



Volume 56, Summer 2006

Chapbook . . .

Quarterly Journal of the Children's Services Section North Carolina Library Association

Message from the Chair—Loree Kelly Summer 2006

Hello Chapbook Readers,

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer with an opportunity to enjoy these long, warm...well, ok, HOT days. I love all the seasons but to me there is nothing like the long, lazy, hot days of summer. Everything seems to be a little easier in the summer and I really don't mind the heat—so I hate to see it slipping away. Although I didn't get a real vacation this summer, I did spend lots of long afternoons and evenings reading or working in the yard with a few mountain day trips thrown in--almost as good as a vacation to me!

I would like to let you know that over the summer the Children's Services Section Board voted to change the name of our section from the Children's Services Section to the Youth Services Section. The reason for this change is because we think the name Youth Services Section better reflects and represents all the youth we serve in North Carolina libraries—babies through senior high school students. We will next seek approval of our current NCLA/CSS members on this issue and will hopefully have the name change officially effective by the end of October.

The CSS Board also planned a retreat workshop for this fall. The dates are Thursday and Friday, November 2 & 3 at the Summit Conference Center in Brown Summit, NC. The name of the workshop is TICKLES, TRENDS, & TECHNOLOGY: Youth Services in NC Libraries. The fee for the workshop is \$125.00 per person with meals and lodging included.

Our main speaker will be Rob Reid who will present two workshops: one on conducting successful school age programs and the second on presenting fun family

story times. Rob is an author, librarian, and lecturer and has written a few books you may be familiar with-- FAMILY STORYTIME: Twenty Four Creative Programs for All Ages and COOL STORYTIMES FOR THE SCHOOL AGE CROWD. We will also have sessions on graphic novels, blogs in libraries, and an informal “trade secrets” program Thursday evening. Jim Rosinia, State Library Youth Services Consultant, will lead a session entitled “We’ve Got Issues” on Friday morning and you will have an opportunity to ask questions or voice concerns. If you are interested in attending this workshop, please go to <http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/ld/youth/retreatncla.pdf>. Unfortunately we can’t offer online registration so you must print out the form, fill it out, and send it and your payment to Jacky Miller, treasurer, at the address listed on the brochure. The Retreat Center can only accommodate 69 guests so please register asap as we expect high interest in the workshop.

Below is the workshop schedule:

<u>THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2</u>		<u>FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3</u>	
Registration	11:00-12:00	Breakfast	7:30-8:30
Lunch	12-1:00	Family Story time	8:30-10
Welcome & Overview	1-1:15	(Rob Reid)	
Getting to Know You	1:15-2:00	Break/Check Out	10-10:15
Graphic Novels	2:00-3:30	We’ve Got Issues	10:15-11
Check into Room & Go for a Walk	3:30-4:00	Wrap Up	11-11:30
What’s a Blog?	4-5:30		
Dinner	6-6:45		
School Age Programs (Rob Reid)	7-8:45		
Trade Secrets	9:00--?		

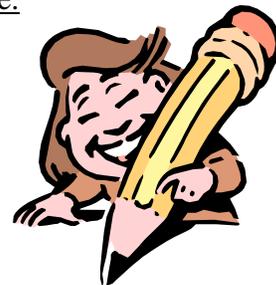
I hope to see you at the workshop this fall!

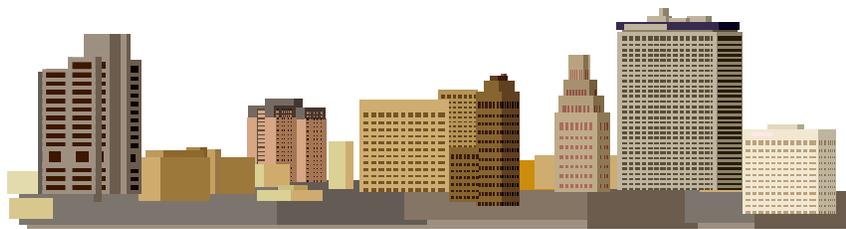
From the Editor.....

I invite our readership to submit articles to the Chapbook; to share your tried and true special programs, or interesting projects, or upcoming events whereby all readers may be informed or even motivated to try something new. There is no deadline.

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From the State Library...

By Jim Rosinia,

State Library Youth Consultant

In the next few months, the State Library and the Youth Services Advisory Committee (YSAC) of the State Library Commission will be asking public library staff – from “front-line” staff serving children and teens to branch managers and library directors – for their thoughts, comments, suggestions, complaints, kudos, etc., etc., etc.

We’re beginning to do a good deal of evaluating and planning and, just as you are there to serve your community, we’re here to serve you. And, just as it’s very important that you base your collection development, programs, and services on the needs of the people you serve, it’s very important that we get feedback from our CPU’s. (Long-time readers of my *Chapbook* blather might recognize my acronym for the people a library serves since we can’t seem to agree on whether they’re Customers or Patrons or Users.)

