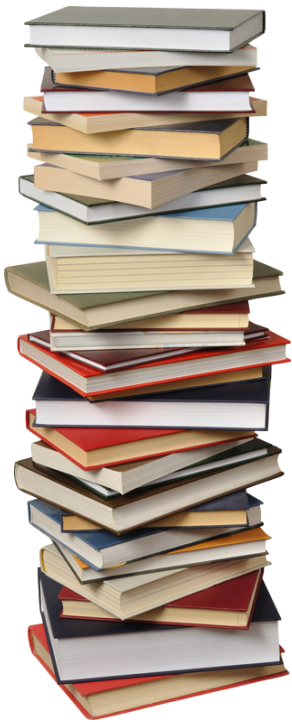


Blurb

FOR READERS OF CHILDREN'S NOVELS

WINTER 2023/24

MCCRACKEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, PADUCAH, KY



The Library Issue

If you add up all the different types of libraries (public, school, academic, specialty, and government), there are more than 1 million libraries on the planet containing more than 16 billion items. In the U.S. alone, there are more than 130,000 libraries. Worldwide, there are only about 40,000 McDonalds.

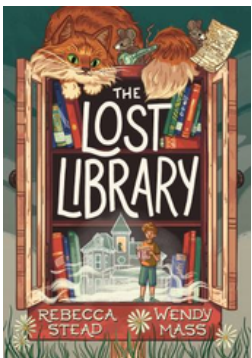
Day to day, libraries circulate more items than Amazon or FedEx. Libraries in the United States spend \$14 billion a year on goods and services, and then turn that around and make goods and services free for their patrons. Five times more people visit U.S. public libraries each year than attend U.S. professional and college football, basketball, baseball and hockey games combined.

All the world's stories, knowledge, and secrets can be found in libraries, and that makes them pretty magical, mysterious, and important places.

Mr. Matt Recommends

The Lost Library

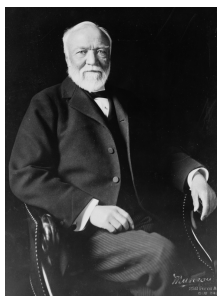
by Rebecca Stead and Wendy Mass



This book has it all!! Ghosts, a wise cat, intrigue, danger, an unknown author, and a mysterious fire that burned down a town's library. **This was one of Mr. Matt's favorite new books of 2023!**

When a mysterious little free library (guarded by a large orange cat) appears overnight in the small town of Martinville, eleven-year-old Evan plucks two weathered books from its shelves, never suspecting that his life is about to change.

Andrew Carnegie



Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) was once one of the richest men in the world. He made his money in the steel industry. In 1901 he sold his business for \$480 million, which is about \$5.6 billion in today's money. After he sold his business, he started giving his fortune away to charities and projects.

It is estimated that Andrew Carnegie gave away 90% of his fortune, and one of his biggest areas of contribution was LIBRARIES!! Andrew Carnegie founded 2,509 libraries throughout the world; 1,679 in the United States alone. Paducah's first public library was a Carnegie library. It stood on the corner of 9th and Broadway. Unfortunately, it burned down in 1964 because of faulty Christmas lights. **Pictures of Paducah's former library are on the back page of this newsletter.**

YOU CAN FIND PAST ISSUES OF BLURB AT MCLIB.NET/BLURB



BIG WORD BIBLIOPHILE

This one is close to my heart because I (Mr. Matt) believe that I am one. A bibliophile is a person who collects and/or has a great love of books. It comes from the Greek root words "biblion" which means "document" and "philos" which means "beloved." Personally, I love how books look in my home, how they smell, and the memories I have of reading them. I like to surround myself with stories.



Is a Bookworm an Actual Worm?

A bookworm is another name for a bibliophile, or lover of books. But does the name come from an actual worm?

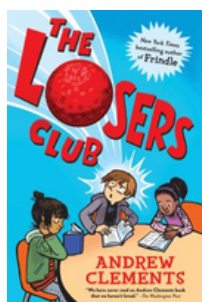
Yes. Sort of. It comes from an insect...not a worm.

The bookworm is also called the paper louse. It is a tiny soft-bodied insect, only about the size of the tip of a pencil. It actually doesn't eat books. It eats microscopic algae that grows on old books, and in the process of eating that algae, the lice destroy the books.

And they aren't the only insects that plague books. Other bugs that will consume a book included woodboring beetles, termites, weevils, carpenter ants, moths, and certain cockroaches.

Libraries have to be temperature-controlled and regularly sprayed to control the spread of mold and bugs.

THE LOSERS CLUB BY ANDREW CLEMENT

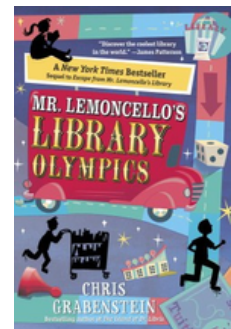


Alec keeps getting in trouble for reading. He can't put his book down. When the principal threatens to take away his reading time, Alec has a bright idea. He'll create an in-school club - a club that nobody else would want to join -- so he can have some quiet, legitimate time to read. He calls his club "The Losers Club" thinking that no one would possibly want to be a member of a club with a name like that. To his surprise, fellow students start to show up. Of course, a lot of the story takes place in the school library.

