**Best in Show: Programming Exchange**

**November 2, 2018 | Greenville, SC**

**SCLA/SELA Annual Conference**

Amanda Reed

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**BABYSITTING BASICS**, a partnership with Clemson 4H

$250 for a 4-hour program, which included CPR certification for 25 attendees (open to ages 12-18, but was primarily attended by 14-17 year olds). Two hours was spent on infant care (changing diapers, etc.), and two hours was spent on dealing with children in general, i.e. healthy ways to handle frustrations and difficult behaviors. A powerful warning against shaken baby syndrome was the demonstration of an egg inside a glass, showing how little force it takes to harm a baby’s brain.

They had a 10-person waitlist, and get continual calls from customers asking for the library to offer it again.

Lorraine Law

Richland Library, SC (Cooper Branch)

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The Cooper branch’s **BOOK GROUP** is large -- about 40 members, with 20-25 attending consistently. The demographic tends to be older white women who are very set in what they want to read. This year, however, Lorraine has strategically encouraged them to branch out of their reading comfort zone by incorporating Richland Library’s [#BroaderBookshelf](https://www.richlandlibrary.com/inform/broaden-your-reading-horizons-broaderbookshelf-2018) challenge. Every month there is a new challenge category (read a book about refugees, read a book about books, read a military history, etc.). Group members read an agreed upon title and anyone who also participates in #BroaderBookshelf gets “extra credit” and their name goes into a drawing for a small prize.

Other successful programs include [button painting](https://craftsbyamanda.com/vibrant-button-tree-on-canvas-a-giveaway/) (drawing free hand branches, etc. then decorating with buttons and glazing the finished piece), and Open Paint sessions, where the library puts out art books and various art supplies and let people create anything that comes to their imagination.

Donna Ciriello

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Lexington library staff have been encouraged to do more community outreach. One of their recent successes has come from partnering with a local **SENIOR CENTER** to start a **WRITING GROUP**. They found that fiction writing intimidates a lot of people, so they started with memoirs, which are more approachable. Everyone has a life story! Each week they use a new writing prompt (i.e. write three things about the first job you ever had). 12 people came in for the initial program, and 8 stayed throughout. There has been lots of sharing and interaction with each other, and it is a great way to exercise their minds and keep their memories sharp.

Alisha Polkowsky

Lexington County Public Library, SC (Irmo branch)

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The library started a **SUMMER JOB FAIR**. Originally it was meant for teens, and created in response to many parents asking for help finding their teens jobs for the summer. However, it has morphed into a job fair for all ages, because 20-30 year olds were also interested and seeking jobs. To get statistics, the library offered candy as a prize to fill out their demographic info. Around 15-20 businesses looking to hire participated, and most of those businesses became summer reading sponsors, resulting in an even bigger return-on-investment. (The library sent them letters asking them to become sponsors.) This is now an annual event and businesses call to get on the list to participate. Organizations such as [SC Works](https://jobs.scworks.org/vosnet/Default.aspx) are also good participants.

Lisa Rice

Warren County Public Library, KY

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Hosts a “Get Lit” **BOOK CLUB AT A LOCAL WINE BAR**, in order to expand the audience beyond the traditional participants. Is good promotion for the library when people see a big group having a fun conversation in a wine bar and discover it’s actually a book club.

They partnered with a local **ALZHEIMER’S COMMITTEE** to do **MOVIE SCREENING** of [Alive Inside](http://www.aliveinside.us/) – a documentary about music and memory. They were able to Skype with the Director afterwards, and it was a really interesting discussion.

They also partner with a local university’s **NURSING** department to offer an **8-WEEK PROGRAM**. Participants learn about lots of different jobs within the medical profession, get a tour of the hospital, and practice skills such as suturing (using chicken breasts). This has gotten a lot of positive attention from the Chamber of Commerce and the local hospital; both are now supporting more library events.

Leslie Koller

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Invited the [**OVERDRIVE DIGITAL BOOKMOBILE**](https://digitalbookmobile.com/) to come to the library. They requested the visit about 8 months in advance, but it was free. The bookmobile has several large TVs that they use to show people how to use the Libby app along with lots of other devices (technology petting zoo). They hosted it at two of their branches, with 67 attendees in St. George, and 105 in Summerville. Everyone who went on bookmobile and participated was entered to win a Kindle. Lots of people weren’t previously aware that the library even offered free eBooks; they are looking forward to increased digital circulation.

Another program success is **BINGO FOR BOOKS**. They have hosted three so far. The first time, they had 2 attendees, the second time they had 3 attendees, the third time they had 20 attendees and they expect it to keep growing now that word is spreading. Gently used books from their donation pile are given as prizes. High engagement and no-cost!

David Shay

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They’ve been celebrating the [**200th** **ANNIVERSARY OF FRANKENSTEIN**](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/university_libraries/exhibits_events_news/news/2018/frankenstein.php) this year. All last month and this month they set up a big exhibit, including their first edition of the book, as well as other books that Dr. Frankenstein talks about reading, and scientific books that Mary Shelley would have had access to as she was writing her famous novel. Their programming has included various faculty presentations about different aspects of the book and related topics (i.e. Frankenstein in Comics), round table discussions, a costume contest, and film screenings. They partnered with a local independent theater to the 1930s version, and also showed the 1910 silent version paired with a musical score created by another USC professor.

Lisa Coleman

Cullman Public Library, AL

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Late evening **LOCAL AUTHORS EXPO**, including a round table discussion with authors who either live in the Coleman area or did at one time. They brought in a local writing group, and people were able to connect with other writers and get advice. Broad age range of participants.