Looking Back: The federal fiscal year 2007-08 (which began Oct. 1, 2006 and ends Sept. 30, 2007) is the last year of the State Library’s 5 year (2003-07) “Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) Plan for Implementation in North Carolina.” Of course, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the federal agency that administers the service (i.e., the folks who give us the money) requires that we submit an evaluation. But, more importantly, we want to know if the various grant programs that have been offered over the years have made a difference and we’d like to get general feedback about the grant programs and processes.

We especially want to hear from those who have never applied for a grant to learn why they didn’t. For instance, for many of those five years, we have offered Planning Grants that libraries could use for: (a) general planning for programs and services; (b) a building program or library space utilization study; or (c) community-based planning for youth services. [Emphasis added because we receive applications every year for general planning and especially for building planning but we have never received a single application from a library that wants to hire a consultant to help plan youth services and I/we wonder why. . .]

While we are still discussing the specifics for the data gathering, there has been talk of five sessions around the state this fall and possibly an online survey. Given the facts that the sessions can only accommodate so many bodies and that the grant programs serve all types of libraries – public and private academic, community

colleges, K-12 schools, and public libraries – there’s a good chance you won’t be able to be there in person [wherever and whenever “there” might be]. But, if you have something to say about the LSTA programs that have been offered, be sure to pass your thoughts along to your director – assuming s/he will be “there” in person. And, if there is an online survey, there may be a chance for you to be heard.

Looking Forward: In the “two birds, one stone” department, the feedback we receive from our CPUs about where we’ve been will, of course, suggest where we need to go – it will inform the development of our next five year LSTA plan.

Shortly after the evaluation of the current plan is submitted to IMLS, we will be submitting our plan for 2007-11, a document that will be developed in consultation with the LSTA Advisory Committee. It will provide IMLS with our vision for the future of library service in North Carolina as well as goals and outcomes that will guide our use of the LSTA funds that will be appropriated to North Carolina. It will describe priorities and needs identified, in large part, through the preceding evaluation process. Then, each year’s grant programs and initiatives will be developed to address those needs and move the North Carolina library community closer to the vision.

Planning Just For Youth Services:

The LSTA evaluation and planning processes will include grant programs past and future that are intended to improve library services to children and teens but, as you know, our LSTA grant programs include much, much more. There will be, however, another process of data gathering, evaluation, and planning beginning this fall that will focus solely on library services to youth. It will attempt to determine the needs of youth services staff across the state and examine the ways in which State Library programs and services have been and could/should be addressing those needs – whether those programs and services are funded by federal or state dollars.

Last fall, the YSAC was charged by the State Library Commission with reviewing the existing youth services programs of the State Library. Unfortunately, the work of the committee was sidetracked [more than] a bit by the reactions to its recommendation concerning continued State Library sponsorship of the Public Library Quiz Bowl program.

However, work is underway to develop an online survey of youth services librarians. Be sure to watch NCKIDS and “snail mail” for more information on the availability of this survey. The YSAC feels it is critically important to get input from library staff who work with children and teens – i.e., the library staff the State Library is here to support – i.e., YOU. So, when you hear of the survey, please take a moment to respond.



Not Your Grandma's Summer Reading Program

By Maureen McGee

The Summer Reading Program at the Nantahala Regional Library is not quite what one would expect. Nantahala Regional Library serves three counties of around 42,000 people with four libraries and a bookmobile. The summer reading program is planned and executed by the one youth services librarian, who, for the most part, does all the programming and collection development for babies to high school students. There was a time, a couple children's librarians ago, when the summer reading program consisted of "typical" activities. Prizes were given out and reading logs were examined. At some point, this was given up for being too much trouble and probably too expensive.

By the time I took this job a year ago, summer reading was all about the programs at the libraries, and not much about the incentives for reading. Most of the kids involved don't keep reading logs (although I encourage them to) and we don't give out prizes. But the bulk of the SRP is the programs – between two to five programs at each library every week. A majority of the attendees are from day camp groups that come consistently every week. The goal of our summer reading seemed to mainly be to give kids a positive experience at the library, but I wasn't sure that many of them were connecting that experience to what public libraries do best – provide books. Even if they did have fun and get a goodie bag at the end, I wanted the children to understand that reading wasn't just something for me to do to entertain them, it was something for them to do too.

This summer, I wondered, could I reach two goals? Could we give the children a positive experience at the library – make them laugh and have fun – while also making reading attractive?

To start, I planned to emphasize incentives of different sort for the kids who would keep reading logs. This summer, the older children were reading to

meet certain levels at which the library would sponsor endangered animals. I kept track of everyone's reading and we reached our goal of sponsoring an elephant family. I gave the younger children a sticker each week they showed me their reading log. However, NONE of the day camp children were keeping a log, even though I distributed them and encouraged them to help meet our goal.

