

Chicago Public/School Library Hybrid Opens

The Back of the Yards Library, Chicago (pictured)—a public library branch meant to serve as a school library for the students in grades nine to 12 attending the new Back of the Yards High School next door—opened its doors for the first time this August.

Staffed with Chicago’s first teen librarians (two part-time staffers share the position), the library will also have a children’s librarian, plus a branch librarian who is also a K–12 media specialist. That staffer will serve in that role for students who come to the branch during class hours. In an area of the city that lost a branch, the library will be open six days a week. It shares a wall with the school, but students must exit their building to enter the branch.

Heralded by Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel, the hybrid archetype is reportedly one he hopes to replicate going forward. “They have the same mission: to educate our children,” said Emanuel, according to the *Chicago Sun-Times*. “It shouldn’t be in separate buildings. It should be in a single building.”

Ruth Lednicer, Chicago Public Library’s director of marketing and communications, agreed and confirmed that the city will eye opportunities like Back of the Yards where



The Back of the Yards Library, with separate entrance to the high school at right (glass building).

public libraries also serve as school library spaces. But, she said, that doesn’t mean school libraries will disappear. “I don’t think it’s safe to say schools won’t have libraries,” said Lednicer. “We will take what we learn from this and adapt where we go forward, just as we won’t close public libraries and move them into schools. This was a perfect storm.”

Chicago cut more than 3,000 positions, including teachers, while closing 47 elementary schools for the 2013–14 school year. At the same

time, schools built new library spaces inside four elementary schools at a cost of over \$2 million. The spaces have opened for the current school term, according to Dave Miranda, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) deputy press secretary.

Unfortunately, CPS’s Department of Libraries and Information Services now has fewer staff to support its teacher librarians, according to Marie Szyman, vice president of the Chicago Teacher-Librarians Association. “They have an enormous task to keep us all organized, and they do an amazing job,” she said, although the department “has been reduced to just a few people.”

As to the hybrid, “Is it worth trying or better not to approach it that way?” asked Szyman. “It’s going to be interesting to see how this works.”

New San Diego Library To Open Debt Free

The new San Diego Central Library (SDCL), which opens to the public September 30, endured years of uncertainty over its funding feasibility. The \$184.9 million project has no public debt and includes a \$10 million

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Name Your Mover & Shaker!

Help editors of *Library Journal* identify the emerging leaders in the library world. Our 13th annual round of Movers & Shakers will profile 50 or more up-and-coming individuals from around the world who are innovative, creative, and making a difference. The Movers & Shakers 2014 will be highlighted in the March 15 issue of *Library Journal*.

Nominations are due November 2, 2013.

News in Brief

Columbia University, New York, added the University of Chicago to its Borrow Direct service, which allows institutions to share and circulate materials from participating libraries. Ten universities have joined so far.

Vanderbilt University Press and a bipartisan group of donors have ensured that every Tennessee library received a copy of Keel Hunt's *COUP: The Day the Democrats Ousted Their Governor, Put Republican Lamar Alexander in Office Early, and Stopped a Pardon Scandal*. The book was sent to over 2,000 public, academic, and school libraries.

The **Institute of Museum and Library Services** awarded four grants totaling \$523,000 for Native Hawaiian Library Services: **ALU LIKE, Inc.**, Honolulu; **Hula Preservation Society**, Kaneohe; **Kanu o ka 'Aina Learning 'Ohana**, Kamuela; and **Papahana Kuaola**, Kaneohe.

The **Calcasieu Parish Public Library**, Lake Charles, LA, introduced its LibraryTo-Go service, a free delivery service of library materials to patrons' homes, nursing homes, day-care centers, and other similar facilities. Those eligible are homebound residents who are unable to visit the library owing to illness.

Publisher **Adam Matthew** has partnered with the **Newberry Library**, Chicago, to launch American Indian Histories and Cultures, a digital resource sourced from the library's Edward E. Ayer Collection. It includes manuscripts, newspapers, artwork, maps, speeches, and photographs.

