

Today at My Library ...

In America, folks go to libraries to find jobs, create new careers, and help grow small businesses. They borrow books, journals, music, and movies; they learn to use the latest technology. Enjoy some quotes from our library users as they share how they use their public library:

- ☺ Today at my library, I did Wii Fit. My son did Story-time, we read books, played games, checkout out books, movies and DVDs.
- ☺ Today at my library, I faxed a timesheet and put 5 books on order for me!!
- ☺ Today at my library, I saved my granddaughter's life. She is a juvenile diabetic and I use the library to learn about healthy recipes, exercise guidelines, and treatment options. Magazines and public access computers provide lifesaving information and allow me to work with her doctor to make good choices. I even found the perfect book to explain diabetes to a 10-year-old.
- ☺ Today at my library, I had a wonderful chat with a friend, checked out some children's books, got some fun, new DVDs and my children played some educational computer games and browsed the magazines.
- ☺ Today at my library, I filled out an online job application.
- ☺ Today at my library, I used the Internet computer to print off tax forms from the IRS site.
- ☺ Today at my library, I printed off information for a paper I have to write for my on-line college courses.
- ☺ Today at my library, my librarian made me smile!



Genealogy Workshop—A Collaborative Effort

The Wise County Public Library recently partnered with the Wise County Historical Society and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to offer two well received genealogy workshops. The workshops were the idea of library patron Roy Zwahlen who labored tirelessly to set up the workshops and to find the best presenters possible. His efforts were greatly appreciated by library staff and patrons alike!

The first workshop, held on January 16, 2010, focused on genealogy basics such as how to get started, best practices for organizing information and where to begin searching. Over forty people were in attendance. Presenters ranged



from members of the genealogical team of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, commonly known as Mormons, and Historical Society members Bill and Nancy Gobble. Each attendee received a folder full of pedigree charts, suggestions on how to obtain information from living relatives, what to look for and where to begin within library or historical society collections and many other useful tips.

The follow up workshop, conducted by popular demand, was held on March 20, 2010 and focused on genealogical search engines, free and subscription resources, advanced searching and international genealogy. Brazilian Native Tiago Maffei conducted the workshop and had a standing room only crowd. Maffei stated that international genealogy presented a unique set of challenges, the least of which was the language barrier. One item of particular interest for the group was a copy of Mr. Maffei's great grandfather's Italian passport from the early 1900s. Rather than pictures, a physical description was listed on the document. The description on the passport could have been describing Tiago himself, the family resemblance was striking!

Start Here—Go Anywhere!

Library Staff Members Win UT Scholarships

The University of Tennessee recently released the list of 16 winners of the Information Technology Rural Librarian (ITRL) Scholarship program, and Christine (Chris) Smith and Beth Gilliam, employees of the C. Bascom Slemple Memorial Library were on the list!

The ITRL scholarships were available to library employees living in the Southern or Central Appalachian region. To apply for the scholarship, applicants also had to meet the rigorous requirements for admission to the University of Tennessee School of Information Science. Smith and Gilliam have 100% of their tuition paid and receive free textbooks, materials and a laptop computer, and will be able to complete their Master in Information Science (MS) via distance education over a period of two years.



Chris Smith currently serves as the Branch Manager at C. Bascom Slemple Memorial Library, a position she has held for the past four years. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in History at Clinch Valley College (the University of Virginia's College at Wise) and completed several library science courses there recently. When Library Director Amy Bond told her about the program, Smith was

certain that she would not win. She applied, feeling that it was better to be declined than not to have applied at all. She stated that "when you stop learning, you have surrendered or admitted defeat."

Smith, a native of Big Stone Gap, hopes to remain employed at the C. Bascom Slemple Memorial Library after she earns her graduate degree, possibly as Branch Librarian. She resides in Big Stone Gap, Virginia with her husband, and feels a strong connection to her family, especially her three nieces, who also live in Big Stone. She considers the library to be her second home, and hopes to continue to serve her community.

Beth Gilliam is a part-time employee of the C. Bascom Slemple Memorial Library, and is also a native of Big Stone Gap, Virginia. She moved away from the area a few years ago, but moved back to be closer to her family. She considers herself very fortunate to work in a community library, doing a job she loves and is thrilled to have the opportunity to earn her MS. When she learned of the ITRL program, it just seemed like the next logical step for her. She holds a BS in Biology from Mars Hill College, completed several continuing education courses and is currently earning an accounting certificate through Mountain Empire Community College.



Beth is excited to learn more about librarianship, and hopes to incorporate her love of numbers and accounting into her career as a professional librarian. Her ideal job within the Lonesome Pine Regional Library system is one that involves "wearing different hats."

More Distance Education News

Library employee Christina Meade is currently pursuing a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of South Carolina. All courses are offered online, allowing her to attend class before and after work.

Christina enjoys assisting patrons find online information, and has completed several courses that have proven very beneficial to her and library patrons. Among these are Online Information Services, Digital Libraries, Intro to

Information Science, Collection Development and Information Organization and Retrieval.

It has been stated that "Librarians love to search, everyone else loves to find." There is no truer quote! Christina loves to search, and is happiest when she can help patrons find what they need using the best search strategy possible. Christina plans to continue working for the library system and hopes to eventually earn her Ph.D.

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