



County Librarian's Report

August 2012

Fresno County Library's Bookshelf

The Library has launched into a new partnership with the Fresno Bee. Each week library staff contribute reviews and tips on good reads in the Bee's new "Fresno County Library's Bookshelf" column. The Library uses this opportunity to also highlight upcoming events and other things happening at the library that are of community interest. You can find the column in the Spotlight section of the Sunday edition.

The Library Goes Into the Cloud with Google Chromebooks

Google Chromebooks should arrive in branches by the end of October. The Library will receive Chromebooks for customer checkout through a pilot grant project as part of the California State Library's distribution to public libraries across the state. Today, most libraries require a very manual and often cumbersome process to deploy and maintain computers. In contrast, the Chromebooks will arrive automatically configured with the designated applications (software), branch WiFi networks and settings – all without any manual IT intervention by library staff, thereby creating a user ready experience, right out of the box.

The basic concept is that laptops do not have software installed; they are essentially a WiFi connection device to get to software (applications) in the cloud. Five branches that have WiFi installed will be the test sites for the pilot and these will supplement the PCs available for public use. The branches are Clovis, Fig Garden, Politi, Reedley, and Central.

E-book Circulation Continues To Climb

Circulation of our e-books, jumped FOUR slots in July to our 14th highest circulating "branch". It is just behind only our four regional libraries, our bigger metro branches, and the Sanger/Selma/Reedley trio of branches. WOW!

September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month

Fresno County libraries will offer special promotions for those who sign up for a card in September. New this year is a "Get One, Waive One" incentive. Every current cardholder who refers a family, friend, co-worker or colleague to sign up for a library card will receive a coupon waiving \$5 in library fees on their own account. For more details check our website at: www.fresnolibrary.org.

Open House at Your Local Library

The Library will host an Open House at all branches on Saturday, October 6, 2012 from 12 noon to 2 pm. The countywide event is designed to invite those unfamiliar with library services to discover all the library has to offer. Current library users can learn about new services too. Each branch location will offer customized activities for their local community as well as general information about our newest services and programs.