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matching grant to cover operating costs for the next five years.

Two years ago the city council approved construction of the nine-story, 497,652 square foot building. The library occupies 366,673 square feet; a charter school occupies the top two floors, and there are two parking levels. San Diego Public Library (SDPL) director Deborah Barrow credits the city council for having "the faith to move forward," even though the city was in an economic downturn.

Barrow, a San Diego native, returned five years ago to head SDPL, a few months before the \$80 million development grant was set to expire. She used the old central library while growing up. Though "it was a thrill to work there as a director," she told *Hotline*, she is looking forward to the next step for SDPL.

PUBLIC/PRIVATE FUNDING, MINUS DEBT

SDPL had many champions, said Barrow. She singles out SDPL Foundation chair Mel Katz and his staff for "putting this project over the top." More than 3,000 private donors made contributions, ranging from \$150 to the \$10 million matching grant from Qualcomm cofounder Irwin Jacobs and his wife, Joan (in addition to their earlier \$20 million donation).

SDPL was also able to use \$80 million in Centre City Development Corporation funds, which were earmarked for downtown development. Additionally, the California State Library awarded SDPL a \$20 million construction grant, and the San Diego

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VP, Group Publisher Ian Singer
Editorial Director Rebecca T. Miller
Editor Meredith Schwartz

Contributing Editors
Lauren Barack, Lynn Blumenstein,
Kate DiGirolomo, Matt Enis,
Bette-Lee Fox,
Michelle Lee, Dodie Ownes

Art Production Josephine Marc-Anthony
Creative Director Mark Tuchman

TO CONTACT HOTLINE:

Editorial
Phone: (646) 380-0700
Fax: (646) 380-0756/0757
E-mail: LJHotline@mediasourceinc.com
160 Varick Street, 11th floor
New York, NY 10013

Advertising
Roy Futterman or your LJ rep
Phone: (646) 380-0718
rfutterman@mediasourceinc.com

Classified
Howard Katz, Classified Manager
Phone: (646) 380-0730

Production
JoAnn Powell, Production Manager
Phone: (646) 380-0741

Subscriptions
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Unified School District paid \$20 million to lease space for the charter school, which has a separate entrance.

The library was able to keep within a 2005 budget projection because construction costs have fallen during the recent economic downturn.

PLANNING FOR PEOPLE, AND PARTNERS

The new building will cost \$2.7 million more annually to operate than the previous one did, hence the need for the \$10 million matching grant, to be supplemented by funds from parking fees, café proceeds, and event-space rentals. However, the number of staff (82 FTE) will remain mostly the same; a few new positions may be added to handle special events.

A new automated materials handling system will free circulation staff, who can be retrained to provide quick help while roving the busiest areas of the library. Technical services staffers, who previously were in a separate location, will also now be available to assist users. Branch personnel will be cross-trained to work in the new facility.

SDPL hired consultants to plan for the impact of the new facility on processes and staff. Sam McBane Mulford addressed process mapping, developing priorities, the move plan, and restructuring, while Jane Light, retired director, San José Public Library, worked with SDCL staff on operations strategies.

DESIGNED FOR TECH

Staff members have been in the facility since July 27, adjusting to a new RFID system, loading in collections, and fine-tuning the menu of technology offerings. More than 300 devices will be available for checkout, including tablets and preloaded ereaders.

Digital displays will feature program information, wayfinding “totems,” donor recognition, art installations, QR-coded videos, and more. SDCL will include a 352-seat auditorium, technology-equipped study

rooms, computer labs, gaming areas, and multimedia collaborative tables.

Aesthetic improvements also abound, including a three-story dome, made of lattice-work forming

eight overlapping pieces atop a glass reading room.

