ITEM: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Commissioners or Library staff may make announcements regarding the Library Commission and Library or Friends group activities of interest to other Library Commission members.
BOOK

NEW TECHNOLOGIES BOOST LIBRARIES' EFFICIENCIES, IMPROVE CUSTOMER SERVICE AND HELP BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE.

BY MELISSA DELANEY
"Shift"

It's a familiar scene in libraries, but not in Cleveland Public Library's TechCentral space. Instead of reading with their heads buried in books, a visitor to TechCentral will find community spaces where groups of people can interact, play with waterproof cameras, play with robotic positioning systems, tablet computers and other gadgets on display.

It's like walking into an electronics store, but instead of making a purchase, patrons can take home the goods at no charge for up to a week, says TechCentral Manager CJ Lyne. "I get to play with a lot of fun stuff," he says of the TechToyBox gadget display, which is wildly popular with patrons. "We don't have enough devices to meet the demand."

TechToyBox is just one of the projects at the Cleveland Public Library aimed at increasing patrons' access to technology, and the institution is just one of many launching such initiatives. From high-tech demos and library apps to QR codes and radio frequency identification (RFID), libraries around the country are finding new ways to use technology to gain efficiencies, improve customer service and bridge the digital divide in their communities.

"The more global the world becomes, the more important it will be for libraries to be places where people can come for information and community dialogue to address issues," says American Library Association President Maureen Sullivan. "Technology will continue to be a key in identifying the library's central role in community engagement."

That's certainly true of the Cleveland Public Library, which offers a maker space. "Instead of just consuming access to technology, people can actually use technology to make stuff," explains Lyne. The library has a 3D printer, which patrons have used to design plastic models or print objects they've found online. "We're actually creating an entire chess set out of things we've found on the Internet."

TechCentral has sparked more of a collaborative, fun environment at Cleveland Public Library's downtown campus, adds Cathy Petfly, assistant marketing and communications administrator. "It really has added to the energy level," she says. "It's the place to be in the building."

Technology professionals staff the collaborative area and interact with the public. "I think when you have people who really get it, it makes a difference," says Larry Finnegan, acting IT director.

**Picture This**

In 2008, Cathy Sanford of California's Contra Costa County Library just wasn't getting it. The deputy county librarian for support services was participating in a statewide think-tank workshop on the future of library services. The hot topic was quick response (QR) codes, and participants were taking pictures of codes to see how they worked. "For the life of me, I couldn't figure out why this was important," Sanford says.

Soon after, Sanford was shopping for a dishwasher and had forgotten to bring her research. She decided to check out a QR code she saw on one of the appliance labels; that link took her to a review. In that instant, she understood the value of QR codes. "I thought, 'I got this,'" she recalls.

The library won an innovation grant to launch a program called Snap & Go, which uses QR codes to suggest books that patrons might enjoy based on their reading preferences. The codes are also used to direct teens to a poll about their favorite books and to market events and services.

"That was still a big innovator back then," says Sanford. "Nobody was doing anything like that at the time." Before long, book jackets included QR codes with links to extras, such as games and fun information about characters. "Now QR codes are everywhere."

The codes have since enabled the library...
to offer audio books compatible with
users' smartphones, provide passes to
partner organizations such as museums,
and launch a text messaging service in
which librarians field questions.

"Our goal is to be where our custom-
ers are, and they're glued to that phone," says Sanford.

Contra Costa County Library hired
a software consultant to create the sys-
tem, but it was the library staff's vision,
explains Sanford. The staff hasn't devised
measurable ways to determine the proj-
ect's success, but they do know that
mobile use of library services has risen
6 percent, and the use of digital books is
up 65 percent, thanks to multiple factors.

The project's success was clear early
on. "We felt like we met all the goals that
we were trying to achieve -- fast, easy,
convenient, and we were teaching patrons
and staff about these technologies," Sanford says.

Tag Team
While Contra Costa County Library
uses technology to get patrons into the
library (physically or virtually), Normal
Public Library in Illinois uses it to get
them out.

NPL began using self-checkout
machines years ago, but last fall switched
to a radio frequency identification (RFID)
self-checkout system after tagging its
190,000-item collection.

