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New Database Makes Picture Book Search Child's Play

The library's new Picture Book Database makes it a snap to find interesting, fun picture books to suit a child's interests. Instead of looking in several places, readers can now search this one source.

It is accessed through the Databases heading on the left side of griver.org, the library's website. Each link, including Picture Book Database, is connected to a deep reservoir of useful information.

To help users find appropriate pictue books, the Picture Book Database provides search fields such as illustrator, subject, genre, age range, and theme. For example, if you have a child who loves dragons you can search for a picture book on the subject of dragons with the genre of folktales for age range 5 to 10 to find "The Loathsome Dragon" and other titles. Click on the cover art and you will see a link to World-Cat, the world's largest network of library content. Click there, and you can find out if GRRL owns the title. Another click takes you into the GRRL catalog where you can place a hold.

CollectionHQ Tool Provides Checkout Data, Improves Local Shelf Selection for Patrons

Efficient retailers have stock management systems to help them know what is selling well, what is earning enough to keep its place on the shelf, and what isn't selling at all.

Librarians now have a stock management system of their own to do all that. It's called CollectionHQ (CHQ), and Great River Regional Library staff are discovering how it can make their shelves more appealing and useful to users.

"CollectionHQ allows us to produce reports beyond those provided by the main collection software," explained Mic Golden, Collection Development Coordinator. At any of the library's 32 locations, staff can use CHQ to identify which books are not checking out and which books have checked out so often they may be "grubby," according to system-set limits. Staff can print a list of "grubbies" they have on their shelves, then physically check the books to see if they are in fact grubby and need replacement. Books in good condition that are not checking out at one location can be listed and claimed by others. Already, Golden said, staff are seeing the value of this process.

"CollectionHQ data proves to us that books which have found and exhausted their readers in one branch find a new set of readers when they are transferred," she said. "This means we can effectively refresh our collections just by moving books from one branch to another as well as by purchasing new materials. The beauty of CollectionHQ is that it removes the guesswork. We know when it is time to move a book on, and we can identify what kinds of books patrons are looking for."

CHQ was developed in the United Kingdom and is now used by almost 5,000 libraries. Benefits include saving staff time (because staff can use accurate data to make collection decisions), aligning the collection with customer demand (because CHQ identifies which authors, subjects and formats patrons are using), identification of "grubby" materials (to assist in removal of old, unused titles), and more efficient purchasing based on usage reports.

"We are only scratching the surface right now," Golden said. "We decided that instead of doing lots of training ahead of introduction we would learn by doing. We're sharing the knowledge as we discover what we can do. It's exciting, and it's going to make our libraries even better."

James A. Skurla presented library report findings at St. Cloud Public Library.

A statewide report estimates that Minnesota receives a $4.62 return on $1 investment in public library services

The report is titled "Minnesota Public Libraries' Return on Investment." It was completed by the Labovitz School of Business and Economics at the University of Minnesota Duluth. School Director James A. Skurla presented the report at St. Cloud Public Library in February. It indicates strong support for the state's public libraries.

Skurla said he was surprised by the degree of support shown in the survey. The report executive summary states "The main conclusion from this survey is that Minnesotans feel public libraries are important and that their support should be maintained or increased. The positive feelings people have about libraries extend across gender, income and even usage lines. People who do not use the library still want to see library services maintained."

Using a methodology that applies a value to each library service, the report estimates the total value of library services to Minnesota of $898,041,512 for 2010. Total Minnesota public library expenditure for 2010 (capital and operating) was $247,651,721. The complete report is available at http://ht.ly/9fcat.

Swanville Expands: Adds Shelving, Reading Area

It took two years from initial discussions to completion, but in April, the Swanville Public Library closed its doors to reopen one week later with a larger space remodeled for patron comfort.

The library now has an additional 400 sq. ft. of space which became available in the same building the library occupies on Swanvilles's main street. The library added a comfortable reading area and expanded shelving to hold a larger collection. It is also brighter inside and more welcoming. A crew of 25 community volunteers helped library staff remove books and shelves and then replace them, said Branch Manager Diane Borgert. The expansion was funded by a $25,000 grant from the Swanville Lions Club and additional support from the City of Swanville.