SDCL plans to become part of its “up and coming neighborhood,” said SDPL public information officer Marion

Minicraft Library Scores Big

“Nothing’s impossible in Minicraft,” said Elizabeth Grohoski. And she would know. Grohoski recently spent three months using the online game to create a virtual replica of the Mattituck-Laurel Library in Mattituck, NY, complete with a model of the working piano in the library basement (ow.ly/nQwCN).

The popular game, launched in 2011, allows users to build in a 3-D virtual world with cubes similar to Legos.

The project started when Karen Letteriello, comanager of the parents’ and children’s department at Mattituck-Laurel, read a *School Library Journal* feature by librarian



Sarah Ludwig about a highly successful Minicraft library club at the Connecticut school where she worked. Letteriello asked Grohoski, a technical processor at the library and a gamer since the age of six, to create a similar program to help attract young patrons.

Letteriello launched the finished site on June 20. Letteriello and Grohoski’s vision features a library-centric scavenger hunt. Each room of the Minicraft library offers a clue inside treasure chests tucked into virtual shelves. Clues provide students with a summary of the plot, title, author, and call letters, so children can locate the books inside the physical library. There are other activities as well—a maze, minigames, and eventually a racetrack, which Grohoski hopes to build. Children can play a few notes on the virtual piano or ride up and down the virtual elevator—just like the one inside the real branch. And for those looking to explore outside the building, Grohoski shifted existing Minicraft destinations closer to the virtual library.

Students with their own Minicraft accounts can log on from home, or they can play at the library free of charge. The library offers five laptops with video cards, which play the full version of the online game, plus six iPads loaded with Minicraft’s pocket edition.

Letteriello is planning future educational projects using Minicraft and other digital tools. One possibility: a virtual opportunity to explore Ancient Greece and Rome. Her goal is that students will find their library experience as seamless as exercising their curiosity.

“I want them to use [the library presence in Minicraft] the same way they would the actual library, take a book home and teleport into another world,” she said. “I want them to feel the gaming world is just another part of the library.”

Mattituck resident Pam Kaminsky’s 13-year-old son, Collin, is “obsessed” with the Minicraft library, she said. He and his 16-year-old brother, Owen, are also impressed with Grohoski’s expertise with the game. “[Collin] said, ‘The librarian is talking to me about my program? Wow,’” said Kaminsky. “It’s like he has a new connection with the librarians.”

“Now the kids walk in and ask if Elizabeth is here,” said Letteriello. “She has a cult following.”

Children sign up to play on Fridays, when they can interact with others in the virtual branch. The reaction has been a “tomado,” Letteriello said. “We have waiting lists that you can’t imagine. And Elizabeth continues to build. It’s taking on a life of its own.”

Hubbard, which includes a law school as well as a homeless population. As part of its extensive array of partnerships, SDCL will have mental health workers on site, plus designated meeting rooms to aid those in need. A local television channel, with a studio on the premises, will offer TV crews as

mentors. The IDEA (Innovation and Digital Expression Activity) Lab, funded by a state grant, with a Maker station and design lab functionality, will match up local designers with high school students. Plans are in the works for several partnerships with the resident charter school.

Library Pairs Farm Shares with Readers' Advisory

A new program at the Wilmington Memorial Library in Massachusetts is feeding patrons' minds and bodies with fresh picked fruits and vegetables—and titles.

The library created a community supported agriculture pick-up point in June for Wilmington residents who have Community-supported agriculture (CSA) shares with Farmer Dave's of Dracut. The goal was to help residents get their produce without having to drive to other towns, said Joanna Breen, the marketing librarian. Boxes of fruits and vegetables are delivered once a week. About 50 families use the program, Breen said.

In conjunction with the CSA pickups, the library started a librarian-supported reading service, which provides residents with books tailored to their taste. Books are borrowed for three weeks at a time and placed alongside the produce.

The CSA pick-up point has generated friendly discussions among library patrons and staff, Breen said, and the library held a public talk about healthy eating and farming last May in advance of the CSA program.

Suzanne Schreyer, a CSA member and library patron, said she enjoys the service and "loves the combination of books and healthy eating."