SERIES WHICH TAKE PLACE IN LIBRARIES

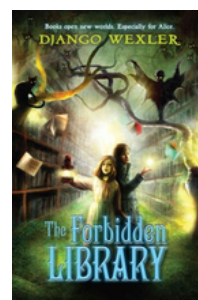
MR. LEMONCELLO BY CHRIS GRABENSTEIN

Imagine Willy Wonka but in a library!! This series is packed full of laughs, puzzles, and secrets, and it's all thanks to an eccentric genius who builds a curious magic-filled library. There are 5 books in the series, plus 1 prequel. Pictured are the first two books.



FORBIDDEN LIBRARY BY DJANGO WEXLER

After her father is lost at sea, Alice is sent to live with her uncle who lives in a massive manor that contains a massive library. This library, however, is off limits to Alice. Until she meets a talking cat, that is. There are 4 books in the series. Pictured are the first two.



WORLD RECORD FOR MOST OVERDUE BOOK

In 1668, a book about a German bishop was checked out of the library at Sidney Sussex College in England. It was returned in 1956...288 years later.

LIBRARIES ON THE GO!!!



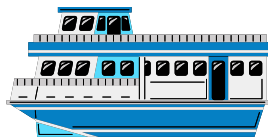
Have you laid eyes on the resplendent yellow and orange bookmobile that graces our streets? As librarians, we endeavor to serve every member of our community, regardless of their circumstances. For this reason, our enchanted bookmobile roams the town, bringing joyous tales to those who may be hindered by distance, lack of transportation, illness or other trials.

While buses and vans are common ways of delivery, there are several uncommoner methods of delivering books.



In **Columbia**, a teacher named Luis Soriano, uses a **burro** to deliver library books to students up and down the Carribean coast. He calls his enterprise the **Biblioburro**, and his two donkeys' names are **Alfa and Beto**. See what he did there!

The country of **Norway** has a lot of small villages that are nestled deep inside fjords. They can be so isolated that it can be faster to visit them by ship rather than by road. For years, many rural Norwegians received their books from a **boat** called the **Epos**.



Nomadic tribes in the desert regions of northern **Kenya** settle in areas that are often **hot, isolated, and treacherous** to get to. Luckily, there's one animal particularly suited to carry heavy items in the desert. Kenya has **camel** librarians!

The town of **Blackpool** in England has a large beach which attracts a bunch of **visitors** each year. To capitalize on the tourists, the local library offers free books to beach goers, which they deliver up and down the sand in **wheelbarrows**.



A REAL LOST LIBRARY

THE ANCIENT LIBRARY OF ALEXANDRIA

The ability to read is a new thing. Even through written language has been around for at least 5000 years, it's only been in the last couple hundred years that literacy numbers have grown. As of today, about 87% of the world's population can read. But just one hundred years ago, only about 20% of people on this planet could read. That's a low number, and the farther you go back in time, the lower that number gets.

Because most people couldn't read (and because the printing press is also a relatively recent invention), there were very few copies of books in ancient times. Most often, a single copy was the only copy in existence.

In 250 BC a massive library was built in Alexandria, Egypt with the goal of housing the greatest collection of these one-of-a-kind historical documents. Officials started collecting and purchasing any books or scrolls they could get their hands on. There are reports that the library took scrolls from visiting ships and brought them to the library to be copied by hand. The library kept the originals and returned the copies to the ships.

We don't know what the library looked like or how big it was, but we do know that it was home to hundreds of thousands of manuscripts, many of them the only copy on the planet. By far, it was most complete library of the ancient world.

But then it was destroyed. We know the library was gone by about 300 AD. We don't know exactly what brought it down, but scholars think it was due to war and fires. Whatever it was, the library and its contents disappeared.

Can you imagine all the ancient stories and knowledge that was in those books that is now gone? This is why preserving libraries is so important.

LIBRARY OF THINGS



Libraries are most known for checking out books, whether paper books, digital books, or audio books. They also circulate other types of media, like movies and magazines.

But many libraries also have other, non-traditional stuff that they check out. Often, these special collections are called the "Library of Things." For instance, your McCracken County Public Library checks out fishing poles, disc golf kits, and hotspots. Other libraries have even stranger things you can borrow.



A Fender Telecaster Guitar from the Sacramento Public Library in California.

An Elmo Head Cake Pan from the Bristol Public Library in Indiana.



A Chocolate Fountain from the Hillsboro Public Library in Oregon.

A Karaoke Machine from the Richland Public Library in South Carolina.



A Microscope from the Bullitt County Public Library in Kentucky.

PADUCAH'S CARNEGIE LIBRARY

1901-1964



Top:
Exterior photo of the Carnegie Library.

Middle:
Interior photo of the Carnegie Library.

Left:
Boy sitting on a table in the Children's Reading Room.