

Summer 2013

Working With New Technologies

Vol. 11, No. 2



Google Apps for Education Surpasses Expectations at ICHS

By **Amy B. Popp**, Librarian, Webmaster, PR Coordinator, and Technology Teacher at Immaculate Conception High School

Immaculate Conception High School (ICHS), a Catholic co-educational school in Montclair, has been transformed by the implementation of Google Apps for Education. When I was hired as Librarian/Webmaster in 2011, one of my primary goals was to update the content, media, functionality, and visibility of the school's website. As I revamped the website, I noticed that the school's email system was outdated, clunky, and barely used. It needed to be replaced by something that would enable



ICHS juniors work in Popp's computer class: Joselyn Espinoza (front), Myrna Nu-arhpa, Garyetta Vanderveer.

everyone in the school community to communicate with each other effectively. In addition, students needed to collaborate, share, and retrieve their work more effectively.

Google Apps for Education (www.google.com/enterprise/apps/education) has fulfilled all of these requirements.

I had heard about Gmail being used as an email solution for educational and nonprofit organizations. Through research, emails, and phone calls with Google, I found that our school qualified for the free Google Apps for Education program. We could retain our email domain name

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How iPad Stations Support Early Childhood Learning

By **Jennifer Salt**, Senior Children's Librarian, Middletown Township Public Library

The Middletown Township Public Library (MTPL) has created an iPad-based technology station in its early childhood area. This space is targeted toward families with toddlers and preschoolers; the featured apps are designed to build early literacy and math skills. This article covers the logistics

and benefits of creating an early childhood tech station using tablet computers.

The public library plays an important role in supporting families and caregivers in preparing young children for kindergarten. In the 21st century, this preparation includes the concept of transliteracy. This relatively new educational concept is defined as the ability to read, write, and interact across a wide range of media.

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Message from the PRESIDENT

Tips for Implementing Those New Technologies

Is there a new service or technology that you want to implement at your library? Are you afraid that it will be unsuccessful? We all know that getting started with a new technology personally can be daunting enough. But trying to launch any patron services involving new technologies can be paralyzing, both for staff and administration. There are a number of ways to ease some of the discomfort you may feel when working with these innovations in a library.

Planning: As much as we want to be on the cutting edge of technology, most librarians realize that we don't always have the funding or the knowledge to get started. One way to lessen this stress is through planning. I'm not advocating doing so much research that you never move forward. But take a look at what other libraries and industries are doing. It is much easier to learn from what others have already done than to start from scratch each time. (One tool to turn to is the Edge Benchmark initiative, where librarians share their technology stories: www.libraryedge.org.)

Pilot: Another option is to use the new technology as a pilot program. It lets your patrons know up front that you are trying out this new service or tool for a short time. At the end of the pilot period, you have the option of discontinuing the service. If funding has been your concern, it is often easier to get more funding if you can prove that the service was widely used or generated a lot of patron excitement.

Teamwork: Work with a team of library staff to be more effective. Not only will this reduce stress for all the people in-

involved, it lightens the workload as well. Many minds are often better than just one. Different staff members from various departments can be in charge of separate parts of the planning and implementation process. It also helps to have a group of people you can count on for brainstorming and troubleshooting once the new technology is implemented.

Training: I cannot overemphasize the importance of training when it comes to technology. The staff who will be most involved need the highest level of training. But don't forget to include any staff members who are interested. All of your frontline librarians and assistants will be asked questions, so they'll need to know at least the basics behind the new offering, even if that's just being aware of when the service is available and who knows more about it.

Flexibility: There is no way to plan for all of the great and not-so-great things that will happen when you launch something new. Try not to stress about the unknowns (Easier said than done, I know!), because there is no way to anticipate all of them. Be open to the feedback from your staff and patrons, and consider those comments as you make changes going forward. It doesn't have to be perfect the first time out.

As you read the other articles in this issue, think about the new technologies that you've been wanting to implement at your library. Don't allow fears and worries to stop you from pursuing them. Do some planning and work with a flexible team and you, too, can find your library's "perfect fit" with technology!

Karen Klapperstuck

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The New Jersey Libraries NEWSletter shall provide news of the New Jersey Library Association and information about statewide, regional, and local library activities. News shall be as current as possible within the constraints of the publication schedule and the publication will serve as an archival record of significant and lasting library issues and topics. The New Jersey Libraries NEWSletter shall provide reports from officers, committees, roundtables, sections, and other units of the NJ Library Association. It shall also publish reports on trends and practices in the library profession and articles on topics of interest to the New Jersey library community. Ephemeral issues and time-sensitive topics will be covered in the listserv or the Association website.

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Letter from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Heart of the Community: A Tale of Two Libraries

Two library stories that happened within days of each other in late April have me thinking a lot about what a library means to a community.

