

Fine Print

APPLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY | FRIENDS OF APPLETON LIBRARY | APPLETON LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Shape of Things to Come

by Terry Dawson, Library Director



circa:1905

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Over the next few months, our library will be doing a facility study. We received a \$10,000 grant from the Appleton Library Foundation for this purpose, and \$40,000 in our 2008 City budget. The study will look at library facility needs of the community in the short and long term.

In December, we sent out nearly fifty copies of an RFP (request for proposals) to building consultants and architects with significant library experience. We received ten proposals in response, and our evaluation team reviewed these, interviewed two firms and made a recommendation to our Library Board. On February 18, the Board resolved to go with Durrant as our partner to do the study.

Durrant, which is the firm that designed our 1996 addition, will work with Himmel & Wilson Library Consultants for community input and Linda Miller as technology consultant. There will be focus groups, surveys, interviews with library staff and community leaders, and lots of meetings. There should be many opportunities for a variety of input: we want lots of ideas to be included, heard and weighed.

In this process there are no foregone conclusions, except that we want to find the best way to meet the community's future library service needs. Do we know that it's a good idea for the public library to be near the center of downtown? Do we know that it would cost more to operate additional facilities, such as branches, than it would to expand on our current site? We surely do know these things.

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Best-selling Author Alice Hoffman



Coming to APL April 17th



The 2008 Fox Cities Community Read is an area-wide collaborative program of five Fox Cities public libraries: Neenah, Menasha, Kimberly-Little Chute, Kaukauna, Appleton and the library at the University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley. We hope the 2008 Community Read will facilitate dialogue, cultivate a love of reading and promote a sense of community.

For 2008, we have chosen two books by New York Times best-selling author Alice Hoffman: *Blackbird House* and *Green Angel*. We encourage you to read one or both of the titles and come together for discussions, presentations and related activities. Her visit to the Appleton Public Library on April 17th and the Neenah Public Library on April 18th culminate the Fox Cities Reads and kick off the First Annual Fox Cities Book Festival.



Blackbird House

[An] evocative work that traces the lives of the various occupants of an old Massachusetts house over a span of two hundred years.... This small farm on the outer reaches of Cape Cod is a place that is as bewitching and alive as the characters we meet.... Inside *Blackbird House* more than a dozen men and women learn how love transforms us and how it is the one lasting element in our lives. The past both dissipates and remains contained inside the rooms of *Blackbird House*, where there are terrible secrets, inspired beauty, and, above all else, a spirit of coming home. (Syndetics)



Green Angel

Left on her own when her family dies in a terrible disaster, fifteen year old Green is haunted by loss and by the past. Struggling to survive physically and emotionally in a place where nothing seems to grow and ashes are everywhere, Green retreats into the ruined realm of her garden. But in destroying her feelings, she also begins to destroy herself, erasing the girl she'd once been as she inks darkness into her skin. It is only through a series of mysterious encounters that Green can relearn the lessons of love and begin to heal enough to tell her story. (Syndetics)

Book Discussions

Library staff have prepared questions that can be used to facilitate discussions. They are available for book clubs and other community groups who are reading and discussing the books during the Fox Cities Reads event.

Hoffman's work has been published in more than twenty translations and more than one hundred foreign editions. Her novels have received mention as notable books of the year by The New York Times, Entertainment Weekly, The Los Angeles Times, Library Journal, and People Magazine. Her novel *Here on Earth* was an Oprah Book Club choice. She has also worked as a screenwriter and is the author of the original screenplay "Independence Day," a film starring Kathleen Quinlan and Diane Wiest. Her book *Practical Magic* was made into a Warner film starring Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman. Her short fiction and non-fiction have appeared in The New York Times, The Boston Globe Magazine, Kenyon Review, Redbook, Architectural Digest, Gourmet, Self, and other magazines. Her teen novel *Aquamarine* was recently made into a film starring Emma Roberts.

Alice Hoffman will appear at the Appleton Public Library at 7:00 pm, Thursday April 17 in the library's Lower Level Meeting Room. This event is free, but seating is first come, first served.

Visit www.appletonreads.org for all the details!

