

Browser Briefs

Compiled by: Leanna Jantzi.

BC Library Conference keynote announcements

Marian Bantjes and Ivan Coyote will be joining the 2014 BC Library Conference as keynote speakers.

Bantjes (<http://www.bantjes.com>) is a designer, typographer, writer and illustrator working internationally from her base on a small island off the west coast of Canada, near Vancouver. She is a member of Alliance Graphique Internationale (AGI), and regularly speaks about her work and thoughts at conferences and events worldwide.

Coyote (<http://www.ivanecoyote.com>) is an award-winning author of six collections of short stories, one novel, three CD's, four short films and a renowned performer. Ivan's first love is live storytelling, and over the past 13 years she has become an audience favourite at music, poetry, spoken word and writers' festivals from Anchorage to Amsterdam.

For full keynote speaker biographies, visit the conference website http://bclacconnect.ca/2014-conference/?page_id=54.

RA in a Half Day

On Oct. 30 at VPL Central, RA in a Half Day once again inspired library staff from all over the lower mainland with new readers' advisory tips, tools and strategies.

The second annual event sponsored by the BCLA Readers Advisory Interest Group featured keynote speeches from David Wright, a Readers' Services Librarian at the Seattle Public Library (SPL), and Max Wyman, a Canadian arts critic and author. The event also featured a workshop on Challenging Readers Advisory (RA) Questions, and a segment called Speed Dating Through the Genres, with lightning presentations on six different book genres.

Wright started off the day with an address about RA innovation, inspiration and collaboration. He focused specifically on SPL's form-based Readers' Advisory service, as well as innovative uses of social media.

During the Speed Dating Through the Genres section, audience members learned about Noir, Chick Lit, New Adult, Self Help, Graphic Novels and Horror genres. Afterward, audience members participated

in an activity to create strategies for solving difficult RA questions. Wyman ended the workshop with a talk on the power of reading for pleasure.

The BCLA RA Interest Group has posted summaries and videos from the event on its website, whatareyoureadingblog.com. For more information about the BCLA RA Interest Group, visit the [BCLA website](#) or contact co-chair Jenny Fry at JJFry@surrey.ca.

Contributed by Heidi Schiller, Readers' Services and Customer Engagement Librarian at North Vancouver City Library

Listen up! VPL expands its audio book collection

Vancouver Public Library has dramatically expanded its downloadable audio book offerings to bring listeners more than 500 new titles – including many choices that are always available for download.

VPL's new downloadable audio book collection, which is now live, offers almost double the previous number of titles – 900 in all – and with all of the new titles available in MP3 format, they're playable on a wide variety of devices such as tablets, smartphones, MP3 players and computers.

"There will always be something to listen to," said digital collections librarian Sara Amon, noting that having to wait for an available title sometimes prompted patrons to bypass downloadable audio books. "We have a solid selection of always-available titles, as well a good list of fiction and nonfiction titles in genres such as mystery, classics, biography, romance, thriller and more."

VPL card-holders must be Vancouver residents to download audio books from the library, owing to licensing requirements.

Among VPL's tips for getting the most out of the downloadable audio books: pay special attention to the introductory information on the VPL website (<http://www.vpl.ca>), said Amon, to cover set-up and download details for various devices.

New Cache Creek library opens

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District Library System hosted the grand opening of the new Cache Creek Library on June 26th, 2013. The event was the largest public event at the Cache Creek Library in recent memory, welcoming more than 120 visitors. School children, non-profit clubs, and businesses all contributed to a 50-year time capsule to be set in the foyer. The new library offers additional computers,

wireless access for library users and holiday travelers, as well as an iPad for our young patrons. An outdoor reading area has been designed for children's programming to enjoy the sunny days Cache Creek offers. All visitors are welcome!

Contributed by Melissa Lowenberg, Supervisor of Support Services at the TNRD Library.