

Search Newsletter

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Member Feedback About *Search*

Puzzled about *Search's* Funny Email


Addresses? To foil spammers, we write email addresses as name - AT - host - DOT - domain, for example, puzzler - AT - puzzle - DOT - org.

News You Can Use

Future of Libraries Workshop - March 20 & 21, 2007

BALIS/MOBAC/PLS/SVLS is presenting this free half-day [workshop](#) for all staff. Sign up [online](#) for either of these dates and times:

- March 20, 2007 - 1 to 3:30 pm at the Los Altos Library
- March 21, 2007 - 9 to 11:30 am at the new Alameda City Library

The presenter, Steve Abram, is a noted futurist, vice-president of Sirsi/Dynix, [president-elect](#) of [SLA](#) (Special Libraries Association), and frequent speaker at [Internet Librarian](#) and other conferences. A witty speaker and writer, he is noted for advocacy of user-centered services which leverage technologies and trends to make libraries more responsive and easier to use. Learn about him at his blog, [Stephen's Lighthouse](#). Stephen Abram was also a keynote speaker at [CLA 2006](#); see or download his presentation in a PDF  [weblink](#) (big file!).

ACL Performers Showcase - February 24,

- [About Us](#)

2007 - Fremont

The 22nd annual [Performers Showcase](#) sponsored by the [Association of Children's Librarians of Northern California \(ACL\)](#) will be on Saturday, February 24, 2007 at the [Fremont Main Library](#) in Fremont. The all-day event features four sessions in which children's performers demonstrate their skills and programs. Organizers expect over 30 performers, including many newbies. Advance registration is \$10; on-site registration, \$15. Children up to age 10 are particularly invited. They will be admitted free and will have many opportunities to get up on stage when the performers ask for volunteers. Bring your calendars to sign up summer performers on the spot!

Details and registration:

[Bayviews](#) - www.bayviews.org.

Questions or comments:

Elizabeth Overmyer, [Berkeley Public Library](#),
(510) 981-6224/ eovermyer - AT - ci - DOT -
berkeley - DOT - ca - DOT - us.

Grants for your Library on Stephanie Gerding's Blog

Visit Stephanie Gerding's [Library Grants Blog](#), to view grant announcements. The following grants may be applicable to public libraries for building readership in their communities.

February

- [Amazon's "Wish for Lit" contest](#), for \$5,000 gift certificates.
- [Big Read](#), for community partnerships for events planned around a single book, which the community reads. It's from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

March

- [IMLS Leadership](#) fosters partnerships between libraries, museums, and other community cultural organizations in three areas: "Building Digital Resources, Library and Museum Community Collaboration, and Research and Demonstration."

- [Kids are Authors](#) encourages K-8 students to use their reading, writing, and artistic skills to create their own books, guided by a project coordinator.
- [Target Local Store](#) supports programs such as weekend book clubs, after-school reading programs, and events encouraging family reading time.
- [Pathways Within: Roads to Reading](#) promotes literacy by supplying books.

These are just a few. Although others are for school or academic libraries, they might be possibilities for public library partnerships. *Tip:* Use the "Find" command to find the deadline month.

Califa Returns 59:1

Califa members received to a 59:1 return on their membership fee in the first 10 months of 2006. That's \$59 back for every membership \$1.

At the request of its Board, Califa recently completed a Member Benefit Analysis to quantify how much Califa saved member libraries in direct costs from January 1 to October 15, 2006. The membership fees collected during this period were subtracted from discount differentials for the same period to calculate a net member savings of \$4,178,542.33.

Califa then calculated the average return on investment (ROI) for its member libraries as \$59.27 in savings for every \$1 spent in membership fees. These savings included 35 different products. Ten different libraries saved over \$100,000; 31 libraries saved over \$50,000.

Before you buy, check Califa's website. If you don't have a login, or can't remember yours, email califa - AT - califa - DOT - org or call 800-209-5439 (California only.)

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Reference Picks

Schoolwork Contests and Curriculum Months

Here are some links and tips for those reference questions that pop up this time of year. Some of these links were suggested by [ALA/ALSA's "Great Web Sites for Kids,"](#) which groups sites under topics, then subdivides them by grade level.

National History Day - February-March

National History Day is a contest for students in grades 6-12 to encourage the study of history; this year's theme is "Triumph & Tragedy." March 30 is the due date for registration forms, county fees, and historical papers, but students will be preparing this month and next. This event may be big with home schoolers.

- [National History Day - California Site](#) has the local information students need to register, as well as links and study aids.
- [National History Day Contest Site](#) has links and overview, as well as the texts for purchase. The [brochure](#) in PDF  details the nuances of the theme.
- [AwesomeStories](#) has a page with links and easy-to-find information on the contest projects. Library memberships are free.

Black History Month - February 2007

- [Gale Free Black History Resources Web Site](#) contains many biographies taken from the Gale databases, a February calendar with pertinent dates, bookmarks to help you promote your Gale subscription, and more.
- [Alexander Street Press' Black Women Writers](#) brings together more than 100,000 pages of literature and essays written by black women from Africa and the African Diaspora in electronic format. There is free registration for this collection.
- [Historical Text Archive](#) has 21 items for Black History Month, including "I Have A Dream," "Letter from Birmingham Jail," five bibliographies, and 19th century speeches and letters. From [HistoricalTextArchive.com](#).
- [Patchwork of African-American Life](#) has a hotlist, treasure hunt, cultural sampler, and "Web Quests" on "Little Rock Integration" and "Tuskegee Tragedy." AT&T/SBC, the site's publisher, includes a link to their "[Filimentality](#)" tool for technically-challenged schools and teachers.

