
WLS Department Reports March 2016

CATALOGING SERVICES

Contact: Douglas Wray, Manager [231-3243]

Nancy Coradin's title has been changed from Spanish Language Cataloger to Coordinator, Multi-Language Collections and Services, which better reflects Ms. Coradin's involvement with reaching out to the Spanish-speaking community, and speakers of other languages, as part of the WLS Cataloging Services team. In addition to cataloging all Spanish materials which makes them accessible through the online catalog, Ms. Coradin serves the community by consulting with member libraries about children's bilingual story times and other events, weeding (the periodic disposal of unneeded and/or outdated materials) and collection development (the selection of new materials) in various languages.

In mid-February, the American Library Association offered 30 librarians from across the United States the



opportunity to visit Cuba and participate in its 25th Havana International Book Fair. Ms. Coradin along with Diana Lennon, Librarian II from the Greenburgh Public Library, were among the 30 American librarians who attended. The trip was more than an opportunity to purchase Cuban literature, it served as a bridge to connect and engage with Cuban librarians to discuss libraries, their services, their patrons, and their future. More importantly, what blossomed was a great desire to work together—something which our two countries have not been able to do for over fifty years.

The main focus of the trip was the Book Fair—housed in the old Spanish fortification San Carlos de La Cubana (photo to right) that overlooks Havana harbor—but that took second place to the highly energized exchange between the American librarians and the Cuban professionals.

At a conference at the National Library in Havana, Sari Feldman, President of the American Library Association, and Vailey Oehlke, President of the Public Library Association, spoke of the invaluable work being done in American libraries to an audience of Cuban librarians from ASCUBI—Asociación Cubana de Bibliotecarios.



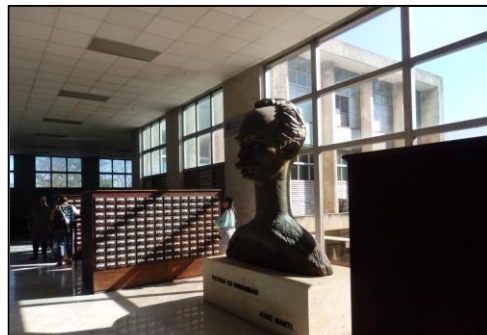
A comforting and somewhat surprising discovery was that in spite of our libraries' advantageous access to material, sound facilities, and technology, Cuban libraries share our same goals. They are passionate about their work. They understand the importance of acknowledging and training staff. They protect their cultural heritage. They earnestly wish to meet the needs of their communities. Most of all, they embrace the importance of remaining relevant in changing times. It was encouraging to share these commonalities, in spite of the great differences in accessibility of materials, in sustainable facilities, and emerging technologies. The Cuban librarians listened and embraced the ALA motto "Libraries Transform."

In spite of such strong convictions, their libraries' collections are in poor condition, and they face challenges in infrastructure inadequacies and economic limitations. It begs the question--How can our American libraries forge a bridge of collaboration that crosses a distance of 90 miles? How can we establish a partnership to share resources and pool our experiences, especially when facing great political challenges?

Ms. Coradin and Ms. Lennon will present their observations of Havana and explore these questions at the Westchester Library Association (WLA) Conference this May and at the REFORMA Joint-Mini Conference in Philadelphia in June.



Shelf of books at the Cienfuegos City Library



Card catalog at the José Martí National Library

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

Contact: Rob Caluori, Director [231-8642]

In 2016 the IT Department plans to add SSL encryption on all of the WLS websites. SSL Encryption allows the connection between the website and the user to be private and cannot be seen by anyone trying to spy or track the users' activity, including their own Internet Service Provider (ISP). This process to add SSL began in February with the WLS Online Catalog (www.westlibs.org), and the next step will be to add SSL to the main WLS website (www.westchesterlibraries.org) which is expected to be completed in April.

The 2016 training program continues to be a success. In February, 50 library staff were provided with training in small groups as well as 2:1 and 1:1 sessions. These trainings focused on effective use of SirsiDynix tools and online resources and eBooks.

The IT Department issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Colocation (Colo) Services. Colocation is a data center operated by a third-party in which a secure environment can be rented for servers and other computing hardware. In keeping with the WLS mission to provide seamless access to library services, colocation centers provide better up-time, cleaner power and stronger security. These services also are available at a fraction of what it would cost to implement similar services on our own, which helps keep costs to the member libraries low. A vendor has not yet been selected but is expected to be announced in the next week.

Rob Caluori met with Director John Fearon at the main and branch locations for the Mount Pleasant Public Library to design digital signage solutions for both locations. To date, WLS has helped seven libraries install fourteen displays through a partnership with Video Marketing Systems of Fairfield, NJ. Digital signage helps improve access to library services by bringing more attention to library programs and engages the

community and replaces traditional, limited-sized bulletin boards for displaying community flyers and event information.

Wilson Arana is working with SirsiDynix on integrating Active Directory (AD) with the software used by staff throughout the member libraries. This process would facilitate each user having their own individual login to the system rather than using shared passwords, in compliance with NYS Comptroller guidelines. Integration with AD will streamline the login process for library staff and allow for greater security.

WEBS

Contact: Elaine Sozzi, Director [231-3239]

This spring WEBS experienced the largest seminar registration in recent years, and all five libraries hosting seminars (Yonkers Will, Pelham, Greenburgh, Somers and Chappaqua) have waiting lists. Since hiring seems to be on the upswing, discouraged workers who were no longer looking for work may now feel that they have a better chance of finally gaining employment.

Fifteen career workshops will be offered at libraries across the County this spring. Workshops scheduled for April include *Get LinkedIn to Your Job Search* at the Hastings-on-Hudson Public Library; *Latest Trends in Resumes* at the John C. Hart Memorial Library (Shrub Oak/Yorktown); *Networking Works* at the Rye Free Reading Room; and *Write a Dynamite Resume* at the Mount Vernon Public Library.

A new workshop is being developed for mature adults that will help them strategize and plan for a successful reentry into the workplace. It will explore the changing attitudes of baby boomers about working into their later years since they are living longer and may not have the financial resources to support themselves. Many also have a need for stimulation and socialization. Older workers can add great value to an organization because they usually have a strong work ethic and valuable work experience and are productive, dedicated and loyal. They are less likely to leave a job unexpectedly and can often serve as valuable mentors to younger people. This workshop will offer an opportunity for this population to identify informational resources, locate learning opportunities, understand transferable skills and obtain necessary technical skills. It will also cover interview and resume strategies.

Each year WEBS Director Elaine Sozzi provides distance/telephone counseling to adults who are unable to attend seminars, workshops or other programs due to physical limitations, lack of transportation or schedule conflicts. This short-term counseling provides general career guidance, referrals to vital services, educational referrals, and suggestions for print and online information. Sometimes telephone appointments are scheduled ahead of time, but mostly the counseling is spontaneous as the need arises. Distance counseling is a vital component of the WEBS program, reaching people who would not otherwise be served.

The "Career Links" section of our website has been reviewed and updated. It includes sections on company and industry information, education and training, government resources, job banks, salary sites and specialty sites.