

The Voice of the Fond du Lac County Libraries

Ten Reasons Why You Still Need Your Public Library In The Internet Age

10. Your Brain – Use It Or Lose It

Recent research supports the idea that mental exercise provided by reading and thinking — from early childhood through old age — increases the brain's capacities and long-term health. Your public library is an excellent resource for brain-building tools.

9. Knowledge Is Power

What you know is an important part of who you are and it gives you the power to act. Knowledge emerges when a person wrestles with the ideas, opinions and arguments of others. Books (whether ink-on-paper or electronic texts) are a great source of ideas, opinions and arguments. Think of the public library as your knowledge utility.

8. Stories Are Magic

A well-told story will take you far away in time and space; it can even put you inside the life of a person very different from you. The powerful magic of stories transforms lives, whether told aloud to a group of wide-eyed children or jumping from the pages of the latest bestseller. Step inside your public library to see the magic for yourself.

7. The Book – Reports of Its Death Have Been Greatly Exaggerated

The publishers of *Books in Print* put 2004 U.S. book production at more than 195,000 titles, up 14% from the year before and up 72% since 1995. It is clear that most of us still find printed books to be the best package for getting the information we need and the stories we enjoy. Your public library is the place to find them.



6. It's Not "All on the 'Net" & It Probably Won't Be (For A Long, Long Time)

Librarians, archivists and computer scientists have made incredible progress in recent years toward the goal of making human knowledge available in digital formats. Yet, only a small proportion of our records has been digitized. And the long-term integrity and usefulness of computer file formats is still an open issue. The long-term viability of books and paper records is more dependable, although paper records have their own preservation problems.

5. Books and the 'Net are Great, But Libraries Offer Even More

Public libraries are strongly associated with free access to books and the Internet. But they offer much more — videos for entertainment and education; audiobooks for the visually impaired and the commuter; magazines and newspapers that cover the issues of the moment; research databases (often with the full-text of listed articles included); and electronic books. Some public libraries even lend cake pans, garden tools or toys!

4. Libraries Respond To Local Community Needs

Public libraries are rooted in local communities and are always looking for new ways to help. Each public library responds to its community's needs in its own way and to the limits of its own resources. From programs for latch-key kids to non-English language collections to photocopier and fax services, public libraries respond.

3. Access For People from All Walks of Life

Public libraries do not discriminate. They offer riches to people of all races, religions and ethnic backgrounds, whether rich or poor. All the public library asks in return is that users take care of the shared public property they borrow and that they show courtesy to other users by returning items on time.

2. Your Library Buys a Book, So You Can Borrow It (And you, and you, and you...)

Each person involved in creating the cultural products we enjoy — each author, actor, musician, editor, publisher, film director, and others as well — has a monetary stake in the sale of that product. That's why books, videos, and music will continue to be sold and not given away for free. That's why the public library's role of selecting, purchasing and managing a collection of these cultural products to be shared among the people of a particular community will persist. Free access to individuals cannot happen without financial support from the community.

And...The Top Reason Why You Still Need Your Public Library in the Internet Age Is:

1. The Public Library Is A Real Place Where Real People Are Ready to Help You.

Public libraries — like parks, museums and theaters — provide shared spaces where neighbors come together to socialize and to help each other. Library staff are usually your neighbors, too. They are trained and ready to help you find a good story or the information you may need. In a world where leisure time is filled with virtual experiences from electronic media and service is provided by recorded messages, public libraries build community by offering a place where real people may interact.

Jeff Gilderson-Duwe
Library Director
Brown County Library
Green Bay, WI
June 2005

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OAKFIELD

Anyone driving past the library will notice the addition of an outdoor sign in the front of the building. The staff and board are very grateful to the Oakfield Lions' Club and the individuals who donated to make this possible. We hope to post activities not only at the library but also any special events in the village, thereby making the public even more aware of things happening in our community.

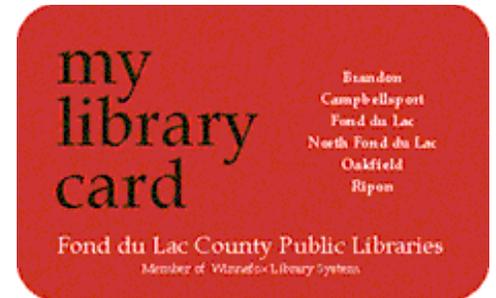
Thank you to all who donated to or bought books at our first annual book sale. It was very successful. Special thanks to Lori DeHaan, assistant librarian, for all her efforts to get it going and to make sure things went smoothly.

Happy 2006 to all of you!! In February we will celebrate the 5th anniversary of our move into the new library. We are very grateful to have this wonderful facility in our village. Thank you to the Village Board for the continued generous support and to our many loyal patrons!! As a token of our gratefulness we will be giving a special gift to all who visit the library in 2006. We will also be featuring the Patron of the Month in the Oakfield Gazette.

Don't forget to warm up with a good book this winter—either at home or in front of the fireplace in the library!

