

Pennsylvania Libraries: *Research & Practice*

News

A Win-Win Collaboration

Blue Bell, PA -- The Brendlinger Library of the Montgomery County Community College and the Wissahickon Valley Public Library (WVPL), both located in Blue Bell, have been exploring ways to work with each other and have embarked on the first of several projects, a collaborative book-borrowing program. Beginning in January 2013, WVPL will periodically donate weeded books that have been published within the last few years to the Brendlinger Library in support of the students enrolled in Montgomery County Community College Reading classes. WVPL is donating their weeded books not only to support the Reading students, who are required to read a minimum number of pages per semester, but also to encourage pleasure reading among the general student body. The additional books from the WVPL will enhance the community college's popular collection by expanding the number of books available to students as they build their reading confidence and appreciation. Reading classes visiting the Brendlinger Library will now have a greater number of appealing books from which to choose.

At the Brendlinger Library, the books will be acknowledged with a small shelf sign that reads, "Thank you, WVPL." The location for the books in the online catalog will be WVPL, and the call number labels will read "WVPL" to keep the books shelved together. Of course, Brendlinger Library will also mark these books as their own, barcode, and assign LC call numbers to them. When the books are circulated, each library will receive credit, and circulation reports will be run and sent regularly to WVPL for their records. When the books are withdrawn, they will be returned to WVPL to be sold in their Friends of the Library book sale.

The WVPL, which maintains a strong collection rich in fiction and popular non-fiction, is happy to find an additional use for their books as they weed the collection. The WVPL also appreciates benefitting from the additional circulation of these books and their return for sale in their annual book sale. It's a win-win for both WVPL and the Brendlinger Library!

Submitted by Mary Beth Parkinson, Montgomery County Community College