

Libraries Unplugged Breakout Sessions

Session One (11:00-11:45 AM):

- *Books to Blockbusters – How to Host Movie Release Parties*
Alexandra Phillips, St. Johns County Public Library System and **Kate Neff**, St. Johns County Public Schools
Pedro Menendez High School and the Southeast Branch of the St. Johns County Public Library partner together to hold after-school parties to celebrate the movie releases of YA novels, such as the *Hunger Games* series, *Fantastic Beasts*, etc. These are open to all of our students and provide them with activities centered around the movies/novels/fandoms. These provide students with similar interests a way to meet each other and make new friendships based on their interests. These also open up the partnership with the public library and make students aware of what they provide and make them feel comfortable with our Youth Services Librarian. Students get so excited about these parties and look forward to them whenever a new movie comes out. Participants will leave knowing how to hold their own book-to-movie parties. We will show how easy it is to actually do and how you can do it on a budget.
- *Astronomy Week at the Maitland Public Library*
Amber Downs and **Mary Daniels**, Maitland Public Library
Interested in creating week-long events in your library? Learn how the Maitland Public Library started Astronomy Week and turned it into an annual event featuring kids programs, lectures, movies, and hands on events for all ages. Participants will learn how to work with the community in creating the event, how to create all ages programming, and how to coordinate staffing. Participants will also learn how to take these skills and apply them to other events.
- *Gaming Unplugged: Building and Maintaining a Circulating Tabletop Game Collection*
Susan Mythen, **Madeline Sims**, and **Lea Cason**, Florida State College at Jacksonville
Tabletop games add a modern and exciting twist to your library collection. Interested but don't know where to begin? We will walk you step by step through the process of selecting, cataloging, circulating, and promoting a board game collection.
- *Art on Loan: Florida Gateway College's Mission to Circulate Culture*
Christine Boatright, Florida Gateway College
The Library has been the steward for Art at FGC since the 1960s. The original Library Director began purchasing art and loaning it to students in dorms to add culture to their living spaces. This practice has evolved over the years, but our collection still grows and circulates around campus, primarily in offices and public spaces. We purchase student art every year from the Art Show, showcase it, and then inventory, catalog, and circulate it.

Session Two (1:00-1:45 PM):

- *Millhopper School of Witchcraft and Wizardry*

Karen Malloy, Alachua County Library District

The Millhopper School of Witchcraft and Wizardry started in 2017 with a Sorting Ceremony (Hat included) to determine participants' House placement. After Sorting, students earned House points by attending library programs and completing activities. Harry Potter got patrons into the library to enjoy our fun and educational programs. This Teen Program quickly evolved into an all-ages program with over 110 participants from 8 to 65. Three set classes focused on one book/movie per month: Movie Workout Challenge, Dumbledore's Army (craft/activity), and the OWLs (Book Trivia). We developed classes based on Hogwarts' curriculum: Care of Magical Creatures (a local zoo visit), Astronomy (Planetarium visit), Defense Against the Dark Arts (self-defense), and Potions (chemistry educational activities). The library also hosted the Yule Ball, Harry Potter FOODIEspace, and a Graduation Ceremony, among other activities. We will discuss how to sort students, keep track of House points, options for partnering with outside organizations, and other lessons learned.

- *Building a Fiber Arts Community at the Library*

Michael Sweeney, Orange County Library System

Libraries can expand their offerings to their communities by providing experiences in the fiber arts. Learn how one library system grew a community of fiber artists through hands-on classes and events. This interactive presentation will share information on developing curriculum for children, teens and adults in crochet and knitting, as well as ways to grow your community through events and partnerships.

- *Fake News & Science: A Call to Action*

Samuel R. Putnam, University of Florida

Fake News has entered the zeitgeist over the past two years and muddied the lines between fact and fiction in the media. The resulting confusion of the public has led to misinformation being shared via social media. According to the Pew Research Center, 60% of US adults are at least somewhat interested in receiving training on how to use online resources to find trustworthy information. Libraries seem like an optimal place for that training especially when, also according to Pew, 78% percent of US adults trust information from local public libraries to some degree. Science information can be especially difficult for individuals to understand due to the specialized expertise required to create scientific research. This workshop will equip participants with the knowledge necessary to identify fake science news as well as tools to teach science information literacy at their libraries. Participants will be able identify avenues for misinformation to enter the news cycle as well as how to implement criteria for identifying reliable research articles. Participants will also be connected with a wealth of existing resources to use at their libraries.

- *Windows & Mirrors: Books highlighting DIVERSE families*

Kristine J. Shrauger and **Amy Dovydaitis**, University of Central Florida

Bedtime indicates story time in innumerable homes around the world. Imagine turning a page only to be stopped by the question of an inquisitive child, "Why don't they have two moms like I do?" Somewhere in another home, "Why does his Mommy and Daddy have different skin color?" Or perhaps, "When can we visit daddy in jail?" Now place into that child's hand a book mirroring their own diverse family and foresee the positive impact that story can hold. Families come in all shapes and sizes and stories need to reflect that diversity. Children can be raised by two moms or two dads; a single parent; an adoptive family; an incarcerated parent; foster care; a military parent; and parents from different races or different cultures. The right book can empower children through a story that imitates their own family. It can also become a catalyst for starting a conversation about diversity. Let's talk about that excitement!

