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Announcements

On Monday, January 11, 2010 the **Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Library System**, and the **Board of LIMRiCC** will meet. The LIMRiCC meeting will convene at 3:00 p.m., the MLS Board meeting immediately following. Meeting agendas can be found at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/board>. Both meetings will be held at the MLS Chicago Office located at 224 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago, Illinois.

Are you a new or seasoned librarian in the profession looking for a Mentoring or Mentee opportunity, but don't have time to commit to an ongoing program? **MLS's Flash Mentoring: Connecting New Library Staff and Seasoned Professionals with only a 2 Hour Commitment**

<http://www.librarylearning.info/events/?eventID=6863> (must be logged into L2 to view) returns to MLS Burr Ridge office on Friday, February 26, 2010. The event will pair up to 14 mentees and mentors from MLS libraries. The deadline to apply is February 5, 2010. Questions can be sent to the MLS Consultants at consultants@mls.lib.il.us.

The deadline has been extended to Friday, December 11th for YS staff in all MLS Public Libraries to complete the **Youth Services Gaming Survey** <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/YSAdvisoryGamingSurvey2009.asp>. Currently only half of the MLS Public Libraries have completed the survey. The survey is part of the on-going Gaming 2.0 project by MLS YS Advisory asking the question, "What hasn't been focused on yet with regard to gaming in libraries?" The survey results will be shared with the entire membership. Questions contact Christina Stoll at stollc@mls.lib.il.us.

In preparation for a cleanup of the registered user database, **WebJunction Illinois** asks that all registered WebJunction Illinois users please verify that you have chosen their Library System affiliation correctly in your Account. In order to verify and/or change your System affiliation, please follow these steps:

- › Log into WebJunction Illinois at <http://il.webjunction.org>.
- › Click on the "Edit Account" link in the My Account box on the right.
- › Click on the "My Affiliations" tab.
- › Scroll down to Illinois and verify that you have checked Illinois as your State Affiliation.

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- › Click to drop down the list of Library Systems
- › Choose the Library System which your library is a member
- › If you are a student in a Library School program, choose the Library System which your school is a member
- › Scroll down and click on the "Save" at the bottom of the page to ensure that any changes stick.

We also encourage you to take the time while in your Account to complete as much of your Profile information as you can. Questions can be directed to webjunction.illinois@gmail.com.

[\[Permalink\]](#)

Highlights from Internet Librarian Conference 2009

A call went out to MLS members who attended this year's Internet Librarian Conference and would be interested in serving a guest writers sharing with the rest of the membership what they took away from the conference, the speakers they heard and the sessions they attended. Check out what your fellow MLS library members had to say.

[\[Permalink\]](#)

[Read full article](#)

http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2009/03_23/internetlibrarianconference2009.asp

Continuing Education Events

[YA SIG](#), Topic: Book Discussion Groups, Monday, December 7, 2009, 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., University Park Public Library District

[NWYS](#), Monday, January 11, 2010, 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Northlake Public Library

[NSAP](#), Wednesday, January 13, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Hillside Public Library

[LIS Online Career Fair](#), Tuesday, January 12, 2010, 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., MLS Chicago

[Time Management Basics](#), Lynn Meier-O'Dowd, Thursday, January 21, 2010, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., MLS Burr Ridge

[CLASS](#), Monday, January 25, 2010, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Bridgeview Public Library

For more information and to register, visit the MLS CE Calendar at

<http://www.librarylearning.info/?LibSys=MLS>.

[\[Permalink\]](#)

Grants & Awards

The Institute of Museum and Library Services in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and in cooperation with Arts Midwest, announces the **The Big Read**, a program to revitalize the role of literature in American culture. Grants range from \$2,500 to \$20,000. Selected communities will participate in The Big Read from September 2010–June 2011. Learn more about Big Read events at <http://www.neabigread.org>. The proposal deadline is February 2, 2010. Apply at <http://neabigread.org/guidelines.php>. Questions should be directed to Arts Midwest at (612) 238-8010 or TheBigRead@artsmidwest.org. [\[Permalink\]](#)

Member Spotlight: Frankfort Public Library / Museum Collaboration

The Frankfort Public Library District, located in a south suburb of Chicago, was recently ranked the 36th fastest growing suburb by Forbes magazine. Read how this library is expanding its reach by partnering with a local museum to share resources and services.