A lot of the older day camp children (3rd -7th grade) didn't hide their bad attitudes about being herded to the library. At each of the four libraries at least one child expressed out loud that they hated reading. In a surprising exchange, one middle school boy declared that "reading is for yellerbellies." I decided I had to get those kids interested in some sort of book we had at the library. I asked the kids to tell me things they liked reading about or things they were interested in. Then I book talked books that fit with what they liked.

I pushed graphic novels, sports, fashion, scary stories, animal stories, skateboarding - lots of non-fiction. I was able to connect specific books with specific kids. And they responded. I could tell they appreciated that I took the time to find out something about them and what they wanted. They started to ask me to check out the books, or to put those titles in the boxes of books we check out to the day camps. At the Murphy Public Library, the kids were begging for library card applications. Kids were asking me for books I'd talked about the week before, and by the end, some were greeting me with "What books do you have this week?" In Robbinsville, one quiet, athletic fifth grader sidled up to me while the others were folding frog origami to say she read those Babymouse books I talked about, and were there anymore? It was so encouraging. I believe those kids saw there was more to the library than they thought and that maybe the library was a place for them. More than that, they saw they could actually enjoy reading, even if they wouldn't admit it. It wasn't their grandma's summer reading program anymore.

Now, of course, I need to follow-through. I have a lot of ideas for collection development, since hearing what the children liked led me to realize we didn't have some of those topics covered with books on the shelves.

- I hope I can get some media specialists and teachers to let me visit to do more “booktalking”.
- I want to monitor the circulation of the titles I talked about to see if they really are circulating more.

Most of all though, I’m excited for next summer, when I get to see the kids’ faces again as I pull out that book on skateboarding, or horses, or making your own clothes, or snakes, or ghost stories, and they think *Hey, I wanna read that!*



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Teen Summer Reading



Building a Relationship

By Kelly Czarnecki

Six Freedom Reads! book club members in Charlotte, NC signed up for the teen summer reading program through the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County (PLCMC). Three completed several of the reading goals. These participants in Freedom Reads! are 16-17 year old young men who reside in Jail-North. While their education levels vary, most of the young men in the book club are avid readers.

Margo Fesperman, the librarian at Jail-North, set up online accounts at: www.tybteens.org/default.asp for the young men to participate in the summer reading program, which was the procedure for every teen that wanted to join the public library's summer reading initiative. She recorded their hours and book titles they kept track of, and submitted the information for them to win prizes.

Some of the titles the young men read included, *Maximum Ride* by James Patterson, *Ancient Astronomers* by A. Aveni, *Reckless Endangerment* by Robert Tanenbaum, and *Harry Potter and the Order of Half Blood Prince* by J.K. Rowling. Ms. Fesperman arranged for the prizes the young men won to be put in their property which included a mood pencil, Read! bracelet, three free DVD rentals, and entered into a drawing for a \$20 gift certificate from a local retailer. Ms. Fesperman redeemed the coupon for a free cheeseburger for the young men that completed ten hours of reading.

Freedom Reads! continues to meet on a bi-weekly basis at Jail-North with Kelly Czarnecki, Teen Librarian, from ImaginOn, a branch of PLCMC. Phone conferences with authors, book and movie comparisons of such reads as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and even filming puppet shows, are some of their activities. Including **Freedom Reads!**, PLCMC programs and services such as summer reading, viewing videos created by teens at the public library, and sharing materials, are some of the initiatives done to help build a relationship with the young men at Jail-North.

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Game Tournament for Teens

By Kelly Czarnecki

This summer, teens had the opportunity to participate in a Soul Calibur II video game tournament offered by the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County (PLCMC). The tournament ran from the middle of June to the beginning of August at eight library branches throughout the system. Participating branches included: ImaginOn, Steele Creek, North County Regional, South County Regional, Freedom Regional, Davidson, Morrison, and Mountain Island. Two winners from each branch competed in the final round at ImaginOn in August for the champion to win a \$50 gift certificate from EB games and a necklace which was a game controller spray painted silver with a large chain around it.

Soul Calibur II is a quick action fighting game, which requires skills in using weapons and blocking opponents. The program created a community within the library of teens, eager to be the champion of Mecklenburg County. Developmental assets were a result of this program such as family support with groups of cheering parents at the events, empowering youth through having them create a promotional video for the tournament, and giving them a sense of purpose by creating an activity they were interested to participate in.

The Soul Calibur II web site (www.soulcalibur.com) offers discussion forums which give teens meaningful ways to use and improve their reading and writing skills, and the story within the game creates an appreciation of the narrative through an interactive format.

This was a great addition to summer activities for teens and they look forward to the next system wide teen gaming event!

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