The library previously had five staffed
check-out stations; now there are three
plus four self-checkout machines. "Effi-
ciency certainly is a big part of it," says
NPL Director Brian Chase.

Library officials could have purchased
a turnkey system through its RFID vendor,
but the staff had some reservations about
the hardware. Cost was also an issue, so
they decided to build their own system.

Chase's group began by contacting its
CDW-G representative, who provided an
in-house point-of-sale specialist whose
expertise was key to the project's success.

"They were very helpful," he says. "Asking
questions is so important in something
like this, because it's easy to overlook a
detail."

The homegrown system consists of a
22-inch, all-in-one touch-screen com-
puter; barcode reader; credit card swipe
machine; RFID antenna; and receipt
printers. "We definitely feel that we got
superior hardware at a lower cost," says
Chase. "It was tricky, but worth it."

Staff tested the system and in Novem-
ber made one of the four RFID stations
available to the public. The library
recently put three more into service after
adjusting as needed and letting the public
acclimate to the technology, Chase says.

"We see RFID technology as a way to
effectively and efficiently circulate, iden-
tify and secure our materials," says Chase.
"Tagging the collection and deploying the
RFID staff stations and the self-checks
represent the first, two phases of the tran-
sition. Potential next phases include an
inventory wand to better inventory our
collection, and an automated sorter to
check in returned items."

Deployment challenges were mini-
mal, says Technology Manager Enoch
Kindseth. Some patrons received error
messages and couldn't figure out why, so
the staff would explain that items were
on hold or had already been checked out.
Others tried to scan items instead of just
placing them on the pad. "Things like that
are just a learning curve for patrons and
staff," Kindseth adds.

Most people are familiar with bar-
codes, so RFID can be a little confusing
at first, but many -- especially kids --
think it's really interesting when they
see how it works, says Chase. He thinks
RFID self-service will be the norm in
libraries before long. "It's definitely a
technology that will benefit libraries for
years to come."

CLEVELAND'S CLOUD
A salesman relied on the Cleveland
Public Library computers to keep
track of his accounts. But each time
he logged out, all the work he had
done that day -- typing customer
lists, preparing mailings -- was
wiped clean, and he'd have to start
from scratch on his next visit.

The library offers computers to
help close the digital divide within
its community. "The bridge was
out," says Acting IT Director Larry
Finnegan. A big step toward solving
the problem was to provide patrons
with devices on which to save their
work. Cleveland Public Library creat-
ed the MyCloud service, which offers
users access to mobile HP thin clients
to create accounts and save their
work. The library has 120 thin clients
spread throughout its 28 branches. It
plans to expand to 600 by February
and deploy MyCloud to CLEVNET, a
consortium of cooperative libraries
in 11 counties of northeast Ohio.

The salesman can now save his cli-
ent list and pick up where he left off
each day. "Imagine the time it will
save him," says Finnegan.
Library receives grant to expand museum partnership program

Discov er and Go will extend to Los Angeles by summer

Contra Costa County Library recently received a grant to expand its museum partnership program beyond the Bay Area. Discover and Go, a collaboration between the library and over 40 [ocdlib.org cultural venues] that provides residents with free or discounted passes, will soon reach Los Angeles.

Established in 2010, Discover and Go now connects 30 local libraries and its users to museums, performance centers and galleries throughout the Bay Area’s nine counties. The program was developed with the idea of allowing library users access to a different kind of education, one they might be unable to afford otherwise.

"We think it stands for how we can help each other and be a benefit for our residents, you receive an education in different ways and we believe libraries and museums are the perfect partners," said Deputy County Librarian Cathy Sanford.

Sanford said that the program has been extremely popular, adding that San Ramon residents have the highest usage rates in the county. Venues, such as the California Academy of Sciences and Lindsay Wildlife Museum, determine how many passes they will make available and decide which areas or zip codes will benefit from a limited supply.

To expand this popular program, the County Library was awarded an $84,000 grant by the California State Library in February. Sanford said part of the grant money will be used to bring Discover and Go to Los Angeles County and set up a regional program specific to Los Angeles that would allow other southern California cities to join the network eventually.