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But that doesn't tell us what's best for the long-term library service delivery in this community. What is the added value that a different location or additional locations offer our service population? What operational economies might there be in a building designed for twenty-first century technology and use patterns? What organizations or neighboring communities might wish to partner with us in providing library spaces? What are the opportunities and needs for change in our current building, designed almost thirty years ago? We have to take an open-minded, unprejudiced look at the questions and issues. We have to consider lots of factors and ask lots of people, then present some clear choices and recommendations to the decision-makers: the Library Board, Mayor and Council.

If we knew the answers ahead of time, we wouldn't need to do a study. But we need to look at options and make some decisions about the future. We need to know we can deliver the services people want in the most effective way. And we need to understand technology options and costs, as well as how we might implement short-term solutions before long-term actions are taken.

Winston Churchill said: "We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us." What shape do you want our library to be in over the next decades? This will be a lot of work, but worthwhile and exciting!

"Buzz on in" to the library for a summer of fun!

"Catch the Reading Bug!" is the theme this summer for the children's services reading program at the Appleton Public Library. The 2008 Summer Reading program is open to birth through elementary school children with programs, prize drawings, storytimes, a reading program, and more. Tom Pease performs the opening concert on June 12 at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Storytimes are on Monday evenings, Tuesday mornings, and Thursdays. Presenters appear on Tuesday afternoons during the month of July.

On May 19, registration begins for the summer reading program "Catch the Reading Bug!" Upon registering, each child will receive a creepy-crawly reading log to track his/her reading progress. Children are eligible to win 11 weekly prizes total~ all for reading as little as 15 minutes a day! In addition, children will have the chance to win several hoppy prize drawings at the end of the summer. Don't be the only bug left out of this summer's sizzlin', slitherin' activities!

All programs are free of charge.

New Service Helps You Keep up with Your

Favorite Author's Titles

If you have an email address on file at the library, we will send you a notice whenever your favorite author has a new title added to the library's collection.

To activate this feature, log into your account in the library's catalog, Infosoup. Search for the author that you want to track and click on the Save Search button. When you have completed saving your searches return to the My Account front page and click on the My Saved Searches icon. Check the email box and then click on the Update List button.

Repeat these steps for as many authors, or subjects as you like.

The notification of the new materials will arrive in your email. Look for a message from III Explorer. When you get the email notice, the last step is to place a hold on that title in Infosoup.

BiblioTech Topics

by Barbara Kelly, Assistant Library Director

Magazines Online

You may have noticed that we have reduced the amount of space available for back issues of our magazines and newspapers. There are several reasons for doing this. The biggest one is that we are just plain running out of space to put things. Plus we wanted to create a little space for a new Hmong Resource Center that we are establishing in the near future. We also wanted to give a little more space to the Young Adult “TeenLink” area and also to add a few shelves to what was available for our heavily used Large Print Collection.

A large part of the reason we chose this area to contract in order to expand the others is that the back issues of magazines just aren't getting used like they were used in the past. In the last several years we have been adding barcodes to each individual magazine so we could better track the usage. You may remember when, if you wanted to check out a magazine, you would bring it to the checkout desk and they would put it into an envelope with a barcode and check the envelope out to you. Well that system worked, but it didn't give us much information about exactly what people were using and what they weren't. Now, with each issue barcoded, we can tell that most of the use of magazines comes from the issues in the current one or two years. And the five or ten year's worth we were keeping took up a LOT of room!

Another factor that allowed us to make this change was the growing use of the online full text versions of magazines. Library users throughout the state are very lucky to have access to BadgerLink. BadgerLink is supported and funded through the Department of Public Instruction's Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning. Funding is provided through the Public Service Commission Universal Service Fund. Subscribers to some Internet Service Providers may need to use their Appleton or OWLSnet library card to gain access. You can find a link on our website at <http://www.apl.org/databases.html> or go directly to <http://www.badgerlink.net/>.

BadgerLink provides access to a wide variety of resources, but one of the most heavily used is EBSCOhost, which provides indexing to a large collection of academic and popular publications. Subjects include **business, health, education, general interest periodicals and more!** It includes the full-text of over 2000 magazines and journals, including some **newspapers** and **reference** resources. Library users can read, print or email the full text of articles, including graphics in most cases. This availability has no doubt contributed to the decline in use of our hard copies.

