

Adult Services Committee Annual Report 2004-2005

Genealogy was the focus of the 2004 Adult Services Committee Fall Workshop. A panel of three speakers shared their expertise for 72 participants. Carole Callard, Genealogy Specialist, Abrams Foundation Chair of Genealogy at the Library of Michigan discussed traditional resources. Richard Truxall made a presentation on electronic sources. Dewitt Dykes, Associate Professor of History at Oakland University spoke about considerations and resources unique to researching African-American genealogy. The Adult Services Committee wishes to thank the Plymouth District Library for once again hosting the workshop.

The Adult Services Committee web site is still going strong. The web site is updated regularly with the help of Holly Hibner from Salem-South Lyon District Library. The web site not only lists meetings and minutes, but also includes an equipment list, a book club title exchange, information on library programs and International Language resources. The Adult Services Committee web site is available at <http://adult-services.tln.lib.mi.us>. In addition to our regular meetings, members of the Adult Services Committee keep in contact and share information through our list serve at adult-services@tln.lib.mi.us.

We had a number of special guests attend meetings this year to discuss various programs and services that help librarians serve their patrons. Pat Salo from the Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center discussed the services that the center provides to people that wish to start their own business. Debbie Gallagher from the Ann Arbor District Library and government information selector for MeL, talked about how to navigate the new Michigan State government website. Ruth Dukelow from MeL showed us the new MeL site and resources as well as explaining MeLCat.

New technologies played a key role in many of our discussions this year. Holly Hibner and Derek Engi from the Salem-South Lyon District Library demonstrated the use of tablet PCs in their library and brought along a tablet PC for the committee to try. Denise Konchel from the Baldwin Library of Birmingham demonstrated her library's new MP3 players and discussed Baldwin's downloadable books service provided by Recorded Books.

The committee always enjoys visiting new libraries. This year we visited the main branch of the Ann Arbor District Library as well as getting a tour of the new Southfield Public Library.

Monthly meetings this year have also included discussions on topics such as election and voting resources, homework sources, book discussion groups, collection development, iBistro searching tips, statistics, customer service and staff hiring and training. Average attendance at our meetings is about 20 people, from libraries all over the TLN service area.

The following people have volunteered to be officers for the 2005-2006 term:

Margie Harrison (HIGH) – Co-Chair
Paula Gauthier (BRND) – Co-Chair
Karin Conle (WIXM) – Secretary

We look forward to another successful year as a committee.

Respectfully submitted

Karin Boughey (MILF)
Co-Chair 2004-2005

Ed Rutkowski (BRIT)
Co-Chair 2004-2005