

MERIDIAN MONITOR

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

DECEMBER 2006/JANUARY 2007

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Developing Effective Technology Plans

By Kathy Ellerton, Northeast Library System

Effective technology plans are short term, not long term. Five year plans are too long. Technology is changing so fast that it is almost impossible to plan what type of technology will be available for use five years from now. Even one year plans may now be about as far ahead as effective planning for purchases of certain types or brands of equipment can take place. Do not let a technology plan lock you into old technology and applications just because it says so in the plan. Newer, more powerful, lower cost technology may be available to replace what is specified in an old plan.

Effective technology plans focus on applications, not technology.

In other words, make your technology plan outcome-based, not input-based. Develop a plan that specifies what users, staff, and administration should be able to do with technology and let those outcomes determine the types and amount of technology your plan requests.

Many technology plans are based on numbers of machines...input. Typically, technology committees go before library boards asking for a computer lab. The first question board members will ask is, "Why do you need them?" Why not answer that question in the plan? It may be better to go to a library board saying, "This is what we want our patrons to be able to do"...output. then, specify what technology is needed in order to accomplish the plan's outcomes and goals.

This approach also helps answer the debate over which brand names to purchase. This argument over what brand of computer to use in libraries is really not important. Computers are just boxes with brand names on them. They all do the same things. If people can drive a Ford, then they can drive a Chevy. And, if users can write on Brand X computer, then they can also write on Brand Y. Do students who get finished with formal education say, "I can't write with this pen because I learned how to write with a pencil?" The real question always must be, "what applications of technology are available that will help our students, staff, and administration work smarter, not harder?" The common, transferable, technical applications that all computers perform is the important issue. Still, some machines perform certain applications better than others. Buy the machines

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www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/

that do best, that which needs to be done.

Effective technology plans go beyond enhancing your library services. Don't buy technology to teach about technology. Do libraries really need to spend \$30,000 to \$50,000 to put in a computer lab that enhances their services? All librarians can enhance their service with a \$20 filmstrip. Librarians better be able to do more than enhance existing instruction with new, powerful types of instructional technology. Do libraries really need to spend \$30,000 to \$50,000 for a computer lab in order to teach computer literacy?

Effective technology plans define technology as more than computers. Many technology plans only deal with computers. There are many other types of technology available which have appropriate uses in libraries. Include as many types of technology in a plan as possible. Librarians need to understand that learning to read and write video is as important as learning to read and write English. Kids today get, and will increasingly get, information from a video screen. Learning the grammar of video production is the next basic skill after learning to read and write.

Television production is much more than giving kids a camera and shooting pictures. Done correctly, students involved in video production become involved in cooperative grouping, teamwork, planning, research, writing, visual literacy activities, and many higher order thinking activities. In fact, it is a basic information skill students must understand if they are going to deal effectively with information in the future.

So, why don't libraries use this technology to its full potential? Maybe it's because some librarians still believe they have to get to the end of the text and there isn't enough time for this fun learning activity. Or, maybe it's because our society is so visually literate. We are all used to seeing the finished products of CBS, ABC, or NBC. They use the right video grammar. When kids turn in a video project, many librarians look at it with professional standards in mind and say, "What a piece of junk. Was it really worth all the time the kids put into this product?" What everyone really needs to remember is what our first attempts at writing the letter "A" looked like. Then, put early attempts at video production into the same light.

Effective technology plans stress integration of technology into library services. Effective

technology plans help librarians answer the question, "What program do I have to stop so I can teach about the computer?" The answer to that question is, "What program or service can be provided more effectively and efficiently with this tool?" And the answer applies to all service areas. It is not effective to buy technology to teach about technology. Wasn't it Seymour Papert that said, "Do we have classes called 'pencil'?" Then why do we have classes called "computer literacy?" It is not effective to teach about technology in isolation from other service areas. Technical applications must be taught as part of an existing service so library patrons can understand how technology can be a tool that makes them a more productive and powerful person.

Take writing for example. To me, it's a five-step creative process. What technical applications are there that help students with this process? Well, word processing fits in at every step. Desktop publishing fits perfectly in the presentation, or final step of the process. It is time to stop teaching word processing as a separate curriculum and teach it as part of the creative writing process which can be used in every subject area.

