Wow! Today is August 23. I was at the bus stop at 7:00 AM to “wave” my daughter off to her first day at middle school - a couple of quick (“is anyone looking”) photos, no public displays of affection, just a gentle pat on the back and she was hopping onto the bus in her black pants, black Hard Rock café sweater, black sneakers, black headband with silver studs, a bunch of black Goth jewelry and her almost waist length dark blonde hair covering one eye (and her eczema)! She’s a Leo and likes attention - something she is sure to get with that outfit. At least I won the battle of not letting her bleach her hair neon pink, for now, anyway.

My daughter spent the weekend asking where summer had gone and I realized she was right, where did it go? I spent months planning and stressing over summer reading. It seemed like things had just started to settle down into a comfortable pattern at the branches and I was able to clear out all the boxes outside my office, when branches were sending back leftover supplies, incentives, and reading logs! It looks like I never cleaned up. And somehow, I find the clean-up rather anti-climactic. I want to move on to the next project, not clean up, take inventory, and store left-overs (I am like this at home too with scrapbooking - I want to start my next page, not clean up the mess from the last layout!).

Speaking of next projects, there are lots of possibilities this time of the year. We have Library Card Month, Banned Books Week, Teen Read Week, Halloween, the opening of the new Harry Potter film, Thanksgiving, and, of course, ILA conference and ILA planning for next year. There are some really exciting Youth Services programs to attend at ILA so read about them inside and plan your schedule. If you feel like there is a subject that hasn’t been covered in an ILA session, please email me at acjones@dmpl.org because it won’t be long before I attend the planning meeting for next year. Oh, and don’t forget, plans are already underway for “One World, Many Stories” and “You are Here” for summer reading 2011. Find out the details inside.

Right now I guess I had better get to the two projects I have been studiously avoiding this morning - proofreading our next events calendar for October and November and preparing some book selection carts!

See you at ILA!

Audrey Jones
YSS Chair
Youth Services Coordinator
Des Moines Public Library
ILA Conference 2010 is less than two months away. Have you made plans to attend? Do you know what sessions are available? Are you excited by the opportunities to meet colleagues from across the state, renew some acquaintances and make new friends? Are you looking forward to the energy you will feel as you head back to work with great ideas and a new sense of purpose? I sure am. In my short time in Iowa I have come to love the conferences and look forward to learning new things and making new friends! Here are some YSS sponsored sessions you won’t want to miss. For more details, look in the upcoming issues of Catalyst or look online at www.iowlibraryassociation.org, click on Conferences.

Get the Picture: The Best in Fiction and Non-fiction Picture Books for 2010. Presented by Debb Green from the Iowa City Public Library and Danielle Day of the Carnegie-Stout Public Library in Dubuque, this has been a very popular session at the last couple of conferences. Join Debb and Danielle as they talk about the best of the best for this year. It is a great way to develop your collection and catch any books you may have missed!

Graphic Novels: Leading the Way to Teen Literacy and Leadership. Waukee Library Director, Maryann Mori, is presenting this session. A published author, Maryann has spent much time researching graphic novels and why they are an important genre for all collections. If the whole concept of graphic novels is beyond you, make sure to catch this session and the next one:

Buying Cool Manga and Anime Choices for Kids and Teens. Adam Mix, co-owner of Daydreams Comics, in Iowa City, explains how you select your manga titles and anime videos and suggests some of the most popular titles for collections.

Our Library’s Going to the Dogs! Are you wagging your tail in excitement over the idea of a dog program at your library? Come to this session and learn how other libraries have used therapy dogs to build confidence in young readers. Linda Parker of the Coralville Public Library and Dori Butler, a published author and expert on this topic, will discuss the logistics of therapy dog programs and libraries who already conduct these programs will be on hand to share what worked and didn’t work for them.

Other possibilities to consider (all co-sponsored by the Youth Services Subdivision):
  - Ready-Set-Tell: Discover the Storyteller within You
  - Turning Points™ If You Can Tell It, You Can Write It
  - Multicultural Gender-Fair Resources for Children and Young Adults

Also, MARK YOUR SCHEDULE: Youth Services Subdivision Business Meeting, Thursday, October 14 from 4:30 - 5:15 PM. Come meet your colleagues from around the state, find out what YSS is all about, and talk to the committee about why you should become a member!

Audrey Jones
YSS Chair
Youth Services Coordinator
Des Moines Public Library
Pop-up books are favorite gifts that young children enjoy and treasure. They pour over, read, and manipulate the movable illustrations many times, never tiring of them. Teens and adults are fascinated too by paper engineering and enjoy how-to books on making pop-ups. Here are a few wonderful pop-up books and artists too good to miss.

