

CHECK IT OUT!



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Library Strategic Plan Process

By Library Director Carolyn Rawles-Heiser

We are wrapping up a year-long process to create a new strategic plan for your Library. For the first time in many years (if ever), a county-wide telephone survey of users and non-users was conducted, along with two focus groups to ensure broad representation. We learned some interesting things along the way.

The two most heartening things I found in the responses were that our wonderful, hard-working staff are appreciated by the public, and people are still primarily coming to the Library to find books to read!

We were happy to learn that

- 97% of respondents (users and nonusers alike) think the Library plays an important role in the community.
- 85% believe it is important for the Library to have sufficient funding to expand and enhance services.
- 75% of those surveyed have a library card.
- 65% of participants have used the Library more than three times in the past year. We have a substantial base of “heavy” users (no surprise to our staff!) who use the Library more than twice a month, with about 33% of users in that category.

Overall, users seem to be extremely or very satisfied with the Library, especially:

- Library staff courtesy (98%*) and staff competence and professionalism (97%*)
- Reference service (68%*)
- Length of time to get reserved materials (63%*)
- Other areas, like children’s programs, received high marks, but a large proportion said they were unable to assess the quality because they did not use them personally.

(* percentages of those very or extremely satisfied)

Being a source of reliable information and providing educational support were the two most important roles that the Library can play, according to respondents. We are still a community of book readers, because by far the number-one reason people use the library is “to get books for leisure reading,” according to 67% of Library users, with “getting materials for entertainment” second at 40%.



Several Library services were not used very much by those surveyed, for a number of reasons: the service is targeted to a specific group (for example, teen services); the service is not of interest to them; or they did not know the service existed.

Focus groups of “young professionals without telephone land-lines” and “teens” rounded out our public survey efforts. Young professionals enjoy the Library environment, think it is important to the community, believe the staff offers excellent customer service, and are impressed with the Library’s collection. They would like an expanded non-print collection (CDs, DVDs, downloadable materials, etc.) Teens like having their own space, feel respected by the Library staff, and want more books, magazines, games, and Manga. They also wanted the Library to have food available.

We will be looking carefully at the survey results, along with all the data gathered in this process, as we move forward to implement the new strategic plan. Thank you, everyone, who participated in the survey and focus groups, and stay tuned for more information on the new plan.

Traveling the Silk Road: The Meeting of History, Geography and Culture

The historic trade routes that came to be known as the Silk Road carried not only goods, but also arts, music, languages, beliefs, and ideas between East Asia and Mediterranean Europe. Discover a bit of the history and geography of the famous routes which Yo-Yo Ma calls the “Internet of antiquity.” Using map activities, interactive explorations, cultural connections, and inquiry-based discussions, enjoy exploring what is traded whenever different cultures meet. Programs are on Tuesdays at 12:10 in the Main Meeting Room beginning on October 6. Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center is co-facilitating this series with LBCC and the Library.

October 6—**Mapping the Historic Silk Road.** Create a map and a visual picture of the traversing of geography and borders by the various trade routes that made up the Silk Road.

October 13—**Brief History of the Silk Road.** Explore the historical context and dynamics of the trade and cul-

tures along the routes. Discover some of the important exchanges that took place.

October 20—**Stories from the Silk Road.** Listen as local storytellers tell stories that might have been exchanged by the cultures along the Silk Road.

October 27—**Meeting of Cultures.** Hear international students from OSU speak about their own experiences moving between cultures.

November 3—**Migrations and human interdependency.** Discuss the implications of the exchange of ideas from the Silk Road to the Cyber Road on the route to globalization.

November 10—**Artistic and Musical Motifs from the Silk Road.** Join us for a caravan of the arts inspired by the Silk Road cultures. Textiles, music, visual arts, and design show the influence of the meeting of cultures.

Staff Profile

Clare Bennett, Volunteer Coordinator



Clare Bennett

Clare Bennett hit the ground running when she took over as Volunteer Coordinator in July. In her first two weeks she interviewed and signed up six new volunteers. She continues to work through the backlog of applications. Clare works with Library divisions to determine their needs and find the right person. Good volunteers are personable, like working with the public, may have past volunteer experience, are motivated, and can commit to working once a week for the long term. Currently there are about 250 volunteers working an average of seven hours a month.

Clare was the volunteer coordinator at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum in Eugene, worked as an event planner at U of O, and was also a baker. She is originally from New Mexico/Colorado, but is now thoroughly Oregonian. She has degrees in psychology and political science. Clare likes sewing, crafts, and gardening. She and her partner also enjoy outdoor activities, sports, and travel. They once lived in a van in Australia while hitting all the scuba diving spots.