If you would like to have help learning how to use EBSCOhost, or any of the other resources available through BadgerLink, just ask the staff at the Reference, Information, or Family Readers Advisory desks. They can show you how to find the links, how to log on from the Library or from home, and how to search efficiently for the things you are looking for. Then it is easy to print out a copy or send it to your email account.

Try it out today!

Spring Used Book Sale Dates Set

The Friends of Appleton Library (FOAL) Spring Used Book Sale dates have been scheduled. There will be a pre-sale available to all current members of FOAL taking place Thursday, May 8th from 2:00 – 5:00 PM. The sale to the general public takes place Friday, May 9 and Saturday May 10 from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM both days, in the Lower Level Meeting Room. Mark your calendars, and see you this May!

Fourth Annual

“I Love My Library Dinner” A Success!

On Sunday, February 10, 2008, the *Appleton Library Foundation* sponsored its fourth annual *I Love My Library Dinner* at Riverview Country Club in Appleton.

Guests enjoyed the live musical entertainment provided by library staff member Karen Probst on piano, and bid on wide variety of wonderful silent auction items before enjoying dinner at 6:30 pm.

Dennis Hultgren, President of the Appleton Library Foundation, and chairperson for this event, declared the event a success.

Funds generated by this event help support special events, programs and workshops, as well as library materials, technology, equipment, author appearances and readings not supported by the city's budget.

Special thanks go out to this year's corporate sponsors: *The Boldt Company; Hoffman, LLC; JPMorgan; and ThedaCare.*

We would also like to acknowledge the many generous contributors to this year's silent auction: AAA, Ace Hardware of Appleton, Appleton Art Center, Appleton Boy Choir, Appleton Downtown, Inc., Appleton Public Library, Atlas Coffee Mill, Avenue Jewelers, Kathy Beck, Blue Harbor Resort, Breadsmith, Lou Chicquette, Conkey's Book Store, Copper Rock, CSI – Appleton, Coventry Glassworks/Gallery, Terry Dawson, DEMCO, EAA, Eagle Graphics, The Exclusive Company, Fat Cat Jewelry, Kathy Fenner, Fox Cities PAC, Gabriel Furniture, Green Bay Packers, Haberdasher Ltd., Heavenly Ham, The History Museum at the Castle, IL Angolo Resto-Bar, Joseph's Shoes, Michael Kenney, Ed Krejcie, Lynnette Kopetsky, Karla Laudén, Marcia McCaulley, Constance Morgenstern, Paper Creations, Paul S. Shoberg, DDS, Salon CTI, Phil Sealy, Stone Cellar Brew Pub, Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Jamie VanderHeiden, Van Vreede's, Maureen Ward, White Heron Chorale, Wild Bird & Backyard, Willems Marketing, Inc., Wilmar Chocolates, Wisconsin Timber Rattlers, and the YMCA of the Fox Cities.



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Special thanks are also extended to the many people and organizations that made the evening a success, including Time Warner (Donor), Rollie Winter & Associates (Donor), Will and Ruth Bloedow (Table), Blue Print Service Company, Terry & Marsha Dawson (Table), Appleton Area School District, Lou Hull, JPMorgan, Karen Probst (Pianist), Barbara & Bill Kelly, Sara Kopesky, Kathy Fenner, Paper Creations, Valley New School, Colleen Rortvedt, Kay Shearier, Maureen Ward, and Tony Wiczorek.

Members of this year's "I Love My Library" Fundraising Dinner Committee include: Chairman Dennis Hultgren, Pastor Will Bloedow, Ruth Haviland, Nancy Johnshoy, Dave & Mary Willems, Tom Williams, and Terry Dawson.

Volunteering at the Library

2007 was a banner year for the library in terms of services provided and the volunteer hours donated. Circulation and usage of other sections of the facility continue to show growth. Assisting the staff in providing excellent service last year, were 180 volunteers (70 of which were teens), donating an incredible 3,971 hours! Using the figures assembled by an independent national agency, the dollar value assigned to those hours is \$74,536.00. However, to the APL staff, volunteers are priceless. On a cold Tuesday in February, circulation alone had 7 volunteers donating 13 hours! "Volunteers have made a dramatic difference on our workload. Our reserves are put out for pickup faster. Materials are shelved quicker and the shelves look so much neater after our volunteers come in to shelf read. They are a real treasure." --Vicki Lenz, Circulation Services Supervisor.

