



READ ❖ THINK ❖ CREATE  
**DISCOVER**

PUTNAM COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

SPRING 2017

**Between Friends**

**2016 Year in Review**

**Summer Reading 2017**

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Putnam County  
Public Library



## From the Director

It's an indisputable fact that we consume information in unprecedented quantities and, some might argue, at increasingly unhealthy rates of frequency. To be sure, 21st century life demands of us a level of engagement with news and information that would have baffled previous generations, but none of us can afford

to turn a blind eye to significant current events and the impact they often have on daily life. In our current socio-political environment, it's tempting to seek curatorial solutions to the problem of information saturation, to trust the voices we find most reassuring to tell us what we should know and what we can afford to ignore.

Information literacy, that quirky library/educational term that signifies something far greater than the ability to search the internet, may well be one of the most important skills today's citizen can possess. Paramount to the greater skill set that is critical thinking, information literacy serves to guide us through the mire with patience and purpose toward an impartial yet nonetheless engaged perspective on everything we consume.

And how does one become information literate? A great place to start is here at PCPL. We provide free and open access to everything from books, newspapers, and other print media to digital resources, research databases, and the internet itself. We do our very best to collect a balanced set of physical and digital resources, but, out there on the web, it's still largely the wild west. That's one of the many reasons why we also provide technology skills training and support programs which include many aspects of basic information literacy. How do you evaluate a website or news source for credibility? How do you discern between fact and opinion within a given article? And what role should you allow social media to play in managing your personal stream of information? These are just a few questions that information literacy seeks to address, and we encourage all library users to come to us for help with this or any other aspect of literacy.

Gurus and pundits are aplenty, and the mire is growing thicker by the day. Fortunately, your local library is here to help guide you and, more importantly, to help you maintain your intellectual independence.

Grier Carson, Director

# 2016 Year in Review

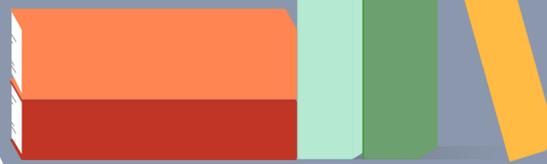


132,432  
People visited  
the library

7,380  
Reference  
questions  
were answered



185,750  
Items were  
checked out



1,368  
Interlibrary loan  
requests were made



13,133  
Electronic items  
were checked out



18,460  
Public  
computer  
uses



8,072  
People Attended



540  
Library Events

There are **62,854** books in the library

There are **31,150** items available on OverDrive

## PCPL Awarded Grant for LGBTQ+ Programming



Sarah Gerkenmeyer  
courtesy of her website

The Putnam County Public Library is honored to have recently received a generous grant from author Sarah Gerkenmeyer. Gerkenmeyer was the recipient of the 2016 Eugene & Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award for Best Emerging Author. Along with the title, she was awarded a grant to be given to her hometown library.

With this grant, PCPL hopes to be able to help under-represented groups in our community by giving them a forum to discuss current events and engage in a safe and supportive space. Money from the grant has been used to purchase books for the monthly LGBTQ+ Book Club, providing them free of charge to participants. It will also be used to support the LGBTQ+ Author Series.

Over the next year, PCPL will be partnering with DePauw University's Intercultural Life department as well as other local community groups to present the LGBTQ+ Author Series. Notable LGBTQ writers will be visiting Greencastle to discuss their works and the issues facing the LGBTQ+ community. In addition to these author visits, the LGBTQ+ Author Series will include film screenings and other events for all ages.

Sarah Gerkenmeyer and her husband are proud to call Putnam County home and are raising their two young boys here. Both Sarah and her husband attended DePauw University as writing students and recently moved back to raise their family.

As a Putnam County resident, Gerkenmeyer has given this cash award to PCPL with the intention that it allow the library to increase the amount of LGBTQ+ programming the library provides.

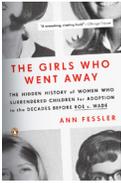
PCPL is thrilled to be a part of this collaborative effort to assist the members of our community in engaging with each other and providing a safe forum for discussing current events. More information about the authors and their scheduled visits, as well as other upcoming programs will be available soon. Please continue to check our website ([www.PCPL21.org](http://www.PCPL21.org)) for more information.

