

Mid-Michigan Library League

Weekly Update

May 7, 2008



Syndicate to Communicate:

By Meredith Farkas, head of instructional initiatives at Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont.

Article from American Libraries, May 2008, p. 40

“Libraries are constantly changing – with new collections, technologies, services, and events. Consequently, a library’s web-site must be frequently updated to reflect these changes. Some libraries have no access to the server that hosts their website. Making a simple change involves working with people outside the library, and keeping the library’s web presence up-to-date may not be a priority.

Libraries in this situation often have websites that are rarely updated and don’t reflect their vibrant atmosphere.

Really Simple Syndication

RSS is a format for syndicating content on the Web. Much like the syndication of a newspaper column, there is a central place where an RSS feed is generated, but the content can appear in many different places. People can subscribe to an RSS feed and receive the content of many journals, and Flickr. RSS feeds can be found in some library catalogs and databases where you can search for a term and subscribe to the results. Based on XML, feeds can even be created from scratch.

RSS can also be displayed on a web page, where the content will dynamically update as soon as the RSS feed itself is refreshed. This means that libraries can pull timely RSS content onto their website without needing regular access to the server.

There are a number of applications that make it easy to display RSS content on a web page, including Feed2JS (feed2js.org) and Feed Digest (feeddigest.com) With these tools, users enter the URL of the RSS feed and a few parameters, such as how much content they want displayed. The application will provide a piece of JavaScript that needs to be pasted onto the web page where the content should appear. Pasting that JavaScript is the only action that is required of the individuals controlling the web server. From then on, the page will update whenever the RSS feed does.

Taking the Reins

Many libraries use a blog that’s separate from their website to share library news, since blogs are easy to update directly from the Web. Using a tool that displays RSS feeds online would let the library display its blog content directly on the library site. That way, users don’t have to go elsewhere to dig out what’s new at the library, and libraries can use the blog as an easy content publishing system. Library content could also be displayed in web spaces such as courseware and social networking software.

The Homer Township (Ill.) Public Library has pulled the headlines from its various blogs onto the front page of homerlibrary.org. Instead of people having to visit each

individual blog, they can view them all in one place. If visitors are interested in reading the entire post, they can click on the headline and be taken straight to the full entry.

In a similar vein, libraries can pull content from outside sources onto their sites. This is particularly useful on subject pages, where you can pull relevant journal tables of contents, news items, bookmarked resources, and more. It's a great way to provide a current awareness service in a specific subject area.

RSS not only gives us more control over our web presence, but allows users to subscribe to our content and receive it however they choose, working the feed into their own routine. The flexibility of RSS makes it a key technology in any library's arsenal."

9 & 10 News Helping Hands:

The station, 9 & 10 News will be promoting library summer reading programs in June as part of their Helping Hands Program. They will air Public Service Announcements and are planning on listing area library programs on the PSA. In addition to the PSAs, the station will include a message on their website with a link to our site. The site they will be linking to will be a list of Summer Reading Programs.

If your library has not sent us your summer reading program information, please do so as we would like to include all programs on our SRP program website.

Information can be sent to Holly via e-mail: holly@mml.org.

Videogame Equipment and Software:

Our videogame equipment and software has arrived. Below is the list of what we have received.

Hardware:

- One Wii Console
- 3 Wii Remotes and Charging dock
- 2 Nunchuks
- 1 Mario Cart Steering Wheel
- 1 DDR dancepad
- 2 Wireless Guitars

Software:

- Guitar Hero III - Legends of Rock
- Mario Kart
- WiiSports
- WiiPlay
- Mario Party 8
- Mario & Sonic at the Olympic Games
- Super Smash Brothers Brawl
- Carnival Games
- Dance Dance Revolution Hottest Party

To reserve a day to use the equipment go to: <http://www.mml.org/videogames.htm>

Kimberley Nelson Memorial Scholarship

The LeRoy Community Library is sponsoring a scholarship to provide financial support to eligible Michigan residents seeking a Library Science or Informational Science degree. This scholarship seeks to recruit and educate the next generation of librarians.