Volunteer Profile

Tawnie Wong

Last May, Tawnie Wong decided it was time to get out of the house and do something different. This new mother began working as a Holds Shelf Volunteer in Circulation! She wants to learn all she can about the Library, how it works, and what it takes to become a librarian. Tawnie describes herself as a organized perfectionist, so the detail of keeping the reserved books in order appeals to her. She enjoys being around our staff and volunteers who all are passionate about the Library like she is.

Tawnie was born in Hawaii and lived in California and Bend before coming to Corvallis to attend OSU, where she will return in the fall to complete her degree in English. She also worked with kids and was the site director of the local STARS program for several years. While balancing life with her 18 month old daughter and her partner, Tawnie also likes to read, write, and sketch. Eventually she may pursue a degree in library science.



Tawnie Wong

Friends Membership, and Cosponsored Events

by David M. Low, Friends President

\$65,000!

For many people, summertime was an opportunity for a mid-year break. School was out, vacations were taken, and long hot days prevailed. For the Friends of the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, summer marked a break between our program years with no formal board meetings. We held our annual membership meeting in June, which recapped an impressive list of accomplishments benefiting the Library and the communities it serves.

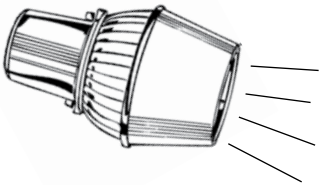
For example, you likely know the Friends hold a big book sale in February, with smaller ones during the year. Does it surprise you to learn that the Friends raise substantial Library funding this way? For 2009 we gave our Library \$65,000! We can do this because of you and your participation in our book sales and your membership support.

Another achievement: The Friends co-sponsored 18 events throughout the year. These ranged from a self-publishing workshop to a

reading by noted author Ursula Le Guin. The Friends also provided monthly Random Reviews of books and authors, covering an array of subjects. Our average monthly attendance of 68 spiked to 134 when *Team of Rivals* was reviewed by John Frohmeyer.

I could continue with accomplishments, but I need to return to the annual meeting for one more item. After three years of wonderful service as co-presidents, **Corrine Gobeli** and **Cheryl Maze** added the word "past" to their title. Fortunately, their devotion to the Friends remains as board members. As a team, the board looks forward to an exciting new program year!

To learn more about the Friends, please visit us on the Library's Web site: www.thebestlibrary.net. Look under Library Links. If you are not already a member of the Friends, please consider becoming one. After all, that old adage rings true with us: "We need all the Friends we can get."



Spotlight: Learn about the World with CultureGrams

Your library card can act as a passport to learning about people and places all over the world. Are you planning travel to another country? Are you looking to brush up on your knowledge of places in the news? Are you hosting an exchange student, meeting with an international visitor, or maybe an out-of-country business colleague? Well-researched and constantly updated, CultureGrams offer you a snapshot to understanding countries and cultures of the world. CultureGrams have a long history as an in-print resource. Now your Library has it available electronically wherever you have Internet access.

World economy, trade, population, social customs, religious activities, and forms of government are just a taste of what you will find with CultureGrams online. The database features country reports plus beautiful photographs and videos, maps, flags, and national anthems. The individual reports can be viewed online or they can be saved as PDFs. Also included is an easy-to-use kids' interface and information about American states and Canadian provinces. Great for students writing country reports, CultureGrams will become a family favorite for quick, accurate look-ups on the people and places of the world.

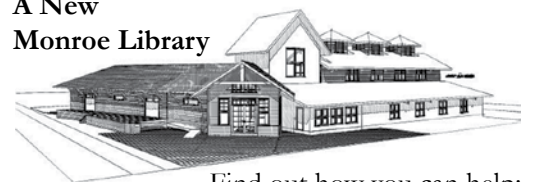
Many entries feature multiple slideshows that can be viewed on-screen or downloaded as Microsoft PowerPoint presentations. Additional resources included are recipes, graphs, tables, and interviews.

Nearly every resource offers an easy way to generate a citation for report writing. They offer excellent access to statistics, including the ability to download to a spreadsheet for your own comparisons. You can even use their online pages to generate specific tables and graphs.

CultureGrams is easy to locate on the Library's homepage, www.thebestlibrary.net. Choose Databases from the top bar, click List of All Databases, and follow the directions under CultureGrams. For more information about CultureGrams and other Library online resources, call the Adult Reference desk at 766-6793.

CultureGrams

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<http://monroelibraryor.blogspot.com/>



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September 7 – Library CLOSED for Holiday

October 12 – Library CLOSED for staff training and building maintenance

Random Review – second Wednesday at 12 noon, Main Meeting Room

- September 9 – *109 East Palace: Robert Oppenheimer and the Secret City of Los Alamos* by Jennet Conant. Reviewed by Ken and Paula Krane.
- October 14 – Title and reviewer to be announced.