**LGBTQ+ Book Club**

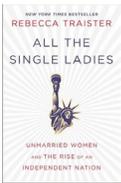
- MIDDLESEX** by Jeffrey Eugenides  
March 2nd 6:30 PM
- close to home** a darlington romance by Rachel Spangler  
April 6th 6:30 PM
- RAISING RYLAND** OUR STORY OF PARENTING A TRANSGENDER CHILD WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED by Hillary Whittington  
May 4th 6:30 PM

# Book Discussion Groups @ PCPL

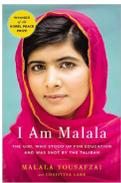
LITERARY LADIES  
Fridays at 5:30pm



March 10th

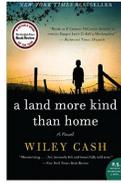


April 21st



May 26th

PCPL BOOK GROUP  
Mondays at 7:00pm



March 13th



April 10th



May 8th

BOOKS & BREWS  
Wednesdays at 8:00pm  
at Wasser Brewing

ANY  
NYT  
BEST  
SELLER

April 26th

ANY  
SCI-FI  
NOVEL

May 31st

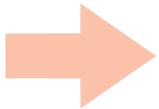
BASED ON THE BOOK:  
MOVIE NIGHT  
Tuesdays at 6:00pm



March 27th



May 16th



Look for more details about upcoming book group selections on our website ([www.PCPL21.org](http://www.PCPL21.org)) or contact Sarah Myers at [smyers@PCPL21.org](mailto:smyers@PCPL21.org) or at 765-653-2755 x107.

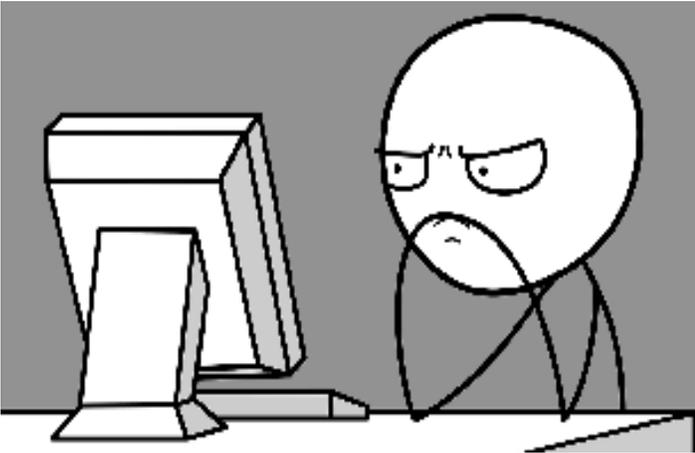
## Book Review: Welcome to the Sino-Verse!

In physics, the three-body problem was devised in 1687 by Sir Isaac Newton to explain how Earth, the sun, and the moon move based on their mutual gravitational attraction. In literature, The Three-Body Problem is the first in an amazing and elegant trilogy by China's Cixin Liu that explores contact between humans and extraterrestrials. "By the time the book hits its peak, it's unveiled a conspiracy that spans solar systems – one that not only threatens to alter the human race, but the very building blocks of physics that we've evolved to understand." (Jason Heller, NPR).



The Three-Body Problem, Dark Forest, and Death's End (FIC LIU)  
Invisible Planets: Contemporary Chinese Science Fiction in Translation (FIC INV)

## Pa55w0rd 1nc0rrect



One of the most common frustrations I hear from patrons is regarding forgotten passwords. Most people have been trained to create long difficult passwords, to never use a password more than once, and to never write them down. No wonder people have so much trouble with passwords! In actuality, you can, in certain situations, use the same password for multiple websites, and it is indeed okay to write them down as long as you keep them in a safe place.

An easy way to manage passwords for multiple sites is to start with a word or phrase that will be easy for you to remember but difficult for someone to guess. You can then use simple variations of that word or phrase depending on what kind of website you are logging into. Your password doesn't need to be overly complicated. Once upon a time, someone trying to hack into an account could make a computer program that would try to guess your password a billion times until it randomly figured it out. Most websites don't allow a billion guesses anymore. Too many wrong guesses and they stop you from trying.

I only use three passwords at any one time:

- I use an easy password for sites that don't keep much data about me, like Jimmy Johns or Pinterest.
- I use a moderate password for my email and any shopping sites that may store my credit card number, like Amazon.

- I use a difficult password for my bank, my taxes, my credit cards, and the BMV.