NORTH FOND DU LAC

The Fond du Lac county libraries now have a RED county wide library card. Our library has started to use this version of the card when registering new users. Many people have told us that they like the idea of a red colored card because it's easier to find in their wallets or purses.



Shichi Go San is a popular children's holiday celebrated in Japan on November 15th. Parents give thanks for their children and blessings are asked for a long and healthy life for those children. In honor of Shichi Go San, elementary age children in the North Fond du Lac area were invited to a program at the library which explored Japanese and Chinese cultures. They solved tan gram puzzles, folded origami figures, and sampled fortune cookies.

As a service to our local educators, the library staff pull specific collections of books and media for pre-school classes and daycares on a regular basis. This fall over 34 different collections were put together for their use in their curriculum on a wide variety of subjects.

Spillman Library staff are pleased to welcome the Four Year Old Kindergarten class and both the Head Start morning and afternoon classes to our storytime sessions.

A reminder to write the Library's Annual Used Book (and other materials) Sale on your calendar. This is always held during National Library Week which is from April 2nd-8th this year.

Renee—can you add a graphic of the new card?

BRANDON

The Library Board and staff prepared to welcome a new director, Heather Wegner, effective January 1. She brings enthusiasm for connecting people, especially youth, with good books as well as a knowledge of the latest technologies. Heather holds a degree in education, with her speciality being Language Arts. Since she is an area resident, many of the patrons already know her and are glad to see her smiling face at the director's desk.

The Brandon Library was a busy place this past autumn and early winter. Hot cider and cookies were served to those who visited the Library and lingered to watch the Brandon Christmas Parade in early December. Over seventy people visited the library. Assistant librarian Tylor Loest organized a drive to collect paperbacks, toiletries and other small gifts to be sent to troops serving in the Middle East. This was prompted by the 2005 Village Holiday theme of "serving those who serve."

FOND DU LAC

The year 2005 proved to be the busiest ever for the Fond du Lac Public Library and Bookmobile. A total of 728,744 items were checked out. This is an increase of over 14% from 2004. Fond du Lac moved up from third to second place out of thirty libraries in the Winnefox Library System in terms of total circulation. Also, the door counter shows that in 2005 there were 332,883 visits made to the library!



The Fond du Lac Public Library recently installed new signage in the library.

On January 16 the library hosted a *Kwanzaa Exhibit and Ceremony* to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor Michael Fonkem from Marian College presented a program on African heritage and culture and Rev. Mary Council-Austin, Coordinator of Diversity at Marian, presented a Kwanzaa ceremony.

Once again this year the library and a host of community partners will launch the second annual *Fond du Lac Reads* campaign in March. The series of programs is designed to get as many people in the county as possible to read the same book at the same time. The book, *Population: 485, Meeting Your Neighbors One at a Time*, by Michael Perry, a Wisconsin author, has been selected for the program. The book focuses on the author's experiences while working for the volunteer fire and rescue department in New Auburn, Wisconsin. One of the library's goals is to foster community spirit by providing a forum for public discussion and interaction. One of the events at the library will be a photography exhibit to call attention to volunteer opportunities in the area. Local organizations have been invited to submit a photo that represents the volunteer work available in their agency. The public libraries in Ripon, North Fond du Lac, and Campbellsport will also be participating in *Fond du Lac Reads* this year

During National Library Week in April, the library will sponsor a fundraising effort to benefit the Katrina stricken public library in Biloxi, Mississippi. The Friends of the Library will also hold a book sale for hurricane relief.

On Sunday, April 30 at 1:30 p.m. the library will celebrate *Dia de los Ninos/Dia de los Libros; Day of the Child/Day of the Book*. Kay Weeden, a bilingual storyteller, will present a program for families to enjoy.

RIPON

Holiday Concert at the Ripon Public Library

The Ripon College Choraliers, a student-directed choral group, performed at the library on Sunday, December 11. A crowd of approximately 30 people enjoyed listening to the carols and joined in a sing-along at the end of the performance.

Fond du Lac County Reads: *Population 485*

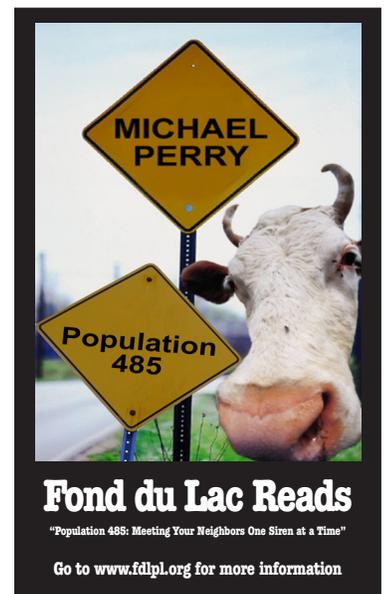
The Ripon Public Library will be participating in the March 2006 Fond du Lac County Reads. A committee selected the book *Population 485: Meeting Your Neighbors One Siren at a Time* by Michael Perry. The library has purchased multiple copies of the book, and the library's book group has chosen it as their March 2006 selection. The group will meet on Monday, March 27 at 7 pm to discuss it.

