

Four County Library System



Fall 2008

Broome County Public Library and Four County consolidation will improve System-wide access

Library cardholders across the four-county region soon will be able to access materials in the Broome County Public Library's collection, a capability previously not possible due to the incompatibility of unique automation systems. This long-standing issue was resolved thanks to the collaborative efforts of the boards of trustees of BCPL and the Four County Library System.

"BCPL is our central library, and it has an important role in the resource-sharing activities of all member libraries. The merging of our two collections has been a high-priority goal of mine since 1990," says **David Karre**, 4CLS executive director/CEO. "When **Lisa Wise** became BCPL's new director not long ago, she agreed that the time had come for us to consolidate these collections to best serve library users across the region. Thanks to her efforts and that of both boards this consolidation will happen soon."

The stand-alone automation system at BCPL has meant that there's never been an easy way for users at other member libraries to borrow materials from BCPL, which has the largest collection in the Four County Library System. Sharing of electronic resources also has been problematic.

"We've looked at ways to enable users to conveniently access materials in both automation systems before, but it couldn't be done without a substantial financial investment," says **Jeff Henry**, 4CLS automation manager. The recent buyout of BCPL's automation vendor by Four County's vendor further proved the benefit of consolidating the two collections.

The next and most critical step involves electronically merging BCPL's materials records and customer records with Four County's database. Migrating BCPL's data will present some challenges, as testing

has already shown, but it will be manageable. "It's kind of like taking a WordPerfect document and trying to turn it into a flawless Microsoft Word document without having any hiccups," Jeff says. Another challenge



Robin Cabot, senior program officer for state library programs at the federal Institute for Museum and Library Services, sits behind the wheel of the Cybermobile in Windsor. His visit was part of a fact-finding tour of LSTA funding recipients.

will be dealing with duplicate records. "For example, a Grisham novel appears one way in our database and a different way in BCPL's, but we've got to make those items look the same," Jeff says.

Despite several short-term challenges posed by blending two unique collections to create one that ultimately will be accessible System-wide, the final migration of data should occur before Thanksgiving.

"Four County, our member libraries and library users have wanted this consolidation to happen for many years. Now we're very close to making it a reality," David says. "Just a little bit more patience is all that's needed."

Has your library set up its free website yet?

Ten minutes of simple keyboarding – done by the library director, a staff member or a trustee – is all that it takes to get a website up and running for your library. Best of all, there's no cost at any time.

"I don't know why I kept putting this off. Setting up our website was very easy to do and cost the library nothing. The only thing I had to do was type in some basic information using an online form," says **Donna Henderson**, director of the **South New Berlin Free Library**. "I can update our website as often as I need to without ever being charged for making changes."

Four County developed and will continue to support this special project to enable every member library to set up its own free website quickly and easily. It is password-protected to ensure security.

"A library website is an essential tool for serving a community. Hours of operation and other basic information should be conveniently accessible to residents," says **Pamela Brown**, deputy executive director.

Directors and trustees of Four County's member libraries should contact Pamela at pbrown@4cls.org or ext.303 to set up a website account for their library.

"We the People" grant opening

The American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities invite public and K-12 school libraries to apply for the sixth annual *We the People* Bookshelf grant. The program encourages young people to read and understand great literature while exploring themes in American history. This year's theme is "Picturing America." Applications can be submitted online through January 30, 2009. For full details visit <http://publicprograms.ala.org/bookshelf>. A total of 4,000 libraries will be selected to receive the award and the 17 classic titles that accompany it. Winners will be announced next April. Several 4CLS member libraries were awarded this grant in the past.

Providing consolidated programs, services and specialized resources that help 42 public libraries serve their communities in Broome, Chenango, Delaware and Otsego Counties.

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Dan Dofton and Beth Golden load Gates Grant computers for delivery to a participating library.

Update on Gates Grant PCs

All computers ordered through Four County as part of the Gates Grant program will be delivered by the end of October, according to **Pamela Brown**.

Under the terms of the grant, participating member libraries are required to run TechAtlas by the end of November. This utility program runs on the new computers via the Internet and uploads data to the Gates Foundation to show how these PCs have improved performance. Workshops were held at **Moore Memorial Library** as a refresher in running TechAtlas.

Gates computers purchased through 4CLS were configured and tested by automation staff, then delivered and set up in the library. Four County will support the warranty on the machines for three years.

"**Dan Dofton, Beth Golden and Brian Kowalski** have worked hard to meet the October 31st deadline," says **Jeff Henry**. A total of 55 computers, plus peripherals, were ordered by 23 member libraries.

If there are any issues with Gates Grant computers, contact the automation department by sending an email to gatesgrant@4cls.org

Get moving to de-stress

If you're feeling stressed, it can help to focus on getting some exercise. Whether you're taking a brisk walk at work or at home, pushing through the last quarter-mile on a treadmill, or concentrating on a sport, there's not much time to dwell on your problems. Any type of physical activity that increases your breathing rate can help decrease anxiety and tension. Try to get a minimum of 20 minutes of vigorous exercise at least three days a week.

