

WLS Department Reports May 2017

CATALOGING SERVICES

Contact: Douglas Wray, Manager [231-3243]

In April, Part-Time Cataloger Melissa Glazer began a new position as a full-time reference librarian at the Yonkers Public Library Grinton I. Will Branch Library. She had worked for WLS Cataloging Services for nearly two years, first on a project to remove duplicate bibliographic records from the catalog, and then to contribute both copy and original cataloging. She was a valued member of our team, and we wish her well.

All of the WLS catalogers perform original cataloging when member libraries submit requests for titles which can't be found in OCLC's WorldCat database, or supplied by vendors. Below are examples of original cataloging done recently by Mr. Wray:

The Lowdown on the High Bridge: the Story of How New York City Got its Water / by Sonia Manzano; illustrated by Noelle S. Gibbons

This is a children's book published by the Bronx Children's Museum. It tells the story of the oldest walking bridge in New York City, which also serves as an aqueduct between the Croton Reservoir and Manhattan; Cataloged for the Yonkers Public Library.

Briarcliff Manor: Then and Now / authors: Michael Feist, Myles Ellis; editors: Michael Feist, Arnold Feist

The history of Briarcliff Manor is depicted in photographs and text in this work, which was published by the Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough Historical Society; Cataloged for the Briarcliff Manor Public Library.

Outreach

On April 25th, Coordinator, Multi-language Collections and Services Nancy Coradin met with Kathleen DiSilvio from Yonkers Public Library-Grinton I. Will Branch Library to assist her in beginning a bilingual story time. Ms. DiSilvio will recruit a Spanish-speaking staff member to continue the program.

Ms. Coradin also co-facilitated a "Cinco de Mayo" (May 5th) bilingual program with Michelle Magnotta, Librarian at the Mamaroneck Public Library. The children were read books explaining the Mexican holiday and the traditions to celebrate it. The ladies sang bilingual songs and encouraged the children to participate in a Mexican hat dance.

Individuals who are bilingual switch between two different language systems. According to several studies, bilingual children have an easier time with the following:

- understanding math concepts and solving word problems (Zelasko and Antunez, 2000)
- developing strong thinking skills (Kessler and Quinn, 1980)
- focusing, remembering and making decisions (Bialystok, 2001)
- learning other languages (Jessner, 2008)

Offering bilingual programs in libraries encourages families who speak more than one language at home to maintain strong ties with their family, identity, culture and community.

Webinars

Ms. Coradin participated in the webinar entitled, *Beyond the Welcome Sign: Tailoring Immigrant Services for Success*. The speakers from community service agencies in Denver, Colorado, discussed their success in offering services to immigrants. They stressed the importance of gathering statistics about the community served in order to better understand the immigrant audience.

The director of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Jaime Torres suggested looking at immigrants in terms of assets, and not deficits or need. Sofie Maier, Immigrant Service Librarian at the Louisville Free Library in Kentucky, encouraged partnerships in local schools, not only to market library programs but to encourage students to volunteer. Both organizations benefit—the library, by securing free service hours; and the students, by meeting academic requirements. Another excellent suggestion was to invite the U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) to programs on citizenship or English language learning classes.

Ms. Coradin and Diana Lennon, Librarian II at the Greenburgh Public Library, will be presenters on an Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) webinar, *The ALA [American Library Association] Cuba Library Exchange Program*. The webinar is offered as part of ACRL's International Perspectives Discussion Group. Ms. Coradin and Ms. Lennon will discuss Cuban libraries, their participation in the Havana Book Fair and the connections they made on their two trips to Cuba.

DEVELOPMENT

Contact: Pat Brigham, Director [231-3241]

On April 7th, WLS presented the Annual Celebrating Westchester Libraries Breakfast at Doral Arrowwood. Nineteen member libraries, their staff and boards were part of the 200 library supporters at the event featuring keynote speaker Regina Calcaterra, a crusader for foster care reform and a library advocate. Over 60 WSOS and HSE Connect! volunteers attended the event and were recognized for their service. In addition, County Executive Rob Astorino offered remarks supporting library services in the County, declaring the week of April 7-14 Library Week in Westchester. He also presented a proclamation to honoree Rob Kissner, CEO and founder of the Digital Arts Experience in White Plains, and congratulated him on his success and support of Westchester libraries. Proclamations from Congresswoman Nita Lowy's office, NYS Senator Terrence Murphy's office, and Westchester County Legislators were also presented. The event also highlighted the series of *Libraries Transform Patron Stories* funded through a grant from the Westchester Community Foundation and SirsiDynix, with some stories included in the program journal. A video featuring one of last year's stories from Yonkers Public Library Riverfront Library was recently made and screened at the event. This video and additional *Libraries Transform* videos are now available on the WLS website.

For the consecutive second year, The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation approved a \$5,000 grant to WLS for HSE Connect! The Foundation joins The Thomas and Agnes Carvel Foundation in supporting program growth by providing funding for learning materials and tutor training.

TD Bank Charitable Contributions approved a \$5,000 sponsorship that includes the WLS Annual Breakfast, the WLS Annual Meeting and Trustee Institutes.

