

Letter from the Director

Today I received a call from the company that we buy many of our books. She asked some question regarding our service. She asked about eBooks. We currently offer eBooks through a company called Overdrive. They create a website for all the libraries that form our group and people can download eBooks and audio books from this site. This site is called Media on Demand. I complained to her that the 6 largest publishers refuse to sell eBooks to public libraries. She said they refuse to sell to anybody, and we both chuckled.

This is a major issue facing libraries and publishers. The six largest publishers have created roadblocks to us buying their product. HarperCollins supplies their titles to libraries as well. However, a title can be checked out only 26 times before the library has to pay for the eBook again. Perseus supplies some of their backlist books as eBooks, but not their current bestsellers and Hachette, Macmillan, and Simon & Schuster do not supply any eBook titles to libraries.

In an August 8 report, "E-Book Business Models for Public Libraries," the American Library Association's Digital Content Working Group detailed the frustrating patchwork of publisher policies. "Some major trade publishers will not sell e-books to libraries under any terms; others do so only at inflated prices or with severe restrictions," the report states. Still others appear to be "making little or no headway" at all in their dealings with libraries.

Meanwhile Pearson will merge its Penguin Books division with Random House, which is owned by German media company Bertelsmann, and will create the world's largest publisher of consumer books, with around a quarter of the market. Penguin is one of two publishers being sued by U.S. government for alleged e-book price fixing.

A federal court approved a settlement between the Department of Justice and three publishers that will resolve a controversy over e-book pricing. It gives formal approval to an arrangement that will see HarperCollins, Simon & Schuster and Hachette agree to grant retailers more freedom to set the price of e-books. Apple and two other publishers have not settled with the Justice Department so that part of the lawsuit will go forward. A trial is set for next summer.

Fortunately we are still able to provide many patrons with eBooks. For example, in one month, the Media on Demand group we belong to loaned 16,439 eBooks. Even with the problems, eBooks are popular with some people and they will be part of what we offer. With the right conditions, we could loan a lot more eBooks to more people, but until that happens we continue to supply DVDs, CDs, games and of course, books.
-Douglas Losey

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Spring 2013

Spring Programs for Adults

On-going programs

Mixed Stitchers Every Thursday at 7:00 pm

Bring your own project or work on the group's project of making scarves for veterans. Learn new stitches and techniques, or just enjoy the company of other stitchers. All skill levels welcome!

Motivated Mondays Every Monday at 7:00 pm

This weekly group utilizes speakers, books, exercises, and videos to encourage participants to practice ways of becoming more positive, motivated and empowered.

Afternoon Book Discussion

First Wednesday of each month at 2:00 pm

If you like to read and discuss books this group is for you! Visitors and new members always welcome.

March 6: *So Big* by Edna Ferber

April 3: TBA

May 1: TBA

March

Share the Plate

Tuesday, March 12 from 6:30 to 7:00 pm Vegetarian Stuffed Sweet Peppers (tentative)

Watch a demonstration of the making of a simple but delicious dish. Then, sample what was made, take home the recipe, and try it out on your family! Adults only.

African American Hair Care Thursday, March 14 at 7:00 pm

Styling hair--and preserving it--can be an all-consuming project for women of African descent. Theresa Harrison, certified Loctician and proprietor of The Polished Look, discusses the joys and problems of caring for black hair. Bring her your hair questions and concerns.

Mixed Stitchers Thursday, March 14 at 7:00 pm

For those of you that crochet--we will make an Easter egg stuffed with fiberfill. The easy stitches you learn can be used to make any number of crocheted animals. Bring an I or J crochet hook. Our knitters will make flowers to adorn hats, purses, totes, pins. Bring a pair of #5 or #7 knitting needles. We will have yarn available or bring your own

Classic Movie Monday Monday, March 18 at 10:30 am

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (1947)

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