On April 28, the Oradell Public Library celebrated its 100th anniversary. The library was started by a small group of volunteers in early 1913 and has served the community continuously since that time. It started in a spare room behind the old Post Office and today is a beautiful three-story building. On a recent Sunday afternoon, the library was filled with several hundred people (well I didn't actually count them) of all ages to celebrate this wonderful occasion. There were activities in every part of the library and, of course, the traditional birthday cake was served. [See photos at <http://tinyurl.com/a95jqgw>.]

The motto of the library is the "Heart of the Community" and you could certainly feel the warmth and, yes, love of the residents on that day. There was plenty of good press about the library and pictures taken to be shown, perhaps, at the 200th anniversary. As someone just visiting, I certainly got the impression that this was a library that was valued by its community and the residents it serves. Oradell is a small city of approximately 8,000 people and was ranked by *NJ Monthly* as the seventh best place to live in Bergen County. It was certainly obvious to me that the library was doing everything possible to be living by its motto.

Another library was also in the news in late April, and although these libraries are only about 25 miles apart, there is a

world of difference. The Orange Public Library is one of the oldest in New Jersey. In mid-April the board of trustees announced suddenly that it was closing the library indefinitely because of numerous health and safety violations. Little information was made available to the public about what alternative plans were in place to offer library services. Press accounts have some of the staff being deployed to other libraries and some of the librarians being fired.



A performer at Oradell's 100th anniversary

where a large percentage of the public can get access to the internet or other educational materials. And yet, there appears to be little outrage or concern expressed by leaders of the community that its residents will not have library service for the foreseeable future.

The Orange Public Library is an extremely important historical structure. Opened in 1901, it was designed by famed architect Stanford White. It is listed on the NJ registry of historical buildings. Clearly it was the "heart of the community" for many decades, but obviously it is not viewed as such now or plans would be underway to see that it could reopen as quickly as possible.

As a librarian, I strongly believe that every library has the potential to be the heart of its community, and that we, as a profession, have the obligation to see that this potential becomes a reality.

Pat Tumulty



Note from the EDITOR

Moving Right Along...

Well gang, this will be my last issue as Editor of this publication and Chair of the Newsletter Editorial Board. I'm giving it all up and moving to Vegas. Actually, I'm kidding about Vegas, but not about leaving this position. I've accomplished what I set out to do here, so it's time to move along.

In early 2010, the NEWSletter's first editor, Jane Crocker, tapped me to take her place as the print publication was about to go electronic to save money. As a journalist with 25 years' experience, I was well-qualified for the challenge of guiding the newsletter to its new life online. As a paraprofessional with 7 years of work in academic and public libraries, I knew the field. And as the founder of a consultancy that teaches info pros about marketing and public relations, I was prepared to revitalize this communication vehicle. In my 3 years at the helm, I've created style guides, taken over the layout and updated the design a little, opened up writing to all NJLA members, enhanced coverage of our annual conference, and set up Constant Contact email ability. I think the new system of taking article proposals, assembling and proofing the newsletter, and sending out email alerts about each new issue is running pretty smoothly. So my work here is done.

I couldn't have done it alone though, and I'm thankful for all of the dedicated people who've worked so hard to make the newsletter great. It's been an honor to serve with the Editorial Board, and I appreciate the members' hard work. Now it's time to welcome the incoming Editor and Chair, Megan McCarthy. She's proven her mettle on other NJLA committees and I know she'll be great.

I'm not going far, though. I'll remain on the Editorial Board, but now I won't have to run the meetings. <wink> I'm going to keep doing the layout, at least for a while. And I'm going to stay active in NJLA because of the passionate people and the comforting camaraderie. So, see you all at Conference!

Kathy Dempsey

(Continued from page 1)

... Google Apps for Education ... at ICHS

(ichspride.org), but it would be powered by Google. With this program, we would be able to migrate to Gmail and we would also have access to Google Drive and numerous Google Apps for no charge. The cost factor was very important to us since we have a very limited budget.

The principal of ICHS was skeptical at first. She preferred interacting with people face-to-face and via paper memos. I was able to convince her to make the switch by making the argument that communication within the school would increase tremendously. She gave me the go-ahead in September of 2012, at the beginning of the 2012–2013 school year. With the help of Google representatives, I migrated all of our email from our old account to the Gmail platform.

Due to Google's excellent product and technical reliability, I was able to make the migration seamlessly, and faculty started using the new email (see below). I created groups (such as All Faculty, English Faculty, etc.) for them to use, and teachers who had previously never used email started to check their email and respond to it. The principal even started to email memos to faculty members. In the following months, I provided all students with email accounts.