We welcome our newest volunteers: Terry Tappy, Tamzen Spiegel, Gail Bush, Julie Meyer Senn, Jim Hemmen (returning), Amy Johnson, Amy Baumgartner, Sharon Bartman, Dana Ritcher, Tamra Coenen, Kate Moody, Christine Schreiber, Marion Bowers and teens, Kyle Wayner, Kate Sinclair, Branden Bushelle, Kyle Sleik, Skylar Keough, John VanLieshout, Ben Lillge and Lauren Krause. These wonderful folks are involved in taking care of the "holds", shelving books, weeding and watering in the atrium, checking DVD's and VHS tapes for damage, making sure books are where they belong, keeping the huge number of tax forms stocked, working on the obit project, and doing teen Anime programs. There are many exciting things going on at the library each week and the volunteers help make it all happen.

The library is currently in need of volunteers that can work one morning each weekday processing holds. The time commitment would be 2+ hours each week between the hours of 9 and noon. Requirements include at least 16 years old, good with numbers and alphabetizing. Please contact Lou Hull for more information.

Volunteer applications are available on-line or at the library. Feel free to contact me if you would like to lend a hand. We think the library is THE best place to hang out!

Lou Hull
Volunteer Assistant Coordinator, lhull@apl.org, 832-6346

FINE PRINT

is a publication of the Appleton Public Library, the Friends of Appleton Library and the Appleton Library Foundation.

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Spring Adult Programs @ APL

APL Exhibits

March 3-April 30

Nature

Ruth Zarling Rex

Acrylics and Fiber Art

May 1-June 30

Seeking Focus Photography Group

Photography

Creative Journey 10:30 am-12:00 noon

March 25 Poetry Writing - Try your hand at writing poetry with fun and easy writing exercises

Creative Journey 10:00 am-12:00 noon New Time!

April 1 Yupo Painting

April 8 The Virtues Project

April 15 Show & Tell

April 22 Respond to Art

April 29 *Art21:Protest*

May 5 Play Reading

May 13 Members' Stories: Brazil & Argentina with Sheila Hallada

May 20 Responding to Quotes

May 27 Collaged Group Portraits

Writing Matters 1:30-3:00 pm

April 2 Writing on the Spot: Hooking Readers

May 7 Critiques

Hearthstone Book Club at the Library 1:00-2:00 pm New Program!

April 9 Theme: Victorian Life: Thoughts of Home
Home: A Short History of an Idea by Witold Rybczynski

May 14 Theme: Victorian Women: Beyond the Corset
Mauve: How One Man Invented a Color that Changed the World by Simon Garfield

Led by Christine Cross, Executive Director, Hearthstone and

Elizabeth Eisen, Adult Programming Librarian, Appleton Public Library

Downtown Book Club at Harmony Café 12:00-1:00 pm

March 26 Free-for-all (Read what you want)

April 30 *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson

May 28 Free-for-all (Read what you want)

Led by Amy Stanwood, Adult Programming Library Assistant

Film Screening 6:30-8:30pm

April 10 This film is based on a novel by Alice Hoffman. Starring Sandra Bullock, Nicole Kidman, Dianne Wiest, Stockard Channing, and Aidan Quinn, this wry, comic, romantic tale follows the Owens sisters as they struggle to use their peculiar hereditary gift to overcome the obstacles in discovering true love.

Music @ the Atrium 2:00-3:00 pm New Day and Time!

April 13 Retrospective Barbershop Chorus

Afternoon Board Games 12:30-2:30 pm

April 16

May 21

Film Screening/Discussion 6:30-8:30 pm

May 15 "Electronic voting machines count about 87% of the votes cast in America today. But are they reliable? Are they safe from tampering? From a current congressional hearing to persistent media reports that suggest misuse of data and even outright fraud, concerns over the integrity of electronic voting are growing by the day. And if the voting process is not secure, neither is America's democracy. This timely, cautionary documentary exposes gaping holes in the security of America's electronic voting system." *website information.*

Discussion led by Adam Bordeaux and Elizabeth Eisen, Adult

Programming Librarian

3rd Annual Summer Reading Program for Adults

Begins May 19 Watch for details!

