

INDIANA LIBRARY NEWS

by State Library staff

LIBRARIES OFFERING JOB PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE

Thanks to a partnership with Indiana Region 9 Workforce Development, SHARE (Showing How Awareness of Resources Empowers) Network Indiana and the Franklin County Economic Development Corporation, Franklin County's two public libraries can now assist with job placement. SHARE Network Indiana is a free, online statewide resource directory created to help Hoosiers find a job, keep a job, or obtain a better job. **Whitewater Valley Community Library District** director **Melody Gault** said that staff members have been trained to help people file for unemployment and look for new positions and that the computers have been popular with patrons. The SHARE Network is Internet-based and sponsored by the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, Department of Workforce Development, Department of Corrections, and the Indiana Region 9 Workforce Investment Board in collaboration with the United States Department of Labor.

DECATUR AND GENEVA PUBLIC LIBRARIES MERGE

Officials of the **Decatur** and **Geneva** public libraries announced that they have created the **Adams Public Library System** by merging the libraries. The Decatur and Geneva library boards voted to merge, leading **Medford Smith**, president of the Decatur library board to say, "This merger of these two fine libraries is the result of a four-person planning committee from each library planning all the details over a period of one year. The merger and cooperation of the libraries will hopefully lead to a wider area of service for both the Decatur and Geneva locals." **Kelly Ehinger** becomes the director of the library district and **Rose Bryan** will remain at Geneva as the branch manager.

IMCPL CREATING A 5 YEAR STRATEGY

Former **Purdue University** President **Martin Jischke** will co-lead a 25-member board tasked with laying out a five-year strategy for the **Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library**. Jischke, along with his

wife, **Patty**, will coordinate the effort that will include identifying what services the library should offer in support of early-childhood literacy and local economic development. Library officials say changing demographics and funding challenges need to be addressed, despite a record 14.1 million items circulated and a near-record number of visitors in 2007. The board will hold focus groups and solicit public input as it develops the plan. The board expects to release a preliminary plan by July 1 for the library board to approve.

CIRCULATION INCREASING AT LIBRARIES

Despite Muncie's declining population, more people are frequenting the **Muncie Public Library** facilities than at any other time in their history. In 2006, library patrons checked out nearly 450,000 books and close to 650,000 audio visual materials said director **Virginia Nilles**. In the two years since \$11.9 million in renovations were completed to the **New Castle Henry County Public Library** the facility has seen a significant surge in visitors. More than 213,000 people visited the library in 2006, a 32 percent increase from 2005. The patrons checked out 355,000 books, up 103 percent from the previous year. **Jan Preusz**, director of New Castle's library, said the library now is being utilized in ways it couldn't before the construction. **Tippecanoe County Public Library's** circulation rose 11% percent in 2006 compared to 2005. As the **Hancock County Public Library** enters its ninth year of providing library services to all county residents, total circulation of items, cardholders, program attendance, outreach, and computer usage continue to grow. The library system recorded 271,000 visitors in 2007 that checked out 634,000 items, posed over 22,000 reference questions, and recorded over 100,000 public computer sessions.

NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTORS

Former **Frankfort Community Public Library** director **Bill Caddell** accepted an offer by the **Monticello-Union Township Public Library** to serve as interim director for at least six months. The library has been searching for a new director since October 2007.

The **Jennings County Library** Board has hired **Mary Hougland** as the new director. A native of

Seymour, Hougland says she is looking forward to meeting more people in the community.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS HELD AT TWO LIBRARIES

The **North Manchester Public Library** will mark 100 years of existence this year with a variety of programs. A "Celebrate Your Library" bookmark contest for children and teens, a Community Read, and a Centennial Festival in June and a November reception are part of the plans. The celebration is truly a community affair director **Theresa Tyner** said.

The Carnegie Library building housing the **Frankfort Community Public Library's** main branch opened 100 years ago and recently the community held a celebration. "We love our library and look forward to the future," said **Mary Ellen Brown** vice president of the Friends of the Frankfort Community Public Library.

INVESTIGATION DESTINATION PROGRAM

The **Avon-Washington Township Public Library** continues its Investigation Destination program, a monthly program put on by library staff member **Darlyn Haskett**. Investigation Destination provides children with an opportunity to revisit a particular era, culture, location, or event of historical significance. Antarctica and ancient Egyptian civilization were the focus of recent programs. Attendees of the Egyptian program received a statuette of a mummy, an origami pyramid, a bookmark written in hieroglyphics, and a special gift bag. "We try to have a lot of fun...but also to learn from it," said Haskett.

COLTS TEAM WITH THE PRINCETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The **Princeton Public Library** recently teamed with the Indianapolis Colts to bring the Books for Youth program to Princeton. The Books for Youth program was originally started in 2006 when the Colts teamed with the Marion County Department of Child Services to help build reading skills throughout the community by putting more books into the hands of local children. The Colts are now working to spread the program throughout the state and have set a goal of distributing 250,000 books.

KHCPL SEEKING GRANTS FOR NEW BOOKMOBILES

Tom Tolen, director of Development for the **Kokomo Howard County Public Library**, is exploring grant opportunities for new bookmobiles. In addition, Tolen plans to implement an annual giving program for the library.

CONSTRUCTION

Linden Carnegie Public Library had a grand opening ceremony to mark the completion of a renovation and new addition. "It is wonderful," said **Kathie Watkins**, the library director. "I am excited about sharing the new library with the community."

Construction will begin this summer on an expansion project at the **Butler Public Library**. Director **Ellen Stuckey** says the project will give the library twice as much space.

The **Bedford Public Library** plans to complete construction and open a branch in Judah in late April, according to director **Susan Miller**. In addition, renovations to the main library in Bedford will be completed in April.

The **Fulton County Public Library** welcomed patrons to a standing room only dedication. The \$3.5 million, 12,100 foot addition opened to the public in September, while remodeling work continued in the original space.