"Four million people will all have access to The Getty, everything you can think of that they work with down in southern California," Sanford said. "We hope that by demonstrating to our jurisdictions and our partners, that we can actually share. If someone from southern California were coming to northern California to visit, they would be able to access (Discover and Go) through a venue."

While being able to access the program in multiple parts of the state is far off, the county expects the L.A. Discover and Go program to be running in August.

"We are mighty and bold in our statements but we feel it is a way to support the economic well being of our state," Sanford said.

The rest of the grant will bring 10 additional libraries into the northern California network. Sanford said the program is eyeing Sacramento and Monterey as potential partners.

Residents interested in signing up for Discover and Go can visit their county library [ocdlib.org website] and search for passes by zip code, date or venue.

Find this article at:
Expansion helps bring 'proper Library' to Byron youth detention facility

By Paul Burgarino Contra Costa Times

BYRON -- When Joel gets lost within the pages of a book, it helps the teenager to mentally leave the monotony of life in a juvenile rehabilitation center.

Now he and other boys at the low-risk Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility will have more opportunities to escape through reading.

An expansion project at the rural facility, also known as the Byron Boys Ranch, has more than doubled the size of the old library, which both residents and staff say was cramped. New books were also added to its collection, along with a circulation desk.

"Now we can call it a proper library. There's a lot more room (for the boys) now and space for the collection of books to grow," said Nadia Bagdasar, librarian for the boys ranch.

Adds County Supervisor Mary Neajedly Piepho of Discovery Bay: "(The expansion) gives them an opportunity to expand their horizons and provides access to the outside world."

The old 171-square-foot Lesher Library, originally opened in May 2008, occupied a small space in a corner of the facility's recreation room. Only a few wards could fit in the room at once, Bagdasar said.

Joel, whose full name is being withheld to protect his identity, and about a half-dozen other boys were able to comfortably fit in the new area during free time Thursday afternoon and peruse the nearly 4,600 volumes of books to find their next literary adventure.

The boys go to the library twice a week.

"(Books) can be like watching a movie," said Joel, adding he sometimes draws parallels between himself and the protagonists in the books.
He recently completed the book "Once A King, Always A King: The Unmaking of a Latin King," the story of author Reymundo Sanchez' struggle after leaving a street gang. The teen spent Thursday thumbing through mystery novels for his next read.

The popularity of the new library is already showing: 78 of the 89 wards at the facility have a book checked out, Bagdasar said.

"I never really read when i was on the outside," Joel said. "Now I read all the time."

Many of the boys are "reluctant readers," and have little to no experience reading books, said Arthur Fernandez of the Contra Costa Probation Department and a supervisor at the facility.

Resident Chris is like many at the facility who start by looking at picture books, then work toward reading into young adult fiction books and finally novels.

Some selections are stories that "reflect their life experiences," Fernandez said.

The library includes reference pamphlets that point wards toward books about the Bay Area, being locked up and drugs. It has a balanced selection of "what is appropriate and entertaining," Fernandez said.

Harvey Samuels, a member of the county's Juvenile Justice Commission, said the expanded library and pushing literacy "helps open up a path" to keep the boys out of the system.

"It can make a big difference," he said.

The Byron book facility, funded by community donations, was originally created at the urging of some wards transferred from Juvenile Hall in Martinez who were accustomed to checking out books. A recurring theme emerged with the Friends of the Library group about two years ago that it needed to be expanded, Bagdasar said.

The add-on meant tearing out the wall between the library and the phone room next door, said Mike Fox, a shop teacher at the ranch.

The boys helped demolish the wall and built the new shelving for the room, he said.

"I think they were able to gain an appreciation and have pride in their work, knowing that this is their own little community and five, 10 years later, their handiwork will still be here," Fox said.

Contact Paul Burgarino at 925-779-7164. Follow him at Twitter.com/paulburgarino.
Contra Costa County publishes guide for Veterans

The Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office, in partnership with the Contra Costa County Library, is pleased to announce the online publication of a Veterans Resource Guide. Intended to enhance access to timely and relevant information on Veterans’ benefits, this guide is for Veterans, their families, and the general public. The guide is free to access and can be reached from the Contra Costa County Library website or at http://guides.ccclib.org/vets.

