

Learning Newsletter

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

MARCH 2009



Congratulations LATI Graduates!

We now have seven new Library Associates in Western Maryland! The new LA's were honored at a luncheon in Columbia last month with all of the LATI graduates from Maryland and Delaware. Months of hard work and dedication went into the earning of their certificates, so please join us in congratulating the new LA's! Check-out page 6 for a listing of the LA's final projects!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Congrats new LA's! 1

New Year, New Look 2, 3

Odds & Ends 4

Calendar 5

LATI Projects 6



Smiles all around!

Pictured from left to right:

Shannon Kraushaar,
Hagerstown, Reference/ILL

Rachel Nelson, Hagers-
town, Reference

Tammy Gantz, Smithsburg

Abigail Andrews,
Hagerstown, Children's
Department

Pictured from left to right:

Janice Beall, LaVale

Regina Spiker, George's
Creek

Maryland Appel,
Washington St., Branch
Manager/Circulation
Supervisor



A New Year, A New Look

Tracy Carroll, Web Services Specialist, WMRL.

With a new year comes a new and improved website from your Regional Library. We've implemented a clean design with easier navigation that we hope you'll find useful.

We have clearer navigation at the top that lets you find the services that we provide.

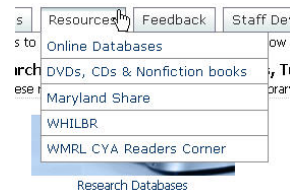


Libraries

Just hover over the Libraries tab and you'll find additional library links.

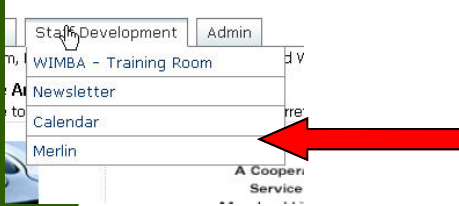
Hover over the Resources tab and you'll find additional resources provided by the Regional Library.

Resources



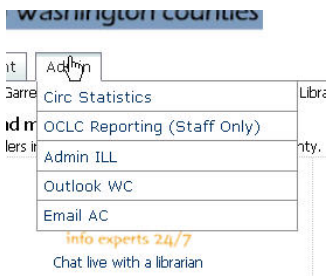
Staff Development

The Staff Development tab provides a direct link to our latest newsletter and links to the Wimba Training Room, our Calendar, and Merlin.



Admin

The Admin tab provides access to our Circ Statistics form, OCLC reporting, and ILL reporting. We've also provided quick links to email for Washington County and Allegany County.



Online Resources (Databases)

Our Online Resources (Databases) page has changed as well. You'll find direct links to all of the eBooks that we subscribe to and direct links to resources. You can still filter by letter or by subject. It's easy to see what resource is available for your library.

Online Resources

Filter by Subject:

Filter by Letter: **A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z**

* Note: Links assume General access or Washington County access unless noted. If available, please use the connection for your respective county if you do not reside in Washington County.

Category/Resource	Description	Help	ACPL	RELGC	WCFL
Academic/Career/ Vocational Test Preparation					
Career Information Center - Allegany County - Garrett County	The Career Information Center provides information every job seeker should have. Updated with a full volume devoted to computer careers, the first 12 volumes each focus on a different career area, and contain over 700 job profiles. Each profile includes a job summary chart, a job description, and up-to-date salary information. The 13th volume contains the index, as well as essays on different aspects of employment.		✓	✓	✓
College Blue Book, 35th ed. - Allegany County - Garrett County	Guide to thousands of 2- and 4-year schools in the U.S. and Canada. Covers the expected listings and detailed descriptions, degree programs offered, scholarships, and occupational education programs.		✓	✓	✓
College Navigator	College Navigator is your direct link to nearly 7,000 colleges and universities in the United States. If you are thinking about a large university, a small liberal arts college, a specialized college, a community college, a career or technical college or a trade school, you can find information on all of them here.		✓	✓	✓

New Resources!

Lastly, we've added more to our DVD Resources to include CD Audiobooks, Non-fiction Books and Blue-Ray DVDs that have been added to our collection. A brief summary tells the patron how to go about requesting the resource.

New Movies, CD Audiobooks, and Nonfiction books available from WMRL

This page is frequently updated. View the *new* DVDs, CD Audiobooks, and Nonfiction books now available! Public library card holders in Allegany, Garrett, and Washington County may check out these materials *free* of charge.

- Are you a **Washington County Free Library** card holder? Check your library catalog for an item.
- Are you an **Allegany County Library System** card holder?
 - Check your library catalog for an item.
 - If the item is not available in the catalog, ask a staff member at your library to place an Interlibrary Loan ("ILL").
- Are you a **Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County** card holder?
 - Check your library catalog for an item.
 - If the item is not available in the catalog, ask a staff member at your library to place an Interlibrary Loan ("ILL").

