

Pennsylvania
Library Association

A Voice for
Pennsylvania's Libraries

"Cooperation between our libraries and our school systems is critical to Wayne County's continued growth."

-Brian Smith, Chair of the Wayne County Commissioners

"The Westmoreland Information Network has in many ways shrunk our county -- not an easy task, at 1,025 square miles. Thanks to the efforts of the Westmoreland County Federated Library System, and the financial assistance of the Richard King Mellon Foundation, county residents have at their disposal the resources of 28 libraries throughout our diverse county. And with these increased resources come increased opportunities for our residents to learn and grow as individuals and as a society. It's been my pleasure as county commissioner to help this program take root to expand. I offer my sincere appreciation to the Westmoreland Federated Library System, its member libraries, leadership and staff for a job well done, and to the Richard King Mellon Foundation for its generosity."

-Tom Balya, Westmoreland County Commissioner

"Health education is a key component of a safe, secure community. With this program, our libraries helped strengthen the mental *and* physical well-being of our residents. The ability of our libraries to offer health education programs, and to expand the network of public health resources, really benefits the citizens of Delaware County."

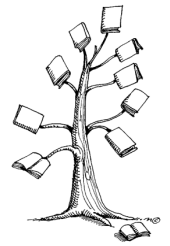
-Jack Whelan, Vice-chairman of Delaware County Council

Educational Outreach

Wayne Library Authority - Honesdale, PA

Contact: *Molly Rodgers, mrodders@waynelibraries.org, 570-253-1220*

The Wayne Library Authority sought to improve the success rates of the local students by providing access to resources beyond the libraries' walls. The program provides access to the library's online resources seeking to improve student achievement. By sending a person to the area schools on a regular basis, the library was able to walk students and teachers through the library's online resources. Since the library was proactively involved in the classrooms, the local teachers viewed the library as a partner in education. Rodgers stated, "helping students succeed was our intended goal, but we've also seen vastly improved relationships with our school districts."



Information Network

Westmoreland Library Network - Murrysville, PA

Contact: *Denise S. Sticha, dsticha@murrysvillelibrary.org, 724-327-1102*

The Westmoreland Information Network (WIN) replaced a 10+ year old countywide union catalog with an ILS that merged the bibliographic and patron databases of 20 independent public libraries into one network using library automation software from Polaris Library Systems. The WIN project expands the accessibility and number of local resources available to county residents through a unified borrowers' card that can be used in all participating libraries. County residents are able to browse library collections, place holds on desired items, renew materials, receive email notifications, pay fines or make donations, and manage their library activity from any Internet connection at any time. Most of the participating libraries reported an increase between 12-30% in circulation.



Meeting the Health Information Needs of Delaware County

Delaware County Library System - Media, PA

Contact: *David Belanger, dbelanger@delco.lib.pa.us, 610-891-8622*

The Delaware County Library System (DCLS) built upon its partnerships in the regional health/medical community to promote physical and brain health through library programs. These programs included providing fitness kits for patrons learning exercise basics, reaching out to families who qualified for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and addressing the consumer-health information needs of non-English speakers as well as low-literate English-speaking persons.



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Franklin County Library System

Preschool Book Buggy

Franklin County Library System – Chambersburg, PA

Contact: Bernice D. Crouse, bdcrouse@fclspa.org, 717-709-0282

Franklin County Library System responded to a vital community need by providing new bookmobile services to the large percentage of preschoolers who are in childcare or education centers during the workday. Crouse commented “we are truly reaching a population isolated by its location and inability to transport itself to public library facilities for materials, programs, and services, and we are doing it professionally, with style, at a reasonable cost.” The Preschool Book Buggy is out 16 hours a week under management of someone with a degree in early childhood education, visiting 38 centers and serving about 815 visitors per month. The maintenance cost of the vehicle is \$3 per visitor per year.

“The Franklin County Board of Commissioners are grateful to Bernice Crouse and the staff of the FCLS for envisioning such a great service to the community as the Preschool Book Buggy and for making the vision a reality. What makes it an especially great project is that it was done in response to a needs assessment, it leveraged existing resources by refurbishing a county-owned vehicle for a new purpose, and was started and continues to run primarily on donated funds.”

-Dave Keller, Commissioner

Summer Reading Program 2008 Kick Off

Bucks County Public Libraries – Doylestown, PA

Contact: Martina Kominiarek, kominiarekm@buckslib.org, 215-348-0332

In an effort to gain attention from the community and to stress the importance of summer reading, Bucks County Public Libraries turned a simple sign-up date to a major Summer Reading Kick-Off event. In keeping with the insect theme, community leaders challenged each other to a bug eating contest. By engaging the support of community leaders and elected officials in the library event, the Bucks County Public Libraries were able to send the powerful message that everyone benefits from a community of readers and that libraries are valued by everyone. The high-profile event attracted media attention, gaining the library and the program additional publicity and support. The bug eating contest increased community awareness of the summer reading program by raising participation in the summer reading program by 30% county-wide.

“Youth services librarians and specialists stimulate a love of reading among our young people that will last them all their lives, while also creating new attitudes that will enable children’s books and young minds to flourish.”

- Charles H. Martin, James F. Cawley, Esq., and Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, LCSW, County Commissioners



“My heartfelt congratulations to the Allegheny County Library Association for this well-deserved recognition. Our libraries are no longer places where we simply borrow books. They have become valuable community resources and lively activity centers as well. In Allegheny County, we greatly value the wisdom and vitality that older adults bring to our community, and we commend ACLA for all that it does to make our region a better place for people of every age. The Wise Walk is an ideal way for seniors to make connections, stay active, and continue the lifelong process of learning and sharing.”

-Dan Onorato, County Executive

The Wise Walk

Allegheny County Library Association – Pittsburgh, PA

Contact: Marilyn Jenkins, jenkinsm@einetwork.net, 412-921-1123

The Wise Walk program enhances the library as a community space for connections, education, and health resources. Allegheny County Library Association (ACLA) partnered with AARP and the Highmark PALS (People Able to Lend Support) Program to invite adults age 50 and up to take a free 10 week walking program at their local libraries. Walkers receive a pedometer, walking guide, t-shirts, and health snacks. The libraries now partner with neighboring libraries, local senior centers, assisted living facilities, health organizations, businesses, and gyms. ACLA and its partners offer a variety of complimentary healthy aging programs the libraries host. Last year 22 libraries participated in the program with participants walking over 100 million steps.

