

Library Line

www.windsorlibrary.com

Volume 4, Issue 3

July—Sept 2010

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What's the Value of Library Services?

by Gaye Rizzo

Recently a colleague forwarded a link to me from the webpage of a library in Gorham, ME, called "library use value calculator." It asks people to enter the number of times they use a particular library service in a given month to determine the value of that service. For example, if you input the number of books you borrowed or the number of programs you attended or hours of computer use it will calculate the monetary value of each of those services as well as the total value for the month.

For the fun of it I popped some pretend numbers into the calculator: I borrowed 10 books, 1 magazine and 4 movies, attended 1 program, used a computer 5 times and asked 1 reference question for a total of \$289.50. If my pattern stayed the same I would save about \$3,500 each year by using the library. How economical of me!

While I may have learned some interesting facts about the money I saved by borrowing instead of buying, this exercise left me with more questions than answers. It made me wonder whether people use their library simply because it saves them money? And if not, how do you measure the value of the smile you are greeted with as Gail checks out your books and asks how your mother is feeling after her operation? Or, the memories evoked as Barbara reads stories aloud to your children? (The same Barbara who once read stories aloud to you!) Or, the appreciation you feel when Leanne calls with another piece of information that she just found relating to a reference question you asked over a month ago?

I don't think that we will be linking our webpage to a value calculator anytime soon. It would probably do a fine job measuring things like book transactions, programs, and services. What I suspect, though, is that what people value most about the Windsor Public Library are those things that simply cannot be measured.



Learn a Foreign Language on Your Computer

Mango is an online foreign language learning system available in a wide variety of languages. Go to Windsor Public Library's webpage at: www.windsorlibrary.com and try it out with your Windsor library card. What makes Mango great? Mango teaches actual conversation language skills. It uses real-life situations and actual conversations to effectively teach a new language.

Because it's completely web-based, users can learn anywhere they have an Internet connection - at our library, a coffee shop, or even at home on the sofa.

Mango's online system provides everything needed to deliver language learning to library patrons - no training, no downloads and no installation is required!

Do-It-Yourself and Consumer Reports

New Links on www.windsorlibrary.com

Windsor Library recently added several new Internet accessible databases. Take care of all of your do-it-yourself needs. You can look-up automobile repair and recall information, small engine repair schematics, illustrated instructions on fixing a leaky toilet or how to replace a drive belt in your clothes dryer. And, there are hundreds of other topics relating to household fix-it chores. Go to our homepage, click on "Remote Database Access," and select from our 3 EBSCO services; **Auto Repair**, **Small Engine Repair**, or the **Home Improvement Reference Center**.

We have also added access to Consumer Reports Online. Just click on "Remote Database Access" and click on **Consumer Reports**. This will let you browse through all of Consumer Report's current ratings and product reviews.

All of these databases can be used on any library computer. You can also access them from your home computer or laptop by entering your valid Windsor Public Library card number.

Kids Corner

Goodbye to Barbara Tolve-Silver!



Barbara Tolve-Silver has delighted Windsor children and their families with a vast array of imaginative programs and activities since

she started her career here in 1987. As Head of Children's Services, Barbara has created colorful "Kidspace" where youngsters can discover a magnificent collection of books, computers, media, and interactive activities. Her retirement marks 23 years of service and nearly **200,000** participants to her outstanding children's programs.

Teen Zone

Shhhh... I have a secret for you: Teens love to read!

It's the truth. They just don't like to *admit* they love to read. And, they don't always know *what* they love to read. This year, as part of school visits to encourage participation in the teen summer reading program at the library, I personally promoted about 15 books to the hundreds of kids I talked with. By the end of each class, just about every student had found one or two they couldn't wait to read this summer, and they weren't shy about saying so – right in front of their classmates. They followed up on it too. Teens have been coming in by the carload to pick up the books that sparked an interest, and if history proves correct, they will keep coming in all summer. When they can't find what they want, they ask for help. If all of our copies are out, they talk with me (or another librarian) about alternatives. Then, they come back the following week to talk about what they liked (or didn't like!) about the books they're reading. School visits work. Teens love to read, they love to talk about what to read, and they love to talk about what they've read. It's going to be a great summer!

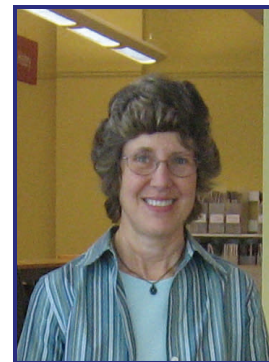
- Amy McCue, Teen Librarian

Sony E-Books, GPS's and Energy Savings... All at the Library!

Thanks to generous donations from Windsor Library Association and private donors, the Windsor Public Library recently added several cool new devices for our patrons to check out. We now loan Sony E-Book Readers, Garmin GPS mapping devices and Kill-A-Watt energy meters. They are available to Windsor residents, 18 years or older with valid Windsor Library cards. If you have seen the advertisements and ever wondered about any of these cool new devices, this is a great way to try them out. Call the library at 860-285-1918 for more information and get on the list to borrow one of these new items.

Farewell to Mary Ellen Johnson

Mary Ellen Johnson is retiring from her Reference Librarian position after 21 years at the Windsor Public Library. In addition to answering thousands of questions over the years Mary Ellen maintained the entire adult materials collection (including periodicals) and its budget. She also ran a successful book discussion group for senior citizens.



Wilson Branch

The renovation project is almost complete at the Branch. Most of the window frames have been installed. The final phase is the window installation and completing the vestibule. The brand new geothermal air unit is in place. Wilson Library is now one of two green buildings in the Town. Staff are excited about the installation of a book drop that will enable them to access returned books from inside the building.

In April, the branch began offering free Introduction to Computer classes and positive feedback has been received! The Birds of Prey program was a success with 22 people in attendance. The tutorial program continues to be popular and we look forward to our start up next school year.

The branch is looking forward to another exciting summer reading program. The Branch gave away 42 tickets for the kick-off celebration and The Wilson Kids were in attendance!



Marvelous Musicals

Movies @ Windsor Public Library

Summer Thursdays

7PM in July & August

Playaways get even better!

Like everyone else, the Playaway team has been busy improving their product. These convenient little preprogrammed MP3 players are in new smaller packages and are now in high definition audio and easier to use. The HD audio version allows you to lock the keys while in play mode, slow down the speed and has shortcut keys for other functions. The improved battery life allows for more playtime. Give them a try - check one out today!