Splendid Gallantry Author Visit/Signing 7:00-8:00 pm

May 22 Richard Haviland

Wisconsin Englishes: Exploring the English We Speak in Wisconsin 6:30-8:30 pm

May 29 A public discussion series sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Linguistic and English Departments and the Wisconsin Humanities Council

Spring Teens Programs @ APL

Teens Take a Break, authors visit, henna is tattooed and spring will soon be summer! There are so many great things for teens to do at the Library that it is hard to know where to begin!

Teens Take a Break @ your library

The newest program for teens kicked off in January and is gaining momentum...Every Tuesday evening teens can “take a break” at the library with a different program. So far teens have battled it out on Guitar Hero, created altered paint cans, rocked in the Atrium, and watched the latest anime. Word of the Tuesday programs is getting around and new faces join regulars each week.

Authors Visit @ your library

In anticipation of Alice Hoffman’s visit to the Library teens will get the chance to be the novel’s lead character, Green, and tattoo themselves—with henna. The *Green Angel Henna for Teens* program gives teens a chance to experiment with self tattooing, as well as get a henna tattoo based on designs from *Green Angel* and Green’s tattoos. Henna is a safe and temporary tattoo that usually only lasts a few days to a few weeks. Registration for the program begins mid-March (parental permission is required before registration). Teens can then show off their new tattoos at Alice Hoffman’s Community Read presentation on Thursday, April 17.

Award winning teen author Alex Flinn will also be visiting the Appleton area in April. She will be speaking with teachers and students at the Appleton area schools and will be at the Appleton Public Library on Tuesday, April 14th. Alex Flinn will be discussing her book *Breathing Underwater*, a powerful story about dating violence and coming to terms with abuse. This is wonderful opportunity for teens to meet one of their favorite authors and hear her speak on a powerful and important topic.

*To recap:
Henna on the 14th, Flinn on the 15th, and Hoffman on the 17th!*

Metamorphosis @ your library

Spring turns into summer and that means the beginning of the summer programs for teens at the library. The biggest program for teens this summer will be Cover Story Bingo, the reading program. Teens read books, write reviews, and earn prizes, all while playing bingo. Grand Prizes this year include an iPod, Barnes and Noble Card, and Gift Card “baskets”. Teens can register for Cover Story starting Monday, May 19 and get an early start on reading and reviewing. The program will officially start on Friday, June 6 with a Kick-Off party!

In addition to Cover Story teens can attend a variety of other fun programs. *Teens Take a Break, Summer Edition* will feature the continuation of the gaming programs, crafts, and anime. The Jungle Jive Concerts will go on hiatus until the fall, and the cooler weather, returns. Look for something special to replace the concert Tuesdays this summer.

TeenLink @ your library

Teens visiting the Appleton Public Library lately may have noticed that things are a little different in the TeenLink area. Thanks to a rearrangement project on the first floor of the library the TeenLink area has gained additional shelves and an increase in floor space and furniture. The space now has a table teens can use for studying or laptops, and an additional seating area for game playing. With the addition of the former Large Print shelves many of the YA materials have been moved to new locations in the TeenLink area...if you can’t find your favorite author or section check with a librarian (hint: the graphic novels are across from the adult fiction shelves.) Teen feedback on the rearrangement has been positive. Teens have commented on how much they like the increase in space, the new table, and the general feel of the area.

Thank You Library Staff and Volunteers for your help with the TeenLink Area!

Spring Children's Programs @ APL

A variety of activities are available to children and their families in the Children's Services section of the Appleton Public Library. Call **832-6187** for more information. <http://kids.apl.org>

BOOK BABIES

For babies not yet walking. Mondays at 10:00 a.m. or 1:15 p.m. through May 19, 2008. Rhymes & bounces – Stories especially for infants and lullabies, songs, music, movement, rhythm activities and playtime. **No registration required.**

STORY SPROUTS

For toddlers that are walking. Mondays 11:00 a.m. or 2:15 p.m. through May 19, 2008. Rhymes & Bounces – Stories especially for toddlers and lullabies, songs, music, movement, rhythm activities and playtime. **No registration required.**

GET READY FOR K!

Fun and educational independent classes for 4 & 5 year olds

continue through the week of March 31st.

Alphabet Hour – Thursdays 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. Books & songs using the alphabet. Word & letter recognition. Art, music & movement activities.

