

# Ten Cool Things Happening in Libraries!

**10 Cool Things  
Happening in Libraries**

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**#1 LibraryU**



*"The best way to learn is to teach."*

--Frank Oppenheimer

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**LibraryU**



- Monthly staff trainings
- Topics
- Taught by staff "experts"
- Not mandatory

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# Ten Cool Things Happening in Libraries!

**Results**



- Highly effective
- Well-attended
- Cost-efficient
- Increased confidence levels for students and teachers

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**#2: Circulating eBook Readers**



*“Among active readers who own an e-reader, about 48% reported reading more books as a consequence of having such products”*

-L.E.K. Consulting survey on new media

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**Why circulate them?**

- Keep up with user demand
- Allow customers to “test drive” model
- Alternative resource for low-vision customers
- Lightweight
- Hold multiple books

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# Ten Cool Things Happening in Libraries!

## Comparing eBook Readers

Amazon Kindle      Barnes & Noble nook



Apple iPad      Sony Reader

Sharing      Accessibility  
Wireless      Formats

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## eBook readers in libraries



- Kindles are most popular
- 10 titles per reader
- Details:
  - Holds
  - Loan Period
  - Fines and Fees

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## #3 Family Place Libraries

**Core Components**



- Collections for babies, toddlers, parents, and service providers
- The Parent/Child Workshop
- Specially designed space - creating a family-friendly library
- Community outreach
- Coalition building
- Library staff trained in family support, parent education and best practices
- Developmentally appropriate programming for our youngest community members and their parents/caregivers

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# Ten Cool Things Happening in Libraries!

## Parent/Child Workshops



The image contains four photographs illustrating parent/child workshops. Top left: A child is playing with a red toy bus on a colorful mat. Top right: A child is painting a colorful picture. Bottom left: A parent is sitting on the floor reading a book to a child. Bottom right: A child is playing with colorful puppets.

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## Creating a family-friendly library



Before becoming a Family Place Library



Butts County Library, Paradise Branch

After becoming a Family Place Library - ©

The image shows two photographs of a library. The left photo shows a standard library with bookshelves and a small play area. The right photo shows the same library after becoming a Family Place Library, with a more colorful and child-friendly environment, including a red bus and various toys.

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## Why we fell in love (or why Family Place Libraries are cool!)

- Respectful
- Highlights the wonderfully unique role of the library
- Fulfills a need
- Brings folks into the library
- Brings the community together
- Benefits
  - For children
  - For parents
  - For the library



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# Ten Cool Things Happening in Libraries!

## #4: Build-your-own-business



*"The more we increase the active participation and partnership with young people, the better we serve them. ... And the more comprehensively we work with them as service partners, the more we increase our public value to the entire community." - Carmen Martinez*

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## Build-your-own-business



- Finance & Small Business Workshops
- Marketing and Promotion
- Curriculum
- Results

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## Wins for our community



- Teens actively involved in programs that benefit the community
- Teens preparing for a future with business skills and money smarts
- Teens that will be a contributive asset in our future economic health

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# Ten Cool Things Happening in Libraries!

## #5: Book Club in a Bag



- Tote bags, boxes, or tubs
- Multiple copies of one title
- Support materials
- Adults, teens, or children

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## Funding & Promotion Ideas



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## Variations

- Mother & Daughter book club bags
- Activities to include
- Bilingual or ESL Bags
- Read-to-me Kits
- Early Childhood Resource Kits
- Additional books around the same theme



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# Ten Cool Things Happening in Libraries!

#6: Food Fascination!



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Cool Food Programming Ideas

- Taste offs
- Chef challenges
- Tween cooking class
- Seed-Lending Library, Richmond Public



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A Super Cool Food Programming Idea

*What's Cooking at the Library*  
Newport Beach Public Library



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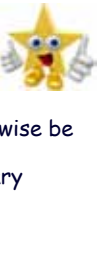
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# Ten Cool Things Happening in Libraries!

**Some Bennies of Food Programming**

- Popular
- In keeping with library values
- Fun!
- Brings the community together
- Development of new partnerships
- Draws in folks who might not otherwise be using the library
- Opportunities to highlight the library collection
- And the icing on cake . . .



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**#7: Foundation Center Cooperating Collections**



- Foundation Center
- Cooperating Collections= Free Funding Information Centers



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**Why?**



- Assist nonprofits and individuals
- Enhanced visibility in the community
- Alignment of goals with other city/county departments
- Resource for library's grantseeking efforts

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# Ten Cool Things Happening in Libraries!

**Benefits**



- Foundation Directory Online
- Foundation Directory for Individuals
- Free print materials
- Free access to Foundation Center training courses

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**#8: Speed Dating at the Library**



speed dat-ing  
NOUN

1. **singles event**: an organized gathering of singles at which the participants meet privately for a few minutes of conversation with a number of potential partners and decide who among those they have met they would like to meet again

- Encarta® World English Dictionary

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**Chula Vista Public Library, Civic Center Branch**



- 2 programs
- Details -
  - Target Audience
  - Attendance
  - Gender balance
  - Marketing

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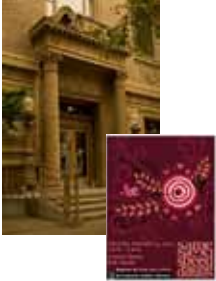
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# Ten Cool Things Happening in Libraries!

**Sacramento Public Library**



- 2 programs: Central & Elk Grove
- Details -
  - Target Audience
  - Attendance
  - Gender balance
  - Marketing

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**#9: At the Heart: Adult Literacy**



**A Rich History in California Libraries**

- Who
- Why?
- How?

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# Ten Cool Things Happening in Libraries!

Improved reading and writing skills = Cool!  
But even more so--

- What folks do with those skills
- People helping people
- Bringing folks together across the community
- Learning experience for the adult learners **and** the tutors
- Fulfilling library principle of providing access to information

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Other coolness factors related to  
Adult Literacy Services in the Library. . .

- Hot topic
- Ultra passionate volunteers in support of the library (including the adult learners)
- Committed and willing staff members
- Can be heart-wrenching, but oh so positive!
- More library users!
- An informed citizenry



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And the coolness goes beyond . . .



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# Ten Cool Things Happening in Libraries!

#10: What are you doing?



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Thank you!

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