



YART Connections

Teen Tech Week 2010 Learn Create Share @ your Library

By Jordan Triptow
Salt Lake City Library System

Teen Tech Week is the perfect opportunity to host a tech workshop. A tech workshop can be as diverse as a World of Warcraft class aimed at increasing player skill to hosting an interactive résumé writing workshop using reserved library computers. At the Salt Lake City Public Library, we've utilized manga, a Japanese style of comic books or animated cartoons, as a method to teach technical skills without calling it a tech workshop. In promoting a manga workshop, we invite teens to: *Develop your sketching and storyboarding skills. How can you make sure your character designs are original and still fun and appealing?* Without revealing all her secrets, I describe below how our manga expert uses print material as a vehicle to expose teens to technology.



Our manga expert begins the workshop by sharing a website to help hone character sketches with 360 degree clips of muscled human body parts that are anatomically correct, yet still prudie friendly (www.posemaniacs.com). She encourages the participants to get inside their character's head by filling out online personality quizzes as if they were actually him, her, or it. Next, she teaches the class how to arrange manga panels and pages to make them web compatible. Our expert brings her laptop and projects it onto our television. She opens up one of her projects in Photoshop and shows the class how she uses her digital drawing tablet to digitally layer over her scanned pencil sketches. She gives the class computer resources for screentoning, a method to create texture and pattern within the illustration.

Wrapping up the workshop, our expert explains the merits of *doujinshi*, a type of fan fiction in which amateur manga incorporates characters from established publications. She even makes the class aware of online *doujinshi* contest opportunities and online publication resources. My favorite moment from the workshop was when an awkward teenage girl wearing a skull cap with little fox ears had a geek-out bonding moment with our expert over the artwork of an obscure manga artist.



It was really sweet to witness. To find your own manga expert, check with your local comic book store to identify any area talent. Often comic book retailers have a finger on the pulse of the community.

For Teen Tech Week this year we are going to hold a tech workshop trying something new. One of our librarians, Josh Hanagarne, who writes the blog *World's Strongest Librarian*, is going to lead a blogging workshop. He is going to set up the workshop as if a teen approached him with, "So... I've been thinking about starting a blog." We'll see if our class spawns any new blogging superstars. Good Luck!



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**Be more
involved in
YART!**

**Join the
YART Google
Group! Just
email**

utahyart@gmail.com

**and receive
email
updates.**

Creating Connections in West Valley

Young Adult Round Table

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By Melinda Tooley
Hunter Library

Teen Time @ the library

During Teen Tech Week last March, we started a monthly program we call Teen Time. The library system had purchased some gaming systems to use with teens, so we had access to a Playstation and a Wii. The teens have a lot of fun spending a couple of hours playing Dance Dance Revolution, Guitar Hero, Rock Band, Mario Kart, etc.

We find that this kind of activity brings in teens that may not normally participate in our other library programs. It also gives teens that don't know each other an opportunity to meet other teens that share similar interests. Sign up sheets by each of the systems, helps to ensure that everyone gets a turn. Treats and other activities help them to pass the time while they wait for their turn. Some of the extra activities we have done are origami, board games, and inexpensive crafts.

With the interest that teens have in gaming, it is nice to have a way to bring them into the library, where they might just find some books, CDs, or magazines to enjoy as well.



Wii™



Tech Tip

By Kim Jackson
YART Webmaster



With Teen Tech Week coming up this quarter, let's take a few minutes to look at some of the benefits, challenges, and hoopla surrounding gaming in the last year. While you're at it, consider putting together a group to talk about it during Teen Tech Week.

Benefits of Gaming

This article in Edge, an online gaming magazine, cites some fascinating research.

<http://www.edge-online.com/features/the-15-clearest-benefits-gaming>

Game Ratings

M may be for Mature, but what does that really mean? In the post-Grand

Theft Auto world, there are new challenges facing the Entertainment Software Ratings Board. Check out this article from The Escapist magazine.

http://www.escapistmagazine.com/articles/view/issues/issue_223/6647-Obsolescence-Pending-Rating-the-ESRB

Speaking of Game Ratings

It's been almost a year since the Utah legislature passed their version of the Jack Thompson video game distribution bill, which was then vetoed by Governor John Huntsman. Take a few minutes to think about this piece of legislation and what it could have meant for video game distribution, in both stores and libraries.