Author Readings – these programs are at 7 pm in the Main Meeting Room

- September 22 – Michele Longo Eder talks about her book *Salt in Our Blood: The Memoir of a Fisherman's Wife*
- October 6 – Matt Love presents his book *Super Sunday in Newport: Notes from My First Year in Town*

Traveling the Silk Road lecture series – Tuesdays, beginning October 6, 12:10 pm. See the article on page 2.

Library Book Club, meets every third Wednesday at 7:30 pm in the Library Board Room. Books are provided by the Library and are available four weeks prior to the monthly meeting.

- September 16 – *Bearing the Body* by Ehud Havazelet
- August 19 – *The Reader* by Bernard Schlink

Art in the Library

- September 2–30 – Quilt County – Santiam Scrappers Quilt Guild presents quilts in a variety of styles and sizes reflecting the diversity of the group's members. Pieces are hung throughout the Library.
- September 26 & 27 – Fall Festival Fine Arts Showcase features artists in a variety of media. Main Meeting Room.

CHECK IT OUT! brings information about the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library to patrons, Friends of the Library, and Foundation donors on a bimonthly basis. Copies are available at the Main Library, branches, and outreach locations. Refer questions and input regarding *CHECK IT OUT!* to Carol Klamkin (766-6708). Our World Wide Web address is www.thebestlibrary.net. Special thanks to the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation for funding this newsletter.



Library Foundation

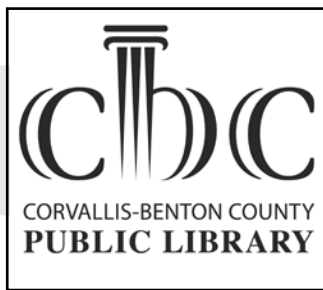
by Betty McCauley

Have you heard of *Library2Go*? On a Library tour, I learned what is available for that new breed of book lovers—the technology users. We all know someone who has everything. To honor that one on a birthday, consider a unique gift to the Foundation in his or her name. For example, you could give toward the Library's audiobook collection, which includes a growing number of online books that can be downloaded to an iPod or an MP3. For information on audiobooks compatible with a library patron's equipment, look on the Library's home page, www.thebestlibrary.net. In the banner at the top, select "audiobooks." This will take you to *Library2Go* with various options. There are pages of titles with little pictures of books, with notes

on the systems to which they can be downloaded—hundreds of books, as varied as *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, *Aristotle*, or current novels.

A new small collection includes pre-loaded audiobooks, the simplest way to listen to audio on the go. Check out a book in a case, and inside is a miniature book already loaded to plug into your earphones. No cassettes. No CD's. No downloads. You move through chapters and use the bookmark feature to turn it off and resume listening at the right place. To see titles in the catalog, search on the keyword "pre-loaded."

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As we celebrate another year of accomplishments, we thank all those who have donated to the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, the Friends of the Library, and the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library Foundation.

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*To anyone whose name may have
been inadvertently left off our list or
been incorrectly listed, our apologies
and thanks, too!*

SEPTEMBER

Your Library: Bringing People & Information Together • Thanks to the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation for funding this newsletter.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		10 am Toddler Storytime 10:30 am Preschool Storytime—Monroe 7 pm Bedtime Storytime—Philomath	10 am Infant Storytime 10 am Preschool Storytime—Philomath 7:30 pm Library Board Meeting	10 am Preschool Storytime	10 am Wobbler Storytime	
		1	2	3	4	5
	HOLIDAY ALL LIBRARIES CLOSED	10 am Toddler Storytime 10:30 am Preschool Storytime—Monroe 7 pm Bedtime Storytime—Philomath	10 am Infant Storytime 10 am Preschool Storytime—Philomath 12 pm Random Review	10 am Preschool Storytime 4 pm Middle School Book Club ³	10 am Wobbler Storytime	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	4 pm Teen Animanga Book Club ³ 7 pm Bedtime Storytime	10 am Toddler Storytime 10:30 am Preschool Storytime—Monroe 7 pm Bedtime Storytime—Philomath 7 pm League of Women Voters Program	10 am Infant Storytime 10 am Preschool Storytime—Philomath 7:30 pm Book Club ¹	10 am Preschool Storytime 4 pm Kids' Book Club ³	10 am Wobbler Storytime	11 am La fiesta de su biblioteca
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	3:30 pm Friends of the Library Board meeting 7 pm Bedtime Storytime	10 am Toddler Storytime 10:30 am Preschool Storytime—Monroe 3:30 pm Beginning Chapter Book Club ³ 7 pm Bedtime Storytime—Philomath 7 pm Author Reading: Michele Longo Eder	10 am Infant Storytime 10 am Preschool Storytime—Philomath	10 am Preschool Storytime	10 am Wobbler Storytime	10 am Fall Festival Fine Arts Showcase
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10 am Fall Festival Fine Arts Showcase	5 pm Teen Game Night 7 pm Bedtime Storytime	10 am Toddler Storytime 10:30 am Preschool Storytime—Monroe 7 pm Bedtime Storytime—Philomath	10 am Infant Storytime 10 am Preschool Storytime—Philomath	Main Library Hours Monday—Friday 10 am to 9 pm Saturday 10 am to 6 pm Sunday 12 pm to 6 pm		
27	28	29	30			