Effective technology plans are tied to staff development plans. Technology plans that are not tied to long-term staff development are destined for failure. Without staff involvement and enthusiasm any implementation of technology will not be successful.



Questions to Ask When Using Awards Lists Melissa Depper, Arapahoe Library District CO

Purpose: What is the reason for this award? What characteristics, features or qualities of the work or its creator are being honored?

Authority: What governing body sponsors the award? What individuals select the winning books? What are their qualifications?

Eligibility: What books or materials can be considered for this award? Which must be excluded, and for what reasons?

Inclusion: What topics, groups, or special interests are or are not represented by a youth literature award?

Quality: Do the award winning titles meet accepted standards of excellence? If not, are there mitigating circumstances for including the work in a collection or classroom?

Availability: Where can these books be found? Are they easily accessible?

2006 Nebraska Library Association Awards

NLA Meritorious Service Award: Duane Munson

NLA Mari Sandoz Award: Joan Hoffman

NLA Trustee Citation Award: Kathy Lute

NLA Presidential Award for Excellence: Maggie Harding, NLA Executive Director

Public Library Section Excalibur Award: Sally Payne, Sump Memorial Library, Papillion

College & University Section Distinguished Service Award: Michael LaCroix, Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library, Creighton University

School Children's Young Peoples Section Mad Hatter Service Award: Patti Birch, North Platte High School

Para Section Paraprofessional of the Year: Mary Gubbels, Sump Memorial Library, Papillion

New Members Round Table Mentor of the Year Award: Gretchen Healy, Little Priest Tribal College Library

Special and Institutional Promotion Award: Janice Rihn, Grand Island Veteran's Home

Special and Institutional Distinguished Service Award: Carolyn Dow, Polly Music Library, Lincoln City Libraries

NMRT/Houchen Beginning Professional of the Year: Charity Martin, University of Nebraska—Lincoln Libraries



ALA Public Programs Office Announces Two New Traveling Exhibits for Libraries

Application deadline is 2/9/07 for "Ben Franklin" and "Lewis & Clark"

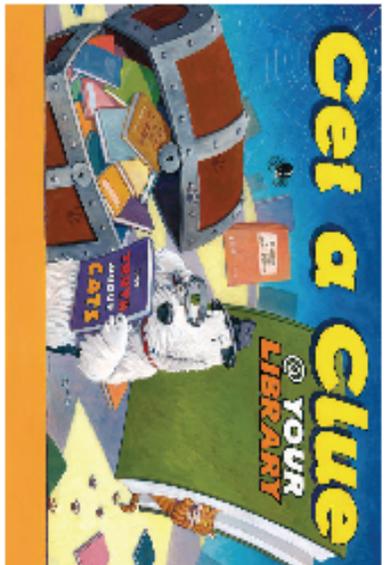
The American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office is pleased to announce that applications are now available for two new traveling exhibits for public, academic and special libraries. Applications for both "Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World" and "Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country" are available online at www.ala.org/publicprograms and are due by February 9, 2007.

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has provided major funding for both "Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World" and "Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country."

The "Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World" exhibit for libraries is based on a major exhibition of the same title that was on display at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia until April 30, 2006. "Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country" is based on a major exhibition of the same title that was on display at the Newberry Library from September 28, 2005 through January 14, 2006. Support for the exhibition at the Newberry Library was provided by the NEH, the Sara Lee Foundation, the National Park Service, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Libraries selected for the "Benjamin Franklin" and/or "Lewis and Clark" tours will host the 1,000-square-foot exhibit for a six-week period. Participating libraries are expected to present at least two free public programs featuring a lecture or discussion by a qualified scholar on exhibition themes. All showings of the exhibition will be free and open to the public.

For exhibition details, selection criteria, guidelines and an application, visit www.ala.org/publicprograms. If you require a copy of either application by mail, please send an email to publicprograms@ala.org.



Summer Reading Program
Workshop 2007

OFFICIAL MEMO

To: Librarians
From: Meridian Library System
Please report on Friday,
March 30, 2007
Time: 0930 to 1530 hours
Place: Oconto Community
Center
Your Mission: Training on the
Summer Reading Theme.
Essentials: Your manual,
craft kit items, and imagina-
tion.