Here are a few different perspectives to get you started:

<http://www.gamepolitics.com/2009/03/25/breaking-utah-governor-vetoes-video-gamemovie-bill>

<http://lds-law.org/2009/03/26/utah-governor-vetoes-video-game-bill/>

<http://www.ncac.org/NCAC-Letter-to-Utah-Legislature-to-Uphold-Veto-of-Video-Game-Bill>



Teen Tech

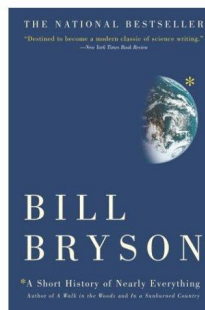
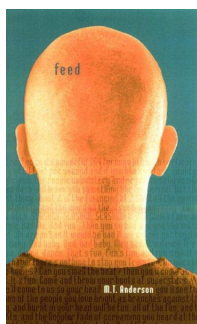


Week Booklist

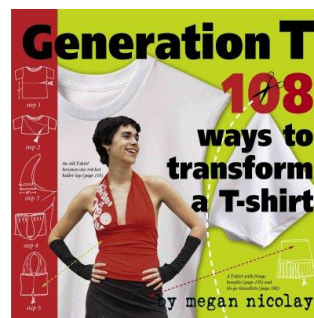
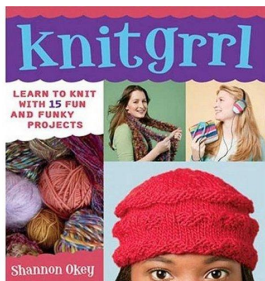
by Carrie Rogers-Whitehead

Kearns Library

March 7th-13th is Teen Tech Week and this year YALSA decided on the broad and open-ended theme of "Learn, Create, Share at your library." There are numerous books, audiobooks, DVDs, and CDs that can fit in this category. Here are a few to get you started on a booklist, display or reading list of your own.



- ◆ *Feed* by M.T. Anderson
- ◆ *Super Crunchers: Why Thinking-By-Numbers is the New Way to Be Smart* by Ian Ayres
- ◆ *A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson
- ◆ *In Search of Mockingbird* by Loretta Ellsworth
- ◆ *Digital Photo Madness: 50 Weird and Wacky Things to do With Your Digital Camera* by Thom Gaines
- ◆ *Manga Mania: How to draw Japanese Comics* by Christopher Hart
- ◆ *I Kill Giants* by Joe Kelly
- ◆ *Born to Rock* by Gordon Korman
- ◆ *Punk Rock Etiquette: the Ultimate How-To Guide for Punk, Underground, DIY, and Indie Bands* by Travis Nichols
- ◆ *Generation T: 108 Ways to Transform a T-shirt* by Megan Nicolay
- ◆ *Super cute: 25 Amigurumi Animals* by Annie Obaachan
- ◆ *Knitgrrl: Learn to Knit With 15 Fun and Funky Projects* by Shannon Okey
- ◆ *The Green Book: The Everyday Guide to Saving the Planet One Simple Step at a Time* by Elizabeth Rogers and Thomas Kostigen
- ◆ *Lost Discoveries: The Ancient Roots of Modern Science--From the Babylonians to the Maya* by Dick Teresi
- ◆ *Tell the World: Teen Poems from Writers Corps*



YART Connections: People Profile

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School Librarian

Weber School District

North Ogden Junior High



Karen has worked as a school librarian since 2003. Before becoming a librarian Karen taught a variety of subjects: English, Reading, Drama, and Speech! She loves to read picture books to her children. Karen's favorite authors are Robert Cormier and Dr. Seuss. She loves the Harry Potter series. She says she would like some spare time to read the Fablehaven and Leven Thumps series, "but will have to buy a personal set since they are always checked out at school!"

