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News You Can Use

MySpace is Our Space - Berkeley - Thursday, May 31

[MySpace is Our Space: Public libraries' presence on MySpace.com](#) is the annual BALIS Adult Services workshop.

Brian Boies of the [Oakland Public Library](#), will speak on, "MySpace Safety: A Program for All Ages."

Sandra Stewart and Jean Herriges of the [San Jose Public Library](#) and Christine Holmes of the [San Jose State University Library](#) will speak on "Why MySpace: How to do It and What to Expect."

The workshop is free, and all are invited to attend. Sign up [online](#).

When and Where: 8:30am - 12:30pm. May 31, 2007 - [Berkeley Public Library](#), Community Room, 2031 Bancroft, Berkeley 94704. [Directions](#).

EBSCO Database Trials

Member libraries are looking at system-wide subscriptions to these EBSCO databases:

- [Auto Repair Reference Center](#)
- [Novelist](#)
- [Novelist K - 8](#)
- [EBSCO Eldercare](#)
- [Home Improvement Reference Center](#)

- [Big Win for SVLS & MOBAC](#)
- [About Us](#)

The trial is available now through July 1, 2007. The link to information about the trial is on the [System Reference Center](#) home page.

PowerSearch

The *PowerSearch Training PowerPoint* has now been posted on the System Reference Center's [Vendor Training](#) page. These slides would be useful in training new librarians. They also may give you ideas for classes for the public.

Big Read's 3rd Deadline - July 31, 2007

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), is again accepting grant applications for The Big Read. [Details](#).

Statewide Reference Design Proposal & Library Building Needs Assessments

The [California State Library](#) has posted a new study on second-level reference within the CSLA systems. The reference documents are the latest phase in the State Library's analysis of reference services, which began in 2004. Documents from these earlier focus groups and reports are posted under [Reference Service Studies](#) on the [System Reference Center](#) site.

SJSLIS SecondLife Campus Opens - Wednesday, May 16, 2007

[San Jose State University's School of Library and Information Science \(SJSLIS\)](#) is holding its [SecondLife Campus](#) opening event on May 16, 2007 Noon-6:30 pm. This 16 acre campus site in the [SecondLife](#) virtual environment will be another campus for SJSLIS in addition to San Jose and Fullerton.

For guidance on visiting this SJSLIS Campus, go to the [SJSU SLIS M.U.V.E. Wiki](#). To participate in the opening, beginners should review this [tutorial](#) on how to enter [Second Life](#) and find SLIS. Also you must be registered on the [SecondLife](#) site. Registration is free. [Details](#). [SJSLIS SL Campus map](#).

Reference Picks

This month's picks lean toward thinking green and alternatives to traveling on the "Maze."

Thinking Green

[How to Live Green](#) - Newsweek, April 16, 2007, Page 82

Calculate your impact on global warming, create a water budget, compare fuel-efficiency rates, and tips for saving on gas when you drive. The online version has links to related Newsweek articles, videos, and podcasts.

[The Green Gate](#)

A project of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), this site brings together information on environmental "indicators" in five categories (air, water, wildlife, urban living, and health). [The Green Gate](#) reviews fiction and nonfiction about the region, includes some basic facts, explains recent trends, and offers advice on ways to get outside and enjoy the Bay Area's many natural wonders. The site covers the nine counties of the San Francisco Bay Area: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma.

[California Native Plant Society](#) - www.cnps.org

Ideas for drought-tolerant plants and garden plans, plant lists, and more.

Traffic Sites

[CalTrans Maze Report](#)

Frequently updated reports on the maze repair, with alternative routes. Also news stories, videos, traffic cameras and more.

[511: San Francisco Bay Area Transit Information](#)

San Francisco Bay Area public transportation, traffic conditions and estimated driving times, and more. Travelers in the Bay Area may also dial "511" for the same information. - www.511.org

[Sigalert](#) - sigalert.com

Map of the San Francisco Bay Area, including part of San Jose, with colored dots representing accidents and traffic speeds. There are similar maps for some other California cities. - www.sigalert.com

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Questions and Answers

Finding our Man

Our patron needed a mailing address for the television producer and director, Pierre de Lespinois. The patron thought Lespinois lives in Queens, NY. After seeing that the local librarian has searched [Discovery.com](#), the second-level researcher verified that some of his work was in the Discovery Channel. His work is also listed in the [Internet Movie Database \(imdb.com\)](#).

The local librarian had searched these sources to no avail:

Websites in addition to [Discovery.com](#) and [IMBD: refusa.com](#),
[infospace.com](#), [superpages.com](#), [zabasearch.com](#), [switchboard.com](#)

Books: *Star Guide*, *The International TV and Video Almanac*, *Variety*,
Who's Who in Show Business, *Grey House Performing Arts Directory*

Our second-level librarian emailed the local librarian that Pierre de Lespinois is the "founder of [Evergreen Films LLC](#) - [www.evergreenfilms.com](#)) and the contact information for Evergreen Films is 1515 Palisades Drive, Suite N, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272."