Number Munchers – Fridays 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. Books & songs using numbers. Number recognition & writing. Art, music, & movement activities.

Registration is required.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Ages 3 and up & their caregivers. Tuesdays 10:15 a.m. through May 20. Stories, music & movement, fingerplays, rhymes, video. Siblings welcome. **No registration required.**

MUSICAL MOVIN' STORYTIME

Ages 2-5 & caregivers. Siblings welcome. Fridays 9:30 or 10:30 a.m. through April 4. **Registration is required.**

READ & CREATE A CRAFT

Ages 2-4 & caregivers on Mondays 1:30 p.m. and ages 5 & up with an adult on Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. through April 1. Siblings welcome. Themes include turtles, boats, St. Patrick's Day, fish, and flowers. **Free. No registration required.**

DISCOVER! STORIES AND ART @ YOUR LIBRARY

Monday through Friday beginning in March and concluding May 23. 1:30 – 2:00 p.m. Stories followed by a guided art project or craft. For the whole family. Supervision by an adult is required. **No registration required.**

SATURDAY AFTERNOON THEATRE

1:30 p.m. March through May 24. Free.

For children and their families. Children under the age of 6 must be accompanied by an adult.

HARRY POTTER FILM SERIES

1:30 p.m. March 25 through March 29. Free.

Celebrate Spring Break by watching the Harry Potter movies based on the books by J.K. Rowling in the Children's program room. Children under six must be accompanied by an adult.

AFTERSCHOOL ANTICS

For school-aged kids. Other ages welcome with caregivers. Thursdays in **March at 4:00 p.m. No registration required. Free.**

March 20 Food, Fun, and Reading with the UW Extension. Kindergarten through grade 3. Stories. Facts on nutrition. Take-home recipes. Prepare & eat good food.

March 27 Games Club: Board games & book games.

POETRY NIGHT

Monday April 7 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

We'll share stories that rhyme, and stories from our poetry section. Afterwards, we'll do a fun concrete poetry art project. For all ages--preschool through school-age. Anyone can write poetry!

DROP EVERYTHING AND READ!

April 10

In honor of Beverly Cleary and her Ramona Quimby books. Sometime during the day, drop everything you're doing, and start to read!

4TH ANNUAL PAJAMARAMA

Tuesday April 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for bedtime stories, action dances, and lullabies, followed by a simple art project. For the entire family to experience.

SIGN, STORY, AND SONG

Monday May 12 from 6:30-7:00 p.m.

American Sign Language Storytime

Automation impacts Appleton Public Library's magazine collection

by Michael Nitz, Technical Services Supervisor

Over the years many users of the Appleton Public Library's magazine collection will have noticed that these collections have had many changes. Readers may remember libraries sending out the prior year's worth of issues to be bound and then storing huge collections of these bound volumes. With developments during the 1940 and 50's in microphotography, industries developed around creating microfilmed editions of the paper copies. Libraries purchased duplicate subscriptions of the microfilm editions in order to enable users to find articles and information from old magazine issues. While microfilm enabled libraries to reduce their holdings of paper copies, it did mean they were storing huge quantities (cabinets upon cabinets) of reels of microfilm. Not much changed for forty or fifty years.

Nearly 25 years ago, the Library facing a space crunch purchased a product from a new company called Information Access Company [IAC]. They produced a microfilm reader that, while their film was in a nonstandard size, the reader was much easier to use. They also negotiated contracts with a large number of magazine publishers to republish back issues of lots of magazines. Purchasing this machine and a subscription provided the library with access to a huge collection of microfilmed magazine issues. It also enabled the [Library] library to reduce our paper back files, open up space for the nonfiction collection, and limit the growth of the microfilm cabinets. This was a huge boon for the library and our users. The machine and the films were very popular for a long time.

This long time lasted about 10 years.

Nothing's perfect! Eventually, we ended up with several large towers of reels of microfilm on spinning platforms. The collection became unwieldy. In addition to microfilming the new issues of magazines, IAC was microfilming more and more back issues. The whole program became difficult to use due to its success!

Fortunately, IAC was working to transition away from microfilming to an online database. Their vision was to create a huge database where each article in each issue of a magazine could be searched by subject or keyword! What a bonanza of information! The original product provided an abstract of all of the articles, many entries contained the full text of the articles, some of these included pictures from the published articles; a few even included exact replicas of the printed pages. It wasn't perfect, but it was a great start.

