

Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative On-line Newsletter

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Happy Holidays from Irene and Roger

November/December 2007

Grace A. Dow Memorial Library: November 19, the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library and the Midland County Historical Society received special recognition from the Michigan Humanities council for their outstanding programming in support of **The Great Michigan Read** program. Each organization was presented with specially framed publicity posters created for the statewide reading program that celebrates Ernest Hemingway's literature and encourages reading.

Midland: Ever wanted to see the **Terracotta soldiers from China** but didn't want to take the 15 hour plane ride? Two of the soldiers will be at the Midland Center for the Arts from January 20-April 13.

Director's View

My favorite holiday gifts as a child – I remember specifically a manicure set, a microscope, a paperback set of James Herriot's stories, and a stuffed Lassie dog with a brush. Those gifts covered wanting to be a beautician, a scientist, and a veterinarian. Although the microscope, the fingernail polish, and the stuffed animal are long gone, the set of paperbacks still remain on the shelf in my library at home. Periodically, I read a story or two when I want a good giggle, and I can't wait until my son is old enough to read them with me – he will bring a whole new joy to a familiar process. The giving of books as gifts should be more common than the giving of just about anything else – books have a certain staying power and more importantly, the power to keep on giving in many ways for years to come. To assist you in your giving of books, the library provides a convenient ["Books Make Perfect Presents" booklist](#), available at all branches and on our website. And who's to say you can't pick up a book as a gift to yourself – you've been good, you deserve it!

Trish Burns, Director, PLOS.

Shiawassee District Library: After 37 years on the job at Owosso, Ken Uptigrove is retiring December 31. Ken has seen the library through much in the last 37 years. Under his watch, the district library was formed which has allowed the library system to grow and prosper. Ken will surely have more time to devote to travel and also to hunting and fishing. Margaret Bentley will serve as interim director until a new director is hired. Best of luck Ken as you begin this new chapter in your life.

Community District Library: January 2008 will see a new addition to the library system. The Edna Bentley Library of Perry will join the district library. The addition of the library to the district now brings the number of public libraries in Shiawassee down to 5 from the 7 that the county had in the early part of the decade. Congratulations to Betsy and her crew.

State Tax Credit for donating to public libraries. Michigan law provides for tax benefits made for charitable contributions to public libraries. In short the taxpayer can claim 50% of their donation as a tax credit not to exceed \$100 or for husband and wife filing jointly \$200. So a couple filing a joint return can donate \$400 to your library and get a \$200 tax credit on their Michigan Income tax. For those who itemize they also get a deduction on their federal tax.

Business taxpayers can make charitable donations to public libraries and claim a credit against the tax imposed by the Michigan Business Tax Act, 2007, PA 36 under section 421, MCL 208.1421.

State Activities:

PAC-HUG Grants Part 2. Orders have been sent out for the new computers. Libraries should be receiving shipments soon. Please contact the office to let us know that you received your computers.

Beginning Workshop & New Directors Workshop offered: Beginning Workshop is set for May 20-22 at North Central Michigan College, Petoskey. The Beginning Workshop and the New Directors Workshop will overlap, offering the same programming in the afternoon on Tuesday May 20. The Beginning Workshop is intended for paraprofessional staff needing basic background in library topics and will provide attendees with 3.2 CEU's for the initial Level VII certification. Participants will complete .8 CEU's before the workshop through free online courses.

Well known librarian and storyteller Michael Sullivan (<http://www.talestoldtall.com>) will provide Wednesday evening's keynote, "Boys and Books"

Registration for the Beginning Workshop is available at <http://www.michigan.gov/lma> . The cost is \$100 and includes meals. Information on hotel rates is included in the registration packet.

State Librarian's Excellence Award 2007: Presented at the MLA Conference the 2007 winner of the award was the Rawson Memorial District Library in Cass City. The library received a \$5,000 cash award plus a crystal trophy. The Bayliss Library in Sault Ste Marie and the Peter White Library, Marquette received the Library of Michigan Foundation Citation of Excellence which included a \$1,000 cash prize and a trophy. The award is sponsored by the Hantz Group and Edward Surovell Real Estate.