One of the greatest results of this project has been the positive impact that Google Apps for Education has made on our students and faculty. The school's Director of Technology and I gave a workshop for all faculty members in February 2013 where we presented information on how to use Google Drive and apps such as Documents, Presentations, Drawings,

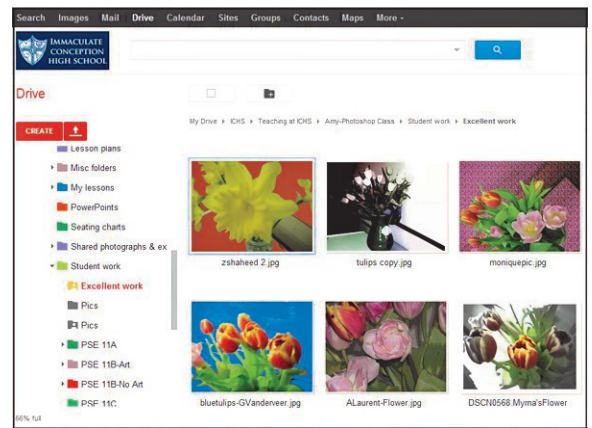


Here's the ICHS email interface, powered by Google.

and Spreadsheets. As an in-class exercise, attendees had to work in pairs to create a drawing and then share it with us. The entire faculty—from novice to advanced users—became very engaged in the exercise. It was amazing to observe a veteran teacher of 30 years working with a recent college graduate on a Google drawing. It proved that this platform works for a wide range of people.

Currently, all computer classes at ICHS are using Google Drive. Freshmen and sophomores create drawings, forms, and spreadsheets and must share them with their teachers in order to receive credit for their assignments. In my junior computer classes, students save all of their edited Photoshop

This screen shot of my Google Drive shows student work.



work to their own Google Drives and then share the completed assignments with me (see above). I grade their work via my own Google Drive and email their grades to them.

Google Drive benefits students in many ways. They do not need to bring flash drives to computer classes anymore, they lose less work, they keep all of their work in one place, and they can access their files anytime, anywhere. By being able to share their work with instructors online, teachers can keep track of which students are completing their assignments and which ones are not. Faculty and student use of our Google ichspride.org email has gone up about 90%.

Mobile technology seems to be increasingly important for communication. Libraries are continually offering free applications to their customers so they can access resources. Amazingly, students are using the Google Drive application for mobile phones and iPads and are printing their work in the library or computer lab. This seems to be the wave of the future; more and more people will be using mobile devices to create, access, and research information.

In the future, we hope to use Google Apps even more to increase faculty productivity, particularly by using shared documents and spreadsheets. Because we implemented Google Apps for Education, students at Immaculate Conception High School will be more prepared for college by having experience with this form of cloud computing. We have been so impressed with Google's products that we hope to receive a grant to buy several Chrome Books for students and faculty. We believe Chrome Books will become just as important in schools, libraries, and other organizations as iPads are now. They are inexpensive, mobile, and small, plus all of Google's applications run on the Chrome internet browser.

Cloud computing really is the future. I can highly recommend Google Apps for Education for primary and secondary schools as well as for libraries and other nonprofits. When I began investigating this product, I knew it would be a great asset but I never imagined how quickly everyone would adopt it. There are so many benefits of this system; it enables communication, collaboration, and productivity. The success of these tools at ICHS has surpassed my expectations.

Amy B. Popp is a librarian, webmaster, public relations coordinator, and technology teacher at Immaculate Conception High School in Montclair, NJ. She holds an M.S.L.I.S. from Drexel University in Philadelphia. Her email address is amybpopp@gmail.com. [Note: A version of this article was printed in the Spring NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ Newsletter.] ▲

Use TechEx to Share Your Knowledge

By **Jessica Adler**, Assistant to the Executive Director, LibraryLinkNJ

How many times have you found yourself in this situation: You have a question about technology, and you know there are colleagues in New Jersey who can help, but you don't know exactly who to call? Or you have created or found a great resource about some aspect of technology and think others could benefit from it, but you don't know where to share it. Enter LibraryLinkNJ's new online resource, the Technology Exchange (TechEx).

TechEx (<http://librarylinknj.org/techex>) is a user-generated platform designed to help LibraryLinkNJ member libraries learn from each other. TechEx lets users share links to resources on technology in our libraries and in our work lives. It connects members to library staff who manage specific technology projects, and it showcases the work of NJ libraries.

TechEx has pages for a wide variety of topics, such as social media, productivity tools, and ebook lending. Contributors can post "resource" items like links to online articles, journals, news, websites, media, or original documents. They can also post "technology in action" items like projects, programs, or services from their own libraries or organizations. Users can browse all posts via the topic pages.