I was born in Blue Island, Illinois, so I'll use Bluelsland as my easy password. For a moderate password, add something before or after your easy password that won't be difficult to remember, like the year you were born or your street number. Something like Bluelsland1969 is a decent moderate password. To create a difficult password, add a special character or two to your moderate password. For example, holding down the shift key and typing 1,2,3 before your moderate password gets you !@#Bluelsland1969, which is a good difficult password.

If you create three variations of a simple word or phrase, you'll only ever need to remember three passwords. Occasionally you'll need to change your password, when that time comes, keep the variations the same, just change the word or phrase you were using. After about six to twelve months I'll change the word in my password from the place I was born to the college I went to. I'll also change all my passwords at the same time.

- My easy password, Bluelsland, changes to BallState
- My moderate password, Bluelsland1969, changes to BallState1969
- My difficult password, !@#Bluelsland1969, changes to !@#BallState1969

### Need additional assistance?

We have a Community Help Desk four days a week where we help patrons one-on-one with electronics, including the recovery of forgotten passwords and changing of existing passwords. If you have any questions, come see us during our Community Help Desk hours:

- Mondays from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- Tuesdays from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm
- Thursdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Fridays from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

## Did You Know...?

BEES NEVER SLEEP

A GROUP OF OWLS IS CALLED A PARLIAMENT



TURTLES CAN FEEL THROUGH THEIR SHELLS



GIRAFFES CAN LICK THEIR OWN EARS

SWIFTS CAN FLY NONSTOP FOR OVER 6 MONTHS

BUTTERFLYS WERE ORIGINALLY CALLED FLUTTERBYS

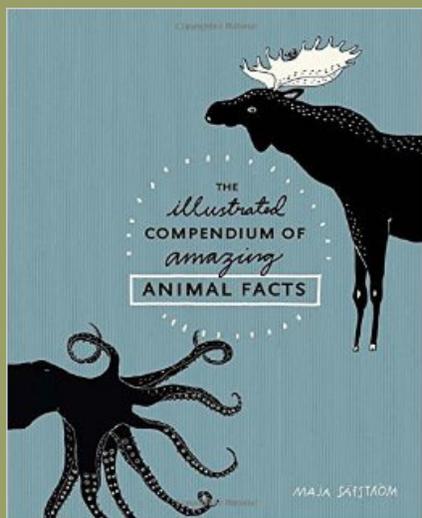


AN OCTOPUS HAS MORE BRAIN CELLS THAN A HUMAN



GRASSHOPPERS HAVE FIVE EYES

Learn even more!  
Check out The Illustrated Compendium of Amazing Animal Facts today!



## Staff Pets: Meet Abi

Abi is an 11-year-old Australian Cattle Dog mix who is the fur-child of Krystal Becker, Marketing and Communications Director at PCPL. Abi has recently completed a 10-week training course and has passed the AKC's Canine Good Citizen test. Good girl, Abi!

Abi is excited to be a member of the PCPL Pups, a group of library dogs trained to serve as reading companions for new or reluctant readers.

As a working dog, she loves to have a job to do, and she is always eager to please. She is calm and friendly, and she can't wait to join the rest of the PCPL Pups in their new roles at the library!

Here are a few of her favorite things:

Favorite Toy: Tennis Ball

Favorite Treat: Salmon

Favorite Passtime: Playing Fetch

Favorite Trick: "Shake"



Look for more information about future PCPL Pups programs coming soon, and look for more PCPL Pup profiles in future issues of the Discover newsletter!

## Explore Spring Together!

Did you know plants drink water from the soil? Not the same way as you; the plant roots carry water from the soil to the leaves kind of like a pipe in your house brings water to your faucet. Water droplets attach itself to the roots and eventually the water climbs up through the roots. This process is happening all the time and is called capillary action. Try this celery race to see capillary action in action:

Put four celery stalks side by side on a cutting board. The place on each stalk where the leaves start should match up. Cut the stalks 4 inches below where the leaves and stalk meet. The celery stalks should all be the same length now.

Fill four cups, plastic or paper, with water. Add 10 to 20 drops of red or blue food coloring into each cup. Put one celery stalk in each cup with the leaves up.

Line up four paper towels. Label them "2 hours," "4 hours," "6 hours," and "8 hours." Every two hours from the time you put the celery into the cups, remove one stalk and place it onto the correct towel. Use a vegetable peeler to take off the outer layer of the celery so you can see how far up the stalk the color traveled.

