

Adult Services Committee Annual Report 2003-2004

The 2003 fall workshop topic was Science and Technology Reference Resources. This successful workshop was attended by over 60 people. Nancy Wilmes of the Wayne State University Science Library shared ideas about evaluating web sites, science and technology associations, and web resources within the many specific science disciplines. Tom Volkening of Michigan State University included information about patents and trademarks. Karen Reed of the Detroit Science Center showed several student-friendly science and technology web sites. The workshop was hosted by the Plymouth District Library. A new workshop sub-committee was formed to work on the 2004 workshop, which will be on genealogy resources.

Two big projects that the committee undertook this year were the creation of an Equipment List and a Special Collections List. The Equipment List is a resource to help library staff refer patrons to libraries that have particular equipment available to the public, such as scanners, color copy machines, or vision enhancement equipment. The Special Collections List is another referral tool to help patrons find libraries that have particular resources or strong areas, such as microfilm of local newspapers or materials in other languages. Both lists are available on the Adult Services Committee web site at <http://adult-services.tln.lib.mi.us>.

The Adult Services Committee web site also expanded this year to include a book club title exchange, a government documents page, and a business resources page. The book club title exchange allows libraries that purchase multiple copies of books for their book clubs to trade titles or simply borrow from each other. The government documents web page links to often-used and important government document Internet sites. The business resources page links similarly to Internet sites for business people. The business resources page content was submitted by the Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center.

The committee always enjoys meeting in new places and visiting special libraries. This year we visited the Cranbrook Archives in May. Mark Coir, the Director of the archives, led us on a nice tour and introduced us to the services and materials offered by that institution. In June the committee toured the new Ypsilanti District Library. Paula Drummond led us on a tour of that gorgeous new facility. Our last meeting of this year will be held at the newly renovated Farmington Hills Public Library, where we will receive an introduction to the Grants Foundation.

Monthly meetings this year have included discussions on topics like local history collections, online filing for unemployment benefits, dealing with disruptive patrons, CIPA and the USA Patriot Act, levels of excellence and professional standards, and the new Sirsi shared automation system.

The following individuals have graciously volunteered to be officers for the 2004-2005 term:

Karin Boughey (MILF) – Co-Chair
Ed Rutkowski (BRIT) – Co-Chair
Jean Hansen (WATE) – Secretary

We look forward to another productive year as a committee!

Sincerely,

Holly Hibner (SLYN)
Co-Chair 2003-2004

Linda Sutton (OAKL)
Co-Chair 2003-2004