

MAPLA Update October 2009

Irene Padilla, Assistant State Superintendent for Libraries

Gates Foundation – Opportunity Online Broadband Grant Program Invitation

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- DLDS has responded with a letter of interest detailing two possible broadband projects that we may apply for under the second round of BTOP funding: 1) An infrastructure build out project that would improve connectivity in every library and 2) a Sustainable Broadband Adoption project that targets job seekers, small businesses, and K-12 students.
- Gates will schedule phone interviews with respondents in early October. We look forward to sharing more about this opportunity as we learn more.

Jill Lewis, Director, Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

The Digital Book

- LBPH sent out the first digital players and books in September. Veterans and centenarians are the first recipients of this wonderful new service, and we presented four veterans with their new players at the LBPH Friends Board Annual Staff Appreciation Breakfast.
- The players are lightweight, durable, and have special features such as sleep mode and navigation capabilities that allow a reader to create book marks and go back and forth between chapters. Best of all even a long book is contained on one digital cartridge so all a reader has to do is insert the cartridge and press play to listen to an entire book. The sound quality is superior to that of analog recordings.
- LBPH has many happy patrons now but the digital rollout is a lengthy process, and it will take time to convert all patrons to the new service.
- LBPH staff spent months preparing and training for the new service.
- LBPH librarians have outreach events scheduled on the Eastern Shore and in Southern and Western Maryland to introduce the digital service to patrons and public librarians.
- Many thanks once again to our Friends Board which received a grant for the library to purchase digital duplication equipment.
- The duplication equipment will enable LBPH to keep up with reader demand.

One Maryland One Book Events

- LBPH has special One Maryland One Book events lined up.
- The book club held a discussion of *A Song Yet Sung*.
- Patrons took a trip to the Great Blacks in Wax Museum where they had a tactile and descriptive tour of exhibits related to slavery. Patrons also learned how the wax sculptures were created.
- On October 30, patrons will meet at the Reginald Lewis Museum for a tactile tour of exhibits related to the eastern shore and slavery. Special attention will be given to the quilt exhibits.

October 2009

IT News

- LBPH will be bringing its popular monthly Technology User Group (TUG) to patrons who cannot come to Baltimore.
- TUG meets the second Saturday of each month, and on November 14th TUG will be broadcast live to patrons from around the state via a webcam and Skype.
- Our popular adaptive technology classes will also shortly be available to remote patrons via the use of a webcam and Skype.
- Our first set of classes will feature downloading digital files and use of the new digital players.

Daria A. Parry, Chief of Public Libraries and State Networking Branch

- **Trustees/Citizens for Maryland Libraries (CML) Annual Meeting (handout)**
 - Saturday, November, 7, 2009
 - Radisson Hotel at Cross Keys, 5100 Falls Road, Baltimore
- **Library Associate Training Institute Oversight Committee – Pat Hofmann**
- **Maryland Library Leadership Institute (MLLI) -** The dates are set for the Institute to take place Monday, July 19 - Friday July 23, 2010 (Sunday, July 18, if you are a Mentor).

Nini Beegan, Maryland Online Learning Coordinator**Staff Development Coordinator's Meeting – Statewide Blueprint**

- 35 people attended the June statewide staff development coordinator's meeting to participate in a planning process where a statewide blueprint was developed for sharing staff development activities. Represented: most public library systems; regionals; MLA; SLRC; DLDS; LATI. Please see blueprint handout for details.

Leading From Any Position

- Leading From Any Position 1 was held September 14 and 15, 2009 in Columbia.
- Leading From Any Position 1 Follow-up was held September 16 in Columbia.

Synchronous Trainers

- *New News!* A new contract with Horizon Wimba is being negotiated which will allow every public library system to use Wimba for INTERNAL online meetings and training as well as statewide. Use is unlimited in terms of seat counts and number of sessions for public library staff. Additionally, libraries may use Wimba for public programs and meetings on a limited basis.
- The Job Seekers Online Exchange was successful. New "online learning exchanges" will be provided this fall. Topics include: Gaming; Databases; Floating Collections; Roving Service; New Technologies.
- Live discussions about SkillSoft supervisory courses are being piloted this fall.
- Learn How To Learn Online and Learn How to Meet Online will continue to be offered.
- The team is working with LATI, SLRC, MLA, CML to support their activities.

SkillSoft Online Training

- As of June 26, 886 course completions, 328 users. (Break down is: Desktop seats - 314 completions, 121 users; IT Professional seats - 59 completions, 24 users; Business seats - 513 completions, 196 users).
- Courses are available until August 30, 2009.
- Liaison kickoff sessions for the new round beginning in September are being held during July. Thanks to a new MEEC agreement, we are able to offer SkillSoft to all staff (including part-time) in public libraries (including regional libraries) beginning September 1, 2009 thru August 31, 2010.

New MERLIN

- Merlin is the learning community for Maryland library staff. It's where library staff can find training opportunities and learn from each other. <http://www.merlincommunity.org>
- The Merlin Community Builders continue to work on the site. We are now updating a Twitter feed daily and Monthly Highlights are changed weekly. We are also investigating a social networking module that can integrate with FaceBook.
- The site will be more heavily marketed starting this fall. We first wanted to beta test it.
- Community Builders team: Katie Dailey, AACPL; Annette Gaskins and Maurice Coleman, Harford County Public Library; Beth Tribe, Howard County Library. Cathay Crosby, AskUsNow is managing the Twitter and Highlights. Thanks for your support.