Libraries rejoiced! Here was a new technology to replace our microfilm collections. Not only that, the system was physically easier to use. No threading film between rollers, hoping it would catch the take up reel... no rewinding... no loud noises. The new system required libraries [to] purchase computers and access to their databases. This concept had been in use for several years by academic libraries, but was pretty new for public libraries. Computers were expensive pieces of equipment. If libraries owned them, they were shared on service desks to help answer questions. Purchasing a computer for public use was a new commitment. It also meant that libraries had to develop networks which would connect to the new-fangled Internet. The Internet would become the conduit between the computer and this database of information.

IAC's database was a great success; even more successful than their microfilm product! With success came competition and competition lead to the development of a whole industry of companies providing access to serial information. Over time IAC would be bought up by larger information companies, but their indexing service still continues.

Today, libraries use their combined negotiating power to purchase access for all state residents. You can access this service from your home. You only need a library card. The library also helps purchase access to newspaper articles. You can access both of these databases by visiting our home page (www.apl.org) or our online catalog (www.infosoup.org).

A side benefit of having access to magazines online is that (with a few exceptions) the articles from most magazines become available online very quickly... often within a month of the original publication date. The reality of currency and easy access from wherever you can access the Internet has made for many changes in collection use. By tracking circulation statistics of individual issues of magazines, we've found that in most cases, only the current couple years of scholarly magazines are being checked out. We've also noted that the use of the online magazine databases is increasing. This combination is enabling us to alter our magazine collections to provide you with greater diversity of titles and topics and retaining smaller collections of paper copies. You can find back issue articles via online magazine databases like those we subscribe to: Ebsco, Gale and Proquest. Their holdings go back much further than we'd ever be able to house them.

So, enjoy the rewards of technology! Ease of access and greater diversity of titles and topics!

Library Humor

April at the Reference Desk

At the Appleton Public Library, the Reference Desk is the nerve center of informa—

“Excuse me. Do you have tax forms?”

Yes, right down there. As I was saying, the Reference Desk operates as the—

“Where are your tax forms?”

Right over there. Here at the Reference Desk, we answer a wide range of—

“I need tax forms.”

Right next to the sign. A wide range of ques—

“Where do you keep your tax forms?”

Just follow the arrows. Dealing with every top—

“Yo! Tax forms!”

That-a-way. A truly vast array of subject mat—

“I need the Homestead form.”

Just over there. At the Reference Desk, we never know—

“Where’s the easy tax form?”

It’s the one that says “EZ,” right there. Anything at all could be asked—

“Do you have any more of the 1040A?”

Yes, right next to the 1040. A broad range of—

“Is this the tax form I’m supposed to use?”

In the front, it lists the forms you need. We never know the sorts of questions tha—

“If I use this form, do I have to itemize?”

Just check the tax booklet, right here. Anything at all could be ask—

“¿Dónde están las formas de impuesto?”

Allá. It’s truly remarkable how varied the ques—

“Tax forms.”

Right down there. Science, politics, the arts—

“Tax forms.”

Right there. Sports, religion, history—

“Tax forms.”

There. Philosophy, technology, nature—

“Tax forms.”

Genealogy, the cosmos, cricket—

“Tax forms.”

Harry Potter, seaweed, lima beans—

“Tax forms.”

Tic-tac-toe, Martian landing sites, silly putty—

“Tax forms.”

Leprechauns, lollipops, white sandy beaches far, far away....

“Tax forms.”

Little puppy dogs...Mom’s homemade soup...soft, padded cells....

“Where are your federal forms 8965-C, Amendment 47, Extension Application DRL-247(f), subsection 93b-3. They need to be the tri-fold version, with the perforated edges and I need 300 copies.”

DOESN’T ANYONE HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT SOMETHING OTHER THAN TAX FORMS? ANYTHING AT ALL?

(Long, silent pause.)

“Can I claim my goldfish as a dependent?”

Friends of Appleton Library (FOAL) Membership Form

Annual FOAL Membership Renewal Date Is *April 15*

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Friends Of Appleton Library
225 North Oneida Street
Appleton, WI 54911

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Individual: \$10.00 Family: \$25.00 Supporting: \$35.00 Lifetime: \$100.00

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