How long did it take for the first celery stalk to change? Which celery stalk had the most color in it? What did you notice? For more ways to explore spring check out [Explore Spring!: 25 Great Ways to Learn About Spring](#) from the library.



## 2017 Summer Reading Program

PCPL is excited to announce that the Summer Reading Program theme for 2017 is Build a Better World! Keep watching our website ([www.PCPL21.org](http://www.PCPL21.org)) for more information about this summer's activities!



## Spring Clean...and Donate

There's an excellent chance that you might possess some of Putnam County's historically valuable history! As spring approaches and you start thinking about spring cleaning,



we just want to remind you that the Local History and Genealogy Department is definitely interested in donations! The largest part of our collection was generously donated by patrons and by the general public – folks just like you!

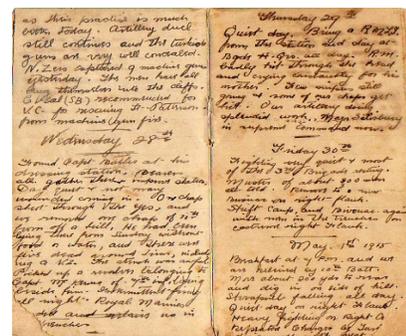
I am often asked what it is that we find historically valuable. My first answer is in the form of a question. Does it have to do with Putnam County? If so, then most likely I am at least interested. The following are just some of the types of items I am particularly interested in but this list is not exhaustive.

- Letters/correspondence
- Diaries
- Writings (published and unpublished)
- Photographs (includes negatives and slides)
- Yearbooks
- Scrapbooks
- Genealogical information
- Telephone books
- Organizational records
- Brochures and flyers

If items have a stronger connection to DePauw University or are objects, it is our practice to direct you to the DePauw University archives and the Putnam County Museum respectively.

Donating records is surprisingly easy and rewarding. Many people who have donated have related a real sense of having contributed to their community. Also, to make it easy on you, I have some advice that you may enjoy hearing. One, do not feel that you are required to bring it to the library yourself. I am open to doing 'house calls'.

This is not only to make it convenient for you but also it allows me to look at the materials as a whole. Second, many people assume they have to organize the materials first. I would highly suggest you NOT do this. I am literally trained to do this task and it will save you the often overwhelming task of doing it yourself. In fact, many people will want to 'weed' out materials before they donate and in the process throw away important items that would have been valuable to the collection. I suggest allowing me to do the weeding and I can take on the task of returning the unwanted items or finding them a new home.



Our archive is open for research to anyone – there are no restrictions on who can view or use the materials. We have letters, diaries, photographs by the thousands, yearbooks, and so much more.

As you and your family come across items such as those I have talked about above, please consider the PCPL Local History and Genealogy department as a resource. Feel free to call me at 765-653-2755 ext. 120 or better yet, email me at [abarger@pcpl21.org](mailto:abarger@pcpl21.org) if you have any questions.

Anthony Barger, Archivist

**Time Travelin'**  
**Genealogy Guild**  
The First Wednesday of the Month  
At 6:00 PM  
March 1st ❖ April 5th ❖ May 3rd

# Upcoming Events

## IRISH FIRST FRIDAY

Join us on March 3rd for a night of music, dance, and fun. Festivities begin at 6:15 PM.

## BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY

Putnam Adult Literacy Services (PALS) presents Bridges Out of Poverty, an organization offering innovative concepts to address poverty in a comprehensive way, on March 8th at 12:00 PM. Brown bag lunches welcome.

## MAKING & BAKING WITH BRIDGETTE

Bridgette Lang returns for a spring season of Making & Baking with Bridgette! This season we'll be making marbled mugs (March 1st), bath bombs (March 22nd), dream catchers (April 5th), birdfeather wreaths (April 9th), and crepes (May 3rd). Class begins at 4:00 PM. Registration required.

## INTRO TO COMPUTER CLASSES

Three-part, hands-on computer class designed to introduce beginners to using a computer. Begins March 3rd. Registration required.

## COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHTS

Join us to watch a movie on the big screen! Titles will be announced soon. Keep checking our website for more information. Showtime is at 5:30 PM. Snacks will be provided. March 21st, April 18th, & May 16th

## BE OUR GUEST!

Be our guest on March 28 at 2:00 PM and celebrate the release of the live action version of Disney's Beauty and the Beast. Come dressed as your favorite Disney character and enjoy snacks and crafts. All ages welcome.