Face Time

- New project that replicates Connecting Families Alabama, where libraries made Skype video meeting services available for military families to connect with their loved ones.
- Our project will also begin with military families, but local systems will decide how to expand services for the public, as well as service policies. For example, Alabama has a library that wants to work with nursing homes so that seniors can join special occasions like weddings virtually.
- Pilot library systems so far include: Caroline, Harford, St. Mary's, and Washington.
- Kickoff was held on Mother's Day weekend with publicity event at Aberdeen Library, Harford County. Each library system has also done publicity.
- Remarks from the pilot team during June 3 meeting about what we are learning so far:
 - Relatively easy service to provide. Did not take a large expenditure of equipment and resources. (Quick to get it going).
 - A benefit is that library staff is becoming more aware of Skype.
 - Good publicity for the library.
 - However, we aren't finding people beating down the doors in order to do this, so it may take more targeted marketing, even outside of military families. (So far, nobody is using this service).
- Next team meeting is September 30, 10am to 11am, via conference call. An in-person meeting can be scheduled if more library systems are interested in participating.

County Library Capital Project Grants Program

- **FY 2009 grants**-The final report to the Governor was submitted October 1, 2009.
- **FY 2010 grants**-Quarterly reports were due September 30, 2009. Reimbursements may not be processed until reports have been submitted.
- **FY 2011 grants**
 - The MSDE Board approved 12 proposals from 9 counties totaling \$5,050,000 on September 21, 2009 and DLDS met with DBM on September 24, 2009.
 - Preliminary award letters (pending passage of the FY 2011 Capital Budget) were mailed September 28, 2009.

Paula Isett, Marketing and Outreach Specialist

Summer Reading

Baltimore Orioles DVD

www.ilovelibraries.org covered the collaboration between the Orioles and Summer Reading

Special Education Kickoff

- Brochures and display unit sent to each library in August.
- Dr. Grasmick will be at Baltimore County Public Library on October 6th.

Outreach

- September 25-27, Baltimore Book Festival
- September 26, National Book Festival- over 3000 AskUsNow! pencils distributed.
- August 12- 14, MACO (Library booth won the award “ Best of Show for a State Agency”
- Sept. 3, Presentation of Library Photo Story to Judy Center Coordinators

Susan Paznekas, Public Library Consultant

E-Rate

- **FY 2009**
 - Reminder: Track your bills and remember to file for reimbursements or discounts throughout the year in order to receive all payments that are due you.
 - If you receive questions from Program Integrity Assurance (PIA), please contact me.
- **FY 2010** (see separate tip sheet)
 - **Now** is the time to file your Form 470 (Request for service) for FY 2010.
 - Make certain that you wait at least 28 days between the filing of your 470 and the signing of any contract.
 - **Be prepared:** The window for filing the Form 471 (Purchase of service) will open sometime in November and close 65-75 days after the opening date.

Maryland Public Library Statistics

- FY 2008 statistics have been collected and submitted to the national Public Library Survey.

October 2009

- The Maryland Library Statistics spreadsheets are being finalized for publication this fall.
- Preparation for the FY 2009 collection has begun and should be up and running by October 15th in so that libraries can enter their data for use in their annual report which is due each November 1st to Irene's office.

Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study – 2009

- Please participate!
- Survey instrument located at www.plinternetsurvey.org
- Responses due by November 6th
- Complete the survey for a chance to win an Amazon Kindle

Carolyn Sheffield, Grants Coordinator

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FY2008 LSTA Grant Period ending

- Thank you for getting your reimbursements in on time.
- Final Reports are due between September 30 and October 31, 2009; see the Grant Management Quick Guide for exact dates on those reports. Many of you have already turned these in—thank you. Grant monitors will be sending out reminders for those grants for which we have not yet received a report.

Grant Administration Website

- Progress continues to be made on the updates to the grant administration website. I have already heard from many of you on how you would like to see the site changed and have shared these with Bob Kuntz in the design process for the new site.
- Comments and feedback on the site are still welcome. Please email Carolyn with comments for the grant administration website at csheffield@msde.state.md.us.

Connecting to Collections

- Thank you to all who completed the survey. A summary of the survey results is attached.

Stephanie Shauck, Youth Services Coordinator

www.everyonelearns.info

- Time to update your content. A reminder will be sent each local contact to update your entry. Our first year has been continual building of success stories of how and what Maryland public libraries do for our communities and across the state.

Birth to five

- I continue to serve on the Ready at Five Steering committee. We will send information about their staff development opportunities.
- As a result of 6 successful LSTA grants that developed from the collaboration between DLDS, Division of Early Childhood Development at MSDE and Ready at Five; we are submitting a program for MLA. If approved, we will contact the systems and request that staff participate in the program.
- Dorothy Stoltz of Carroll County has a proposal for a book about the work they have done with emergent literacy. More articles are also being written. Stay tuned...

Summer Reading in Maryland

- Wrap up meeting for 2009 is being held on Tuesday, October 6th in Thurmont, Frederick County.
- We will be discussing the highs and lows of the year and will be exploring how online registration and participation is developing.

Collaborative Summer Library Program

- For 2010 the manuals are available in paper as well as CD format. They will be distributed at the meeting.
- Paula continues on the national marketing committee.