Schedule

0930-1100 N.L. Sharp, Author

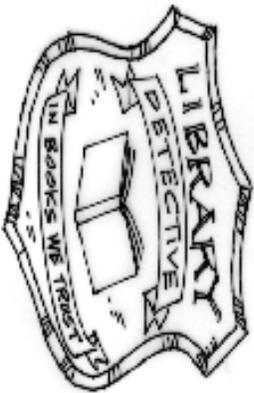
1100-1200 Sally Snyder
"Get A Clue" Book
Reviews

1200-1300 Lunch

1300-1530 Ideas presented by:

- Sharon Osenga,
Meridian Library System
 - Joan Chesley,
Children's Librarian
 - Sally Snyder,
NE Library Commission
- This is an important mission
should you decide to accept it.
Your library, your community and
your country need you!

- Lunch is included in the
registration fee.
- 5 Continuing Education Units



REGISTRATION

Registration must be received by March 23, 2007.

Name _____

Library _____ City _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Mail registration to Meridian Library System, 3519 Second Avenue,
Suite B, Kearney NE 68847. Enclose \$20 per person attending.



The Customer–Centered Library

How to stop tweaking and start doing it with 12 new steps for 2007

Presenter Karen Hyman is a New Jersey-based consultant from the South Jersey Regional Cooperative. She has done multiple training sessions on a national level for PLA, ALA, and other state library organizations.

Learn

- how to see from the customer’s point of view.
- how to focus on user needs/expectations and service opportunities.
- how to develop and implement the culture, policies, services and environment that support a customer centered library.
- how to operate your library for the convenience of the customer.
- how to make customer service a way of life in your library.

April 3 North Platte Community College 10 am - 3 pm (Central Time)
 North Campus \$10 fee includes lunch
 North Platte, NE

4 NLC Continuing Education Credit Units

April 4 Columbus Public Library
 2504 14th Street
 Columbus, NE

This workshop is sponsored by the Nebraska Regional Library Systems, supported in part by state aid funding appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature, granted and administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

Register:

Send \$10/person by March 28th to:

Nebraska Regional Library Systems c/o Eastern Library System 11929 Elm St., Ste. 12, Omaha, NE 68144

Name _____

Library _____

Email _____

_____ North Platte site

_____ Columbus site

New Book Club Kits added to the Nebraska Library Commission Collection
Lisa Kelly, Nebraska Library Commission

We are excited to announce several new titles have been added to our book group collection! In addition to listing the titles at the link below, I'd like to highlight various kits and make suggestions for your book group, or maybe even ideas for growing a book group. First up is an older title, *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood* by Rebecca Wells c1997. I read this book shortly after it was released at the encouragement of my then 79-year-old neighbor. My neighbor was preparing for a reunion of some long-time female friends and this book helped to set the tone for their gathering. When I finished the book, my neighbor and I talked about it and after she met with her friends, we talked again. What stories she had to tell. I recently read the interview in *Oprah* magazine about the friendship between Oprah and Gail and there is truly a phenomenon of soulful sisterhood – women who are soul mates in each other's life. This book certainly focuses on women who sustain each other through a myriad of situations, some celebratory and some heartbreaking and all the many occasions in-between. The book begins with a fall-out between mother and daughter and the Ya-Yas work to reconcile the two. As with many fiction novels, place is a character in this book. Louisiana can easily be celebrated by incorporating Cajun food and music to elicit the senses before and during your meeting. Imagine playing blues and Cajun music while smelling gumbo simmering on the stove. As with many authors, Rebecca Wells has a website: www.ya-ya.com. At the Gumbo Ya-Ya board you can find tried and true recipes and even locate Ya-Ya groups around the world. Another way to add dimension to your discussion is to watch the movie together and compare the two sagas. I found the movie more fascinating after reading the book as the background stories in the book were a bit lengthy but helped make the movie more meaningful. I went to the movie with another woman friend of mine who said the movie touched her more deeply than the book. When the credits rolled, she was crying, having experienced some very difficult times with her own daughter. Book groups that both read a book and watch an accompanying movie can provide some terrific conversations and even entice reluctant adult readers. Many of the book groups I've belonged to were all female. This title would be perfect for that kind of membership. Conversation focusing on the friendship amongst women through time and stages of life would be enriched with the participants own stories. One of the book groups I belonged to served food that reflected elements from the book. Here's a recipe from the website to whet your whistle to consider this southern title for your next book gathering. I'd be interested in hearing how things go!