Joining Branch Manager Diane Borgert (center, with a rainbow painted on her cheek) at the April 25 ribbon cutting were: Swanville Mayor Sandy Peterson, GRRL Director Kirsty Smith, Swanville Lions Club President Tim Churchwell, and Swanville Lions Club Secretary Duane Johnson.

Superior Work Rewarded By Gnominations

By Library Intern Kaity Bequette

A little garden gnome is encouraging staff to recognize when fellow workers go the extra mile.

Library staff are "gnominating" peers to receive a cute garden gnome as a reward for exceptional work. The "gnomination" program was introduced by Regional Supervisor Jami Trenam.

"I wanted a way to recognize the good work we did on a regular basis," Trenam said. She suggested the recognition program to Karen Pundsack, Patron Services Coordinator.

"I thought it was a great idea," Pundsack said. "It's hard for a big organization spread over 32 locations to recognize individual service. The gnominations are an informal way of doing that formally." In addition to encouraging great service, the program helps promote a feeling of unity across the region. "That's the goal," Pundsack said. "I'm hoping that's what the program accomplishes."

Branch Manager Nancy Lee, Branch Assistant Jenni Dickinson, and Library Aide Marlyce Marquardt from the Big Lake Public Library received a gnomination for their work apprehending a teen who had been stealing books and DVDs from the library.

Staff can nominate any employee they feel goes above and beyond expectations to meet the needs of patrons or colleagues. Gnomes have been received by staff who thwarted thieves, assisted ill patrons, provided long-term dedicated service, helped improve public safety, and for other reasons. Recipients keep the gnome for about a month before it moves on to another desk.

Clearwater Celebrates Move To Larger Space

On Saturday, July 21, staff, board members and local dignitaries met at the Clearwater Public Library to celebrate a recent move into larger premises. On hand for the ribbon cutting were Library Aide Michele Butterfield-Juip, Regional Supervisor Jami Trenam, Library Advisory Board Chair Kelly Ashton, GRRL board member and Wright County Commissioner Pat Sawatzke, library supporter Don Hemming, Clearwater Mayor Lee Monk, Director Kirsty Smith, GRRL board member Louise Kuester, Clearwater Branch Manager Cyrene Bastien, Branch Assistant Wanda Phelps, Clearwater City Council member Gary Phelps.

Support Your Library With Just One Click

Booklovers who purchase eBooks and eAudiobooks can now benefit the Great River Regional Library when they purchase digital content and other items online.

GRRL has added a "Buy It Now" link to catalog entries on its Digital Library pages. Library patrons can use the link to click through to Amazon.com and other vendors. If they purchase that eBook or eAudiobook from the commercial website, a portion of the sale will be credited to the library.

It's called a Win Affiliate partnership, and it is managed by OverDrive, the company that contracts digital services to the library. The library earns credits from each purchase and can use the credits to purchase additional Overdrive eBooks and eAudiobooks. Titles the library selects are at the library's discretion.

"Some library users will choose to buy an item rather than wait for it to become available," said Mic Golden, the library's collection development coordinator. "When they make that choice using this program, the vendor is going to provide us with a percentage we can apply to a future purchase. The vendor wins, the library wins, and so do library patrons, because our collection will grow."

"I'd advise our patrons to review the information on the retailer's website, review the Overdrive information on the library's website, and review the information relating to their personal device to ensure that they purchase materials they can use and enjoy," Golden said.

Thanks to March High $5 Donors

The March 2012 High $5 donation drive raised $14,491.50.

Thanks to all the donors to this entry level fundraising program. Sixty percent of the money raised now goes into the library's general fund to support materials, technology and staffing, and 40 percent remains at the location where donated to be available for use in local projects.

Examples of possible uses for the local funds include furniture, local history books, artwork, or incentives to encourage participation in the Summer Reading Program.

A few notable successes from this year: St. Cloud will receive $750, Delano will receive $614.40, Waite Park will receive $471.20, and Buffalo will receive $467.46. High $5's all around!