A Google search using the exact phrase "Pierre de Lespinois" led to [Zoominfo.com](#), a clean easy-to-use company and people search site for contemporaries who aren't in *Biography Resource Center*. To verify the relationship between Lespinois and Evergreen Films, and thus the address, the researcher did some entertainment news searches, which detailed the principals and partnerships of Evergreen Films. A search on the [California Secretary of State's Business Portal](#) confirmed Evergreen Films' current address.

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News from our Members

Competition for the "San Jose Teen Idol" during National Library Week

During National Library Week, each branch of the San Jose Public Library held a competition for "San Jose Teen Idol." Performers ages 12-18 performed individually or in groups for first, second, or third branch prize. First prize winners from each branch are finalists to select the "San Jose Teen Idol" on May 20.

Hayward PL installs LED digital sign

Hayward patrons kept missing event directions and library announcements posted on a floor sign because the sign was often toppled by a breeze. To solve the problem, Hayward Public Library purchased an LED sign with an internal media player for changing memory cards. Now the sign is always visible and can hold several announcements at once.

New and Familiar Special Libraries for the Public

The System Reference Center has updated the special libraries bookmarks for San Mateo and Santa Clara counties with more special libraries than the old version. The new bookmark can be downloaded and printed at your convenience from the [Webliographies](#) page and should replace older versions.

As a new feature for the SVLS version, Garrett Kuramoto, of the [Sunnyvale Public Library](#), made a [Google map](#) of all SVLS library locations including branches, complete with street address, zip code for GPS, and area code. Each jurisdiction

has a different color. Click on either the library link or "arrow" for each facility to get a complete address, phone number, and hours.

Librarians as Authors

The "Librarians as Authors" page on the System Reference Center site has more than doubled in the last month. New authors are flagged with a "new" icon **NEW**. Check it out. Were there surprises? Do you know someone who should be there?

Clue Us! Does your Library have a Summer Reading Program for Adults?

Several member libraries are treating summer reading programs as possible intergenerational programs, with an adult component to the traditional children's activity. [San José Public Library](#) is one of the first to announce the adult program, as part of its [Summer Reading Celebration](#), with a prominent link to its [March 26, 2007 press release](#) on the library's home page. During July, adults are invited to read books and win prizes through weekly drawings at all library locations. Get ideas from the [Summer Reading](#) site.

Court-SVLS and MOBAC Library Partnership wins the Kleps Award

The "Regional Court and Library Partnership" project won in the [Category 5 - Collaborative Projects](#) category of the prestigious [Ralph N. Kleps Award](#) for 2006-07. Awards will be presented at the September meeting of the Presiding Judges and the Court Executives. The Kleps award honors California courts for innovative, replicable projects that improve court efficiency and effectiveness and aid the public.

In April 2006, attorneys from the self-help units of the Superior Courts from the counties served by [MOBAC](#) and [SVLS](#) libraries trained 88 librarians on authoritative legal web sites and court procedures. The [websites, handouts, and information](#) about the project are posted on the [System Reference Center](#) site.

The competition process required a site visit by the judges for each finalist in each category. Since the project originated in Monterey County, the judges held their hearing at the [courthouse](#) in Salinas on January 10, 2007. The libraries were represented by [MOBAC](#) librarians - Dody Anderson of [Watsonville](#) and Beata Obydzinski from the [Seaside Branch](#) of the [Monterey County Free Library](#). Dody and Beata spoke eloquently about the results of the training. The panel of judges seemed more interested in them, rather than in the court attorneys. In the questioning process, Dody and Beata educated the others about public libraries, their services and their cooperative ventures. On that day, after the presentation, everyone from the project's courts thought that the chance of the award rested on the librarians' remarks.

If your library has some interesting statistics or sends out press releases, please share. Ask your supervisor to share them with the staff, post them on committee listservs, and send them to [Mary Beth Train](#). One good idea begets another!

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BALIS/PLS/SVLS System Reference Center

www.systemref.org

- For libraries to submit an article for **Search** or a suggestion, email Mary Beth Train at train-AT-plsinfo- DOT - org.
- Find **Search** archives at [Search Newsletters](#).
- We're part of the Library!
 - [Bay Area Library and information System\(BALIS\)](#)
 - [Peninsula Library System\(PLS\)](#)
 - [Silicon Valley Library System \(SVLS\)](#)
 - [Monterey Bay Area Cooperative Library System \(MOBAC\)](#)
- To send a Second Level reference request:
 - [Web form](#)
 - Email us at info -AT-plsinfo- DOT -org
 - Fax: (650) 349-5089 or (800) 505-5583
 - Phone: (650) 349-5538 or (800) 644-6244

Who we are:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| • Linda Crowe - | Executive Director,
BALIS/MOBAC/PLS/SVLS |
| • Gail McPartland - | Assistant Director, Services,
BALIS/MOBAC/PLS/SVLS |
| • Mary Beth Train - | <i>Search</i> Editor |
| • Angel Kao - | Program Assistant |

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