

# mylibrarynow.org

My Library Now is the new catch phrase for libraries in the Northeast Arkansas Regional Library System. Starting with a new domain name and dramatic face lift to our websites, libraries in the NARL system will aim to help patrons (that's you) with keeping current with your accounts, what's newly added to our collections and special events.

Not only do the websites share about our collections but also points to valuable resources available online such as propriety databases for academic and genealogical research, business and job searching tools and government documents. For the young there are great links for study and fun. We also have an events calendar so you can check out what's happening now or in the future. There is also a help line for you to ask questions. Be sure to take a look as soon as you can.

As with a new Domain Name we also have new e-mail addresses and Web Addresses (see inside and below). You can drop us a line by the following:

- [corning@mylibrarynow.org](mailto:corning@mylibrarynow.org) or visit at <http://www.mylibrarynow.org/corning>
- [greeneg@mylibrarynow.org](mailto:greeneg@mylibrarynow.org) or visit at <http://www.mylibrarynow.org/greene>
- [piggott@mylibrarynow.org](mailto:piggott@mylibrarynow.org) or visit at <http://www.mylibrarynow.org/piggott>
- [randolph@mylibrarynow.org](mailto:randolph@mylibrarynow.org) or visit at <http://www.mylibrarynow.org/randolph>
- [rector@mylibrarynow.org](mailto:rector@mylibrarynow.org) or visit at <http://www.mylibrarynow.org/rector>

While we're at it, become a friend of your library on Facebook.

And that's not all. In the near future we'll be putting all these tools in mobile format so that you can access your (my) library now from your phone. We'll be also adding e-books to our collection which will be accessed through the new websites.

It's mylibrarynow. And we intend to keep up with its name.!

## NEW MICROFILM READER FOR GENEALOGY RESEARCH IN PIGGOTT

The Piggott Public Library has added a new microfilm reader and printer to serve its patrons who are interested in looking into history. The new machine allows people to view historic documents such as historical newspapers, census records and genealogical documents. An added feature about this machine is that in addition to viewing the documents, patrons can also print them out using the same machine. The new reader/printer has been placed in the library's genealogy section where the microfilm rolls are kept. The Piggott Library has been making an effort to increase their collection of microfilm, so this new equipment will be a helpful addition to the library and will make it more convenient for patrons. The machine has the capability of giving the patron a copy of the entire newspaper page or just the selected information for their records. Piggott Library Director Gay Johnson said "This is going to be a great asset to us. We've got copies of the old Piggott newspapers and the census going back to 1942. The microfilm reader will help people find information on family history. It's really a helpful machine."

This machine was purchased with the help of a matching grant through the USDA American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The grant paid for 35% of the cost of the machine. The library board approached various county officials to help with the funding. According to Johnson, "The county helped us a lot. The county judge's office worked with us to help us get funding." The remaining cost of the machine was appropriated in the budget by the Clay County Library Board, with the Piggott Library agreeing to reimburse the amount. The library is going to be creating some fund-raising ideas to help offset the cost.



Piggott Library Director  
Gay Johnson

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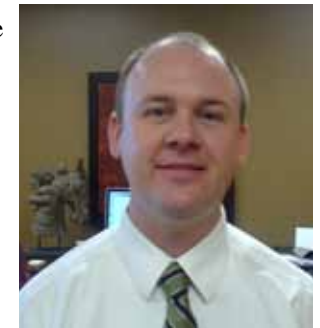


Winter 2010/2011

## A Great Year Has Passed With Hope For An Even Better One To Come

This past year has been a truly great year for your libraries in the Northeast Arkansas Regional Library System. Why do we say it has been a great year? We have had a record number of visits from patrons, we have increased the number of computers available to the public, have improved the library websites and have grown our collection in response to what you have asked for. We would like to give a recap of what has been successful the past year and also look to next year to see what is just on the horizon at your library.

The economic troubles have been on the forefront of a lot of people's minds during the past year. We know the challenges this presents, but we also see this as a great opportunity. Your libraries have made it a priority to give as much help as we can to those hit the hardest by the economy. We have seen many successful job searches during the year as a direct result of library resources. Another result of the economic landscape is that we have had a large number of non-library users come through our doors to see what we can offer them. Once they visit, they have seen the cost-saving benefits of being able to find entertainment such as movies, books, high-speed internet, magazines, newspapers and children's programs all provided at no cost to them outside of the fines for turning items in late or damaged materials. This has been a great opportunity to reach a new library audience that we would not have been able to otherwise help.



Mike Rogers, Regional Director of the  
Northeast Arkansas Regional Library

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## A Great Year Has Passed With Hope For An Even Better One To Come (Continued)

Another successful thing your libraries have done this year is a website redesign. We now have a central site where users can access any of our library branches websites. The website is [mylibrarynow.org](http://mylibrarynow.org) and reflects the idea that your library can be used anywhere you are, at anytime. We have added some new features such as the ability to log in to your account and renew your materials, see what you have out and reserve items so that we can call you when they come in for you. This is a great way for you to have an easy way to control your account and all it takes is for us to set a pin number up for you to log in. In addition, you can view our catalog from anywhere and also view our newest books and movies to help you find something when you don't know a specific title or don't know what to check out next. We have added a learning resource section for help with homework or educational purposes and have refined our calendar so that it is easier for you to see what is happening at your library. Along the same lines as our website redesign, we also have created a new facebook page for your library. We invite all facebook users to "like" us so you will receive updates from us.