Robert Sabuda is an illustrator transforming the world of children’s books. He also works with Matthew Reinhart, who is another phenomenal paper engineer. In recent years Sabuda has created marvelous interactive pop-up adaptations of classic children’s literature. Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland has stunning illustrations reminiscent of the original. Double-page spreads include large and small pop-ups done in various techniques, such as a Victorian “peep show” of the rabbit hole. At the end, a deck of cards literally “pops-off” the page! The Wonderful Wizard of Oz is similar and includes a spinning tornado, wearable spectacles, and a hot air balloon waving in the air. His version of Peter Pan features a bird’s eye view of London at night surrounded on high by clouds that look like Tiger Lily, Captain Hook, and, of course, Peter himself.

Together Sabuda and Reinhart have created several informational picture books with pop-ups that include Encyclopedia Prehistorica: Sharks and Other Sea Monsters and Encyclopedia Mythologica: Fairies and Magical Creatures. And Matthew Reinhart, along with Maurice Sendak and Arthur Yorinks, designed the paper engineering for the ever so enjoyable and slightly monstrous Mommy? To find out more, visit their websites at http://robertsabuda.com/ and http://www.matthewreinhart.com/.

David A. Carter is the creator of forty children’s pop-up and toy books, many about fantastic bugs and animals such as Alpha Bugs, or Curious Critters. His The Elements of Pop-Up: A Pop-Up Book For Aspiring Paper Engineers is a definitive work on the art for older kids and above. It includes history, pop-up examples of designs, and photo directions. For more detail, visit his website at http://www.popupbooks.com/.

Two other great author illustrators of pop-up stories are David Pelham and Jan Pienkowski. Pienkowski is credited for reviving interest in the use of pop-ups in modern children’s book publishing with his delightful Haunted House, first published in 1979. Recently this title plus Little Monsters and Dinner Time have been re-released. Pelham is known for funny lift-the-flap books about siblings Sam and Samantha like Sam’s Sandwich and Sam’s Surprise. Pelham’s beautiful pop-up book Trail features elaborate white and silver pop-ups accompanied by a turn the wheel version of “paper poetry.”

Some authors write only how-to books on the subject. Joan Irvine’s How To Make Pop-Ups and How to Make Super Pop-Ups work well with youngsters, as does Pop-O-Mania by Barbara Valenta. Paul Jackson’s The Pop-Up Book is more detailed and aimed at teens. Finally, there are complex adult works by Masahiro Chatani such as Pop-Up Gift Cards, Paper Magic: Pop-Up Paper Craft, and Pop-Up Origamic Architecture. For serious fans of the art, these show incredible examples of why there are no limits in the wonderful world of pop-ups.

Debb Green
YSS Awards Chair
Children's Services Coordinator
Iowa City Public Library
Before school today, I had an interesting conversation with the gentleman who teaches one of our sixth grade classes. Matt was sharing some of the many professional and young adult titles he’d read over the summer, and while talking about them mentioned that when he was a young adult, he wasn’t at all interested in reading. It led us to a conversation about why that is so often the case, especially for young men.

We all know how important it is for citizens of the 21st century to be capable readers. We are also aware, sometimes painfully, of the efforts of state and the federal governments to make that a reality. Despite our best efforts, many teachers could cite plenty of examples of young people who read like crazy through elementary school, only to drift toward indifference when they reach puberty. What gives?

Here are a few ideas Matt and I came up with:

- Matt said that when he reached puberty, all he wanted to do was be outside throwing a ball.

- I thought maybe that’s wired into guys' genes, since until about 70 years ago, young men were needed to be out doing hard physical labor, hunting, etc. (Please don’t accuse me of being sexist. I grew up on a farm and know first hand how hard women work.) I think a lot of young men just have a hard time making themselves sit down to read.

- Matt talked about how important it is for students to develop a strong vocabulary. He’d had a conversation with his students explaining that his wife, who has always loved to read, has a much larger vocabulary than he does. He feels that he’ll never catch up to the head start she has.

- Maybe that’s genetic too, since whichever part of the brain controls language - sorry, is it left or right? - is larger in women. We have been the traditional caregivers and developers of language in the next generation.

- I talked about how my professional development research of a few years ago showed that young men would read if the men in their lives read. They see it as a ‘guy thing’ to do. It makes sense that having adults who model the practice of reading has to be important for both young women and men.

It was quite a conversation. If we could figure out how to motivate our nonreaders to read, we could make quite a difference in their lives. How can we use what we’re seeing to make a change?

Marsha Hauser
K-12 Teacher Librarian
Edgewood-Colesburg CSD
Great New Book for the Fall
Compiled by Danielle Day, Youth Services Manager
Carnegie-Stout Public Library, Dubuque, IA

Finn has escaped from the terrible living Prison of Incarceron, but its memory torments him, because his brother Keiro is still inside. Outside, Claudia insists he must be king, but Finn doubts even his own identity. Is he the lost prince Giles? Or are his memories no more than another construct of his imprisonment?

When Whit & Wisty were imprisoned by the wicked forces of the totalitarian regime known as the New Order, they were barely able to escape with their lives. Now part of a hidden community of teens like themselves, Whit and Wisty have established themselves as leaders of the Resistance, willing to sacrifice anything to save kids kidnapped and brutally imprisoned by the New Order. But the One has other plans in store for them.