The library will be hosting a number of events during the month of March. The youth department will host a special children's event celebrating firefighters and firefighting on Saturday, March 11.

Jerry Apps, author of books including *Breweries of Wisconsin* and *Ringlingville USA*, will speak at the library on Sunday, March 12 at 2 pm. His presentation is titled "The Lighter Side of Country Living" and it will tie into the themes of rural life found in *Population 485*. Mr. Apps will also be selling and signing books as part of the event. His appearance is made possible by the Wisconsin Humanities Council and the Friends of the Ripon Public Library.

On Monday, March 20 at 2 pm, Tom Montag will give a presentation on "The Idea of the Local." He will discuss helping people learn to "see" what's right in front of them - the sense of meeting the neighbors and observing daily life in a small town.

All of the events are free and open to the public. They will take place in the meeting rooms on the lower level of the library. Light refreshments will be provided.



Hurricane Katrina Relief

Many Winnefox member libraries have been collecting money to restore damaged libraries in Mississippi. Funds collected here are being sent to the Harrison County Library system. Harrison County includes the communities of Biloxi and Gulfport which were heavily damaged and six of the ten libraries in the county remain closed.

If you wish to contribute you can turn in a check at your local library, made out to 'Winnefox Library System'.

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Sources:

10. Your Brain – Use It Or Lose It: Dr. Robert S. Wilson and colleagues reported on a link between mental activity and prevention of Alzheimer's Disease among a group of 801 Catholic nuns and priests in the following article: "Participation in cognitively stimulating activities and risk of incident of Alzheimer disease," JAMA: the Journal of the American Medical Association.) 2002 Feb 13; volume 287, number 6, pages 742 – 748.

7. The Book – Reports of Its Death....:

1 R.R. Bowker May 24, 2005 Press Release found at: www.bowker.com;
2 R.R. Bowker historical book production statistics found at: www.bookwire.com.

6. It's Not "All on the Net"....: Even while praising the power of Google, Washington Post writer Joel Achenbach acknowledges that: "...most old books remain undigitized. The Library of Congress has about 19 million books with unique call numbers, plus another 9 million or so in unusual formats, but most have not made it onto the Web. That may change, but for the moment, a tremendous amount of human wisdom is invisible to researchers who just use the Internet."
"Search For Tomorrow: We Wanted Answers, And Google Really Clicked. What's Next?" By Joel Achenbach, Washington Post Staff Writer, Sunday, February 15, 2004; Page D01

Jeff Gilderson-Duwe New Director of Winnefox Library System & Oshkosh Public Library

Jeff Gilderson-Duwe has been chosen to replace retiring director John Nichols by the Winnefox Library System and the Oshkosh Public Library boards of trustees. He will start at Winnefox in early January.

Jeff has a wide range of experience in libraries of different sizes around the country. His most recent position was been director of the Brown County Library in Green Bay and he worked as a reference librarian at Oshkosh Public Library from 1989 - 1992.



Shhhout! is published quarterly by the Winnefox Library System to provide news for and about its member libraries in Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara and Winnebago counties. Direct comments and inquiries to:

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Winnefox Library System
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Fond du Lac County Libraries

BRANDON PUBLIC LIBRARY

117 E. Main Street Brandon, WI 53919
920-346-2350
www.brandonlibrary.net
Monday 2-7
Tuesday 2-7
Wednesday 2-7
Friday 10-5
Saturday 9-12

CAMPBELLSPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

220 North Helena Street
Campbellsport, WI 53010
920-533-8534
www.campbellsportlibrary.org
Monday 12-8
Tuesday 12-8
Wednesday 10-6
Thursday 12-8
Friday 10-5

FOND DU LAC PUBLIC LIBRARY

32 Sheboygan Street Fond du Lac, WI 54935
920-929-7080
www.fdlpl.org
Monday 9-8
Tuesday 9-8
Wednesday 9-8
Thursday 9-8
Friday 9-6
Saturday 9-5 (Summer 9-1)
Sunday 12-4 (Summer-closed)

SPILLMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

719 Wisconsin Avenue North Fond du Lac, WI 54937
920-929-3771
www.northfonddulaclibrary.org
Monday 12-8
Tuesday 10-5
Wednesday 10-5
Thursday 12-8
Friday 10-5
Saturday 10-1 (Summer-closed)

OAKFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

130 North Main Street Oakfield, WI 53065
920-583-4552
www.oakfieldlibrary.com
Monday 1-8
Tuesday 9-2
Wednesday 1-8
Thursday 1-8
Friday 1-5

RIPON PUBLIC LIBRARY

120 Jefferson Street Ripon, WI 54971
920-748-6160
www.riponlibrary.org
Monday 10-8
Tuesday 10-8
Wednesday 10-8
Thursday 10-8
Friday 10-8 (Summer 10-6)
Saturday 10-4 (Summer 10-1)
Sunday 1-4 (Summer-closed)