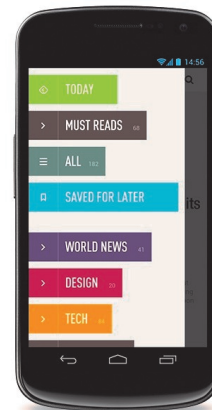
What Started the Technology Exchange?

We had heard from our colleagues—in committee meetings, at conferences, as well as in casual conversation—that they wanted a kind of clearinghouse for information about technology in libraries. Doug Baldwin, Emerging Technologies Librarian at Piscataway PL, said, "I have always been very excited about this idea. I think that having a place where we can share information about technology in a unified location—both ideas and tools—is something that can help move all of us forward together." And Beth Cackowski, former Teen Librarian at East Brunswick PL, recalls that this kind of project was "something that Doug Baldwin and I tried to do when I was president and he was vice president of the NJLA IT (now ET, Emerging Technologies) Section."

At LibraryLinkNJ, we knew that a project like TechEx was a good fit for us and our members. Through continuing educa-

tion and pilot projects, we seek to educate our members about tools and ideas in librarianship. We hope to inspire libraries to try new things and to connect with each other about their ideas. We also aim to showcase the work of NJ libraries, thereby demonstrating their value. In fact, one of our Strategic Plan's key initiatives for 2013 is "Launch an online presence showcasing reliable resources in the areas of library trends, best practices, and innovative technology."

In January 2013, LibraryLinkNJ staff drafted plans and got to work. One of our biggest decisions was choosing which platform to use to host the project. We wanted this new website to be easily browsable by topic and searchable. The content was going to be user-generated, so we needed to make contributing as easy, open, and flexible as possible while maintaining reasonable security standards. Mi-Sun Lyu, our IT/Online Project Manager & Program Coordinator, had recently redesigned our website using Drupal 7, an open source content management system. She felt confident we could use Drupal to "create TechEx as a more interactive sub-section of our main website." Lyu continued, "Drupal enabled us to meet all of our functional needs as well as design a simple, visually appealing way to organize our content."



The Feedly newsfeed reader as displayed on a smartphone.

Early Offerings Available

Once the site was technically functional, in March, we solicited early contributions from several groups: the LibraryLinkNJ Technology Advisory Group, the NJLA Emerging Technologies Section, and the Technology Committee of NJLA's College and University Section. This allowed us to launch TechEx pre-populated with a variety of information.

We have been very pleased with the enthusiastic response to the official launch on April 2, 2013, and the variety of user contributions. Here is a sampling of technologies posted to TechEx so far:

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New Jersey Libraries Recognized for Innovations in Technology

By **Megan McCarthy**, *Librarian at Large*

The winners of several technology-related awards were announced recently, and since this issue's theme is technology, we wanted to highlight these winners on their own page.

Library of the Future: Princeton Public Library

To see the future of libraries, look no further than New Jersey's own Princeton Public Library. The American Library Association recently announced that it has named Princeton PL the 2013 winner of the ALA/Information Today, Inc. Library of the Future Award.



According to a press release from the sponsors, the national Library of the Future Award is "presented annually to a library that demonstrates innovative planning and development of patron training programs about information technology in a library setting."

Princeton is being honored for the success of its Community Collaboration for Enhanced Technology Services project, an effort that aims to provide educational opportunities and technology assistance to patrons at all skill levels. Through workshops such as Downloading eBooks, Coding Bootcamp for Teens, and Google+ for

Small Businesses, as well as one-on-one appointments, tech meet-ups, and discussion groups, Princeton Public Library has become the "go-to" technology resource for many area residents, as well as a place to network, build professional skills, and socialize with other community members.

The award committee commended the library for "incorporating what they were hearing from their community" into their technical services project and for "pioneering a model that is flexible, inviting, inclusive, and sustainable." Reflecting on its achievement, the project team from Princeton Public Library predicts that its "success in attracting those ever-elusive demographics—young business people, highly creative entrepreneurs, and technology experts—means that the future of the library as cornerstone of technological education and innovation is a bright one."

The award will be presented this June at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.

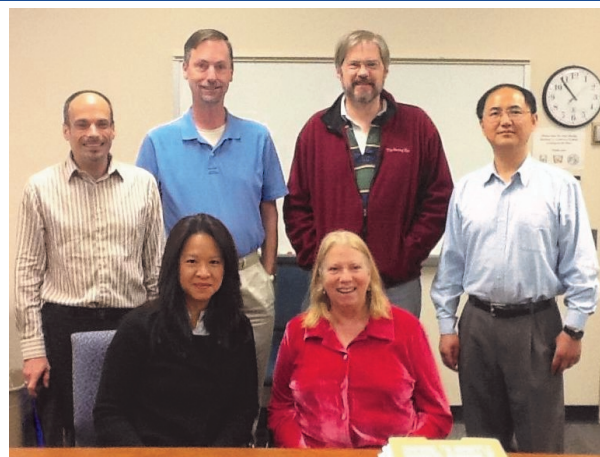
VALE and Raritan Valley Community College

Congratulations are also in order for the recipients of the 2013 Technology Innovation Awards, an honor given annually to two academic institutions by the NJLA College and University Section/ACRL-NJ Technology Committee.