The behemoth is the fiercest creature in the British navy. It can swallow enemy battleships with one bite. The Darwinists will need it, now that they are at war with the Clanker powers. Deryn is a girl posing as a boy in the British Air Service, and Alek is the heir to an empire posing as a commoner. Finally together aboard the airship Leviathan, they hope to bring the war to a halt. But when disaster strikes the Leviathan's peacekeeping mission, they find themselves alone and hunted in enemy territory.

Holler Loudly by Cynthia Leitich Smith. ISBN: 9780525422563. 7/2010
Holler Loudly has a voice as big as the southwestern sky, and everywhere he goes, people tell him to “Hush!” From math class to the movies and even the state fair, Holler’s LOUD voice just keeps getting him into trouble. But when a huge tornado comes twisting into town, Holler (with that voice of his!) saves the day.

Bartimaeus, everyone’s favorite (wise-cracking) djinni, is back in book four of this best-selling series. As alluded to in the footnotes throughout the series, Bartimaeus has served hundreds of magicians during his 5,010 year career. Now, for the first time, fans will go back in time with the djinni, to Jerusalem and the court of King Solomon in 950s BC. Only in this adventure, it seems the great Bartimaeus has finally met his match.

Art & Max by David Wiesner. ISBN: 9780618756636. 10/2010
Max and Arthur are friends who share an interest in painting. Arthur is an accomplished painter; Max is a beginner. Max’s first attempt at using a paintbrush sends the two friends on a whirlwind trip through various artistic media, which turn out to have unexpected pitfalls. Although Max is inexperienced, he’s courageous—and a quick learner. His energy and enthusiasm bring the adventure to its triumphant conclusion. Beginners everywhere will take heart.

Greg Heffley has always been in a hurry to grow up. But is getting older really all it’s cracked up to be? Greg suddenly finds himself dealing with the pressures of boy-girl parties, increased responsibilities, and even the awkward changes that come with getting older—all without his best friend, Rowley, at his side. Can Greg make it through on his own? Or will he have to face the “ugly truth”? 
The summer library program workshops reflect the 2011 themes "One World, Many Stories" for the children's program and "You are Here" for the teens. Both the children's and teen programs will be covered throughout each of the eight workshops. The workshops are going to be especially fun and high-energy and you’re guaranteed to leave with energy, enthusiasm and lots of ideas for programs and story hours.

The presenters are Missy Mayfield-Cook of the Winthrop Public Library and Cathy Shaw of the Edgewood Public Library. Each participant is asked to bring their copy of the 2011 manual which will be sent to libraries in October.

Due to budget issues, we will not be able to offer refreshments. We will remind everyone to bring their own snack and/or water. We are scheduling an hour for lunch so librarians can go out and have an opportunity to network.

Registration is available in the State Library’s CE catalog:  http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/cgi-bin/cecat/

Workshop dates (times at all locations are 10 am to 3 pm):

Tuesday, Oct 26 - Marshalltown Public Library

Wednesday, Oct 27 - Oelwein Public Library

Thursday, Oct 28 - Coralville Public Library

Friday, Oct 29 – Oskaloosa Public Library

Tuesday, Nov. 2 - Red Oak Public Library

Wednesday, Nov. 3 - Johnston Public Library

Thursday, Nov. 4 - Cherokee Conference Center, Cherokee

Friday, Nov. 5 - Clear Lake Area Education Agency

Submitted by,
Sandy Dixon
State Library
Weeding is part of collection development, whether you like it or not. We weed to get rid of materials in bad condition, materials that never check out, or just to make space. Whether you enjoy it or not, weeding is necessary.

Since I started my job a little over a year ago, I’ve withdrawn over 1,000 Young Adult books, between fiction and nonfiction. I’ve gotten rid of books that haven’t circulated, shouldn’t have been in Young Adult to begin with, and materials that shouldn’t have been on the shelf due to condition and/or smell. My first round of weeding got rid of books that hadn’t checked out in two years or more. I’ve also weeded for space. And with the amount of Young Adult fiction coming out, space is always in high demand.

My criteria for weeding fiction are simple:

- Has the item circulated?
- How many times has it circulated? How many years have we owned it? Does it average to more than one circulation per year? (In my library, one circulation a year is a poorly circulating book.)
- Is it in good condition? (My favorites are the ones with highlighting on every page, or the unfortunate books that look like they were used to soak up a puddle then put on the shelf)
- What does the cover look like? Is the cover art outdated?
- Do we have other books that have the same topical issues?
- Is it in a series? Do we own the rest of the series and where?

The circulation stats for Young Adult books have gone through the roof since I’ve started weeding through the collection. By removing the books that do not circulate, the teenagers who come into the library can find books they want. The shelves look current and spacious. The newer books don’t disappear into the collection never to be seen again, and I can display books at the end of the shelves. Weeding may not be the best part of my job, but I do enjoy making space for the newest we have to offer.

Natalie Struecker
YSS Newsletter Editor

Don’t forget! Early Registration for the Iowa Library Association Conference is Friday, October 1st!