Schreyer said she learned a lot about the importance of locally grown food from the program. She's also read three novels she otherwise would not have known about.

Other Wilmington residents have benefited from the program as well. Fruits and vegetables that are not picked up or that CSA members do not want are donated to the local food pantry and senior center on alternating weeks.

Robert DiPalma, manager of the Wilmington Community Fund's food pantry, said it was fantastic to get a re-

Branching Out



Houston Public Library recently reopened its renovated **Collier Regional Library** (pictured). The 17,440 square foot, 1985 building received new rubber flooring, refreshed paint, and refinished furniture throughout. Among other upgrades are a glass-walled teen space, with new furnishings and shelving; a redesigned children's section, with soft seating; a centrally located Information Desk to replace the former reference desk; and the installation of 32 public access computers. Designed by Brave Architecture of Houston, with contractors Horizon International Group, the \$400,000 project was funded through Capital Improvement Plan dollars from the City of Houston.

More groundbreakings in Columbus, OH (see *Hotline*, 8/12/13), with the ceremony on September 10 for the new **Whitehall Branch** of the Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML). The modern 20,000 square foot facility will replace a 7,500 square foot building that is more than a half century old. Along with 100 parking spaces, the new Whitehall will feature dedicated children's and teen areas, funded

through a bequest of \$750,000 from the late Carol Snowden, a long-time CML librarian. Designed by Jonathan Barnes Architecture and Design, the project is expected to be completed in 2014.

To update its 21-year-old circulation desk space, **Hoover Public Library, AL**, chose Duncan &

Thompson Construction, the second lowest bidder, coming in at \$174,361. Barry Davis Architects is already on the design team and will meet with the construction firm to settle details prior to the signing of a contract, according to AL.com. The project has a start date between September 1 and September 15 and a mandatory 90-day deadline, though library director Linda Andrews said it is hoped that the project will be completed sooner, per AL.com.

The Cuyahoga County Public Library opened its new 30,000 square foot **Garfield Heights Branch** on September 7. The \$12.2 million project, designed by Bostwick Design Partnership, includes expanded collections, a full-service drive-up window, a technology learning center that will host computer classes, an after-school homework center, a dedicated teen zone with a recording studio and film production equipment, public computers with high-speed Internet access, and several community spaces. The library has targeted Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification.

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frigerator full of fresh produce to distribute to 75 to 80 families twice a month.

“At first we were getting greens people didn’t know how to use, how to cook, or what they were,” DiPalma said. “We got past that and got into produce people knew, melons, cucumbers, corn, and carrots. It was great. People loved it.”

Terri Marciello, director of Wilmington Elderly Services, said all of the senior citizens are thrilled to get fresh produce and there are never any leftovers.

Marciello estimated that about 30 senior citizens benefit from the program. They have taken home a wide variety of food, including beets, herbs, tomatoes, green beans, nectarines, peaches, and watermelon.

Farmer Dave Dumaresq called the program a “win-win situation.” “My food is not full of pizzazz,” Dumaresq said. “But people who go to the library

understand the effort that goes into the food and the value of it.”

To prevent theft, Dumaresq told *Hotline* that a farm volunteer watches over the CSA produce. Breen said the program has not been disruptive to other library patrons.

The library will continue to be the CSA pick-up point until farming ends in October, Breen said. The library plans to continue the program next year.

Training Vendor Offers Need-Based Pricing

Technology education provider Treehouse announced Treehouse Education Library Aid, a new pricing plan that offers small or demonstrably cash-strapped libraries discounts of up to 50 percent on subscriptions to its collection of step-by-step online courses on website design, computer programming, app development for

Android and iOS devices, entrepreneurship, and other topics.