The Veterans Guide offers links & addresses to local & valuable Bay Area resources such as the Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office, VA Martinez Outpatient Clinic, Concord Vet Center, and the VA Regional Office. The guide also offers feeds from credible newsources addressing updates to Veterans benefits, discussions about Veterans issues, and interviews with leaders in the Veteran Community. The guide further offers Veterans a reading list, podcasts, videos, and Veterans facts.

Veterans Guide is a first for Contra Costa County. “Libraries are cornerstones of community in our culture, and to see such a dynamic and relevant collaboration beginning, gives me faith that Contra Costa County Veterans Service and Library are taking up the colors, where far too many have just dropped them by the wayside” says Jason Deitch, Army Veteran and Contra Costa County resident. Users of the guide can provide their own feedback and suggestions regarding the content of the guide. This input will be helpful to further develop this concept.

For more information regarding the Veterans Resource Guide, contact Chris Brown, Contra Costa County Library, at (925) 427-8390.
Library celebrates 100 years

By Martinez News-Gazette
Monday February 11, 2013

By GERARDO RECINOS
Martinez News-Gazette

The Contra Costa Library will be celebrating its 100th birthday in 2013, and as such the county hosted its first event in a series of six to celebrate the triumph of the library.

Library patrons, former employees and local politicians filled a small room in the Martinez Library, where old photos were set up depicting the transformation the library has made since it began a century ago.

"The first time that I was at this library was when the renovation was being done, when the citizens of Martinez said that they believed in libraries and that they were going to put their money where their mouth was," said Supervisor Federal Glover.

The library, which has been recently renovated to reflect the change and progress being made in the city and in the state of libraries everywhere, now houses more modern technology to appease the younger library patron who uses its resources differently than those who came before them.

That very idea was the principle of the presentation being made.

"A Walk Down Memory Lane" was what the event was billed as, with a narrative being presented by Andrea Blachmann, who is the Museum Director for the Martinez Historical Society, on the history of the library, from its beginning on Main Street to its more familiar location now on Court Street.

Barbara Lynn, the county librarian, addressed the crowd and thanked them for attending, while also reminding them that this was only the first of six events that the 100th birthday committee had planned.

She also thanked the Board of Supervisors, who has made 2013 the Year of the Library in Contra Costa County.

"Last year [Los Angeles] County celebrated, and I didn't see Year of the Library there. This year, San Diego County all the way down south is celebrating and I don't see Year of the Library down there either, so we are unique," Lynn said.

Contra Costa County Library Presents

Michael Pollan

Thursday, June 20, 2013 at 7 pm
Lesher Center for the Arts, tickets $12
1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Buy Tickets or call 925-943-SHOW (7489)

Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation to be published April 2013. Copies will be available for purchase on the day of the event at the Walnut Creek Library.

"MICHAEL POLLAN is the author of six previous books, including Food Rules, In Defense of Food, The Omnivore's Dilemma, and The Botany of Desire, all New York Times bestsellers. A longtime contributor to The New York Times, he is also the Knight Professor of Journalism at Berkeley. In 2010, Time magazine named him one of the one hundred most influential people in the world."

Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation

In Cooked, Michael Pollan explores the previously uncharted territory of his own kitchen. Here, he discovers the enduring power of the four classical elements-fire, water, air, and earth-to transform the stuff of nature into delicious things to eat and drink. Apprenticed himself to a succession of culinary masters, Pollan learns how to grill with fire, cook with liquid, bake bread, and ferment everything from cheese to beer. In the course of his journey, he discovers that the cook occupies a special place in the world, standing squarely between nature and culture. Both realms are transformed by cooking, and so, in the process, is the cook.

