



## Please Welcome Joe Thompson to Western MD!

Please extend a warm Western Maryland welcome to Joe Thompson, the new Associate Director of Western Maryland Regional Library! Joe joined the regional library in mid-September, replacing John Venditta, who is now Executive Director of the Chester County Library System in Pennsylvania.

After earning a Bachelor's degree in History and his Teacher's Certification from Towson State University, Joe went on to acquire his MLS from the University of Maryland in 2001. For the last several years Joe has been the Project Coordinator of Maryland's virtual reference service, *AskUsNow!*, the success of which has drawn both national and international attention.

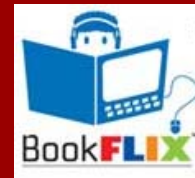
Joe is looking forward to doing more hiking in Western Maryland and enjoys visiting the parks, including the C&O Canal towpath. Joe and his wife have a black cat named Ink who is ready year-round for All-Hallows Eve. The family is rounded out by a daughter who has just turned 2-years-old. They all enjoy the outdoors and try to find as many opportunities as possible to get out and explore. Joe has family history in Western Maryland. His grandmother lived her early years in Lonaconing and his wife coincidentally is also descended from ancestors who lived in this Allegany County community.

Be on the look-out for Joe as he will be visiting the branches in all 3 counties during the coming weeks!



WMRL's New Associate Director, Joe Thompson.

### Database Spotlight on...



Introducing BookFlix, the new interactive literacy resource that builds a love of reading and learning—online! BookFlix pairs classic fictional storybooks from Weston Woods with non-fiction eBooks from Scholastic to reinforce reading skills and develop essential real-world knowledge and understanding. Patrons will love this new database! Check it out on your library system's website!

# First Meeting of the Western Maryland Teen Interest Group Held

The first meeting of the newly-formed Western Maryland Teen Interest Group was held in Frostburg on August 12th, with twenty-three library staff from across the region attending.

The group spent a significant amount of time simply sharing what had been happening in the area of teen services in their branches and counties. It was remarkable to hear about the fun and creative ways library staff have been reaching out to teens in their communities—Teen

Idol, gaming, Teen Summer Reading Club to name a few! Participants swapped stories, photos, flyers, and the like during the afternoon and took away both new ideas and enthusiasm at the end of the day. Special guest Rosemary Truitt, Maryland's Young Adult Coordinator, made the trip West to speak to the group about her vision for YA services statewide, and Naomi Butler, WMRL's Coordinator of Children's/YA services addressed the group from a regional perspective. All in all, it

was an exciting and productive first meeting for the group and a spring meeting is planned to take place at the Boonsboro Branch of the Washington County Free Library. Special thanks to all who made this inaugural meeting possible! The Western MD TIG can be contacted at: [wmdtig@allconet.org](mailto:wmdtig@allconet.org)

## Attendees included:

**Allegany:** Maryland Appel, Judy Castleman, Pat Fleegle, Debbie Hartman, Ginny Hyde, Renee Mason, Lisa McKenney, Joni Reed, Liz Sell, Regina Spiker, Nancy Sudine.

**Garrett:** Joyce Joslin, Krista McKenzie.

**Washington:** Angie Garcia, Chris Hawkins, Ashley Hutson, Lisa Key, Marilyn Pontius, Barbara Twigg, Janlee Viands.

**WMRL:** Naomi Butler, Jennifer Spriggs



Above: Sharing in Action! From left: Nancy Sudine, Debbie Hartman, Regina Spiker, Joyce Joslin, Liz Sell, Naomi Butler, Krista McKenzie, Barbara Twigg, Marilyn Pontius.

Right: Support from Above: Rosemary Truitt and Lisa McKenzie listen to regional library staff during the open-share.



# WMRL Learning Schedule

## October 2008



**Sun                  Mon                  Tue                  Wed                  Thu                  Fri                  Sat**

<p>Have a question or comment? Please contact Jennifer Spriggs. Email: <a href="mailto:jspriggs@allconet.org">jspriggs@allconet.org</a>                  Phone: 301-777-1200                  Access the regional training calendar online at:  <a href="http://www.merlin.lib.md.us/?q=node/73">http://www.merlin.lib.md.us/?q=node/73</a></p>		1 Regional Certification Update via Wimba 2—3 p.m.	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9 SkillSoft 2008-2009 Kick-off Session Hagerstown, WMRL Lab 2—3 p.m.	10	11
12	13	14	15 Emergent Literacy Workshop LaVale 9:30—3:30 p.m.	16	17	18
19	20 SkillSoft 2008-2009 Kick-off Session George's Creek 9 a.m.	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Picture Book Workshop South Cumberland 2—3:30 p.m.	29	30	31	

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***Serving Allegany, Garrett, and  
Washington counties.***



Western Maryland Regional Library is the regional resource center for Allegany, Garrett, and Washington county library systems in Western Maryland. Since 1970, WMRL has enhanced the services of its member libraries through:

- a delivery system tied to the rest of the state
- staff training
- back-up reference service
- consulting services
- commercial electronic database subscriptions.

## SkillSoft '08-'09 Begins with 29 Learners from Region

Twenty-nine regional library staff will be participating in SkillSoft '08-'09, making this the fourth year that Maryland libraries have been able to take part in this online learning project! SkillSoft is a statewide project that is funded by DLDS through an IMLS Grant and will be running from September 2008 until August 2009. Three different learning tracts are available this round, with the debut of the Supervisory (Business) Skills seats. Learners will be able to select from hundreds of courses in their area of concentration—ranging from Microsoft Office basics to completing performance reviews. Each participant will be asked to complete a minimum of 6 hours of online content with a 75% or higher score. We wish good luck to our learners!

### IT Professional Seats

Tobin Bakner (WCFL)

Tracy Carroll (WMRL)

Allen Dunson (Garrett)

Robert Hall (ACLS)

### IT End-user Desktop Seats

Abigail Andrews (WCFL)

Lydia Byrne (WCFL)

Carl Emerick (ACLS)

Ashley Hutson (WCFL)

Diane Kisner (Garrett)

Dennis McPherson (WMRL)

Susie Poper (WMRL)

Darlene Reimond (WMRL)

Peggy Ryan (Garrett)

Charlotte Seibert (WCFL)

Marcy Stallings (WCFL)

Lisa Wallace (WCFL)

### Supervisory Skills (Business Seats)

Maryland Appel (ACLS)

Lisa Broll (ACLS)

Debbie Hartman (ACLS)

Ginny Hyde (ACLS)

Frances Lockley (WCFL)

Lisa McKenney (ACLS)

Pat Merrbach (ACLS)

Pam Neder (ACLS)

Jeff Ridgeway (WCFL)

Nancy Sudine (ACLS)

John Taube (ACLS)

Carol Waugerman (ACLS)