

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights

March 2016

1. OPL has established an adult classics collection on 2nd floor, with existing copies of classic books being pulled out of the regular collection and new copies being purchased when necessary with money from the Funds for Library Excellence. Separating out the classics will help to highlight and better preserve classic titles that typically appeal to serious readers.
2. New self-service checkout units have been installed on OPL's first floor and they seem to be providing a more positive experience for users. Some improvements: Customers can once again get receipts via e-mail and the units do not time out on users during the checkout process.
3. On March 3 the library held *Novel Pairings: Chapter Two*, a special event for book clubs that also raised funds for the Friends of the Library. At the event, OPL unveiled new book sets for clubs, answered questions about eBooks and other library resources and heard brief testimonials from two clubs about their experiences. The library will continue to engage with book clubs via our web site and explore additional book-centric activities that bring local clubs together.
4. OPL and the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) will present the Wisconsin History Tour, April 1-May 31. The traveling exhibit, which highlights interesting people, places and events in our state's history, will be set up under the Dome. WHS will present special Wisconsin history programming April 5-8, with programs featuring Oshkosh and Winnebago County history planned for May. There will be a brief presentation and overview of the tour at an opening reception on Tues., April 5, at 5:30 p.m.
5. Reference & Adult Services did a presentation on cloud-based computing for 65 members of the Learning in Retirement group on March 7. The program explored different uses of the cloud, including using the service Drop Box to back up files and share photos, files and other information. OPL will offer a travel program to LIR in April. Programs on reading recommendations, technology and local history continue to draw large groups of LIR members to the library.
6. Entries in the Helen Farnsworth Mears Art Contest were displayed at the library in March, with a reception for the participating middle school artists, their families and supporters of the arts held on March 13. About 50 people attended the reception. Rep. Gordon Hintz, Rep. Michael Schraa and Sen. Rick Gudex all selected artwork to receive the Legislator's Award. The pieces will be on display in their Madison offices during the next year.
7. OPL has launched DIY for Adults: Programs featuring hands-on do-it-yourself projects that participants "make and take" at the library. Projects have included an Easter wall hanging and a soilscape planting, with beading projects and coloring for adults planned for future programs.
8. Library users who check out OPL's Chromebooks to use in the building can now print from the Internet or a flash drive when using the laptops.