**Today in EYE-OPENER May 18, 2015**

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**1)  May is Older Americans Month:** Since 1963, May has been designated as **"Older Americans Month."** Originally titled "Senior Citizens Month" by President Kennedy, it was President Carter's administration that re-named it **"Older Americans Month"** in 1980.

The 2015 theme is *"Get Into the Act."*  The purpose of **Older Americans Month** is to acknowledge the vitality, aspirations, and contributions of older citizens, in particular those who defended our country.  Every President since JFK has issued a formal proclamation in May asking that the entire nation pay tribute in some way to older persons in their communities. Making **Older Americans Month** a perfect occasion for library book displays, bulletin boards, book discussion groups, and programming.

The Administration for Community Living is a major sponsor of **Older Americans Month**; from their website you can find logos and posters to help with your local promotions. Other sponsors include the U.S. Dept of Health & Human Services, the National Council on Aging, and the White House.  Learn more here http://www.acl.gov/index.aspx  and share your plans with each other!

**2)  EBSCOhost Buying Groups FY2016:**  This news release comes from Jay Peterson.  Iowa Library Services is again offering buying groups for public libraries featuring great products from EBSCOhost.  This is your time to take advantage of the great deals that EBSCOhost is offering for products like **Auto Repair Reference Center** database (you can replace those Chilton manuals on your shelves!) and our new offering **Library Aware** that will help with library program marketing.  This offer is extends July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.



Note for current buying group members, we will contact you regarding your current order to confirm what you have.  June 10th is the last day we can make any changes to existing orders. EBSCOhost staff and/or Jay will be contacting you about your order.

Iowa Library Services will be offering 8 database packages and products to libraries.  All of these databases require that the library have a basic EBSCOhost account through Iowa Library Services.   Here's a look at the 8 products:

- Auto Repair Reference Center
  https://www.ebscohost.com/public/auto-repair-reference-center

- Hobbies  & Crafts Reference Center
  https://www.ebscohost.com/public/hobbies-crafts-reference-center

- Home Improvement Reference Center
  https://www.ebscohost.com/public/home-improvement-reference-center

- NoveList Plus
  https://www.ebscohost.com/novelist/our-products/novelist-plus

- NoveList Select ( Note: This product requires to also buy the Novelist product)
  https://www.ebscohost.com/novelist/our-products/novelist-select

- Small Engine Repair Reference Center
  https://www.ebscohost.com/public/small-engine-repair-reference-center

- Consumer Health Complete
  http://support.epnet.com/knowledge_base/detail.php?id=2473

- Library Aware
  https://www.ebscohost.com/novelist/our-products/libraryaware-features

We are also offering a **free trial access** to these databases if you wish to take a look at them before signing up. To pursue a **free trial period**, go to http://trial.ebscohost.com.  For the **USER ID**, type **iowa3**; for the **PASSWOR**D, type **buyinggroup**

We need to hear from all libraries that intend to purchase any of these additional databases; again Jay will be contacting current members directly.  This is the only opportunity to make any changes to your subscription due to the billing agreement we have with EBSCO.

For any library **NEW** to the buying groups: by June 10th, 2015 please respond to Iowa Library Services and/or EBSCOhost representatives if you wish to participate.  If we do not hear from you, we will assume you do not plan to purchase any of these additional databases.  Find the Participation Interest Form here http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/c-d/databases/ebsco/ebscobuyinggroup/form  And find more detailed information about the various databases here http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/c-d/databases/ebsco/ebscobuyinggroup  Jay is standing by for your questions, just give him a call ☺

**3) Summer PLOW Class—Advanced Customization:** Another round of PLOW classes will be offered across the state this summer.  This will be the Advanced Customization class, important this year because we're introducing 6 new themes available for PLOW library websites by May 29.

Description:  "*…select a theme, how to apply the theme to your web site, and then how you can customize the theme to your liking, including adding a background image and changing font colors. This class will also teach you how to use Cover, a new Content Type that allows you to create custom layouts. Portlets and Widgets will also be covered in this class…*"

Marie Harms is the instructor and she adds *"…there is a lot to learn, so plan to spend the day! However, if you can only attend part of the day, that's okay, just try to take advantage of this in-person training. I realize this is during a very busy time for your libraries and I will try to offer this class again this fall…"*

Attendees should bring digital pictures or other content to this class so that you can add new content to your website.  Bring the items to class on a flash drive, a CD, a camera (with connecting cable), or in a Web-based e-mail.  You may bring your own laptop, if you can connect it to the wireless access point without assistance.