Women's History Month - March 2007

- [Gale Free Women's History Resources Web Site](#) contains links to Gale resources, a March calendar, and a bookmark.
- [LII "women's history" Descriptor Search](#) includes the three links below. You can update this search with an RSS feed for a quick way to make a subject webliography each year.
- [Smithsonian Education](#) has links to its collection; also good for primary materials and photos.
- [U.S. Census](#) facts for March 2007 is a press release with quick facts for the media.
- [Evergreen State College](#) library has assembled a page with a variety of links, focusing on government documents.

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Questions and Answers

Here's this issue's stumper and its story. Sometimes what we turn up in looking for the answer can be informative just in itself.

What's that Word?

Our patron wanted to know the word that describes a word that is both a noun and a verb. We thought of "gerund" which is a word which librarians and patrons of a certain age may remember from diagramming sentences in English classes. In those days, a "gerund" was a verb made into a noun, usually made by adding "ing," e.g. the joy of reading. But the patron was ahead of us with his example, "rain."

Our researcher also thought of "gerund," but verbs can sometimes be adjectives, e.g. a "going concern," or a "growing suburb." Nothing came from her search of word sources - word games, grammar texts, or works on words about words.

The closest our researcher could come to finding the answer were the entry for "gerund" in Fowler's *Modern English Usage*, 3rd edition, 1996, pp. 318-19 and an article from the Autumn 1994 issue of *Verbatim* pp. 22-23, titled "To verb or not to verb" by Robertson Cochrane.

The Fowler entry had this prefatory note: "Readers should be warned at the outset that some modern grammarians have abandoned the term all together and speak instead of verbal nouns in <ing." Fowler added that "the adjective corresponding to *gerund* is *gerundial*."

The upshot was that there is no definitive answer. Fowler and Cochrane seem to suggest that if you think that the word is a noun derived from a verb, then it's a "noun-verb," and vice versa.

Prompted by our patron's question, we tried to see how many parts of speech we could make from the word "puzzle." Here's our attempt:

After not solving a puzzle on his own, a puzzled patron turned to his librarian, who puzzled on the question a while before forwarding this puzzling question to us for our puzzle-solvers to answer. Our puzzlers couldn't answer this puzzler either, but all appreciated the research report and accompanying documentation. More puzzling, anyone?

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News from our Members

Library 2.0 in San Jose

[San Jose Public Library](#) and [San Jose State University Library](#) combined their entities to become a [joint library](#), as most of you know. Among the things they share is the [Martin Luther King Jr. library building](#), a [catalog](#), and staffing in sections of some departments, such as reference and technical services.

Now [San Jose Public Library and San Jose State University Library](#) are working together on [Learning 2.0](#). The initiative runs from January 8 through March 10, and is coordinated by a 13-member team representing both the public and university libraries. The program is open to *all* SJSU and SJPL library employees regardless of position and status (full and part time). Non-regular staff must do the lessons outside working hours and are ineligible for any incentives. All regular staff who complete the program will earn a flash drive. We counted about 197 library [participants](#) and 5 non-library participants. The project team has posted their program's link on the [Learning 2.0 website](#).

Several member libraries are mulling a [Learning 2.0](#) staff training initiative and are thinking about the policy and procedure needed. However, they and other member libraries are now offering some [Library 2.0](#) services. Look for articles on some of these libraries' services in subsequent issues of **Search**.

What about your library? [Tell us](#) what you're doing your colleagues can learn from you.

Community Reads

Community Reads events are events to encourage reading in a community. Usually spearheaded by libraries, working with school districts and other community cultural partners, the project centers around one book and organizes events related to that book. Activities may be book clubs, author readings, movie showings, performances, talks about the locale of the book, and more. The only limit to the event is that it must be related to the book and take place over the time period that the project runs. Some projects run over a month; others over a year, for example.

Is your library doing a community read? [Tell us](#) so your colleagues can read about it in **Search**!

Silicon Valley Reads 2007-08

Santa Clara County Library and San Jose Public Library Foundation are two of the main sponsors of [Silicon Valley Reads](#); SVLS is also a sponsor. The featured book is *The Tortilla Curtain* by T.C. Boyle. There are many activities being held at SVLS member libraries in [February](#).

The Big Read

The [Big Read](#) is funded by grants from [The Institute of Museum and Library Services \(IMLS\)](#). It is designed to encourage reading as a part of the American cultural experience by promoting community partnerships for events planned around a single book, which the community reads. Almost all grants are awarded to applicants which have at least one public library in the partnership.

[Redwood City Library](#) will conduct a **Big Read** program in March. The book is [Fahrenheit 451](#), by Ray Bradbury, one of the [Big Read](#) selections. The co-sponsor is the [Montalvo Arts Center](#). [Canada College Library](#) is also a project participant.

Check out the event's [multi-media site](#), created by [Mission College](#) and the [South Bay Regional New Media Center](#). It has streaming sound effects, book-related games, a message board, along with a calendar of events and lists of sponsors. [Redwood City's Big Read's site](#) will lead you through that city's activities. There are at least 16 events, including a live discussion with Ray Bradbury (via satellite) at Sequoia High School on March 23rd. at 4:00 pm.

The [Peninsula Library System](#) (PLS) will be leading a **Big Read** month in April. The book that the community is reading for PLS's event is [To Kill a Mockingbird](#), by Harper Lee. PLS's offerings include film showings, discussions and readings of the book, author lectures, a parenting seminar, and music venue and restaurant participation.

If your library has some interesting statistics or sends out press releases, please share them with your staff and on committee listserves; 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:

- | | |
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