The LeRoy Community Library will award one scholarship of \$1,000 each year for tuition, course-related materials, and fees associated with library science.

Applicant's can apply for a scholarship of \$1,000 during each year of study.

The scholarship is available to residents in the counties served by our cooperative.

The deadline to submit an application is July 1st.

Scholarship application: <http://www.mml.org/KimberleyNelsonMemorialScholarship.pdf>

For more information contact the LeRoy Community Library: 231-768-4493

Advisory Council Meeting:

During the Advisory Council meeting, we will be demonstrating the use of the equipment. The meeting will be held at the Cadillac Wexford Public Library and starts at 10:00 a.m.

To see the agenda for the meeting visit:

<http://www.mml.org/AdCouncil/may82008agenda.pdf>

Just Yell Fire:

Just Yell fire is a self-defense DVD for teens by teens. It has been made available for free download and free DVD ordering at the following site:

<http://www.justyellfire.com/index.php>

The childhood it could save could be anyone you know.

April Statistics:

ILL:

Title Requests: 1239

Subject Requests: 17

DVD/CDs repaired: 21

Workshop attendance: 53

ALA World Book Award for Info Literacy:

World Book and ALA announce the creation of the new World Book/ALA Information Literacy Goal Award, a grant of \$5,000 to a public and school library literacy program. The award is designed to encourage and support innovative and effective information literacy programs in today's school and public libraries. Information literacy is the set of skills needed to find, retrieve, analyze, and use information, not only for school-age children but now can be considered a lifelong venture as formats of information and methods of access to information rapidly evolve. An eligible literacy program should focus on school library users or public library users who are likely to need the most help to obtain access to information, in print or digital form, and to evaluate the quality of the information available to them, especially information they may find outside the school library, school classroom, or public library. The ultimate goal should be to help people of all ages become effective users of information by fostering a better understanding of the research process.

The two page application can be accessed online through the ALA website.

Deadline: Dec. 1, 2008

MMLL Schedule and Upcoming Events:

May 8, 2008: Advisory Council Meeting: 10:00

Location: Cadillac Wexford County Public Library

May 8, 2008: Internet Genealogy: 1:00 – 4:00

Presenter: Linda Koch, Allegan Public Library

Location: Cadillac Wexford County Public Library

.3 CEUs

Cost: MMLL Member: \$20.00 per person Non-Member: \$30.00 per person

Registration: <http://www.mml.org/Workshopsandevents.htm>

Current Number registered: 8

May 19-20: New Directors Workshop (sponsored by Library of Michigan)

Location: North Central Michigan College

Registration: Closed

May 22: MMLL Board of Trustees Meeting: 10:00

Location: Mid-Michigan Library League

May 20-22: Beginning Workshop (sponsored by Library of Michigan)

Location: North Central Michigan College

Registration: http://michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17451_18668-142368--,00.html

June 4, 2008: MeL Cat preparation session: 9:30-12:00

Presenter: Anne Donohue, Michigan Library consortium

Location: Cadillac-Wexford County Public Library

Cost: free

Current Number registered: 4

June 12, 2008: Measuring Your Impact workshop: 10:00 – 5:00

Sponsored by Western Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine/Greater Midwest Region (NNLM/GMR)

Location: Traverse Area District Library

Cost: FREE

Registration: Chris Allen, 231- 935-9265 or callen@mhc.net

Flyer: <http://www.mml.org/workshops/measuringyourimpact.pdf>

Black Belt Librarian: October 7, 2008: 9:00 – 4:00

Presenter: Warren Graham, nationally renowned security, safety and customer service consultant recognized for his unique approach to personal and professional safety.

Location: Traverse Area District Library

.6 CEUs

Cost: MMLL Member: \$25.00 per person Non-Member: \$35.00 per person

Registration: Coming soon