Calendar of events and meetings.

January 13, 4:30 p.m. MMLC Board meeting, MMLC office, 5th Floor Meeting Room
January 14, 1:30-4:45 p.m. QSAC workshop: Kalamazoo Public Library.

News from the National scene:

Impact of Revised Child Porn Legislation on Libraries Uncertain

The House approved a bill December 4 that expands an existing law penalizing internet service providers that knowingly fail to report to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children images passing along an ISP's network of child pornography or child sexual exploitation. The Securing Adolescents from Exploitation-Online (SAFE) Act of 2007 (H.R. 3791), sponsored by Rep. Nick Lampson (D-Tex.), passed by a vote of 409–2 and increases the maximum fines from \$100,000 to \$300,000. Privacy advocate Declan McCullagh said in a December 5 CNet news report that a broad interpretation of the legislation could affect libraries that provide wireless access, as well as social networking sites and e-mail service providers. Trevor Kincaid, a spokesperson for Rep. Lampson, responded in a subsequent posting that the intent of the act was to “stop the trafficking of child pornography on the internet without dissolving civil rights.” The legislation as proposed does not require service providers to “monitor any user, subscriber, or customer of that provider,” a clause that is carried over from the existing act (U.S. Code Title 42, Section 13032). ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom Deputy Director Deborah Caldwell-Stone told *American Libraries*, “Library advocates need to monitor this legislation to see that nothing critical gets added or amended. While on the surface these changes do not seem threatening, a \$300,000 fine, triggered by a third party, can lead to extremely serious consequences.”



[Watch the live webcast of children/teen literary awards](#)

ALA will provide a free live webcast of its national announcement of the top books, video, and audiobooks for children and young adults—including the Caldecott, King, Newbery, and Printz awards—January 14 at 7:45 a.m. Eastern time. Unikron, a streaming content provider, will host the webcast. Anyone interested in following the action online should bookmark and use this [URL http://www.unikron.com/clients/ala-webcast-2008](http://www.unikron.com/clients/ala-webcast-2008)

Ask the ALA Librarian



Q. Our city manager is asking us for facts and figures to prove the value of the library. What is available to us?

A. This question is asked of all librarians, sooner or later, and in different forms. The answer builds on effective data gathering and solid advocacy. Beginning in September 2007, ALA has had an [Office for Library Advocacy](#), with a mission to support the efforts of library advocates at the local, state, and national level. But the Office will be building on important [work already done](#), including studies of libraries' ROI (return on investment) and development of [online toolkits to provide resources](#) to assist you in presenting your case

Have you heard about BookSwim?? If not read below:

[BookSwim](#)'s advertising tag line is "don't buy books, rent them." Or, hello? Go to the library and check them out?? [BookSwim](#) is being [referred to](#) as the Netflix of books, or as the "first online book library rental club." The basic idea is that you pay \$14.99 a month (the cheapest option where you can have 3 books out at a time), make a booklist of stuff you'd like to read based on titles that they have in their "library" and as they become available you get the book. When you finish a book, you send it back and they send you another one.

Five ways to protect your privacy online

Dennis O'Reilly writes: "I consider everything I do online—searching, browsing, shopping, email, video-viewing, you name it—as public as anything I do on Main Street in midday. That doesn't mean I don't take precautions to protect my credit card numbers and other private information while online, just as I do my best to keep the information secure everywhere else. The following are my Online Privacy Rules."...
December 17, 2007 12:01 AM PST



What Spanish-speaking users want

Trainers Lucy Iraola and Lorie Vik facilitated a Spanish-language outreach workshop in Beaverton, Oregon, recently on how libraries can make the case for serving Spanish speakers and providing materials in Spanish. The WebJunction blog summarizes some of their arguments, tactics, and resources. An [earlier post](#) gathers comments from Spanish speakers in Arkansas and Arizona about what they want from their libraries.

Take your Traveler IQ

Here's a fun test of your geographic knowledge. Speed and accuracy both count, although at this scale it's tough to differentiate between Chicago and Rockford. Originally from [TravelPod](#). As someone commented, "The top guy overall worldwide got a 708,567 (IQ 147)."