Hon, iffin you want a gumbo, you must try Fedup's gumbo!
FedUp2Here's Gumbo (feeds 4 Cajuns or 6 Yankees)

1/2 cup flour
1/2 cup veg/saffola oil (that's the roux)
1/2 chopped onion
1/2 chopped green bell pepper
as much garlic as you can stand
Worcestershire sauce
salt
pepper
green onion tops (4 or 5, chopped)
smoked sausage, sliced into circles
various chicken parts - about 5 or 6 six thighs is good.

In a small saucepan warm the oil on medium heat, pour in the flour and stir, stir, stir till it's dark brown (like mahogany) that's the roux. While that's goin', in a large pan brown the sausage until it's good and juicy in there - let the sausage stick a little - it'll add more flavor. Next, add your chicken parts - and a little salt/pepper to taste - brown that too. When the roux is the right color, add the onion, bell pepper and garlic - sauté til wilted. Add the whole mess to the pot of browned meat; add enough water to cover all the meat - and the Worcestershire - 1 tablespoon or 3 good shakes! Stir it up until everything is mixed well - no lumps from the roux - it should be really soupy/watery. If it's not dark enough, add a little kitchen bouquet to darken it. Bring it to a boil. Lower to simmer, cover and cook for about 40 minutes. Add green onion tops, cover and cook about 10 minutes. Serve over rice in a bowl, like soup - not like gravy!!! My mama used to make potato salad with it - but that's a lot of starch for one meal, so you could just make a green salad - this is a heavy meal, so you don't need a lotta sides.... Bon Appetite!!!

For a listing of book club kits available from the Nebraska Library Commission and rules for using these kits, click here: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/ref/bookclubkits.html>

ROAD TRIP 2007



Don't fret, you didn't miss a road trip!

The third trip to MPLA is

March 13-17, 2007

This time, it's Albuquerque! 47 people will board a bus, they will be divided into teams and will compete to be the last one on the bus. Wait, sorry that's not right-though it does sound kinda fun. The bus would leave from Nebraska on March 13th and arrive back on the 17th. Like previous years, the bus will start in Omaha and go along I-80 picking up riders. We had 34 riders last time. Use the bus trip to network with your peers, catch up on your sleep, finish that book, or watch a movie. But most of all, use the bus to get to one of the favorite regional conferences for **FREE or nearly FREE!** That's right, thanks again to a grant* from the Nebraska Library Commission, there will be

Libraries: Launching the Future
NMLA/MPLA 2007 Conference
Albuquerque, NM March 14-16, 2007
www.nmla.org/abq2007/confhome.htm

no cost for the bus ride. Riders may be charged up to \$20 a person to cover the driver's transfer fee and lodging, but there will be no overnight lodging this trip. Albuquerque isn't any further away than Jackson Hole, so sign up and discover the bus!

Conference highlights include: Keynote speaker **Dr. Joseph Janes**, Library Journal columnist and Associate Dean of the University of Washington library school; **Michael Wallis**, noted historian talking about the history of Route 66 and the making of the Disney/Pixar film Cars (he was the voice of the sheriff of Radiator Springs!); author **Jane Lindskold**, author of the Firekeeper Saga and Child of a Rainless Year; and **Kathy L'Amour**, wife of the great western author, Louis L'Amour.

So sign up today to join Road Trip 2007!

Please let us know your serious interest as early as possible, so that if we need to reserve a larger bus we can!

Sign up deadline: February 23rd, 2007

Contact Jenni Puchalla, 5730 R St., Ste. C-1, Lincoln, NE 68505
jennip@alltel.net or 800-288-6063/467-6188

*This project was supported in part by a Continuing Education and Training grant, awarded by the Nebraska Library Commission.

**If space permits, each rider may bring a non-library affiliated guest, who, according to grant stipulations, would be required to pay \$100.

WEB SITES OF THE MONTH

Winter Weather : Cold weather safety tips and information about cold weather health conditions from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Features checklists for preparing your home and car for winter weather, a FAQ on health conditions such as hypothermia and frostbite, indoor and outdoor safety pointers, a bibliography, and related links. Some material available in Spanish and Vietnamese.

