

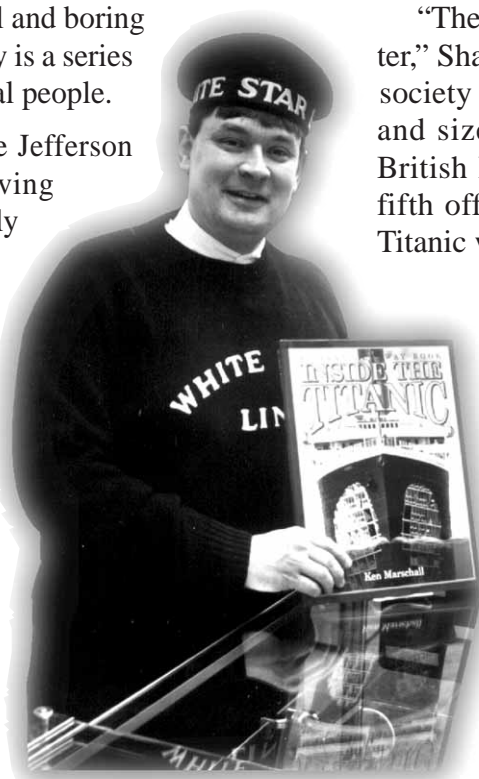


Library Employee Exhibits Titanic Collection

History has never been dull and boring to Mike Shaug. To him, history is a series of fascinating stories about real people.

Shaug, an employee of the Jefferson County Public Library, is having fun right now, because suddenly a lot of people share one of his main interests. He is enthralled by the tale of the Titanic and those who sailed on her. In fact, he has an entire collection of Titanic memorabilia, part of which he displayed at the Standley Lake Library in Arvada. The collection includes copies of newspaper articles, a model of the Titanic, and an extensive personal library on the topic.

Shaug was besieged by questions from library patrons of all ages as he set up the display. Many wanted to know what was true in the movie, what was made up, and what was left out. Each question led to a new story from Shaug, who has studied the ill-fated voyage for years and been a member of the Titanic Historical Society since 1986.



“The sinking of the Titanic was a poignant disaster,” Shaug said. “The richest and poorest members of society were all in the same boat. The sheer beauty and size of the ship symbolized the height of the British Empire, the pinnacle of civilization. As the fifth officer wrote, ‘the old world ended’ when the Titanic went down.”

Shaug’s interest in the Titanic and other aspects of American history began when he was young. He grew up in the Washington, DC, area and went to the Smithsonian every Sunday for years. “It was better than any amusement park,” he said. Living near the coast also led to an interest in the ocean and its great ships.

Libraries across the country have waiting lists for materials about the Titanic. As one librarian put it, “Titanic books are just flying off the shelves!” Fortunately, there is an abundance of Titanic information available on the Internet.

Titanic Sites on the Web

Here are a few sites on the Web that include a variety of Titanic-related information, such as:

- ◆ an exploration of the history of the wreck and its discovery;
- ◆ information on all high-tech hardware in use on the expedition;
- ◆ photo images and maps from the expedition and wreck;
- ◆ biographies about the people onboard; and
- ◆ recovery and preservation details;
- ◆ theories about the sinking; and
- ◆ more Web links.

Titanic Historical Society

<http://www2.titanic1.org/titanic1/>

Discovery Channel Online - Titanic

<http://www.discovery.com/area/science/titanic/titanic1.1.html>

RMS Titanic, Inc. (salvor-in-possession rights)

<http://www.titanic-online.com/>



Mike Shaug of the Jefferson County Public Library displays his collection of Titanic memorabilia.

It's happening ...

FROM THE STATE LIBRARY AND ADULT EDUCATION OFFICE

Eight Ways to Vital Libraries

by Nancy Bolt, <nbolt@csn.net>

At a recent planning meeting at my church, a consultant (yes, we use them in churches too!) handed out a list of 10 ways to vitality for our church congregation. As I read them, it occurred to me that they applied equally well to any organization, including libraries. So, with thanks to Debra Weiner from the Unitarian Universalist Association, and with some adaptation and reduction to eight, here are the Eight Ways to Vitality.



1. Vision and Purpose: The vital library must have a vision of where it is going and what its purpose is. A library without them is static, if not lost entirely. The dynamic vision inspires hope and excitement for the future, and a well-crafted purpose inspires passion about the work being done. Both allow clarity about choices that have to be made to move the library forward.

2. Identity: Libraries have a centuries-old tradition of providing access to information in support of educational, economic, and leisure pursuits. Though the needs of people evolve and the format of information changes, the core mission of connecting people with information and materials they need has not changed. Each new incarnation of information brings with it a new set of challenges and, sometimes, attacks; but in the end, open access to information has always prevailed over time. The vital library keeps our identity in mind as we have challenges from within and without.

3. Warm, Caring Relationships: The vital library provides good customer service. To deliver quality service to people, we approach them in a warm and friendly manner, and we care about them and that they get the answers to their questions. With kids it's even more important that they see the library as a warm, caring, friendly, welcoming place to be.

4. Responsiveness to the Environment: The vital library is responsible to the political, social, economic, and service environment in which it operates. It means knowing what users want now and what they will probably want in the future. It means being responsive to funding bodies in ways that demonstrate the value of the library, and asking for the resources needed to carry out the library's vision and purpose. Finally, it means having the resources that best meet the needs of the library's users.

