SLRLN NET NEWS

Fall 2014

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS:

We are pleased to welcome four new council members to the Saint Louis Regional Library Network: Brian McFerron of Vatterott College; Chris Pryor of St. Louis County Library; and Meredith McCarthy of Jefferson County Library (council Secretary.) Lynn Grimshaw Maitz of De Smet Jesuit High School (council Treasurer) has been reelected to her second term.

TECH EXPO Call for proposals

We are currently seeking proposals for the February 25, 2015 Tech Expo. Conducting presentations, sharing new strategies and exchanging ideas opens the door for St. Louis regional librarians & staff to discuss what we do best in our libraries. Please consider topics such as: Google Analytics, needs assessment, patron privacy, copyright, or low-budget solutions. Go to: http://slrln.org for more information.
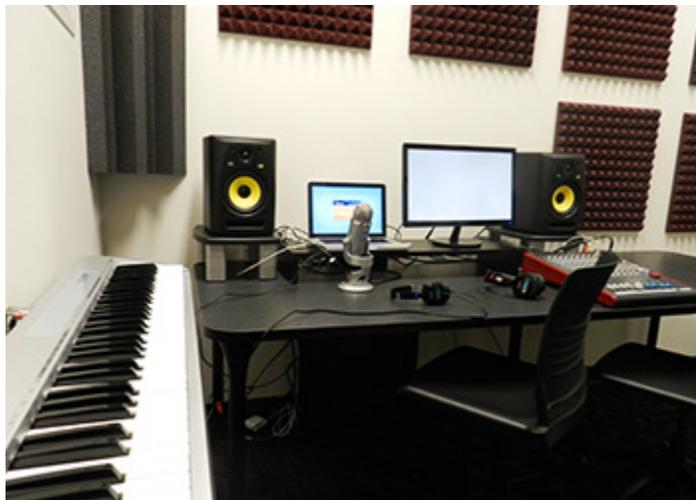
Call for SLRLN History

The SLRLN council is compiling a history of the organization to share with the public. We would love any helpful information you may have regarding the original grant that started the state-wide library system; how the Saint Louis Regional Library Network continued independantly; any events that we used to hold, but no longer do; and any other useful data you may have. Please contact heidivix29@webster.edu if you have anything you would like to share with the group. Thank you!

Creative Experience Center Tour, November 5, 2014

Roughly 25 librarians from the area took a tour of the Creative Experience, a digital maker space, at the St. Louis Public Library on November 5 as well as a tour of the historic building. The digital maker space included ideal hardware and software for patrons to create and publish digital media including audio, video, photo, print, and interactive content. The space is for those who are learning new digital media techniques, honing their skills, and even expert-level users. Patrons can learn on their own by watching video tutorials on

Recording Studio at SLPL
http://www.slpl.org/images/cexp/recordingroom_1.jpg

Lynda.com in the Experience Center or through workshops at the library. An example of the capabilities in this Center include composing and editing music on one of their four collaborative group pods in the room, or, for a more professional sound, the recording studio.

Message from the President

The St. Louis Regional Library Network is in some ways a very different organization than it was just a few years ago. For many years we were known largely for the INFO-PASS program that facilitated cross-library borrowing for many patrons. For the past fifteen years we've also sponsored the annual Tech Expo each winter. But regional and inter-library cooperation have only increased during the past generation, and technology has become so ubiquitous that a librarian typically has multiple resources for learning about what's new. In such a changing environment, what is the appropriate function and purpose of SLRLN? This is the question that has guided the Network Council over the past three years or so, and the answers have resulted in numerous changes in what we do and how we do it.

Today SLRLN exists to provide opportunities and forums for libraries and librarians in our region to share resources and knowledge. These opportunities and forums fall into four categories:

1. The Shared Calendar. SLRLN's web site hosts a Google calendar that shows events and meetings for various professional library groups in our area, including the St. Louis chapter of SLA, the Greater St. Louis Library Club, and others. This is a great way for you to see what other librarians are up to, and to discover events that would help or interest you outside your normal circles. If your library organization would like to be included, contact SLRLN. It's easy!

2. Seasonal Forums. We have expanded from the winter Tech Expo to now sponsoring one event every season. The Tech Expo continues (in fact the call for presenter proposals just went out), but in addition we have held a Spring Speakers Series the past few years in conjunction with our annual members' meeting, and we sponsor professional workshops in the summer (easier for school librarians to attend) and autumn. Some events we arrange and host ourselves; others we co-sponsor with area libraries or professional organizations. It's a full slate that keeps us busy planning year-round, but these are chances for librarians to learn, share, and grow – all the things SLRLN exists to promote.

3. Co-op Purchasing Program. We have negotiated discounted rates for our member libraries with several vendors. This program has been in place for some time, but may not be as widely known as it could be. To see what vendors are included and whether your library could benefit, visit our Co-op page on our web site.

4. INFO-PASS. Yes, the Info-Pass program remains in place. SLRLN polled member libraries about this program last year and it received a resounding endorsement. School libraries in particular benefit from the program, but libraries of all types participate. More information on the Info-Pass is also available on the SLRLN web site.

SLRLN has evolved from a regional remnant of Missouri's former state library system, to a venue for cooperative buying and inter-library lending, to today's facilitator of regional library activity, cooperation, and communication. We want to be a hub through which librarians, libraries, and St. Louis library organizations can come together and benefit from one another's endeavors and expertise. We hope you can join us in making it happen.

Eric R. Stancliff
President, SLRLN Council

Local Happenings: Webster University Library adds interactive group work spaces

In response to the needs of their patrons, Webster University Library recently added two areas for students to display their laptop screens on a large group monitor. The technology that enables this interactivity also allows users to seamlessly switch between feeds, taking away many of the barriers to group work.

This is a refreshing change from more traditional collaborative work spaces where information is controlled and shared by one person at a time. The new areas democratizes how groups can access and share information. So far, the spaces have been a hit with both students and faculty.

If you would like more information on the vendors who supplied the hardware, please contact Heidi Vix, heidivix29@webster.edu.

Dates to Remember

December 8, 2014: Tech Expo Submission Deadline
February 25, 2015: Tech Expo, Logan University

Contact Us

St. Louis Regional Library Network
c/o Amigos Library Services
1190 Meramec Station Road, Suite 207
Ballwin, MO 63021-6902
800-843-8482 x2895
Fax: 636-529-1396
slrln@amigos.org

SLRLN

St. Louis Regional Library Network provides opportunities and forums for local libraries and librarians to share resources and knowledge. The Network has been active since the 1970s and currently has over 100 members, including public, academic, school, special, and corporate libraries.

http://slrln.org

St. Louis Regional Library Network