URL: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/>

Electronic Books : This directory offers annotated links for electronic book information in the categories Free E-book Sites , Free Personal Digital Assistant [PDA] Sites , Commercial Sites , E-book Reader Software , and Dedicated E-book Readers . There are also tips for reading e-books online, searching for text in e-books, and saving e-books. Created by Karen Ramos, a librarian at the Stockton-San Joaquin County (California) Public Library.

URL: <http://www.stockton.lib.ca.us/ebooks.htm>

Book Adventure : This Web site is "a motivational reading program for children in grades K-8." Brief blurbs on over five thousand titles help children pick a book; quizzes earn the readers points for winning prizes. There are sections for teachers and parents, with many links and information for helping children learn and read; parents can monitor their child's activities in the Reports section. Registration is required for most features.

URL: <http://www.bookadventure.org/>

Author Webpages: A Mystical Unicorn, a Canada based online used bookstore, sponsors this directory of Web pages of hundreds of authors. Available elsewhere on the store's site (see the menu at the top of the page) are a list of pseudonyms and over five thousand individual author bibliographies.

URL: <http://www.myunicorn.com/authlink.html>

DailyMed: Current Medication Information

This website provides U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) labels and other material for over 1,200 approved prescription drugs. Search-

able, or browse by drug name. Listings include professional and consumer-level information, such as precautions, adverse reactions, and dosage. From the U.S. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health.

URL: <http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/>

Make a Paper Crane: Step-by-step instructions for folding a paper crane, "a symbol of hope." Includes a slide show and printable instructions. From the website for the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) program "Reading Rainbow." URL: http://pbskids.org/readingrainbow/heroes_and_hope/crane.html

Party Game Ideas: A fun Web site with instructions to party games for children's birthdays, baby and wedding showers, adult games, and holidays. New additions are requested and being added continually.

URL: <http://www.partygameideas.com/>

Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom: Sugar

Beets: Basic overview of the sugar beet plant, "a root crop which grows underground. When fully grown, a sugarbeet weighs two to five pounds and produces about three teaspoons of sugar." Includes an illustration of sugar beet plant parts. From the Nebraska Farm Bureau.

URL: <http://www.nefb.org/ag-ed/beets.html>

Letters, Letter-writing and Other Intimate Dis-

course: This page contains a list of links to fine examples of the letter writer's art: Jane Austen on letter writing and her letters; Civil War diaries and letters; a group of fictitious letters by Mark Twain; Albert Einstein's letters to F. D. Roosevelt; how to fold a letter and envelope; Ghostletters , letters written as historical or fictional characters; G.I.R.L. : a letter writing club for girls from 8-14 years of age; general information on the importance of letter writing; and a link to Unforgettable Letters : a U.S. Postal site with, Dear Santa letters , letters from war fronts, Presidential letters, and a great selection of love letters. Online journals and pen pals are also listed.

URL: <http://www.wendy.com/letterwriting/>

2006 EDGAR AWARD WINNERS

Best Novel Nominees: **Citizen Vince** by Jess Walter (Regan Books)

Best First Novel By An American Author: **Officer Down** by Theresa Schwegel (St. Martin's Minotaur)

Best Paperback Original: **Girl in the Glass** by Jeffrey Ford (Dark Alley)

Best Critical/Biographical: **Girl Sleuth: Nancy Drew and the Women Who Created Her** by Melanie Rehak (Harcourt)

Best Fact Crime: **Rescue Artist: A True Story of Art, Thieves, and the Hunt for a Missing Masterpiece** by Edward Dolnick (HarperCollins)

Best Young Adult: **Last Shot** by John Feinstein (Knopf Books for Young Readers)

Best Juvenile: **The Boys of San Joaquin** by D. James Smith (Simon & Schuster Children's Books)

Grand Master: **Stuart Kaminsky**



2006 RITA Award Winners

Best Long Contemporary Romance: [Worth Every Risk](#) by Dianna Love Snell (Silhouette)

Best Short Contemporary Romance: [The Marriage Miracle](#) by Liz Fielding (Harlequin)

Best Paranormal Romance: [Gabriel's Ghost](#) by Linnea Sinclair (Bantam)

