

BETWEEN THE PAGES

Huntsville Public Library Monthly Newsletter

LIBRARIES: BEHIND THE SCENE

BY RICHARD LANE, REFERENCE



Libraries are seen by the public in many ways. Some people see libraries as seldom visited buildings housing books. Others may see libraries as places to go to find reading materials for enjoyment and to pass time. Library patrons find that they have access to print materials, public computers, magazines, audio books, DVDs, music CDs and special collections. Procrastinating students see libraries as a last minute hope that the next day's assignment can be thrown together sufficiently well to satisfy a demanding teacher. Others see libraries as gathering places to meet with friends and neighbors. Some see libraries as repositories of knowledge and instruction. Well- developed collections offer classic literature, the latest fiction and non-fiction works and reference materials for research and class assignments.

Library users hopefully find libraries to be welcoming places. The public interacts with front line staff members and feel that they can ask for help when needed. Librarians and staff provide reference assistance, man the circulation desks, provide programs for children and adults and come to computer user's aid. Yet, there is more going on at libraries than meet the eye.

Public Libraries are built and maintained with public funds and are the end result of community planning and decision making. Public Libraries require ongoing work to provide the public with the materials and services required by the twenty-first century user. Department heads and librarians project public needs and submit annual budget proposals subject to approval by boards and city councils. The day to day administration of libraries requires that employees are hired and trained. Work schedules must be arranged and work assignments covering the many tasks necessary are made. Staff members and librarians are engaged in collection development in order to provide the materials in demand by the public. Purchases and contracts are made in accord with accounting practices. Materials are received from vendors. Upon receipt library materials are cataloged, labeled and placed on shelves in prescribed fashion so that they can be readily available. Computer systems and software are installed and maintained by library staff and specialist.

Libraries offer a variety of classes and programs including computer usage, family history, health topics and more. Staff members write lesson plans, arrange for guest speakers and advertise events through local media outlets. Programming for children is especially demanding. Story hours are planned and arranged weeks in advance.

Craft and art projects are prepared. Summer activities for children are demanding and require hours of planning and preparation.

There are numerous other-day to-day tasks not mentioned here. The work necessary to provide twenty-first library services is ongoing and often unseen. It is important work.

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Monday-Friday Saturday
10am-7pm 12pm-4pm

 myhuntsvillelibrary.com

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INTERLIBRARY LOANS

BY MARY KOKOT, ADULT
LIBRARY SERVICES

Interlibrary loan (ILL) is a service whereby a patron of one library can borrow books that are owned by another library. With over 200 participating libraries in the ILL system, there's always a good chance that the book Huntsville Public Library doesn't have can be found somewhere else.

ILL is user-friendly, making it easier for you to order your book. The library's website has a link dedicated to ILL which has simple instructions to follow and allows you to search, locate, and order the book you want—all from the comfort of your home. If you are in the library, please stop by the self-help kiosk to use the dedicated ILL computer or, if you prefer, complete an ILL form and give it to staff member Mary Kokot, our ILL expert. You will be notified by email or a phone call when your book arrives at the library.

Latina Stroughter, circulation clerk, says the interlibrary loan process allows her "access to all of the books we do not have" and "familiarizes me with other libraries' collections." Stroughter, like many patrons, likes the fact that ILL enables her to order and read all the books in a series that be missing from the Huntsville Public Library's catalog.

Most lending libraries will loan their books for a four to six-week period. After allowing for the time the courier service takes to pick up and deliver books, readers usually will have two to three weeks to read their book choice. Please remember entertainment DVDs, current bestsellers, and new books are not available for loan through the interlibrary loan system.



SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE LIBRARY

BY RENEE RUTH, IT
COORDINATOR

Have you ever asked yourself why people have a social media presence?

Some say to promote services, workshops, and events. Some might say to provide better access to information. Others might say to enhance instruction or to collect feedback from patrons. These are all fine actions, but they are what we are doing, not why we are doing it.

The reason why we use the social web is to find people who "like" the library and give them a way to express it. We use this platform to nurture that bond and move them from like to love. Develop their passion for the library. We also want to enable them to share this experience and help bring others into this relationship.