Practical Tips for Improving Teen Reference Services

by Deidra Conerly Townsend

Providing reference services to teens can be challenging for a variety of reasons especially because teens typically don't ask librarians for help. The specific reasons why teens choose not to seek out librarians for assistance in their information search may remain a mystery. It could be that teens think they know it all and do not need librarian help finding information because they already have the ability to utilize the Internet themselves. Or as one teen I interviewed indicated librarians are not "user-friendly" stating that, "librarians are just scary!" We could speculate based on our own personal experiences as a teen or take a survey of teens and still not know why teens don't utilize the librarian for their information needs. However, by reviewing the literature regarding reference services for young adults, I found that there was limited research conducted on the subject. It appears that teens just do not feel

comfortable asking librarians for help. This leads to the real question regarding how to improve teen reference service which is, "How can we as librarians make teens feel comfortable so that they will seek us out to assist in resolving their information needs?" I propose that we change the teen perception of librarians by exuding a desire, the ability and a willingness to help them achieve their information needs via a three-pronged approach. First, be approachable, second, explain the intent of the reference interview and, third, consistently practice the seven common-sense steps to improve the teen librarian interaction as developed by Byczek & Vaillancourt.

To exude a desire, ability, and a willingness to help teens with their information needs begins with our attitude of approachability. Take the challenge as offered by Michael Farrelly, in his article entitled, "Bother the Librarian", to "smile and say Hello to everyone...will open up young

adults instantly." Simply practicing this basic etiquette skill allows librarians to model the positive behaviors expected from our teens and acknowledges the teens' presence in the library. Think about it-- who would want to visit a place where their presence is not positively acknowledged?

Want to write an article
or advertise an event?

Just email your idea or
article to:

utahyart@gmail.com

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Creating Connections in Midvale

by Kami Carter

R.V. Tyler Library

R.V. Tyler is a small community library about a block west of State Street in Midvale. We've heard several new patrons say, "I've lived in Midvale my whole life and I never knew you guys were here!!!" It's a miracle that the teens can even find R.V. Tyler Library, but somehow they manage—maybe they can sense the computers. Once school lets out, our computers are packed with teens.

Our teens' passion for the computers makes it a bit tricky to get them involved in any programming. For teens waiting for computers, we have a stack of "find the worm" sheets they love to use to see who can find the worm the fastest. Periodically, we put out a table of stuff they can make while they wait as well.

The best participation we've had for any teen program was the lock-in. For Teen Tech Week, the teens signed up to stay in the library after hours and use the computers. Not only did the kids get excited about it, but it was a really easy "program" to do. Simple treats, computers, only three (teen-tolerant) staff members—and you've got yourself a great teen program!

Coming up in February, we will be having a "Cupid Hates Me" anti-Valentine's drop-in program. Several of the teens are helping me come up with ideas for crafts and projects. My favorite idea they've had so far...duct taping the tops of flowers shut. I can't wait!!!



Helpful Websites

by Trudi Cooper

YART Webmaster

A couple of web resources found in August 2009 VOYA p203:

<http://www.pewinternet.org> to find the results of a survey that was done by PEW Research Center about teen use of the Internet in the United States.

www.libsuccess.org is a wiki that contains many links for online and other technology



Filmmaking For Teens

by Brooke Kowalczyk
Weber County Library



One of the most popular young adult programs for the Davis County Library has been “Filmmaking for Teens.” Since many teens are already experienced filmmakers, we decided the goal of the program would be to help teens improve their filmmaking skills. After inquiring around our community, we found local filmmaker and presenter, Craig Nybo.

Nybo is known locally for co-creating the Gangrene Film Festival (an irreverent, yet family-friendly, humorous “short” film festival) that is growing in international scope via the internet. In the past he has also worked with local schools both in presenting ideas and co-sponsoring a “shorts” film festival for Davis County high school students.

The first year Nybo presented two sessions. The first was on screenwriting where he talked about the essential plot elements in most popular movies. (We learned to look for the basic plot devices script writers use, and sure enough, most films have them.) He also showed a few brief clips from a couple of movies to illustrate his points.

The second session was on camera work. Nybo brought in a couple of cameras connected to a monitor, as well as professional lights, so that audience members could see actual demonstrations of the points he was making. Using audience members as models and participants, his presentation was very interactive and popular. Each program was held in the evening one week apart and lasted about 90 minutes – which was rushed!