Select a Resource to view our latest additions this week! - View prior week additions

Select Resource Type:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 Current Week Resources Prior Weeks Resources
 Search by Title

Total records found: 156

Title	Find It!	Feature Type	Date Added
Positivity [sound recording] : [embrace the hidden strength of positive emotions, overcome negativity, and thrive].	Find It!	New AudioBooks	2/12/2009
Run for your life [sound recording] : [a novel].	Find It!	New AudioBooks	2/12/2009

Odds & Ends

BITE-SIZED BITS ON DATABASES WRAPS-UP

March 2nd marked Week 12, the final week of the self-paced database program. All participants have until April 3rd to finish the discovery exercises and submit their learning journal.

For those of you who are still working on finishing, don't give up! This program is worth 16 hours of continuing education! All assignments can be found at:

<http://groups.google.com/group/wmrl-bite-bits?hl=en>

DOES YOUR 5-YEAR CERTIFICATE EXPIRE IN OCTOBER?

Don't worry! There are plenty of learning opportunities available to earn those CEU's! Check-out the training calendar or contact Jennifer Spriggs for more ideas.

**Mark Your
Calendars!

For the 2nd
WMRL Tri-
County
Conference on
November 11th
at Allegany
College of
Maryland in
Cumberland.

More
information
about this event
will be coming
your way soon!**

This Ain't Your Mama's Library!

Did this title catch your eye? If so, you might be interested in attending the upcoming workshop "This Ain't Your Mama's Library: Creating a New Generation of Library Services for a New Generation of Library Users," presented by teen services guru Michele Gorman. This workshop will examine adolescent development, the developmental needs of teens and adolescent brain research, as well as present information on collection development and programming for teens. The workshop is co-sponsored by WMRL and Allegany County and will be held at Allegany College of Maryland on August 28th. More information to be announced about this exciting workshop soon!



Generation Why Not?

Mark your calendars! The MLA 2009 Conference, Generation Why Not?, will be held in Ocean City on May 13th through 15th. Generation Why Not is not an age group. Generation Why Not represents those individuals with open minds, finding solutions in new places outside our "comfort zone," and harnessing our best collective traits as we continue to grow.

Visit the MLA Conference Site to find more information and to register:
<http://www.mdlib.org/>.

March Learning Opportunities



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Bite-sized Bits on Databases concludes	3 Gale Biography Resource Center Webinar 3-4 p.m.	4	5	6 Gale Literature Resource Center Webinar 11—11:45 a.m.	7 Spring Forward! Time changes.
8	9	10	11 Gale Testing & Education Reference Center Webinar 2-3 p.m.	12 Gale Virtual Reference Library Webinar 3-4 p.m.	13	14
15	16 Western MD Teen Interest Group Meeting Boonsboro 10:30—2:30 p.m.	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 Gale Literature Resource Center Webinar 3—3:45 p.m.	19 Gale Biography Resource Center Webinar 1-2 p.m.	20	21 
22	23	24 Gale Virtual Reference Library Webinar 3-4 p.m.	25	26 Gale Testing & Education Reference Center Webinar 2-3 p.m.	27	28
29	30	31	<p>All learning opportunities are posted on the Merlin online training calendar: http://www.merlincommunity.org/?q=node/73</p>			



Serving the public libraries of
Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties

**100 S. Potomac St.
Hagerstown, MD 21502
Email: jthompson@washcolibrary.org
Phone: 301-739-3250**

Have a question or comment about these learning opportunities?

Please contact Jennifer!

**Jennifer Spriggs, Staff Development
Coordinator, WMRL**

Phone: 301-777-1200

Email: jspriggs@allconet.org

LATI Showcase Project Snapshots

Maryland Appel, Washington Street *T.L.C* anyone?

Can't remember where those checkout notes are? The patron lost the DVD! And they want pay for it? OH NO! Bibliographic information! Where's that? This series of helpful hints in short, concise videos will help staff navigate the Allegany County Library System's circulation system with ease.

Janice Beall, LaVale Branch

Taking the E-Library Into the Stacks

Many of our customers are self-reliant enough to head to the stacks looking for the information they need and might not approach a librarian to see what else is available. Therefore we miss the opportunity to introduce them to our databases and e-books. In an effort to promote these resources, I will be creating 1/3 sheet handouts to be strategically placed in the stacks. Each will be targeted to a subject area and point the customer directly to relevant resources. The subject areas will

include religion/philosophy, business/finance, legal aid, auto repair, home repair, science, history, biography, school/career, antiques, genealogy and literature.

Regina Spiker, George's Creek Microsoft Office Tutorials

"Can you help me with this Word program?" Do your patrons ask this on a daily basis? Then check out these tutorials on Microsoft Office 2007, beginning with Word '07. Patrons will be able to learn and pace themselves with updated Office Tutorials on our ACLS website from within the library or from home 24/7/365.

Abigail Andrews, Tammy Gantz, Shannon Kraushaar, Rachael Nelson, WCFL

Librarians to the Rescue: Reader's Advisory for all Ages

It could be every librarian's worst nightmare: a patron comes to the desk and says "I want a book to read. Do you have any suggestions?" But, with a little bit of preparation and knowledge, we don't have to dread this question! Through our project, we hope to improve our Reader's Advisory skills by becoming more familiar with the books in our collection. We will make brochures and bookmarks and add information to our website to provide patrons with suggestions for books that they might enjoy. This project will encompass patrons of all ages, from babies to the elderly.