

Mid-Michigan Library League

Weekly Update

April 30, 2008



Selecting Educational Software for Children: **Richard Boss, for PLA Tech Notes**

1. The title of the program suggests that the program will be fun

Children tend to avoid titles that sound educational unless a known and interesting character is featured. Some libraries have increased the use of educational titles with dull names by creating appealing icons that arouse the curiosity of children or adding sub-titles that will appeal.

2. Getting to the first menu is quick and easy

Children are eager for the program to begin and don't want multiple screens of credits and instructions.

3. For young children, reading ability is not assumed by the software producer

Children who cannot yet read—who can be of any age between five and nine—are frustrated when faced with text. The program should be highly intuitive if it targets non-readers.

4. The program is easy to navigate

The program should avoid small and/or complex images that are difficult for young children to navigate with a mouse.

5. The program avoids gratuitous violence

While children are exposed to violence on television, there is no need to purchase software that has gratuitous violence because there are so many good products that are violence-free.

6. The educational value of the program should not distract from the enjoyment of it.

While children should learn something or gain a skill, educational programs that are not fun will get only limited use.

7. The program offers multiple levels or tracks so that children can experience fresh content when returning to the program

While young children often like to repeat the same experience, as they grow older the program needs to grow with them. This is especially the case with problem-solving programs.

8. The program adapts to individual tastes and abilities

Given the diversity of our society, the program should assume a wide range of tastes and abilities.

9. The program is free of gender, racial, ethnic, or religious bias

The most common form of bias is stereotyping. Both negative and positive stereotypes are inappropriate. While gender bias is inappropriate, there will be programs that will appeal more to one sex than the other. Programs that will appeal primarily to one sex should be purchased if they do not reflect a bias against the other sex.

10. Graphics are colorful and appropriate to the content

Given the television viewing experience of children, lack of color or poor use of color will shorten the time and frequency of use.

For the complete list visit:

http://www.ala.org/ala/pla/plapubs/technotes/Educational_Software.pdf

Read Posters:

The Michigan Center for the Book and the Library of Michigan have announced the Read posters for Michigan! This set of 6 posters of Michigan celebrities reading is being sent to all public and school libraries over the next few weeks. The goal is to have the posters draw attention to Michigan literature and libraries and influence children and young adults to read.

The poster models share in the goal of encouraging reading and graciously volunteered their time and images. The models for the posters are Nate Robertson of the Tigers Sparty from Michigan State University Johnathan Rand, Michigan young adult author Jim Benton, Michigan young adult author Gisjbert van Frankenhuyzen and Robbyn Smith van Frankenhuyzen, Michigan children's illustrator and author Kathy-jo Wargin, Michigan children's author

The Library of Michigan and the affiliate libraries of the Center for the Book are proud to offer these posters to Michigan libraries. For more information on the Center for the Book, please go to www.michigan.gov/mcfb.

Advisory Council Meeting:

Everyone is invited to the Advisory Council on May 8th at the Cadillac Wexford Public Library. The meeting starts at 10:00.

To see the agenda for the meeting visit:

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

Positively Green: environmental magazine to launch:

Debuting in August, *Positively Green* will be a national women's quarterly magazine with a "green" twist. For more information go to <http://positivelygreen.com/>

Modeling the Future Competitive Grant Program:

The Library of Michigan has announced the Modeling the Future competitive grant program! Modeling the Future replaces the previous competitive grant program and has several important changes. PLEASE review the program FAQ for an overview of the new program. You can find further information in the Program Handbook listed below. For those interested in applying, the most important change is that an Intent to File form is REQUIRED for participation and is due June 30, 2008. Application workshops will be scheduled in August in response to the Intent to File forms. Grant applications will be due December 1, 2008. Please contact me with any questions about the program, Intent to File form or the process.

Modeling the Future (MTF) documents are posted at the www.michigan.gov/lsta site.

MTF Grant Program FAQ
MTF Grant Program Handbook
MTF Grant Program Handbook
MTF Grant Program Application Packet
MTF Grant Program Timeline

For more information contact:
Karren Reish
Library of Michigan
702 W. Kalamazoo
P.O. Box 30007
Lansing, MI 48909-7507

MMLL Trustee/Position Open:

Melissa McPherson, MMLL Trustee is transferring jobs from being the Library Director of the Baker College of Cadillac library to the Library Director of the Baker College of Jackson Library. She is resigning from the MMLL Board. The Library Director Position for Baker College of Cadillac is open; below are the details.

Baker College of Cadillac

POSITION: Library Director

REPORTS TO: Chief Academic Officer

MINIMUM EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Master's degree in Library Science from an ALA accredited graduate school required or completion within 6 months of employment.
- Supervisory experience required.
- A minimum of 2 years of experience in a library setting preferred.
- Must have current experience with information literacy, electronic databases, digital catalogs and ebooks.
- Must have experience with and knowledge of collection development.
- Must have excellent customer service skills.
- Must be computer literate with Microsoft Office.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Hire, supervise and evaluate library staff.
- Coordinate library liaisons with academic divisions.
- Develop library policy as needed.
- Oversee circulation services and collection development.
- Develop and monitor budget.
- Coordinate library instruction.
- Serve on College committees as needed.
- Attend System Meetings as required (travel required).
- Other duties as assigned.

WORK SCHEDULE: 40 hours per week, 52 weeks per year
Some evening and weekend hours may be required

STARTING DATE: ASAP

COMPENSATION: Salary based on education, experience, and existing wage rates for Similar positions at Baker College. Full benefit package.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Please submit cover letter and resume by May 5, 2008 to:

Human Resource Department
Baker College of Cadillac
9600 E 13th St
Cadillac, MI 49601
Fax: (231) 876-3441
E-mail: hr-ca@baker.edu
AA/EOE

MMLL Schedule and Upcoming Events:

May 2, 2008: Marketing Workshop: 9:30 – 12:30

Presenter: Pamela Christensen, Peter White Public Library

Location: Mid-Michigan Library League

.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: 7

May 5, 2008: Invisible User workshop: 9:30 – 12:30

Presenter: Judith J. Field, Senior Lecturer, Wayne State University

Location: Traverse Area District 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: 11

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: 11

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