

## Missouri public library circulates genealogy books

Genealogy books will be more accessible than ever to patrons of Missouri's Mid-Continent Public Library. MCPL is setting up a circulating collection of genealogical works at one of its branches. It's a joint project of the library and AFRA (American Family Records Association).

Books will be added from gifts received, and written up in the AFRA quarterly; paperbacks will be bound for greater life; and the books will be cataloged on the OCLC system, making them available to the whole country. Availability through standard interloan procedures will enable house-bound or handicapped persons to use the collection, which is expected to grow to some 50,000 volumes in 20 years.

For a list of the books now available on interloan, contact: Martha L. Meyers, MCPL, North Independence Branch, 15616 E. 24 Highway, Independence, MO 64050.

## Cat spreads good PR at Connecticut library

Fred is a nondescript, black-and-white cat who has been loitering on the premises of the Woodbury Public Library since he came in out of the cold in 1976. A placid, comfortable creature who knows a good thing when he finds it, Fred has been an unobtrusive but pleasant library inhabitant.

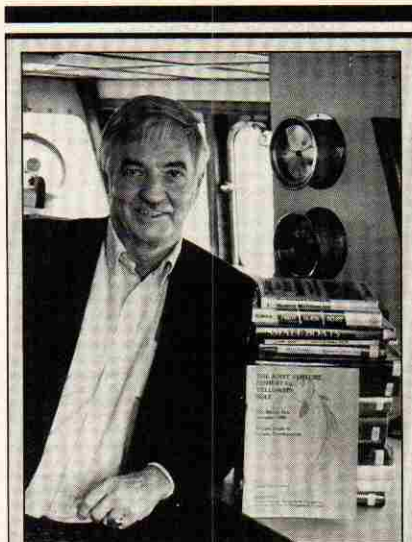
According to the *New York Times* of February 1, he came into the spotlight suddenly when an irate cat-hating patron demanded that Fred be evicted, claiming she could get a heart attack from the terror Fred inspired in her. She took her case to the municipality and then to the Governor, but to no avail.

Her action, however, rallied the townspeople—and cat lovers as far away as Boston—on Fred's side and gave the library a publicity bonanza it couldn't have bought. It looks as though Fred will stay at the library "for the rest of his natural life."

Library trustees have offered to keep Fred out of sight when his only critic comes to the library.

## Asbestos at Cuyahoga branch

The Parma Heights branch of the Cuyahoga County Library System (Ohio) will have to close for as long as three months and move its 50,000-volume collection elsewhere while asbestos fibers in the ceilings are removed. This is the second Cuyahoga branch library to undergo asbestos removal after a study of all the library's facilities pinpointed them as the only ones to be affected.



R. Barry Fisher

## Newport fisherman helps out the library that helped him

Carole Dickerson, director of the Newport Public Library in Oregon, submits this tale of the "fisherman's pledge" from the January 3 *The Oregonian*:

R. Barry Fisher, a 57-year-old Newport fisherman, has pledged to donate \$5000 over the next five years to the Newport Public Library for help he received while planning and organizing a joint-venture yellow-fin sole fishery. His efforts have resulted in about \$70 to \$80 million being "brought back to Oregon."

As Fisher has profited from the joint fishing ventures, he feels a responsibility to pay his "dues" to Newport Public. He says: "it's an old Yankee thing . . . If you're lucky and did well, you had the obligation to help support things."

## St. Louis County fireproofs its built-in book returns

On learning that the new Indian Trails Branch of the St. Louis County Library would have a built-in book return, and remembering last year's California arson case involving a book return slot, *LJ* called St. Louis to see how they handle the problem. The California library, after its incident, went shopping immediately for book return boxes that would stand away from the building.

PR Director Joanne Rogers said that the book returns in St. Louis's branches have been built with arson very much in mind. They were built with concrete block walls and equipped with sprinklers and solid wood or metal doors. The wood doors were built to withstand at least an hour of fire.

## DC library hosts events honoring blacks in cinema

The Audiovisual Division of the District of Columbia Free Library, as one of its events celebrating Black History Month, ran a film/video series in cooperation with the Black Film Institute, now celebrating its tenth anniversary.

The viewing/discussion series was titled "INSULT/INTEGRITY: Historical Analysis of Blacks in American Cinema." The first program featured excerpts from *The Birth of a Nation* and *The Birth of a Race*, along with short films from the Library of Congress Paper Print Collection, in addressing "The Creation of Black Film Stereotypes."

Subsequent programs in the series brought together a priceless collection of classic films rescued from oblivion, and ended with a program of new black independent films.

## Party for 60 puppies in training as guides

On February 8, the New Jersey Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped was hosting a highly unusual covered-dish luncheon. The guests were some 60 puppies and the 4-H Club members who are raising them to be future dog guides for the blind.

The young handlers got information about blindness and its many aspects, and the puppies got what they most need at their age: socialization, to reinforce the learning they get at monthly meetings and events like library tours. It seems the dogs raised in family situations make better guide dogs than those raised in kennels.

## Handicapped children play with specially adapted toys

The Onondaga County Public Library has a collection of some 50 toys adapted specially for the use of children with handicaps that don't allow them to play as other children do.

Project Adapt toys can be used interchangeably with hand or foot switches, a voice activator, and a "puff and sip" straw. The toys, which cost \$80 to \$100, too much for the average parent, can be borrowed with the recommendation of a physical or occupational therapist.

The project was undertaken at the request of a coalition of agencies serving the handicapped. Funding comes from the State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, in addition to support by the library.