This class is hands-on with participants working on laptop computers.  **All classes run 10:00AM-4:00PM.  Northwest Iowa locations** are **Storm Lake** (Prairie Lakes AEA) on **July 8** and **Sheldon** (NWICC Campus) on **July 9.**  Register in the c.e. catalog and call with questions…  http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/cgi-bin/cecat/

**4) Scholarships to ARSL Fall Conference:**  This news comes from Tena Hanson, Estherville PL Director and Past President of ARSL—Association for Rural and Small Libraries.  ARSL is offering 3 scholarships for first-time conference attendees to attend its annual fall conference in Little Rock (AR) October 1-3, 2015.

As Tena explains "*…the scholarships vary, but provide for conference membership, a travel stipend, and hotel accommodations.  All are welcome to apply including students, para-professionals, and MLS-degreed librarians.  Applications must be received by 5:00PM CST on June 19, 2015 to be considered.*

*The ARSL conference is entirely dedicated to libraries that serve smaller and or rural populations. Last year, well over 300 library professionals gathered; this year's goal is 500 small and rural professionals together to gain support from, learn from, and most importantly build connections with each other. You may wonder what small is defined as; well we have long said that if you think your system is small or rural, it probably is !..."*

Among the pre-conferences available: a session on emergency planning, accidental leadership, apps, and more. Two planned tours are also available: one is a walking tour of the Riverwalk area, the second is a stop at the Clinton Presidential Center Library.

Registration costs for ARSL 2015 begin at $263.50 (member rate) slightly more for non-members. This fee includes 3 days of learning, access to the welcome reception, breakfast (Thurs/Fri) lunch (Thurs/Fri) and a Saturday brunch. This year's conference also includes access to all speaker events, including Friday's featured author P.C. Cast. Registration for the conference, pre-conferences, and tours is available by going to http://www.regonline.com/2015arslannualconference

Back to the scholarships: more information including the application form is available on the ARSL website http://arsl.info/annual-conference-awards-calendar/award-scholarship-info/ If you have any questions about the process or have any trouble with the application form, please do not hesitate to contact the scholarship chair Shirley Vonderhaar (Dyersville PL) svonderhaar@dyersville.lib.ia.us

**5) Meetings / Events This Week:** Busy travel week with **NW Director Roundtables** happening in 3 locations: **May 18 @ Pocahontas**, **May 19 @ Alton**, and **May 21 @ Ida Grove**. **Still time to register for the Ida Grove site, but hurry—registration closes today.** My thanks to all 3 libraries hosting roundtables this spring!

We're careening toward Memorial Weekend already! **Monday May 25 is Memorial Day—all Iowa Library Services offices will be closed** and the Eye-Opener takes a holiday also. Back with the Eye-Opener on June 1…enjoy this first holiday weekend summer 2015!

Choose from these national webinars this week; full descriptions and registration info here http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/c-d/continuing-ed/other-conted

**May 19**. 1:00-2:00PM. *Discovering Great Mysteries Hidden in Plain Sight* sponsored by Booklisthttp://www.booklistonline.com/webinars

**May 20**. 1:00-2:00PM. *Teens & Tech: Creating Successful STEM Programs in Libraries* sponsored by TechSoup https://cc.readytalk.com/r/no3ip1oi2gbg&eom

**May 20.** 2:00-3:00PM. *Seeing the Big Picture* sponsored by Infopeople
http://infopeople.org/training/view/webinar

**May 20.** 4:00-5:00PM. *There's an App for That - 50 Apps in 60 Minutes for 2015* sponsored by EdWeb  http://www.edweb.net/emergingtech

**May 21.** 1:00-2:00PM. *Excel at Everything! (Or at Least Make Better Spreadsheets)* sponsored by TechSoup http://www.techsoup.org/community/events-webinars/default



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