Best Inspirational Romance: [Heavens to Betsy](#) by Beth Pattillo (WaterBrook)

Best First Book: [Show Her the Money](#) by Stephanie Feagan (Silhouette)

Best Long Historical Romance: [The Devil To Pay](#) by Liz Carlyle (Pocket Books)

Best Short Historical Romance: [The Texan's Reward](#) by Jodi Thomas (Berkley Books)

Best Novel with Strong Romantic Elements: [Lady Luck's Map of Vegas](#) by Barbara Samuel (Ballantine)

Best Romantic Suspense: [Survivor in Death](#) by J.D. Robb (Penguin Putnam)

Best Contemporary Single Title: [Lakeside Cottage](#) by Susan Wiggs (MIRA Books).

Best Traditional Romance: [Princess of Convenience](#) by Marion Lennox (Harlequin).

Best Regency Romance: [A Reputable Rake](#) by

Diane Gaston (Harlequin)

Best Novella: "The Naked Truth about Guys" in [The Naked Truth](#) by Alesia Holliday (Berkley)

RWA Lifetime Achievement Award: Susan Elizabeth Phillips



Teen Top Ten Books

Teen readers across the country voted "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" by J.K. Rowling as their favorite book to take the #1 spot on the annual Teens' Top Ten (TTT), sponsored by The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), the fastest growing division of the American Library Association (ALA). The vote took place during Teen Read Week, October 15-21, 2006, and gave teens an opportunity to voice their choice of the best new young adult books.

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince by J.K. Rowling (Scholastic Press, 2005).

Twilight by Stephanie Meyer (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2005).

Eldest by Christopher Paolini (Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2005).

Rebel Angels by Libba Bray (Delacorte Press, 2005).

Peeps by Scott Westerfeld (Razorbill, 2005).

13 Little Blue Envelopes by Maureen Johnson (HarperCollins Children's Books, 2005).

Poison by Chris Wooding (Orchard Books, 2005).

Captain Hook: The Adventures of a Notorious Youth by J.V. Hart (Laura Geringer Books, 2005).

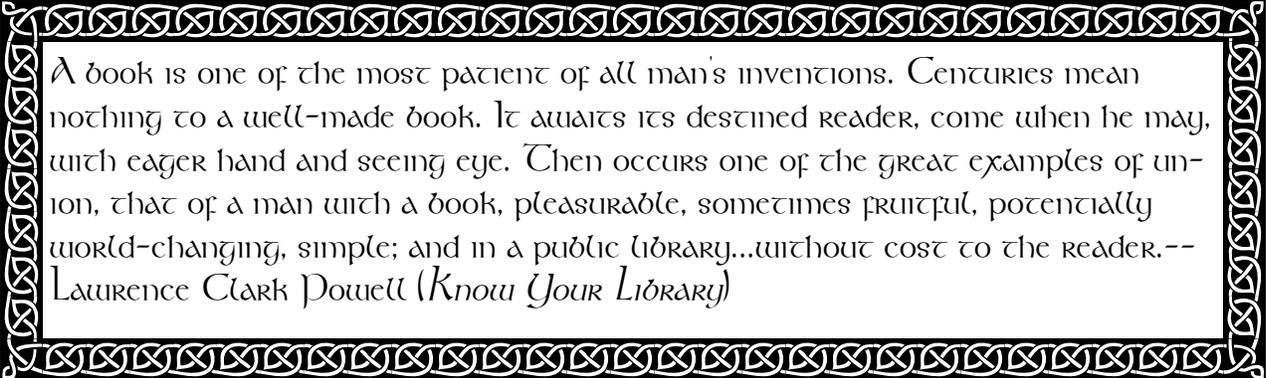
If I Have a Wicked Stepmother, Where's My Prince? by Melissa Kantor (Hyperion Books for Children, 2005).

Elsewhere by Gabrielle Zevin (Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers).

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

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A book is one of the most patient of all man's inventions. Centuries mean nothing to a well-made book. It awaits its destined reader, come when he may, with eager hand and seeing eye. Then occurs one of the great examples of union, that of a man with a book, pleasurable, sometimes fruitful, potentially world-changing, simple; and in a public library...without cost to the reader.--
Laurence Clark Powell (*Know Your Library*)

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