**SKYPING THE AUTHOR DURING BOOK CLUB** monthly meetings, had about 10 people participating. The thing people enjoy most about book clubs is the socializing, and the library encourages that (not really strict about having to finish the book, welcoming to all).

Miriam Church

Anderson County Public Library, SC (teen librarian)

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Is currently planning a “**COOKIES AND CANVAS**” program for teens. The library will supply paint, and graphite paper with different fandom printables. Teens will trace images using graphic paper to transfer the image onto the canvas, and then paint/color in artwork. This will be a low-key program, with the library providing cookies and other simple snacks, and the teens using their creativity.

They will also be starting a monthly **ANIME CLUB**, which will meet for 1-2 hours. Teens will watch anime and have snacks.

The Anderson County library is also creating a **MAKERSPACE** which will be for tweens up to adults. They are considering including virtual reality, sewing machines, vinyl cutter, arts and crafts supplies, etc.

Diane Smiley

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**FRIDAY FIELD TRIP FOR HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES**. To engage the local homeschool community, Anderson County library has developed an ongoing program to build relationship with them and come to be considered their “school library.” This relationships was started after they were approached by a homeschool mom who was new to the community and looking for resources. They started simply, by piloting things/trying things out. Families provided feedback that they are open to pretty much any topic, so they’ve offered programs on a wide range of topics that different library staff are interested or expert in (plant growth, water and food sustainability, colors). Some activities included using an online tool to find out how much water they are using, and planting succulents. They are not actively promoting this monthly program, in order to keep the size manageable; they get plenty of people via word of mouth.

Sue Knoche

Quillen College of Medicine Library

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**PROVIDING HEALTH INFORMATION AT REMOTE AREA MEDICAL CLINICS**. The library sets up a table or two at remote medical clinics in waiting areas, and let patients know that they can help them answer questions. They are very serious and sensitive about patient privacy. No names, locations, demographics, etc. are ever collected. Patients ask their questions, are given a ticket, librarians take those questions back to other medical library staff who can look up the answers (using PubMed, WebMD, and other authoritative sources). The answers are placed in a brown paper bag, with a matching ticket that is delivered to people in order to give them their answers in private. This won the 2016 SELA Outstanding Southeastern Library Program Award, and they are hoping to replicate this outreach program across Tennessee.

They also have **YOGA** programs!

Michelle Wallace

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Darlington County’s Lamar Library branch hosted an **ALL AGES COMIC-CON**. In their small town, many people wanted to go to Comic-Cons but couldn’t manage the travel and the cost was prohibitive, so they created their own! A local batman showed up in full costume, the [South Carolina Ghostbusters](https://www.scghostbusters.com/welcome) came with lots of ghost-finding equipment. They explained how they made everything, which engaged the adults. They had face painting, arts and crafts, and a cosplay contest with donated prizes from community organizations. The SC State library also gave door prizes.

The Darlington County library staff also travel to other regional Comic-Cons and set up “vendor” tables, pass out library materials, and get people to sign up for newsletters, etc. Great promotion for the library!

Kelly Shull

Darlington County Library, SC

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The Lamar Library branch hosts an annual **MURDER MYSTERY NIG**HT with their Friends group, for ages 8 to adult. Attendees get to choose their roles and act them out while working together to solve the mystery of whodunit. Everyone has lots of fun, and it’s a great, engaging, intergenerational program.

They also hosted the Clemson University’s 4H **EGG INCUBATOR**. Library patrons could watch the progression of the egg from laying all the way to hatching. Using a flashlight, you can see inside to show the developing embryo. Three of the eggs actually hatched, and the 4H group took the chicks back with them. This was especially exciting for younger children.

Ashley Bright

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To celebrate Hamilton coming to the Peace Center (performing arts center in Greenville), the library will be hosting a **HAMILTON FAN NIGHT**, including Hamilton tunes karaoke, trivia, crafts, and food. The Hamilton license is free for nonprofit organizations, and they spent $20 to purchase the sound track. They are spending less than $100 total, with most effort going towards creating trivia questions and typing up lyrics for the sing-along. They will host this at the Main library downtown since that is the largest library venue.

April Akins

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In honor of the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein, Lander has been hosting an ongoing **FRANKENREAD** program for the month of October, including monster-themed trivia, and writing retreat parties where participants crafted short stories inspired by Mary Shelley, culminating in a Frankenreading party where participants could share their work (they were limited to 1,000 words, which ensured many people had time to share). They created a spooky, period-appropriate atmosphere for their programs by playing rain sounds in the background, had a fire place video from YouTube playing on a screen, and even rented a local historical property for the location of two events. 75+ people attended a panel with Lander faculty members talking about different aspects of Frankenstein.

Shuly Serrano

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When Shuly worked in Spartanburg County (SC), she facilitated a **MONTHLY WRITING GROUP** for adults. One successful session was when they hosted a paranormal romance writer who happened to be a regular patron at their branch. They’ve also done a class on writing fight scenes. This series encouraged people to sign up for the library’s writing group and brought more interest to library programs in general.

Lucy Hamilton

Richland Library, SC

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The library’s writing programs have a big impact even when they have smaller attendance numbers. One poignant example was when a father and son, who were long-time patrons but never really participated in any program before, came to an **OPEN MIC NIGHT**, and the son blew everyone away with his talent for spoken word. This meaningful and engaging program was free, and hosted by a local author.

Sharon Townson

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**PANERA BREAD STORYTIME** happens the first Monday of each month. It started with a children’s librarian doing storytime at a Panera location (library provided stories, Panera gave out milk and cookies). Panera staff will now be taking this over.

**STORYTIME WITH STAR, THE MINIATURE THERAPY HORSE**!