— From *United Health Services*

Welcome our newest manager

Staci Rogers joined Four County in late September as collection services manager. She is responsible for all technical services functions – acquisition, cataloging and processing – along with circuits. Some electronic resources responsibilities will become hers next spring (Pamela Brown is handling e-resources in the meantime).

Staci earned a B.A. in English at Dowling College and an M.A. in information science at Queens College. Before coming to 4CLS she worked as a public services librarian at Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration. Contact her by phone at ext.360 or email at srogers@4cls.org



Two special opportunities for outstanding trustees

The New York State Association of Library Boards, a nonprofit organization that represents public library trustees, is seeking nominees for its Velma Moore Award. The award is given to a person or group that has made exemplary contributions to the development of library services in New York. It carries a cash prize of \$750 for the winner's library and recognition at the annual Trustee Institute next May in Syracuse. Nominating letters of less than 250 words are due by February 15. For full details contact **Rita Reissig** at reissig@gmail.com or 315-781-1849.

NYSALB also is seeking new trustees for its board. Core activities include advocacy for public libraries and educating trustees about their role in the library. The board meets five times per year and expenses are reimbursed. To learn more contact **Mary Ellen O'Connor** at votemeo@hotmail.com or 518-463-3058.

Keep our delivery drivers safe

Please be sure to clear ice and snow from library access points on your delivery days so 4CLS drivers can make deliveries in a safe and timely manner. And remember to properly label books and carefully pack canvas bags.

Briefly noted . . .

4CLS – **Wendy Caldiero** is the newest trustee. She is from Afton and represents Chenango County. Board officers are **Dr. Bill Taber**, president; **Kathleen Wood**, vice president; **Annette Testani**, secretary/assistant treasurer; **Janet Ottman**, assistant secretary; and **Theresa Allen**, treasurer... **Dan Dofton** and **Jeff Henry** attended a Cisco ASA network security workshop in Albany... **Yvonne Dunnier**, shelver, has retired... **Bookfest** is set for Saturday, November 22 at the Discovery Center in Binghamton. Special guest will be author/illustrator **Matt McElligott**... 14 participants completed the *Teaching Old Dogs New Tricks* Learning 2.0 project created by **Pamela Brown** (for which she won the "Innovation Award" from the **South Central Regional Library Council**). **Rodger Oesterle**, director of the Stamford library, was the grand prize winner... A 30-second video public service announcement for the **Summer Reading Program** was placed with the three Binghamton-based affiliates of the major television networks and the TimeWarner cable system... **Afton** – **Joan Cass**, library assistant, retired after many years of service. **Shirley Haynes** is the new clerk/finance officer... The library celebrated its 75th anniversary with an open house... **Margaretville** – Director **Ellen Verni** resigned; **Ken Meskill**, part-time assistant director, is the interim director... **NYS Library** – **Jeffrey Cannell**, deputy commissioner for cultural education, was appointed acting state librarian and assistant commissioner for libraries following the retirement of **Janet Welch**. A search is ongoing to permanently fill the position... **Oxford** – Recently celebrated the opening of its **McDonough** branch... Director **Nancy Wilcox** reports that the adult summer reading program had 115 participants... **Sherburne** – Director **Nancy Simerl** reports that the library received a \$2,805 grant from **The Community Foundation for South Central New York** to purchase a digital microform scanner. It will be used as a microfilm reader for historical documents and provide an interface with a PC and printer... **Sidney** – **Roz Conner**, formerly technical services manager at 4CLS, is the new director... **Unadilla** – **Fran Daroja** is the new director.

Libraries in New York State lose a maven, a model and a mentor with the recent passing of friend and colleague Eleanor Henricks.

Eleanor was admirable in her unflagging enthusiasm for both innovation and tradition in her job and her profession. She was one of the first librarians in the region to embrace technology and grasp its potential for serving youth, while she also was committed to teaching each generation traditional songs and stories that would give them the basis for cultural literacy. Even as she was convalescing from her final illness she played her guitar and sang and read to her fellow residents.



Her ability to find the humor in any situation and in herself is legendary. Before our last visit I called to see if she had any reading requests. She asked for a memoir by a Young Adult author. She said that despite recommending it countless times she had never had the chance to read it herself. “I don’t want to get to the Pearly Gates and have

them say—You know better than to recommend a book you haven’t read,” she laughed. Her love of youth, literature, and libraries leaves an indelible mark.

— Submitted by Starr LaTronica



Four County Library System

**304 Clubhouse Road
Vestal, NY 13850**

October

- 20 Workshops on ALA-FSU survey and TechAtlas refresher, Greene
- 24 4CLS System meeting, 10am-noon, Sidney

November

- 5-8 NYLA Annual Conference, Saratoga Springs
- 10 Veterans' Day, 4CLS closed
- 15 4CLS Board, 10am, Sidney
- 17 Outreach Advisory Council, 10am-noon, tba
- 19 Quilt illustration workshop with Adrienne Yorinks, 7-10pm, Owego Treadway
- 20 Books Abound, Owego Treadway
- 21 Governing Council, tba, Oneonta
- 22 Bookfest, Discovery Center
- 27-28 Thanksgiving holiday, 4CLS closed

December

- 25-26 Christmas holiday, 4CLS closed

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION