



Between the Stacks



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One World, Many Stories

Celebrate Travel and World Cultures with Summer Reading!

Summer reading will be a wide world of fun this summer at the Porter County Public Library! Our theme this year is "One World, Many Stories." All PCPLS library branches offer the independent summer reading program for children ages 2 through 18 (still in High School). Registration for summer reading starts Monday, June 6 at all branch youth departments. The last day to register is Saturday, July 2.

Each participant receives a reading booklet to record the titles of the books they read. All books must come from the Porter County Public Library system. After you register and get your booklet, then you read, read, read to complete the requirements for your age group. Once you've completed the reading requirements, turn in your booklet (at the same branch where you registered) and win fun prizes!

(Preschoolers and students who have completed Gr. K-8 will also receive a Read & Ride voucher for the Porter County Fair. This voucher provides a discount on the carnival ride wristband – good for any one day, Monday, July 25 through Friday, July 29.) You can turn in your booklet for prizes as soon as you've completed the reading requirements. The last day to pick up prizes is Saturday, July 16.

In addition to the independent summer reading program, each PCPLS branch also offers many exciting theme-related activities and programs throughout the summer. Travel the world at your Porter County Public Library branch this summer!

Generational Differences in Digital Literacy: Are Young People Really More Gifted With Technology?



I frequently hear adults marvel at how easy use of the computer comes to younger people, or even explain the difficulty they themselves have with computers as being due to their age. "I can't learn like they can anymore," they say. The generational stereotypes associated with use of computers and technology seem to be widely held. But, how true are they? Why do these differences exist? Is there something about youth that gives an inherent advantage in learning one's way around computers?

About ten years ago, terms were coined in an attempt to characterize and explain these differences.¹ "Digital Natives" describe the generation born into our digital world. They have never known a world without computers. "Digital Immigrants" describe those born before the digital world, who adopted digital technologies later in life. Some argue that because they did not learn digital and technological literacies early in life, these skills will never come to them as easily or

quickly as they do for digital natives. Indeed, fMRI's of the brain behaviors of younger and older people while using a computer shows differences between the groups.² Does this mean that digital immigrants are fated to struggle more just to gain the same skills as their younger counterparts?

Several studies have been done to explore these questions further. One examined two different groups of middle aged adults.³ One group had prior experience to searching on the Internet and were considered "web-savvy," while the other group had little or no experience searching the Internet and were considered "web-naïve." MRI's taken of participant's brains as they searched showed that the web-savvy group had much higher activity throughout the brain than the web-naïve group. However, perhaps even more interesting, is that after one week of searching on the internet for 1 hour a day, the web-naïve group showed brain activity had increased and was now similar

continued on page 2

to the web-savvy group.⁴

Our brains are constantly being shaped by our experiences, as the above study shows. Experts say that we might also expect to see such differences in the brains of groups of people whose experiences have differed in other ways.² For example, a group of French speakers' brains would react differently to hearing spoken English than a group of English speakers' brains. Likewise, such an experiment may show the differences to lessen if the French speakers were taught English.

Digital immigrants have been described as speaking in an "accent."¹ That is, they were socialized to interact with technology later in life, and carry holdovers from the past. Evidence of this accent can be seen in actions such as an immigrant's tendency to turn to a phone book first, where a native may turn to the internet first when looking up a phone number. Another example is how immigrants may print out an email or a document in order to read or edit it, rather than just reading it on the screen, as a native might do. Yet another example is an immigrant's reliance on books and written instructions to learn software, where a native may assume the software will teach itself.

Could it be that certain characteristics shared by the younger generation predisposed them to *choose* activities that expose them to technology, such as the ones mentioned above? Perhaps the way video games, social networking, and various other technological applications appeal to our youth has resulted in them to more often choose to use digital devices. We have already seen that the amount of exposure to a



stimulus can change our brains. If it is true that younger people more often make choices that expose them to digital devices, could the differences between the natives' brains and the immigrants' brains simply be due to different total amounts of exposure?

Further evidence of this may be found when examining the differences within generations, rather than between them. It is easy to generalize that all young people are more comfortable with technology than older people. However, differences in school and home backgrounds, domestic affluence, and family dynamics actually result in a wide variance among young people with regard to their skill with computers.⁵ For example, affluent families who value technology may be more likely to foster an environment which creates many opportunities for experience with computers.

Similarly, adults and older adults show a wide range of capabilities.² As a personal example, my father was required to use a computer daily for the last several decades due to his job. He is very comfortable with computers. On the other hand, my mother, who is the same age as he is and has been living in the same household the entire time my father learned to use a computer, is barely able to check her email account without assistance. There was little to motivate my mother to use computers during this time, and so her experience, and thus her skill, is limited.

Perhaps a better way to conceptualize digital natives and digital immigrants

is not by the year they were born, but rather by the choices they have made to experience new technologies. The good news is, our brains retain their plasticity, or their ability to change and grow, throughout our adult lives.⁶ We can always choose which experiences we wish to pursue, and how we shape our brains.

Inge Kokidko-

South Haven Branch Manager

Further Reading

The following books are available through PCPLS.

- *Brain Rules: 12 Principles for Surviving and Thriving at Work, Home, and School* by John Medina
- *iBrain: Surviving the Technological Alteration of the Modern Mind* by Gary Small
- *Kluge: the haphazard construction of the human mind* by Gary Marcus

Free Web Resources

- Discover what type of "digital denizen" you are by taking a short quiz: <http://www.stockton.edu/~intech/spotlight-digital-denizens.htm>
- University of North Carolina Community Workshop Series - offers instructional material for novice computer users: <http://www.lib.unc.edu/cws/handouts/>
- Compu-KISS with Sandy Berger - computer tutorials: <http://www.compukiss.com/tutorials/index.php>
- The Senior's Guide to Computers - tutorials created with seniors in mind: <http://www.seniorsguidetocomputers.com/>
- Microsoft Digital Literacy - offers three different curriculum levels: <http://www.microsoft.com/about/corporatecitizenship/citizenship/giving/programs/up/digitalliteracy/default.aspx>
- Microsoft Office - getting familiar with the Microsoft Office suite: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/support/getting-started-with-office-2010-FX101822272.aspx>
- Open Office - learn more about the free productivity suite found on the Porter County Public Library System's computers: <http://www.openoffice.org/>

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3. Small, G. W., Moody, T. D., Siddarth, P., & Bookheimer, S. Y. (2009). Your brain on Google: patterns of cerebral activation during Internet searching. *The American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, 17(2).
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5. Bennet, S., Maton, K., & Kervin, L. (2008). The 'digital natives' debate: a critical review of the evidence. *British Journal of Educational Technology*, 39(5).
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Introducing... Gerrie Bowie

Gerrie Bowie is Porter County Public Library System's Library Trustee Vice-President

How long have you been a library trustee?

Since 2002.

What do you like most about being a trustee?

So many things. The good people I've met; the friendships I've made, the things I've learned about the library, both on the local and state level. I'll be sad to leave the Board when my term is completed.

Are you married? Do you have any children?

Yes. Rich and I have two daughters. Pam and Tom live near Detroit and have two college-aged children; Liz and R.J.. Susie and Don live in Schaumburg and have 2 year old twins, Will and Andrew.

Do you have any extracurricular activities that you are involved in?

My church heads the list of my time spent outside of my home. I love serving and learning. There's so much to do in both of those areas. The other activity I've continued during my retirement is serving on the Kouts Memorial Scholarship Fund committee at Kouts High School.

What is the one thing that people would be surprised to know about you?

My parents always told me I was supposed to be a boy-hence my name, Geraldine, which is the feminized form of Gerald, which was the only name they had chosen. So, I've always been a "tomboy".

What is your favorite book and why?

A good fiction book related to a place we're going to visit. It heightens the anticipation of the upcoming vacation for me and helps me learn more about the area.

How were you appointed to the Board?

I was speaking with a friend and former member of the Board, Darl Jarnecke. He mentioned he was leaving the Board and was trying to recommend a replacement, and I volunteered. I've always loved libraries and have considered it a privilege to be on the Board.

Anything else you think someone would like to know about you?

I love to tell people about the overnight hiking trip I took with my daughters and several other women at 11,000 feet in the Colorado wilderness. No cabins, no electricity, no bathrooms-and ice on our water bottles in the morning in the middle of July.

Thank you for your wonderful answers.

Sheila Minton-Administrative Assistant

Youth Art Month a Great Success at the Portage Library

A crowd of more than 400 student artists, their families, Portage Township School Art Teachers and guests attended the Youth Art Month Opening Reception at the Portage Library.

Victoria Borinovski, a third grader at Myers Elementary said, "I was really excited to have my art-work at the library. My family liked it and thought it was great and beautiful. I liked having it at the library because a bunch of people will see my art."

Bethany Majewski, in second grade at Myers agreed, "I liked the art about giraffes and different things. My mom, dad, and aunt thought my art was creative!"



Generous donations by Portage Tri-Kappa, Portage Kiwanis and Miller's Assisted Living of Portage allowed attendees to enjoy cookies and punch as they viewed art work by more than 200 Portage Township students. Moody Blooms provided a whimsical centerpiece and Mrs. Cindy Laingren, secretary to the PTS Superintendent, assembled corsages for the PTS Art teachers.

Paintings, drawings and other multi-media pieces were displayed in the Youth Services Department and display cases throughout the month of March.





Relatively Speaking: Notes from the Genealogy Department

The department continues to be busy with the indexing project of county records. The index to Divorces and Separation records is complete and has been bound.

Larry Clark will be attending the 2011 National Genealogical Conference in Charleston, South Carolina in May. The conference will cover many genealogical topics but will highlight the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War.

The number of rental films from the LDS Library in Salt Lake City continues to increase. Films that cover information not owned by the Genealogy Department are being kept on permanent loan. Patrons should see what has been added to the department's holding list!

New microfilm items include materials on New York and many Chicago Catholic church records.

New books focusing on Pennsylvania, Maryland, North Dakota, and Minnesota have been added.

The Genealogy collection includes a history of the Memorial Opera House which was opened up in 1892. It provided a first class venue for plays, lectures and even vaudeville shows. Many entertainers including the Marx Brothers and the U.S. Army band of John Philip Sousa performed in Valparaiso.

Valparaiso University invited many prominent speakers to address audiences at the V.U. Chapel/Auditorium. Among the notable speakers were William Howard Taft, William Jennings Bryan, and Eamon De Valera, the founder of the Irish Republic.

Reviews of these events can be found in old copies of the Vidette and the Messenger. Until the early 1920's, the only way people could hear these people was to see them in person.

This changed with the advent of radio communication. The first commercial station was KDKA in Pittsburgh and was soon followed by several other stations across the country. The Federal Communications Commission was established to regulate these new radio outlets.

Local papers would list the broadcast schedules because most stations were so powerful they could be heard in all parts of the country. In time, small towns started to get their own stations. In 1924 Valparaiso got WRBC radio which was run by Immanuel Lutheran Church.

If you look in the marriage books of Porter County in the Genealogy Department you will find the application of Mable Johnston and Jacob Sells in December of 1924.

Radio history was made when Rev. Schultes of Immanuel Lutheran Church had a microphone at the altar in order to broadcast their marriage ceremony. It was listened to by the bride's father in Minnesota and some of the groom's family in Georgia.

WRBC stayed on the air until 1929 when it had to close down. Rev. Schultes could not get the church to invest in new equipment required by the FCC. Porter County's airwaves were quiet until the mid-1960's when WAYK and WNWI Radio went on the air. WAYK eventually became WAKE and its' sister FM station came on the air and eventually became WLJE Radio.

The 1930 U.S. census asked if the head of household owned a radio. If you are interested, you can look up your family listing and see if they owned one.

Larry J. Clark-
Genealogy Department Head

PCPLS Book Discussion Groups



Valparaiso

12-1 pm

(Bring a sack lunch.)

May 10—*Eat, Pray, Love*

by Elizabeth Gilbert

June 14—*Sarah's Key*

by Tatiana de Rosnay

~

Hebron

1:30 pm

May 5—*Julie and Julia*

by Julie Powell

June 16—*The 19th Wife*

by David Ebershoff

~

Kouts

7:00 pm

May 26—*Something Wicked*

This Way Comes

by Ray Bradbury

June 23—*Thunderstruck*

by Erik Larson

~

South Haven

7:00 pm

May 23—*The Cradle*

by Patrick Somerville

June 27—*Lost*

by Alice Lichtenstein

~

Portage

7:00 pm

May 23—*Little Bee*

by Chris Cleave

June 23—*The Glass Castle:*

a memoir

by Jeannette Walls

~

Call your local branch
to reserve a book.

Titles are subject to
change due to availability.

May 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10:30 AM-*Mother Goose (P) 12:00 PM-Blood pressure screening (P) 5:30 PM-*Chess @ the Library (P) 6:00 PM-Internet Searching-Card Catalog Training for Patrons (S) 6:30 PM-*Wiggles and Giggles (P)	3 10:15 AM-Toddler Time (H) 11:15 AM-Story Time (H) 2:00 PM-Blood pressure, Blood sugar, BMI Screening (P) 5:30 PM-*Toddler Time (P) 6:05 PM-*Mother Goose (P) 6:30 PM-*Story Time (P) 7:00 PM-Learn Sign Language (K) 7:30 PM-*Teen Thing (P)	4 9:30 AM-*Tiny Tots Programs (V) 9:30 AM-*Toddler Time (P) 10:30 AM-*Story Time (P) 6:30 PM-Alternative Medical Therapies: Are They Right for Me? (H)	5 10:15 AM-Toddler Time (H) 10:30 AM-*Wiggles and Giggles (P) 11:15 AM-Story Time (H) 1:30 PM-Novel Ideas Book Discussion (H)	6 3:30 PM-Mother's Day Craft (K)	7 9:15 AM-*Beginning Basket Weaving 10:00 AM-*Mother's Day Craft (V) 10:30 AM-Mother Goose on the Loose (S) 12:00 PM-Anime Club 2:30 PM-*Crayon Critters (P)
9 2:00 PM-Movie Monday (P) 6:00 PM-Internet Searching-Card Catalog Training for Patrons (S)	10 10:15 AM-Toddler Time (H) 11:15 AM-Story Time (H) 12:00 PM-Valpo Brown Baggers (V)	11 9:00 AM-* Total Cholesterol Screening (P) 9:30 AM-*Tiny Tots Programs (V) 9:30 AM-*Toddler Time (P) 3:30 PM-Lego Library Land (K)	12 10:15 AM-Toddler Time (H) 11:15 AM-Story Time (H) 7:00 PM-Learn Sign Language (K)	13	14 10:30 AM-Mother Goose on the Loose (S)
16 All Day-Intro to Chinese Culture Registration (V) 6:00 PM-Internet Searching-Card Catalog Training for Patrons (S)	17 All Day-Toddler Time Registration (V) 7:00 PM-Learn Sign Language (K)	18 All Day-Preschool Story Hour Registration (V) 9:30 AM-*Tiny Tots Programs (V) 10:00 AM-Porter Co. Health Dept. Immunization Clinic (H) 6:30 PM-*Tail Waggin' Tutor (P)	19 1:00 PM-Bone Density Screening (P) 5:00 PM-Geocaching (K)	20 All Day-Book Babies Registration (V)	21 10:00 AM-* Beginning Oil Painting (P) 10:30 AM-Mother Goose on the Loose (S) 1:00 PM-* One-Stroke Painting (S) 2:30 PM-*Crayon Critters (P)
23 2:00 PM-Stroke Risk Screening (P) 7:00 PM-South Haven Bookends (S)	24 12:00 PM-Movie Discussion Group (V) 7:00 PM-Learn Sign Language (K)	25 3:30 PM-Ladies and Gentlemen: Start Your Engines! (K)	26 All Day-Flag T-shirt Craft Registration (V) 7:00 PM-Kouts Pageturners (K) 7:00 PM-* Portage Reading Circle (P)	27	28 10:30 AM-* Writing Workshop for Adults (P) 10:30 AM-Mother Goose on the Loose (S) 1:30 PM-LEGO Club (S)

30
 MEMORIAL DAY
 LIBRARY CLOSED



31
 All Day-Lego Club Registration (V)
 9:30 AM-* Toddler Time 9:30am (V)
 11:00 AM-* Toddler Time 11:00am (V)
 7:00 PM-Learn Sign Language (K)

*(H) Hebron (K) Kouts (P) Portage
 (S) South Haven (V) Valparaiso*

Note: * events require pre-registration.
 Contact the library branch to sign up.

June 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>6 All Day- Independent Summer Reading Begins! All Day- Riving Dance Recital Registration (V) All Day- Flexible Fun Yoga Registration (V) 12:00 PM- Blood pressure screening (P) 6:00 PM- Internet Searching-Card Catalog Training for Patrons (S)</p>	<p>7 All Day- Tasting Tour at Noodles & Co. Registration (V) 9:30 AM- Toddler Time 9:30am (V) 11:00 AM- Toddler Time 11:00am (V) 7:00 PM- Learn Sign Language (K)</p>	<p>1 9:30 AM- Preschool Story Hour 9:30am (V) 10:45 AM- Preschool Story Hour 10:45am (V) 1:00 PM- Preschool Story Hour 1:00pm (V)</p> <p>8 9:30 AM- Preschool Story Hour 9:30am (V) 10:00 AM- Immunization Clinic (K) 10:45 AM- Preschool Story Hour 10:45am (V) 1:00 PM- Preschool Story Hour 1:00pm (V) 4:00 PM- Super Summer Book & AV Sale (P)</p>	<p>2 9:30 AM- Toddler Time 9:30am (V)</p> <p>9 All Day- Amazing Artists: Murals Registration (V) All Day- American Flag Bead Craft Registration (V) 9:30 AM- Toddler Time 9:30am (V) 10:00 AM- Super Summer Book & AV Sale (P) 2:00 PM- Flag T-shirt Craft (V)</p>	<p>3 All Day- Book Babies Registration (V) 10:00 AM- Book Babies (V)</p> <p>10 All Day- Book Bingo (Gr. K-5) Registration (V) 10:00 AM- Super Summer Book & AV Sale (P) 10:00 AM- Flag T-shirt Craft (V)</p>	<p>4 9:00 AM- Total Cholesterol Screening (P) 9:15 AM- Beginning Basket Weaving (P) 10:00 AM- Book Babies (V) 10:30 AM- Writing Workshop for Adults (P) 10:30 AM- Mother Goose on the Loose (S) 12:00 PM- Anime Club (S)</p> <p>11 10:00 AM- Super Summer Book & AV Sale (P) 10:30 AM- Writing Workshop for Adults (P) 10:30 AM- Mother Goose on the Loose (S) 2:30 PM- Crayon Critters (P)</p>
<p>13 All Day- Wonderful World of Stories Registration (V) 11:00 AM- Intro to Chinese Culture for Kids (V) 2:00 PM- Movie Monday (P) 2:00 PM- Monday, Movie (H) 3:45 PM- Lego Club (V) 6:00 PM- Internet Searching-Card Catalog Training for Patrons (S)</p>	<p>14 9:30 AM- Toddler Time 9:30am (V) 10:15 AM- Toddler Time: 10:15 a.m. (H) 11:00 AM- Toddler Time 11:00am (V) 11:15 AM- Story Time: 11:15 a.m. (H) 12:00 PM- Valpo Brown Baggers (V) 2:15 PM- Toddler Time: 2:15 p.m. (H) 3:15 PM- Story Time: 3:15 p.m. (H)</p>	<p>15 All Day- Clever Cooks (Italian Cuisine) Registration (V) 9:30 AM- Preschool Story Hour 9:30am (V) 10:45 AM- Preschool Story Hour 10:45am (V) 11:15 AM- Summer Reading: Grades K-2nd (V) 1:00 PM- Preschool Story Hour 1:00pm (V) 2:15 PM- Summer Reading: Grades K-2nd (V) 2:15 p.m. (H) 2:30 PM- Drop-in Teen Craft (Fringed Infinity Scarf) (V)</p>	<p>16 All Day- Pajama Party Registration (V) 9:30 AM- Toddler Time 9:30am (V) 11:15 AM- Summer Reading: Grades 3rd-5th 11:15 a.m. (H) 1:30 PM- Novel Ideas Book Discussion (H) 2:15 PM- Summer Reading: Grades 3rd-5th 2:15 p.m. (H) 4:00 PM- Want to volunteer? Adopt-a-Sheif Training (V) 7:00 PM- Learn Sign Language (K)</p>	<p>17 10:00 AM- Book Babies (V) 11:00 AM- Want to volunteer? Adopt-a-Sheif Training (V) 11:15 AM- Summer Reading: Young Adults 11:15 a.m. (H) 2:15 PM- Summer Reading: Young Adults 2:15 p.m. (H)</p>	<p>18 10:00 AM- Beginning Oil Painting (P) 10:00 AM- Book Babies (V) 10:30 AM- Writing Workshop for Adults (P) 10:30 AM- Mother Goose on the Loose (S) 1:00 PM- One-Stroke Painting (S)</p>
<p>20 2:00 PM- Monday, Movie (H) 3:30 PM- Riving Dance Recital (V) 6:00 PM- Internet Searching-Card Catalog Training for Patrons (S)</p>	<p>21 All Day- Discussion Shiver/Linger Registration (V) All Day- Amazing Artists Henna Tattoos Registration (V) 9:30 AM- Toddler Time 9:30am (V) 10:15 AM- Toddler Time: 10:15 a.m. (H) 11:00 AM- Toddler Time 11:00am (V) 11:15 AM- Story Time: 11:15 a.m. (H) 2:15 PM- Toddler Time: 2:15 p.m. (H) 3:15 PM- Story Time: 3:15 p.m. (H)</p>	<p>22 All Day- Fossil Hunters Registration (V) 9:30 AM- Preschool Story Hour 9:30am (V) 10:45 AM- Preschool Story Hour 10:45am (V) 11:15 AM- Summer Reading: Grades K-2nd (V) 1:00 PM- Preschool Story Hour 1:00pm (V) 2:15 PM- Summer Reading: Grades K-2nd (V) 2:15 p.m. (H)</p>	<p>23 All Day- American Girl Kanani Aloha Spirit Registration (V) 9:30 AM- Toddler Time 9:30am (V) 11:15 AM- Summer Reading: Grades 3rd-5th 11:15 a.m. (H) 2:00 PM- Amazing Artists: Murals (V) 2:15 PM- Summer Reading: Grades 3rd-5th 2:15 p.m. (H) 7:00 PM- Kouts Pageturners (K) 7:00 PM- Portage Reading Circle (P)</p>	<p>24 10:00 AM- Book Bingo (V) 11:15 AM- Summer Reading: Young Adults 11:15 a.m. (H) 2:15 PM- Summer Reading: Young Adults 2:15 p.m. (H)</p>	<p>25 10:30 AM- Writing Workshop for Adults (P) 10:30 AM- Mother Goose on the Loose (S) 1:30 PM- LEGO Club (S) 2:30 PM- Crayon Critters (P)</p>
<p>27 9:00 AM- Lego Club Registration (V) 2:00 PM- Monday, Movie (H) 3:00 PM- Flexible Fun Yoga (V) 7:00 PM- South Haven Bookends (S)</p>	<p>28 All Day- Teen Book Bingo Registration (V) 10:15 AM- Toddler Time: 10:15 a.m. (H) 11:15 AM- Story Time: 11:15 a.m. (H) 12:00 PM- Movie Discussion Group (V) 2:15 PM- Toddler Time: 2:15 p.m. (H) 3:15 PM- Story Time: 3:15 p.m. (H) 4:00 PM- Tasting Tour at Noodles & Co. (V)</p>	<p>29 All Day- Clever Cooks (Fair Food) Registration (V) 11:15 AM- Summer Reading: Grades K-2nd 11:15 a.m. (H) 2:00 PM- Bone Density Screening (P) 2:00 PM- Clever Cooks Italian Cuisine (V) 2:15 PM- Summer Reading: Grades K-2nd 2:15 p.m. (H) 6:00 PM- Tasting Tour at Noodles & Co. (V)</p>	<p>30 All Day- Super Hero Party Registration (V) 9:00 AM- Pajama Party Registration (V) 10:00 AM- American Flag Bead Craft (V) 11:15 AM- Summer Reading: Grades 3rd-5th 11:15 a.m. (H) 2:15 PM- Summer Reading: Grades 3rd-5th 2:15 p.m. (H) 7:00 PM- Pajama Party Caribbean (V)</p>	<p>For detailed information about these programs, check our website: www.pcppls.lib.in.us Or call the branch library: Hebron(H) 996-3684 Kouts(K) 766-2271 Portage(P) 763-1508 South Haven(S) 759-4474 Valparaiso(V) 462-0524</p>	

GET GRAPHIC AT YOUR LIBRARY!

Get into “visual reads” by checking out graphic novels, manga, comic books, and comic strips at your library. The Porter County Public Library has a great collection that just keeps growing.

Graphic Novel

What’s a graphic novel? It’s usually a self-contained story (novel) told through a combination of art and words. A graphic novel looks similar to a comic book (and sometimes it’s called one—crazy, huh?). They can be about real people and events, or completely fiction. There are graphic novels for kids and teens, but a lot of them are aimed at adults.

Check out *King: A Comic Book Biography* by Ho Che Anderson. It’s a young adult graphic novel based on the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. Were you a big fan of the *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* TV show? When the show ended, the creator Joss Whedon, continued it in graphic novel form! Take a look at *Long Way Home*, Buffy’s 8th season. Did you see the new Star Trek movie last year? Why did the villain Nero blame Spock and the Vulcans for the destruction of his homeworld? Read the graphic novel, *Star Trek: Countdown*. It reveals the events that led up to the movie. What about that *Watchmen* movie from a few years back? It was based on the adult graphic novel by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons. Superheroes are watching over the people of the world, protecting them. But who’s watching the superheroes? Does the end ever justify the means? What separates a hero from a vil-

lain? Read *Watchmen*, the only graphic novel to win the Hugo Award and be ranked by *Time* magazine as “one of the 100 best English-language novels from 1923 to the present.”

Manga

A manga is a comic book written and drawn in the Japanese style (you even have to read it from “back” to “front” because that’s the way Japanese is written). Manga comics usually follow a storyline over the course of several books. Sometimes it’s confused with anime, which is the cartoon version of a manga series.

PCPLS has several popular manga comics. Check out *Naruto*, the story of a young ninja who dreams of being the strongest ninja ever! Read *Bleach*, the adventures of Ichigo, a young man who is suddenly gifted with amazing powers—powers he must use to defend the innocent from evil spirits. If you’re not into action stories with a lot of fighting, try *Fruits Basket*. Tohru Honda finds herself orphaned and forced to fend for herself. Her life changes forever when she meets the Sohmas, a family cursed with a terrible secret. We also subscribe to a magazine called Shonen Jump. It has several manga comics serialized inside. Read the new issue every month to keep up with the stories.

We also have a few mangas for younger kids (but big kids love them, too!). Check out *Dragonball* and *Dragonball Z*—the adventures of Goku and his friends as they try to collect magical golden balls that will summon a wish-granting

dragon!
Or take a

look at *Baby Mouse*. She’s a little mouse with one big imagination.

Comic Books

Comic books aren’t just for kids anymore! Most of them have very sophisticated stories that appeal to adults. While we don’t carry individual issues of comics, we do have a lot of trade paperbacks. A trade paperback is a collection of individual comics that usually follows a continuous story or theme.

Check out *Wonder Woman: Love and Murder*, a collection of five issues of the comic written by acclaimed fiction author, Jodi Picoult. In her secret identity as Diana Prince, government agent, Wonder Woman is assigned to track down... Wonder Woman! Will she be able to keep her identity hidden from the government? *Batman: The Killing Joke* is an important story in the Batman universe. When his most insane enemy, the Joker, kidnaps Commissioner Gordon and his daughter, Batman rushes to save them. Will he be in time, or will the Joker change Batman’s world forever? Are you a Spider-man fan? Take a look at *The Essential Spider-man*. We have several volumes of this trade paperback that collect some of the best and most important stories in Spider-man’s life. We also have several trade paperbacks from the Ultimate Universe Spider-man series. How about *The Essential Wolverine*? Read some of the best stories from the history of one of Marvel’s most memorable mutants, the metal-clawed tough guy, Wolverine.

Comic Strips

Comic strips are a single panel of art or several panels in a "strip". Often these are humorous little mini-stories seen in newspapers. For some good laughs, check out the adventures of a mischievous boy and his "stuffed" tiger in *The Calvin and Hobbes Tenth Anniversary Book*. Look back at some of the best of that loveable orange tabby, Garfield, in *Garfield: 30 Years of Laughs and Lasagna*. Have a more warped sense of humor? Try any of the *Far Side Gallery* collections by Gary Larson.

Recommended Reads

Here are some other good reads about visual books and the world of comics, manga, and graphic novels. *Drawing Words, Writing Pictures*

by Jessica Abel and Matt Madden

- *The Best American Comics* (2010) ed. By Neil Gaiman (A collection of some of the year's best comics and graphic novels)



- *Kirby: King of Comics* by Mark Evanier (The biography of Jack Kirby, the legendary cartoonist)
- *Men of Tomorrow: Geeks, Gangsters and the Birth of the Comic Book* by Gerard Jones

- *DC Comics Year by Year: A Visual Chronicle* by Alan Cowsill
- *Marvel: Five Fabulous Decades of the World's Greatest Comics* by Les Daniels
- *Understanding Comics* by Scott McCloud
- *Draw Your Own Manga* by Haruno Nagatomo
- *Understanding Manga and Anime* by Robin Brenner
- *The Anime Encyclopedia: A Guide to Japanese Animation since 1917* by Jonathan Clements and Helen McCarthy
- *The Funnies: 100 Years of America's Best Comic Strips* by Ron Goulart
- *How to Draw Cartoons for Comic Strips* by Christopher Hart

Donna Smith, Head of Portage Reference

Friends of the Library News



Spring is finally in the air, and the FRIENDS are in "spring mode," as well. Currently, we have a membership of 365 members, of which 56 are new to our organization. There are 118 members from 2010 that have not yet renewed, so if you are one of those, please send your envelope for renewal. You may place it in the mail, or save yourself a stamp and give it to the circulation desk at your library branch. With the anticipation of those renewals added to our current membership, we project a membership of 483 members. And, if we could add 17 additional members, we would be at the magic number of 500, which would be a new high point! Please encourage family and friends to help us achieve this target!!

A new Board member has been introduced from Kouts. Her name is **Jeri Fork**, and she is a retired English teacher.



She and her husband moved from Carmel a few years ago, and she is

involved in the monthly reading group at her branch. We welcome her to the Board, and know she will be an asset to us and as the representative of the Kouts branch, as well.

The **Volunteer Luncheon** invitations will soon be in the mail. A light luncheon will be served at the Valparaiso Library on **May 16th at 11:30 am**. The food is prepared and served by the Board members to those who have been volunteers during the past year, working at book sales or in the book rooms. The Board does this to show our appreciation of your support of the FRIENDS and to your work with the Porter County Library System. Please call your RSVP to one of the Board members listed on the invitation by May 6th so we can plan for food and gifts, and we look forward to seeing you at the Luncheon.

We have confirmation of our program for the **Fall Annual Meeting, to be held Oct. 3rd**. Coming to us from Charleston, Illinois, B.F. and Dorothy

McClerren will be the featured speakers, and they will present a portrayal of President Abe and Mary Todd Lincoln. Please mark this date on your calendar.

With the changing of the seasons, one of the rituals (and duties) is spring cleaning. As you find books and magazines which you enjoyed on those snowy days of winter, please bring them to the library, to replenish the stock in our book rooms and book carts. We also sell DVD's and audio books, and these are welcome, as well. There is a book sale at the South Haven library on April 27-30, and Portage will have a book sale on June 8-11. Your membership in the FRIENDS entitles you to attend the Preview night of each sale. When you bring your membership card to a sale, book room, or cart, you can have it punched for a free 75 cent book.

Have a great Spring, and thank you for being a part of the FRIENDS!

Lois Thurner-president



Database Spotlight-ALLDATA Online Database

The sun-roof is leaking in your Pontiac Bonneville. Your brakes are squeaking in your Honda Civic. Your cd player needs tweaking in your Chevy Silverado. Why not take a look at Porter County Public Library's in-house database, **ALL-DATA**? **ALL-DATA** has a wealth of information about vehicle repair for the everyday consumer to the experienced mechanic. **ALL-DATA** is available at all branches of the Porter County Public Library System.

ALL-DATA is divided into four sections: Select Vehicle, New TSB's, Shop Operations, and Technicians Reference. The first section is Select Vehicle, you click the year, make, model and engine type to access information about your auto or truck. Data is compiled from 1982 to present-day. Once you are in the vehicle's level, you will get more selections. Choose the area you are interested in, for example, "Heating and Air Conditioning." You will then get a more detailed list of components such as "Blower Motor", "Cabin Temperature Sensor/Switch", "Refrigerant" and many more, depending upon your initial selection. Once chosen, you can get information on service and repair such as the parts needed, the cost of the parts, and the skill level and labor involved. If you decide to fix it yourself, there are diagrams and directions. There

are part and repair estimates if you decide to have a mechanic do the work. Recall information may be available and you may print out any information for ten cents a page.

The second section is New Technical Service Bulletins (TSB's), which inform vehicle owners and mechanics about previous and ongoing problems with certain cars and trucks. Vehicles are listed alphabetically with the number of TSB's and the most recent TSB. Dates TSB's were issued and posted are also available. An individual TSB may contain the symptom, the probable cause, the corrective action, the parts information, the warranty claim information, the diagnosis, the repair procedure and in most instances, the approximate time needed for the repair procedure.

The third section is Shop Operations which provides information to help the shop owner, the service advisor, the mechanic and you, the driver, keep your vehicle in tip-top shape. For the technician, there are comprehensive inspection forms and system checklists. For the customer there are forms for keeping a repair history and assessing driveability issues. There are symptom checklists for engine performance, air conditioning, brakes, and alignment. There is a diagnostic worksheet for suspension,

handling, body noises, rattles and squeaks. There is even a worksheet for water intrusion and wind noise. Answers to common customer questions such as, "How often should oil and filter be changed?", "What does it mean when the ABS Warning light comes on?", and, "What can make an engine overheat?" may be found at **ALL-DATA**. There is also a glossary to help you understand the unfamiliar words and the plethora of acronyms used in the automotive field.

The fourth section is Technician's Reference. It mainly provides information for the repair and maintenance technician. This section is sub-divided further. Specialty Tools and Equipment will lead you to a website which has an abundance of tools and equipment, and their usage. Timing Belt Service Intervals and Tire Pressure Monitor Reset Procedures are available for American, European and Asian vehicles. Conversions, Tables and Formulas include Tap and Drill Sizes in both Metric and US Customary Units. There are also conversion tables for length, liquid, area, temperature and wire size.

If you are the average vehicle owner or the highly trained and experienced auto mechanic, **ALL-DATA** is the database for you!