¹Call Adult Svcs. 766-6793 for info/pre-registration ²Call Library indicated for info ³Call Youth Svcs. 766-6794 for info/pre-registration
For the hearing impaired, a sign language interpreter can be provided with 48 hours notice. Please call 766-6928 to arrange.

www.thebestlibrary.net

ALSEA COMMUNITY CENTER LIBRARY
541-487-5061
19192 Alsea Hwy.
Alsea, OR 97324
Call for hours

MONROE COMMUNITY LIBRARY
541-847-5174
668 Commercial Street
Monroe, OR 97456
Call for hours

PHILOMATH COMMUNITY LIBRARY
541-929-3016
1050 Applegate, P.O. Box 549
Philomath, OR 97370
Call for hours

BOOKMOBILE
Call 541-766-6458
for schedule

OCTOBER

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Main Library Hours Monday—Friday 10 am to 9 pm Saturday 10 am to 6 pm Sunday 12 pm to 6 pm				10 am Preschool Storytime	10 am Wobbler Storytime	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	4 pm Teen Animanga Book Club ³ 7 pm Bedtime Storytime	10 am Toddler Storytime 10:30 am Preschool Storytime—Monroe 12:10 pm Traveling the Silk Road lecture series 7 pm Bedtime Storytime—Philomath 7 pm Author Talk: Matt Love	10 am Infant Storytime 10 am Preschool Storytime—Philomath 7 pm Reading Education Assistance Dogs ³ 7:30 pm Library Board Meeting	10 am Preschool Storytime 3 pm Building Blocks for Diversity 4 pm Middle School Book Club ³	10 am Wobbler Storytime	11 am Reading Education Assistance Dogs ³
11	STAFF INSERVICE ALL LIBRARIES CLOSED	10 am Toddler Storytime 10:30 am Preschool Storytime—Monroe 12:10 pm Traveling the Silk Road lecture series 7 pm Bedtime Storytime—Philomath 7 pm League of Women Voters Program	10 am Infant Storytime 10 am Preschool Storytime—Philomath 12 pm Random Review 4 pm Alexandra Day, Children's Author	10 am Preschool Storytime 4 pm Kids' Book Club ³	10 am Wobbler Storytime	11 am La fiesta de su biblioteca
18	3:30 pm Friends of the Library Board meeting 7 pm Bedtime Storytime	10 am Toddler Storytime 10:30 am Preschool Storytime—Monroe 12:10 pm Traveling the Silk Road lecture series 7 pm Bedtime Storytime—Philomath	10 am Infant Storytime 10 am Preschool Storytime—Philomath 7:30 pm Book Club ¹	10 am Preschool Storytime 3:30 pm Reading Education Assistance Dogs ³	10 am Wobbler Storytime	11 am Growing Families Together ³
25	5 pm Teen Game Night 7 pm Bedtime Storytime	10 am Toddler Storytime 10:30 am Preschool Storytime—Monroe 12:10 pm Traveling the Silk Road lecture series 3:30 pm Beginning Chapter Book Club ³ 7 pm Bedtime Storytime—Philomath	10 am Infant Storytime 10 am Preschool Storytime—Philomath	10 am Preschool Storytime	10 am Wobbler Storytime	
	26	27	28	29	30	31

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MAIN LIBRARY
 645 NW Monroe
 Corvallis, OR 97330

Director & Administration
 766-6928
 Hours, Accounts, Renewals/Holds
 766-6926

Children's Reference & Programs
 766-6794
 Extension Svcs. & DIAL-A-Book
 766-6458

Alsea Branch
 487-5061
Monroe Branch
 847-5174

www.thebestlibrary.net

Adult Reference & Programs
 766-6793 TTY/TDD 766-6988

Meeting Room Reservations
 766-6928

Philomath Branch
 929-3016