The summer reading programs this year were record-setting with 6,126 more people coming through our libraries' doors this summer. This has represented a year long trend with our libraries staying busier this year than at any other point in our history. This does at times present staffing challenges, but we welcome these challenges as it means that we are staying relevant to our communities in an age where there are so

many other activities people could turn to rather than visiting libraries.

Looking forward to 2011, we have several new things that we are trying to implement during the upcoming year. Some of these things are under consideration, while others are farther along and will be for sure coming to your library soon. A mobile version of our website will be released sometime in 2011. This will be a version of our website that you will be able to take anywhere your smart phone goes. We are also going to be providing finger-readers at our libraries so that if you choose, you can leave your library card at home and check out items using only your finger. This in no way stores your fingerprint itself, but measures points and is optional for those who don't wish to take advantage of this convenient feature. This will be coupled with self-service stations at our busiest locations so that waiting in line at the circulation desk will be a thing of the past. Another service we are trying to fund is a subscription to Overdrive which would allow e-book users to "borrow" e-books for a two-week period. This would allow you to download e-books without even going in the physical doors of your library. These are just a few of the new services we plan on offering to allow you even greater flexibility and convenience. With dedicated staff and forward-thinking, we hope the upcoming year will be as successful if not more successful than the past year has been.

Mike Rogers

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If you regularly visit your library's website, you will find our address changed. The umbrella for all our websites is: [www.mylibrarynow.org](http://www.mylibrarynow.org). From this umbrella site you can access your local library branch.

- Corning Library was [www.corninglibrary.org/](http://www.corninglibrary.org/)
- Greene County Library was [www.greenecountylibrary.com/](http://www.greenecountylibrary.com/)
- Piggott Library was [www.piggottlibrary.org/](http://www.piggottlibrary.org/)
- Randolph County Library was [www.randolphcountylibrary.org](http://www.randolphcountylibrary.org)
- Rector Library was [www.rectorlibrary.org/](http://www.rectorlibrary.org/)

- becomes [www.mylibrarynow.org/corning](http://www.mylibrarynow.org/corning)
- becomes [www.mylibrarynow.org/greene](http://www.mylibrarynow.org/greene)
- becomes [www.mylibrarynow.org/piggott](http://www.mylibrarynow.org/piggott)
- becomes [www.mylibrarynow.org/randolph](http://www.mylibrarynow.org/randolph)
- becomes [www.mylibrarynow.org/rector](http://www.mylibrarynow.org/rector)

## AN INCREDIBLY GENEROUS DONATION

The Rector Public Library received an extra special present this holiday season, in the form of a generous gift from the estate of the late Patricia Joyce Lynch. Library director Deana Mills went a step farther and called it "a holiday miracle."

Mills has been deciding on a fitting way to use the funds so that they would be a lasting reminder about the generous gift. One thought she has is to start some renovations to the existing building. "I want to make it look like a library. Right now, it looks like a grocery store." Mills added. Her thoughts have been to renovate the front of the building, having new doors and an actual entryway installed, giving it a more traditional look.

The library was approached by the estate's attorney this past spring. Mills read the letter, but didn't want to count on any money until the estate was settled fully. Mills stated that even now, she just can't believe it and is so appreciative of Ms. Lynch thinking of the library in a manner such as this.



Mrs. Deana Mills, Director of the Rector Public Library with the gift to the library of \$40,000 from Ms. Lynch.

Patricia Joyce Lynch was living in Dallas, Texas at the time of her death, but had ties to the community of Rector going back to her family. Her parents were the late William Ensign Lynch and the late Nora Laura Trammell Lynch. Mills did not know Patricia Joyce Lynch personally, and said that "We're hoping to learn more about her. All we've been able to come up with so far is what little we've heard from her attorney and what Barbara McKeel (historian) has been able to find out." Mills added "This woman who none of us knew has given a wonderful gift to the Rector Library. She's given us a holiday miracle."



Brenda Shelton has served the public in the capacity of Assistant Director of the Rector Public Library for four years. Brenda is primarily in charge of cataloging and artwork in the library.

What's the first thought that comes into your mind when you wake up?

*Stop that Alarm!*

If you could live anywhere in the world where would it be?

*I'm really not sure. Perhaps Oregon - some place with lots of forests.*

What's been your favorite part of your job?

*Doing the artwork! Drawing for the library is very enjoyable for me, as it is something I have loved to do even as a child and even through high school.*

What's your least favorite part of your job?

*I don't like having to leave to go home when it's icy and cold outside in the winter.*

What would you think are the most important things in your life?

*Living for Lord comes first, my family next, then my day to day activities.*

What's the best books(s) you've ever read?

*First are the books written by Liz Curtis Higgs. Secondly, the Galway Chronicles by Bodie and Brock Thoene.*

What the funniest thing that has happened at the library?

*An animal happened to find its way through the drop ceiling and into a little closet space. After hearing some scratching and bumping sounds, some of then members of the staff advanced armed with a net. Not knowing what was behind the door, the door was opened and out flew a bird of all things!*

What has been your most memorable experience working at the library?

*When Ryan Rogers of the Clay County Democrat came by the library to interview me in regards to the mural I painted for the children's area.*

If you won the lottery, what would be the first thing you would do?

*Of course, get rid of all my bills!*

What's the best way you would describe yourself?

*Easy going and looking at the humorous side of things in life.*