Grants 101

Grant money is a great way to fund new programs and services at your library, but if you’ve never applied for one, the process can be intimidating. Luckily there are countless resources available to grant seekers, many of which focus specifically on grants for libraries.

APLS recently added Winning Grants: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians with Multimedia Tutorials and Grant Development Tools by Pamela H. MacKellar and Stephanie K. Gerding to the collection. This book goes over the entire grant process from designing the grant project and writing a winning grant proposal to implementing the project once you get funding.

Author Stephanie Gerding also hosted a webinar on WebJunction giving practical grant advice for beginners. The session is archived here: http://learn.webjunction.org/course/view.php?id=51. Please note you must have a WebJunction account to view the webinar. WebJunction accounts are free and allow you to access hundreds of archived webinars, self-paced courses, and other library resources.

Have you had success in getting grants for your library? We’d love to hear about it. Email your experience to pr@apls.state.al.us to be featured in APLSeeds.

Ragland Halloween

Ragland Public Library opened from 4 pm to 8 pm on Halloween for trick or treating. 394 people showed up!
Homewood Teens

Homewood Public Library is excited to start a partnership with Kaplan Test Prep to offer a series of free ACT practice test for teens. On September 5th, over 130 teens participated in the free program.

Additionally, the library is proud to present their new Teen Advisory Board (TAB). Over 20 teens applied to be on TAB, and they are looking forward to helping make their space at Homewood.

The Teen Anime Club was recently treated to a sushi class. Teens were able to learn the art of making delicious sushi.

Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Is your community aware of The Alabama Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (BPH)? This division of APLS distributes recorded materials, playback equipment, and Braille to qualifying Alabama residents for free. Those who meet the following criteria are eligible:

- Legally blind
- Unable to see standard print with corrected vision
- Have a physical limitation that makes it difficult to hold a book or turn its pages
- Certified by a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy as having a reading disability due to an organic dysfunction

No one should have to give up his or her love of reading due to an impairment or disability. If you know of someone in your community that could use these services, be sure to get them in touch with a BPH Reader Advisor. Call 1-800-392-5671 to start the process today.

Satsuma Public Library is excited to have three new interns from the local high school. They are also tech tutors for the library’s adult computer program and the children’s reading program. They have been a great asset to the library.
Birmingham News

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, Birmingham Public Library (BPL) hosted a talk and book signing by Jan Jarboe Russell, author of the New York Times bestseller, *The Train to Crystal City: FDR’s Secret Prisoner Exchange Program and America’s Only Family Internment Camp During World War II*. The book, published this year to wide critical acclaim, recounts the dramatic and never-before-told story of a secret FDR-approved American internment camp in Texas during World War II, where thousands of families were incarcerated. Russell’s visit was made possible by a grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

BPL also recently hosted a screening of the short documentary film *Jesse Speeks*. Writer and filmmaker Sonya Mitchell of Birmingham came up with the idea that culminated in the 13-minute documentary after first noticing a young man, Jesse Miller, joyously greeting all of the people he encountered at the Trussville YMCA. Intrigued by his behavior, Ms. Mitchell later learned that Jesse suffers from autism, a brain disorder that makes communicating and socializing with others difficult. Although originally intended to be a story about one exceptional autistic person, the documentary evolved into an awareness piece about autism. The documentary premiered at Birmingham’s Sidewalk Film Festival in August 2014.

Chilton’s Courtyard Makeover

The Chilton-Clanton Public Library refreshed their courtyard. The Master Gardeners in the county donated their time and plants to give the space a makeover. Patrons enjoy reading and using the WiFi in the area.

At Magnolia Springs

Magnolia Springs Public Library recently received their second Libri Foundation Grant with an additional donation of math and science books from Bill Strawbridge and Meg Wallhagen. Congratulations, Magnolia Springs!

Athens Writing Class

Athens-Limestone Public Library recently began hosting The Goosebumps Writing Hour, an eight-week writing class. The classes, written and designed by R.L. Stine, author of the *Goosebumps* series, will be held weekly for 5th through 8th graders. Library staff members who have experience in writing and publishing will teach the Goosebumps Writing Hour.

The R.L. Stine Writing Program is designed to help students overcome their anxiety about writing by providing a writing process that can be followed in a step-by-step manner. Stine gives tips and strategies for finding ideas to write about, developing characters and plots, and revising work. After completing the creative writing program, students will know how to think of ideas, develop those ideas, analyze their own writing, and avoid writer’s block.

Stine has written over three hundred books and has sold over 350 million copies, making him one of the best-selling children’s authors in history. He says, “All of the activities and techniques I’ve included in this guide are designed to help students get over their anxiety about writing. I hope that while working with this material, they will learn that everyone has access to many ideas—and that no page or computer screen needs to stay blank for long. I hope your students find this program fun and helpful. As many readers know, I scare kids for a living, but I want them to know that when it comes to writing, there’s nothing scary about it!”
Alabaster Programs

A young patron shows off the structure he created during the Lego League on September 8th at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster.

Boys and girls played musical beach towels and lingo bingo, danced, and made a surfboard craft on September 22nd during Teen Beach Movie Mania.

Health InfoNet News

Kay Hogan Smith, Professor and Community Services Librarian, has announced her intention to step down as director of Health InfoNet of Alabama effective January 1, 2016. Health InfoNet of Alabama is a free, award-winning consumer health information service of the state’s medical and public libraries. Ms. Smith has directed the project since it began in 1999. Under her leadership, Health InfoNet grew from a local collaboration between UAB Lister Hill Library and the Jefferson County public libraries to a statewide effort including over 200 public libraries, the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library, and numerous supporting organizations.

In addition to providing access to reliable, current health information relevant to users’ needs and assistance via the public libraries or the web site (www.healthinfonet.org), the Health InfoNet project promotes training of public libraries’ staff in medical reference services and collection development consultation. The website also includes a searchable database of health services throughout the state. Ms. Smith will continue to maintain the web site and database of services. A search is currently under way to identify a new project leader.

Kay Hogan Smith (below left) received recognition and a special thank you award from the Health InfoNet of Alabama Advisory Panel. Melinda Shelton (below right), Health InfoNet Advisory Panel member and librarian with the Birmingham Public Library, presented the award.

Children had fun during the September 29th session of the Pete the Cat Book Club. They read and discussed the library book *Train Trip*, viewed a display of other library books about trains, performed a reader’s theater, played Pete the Cat bingo, and made a craft.
In October, Winfield Public Library hosted their Third Annual Zombie Walk for Literacy. 67 people participated in the walk. In addition to the walk, there was a brain eating contest (seen below) and best dressed zombie contest.

2 Resources, 1 Goal: Helping Alabama Succeed

LearningExpress Library & HomeworkAlabama

- Online Tutoring for Grades K-12
- College Placement Resources
- Help for all ages and all skill levels
- Certification Test/GED Preparation
- Career Resources

Find both on the APLS Resources and Research Links Page