Support Literacy With Library Donation

Support literacy with a gift to Great River Regional Library. Your tax-deductible donation will help provide incentives and materials to encourage children's reading. Visit *griver.org/support-library* to make an online donation.

Name :_____

Address: _____

City_____ State _____ Postal Code_____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

My/our donation, payable to GRRL: ☐ $250 ☐ $100 ☐ $50 ☐ $25 ☐Other $_____

☐ Please include name in donor recognition as above. ☐ This gift is anonymous.

☐ This gift is: In Memory of :_____

In Honor of _____

Send an acknowledgement letter of this tribute gift to:

Name: _____ Address: _____

Office use only:
Pstm. _____
Amt. _____
Ck # _____
Init. _____

Make gift payable to Great River Regional Library. Mail to: Fund Development, Great River Regional Library, 1300 W. St. Germain St., St. Cloud, MN 56301

Summer Selections Available at Great River Store

𝒞heck out the Great River Store for clothing and accessory items that show your support for Great River Regional Library services.

The Great River Store offers essentials such as hats, T-shirts, sweatshirts and other items available for the whole family including toddlers and children, all at affordable prices. We also have gift certificates for those 'hard to buy for' on your list!

All items have the GRRL logo so you can proudly show your support of libraries. Look for the Services/Store link on the library's home page, griver.org. Visit the store today for shopping at the library.

Looking for an item not on the list? Let us know by sending us your suggestions on the store link. New items will be added periodically.

Men's Windshirt

This windshirt is the perfect item for breezy days or evening walks. Coated polyester sanded microfiber shell with taffeta lining. Available in Black, Silver, Navy, Green, Putty and Red. $36 in sizes S, M, L & XL, $41 in 2X & 3X.
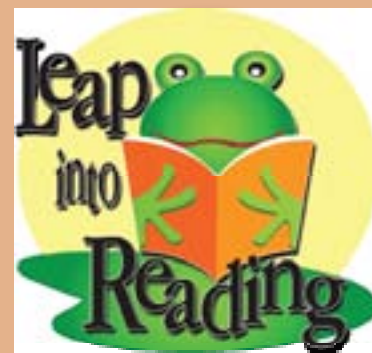
Colorblock Cinch Pack

A drawcord that doubles as backpack straps, as well as two-tone colorblocking, make this cinch pack a fun, practical accessory for library trips. Available in multiple color choices for just $13.

Ladies' Juniors Raglan Tee

Lightweight 4.3 ounce, 100% ring spun combed cotton with a soft hand. Contract rib knit crewneck. Contrast coverstitching. Available in Navy, Nickel, Army, Brown and Red. $20 in sizes S, M, L & XL; $22 in 2X; $24 in 3X; $26 in 4X.

Save a Tree: Get Your Currents By Email

𝒯his Currents newsletter is available via email. To reduce costs, save trees and, of course, protect our environment we encourage as many advocates as possible to consider taking full advantage of this by switching to the electronic .pdf version. Please contact Julie Henne at *currents@grrl.lib.mn.us* if you would like to receive the newsletter by email or have any questions or comments. As always, the newsletter is produced just for our library advocates. We thank you warmly for your support, and if you have any suggestions about content we would love to hear from you.

ℳinnesota Governor Mark Dayton proclaimed Feb. 29 Leap Into Reading Day, signaling an increased emphasis by the Minnesota Department of Education on improving literacy statewide.

The DoE adopted a large stuffed frog as a reading mascot, naming him Read-it, and gave each regional library system its own frog for promotion of reading events. After a public naming contest, the Great River Regional Library frog has been named Hopper. Hopper is traveling around the region visiting special "Leap Into Reading" storytimes and Leap Into Reading events.

The library's graphic designer Bernadette Stephenson designed an attractive Leap Into Reading logo that has been adapted by the state (see above).

Check the Events calendar on griver.org for events happening at your library. Many storytimes provide a focus on early literacy skills.

GREAT RIVER REGIONAL LIBRARY

1300 W. St. Germain St.
St. Cloud, MN 56301
320-650-2500

To update mailing information please call Communications and Fund Development at (320) 650-2539.