Nancy Wellons Head of Kouts Reference

Check out pictures from VPL's Business After Hours event held on March 17, 2011.



Valparaiso Public Library recently held a Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours Event.

This mixer allows members to get to know each other and showcase their businesses. Each month a different business plays hosts. The Valparaiso Public Library had refreshments, drawings, and lots of PCPLS information to offer guests. Thank you to all who attended, the Friends of the Library for sponsoring the event, and the library staff who helped make this event a success!



Youth Services: Book Review



This year's theme for Summer Reading is "One World, Many Stories," and there are so many fantastic books that explore themes related to travel and world culture, it's impossible to narrow it down to one or two. Stories are one of the best ways we can explore other cultures, and our library cards work like free passports to other lands and times. Visit your Porter County Public Libraries this summer for these titles, as well as countless other "travel opportunities!"

PICTURE BOOKS

Global Babies developed by Global Fund for Children (2007). A great introduction to world cultures for your youngest readers, this stunning board book features photos of babies from all over the globe.

Larue across America: Postcards from the Vacation by Mark Teague (2011). Mrs. LaRue takes a cross-country drive with her neighbor's cats and her own dog, Ike, who keeps the cats' owner informed of their misadventures through a series of postcards. Hilarious illustrations enhance this delightful story about reluctant travel companions.

My Granny Went to Market: A Round-the-World Counting Rhyme by Stella Blackstone (2005). A child's grandmother travels around the world, buying things in quantities that illustrate counting from one to ten. Fantastic colorful pictures make this cultural counting book a real delight.

The Three Little Dassies by Jan Brett (2010). In this adaptation of the tradi-

tional folktale, three little dassies (also called rock hyraxes) build their houses in the Namib Desert of Southern Africa, hoping for protection from the eagle that lives atop a nearby mountain. Cultural clues abound in the beautifully-detailed illustrations.

CHAPTER BOOKS

Northward to the Moon by Polly Horvath (2010). When her stepfather loses his job in Saskatchewan, Jane and the rest of the family set off on a



car trip, ending up in Nevada after improbably being given a bag full of possibly stolen money. Sequel to *My One Hundred Adventures*.

Nory Ryan's Song by Patricia Reilly Giff (2000). When a terrible blight attacks Ireland's potato crop in 1845, twelve-year-old Nory Ryan's courage and ingenuity help her family and neighbors survive.

The Wanderer by Sharon Creech (2000). Thirteen-year-old Sophie and

her cousin Cody record their transatlantic crossing aboard the *Wanderer*, a forty-five foot sailboat, which, along with uncles and another cousin, is en route to visit their grandfather in England.

MEMOIRS

Fatty Legs: A True Story by Christy Jordan-Fenton (2010). A personal narrative about an Inuit girl who goes to an off-reservation boarding school, and has her cultural identity threatened, but finds the necessary inner strength to survive and thrive.

When My Name Was Keoko by Linda Sue Park (2002). With national pride and occasional fear, a brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive occupation of Korea by Japan during World War II, which threatens to suppress Korean culture entirely.

FUN-FILLED TRAVEL SERIES

Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures. The newest title in this series is *The African Safari* (#6) by Josh Greenhut (2011), in which Flat Stanley, his father, and his brother travel to Africa in search of a recently discovered flat skull, hoping it will provide clues to Stanley's condition.

Magic Tree House. The newest title in this series is *A Crazy Day With Cobras* (#45) by Mary Pope Osborne, in which Jack and Annie are whisked away to India during the Mogul Empire in the 1600s to search for an emerald needed to break a magic spell.

Willow Cataldo-Head of Valparaiso Youth Services



**Wanted:
Lego®
Blocks!**

Help support our new Lego Clubs by donating new or gently-used Lego® Blocks to your nearest branch. Call you local branch for more information about this fun program!



BETWEEN THE STACKS

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Reading Takes You Places



Valparaiso Public Library, 462-0524
103 Jefferson Street
Valparaiso, IN 46383
M-Th 9-9pm; F 9-6pm; Sat 9-5pm

Portage Public Library, 763-1508
2665 Irving Street
Portage, IN 46368
M-Th 9-9pm; F 9-6pm; Sat 9-5pm

South Haven Public Library, 759-4474
403 West 700 North
Valparaiso, IN 46385
M,W 10-9pm; T,Th,F 10-6pm; Sat 9-5pm

Hebron Public Library, 996-3684
201 W. Sigler Street
Hebron, IN 46341
M,W 10-9pm; T,Th,F 10-6pm; Sat 9-5pm

Kouts Public Library, 766-2271
101 E. Daumer Road
Kouts, IN 46347
M,W,F 10-6pm; T,Th 10-9pm; Sat 9-5pm

Mission Statement

We believe that libraries can change people's lives and are a cornerstone of our democracy. The mission of the Porter County Public Library System is to provide all residents of the library district with a comprehensive collection of materials in a variety of media that records human knowledge, ideas and culture and to organize these materials for ready access. The library encourages the love of reading and the joy of learning, and offers the assistance people need to find, evaluate, and use electronic and print information resources that help them live successful and rewarding lives.

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