The 4-Year Institution Award was given to the VALID Implementation Team for its VALID Discovery Layer Project. (VALID stands for VALE Academic Libraries Information Dis-

covery; it's the Virtual Academic Library Environment group charged with the technical implementation of the consortium's future, open source, shared integrated library system.) According to a press release from the NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ Technology Committee, the project demonstrates that "VuFind, an open source discovery tool, can successfully search a VALID test database composed of 50,000 bibliographic records from the five alpha implementer libraries."

The VALID Implementation Team is headed by Kurt Wagner (William Paterson University) and its members are Grace Agnew (Rutgers University), Guy Dobson (Drew University), Ann Hoang (New Jersey Institute of Technology), Yongming Wang (The College of New Jersey), and Chris Sterback (Rutgers University).



The VOIT committee (seated, L-R): Ann Hoang and Grace Agnew; (standing, L-R): Christopher Sterback, Kurt Wagner, Guy Dobson, and Yongming Wang.



The 2-Year Institution Technology Innovation Award was given to Raritan Valley Community College for its ILL Staff View App, a project led by Alyssa Valenti, Electronic Resources and Web Services Librarian, and Alex Palilonis, Electronic Resources Specialist.

The two additional nominees for the 2013 Technology Innovation Awards were EndNote Blog by Yingting Zhang and Kerry O'Rourke from the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey University Libraries, and Citing Your Sources: Understanding Citations by Leslie Murtha and Regina Van Epps from Atlantic Cape Community College. All four projects will be presented at the Technology Innovation Forum at the 2013 NJLA Conference on June 5, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Megan McCarthy is a "Librarian at Large" who resides in Bethlehem, Pa. Until recently, she was a Youth Services Librarian at the Monroe Township (NJ) Public Library. She holds an M.L.I.S. from Rutgers University in New Brunswick and is currently chair of the NJLA Public Relations Committee. Her email address is meganbezdek@gmail.com. ▲

Cloud Computing and Academic Libraries

By **R. N. Sharma**, Dean of the Library, Monmouth University

Many changes have been introduced in academic libraries since the first university was founded in 700 B.C. In the first decade of the present century, mobile technology and cloud computing began to be used in academic libraries.

"Cloud computing is a new technology model for IT services which many businesses and organizations are adopting. It allows them to avoid locally hosting multiple servers and equipment and constantly dealing with hardware failure ... For many organizations, cloud computing can simplify processes and save time and money,"¹ explains Matt Goldner of OCLC. He continues: "Anyone connected to the Internet is probably using some type of cloud computing on a regular basis. Whether they are using Google's Gmail, organizing photos on Flickr or searching the Web with Bing, they are engaged in cloud computing."²

According to Roy Tennant of OCLC: "The most powerful aspect of cloud computing is that it enables libraries to stop dealing with technical issues that have nothing to do with their day-to-day mission and services. Cloud computing offers the ability to simply requisition technological resources that can expand as required to meet expanding needs while requiring little or nothing from the library providing the services. Additionally, using cloud computing services it is possible to get a full-featured website going in minutes."³ Cloud computing "offers an avenue to better cooperation." Using a data as a service (DaaS) model, for example, it would be possible for librarians to better cooperate to maintain bibliographic and authority records. They can do this by taking advantage of application programming interfaces (APIs).⁴

Another major benefit of cloud computing is that "librarians can save on buying and maintaining servers ... Depending on the service, they can also rely on the software provider to carry out all updates, thereby allowing their own employees to take care of other obligations in lieu of monitoring version changes and upgrades. Further, quite a few of the cloud-based software platforms are available for free, meaning that librarians can make use of services without incurring any cost for their libraries."⁵

Today, we know that "cloud computing is one facet of a changing landscape of information that is leading to new forms of information creation and use. The impact of this transition is that not only is our approach to accessing computer resources changing, but the ways in which these resources are used to create, share, and leverage information are also changing."⁶

Many libraries in the U.S. have their research guides on a Springshare Server (www.springshare.com), which is housed outside of their libraries in a remote location, but is accessible to their students and faculty through their websites. These libraries have used the cloud technology "to integrate research guides content into [their] Drupal web-

site without having to make a substantial investment of time or resources in developing or customizing a tool of their own."⁷

Matt Goldner's opinion is that academic libraries "have the opportunity to improve their services and relevance in today's information society. Cloud computing is one avenue for this move into the future."⁸