Each section of Cooked tracks Pollan's effort to master a single classic recipe using one of the four elements. A North Carolina barbecue pit master teaches him in the primal magic of fire; a Chez Panisse–trained cook schooling him in the art of braising; a celebrated baker teaches him how air transforms grain and water into a fragrant loaf of bread; and finally, several mad-genius "Termites" (a tribe that includes brewers, cheese makers, and all kinds of picklers) reveal how fungi and bacteria can perform the most amazing alchemies of all. The reader learns alongside Pollan, but the lessons move beyond the practical to become an investigation of how cooking involves us in a web of social and ecological relationships: with plants and animals, the soil, farmers, our history and culture, and, of course, the people our cooking nourishes and delights. Cooking, above all, connects us.

The effects of not cooking are similarly far reaching. Relying upon corporations to process our food means we consume huge quantities of fat, sugar, and salt; disrupt an essential link to the natural world; and weaken our relationships with family and friends. In fact, Cooked argues, taking back control of cooking may be the single most important step anyone can take to help make the American food system healthier and more sustainable. Reclaiming cooking as an act of enjoyment and self-reliance, learning to perform the magic of these everyday transformations, opens the door to a more nourishing life.

THANK YOU! to our sponsors:

http://guides.coclib.org/str

3/13/2013
The Library has received access for one year to Oxford Islamic Studies Online as part of the National Endowment of the Humanities and American Library Association's Muslim Journeys Project. The resource is now available from the Library's Articles & Databases page.
Contra Costa County Library

Local Business
Pleasant Hill, California
(800) 964-4636

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Contra Costa County Library shared a link via Walnut Creek Library Foundation.
Monday

Grantseeking basics - 2013-3-14 - Walnut Creek, CA
grantspace.org

GrantSpace, a service of the Foundation Center, offers information and resources that are specifically designed to meet the needs of grantseekers.

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Contra Costa County Library
Monday

Make a Difference: Become a Volunteer Literacy Tutor
Volunteer tutors work one-on-one with adults who struggle with basic reading and writing. The library's adult literacy program, Project Second Chance, supplies training, learning materials, and ongoing support to tutors. Training for this...
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Recent Posts by Others on Contra Costa County Library

Doug Thomas
Tonight at Clayton Community Library, 7:00 pm, local auth...
March 6 at 10:32am

LemonadeWeb
LemonadeWeb.com thanks you for following us on Twitter...
February 28 at 11:37am

Maura Dagan Klieger
Amazing!
1 D1 · January 24 at 9:34am

Maura Dagan Klieger
We had a wonderful visit to the USS Hornet. Wouldn't hav...
1 D1 · January 24 at 9:33am

Kim Rowlin
We loved our trip to the Discovery Museum in Sausalito...
3 D1 · January 22 at 1:59pm

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Welcome back Discover & Go partner: East Bay Regional Park, Ardenwood Historic Farm.

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Kathleen Gage, Glorie Gadzue, Michelle Schultz and 10 others like this.

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The Library has received access for one year to Oxford Islamic Studies Online as part of the National Endowment for the Humanities and American Library Association's Muslim Journeys Project. The resource is now available from the Library's Articles & Databases page.

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Two more for the show! SFMOMA and di Rosa join Discover & Go

March 1, 2013 – Contra Costa County, CA – San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the di Rosa are the most recent additions to Contra Costa County Library’s Discover & Go museum pass service making free and discounted passes available to all...

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Lauren Paoluccio and Eugenia Hidalgo like this.

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Visit the Museum of the African Diaspora on Friday, February 22 from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm for a screening of the film, "John L. Waller: Striving for Equality." A discussion of the film follows after the viewing. John L. Waller was born into slavery...

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Sue Vascolet Weth like this... too many events! February 20 at 1:54pm

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Welcome back Discover & Go partner: Chabot Space & Science Center

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San Ramon Express: Library receives grant to expand museum partnership program

www.sanramonexpress.com

Contra Costa County Library recently received a grant to expand its museum partnership program beyond the Bay Area. Discover and Go, a

Contra Costa County Library is on Facebook.

To connect with Contra Costa County Library, sign up for Facebook today.

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Welcome new Discover & Go partner: di Rosa

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Christopher Brown, Contra Costa County Library and 2 others like this.

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Contra Costa County Library updated their cover photo.

February 15

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3/13/2013