5. Personal and Leadership Development: The vital library ensures that staff have the training and support needed to provide the best possible service to the public. Library staff need release time and financial support to attend workshops and conferences. Future leaders for the library and its programs need to be developed and nurtured so that they feel empowered to make good decisions to better serve users.

6. Empowerment of the People: The vital library helps users believe that the library they use is their own. They need to be asked their opinions, and their input must be taken seriously. This is where boards, friends groups, and advisory committees come into play. But, as in any organization, there must be a balance between responding to people's needs and betraying the core purpose and identity of the organization.

7. Democratic organization and purposeful organization: The vital library is managed in a way that ensures staff have input in the best ways to meet

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user needs. Staff also need to understand the library's policies and the underlying rationale and philosophy. The library should be structured and organized to best fulfill its purpose. Sometimes this means change (which can be unwelcome) and, even in a democratic organization, the buck stops somewhere. This is a balancing act between staff input and leadership decision-making.

8. Outreach and Action: The vital library reaches out to its users through library programs both in and out of the library. Too many people still don't know the wonders that await them in the library. Too many people need extra encouragement to visit the library. If the library is to serve everyone, it must reach beyond its borders to tell its story.



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For additional information on this exciting and fun-filled affair, please visit the 98 CLA Conference Web Page at

<http://douglas.lib.co.us/cla98/>

Changes to Colorado State Library Jobline

The Colorado State Library Jobline is a listing of library and related job vacancies, formerly available via gopher or email. Recent changes make the Jobline easier to access because it is posted to the World Wide Web, which also enables more frequent updates.

Colorado State Library Jobline is available at <http://jobline.aclin.org/>. Postings include library professional, paraprofessional, and nonprofessional library job vacancies in Colorado and out-of-state. Some postings include links to employer Web sites or email.

As always, there no charge to post job vacancies. Employers list openings by emailing the information they want included to parent_k@cde.state.co.us. If email is not available, positions can be faxed to 303/866-6940, to the attention of "Jobline." All positions must comply with Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action guidelines, and ads are not accepted if they do not identify the name of the employer. Updates are made to the site as soon as they are received, so job seekers can check each day to see if new jobs have been posted.

Job seekers without Web access are still able to dial in to ACLIN at no charge using a computer and modem. A list of all the new jobs each week is also compiled and emailed to the Libnet and K12 listservs, usually on Monday.

Direct questions or suggestions about the Jobline service to Kathleen Parent, 303/866-6900, email parent_k@cde.state.co.us.

CENTENNIAL STATE LIBRARIES

(ISSN 0887-1116) is published monthly by the Colorado State Library, Colorado Department of Education, 201 East Colfax Avenue, Room 309, Denver, CO 80203; telephone 303/866-6900. Periodicals Postage is paid at Denver, CO.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to: Centennial State Libraries, Colorado State Library, 201 East Colfax Avenue, Room 309, Denver, CO 80203.

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Employment Opportunities, USA, provides career news and lists and descriptions of hundreds of Internet and other online career resources. Quarterly supplements keep the information current. The service is \$184 per year, and includes an imprinted leather-fiber looseleaf binder, 14 career news reports, index tabs, and quarterly supplements. Libraries, colleges, and high schools are invited to preview it for 45 days without obligation. For information, contact Joseph Ryan, 303/756-9038, email <washres@usa.net>.

The *Journal of Unconventional History* is a publication that can put librarians in touch with "some of today's more spirited, unusual historical writing, plus information to be found nowhere else." The journal is published triannually, and institutional subscriptions are \$22.50 per year. For information, visit <<http://www.picpal.com/picpal/juh/index.html>>.

Uncompahgre: A Guide to the Uncompahgre Plateau by Muriel Marshall is a much requested resource for the foot, auto, or armchair traveler. The

Uncompahgre Mountain covers almost 2,000 square miles of western Colorado from Ridgway to Grand Junction. This new edition of the book includes a map and an index to further help explore the slashing canyons, weird geology and topography, vast horizons, and interesting history that is the Uncompahgre Plateau. The price is \$15.95, including shipping. Also available is *Early Days on the Western Slope of Colorado*, a primary course of information on the pioneer days of 1870 through 1883 in Colorado. The price for this book is also \$15.95, shipping included. Schools and libraries receive a 25% discount. To order, phone 800/993-4490, or mail WRI, PO Box 710, Ouray, CO 81427; email <westref@ouraycolorado.net>.

The **Children's Book Council (CBC)** promotes the reading and enjoyment of children's books through the sale of quality reading-encouragement graphics that help support CBC's publications and other literacy efforts. Free copies of the 1998 CBC catalog from are available by phone (212/966-1990) or through the Web site at <<http://www.cbcbooks.org>>.

As of March 31, 1998

CLC Update

◆ New CLC member:

Weld Library District: Glenn A. Jones MD Memorial Library, Johnstown — Patricia Betz, 970/587-2059

◆ Change: Weld Library District: Contact person Steve Cottrell

Centennial

STATE LIBRARIES

Centennial State Libraries is published monthly by the Colorado State Library, Colorado Department of Education; Kathleen D. Parent, Editor; phone 303/866-6900; fax 303/866-6940; email <Parent_K@cde.state.co.us>.

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The printing of this document was paid for by federal funds provided through the Library Services and Construction Act.

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