The second year we held the program we had three sessions, one session per week for three consecutive weeks. The topics were screenwriting, basic camera work and the filming of a “music video.” Nybo again presented the screenwriting portion. Wanting to use additional members from the community, we found and contacted another independent filmmaker, Russ Relyea.

Like Nybo, Relyea brought in a couple of his cameras the third day, as well as his computer and editing board. Relyea worked with participants in filming his son singing and playing the guitar. Together with the teens, they brainstormed different camera angles and then shot the scenes in a park adjacent to the library. Relyea then went back into the library and demonstrated how to edit the video.

As you might suspect, the first week we held the program we had the largest numbers in attendance, with each subsequent week the numbers tapering off. In the future I would not drag the program out three weeks, nor make any individual programs last longer than 90 minutes. Even though 90 minutes seemed rushed, the participants stayed interested.



What did the teens respond to the most? Interacting with professionals. Several wanted the presenters to look at their work and give them feedback. (I am trying to figure out ways this could be done within our time and budget resources in coming years.)

What worked best with the program was inviting members from the community who were known, having presenters that relate to and involve the teen audience with hands on experiences where possible, and gearing the program to intermediate film makers.

Practical Tips for Improving Teen Reference Services Cont.

Next librarians are encouraged to prepare the youth for the reference interview by explaining the intent, extent and process of the reference interview. Let teens know that you will be asking them questions about their search and informational need; not to be nosy, judgmental nor to test them but to save them time and to obtain a better understanding of the steps they have already taken so we can find the best starting place to meet their information needs. Think about it -- knowledge of why you are being interrogated makes it easier to ask for help.

Then finally we need to practice the seven common-sense steps to improve the teen-librarian interaction developed by Byczek & Vaillancourt.

Respect-Don't judge their questions. It is important to them, so it should be important to us.

What's your mission?-Help teens find the information, it's our job.

Break down barriers- Go to where the youth are (within the library) to answer their questions. Leave the comfort of the desk. As Michael Farrelly suggest, go "beyond the desk because that is exactly where librarians need to be to engage teens."

Get to the "real" question-Ask many questions to narrow the search. This will help both the teen and librarian clarify what information is being sought.

Go back to school- Connect and link with local schools so you know what the assignments are.

Be prepared-Develop a homework desk that meets the information needs of the teens that use it.

Never let them leave empty handed-Make sure the teens have the information and resources they need.

In the article "Redeeming Our Relevance" by Jennifer Pierce in the November 2009 ALA issue the author encourages librarians to be the connecting link between teens and the information teens want by promoting the library resources that can answer the teens' questions. Generally the teens topic of interest can range from the common teenage angst of being "you", wondering how to "fit in" with peers, to more current hot topics such as movie star updates, fashion and music trends as well as the more practical needs involving school related topics. Typically, teens are often concerned with the "social" life skills that we all deal with, and if we approach the teen patron requests by focusing on supplying the requested information free of bias or judgment, we will be successful in serving these patrons and being relevant to the younger generation information needs.

Once we have incorporated these practices into our daily activities we may find that providing reference services to teens can be easy if we remember to focus on our patrons and their informational needs. Conducting these actions and steps with teens will set a standard that will help the youth trust us as a profession and start regularly seeking librarians as a resource for their information needs. We have all been a young adult at some point in our lives, and although we are not dealing with the identical issues as the teens of today, we can surely relate on some level to our teens that come through the front doors.

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Salt Lake City Library

<http://kelen.conlang.org/> - *Kelen Word of the Day* is a word of the day blog devoted to its author's constructed language. It has each word written in the Roman alphabet and in the language's own writing system.

<http://gearworld.livejournal.com/> - *The Book of the Gear* is no longer updated, but it was a terrific fictional story of an explorer's travels through a strange labyrinth of concrete and gears. It inspired a few spin offs.