Similar to offerings by Lynda.com, Treehouse courses are taught via a series of short, professionally produced videos, with student comprehension tested using quizzes or “code challenges” after each segment. Lynda.com is pilot testing a library access model with the New York Public Library, but, for most libraries, it is currently only available through individual subscriptions on dedicated computers or kiosks. By contrast, following a successful pilot test with the Orange County Library System (OCLS), FL, this spring, Treehouse recently began offering a subscription plan to libraries that enables patrons to access courses from any library computer or from home by logging in with their library card.

With the new library subscription plan, “the market that we really

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want to affect are the people who need this,” said Chris Zabaleta, chief commercial officer for Treehouse. “Going through libraries gives us the opportunity to put Treehouse in front of people who really couldn’t afford the \$25 per month [individual subscription] on their own.”

For libraries, standard subscription pricing is based on their total number of active cardholders. Libraries that are interested in these courses and believe they might be eligible for a discount can apply by contacting Treehouse and filling out a one-page questionnaire detailing their financial status and per capita budget.

“What it all boils down to is two things,” Zabaleta said. “Are you an underfunded library, and if you are, does your track record tell us that you’re going to make sure your patrons take advantage” of these course offerings

BIG NEWS!!

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LJ’s building feature is now in the NOVEMBER 15, 2013 issue. Submissions are due on SEPTEMBER 23, 2013.

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to learn new skills? He added that 50 percent is the maximum discount, and while one system is already offering the service to its patrons under this rate plan, most applicants will probably qualify for less significant price cuts.

Treehouse is still very new to the library market, but Zabaleta said the company has already noticed significant funding disparities among different systems.

“We’re seeing a huge separation,” he said. “There are libraries that are well funded and have no problem with

our subscription price, and we’re talking to other libraries where you look at their funding and their total expenditures and you see what it costs them just to keep the lights on. They’re never going to be able to afford it. And we want everybody to have access.”

“We are a for-profit company, but at its core Treehouse wants to teach everybody new skills that we believe are absolutely fundamental for literacy in the 21st century,” he added.

Capstone Donates 3,000+ Books to OK Schools

Capstone joined the long list of donors and volunteers supporting Moore, OK, after tornados devastated the community last spring. A shipment of 3,000-plus books recently arrived for the city’s two elementary schools, Briarwood Elementary and Plaza Towers Elementary, to help restock their libraries, which were completely destroyed.

Sharon Hagge, Capstone’s Distribution Center Coordinator, has been busy organizing the shipment for some time, but the schools were only recently prepared to receive the large donation. Each year Capstone donates more than \$1 million in books worldwide and will continue to help rebuild Moore’s libraries in particular with its “Buy a Book, Give a Book” promotion through its trade publishing program, Capstone Young Readers. The publisher donates one book to the Moore schools for every book purchased through its website. Consumers can use the promo code “MooreRelief” when placing an online order.

People

Patty Anderson was appointed Assistant Library Director, Woodbridge Public Library, NJ. She was previously the Director of the Clark Public Library, NJ.

J.B. Hill has been promoted to Interim Dean of the Ottenheimer Library at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock. He was formerly Director of Public Services for the university.

Marieka Kaye was named Conservation Librarian/Book Conservator at the University of Michigan Library, Ann Arbor. She was previously Exhibits Conservator at the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA.

Rosalind Lett was named Director of Library Services at Clayton County Library System, GA. She was formerly the Associate Di-

rector for Public Services at Huntsville–Madison County Public Library, AL.

Sarah Meisels retired as Director, Wheaton Public Library, IL. She had been in the position for 35 years.

Jennifer Motszko was appointed Manuscript Archivist Librarian at the University of North Carolina Libraries, Greensboro. She was formerly Manuscripts Archivist for the university.

Fred Stielow, Vice President and Dean of Libraries at the American Public Library System, Charles Town, WV, was appointed by the American Library Association to a two-year term as its representative on the U.S. Commission to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

In Memoriam

Nasser Sharify, Distinguished Professor and Dean Emeritus at the Graduate School of Information and Library Science at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, died on August 23. He was 87 years old.

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