



# CENTRAL LIBRARY NEWS

## FALL 2009

PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD LIBRARY • 54-60 East Main Street, Patchogue • 654-4700 • [www.pmlib.org](http://www.pmlib.org)

### New Patchogue-Medford Library Web Site

If you have visited the Patchogue-Medford Library web site lately, you will have noticed a whole new look! There is now a location on the left side of the home page under "Resources" which has a link for Central Library. The first item located under this link is the Central Library Index page. All of the Patchogue-Medford Library created indexes are accessed here. That includes the Popular Song Index, the Classical Music Index, the Long Island Forum Index, the Genealogy Index, and the Long Island Advance Birth-Marriage-Death Index. Moving on, we have also added an archive for the Central Library News, and some general information pages about Central Library services for member libraries, and Suffolk County residents. I hope this new section of our web page will be useful to you!

Can't get to us? Subject Specialists will come to you! Contact any of the Reference Specialists below to arrange for a visit to your library for assistance with collection development and weeding tips.

### REFERENCE SPECIALISTS

#### BUSINESS & LANGUAGES

Jean Kaleda (jkaleda@pmlib.org) ext. 234

#### GENEALOGY

Toni Raptis (traptis@pmlib.org) ext. 228

#### HEALTH & SCIENCE

Kris Minschke (kminschke@pmlib.org) ext. 224

#### LOCAL & MILITARY HISTORY

Mark Rothenberg (mrothenberg@pmlib.org) ext. 240

#### LAW, REFERENCE RESOURCES & RELIGION

June Cerveny (jcerveny@pmlib.org) ext. 231

### Fall Out-of-District Survey Results

From October 19th to the 25th, the Central Library conducted its fall survey of patron usage. We tally each patron who enters the library to ask a question or use a service, plus all telephone contacts and services mediated by another library. In the October survey period our out-of-district usage totaled 399. 41 member libraries or their patrons used at least one or more of our services.

Member Library Telephone:	47
Patron Telephone:	79
Patron Walk-In:	114
Computer Use:	159

### Focus on Collections: the Sara Courant Opera Collection

A number of years ago, Annette Bassett (former assistant director of SCLS) endowed a collection of opera CDs at the Patchogue-Medford Library in honor of Sara Courant. The idea was not only to develop an extensive collection of opera CDs for the listening pleasure of patrons; but also so that folks who were traveling in to New York City for a live performance would be able to "preview" the opera, and their experience would be enhanced. We continue to add to this collection each year. The 2009/10 opera season at the Metropolitan Opera is presenting 27 different operas. The Patchogue-Medford Library owns CDs for 23 of these, and invites music lovers from Suffolk County to borrow them on Direct Access loan or Interlibrary loan.



## Focus on Databases: Antiques and Collectibles



A woman approaches the reference desk and asks “How can I find out what my (fill in the blank) is worth?” It may be that there is a collector’s guide for that very item. And your library may own it. Or possibly the Patchogue-Medford Library may own it. (We lend reference books to other libraries for in-library use by their patrons) Yet, the book might not be as recent as you would hope, and a quick search reveals that nothing more recent has been published. You check out E-Bay, since most collectibles are “worth” pretty much whatever you can get someone else to pay for them. But maybe the item isn’t listed, or it is only listed once. You’d like to be just a little more thorough.....

The Patchogue-Medford Library subscribes to two databases, **Price It!** and **P4A Antiques Reference**, that might prove helpful. The databases have slightly different points of view.

**Price It!** database is a Gale product. It compiles price data from various auction houses, as well as from online sites such as GoAntiques.com and E-Bay. This site focuses heavily on collectibles, rather than fine art. Although the site usually returns a gratifying number of results, the downside is that many of them do not have images. This might not be much of a disadvantage if the patron knows exactly what they have, but it is problematic when looking for “similar style” items. It is possible to restrict the search to items with images only, but the results will be far fewer. It is also possible to restrict the search by price range or sale date range. A very useful feature of this database is a tab for “Collecting Clubs”, which will enable patrons to find any clubs devoted to their particular item of interest. The site also offers an “Info Center” with stories and articles from well-known authors and authorities in the antiques and collectibles industry. Articles are searchable, and address issues such as “How Do I Select the Right Frame?”, “How Do I Preserve Stained Glass Windows?” and “Where Can I Unload 95 Collector Plates That My Mother Left Me?”

**P4A Antiques Reference** database focuses less on collectibles, and more on antiques. The information is compiled from auction records of about 50 regional auction houses throughout the United States. The sales selected for coverage are catalogued sales. About 90% of all P4A records come from “live sales”, which P4A believes have a good record for having the actual sale reflect the true market value. Unlike Price It!, which draws heavily from other websites, and especially E-Bay, 87% of the information on P4A has not appeared elsewhere on the web and is not otherwise searchable using standard web search engines.

P4A Antiques has many searching options-keyword, category, type within category (over 1280 in all), geographic origin, years, auction house name and/or auction date. Moreover, results always show an image; and also provide description, provenance, condition, dimensions, pre-sale estimates, and price realized. The database also has a useful tab called Resource Center, which, in addition to recommending books and articles has links to other antiques websites and to antiques dealer sites.

We all know that our patrons are just waiting for Antiques Road Show to come to Long Island! In the meantime, all Suffolk County residents are welcome to use both of these databases here at the Patchogue-Medford Library. Of course, librarians at member libraries may contact our reference staff by phone, fax, e-mail or written question, and one of our librarians will search the database on behalf of your patron and send the material.

## Updated Editions of Genealogy Bibliographies



The Patchogue-Medford Library publishes two printed bibliographies for genealogists. One is Genealogy Resources at the Patchogue-Medford Library, and the other is Long Island/New York Genealogical Resources in the Celia M. Hastings Local History Room. Both resources have recently been updated by Toni Raptis, our genealogy specialist, to reflect materials that have been acquired since the last printing. In addition, the format

of Genealogy Resources at the Patchogue-Medford Library has been rearranged in order to mirror the arrangement of resources on our genealogy web site. Both bibliographies are hot off the press, and if you would like a copy for your reference department or a copy for a genealogy patron for their personal use, contact Toni Raptis (654-4700 ext. 228 or [traptis@pmlib.org](mailto:traptis@pmlib.org)) and she will be happy to send you one.