

# Sharing our Toys! Technology Petting Zoo @ BC Libraries Conference 2010

By Mari Martin.

## Tech Petting Zoo



The Technology Petting Zoo made its debut at the BC Library conference this year. The Zoo, held as a drop-in session attracted gadget geeks and newbies alike. The goal of the petting zoo was to give participants the opportunity to examine the uses of new technology in a hands-on comforting environment.



Kyle Armour from PLSB demonstrates the Braille reader/writer for laptops. Photo by Sandra Wong.

We had variety of personal gadgets including the surprise appearance of an iPad which at the time was only available in the US.



Librarians swarm the iPad. Photo by Sandra Wong.

The opportunity to compare the Sony Reader with the Kindle was one of the more popular tables.



Comparing ebook readers. Photo by Mari Martin.

Ipohones, ipod touch, Nintendo Wii, and Braille reader/writer toys were also available.



Sandra Wong model with the iPad. Photo by Sandra Wong.

For our gadget geeks it was an opportunity to share the ways in which they use their personal products both for recreation and for work. In chatting with participants I found that some people were attending the session because they hadn't actually seen some of the technology we were showcasing. It was a chance for them to play with new technology and discover inventive uses. It was also a good way of comparing similar devices. A special thank you to

all the gadget geeks who helped make the session successful--without you there would have been a lot of Wii bowling by myself! I would also like to thank Michael Purcell who designed our logo.

We hope to be back next year with a longer session and more gadgets. Watch for our call out for gadget geeks in 2011!



A variety of ebook readers. Photo by Sandra Wong.

*By Mari Martin, Conference Planning Committee Member 2010 and Librarian at the Vancouver Island Regional Library.*