the Latino identity in the United States.

Westchester Librarians Serving Latinos: A meeting was held on June 1st at the Greenburgh Public Library with 6 attendees representing three libraries (Greenburgh, Peekskill, White Plains) and WLS.

A discussion was held on the possibility of putting together a Meet & Greet Fair of community organizations that could form possible partnerships with libraries to better serve the community. A subcommittee was formulated to work on the event and its marketing. The participating organizations will span the services of health, education, business entrepreneurship, legal services, and the arts. The possible projected date for the Fair would be the fall. A suggestion was made to offer a babysitting certificate class in libraries, where the graduates can provide babysitting services at future library programs. An often cited reason for not attending library programs is the lack of child care services. The guest speaker was attorney, Marcia Guevara from the Guevara Law Group in White Plains. Ms. Guevara can offer free workshops for the member libraries on immigration law in both English and Spanish. Ms. Guevara is partnering with Pace University to offer a program that will encourage and assist high school students to study law.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

Contact: Rob Caluori, Director [231-8642]

Rob Caluori visited Lewisboro Library to provide training on their new digital signage system. The new digital signage system is cloud-based and much simpler to use than the previous system with which WLS was working.

The IT Department is gathering quotes for co-location services. Co-location is a service that provides a remote host location for a company's data center. The location is shared with other businesses, each with their own secured area for their equipment. This allows for savings through economies of scale for items such as uninterruptible power, environmental quality (humidity, temperature, etc.) and connections to network providers.

Several months ago, WLS worked with Prime Auditors to review our phone invoices for erroneous charges and taxes. This is a common problem, especially for non-profits, as there is much confusion over which non-profits are exempt from which taxes and fees. Through this process, WLS received a rebate of approximately \$800 and saw a reduction in phone bills going forward. Since working with WLS, Prime Auditors has been engaging with libraries and recently achieved a \$6,800 rebate for Bedford Hills Free Library and has refunds pending for Chappaqua Library, Katonah Village Library, Port Chester-Rye Brook Public Library and Larchmont Public Library.

Recently WLS experienced an interruption on the network. The trouble was caused by the WLS network being crossed with another network that caused conflicts on the equipment. The WLS network was crossed with a member library's independent network, and our Network Manager, Joe Maurantonio, quickly traced and resolved the issue.

The project to install a new wireless network at the member libraries is moving forward. Managed by Mr. Maurantonio, the project recently went out for competitive bidding. The lowest bidder Universal e-Business Solutions has been engaged to procure the hardware and software needed to complete this implementation and the project is slated to be completed this fall.

Mr. Caluori is in the process of reviewing the ways WLS stores data in the SirsiDynix Integrated Library System (ILS). This review is to ensure all that any personal/private data is being purged as soon as it is no

longer necessary and to analyze the impact of tightening those purging procedures. Mr. Caluori will review his findings for this process with Terry Kirchner and Chris Hansen.

WEBS

Contact: Elaine Sozzi, Director [231-3239]

Marsha Gordon, President and CEO of the Business Council of Westchester (BCW), conducted a professional development program for librarians and counselors on *Westchester on the Move – Changes & Challenges in Business & Beyond* on June 2nd at WLS. Dr. Gordon discussed BCW's latest projects and gave an overview of business development efforts and growth industries. She highlighted the enormous growth of the food and beverage industry with microbreweries and restaurants developing a strong presence. There has been a huge shift in the healthcare industry as a larger medical community is coming to the County. Major hospitals including Mount Sinai, North Shore-Long Island Jewish (LIJ) Health System and New York Hospital have merged with hospitals in Westchester. Dr. Gordon also addressed the growth of urban centers and waterfront development as efforts to spur job growth and attract young people to live and work here. In her closing remarks, she commented on the vital role that libraries play in Westchester in the areas of workforce development and consumer health literacy. Attendees gave the program excellent reviews indicating that they would share the information with library patrons and counseling clients. The program was sponsored by WEBS/WLS and the Westchester Career Counselors' Network.

The spring career workshop series continued this month with four programs offered at the libraries in Tarrytown, Mount Vernon, Larchmont and Bronxville. Requests have been coming in from directors to host additional programs, and at least ten more are planned to be offered when the series continues in the fall. Our eight-week seminars were recently completed for the spring cycle, and scheduling and publicity efforts are now underway for the fall seminars with registration beginning in mid-August. We will alert clients who are on waiting lists so they are guaranteed a place. WEBS will continue its individual counseling program at the Yonkers Public Library and the Mount Vernon Public Library throughout the summer.

Counselor Elaine Ostrowski, a skilled and dedicated professional who has made an outstanding contribution to the WEBS program for many years, is moving out of the area. Ms. Ostrowski used her knowledge and compassionate nature to assist each of her clients and received consistently excellent reviews from them. We feel fortunate to have worked with her and wish her well in her new endeavors.

Plans are underway for the Westchester/Putnam Workforce Investment Board (WIB) annual meeting on June 26th at Candela Systems Corporation in Hawthorne. The WIB will celebrate the year's accomplishments which include services to adult job seekers, youth and businesses with a focus on honoring small businesses that have hired and trained local workers. Through its job readiness programs, individual training services and industry sector partnerships, the WIB has served thousands of residents in the two counties. WEBS Director Elaine Sozzi is a member of the board.

This month Ms. Sozzi met with several WEBS counselors to discuss program changes for the fall. She also attended a meeting at the One Stop Employment Center and plans to take part in the annual meeting of the WIB. She completed session 6 of a training series on *Leading & Executing Change*; organized a professional development program on economic development at WLS; and attended the PLDA luncheon at the White Plains Public Library.