## WEEKLY MAH JONGG GAME

For those who know the game and want to play, or for those who want to watch and learn. Wednesdays at 12:30 PM beginning March 29th.

## LIFE-SIZE CANDY LAND

Join us for fun and adventure on April 8 at 2:00 PM as we play a larger than life version of the classic board game Candy Land!

## MAY THE FOURTH

May the Fourth Be With You at PCPL on May 4th. Stop by the library any time between 5 and 7 PM for Star Wars related snacks, crafts, and activities for padawans of all ages. Feel free to come in costume! All ages welcome.

## Story Time

### BABY & ME

Mondays twice a month at 10 AM

March 6th  
March 20th  
April 3rd  
April 17th



### TODDLER TIME

Thursdays during March & April  
at 10 AM

### PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Thursdays during March & April  
at 11 AM

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## Hour of Code

Tuesdays at 4:00 PM

Explore the basics of coding in a fun and interactive way with the help of our friends from DePauw! Computer science is a great way to nurture creativity and develop problem-solving skills.

Hour of Code is for all ages, but this program is aimed at school-age children.



March 15th at 6:00 PM

Ireland: Journey to the Thin Places  
with Melanie Finney

April 17th at 6:00 PM

Hyderabad, India with Jesse Samm

## Between Friends

Friends of The Library is off to a great start in 2017! Our second annual, "Buck A Bag," sale was held in January for two days and was a great success. Now that we have done our 'spring cleaning' in the Book Sale area you should definitely check it out when you visit the library!

Looking for a unique gift for a friend? The lobby bookshelf (next to the elevator) now has vintage and antique books for sale. Who wouldn't love a James Whitcomb Riley collection of poems or a classic you remember from your childhood? Look over the ever changing selection for yourself!

Need a craft project to fulfill your inner artist? That same bookshelf also has books for crafting for sale. That simply means they are books with interesting covers, slight damage, or little value otherwise. Get on Pinterest for ideas and create something one of a kind!

Spring has come to the library with a selection of yard, garden, and nature books also. You will find these treasures on the lobby table.

While you are at the library don't forget to visit the downstairs Book Sale area. New sale books are put out weekly, and you never know what you may find!

In closing, while you are doing your own spring cleaning remember that the library accepts donations of new and used books, dvd's, albums, and video games. The sale of these items funds the library programs that you and your family enjoy! You can drop them off anytime at the Circulation Desk.

"Fill your house with stacks of books, in all the crannies and in all the nooks."  
-Dr. Seuss

### Donate Your Used Tech!

Do you have old computers or other hardware lying around? Donate it to the Friends of the Putnam County Public Library! Our technicians will properly sanitize your data and make sure all your personal information is securely erased before repairing the equipment and making it ready for resale in our annual used technology sale.

We are currently in need of the following used electronics:

- PC and Mac Desktops
- PC and Mac Laptops
- Tablets
- eReaders
- Printers
- Cell Phones
- Flat Screen Monitors
- Computer Cables
- Wireless Routers
- Internal Computer Components



Sorry we cannot take used CRT monitors or tube TVs, due to the mercury content in these old types of monitors.

If the donated equipment is broken or not worth reselling, we will recycle it for you. Just bring your tax-deductible donations to the library and ask for assistance at the Circulation Desk. All proceeds Support Friends of the Putnam County Public Library.



## Putnam County Public Library

103 E. Poplar St.  
Greencastle, IN 46135

[www.PCPL21.org](http://www.PCPL21.org)

### HOURS:

M 9am - 8pm  
T 9am - 8pm  
W 9am - 8pm  
T 9am - 8pm  
F 9am - 5pm  
S 9am - 5pm  
S CLOSED

Director  
Grier Carson

### CONTACT US:

Information  
765.653.2755  
[info@PCPL21.org](mailto:info@PCPL21.org)

Circulation  
765.653.2755 x100  
[circdesk@PCPL21.org](mailto:circdesk@PCPL21.org)

Adult Reference  
765.653.2755 x115  
[refdesk@PCPL21.org](mailto:refdesk@PCPL21.org)

Youth Services  
765.653.2755 x121  
[ys@PCPL21.org](mailto:ys@PCPL21.org)



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## Library Closings



Monday, May 29  
Memorial Day