This approach isn't about reaching a mass audience or being where students are necessarily, instead it's about reaching a small focused audience. What I want to do is change the mindset of how we operate treat our "fans" or "followers" like VIPs. They are not just people interested in learning more about the library, but rather, people who we want to keep interested in using, thinking about, and telling others about the library, and moving them along in the process.

So visit us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!



CHILDREN'S Programming

Mother Goose Lapsit

Mondays, 10:30 AM

Ages 5 and under

Story Time

Tuesdays 5:30 PM,

Wednesdays & Fridays, 10:45 AM

Ages 5 and under

Homework Help

Wednesdays, 4:30 PM

Read with the Dogs

January 8, 11:30 AM

3rd-7th Graders

STEAM DAY: Expanding Snowmen

January 7, 1:00 PM

CRAFT DAY

January 8, 1:00 PM

Teen Film Club (PIZZA&MOVIE)

Darkest Minds

January 10, 4:30 PM

13-17 years old only

Family Movie Night

Dog Days

January 4, 5:30 PM

For all ages

Teen After School Zone

January 21, 4:30 PM

ADULT Programming

Basic Computer Classes

Tuesdays, 11:00 AM & 5:00 PM

Registration Required

Chronic Pain Workshop

January 14- February 25

Mondays, 1:00 PM

Ancestry.com

Jan 10, 5:30 PM

Health & Genealogy

January 22, 4 PM

Estates & Genealogy

January 23, 10 AM

Scanning Documents

January 9, 1 PM

DNA

January 16, 1:30 PM

Sittercise

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 AM

Book Club at the Huntsville Public Library

Hidden Life of Trees

January 10, 10:30 AM

Searching FamilySearch.org

Thursdays, 11 AM

Registration Required

Spanish Classes

Wednesdays, Beginners, 1PM

& Intermediate, 5 PM

CAN YOUR KIDS SPOT FAKE NEWS?

BY RACHEL MCPHAIL, CHILDREN'S COORDINATOR

Librarians and educators across America are urging students and their parents to develop critical thinking skills and the ability to analyze sources, especially news sources. Many university libraries such as Cornell, Harvard, and the University of Washington have published online "libguides" or subject guides that teach people of all ages how to spot "fake news."

According to the Penn State libguide, fake news is "sources that intentionally fabricate information, disseminate deceptive content, or grossly distort actual news reports." You might be wondering why fake news is so important. According to Penn State, 75% of American adults who viewed a fake news story thought it was a credible report.

Why is it important to teach students how to detect an unreliable news source? Firstly, it is an investment in creating a society with long-term media literacy. Students grow up to become active members of society with an impact on the community, and they deserve to have an accurate view of the world. It would be a disservice to not give students the ability to discern truth from falsehood.

Teaching kids how to evaluate sources may seem like a daunting task, and parents may not know where to begin. National Geographic Kids has three simple questions for students to keep in mind: Does the story come from a newspaper, magazine, or website you've never heard of? Is it just one newspaper, magazine, or website reporting on the story? Is the story missing key information? Older teens are encouraged to use the memorably named CRAAP test.



This test can be found on most university libguides about fake news. In this test, participants analyze the Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy, and Purpose of the news article. This test has the students ask, "When was the article written? Who wrote it, and do they have the authority to write about it? What is the purpose of the article--is the author encouraging you to buy something or admire one person or group over another?"

Parents can also use several library resources to help their kids detect fake news and only use reliable sources. The Huntsville Public Library provides free online access to the TexShare database. There are several child-friendly sources available through TexShare that provide credible articles that teach students about current and past events. These articles are heavily reviewed by experts to ensure credibility.

If you prefer a more hands-on experience, check out the Huntsville Public Library's new juvenile non-fiction book "Histories and Mysteries: Two Truths and a Lie" by Ammi-Joan Paquette and Laurie Ann Thompson. In this clever read, every story is strange and outlandish, but one out of every three is a total lie. Readers will have to think critically to root out alternative facts from the truth, especially when the stories are accompanied by photographic "evidence."