Academic library deans, directors, and staffers are asking questions about the privacy of library records and security of materials. Another major concern is "the possibility of the cloud computing provider's going out of business. If that happens, will the library get its data back in a timely fashion?"⁹ Marshall Breeding, an authority on cloud computing, believes that within 5 years, all library collections, systems, and services will be driven into the cloud.¹⁰ Although cloud computing has become part of academic and other libraries in many ways, no standards have been developed yet.¹¹ Therefore, Professor Alan Hopkinson of the Middlesex University in England advises, "Do not throw yourself into the cloud until the fog clears."¹² Dr. N. Vilayaditya of India has warned that the privacy, security, legal jurisdiction, and other concerns of cloud computing must be addressed for academic and other types of libraries.¹³

R. N. Sharma is Dean of the Library at Monmouth University in West Long Branch. He has an M.A. in History from the University of Delhi in India, an M.L.S. from the University of North Texas, and a Ph.D. from the State University of New York–Buffalo. His email is rsharma@monmouth.edu.

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... How iPad Stations Support Early Childhood Learning

Technology is important for toddlers and preschoolers because it's vital to prepare children for a world in which information is shared through a variety of media. Even with our youngest users, it's important to remember that libraries are in the *information business* and not specifically the book business. Screens are not in competition with picture books and finger plays. Each is a method of teaching that has strengths and weaknesses; librarians play a role in communicating to parents and caregivers (and indirectly to the children themselves) that it is important to be comfortable with learning from, and communicating through, a variety of media.

MTPL uses the NJ State Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards as a tool in program planning (including drop-in activities) and in communicating the concepts behind our programs to parents and caregivers. The importance of utilizing technology with young children is highlighted by the fact the NJ State Preschool Standards includes a section on technology. The standards are available online through the NJ Department of Education's website; go to www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/preschool.htm to download the document.

We created a separate technology center for toddlers and preschoolers because, as with all learning domains, it is important that technology learning be geared to a child's developmental level. Toddlers and preschoolers learn differently from grade school children; creating a separate space allows us to meet the specific needs of younger learners.

How Our iPad Stations Are Set Up

The head of our children's department, Danielle Kootman, submitted a proposal for the center to the Middletown Township Public Library Foundation, Inc. The foundation approved the project and gave us the funding to purchase the iPads directly from Apple (\$399 each) and the MacLocks directly from the MacLock company (\$109 each). We set up the hardware by downloading free and inexpensive apps directly from the app store. As with any library materials, we relied on professional reviews (such as the ones in *School Library Journal*) and knowledge of community needs when we selected apps. We also placed password-protected security and restrictions on the iPads to limit children's internet access.

Our center has two iPads hanging on the end caps of two different picture book shelves, at the eye level of the intended audience. Each iPad is held within a MacLock, which

protects the hardware and provides access to the touch-screen while blocking access to the power button and volume controls. A comfortable padded seat is located near each tablet, which allows adults to either hold the children in their laps or to sit next to standing children who are playing with an iPad. Kootman chose some initial apps and now, each morning, staff members select two featured "apps of the day" (a different app for each iPad) and place the tablets in the MacLocks. At closing, staff remove the iPads from the MacLocks and plug them in to charge overnight.



Kayla Tsoi expands her transliteracy skills using an MTPL iPad.

Every aspect of this center is designed to meet the needs of toddlers and preschoolers. The children can work comfortably by standing or sitting on an adult's lap; they are not seated at a workstation that's designed for bigger children or adults. The touch-screen allows children to access the computers without frustration even if they are too young to have mastered the fine motor control and hand-eye coordination necessary to use a keyboard and mouse. Having a limited number of preloaded apps keeps kids from being overwhelmed by too many choices and assures that any activity they select will be a good developmental match. Having comfortable adult seating available encourages

the grown-ups to interact with their children, making for a richer educational experience and encouraging the development of language skills. Selecting developmentally appropriate apps that teach literacy and math skills enriches the activities available in the early childhood area and reinforces the connection between learning and library technology.

In another part of the children's room, we have public access computers aimed at older visitors. That computer station resembles those in the teen and adult rooms. Those children work at tables, use keyboards and mice, and have wider internet access (filters do help protect their safety). Of course, this meets the practical needs of older children who are using the library's computers to do research and complete homework assignments. Having their own space also reinforces to the bigger kids that library staffers respect their unique needs and growing maturity.