The following libraries are currently presenting or wrapping up their Creative Aging in the Library Mini Grant programs funded through a Westchester Community Foundation Grant to WLS: Warner Library (Tarrytown), Greenburgh Public Library, Bedford Free Library, Ossining Public Library, John C. Hart Memorial Library (Shrub Oak), Larchmont Public Library and Chappaqua Public Library.

Director of Development Patricia Brigham recently met with the Hendrick Hudson Free Library Board of Trustees fundraising committee to discuss their Capital Campaign strategies. She will return on May 22nd to provide a mini training session for their upcoming campaign.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

Contact: Rob Caluori, Director [231-3207]

The rollout of VDI is now back on schedule after issues with receipt printers caused significant delays. VDI or Virtual Desktop Infrastructure is administratively less burdensome on almost every level. The IT Department has learned that printing is one of the few exceptions and specialty printers like those used for receipts have presented many challenges. Chris Hernandez is credited with finding a final solution to the issue after working closely with engineers from Epson, the company that manufactures the receipt printers used at all our member libraries.

Rob Caluori visited the Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO) to record an episode for their new podcast, *Library Bytegeist*. A collection of audio stories, *Library Bytegeist* tells of the amazing work being done in the libraries, archives and museums of New York City. The topic of this particular episode is filtering and privacy, two topics on which Mr. Caluori is extremely knowledgeable. The episode will be released later this month and can be subscribed to via iTunes.

Joe Maurantonio is working with staff at the Mount Vernon Public Library to reconcile network configurations—the network equivalent of an inventory. The library hosts a parallel network, which also has to communicate through the WLS network, and this reconciliation will provide better security and updated information.

Moodle is an open-source online course management system used by colleges and universities around the world to host their online courses and supplement classroom learning. As a pilot project to explore the advantages and disadvantages of this open-source software, IT staff completed the installation and configuration of a server to host Moodle. Several WLS Departments will test this product as an online learning supplement to the professional development offerings for Youth Services librarians and others.

Mr. Caluori attended the first joint Annual Conference of Westchester Library Association and Library Association of Rockland County. The two Associations working together resulted in larger attendance, more vendor exhibits and a larger pool of professionals to provide innovative and engaging programming. With team member Duncan Bell from the Nyack Library, Mr. Caluori also gave a presentation on the topic of *Emerging Technologies for Youth Services and School Librarians*.

Work on the WLS Member Library Shared Mobile App continues and is nearing completion. When software is developed, there are a series of release candidates (early versions referred to as RC) that are issued to increasingly larger groups to identify errors and corrections. The first RC will be reviewed by Mr. Caluori this week. The next RC will be presented to the original design committee of six individuals from member libraries. The third RC will then be presented to the member library directors. Once all the corrections from those groups are applied, the final release candidate will be opened to the public and is currently scheduled for mid-to-late June.

WEBS

Contact: Elaine Sozzi, Director [231-3239]

The spring career seminar series was recently completed at five libraries across the County. The counselors have reported a definite increase in hiring as clients experienced more success across the board. In one seminar alone, a laid-off social worker was considering offers from two different employers; an administrative assistant who had been unemployed for over a year was hired for a very good job that would utilize her skills in the title insurance industry; and a third client accepted a job at the mid-point of the seminar but was able to complete the program before starting. Some clients in the “After 50” seminar had success in “downsizing” after leaving life-long careers. They wanted to stay engaged, but reduce their roles and responsibilities, and shift to jobs that would still utilize their skills. Prospective employers are sometimes concerned that candidates like these may soon retire, but several WEBS clients were successful in getting

contractual or part-time work. A recent Pew Research Center analysis showed that 18.8% of workers over 65 held a job.

WEBS director Elaine Sozzi reviewed the confidential counseling files of all clients and provided feedback to the counselors. Some written evaluation comments from clients follow:

- *This seminar was the brightest part of my week. It has provided a network of people and opened my eyes to possibilities in other career areas.*
- *I never thought I would be in the position of being laid off unexpectedly and I am so thankful for a course like this. This program also opened my awareness about what the library provides.*
- *This seminar provided a "total approach" to job search and life choices. It also addressed the added complications of being an older candidate.*

Six-month follow-up surveys are being sent to a representative sample of former seminar clients, part of a comprehensive evaluation process which tracks their career and educational progress after taking the eight-week program. It also gives us important feedback about clients' experience in the seminar and offers them an opportunity to make suggestions for improvement.

The spring career workshop series continued this month with *Get LinkedIn to Your Job Search* at the Rye Free Reading Room; *Hire Me! Keys to a Winning Interview* at the Eastchester Public Library; *Job Search and Salary Negotiation* at the John C. Hart Memorial Library (Shrub Oak); and *Latest Trends in Resumes* at the New Rochelle Public Library. These workshops have become very popular programs because they focus on specific topics of interest and do not require the same long-term commitment as a seminar. This year there has been a noticeable increase in attendance, and these workshops will continue into the fall.

This month Ms. Sozzi attended met with WEBS counselor Elaine Dreyer to discuss changes in the seminar and visited the One Stop Employment Center in White Plains.