[\[Permalink\]](#)

[Read full article](#)

http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2009/03_23/librarymuseumcollaboration.asp

Next Issue

The next issue of *MLS E-nounce* will appear December 16, 2009. [\[Permalink\]](#)

Highlights from the Internet Librarian Conference 2009

by Judi Wolinsky, Homewood Public Library; Nancy Faller, Sterling Morton Library; and Megan Marsh, Acorn Public Library, MLS Members

This year's Internet Librarian Conference took place October 26-28, 2009 in Monterey, CA (<http://www.infotoday.com/il2009>). Several MLS Member Library staff had the opportunity to attend the conference and we're willing to share their findings with the rest of the membership.

Gadgets Galore

Judi Wolinsky, Head of the Adult Services Department at Homewood Public Library (<http://www.homewoodlibrary.org>). This is my sixth Internet Librarian Conference. I was a graduate student in library science at the University of Illinois, when Mosaic, the first Internet graphic browser, was introduced there. It was love at first site!

At Internet Librarian the one session I never miss is *Super Searcher Shares: Search Tips Spectacular* where Mary Ellen Bates, Bates Information Services, presents the latest nifty tools and tips for web searching. Her entire presentation can be found at <http://www.batesinfo.com/IL2009>. Below I review a few of the tools she highlighted.

My favorite offering this year is Google Squared (<http://www.google.com/squared>), a tool currently under development from Google Labs, a place where Google lets you sample prototypes of new products and services currently under development.

Google Squared takes your search term, does a search, identifies common elements from the retrieved results and then creates a table on the fly with the information it has compiled. It's very cool.

It's easier to try than to try to explain:

Visit the site and enter a category to search for. Try your own or one of theirs, like "dog breeds". Google creates a table of results with, in this case, the breeds listed on the left and with subsequent columns detailing characteristics of the breeds. Scrolling to the right, you can add a column of your own, or use one of their suggestions. Scrolling down you can add breeds you'd like to see listed and watch Google populate the corresponding columns. You can delete columns or rows not needed; you can import the table or save it for later use.

Other highlights from this session include:

- Google FastFlip (<http://fastflip.googlelabs.com>), a quick visual browsing of news by source, topic, headline or section, kind of like an Ipod cover flow of news.
- Google's "show options" feature. Hidden in plain view, the show options feature appears in the upper left hand corner of the Google search results page. Click on this and you can customize and refine the results you've retrieved. There are many options to explore with this tool. Under the heading "standard results", click "Images from the page" and graphics from the retrieved sites become visible, giving you an easy way to find a relevant graphic that you might not find using Google Image search. Or click "Page Preview" to see a miniature view of the site.

Conference Attendee 2.0 Style – In the Cloud

Nancy Faller, Web Services Librarian, Sterling Morton Library (<http://www.mortonarb.org/sterling-morton-library.html>) at the Morton Arboretum.

This was my second time attending an Information Today Conference, the first one being Computers in Libraries in Washington, D.C. in 2006. Since this was a technology conference, I was determined to experience it from

the perspective of a technology user rather than just an observer gathering info as I did in Washington. I brought along my laptop with great hopes of being able to access enough power outlets to keep my waning battery going all day. Happily the rooms were set up with long tables in the front and back with power strips every few feet, and WiFi was available in each room.

I had the #IL2009 twitter feed open the whole time so I could see what was going on in the other sessions. I was taking my notes in Google Docs. At night I would head across the street to a coffee house with free WiFi and check up on what the bloggers were saying about the other sessions. I was living' in the cloud! It was actually kind of cool!

The theme of the conference was *Net Initiatives for Tough Times: Digital Publishing, Preservation, and Practices*. Many of the sessions presented options for creating and managing digital content utilizing free and open source tools. As a librarian in a small museum library I was looking for something new that would be useful not only to our library but to our institution as whole.