Our early childhood technology stations are incorporated into a specific area that also includes both picture books and board books, a comfortable space for shared reading, and space for playing with manipulatable toys such as puzzles. This placement reinforces the library's philosophy of the role of technology in early childhood education: It is important for young children to have exposure to technology, to be read to, to spend time looking at books, and to have "hands-on" play experiences. Co-mingling all of these materials in one area seems to be successfully getting across the message that all of these activities are an important part of a

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... How iPad Stations Support Early Childhood Learning

child's education. In fact, most young families incorporate all three activities (as well as selecting materials to check out) into the time they spend there. Having all of these materials in easy view of each other also supports parents in teaching the important social skill of taking turns. If children express an interest in materials that are being used by others at the moment, parents find it easy to distract their children with other desirable activities while waiting.

How Our Tablets Compare with AWE Stations

Many librarians will have noticed similarities between MTPL's tablet-based early childhood technology center and the early literacy centers offered through the AWE company (www.awelearning.com/en/markets/libraries/in-the-library). Usually referred to by children's librarians simply as "AWE stations," they are customized computers that are widely used in public libraries as the basis for early childhood technology stations. Because many of you who are reading this will automatically think of early childhood technology in terms of AWE, let me offer a brief comparison here.

Both tablet-based stations and AWE stations can successfully meet the same educational objectives. Similar software is available for both platforms, so both support developmentally appropriate math and literacy lessons, and both types of stations can be utilized by library staff to teach, and to reinforce the importance of, transliteracy skills.

The differences lie mainly in hardware, cost, services, and flexibility. A tablet-based center uses touchscreen-based hardware with librarian-selected apps. An AWE center does not have internet access; it comes preloaded with games selected by the vendor. AWE stations are "traditional" computers that have been modified for young children (the mice are scaled down in size to fit smaller hands and the keyboards are color-coded). A tablet-based center can be created for less money and allows individual libraries more flexibility, since the staff members can make all selection decisions. The AWE company provides IT support and other services, including making selection decisions. Libraries that build tablet-based literacy centers spend less money on equipment.

They're Well-Used and Well-Liked

Once we opened this tablet-based center in November 2012, the iPads got very popular almost immediately, in spite of the fact that we did no initial publicity. We estimate that during our 7-day operating week, about 30 families per day use the early childhood technology center. Customer feedback has been consistently positive. In fact, we get comments from happy parents and caregivers all the time, proving that this project has been really worthwhile for our community.

Jennifer Salt is Senior Children's Librarian at the Middletown Township Public Library in Middletown. She holds an M.L.S. from Rutgers University in New Brunswick. She presented on teaching math to toddlers at the 2012 Youth Services Forum. Her email address is jsalt@mtpl.org. ▲

2013-14 Election Results

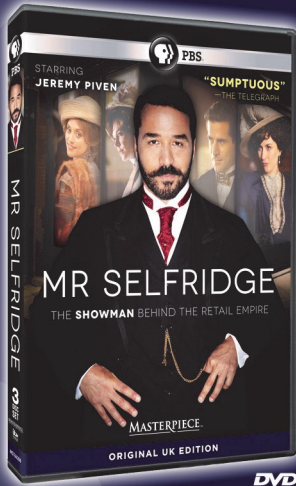
Big news! These members were just elected to the NJLA Executive Board:

- ◆ **Terrie McColl**, New Milford Public Library, first Vice President/President-Elect
- ◆ **Anne Wodnick**, Gloucester County Library, Second Vice President
- ◆ **Chris Carbone**, South Brunswick Public Library, Secretary
- ◆ **Susan O'Neal**, Middletown Public Library, ALA Councilor

Everyone below was elected as Member at Large:

- ◆ **Denise O'Shea**, Montclair University (3-year term as college representative)
- ◆ **Doug Baldwin**, Piscataway Public Library (3-year term)
- ◆ **Cindy Czesak**, Paterson Public Library (3-year term)
- ◆ **Kate Vasilik**, Piscataway Public Library (3-year term)
- ◆ **Samantha Marker**, Mount Laurel Library (to fill a 1-year unexpired term)

Thanks to everyone who ran for an office, and congratulations to those who won. We appreciate your service.



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People & Places Around the State

Honors and Awards

Peter Bromberg, Associate Director of Princeton PL, was the keynote speaker at the first Urban Librarians' Conference held at the Brooklyn PL.

John Buschman, Dean of University Libraries, Seton Hall University, received an NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ 2013 Research Award for his book *Libraries, Classrooms, and the Interests of Democracy: Marking the Limits of Neoliberalism* (Scarecrow Press, 2012).

Ronald C. Jantz, Digital Library Architect at Rutgers University Libraries, received an NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ 2013 Research Award for his article "A Framework for Studying Organizational Innovation in Research Libraries," published in *College & Research Libraries* (Nov. 2012, vol. 73, issue 6, p. 525-541).

Samantha Marker, Mount Laurel Library, received a grant from YALSA and Dollar General Literacy Foundation for the Teen Summer Internship Grants program that allows the library to hire a teen intern for the summer.