Session Three (2:00-2:45 PM):

- *STEM Programs that Bite!*

Marlin Day, Alachua County Library District

Animal programs are the most popular children's programs that the Newberry Branch Library hosts. Whether the animals are snakes, birds, bats, dogs, rabbits, butterflies, alligators, horses, or lizards, if the branch brings animals into the library, children will follow. This session summarizes the animal programs that the Newberry Branch Library has hosted through the years, including our popular Goats Storytime. Tips include incorporating STEM elements into programs centered around animals, dos-and-don'ts, and ideas on where to find animals.

- *Sewing Maker Lab*

Ann Collins, Karen Payano, and Carole Hanna, Volusia County Library

Machine and hand sewing are an increasingly popular offering for libraries. Patrons of all ages report that they would love to be able to do simple machine sewing tasks, but lack the confidence to begin on their own. Many are reluctant to purchase a sewing machine of their own. This year, thanks to a purchase of six sewing machines purchased by the Friends of the Library, Deltona Regional Library staff have created three sewing maker labs. The Adult Sewing Maker Lab covers threading the machine, simple beginner stitches and creating a potholder. The Children's and Teen department have created workshops for children ages 8-11 and a teen workshop for ages 12-17. Participants will learn to use the machine and create a stuffed animal and will learn also some simple hand embroidery stitches to embellish a purchased bag. We detail the planning process for the sewing maker labs, choice of projects for each age group and selection of materials and the decision process they used for purchasing machines.

- *Promoting Literacy and Inclusivity for All: Book Clubs for College Students with Intellectual Disabilities*

Leah Plocharczyk, Florida Atlantic University

This presentation discusses how a book club for intellectually disabled (ID) students was created on a college campus, and how one academic librarian embarked on an entirely new adventure, and had fun growing with and learning from an exceptional group of college students. Book clubs within academic libraries can be successful in extending literacy support and by providing opportunities for socialization and inclusion for the ID. Hosting a book club for the ID in a higher education setting proves to be advantageous for both the ID and for the community. The book club has weekly hour long sessions comprised of voluntary round robin read aloud activities and refreshments. In these gatherings, a book is read and discussed by the group, accompanied by interactive games meant to assist with increasing word recognition. This inclusive book club is open to all students, and peer mentors will join in on the fun too. We emphasize the benefits of including the ID in "mainstream" activities. Integration provides exposure to a diverse group of adults and their experiences which dispels misconceptions about what intellectually disabled adult students can and cannot achieve.

- *Connecting the Past to the Future: Library Genealogy from the Ground Up*

Pat Russell, Seminole County Library

This session outlines what one library did to start a robust genealogy program, why any library should consider a genealogy program, and the basic resources needed to do this. Objectives: attendees will be able to 1) identify genealogy research training needed to connect patrons with library resources and community partners, and 2) identify basic resources, and know where find those already available.

Session Four (3:00-3:45 PM):

- *Food in the Library – Cooking Classes Made Easy*

Alexandra Phillips, St. Johns County Public Library System

Alexandra Phillips has been offering Teen Cooking classes at her library for over five years, and has learned many helpful tips and tricks along the way. Participants in this session will learn how easy it is to put together cooking classes for patrons of all ages, even without a kitchen in the library! Walk away prepared to offer classes on a variety of themes, such as no-bake desserts, cooking in mugs, mason jar mixes, Taco Tuesday, and much more. Outlines and examples of safety waivers will be provided.

- *Homeschool Huddle: Connect, Collaborate, Create*

Heather Ogilvie, Bay County Public Library

Homeschool Huddle is a weekly event in which learning to read becomes reading to learn. We begin with extreme book reviews and follow with a shared learning adventure. Art is available throughout the program. We bring students, books, conversation, and community guest stars together in a weekly, user-driven library/classroom experience. Spontaneous collaboration happens weekly. I will show you how to connect with your homeschool community, establish common goals, and create a dynamic learning environment, in any setting, with zero designated budget. Unbridled enthusiasm for learning and a warm welcome are the key ingredients.

- *Finals Week Unplugged: Fostering Student Success with Snacks, Dogs, and Naps*

Maria Atilano, University of North Florida

Finals Week is an extremely stressful time for college students. While a busy library may seem like the last place for some much needed relaxation, the University of North Florida's Thomas G. Carpenter Library is working hard to help their students cope. During finals, we plan stress-relieving events and activities to foster academic success and mental wellbeing. Popular events include PAWS Your Stress featuring friendly service dogs, free Late-night Coffee and Snacks, and pop-up Random Acts of Snacks. The library also offers a coloring station to incite creativity, and a sleep zone to catch a quick wink without leaving the building. When students need a study break during finals, the Carpenter Library becomes both a place to get to work, and a place to unwind. Attendees will learn how to plan events and activities, ways to partner with other departments and organizations to reduce costs, and how to effectively market to their audiences.

- *Mapping our Past: Creating an all-ages event celebrating Special Collections*

Laura Minor, Jacksonville Public Library

Jacksonville Public Library's Lewis Ansbacher Map Collection is a hidden gem. We wanted to highlight the collection so we hosted "Mapping Our Past," a day-long event that featured map-themed presentations and activities throughout the Main Library. With presentations and hands-on activities for customers of all ages, there was something for everyone. Many people visited the Special Collections department for the first time to attend the programs and they were pleased with what they saw. Customer feedback was both positive and instructive. Since the "Mapping Our Past" event, we've continued to promote the map collection and virtual tour with a children's map activity book, a self-guided map tour kit, staff-guided tours offered every third Friday, and a speaker series that takes place in the Ansbacher Map Room.