The sessions that stood out for me were:

Dreaming, Designing, and Using Mobile Library Platforms, panel presentations.

- The first presenter was Tom Ipri (<http://www.tombrarian.net>). I was intrigued to hear that mobile technology is in its infancy, as compared to the computer desktop of 1998. By 2020, mobile devices will be our primary internet connection tool. We should be designing applications that treat this as a "new paradigm, not desktop lite".
- Jason A. Clark (<http://diginet.wordpress.com>) told us that when developing mobile apps to keep the text brief and the navigation simple. To ensure success with mobile apps there needs to be organizational buy-in, including staff training that includes practice with multiple devices as well as marketing built into the mobile technology plan.
- Toby Greenwalt(<http://www.theanalogdivide.com>) a librarian at the Skokie Public Library discussed using Shoutbomb to develop mobile library apps, which they are using at his library. More info about Shoutbomb from the The Califa Library Group can be found at Shoutbomb FAQ (http://www.califa.org/uploadfiles/Shoutbomb_FAQ.doc) and Shoutbomb Webinar slides (http://www.califa.org/uploadfiles/SBomb_Presentation.ppt)
- Jason Griffey (<http://www.jasongriffey.net>) talked a bit about augmented reality browsers and told us about his new book *Mobile Technologies and Libraries* coming in January 2010.
- You can view the slideshow for this entire presentation at <http://www.jasongriffey.net/wp/2009/10/27/dreaming-designing-and-using-mobile-library-platforms/> [Library Platforms](#).

Cloud Computing in Practice: Creating Digital Services & Collection, Amy Buckland, Kendra K. Levine, & Laura Harris.

During this session, we were given the opportunity to weigh the pros and cons of cloud computing. The presenters told us it was *Cloudy with a Chance of Awesomesauce* through their presentation which can be viewed at http://docs.google.com/present/view?id=a3xnrk9pmfc_302gkd73dhf. Do the advantages of cloud computing, such as easily accessible offsite data storage and collaboration outweigh the disadvantages, such as down time when there is no internet and the possible loss of privacy? The government is advocating cloud computing and has just launched a site at https://www.apps.gov/cloud/advantage/main/start_page.do.

Jason Clark's recommendations were to let the cloud architecture do the heavy lifting, archive locally if you must and outsource conversion.

Affordable Resources on a Public Library Budget

Megan Marsh is the Adult Reference Manager at Acorn Public Library (<http://www.acornlibrary.org>), in Oak Forest, IL. This was her inaugural Internet Librarian Conference.

The Internet Librarian Conference struck a healthy balance between providing information about readily available (and even free!) resources and those that are but a distant glimmer to most current public library budgets. The former was ably represented by sessions highlighting recent developments in search engines.

Microsoft's Bing (<http://www.bing.com>) garnered positive appraisals, particularly its categorization. Presenters

were also excited about perennial pet Google and its new and upcoming offerings—namely Fast Flip, Wave, and Caffeine.

Fast Flip (<http://fastflip.googlelabs.com>) presents news in a horizontal format, much like a magazine; Wave (<http://wave.google.com>) is an audiovisual, impressively interactive IM service; and Caffeine promises to be a more accurate and expansive version of the current search engine.

It's interesting to see both Bing and Google challenged, or at least augmented, by Wolfram-Alpha (<http://www.wolframalpha.com>), which is not a merely for searching, but regards itself as a "computational knowledge engine". While Wolfram-Alpha has a rather limited vocabulary at this point, successful queries are rewarded with a concise yet thorough informational presentation replete with reputable citations. Overall, I find Wolfram-Alpha to be a useful and promising technology that eliminates the sifting often necessary with online information-seeking.

The Internet Librarian Conference featured many excellent speakers and had much to offer librarians of all stripes and interests. All of the sessions can be found here: <http://www.infotoday.com/il2009/presentations.asp>.

Thanks goes to each of our guest writers for a wonderful summary of some of the sessions at the Internet Librarian 2009 Conference. Questions about this article can be emailed to the MLS Consultants at consultants@mls.lib.il.us.