Tim Quinn, Princeton PL, was named as one of *Library Journal's* Movers & Shakers for 2013.

Marie L. Radford, Associate Professor and Chair of the Library and Information Science Department at Rutgers University, and **Lynn Silipigni Connaway**, Senior Research Scientist at OCLC Research, received the 2013 ALISE/Bohdan S. Wynar Research Award for their paper, "Not Dead Yet! A Longitudinal Study of Query Type and Ready Reference Accuracy in Live Chat and IM Reference." The award is given for an outstanding unpublished research paper concerning any aspect of library and information science. It was presented at the ALA Midwinter Conference.

South Orange PL, **Bloomfield PL**, and **Montclair PL** have jointly been awarded a \$15,000 grant as part of "The American Dream Starts @ Your Library" literacy project. This initiative is targeted toward adult English-language learners and their families, and is funded by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, the ALA, and ALA's Office for Literacy and Outreach Services.



In the Media

New Jersey State Library came in at #7 in a LibraryScience-List.com rating of the Most Social Media Friendly State Libraries for 2013. See <http://tinyurl.com/bnzdqjh>.

JP Porcaro, Librarian at New Jersey City University, was named one of the 10 Coolest Librarians by Flavorwire.com. See <http://tinyurl.com/c88u72k>.

Rutgers School of Library and Information Science ranked #6 in the *U.S. News & World Report* survey of LIS programs. See <http://tinyurl.com/ckw6c85>.

Appointments and Elections

Tonya Garcia Badillo was named Interim Director of Long Branch PL.

Marilyn Favreau was named Director of Mountainside PL.

Christine Miller is the new Director at Little Falls PL. She had been Director at the Fairview Free PL.

Virginia Papandrea was named Director at the Red Bank PL.

Susan Permehos is the new Director of Summit Free PL. She had been Director of Springfield PL.

Laura Rifkin is the new Director of the Township of Washington Library (Bergen County).

Fred Smith has been named Interim Director of the Guarini Library at New Jersey City University.

Dale Spindel has been appointed Director of Springfield PL. She had been Director of Kenilworth PL.

Julie Tozer is now a Branch Manager at the Camden County Library. She was previously with the Ocean County Library.

Celebrations

Atlantic City PL opened a new Richmond Branch in February.

Burlington County Library System held a grand opening for its expanded headquarters building in Westampton in April.

Jamesburg PL celebrated its 50th anniversary in April.

Oradell PL is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

Warren County Library opened its new headquarters in April.

Resignations and Retirements

Ingrid Bruck retired as Director of Long Branch PL in March.

Grace Bulaong retired as Director of Guarini Library of New Jersey City University Library in March.

Chrys Jochem retired from Morristown-Morris Township PL.

Juliette Sobon retired as Director of the Township of Washington Library (Bergen County).

Mitchell Weiss retired as Assistant University Librarian for Online Library, Fairleigh Dickinson University, in order to resume his scholarly research in the field of invertebrate biology.

Compiled by **Mary Marks**, Associate University Librarian, Fairleigh Dickinson University Library in Madison.





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Write for the Next Issue

Fall 2013

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(The future of library services: MakerSpaces, E-content, being incubators, helping people self-publish)

Propose by June 25

Members: To contribute an article, just email a proposal to newsletter_editor@njla.org!

If your idea is approved, the editor will arrange details for your assignment.



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... Use TechEx to Share ... Knowledge

◇ Baldwin posted Feedly (<http://feedly.com>), a news feed manager to try now that Google Reader is defunct.

◇ Cackowski shared Geek League, a volunteer program for teens who are interested in assisting adults with technology skills. "I decided to post to TechEx because I have gotten many questions from other libraries regarding this program," Cackowski said. "It has been successful and I wanted to describe the program's structure to help other libraries get similar programs off the ground."

◇ Kurt Wagner of the David and Lorraine Cheng Library at William Paterson University posted his library's replacement of its vendor-supplied OPAC with the open source VuFind discovery interface: <http://chengfind.wpunj.edu>. [Editor's Note:

VuFind won a Technology Innovation Award; see more on page 6.]

◇ Mark Lesniak of Rahway PL contributed Maxthon (www.maxthon.com), a cloud-based web browser that's been winning many recent accolades.

Anyone can view TechEx posts; any LibraryLinkNJ member with a user account on our main website can contribute to the project. We hope you'll visit TechEx and start posting to make it a truly active, robust, and useful resource for the NJ library community.

Jessica Adler is Assistant to the Executive Director at LibraryLinkNJ in Piscataway. She holds an M.L.S. from Rutgers University in New Brunswick. She has held several positions in libraries working with technology and electronic resources. Her email address is jadler@librarylinknj.org. ▲