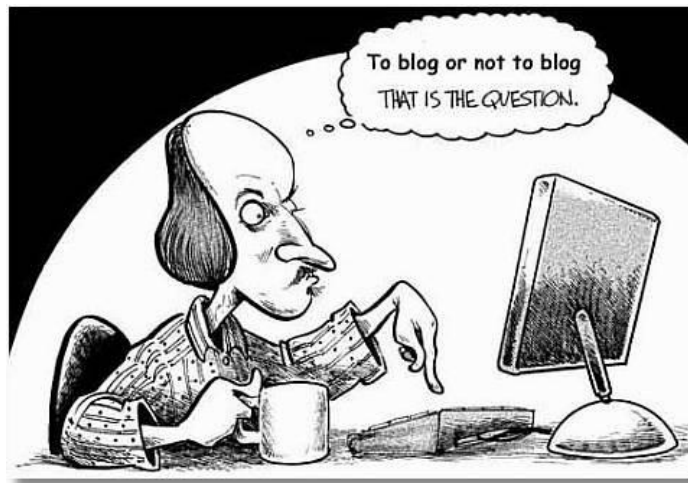
<http://cakewrecks.blogspot.com//> - A blog devoted entirely to photos of ill-conceived commercial cakes. Painful and hilarious.

<http://slacktivist.typepad.com/> - Slacktivist is a liberal political blog from the point of view of an evangelical Christian, but the most popular thing on the site is Left Behind Friday. Every week the author deconstructs a few pages of the abominable Left Behind book series. You learn a lot, both about how NOT to write a book and about the world of evangelical Christianity.

<http://community.livejournal.com/m15m/> - Movies in 15 Minutes writes hilarious parody versions of movies that can be read in roughly—you guessed it—15 minutes. More entertaining than informative, but still. Written by The Secret Life of Dolls author “Cleolinda”



Blogs Continued.....



Source- http://www.kaushik.net/avinash/wp-content/uploads/2007/08/to_blog_or_not_to_blog.jpg

Craft blogs:

<http://craftblog.com.au/> - A good roundup of various craft blog entries.

Many authors have blogs, too:

<http://halseanderson.livejournal.com/> - Laurie Halse Anderson, YA author. She does a lot of interactive blogging—prompts and writing exercises

<http://sarahtales.livejournal.com/> - Sarah Reese Brennan, debuting YA fantasy author

<http://journal.neilgaiman.com/> - Neil Gaiman, fantasy author

<http://gurneyjourney.blogspot.com/> - James Gurney, author and illustrator

<http://jaylake.livejournal.com/> - Jay Lake, fantasy author

<http://tammypierce.livejournal.com/> - Tamora Pierce, YA fantasy author

<http://whatever.scalzi.com/> - John Scalzi, fantasy author

<http://ursulav.livejournal.com/> - Ursula Vernon, artist and children's author. Interestingly, this author got her start selling her art over the internet. She is the author of the Gearworld blog above, as well.

<http://wilwheaton.typepad.com/> - Wil Wheaton, recognizable to most as Wesley Crusher from Star Trek: TNG, is now a writer

*Also note that a lot of specific-subject blogs and communities exist; simple searches on Google or a blog host like Livejournal will turn up communities for pretty much any subject, from crafts and hobbies to sexual orientation. Some communities allow fictional personas to interact, but the ones I know of are locked to the public.

If you liked “The Hunger Games” by Collins, you might like....

By Kara Pearson and Melissa Zuckerman
Sandy Library and Weber County Libraries

If the teens in your library are anything like the teens in mine, they have been devouring “The Hunger Games” series by Suzanne Collins and want more. Here are some titles that might fill the void while they are waiting for the third installment in the series.

The Kindling by Jennifer Armstrong

Exodus by Julie Bertagna

What I Saw and How I Lied by Judy Blundell

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Graceling by Kristin Cashore

The Most Dangerous Game by Richard Edward Connell

The Maze Runner by James Dashner

Little Brother by Cory Doctorow

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer

The Lottery and Other Stories by Shirley Jackson

The Long Walk by Stephen King

Epic by Conor Kostick

The Secret Under My Skin by Janet McNaughton

The Host by Stephenie Meyer

Shade's Children by Garth Nix

The Angel Experiment by James Patterson

Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer

Nation by Terry Pratchett

Unwind by Neal Shusterman

Battle Royale by Koushun Takami

Heir Apparent by Vivian Vande Velde

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

Surviving Antarctica: Reality TV 2083 by Andrea White

