Librarians Reading for Glory
Our State-wide Reading Contest

A presentation for the 2011 Missouri Library Association Conference by Christa Van Herreweghe & Annie Fuller
Great competitions...

Super Bowl
Great competitions...

World Series
Great competitions...

Stanley Cup
Great competitions...

Oscars
Great competitions...

Olympic games
Great competitions...

Tour de France
Great competitions...

The Emmys
Great competitions...

American Idol
Great competitions...

Dancing with the Stars
Greatest competition
Missouri Book Challenge (prize to be determined)
Fundraising for MO Book Challenge Prize

Goal

Actual to date
The 2011 Lineup
A Brief History of Competitive Reading
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MO Book Challenge History

• Is the preeminent reading contest in the world.
• 11 gutsy teams are battling for the coveted title.
• History is being made as these teams develop strategies.
Scoring Categories

• To keep it interesting, we have something for everyone.
  – Total books read
  – Total pages read
  – Page average
  – Top 5 team member stats
  – Participants as a % of total employment
  – Wild Card category
  – # of books read featuring a pony
Pony-like animals include

- Ponies
- Horses
- Unicorns
- Garrons
- Centaurs
- ?
How does the scoring work?

Annual Totals - Books Read (to date)
Annual Totals - Books Read (to date)
Ok, this is more like it

September 2011 Totals - Books Read
Scoring

- Scoring is weighted so the largest team will not automatically win.
- This means we really don’t know who is winning right now but we are pretty sure we are in a battle for 4th place.
- But we are confident that we will win this! (Because we are the ones keeping score.)
Serious competition brings drama

- Springfield-Greene vs. St. Charles City-County

St. Charles City-County Library District!

"Shh. Shh. Shh. Shh.....Do you hear that? It's the winds of change."

141 Books
43,356 Pages
16 Participants
...and Taunting

The Cardturner: A Novel about a King, a Warden, an...
The Iron Duke/Meliane Brook
Poser: my life in twenty-three yoga poses, by Ola...
Being polite to Hitler, by Robb Forman Dew
Call Me Irresistible by Susan Elizabeth Phillips 3...
Best Friends Forever: A World War II Scrapbook
The Help

cunning, the deceit, the genius, to do it right at the end of the month as a coordinated effort, well, let's just say that I am colored impressed. You have upped the game and the stakes my friends from across the 64/40. The blogosphere just got REAL folks, the first shot has been fired. Allow me to return one.

Posted by Ninjac83 at 11:40 AM

Labels: cunning, deceit, tactics, they think they are better than us, university city
And more taunting

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

St. Charles City-County Library District - Rules the Day, AGAIN?!

We need more CowBell
... and more
Competition!!!

45,603 Pages
135 Books
17 Participants

Posted by LauraP at 12:52 PM  4 comments  
Labels: I know I'm acting pretty confident, SCCCLD, SCCCLD is the Greatest
Why compete?

• Surveys show 94% of Missouri librarians were high school/college athletes so it is in our blood.

SURVEY RESULTS: Librarian background*

Athlete 6
Nerd 93
Not sure (probably nerd) 1

*80% margin of error
Competition is healthy
Promotes staff harmony
Motivational reading challenges
Readers Advisory tool

• Staff picks lists are easy
• Display ideas abound
• Find out who’s the staff zombie expert
Improves readers advisory service
Discover your SUPER readers
Librarians love power

- 100% of team captains surveyed report an increase in job satisfaction.

-- said...:

...not only the "active" readers; which is honestly about 3/4ths of the people who signed up. I was going to post a "wall of shame" on the blog to goad the slackers into participating, but then I realized that this is just a game and I don't really need to make enemies with my coworkers just because I am on some kind of power trip. But, I so do like the power I get from running the Book Challenge blog :)

September 6, 2011 2:32 PM
More power to you

Bibliophile said...

I feel in good company. I'm not alone in letting power go to my head!
Bwahahahaha!

September 14, 2011 7:02 PM
How we did it

• The blog – We used Google’s Blogger
  – Word Press is also very popular.
  – You may already have a blog.
  – If you are using a content management system, it probably has a built-in blog.
  – Undoubtedly hundreds of other options are out there (but we would have had to do research, so just call a reference librarian and ask them if you need more information).
Recruit a team

• Can be your library employees or a “United Team” like Marshall MO has put together.

Marshall Libraries United

We are a group of public and academic librarians who have plans to take over the world -- after we conquer the MO Book Challenge. But hey, it's not like we're competitive.
Recruiting cont.

- Invite everyone
- Make a list: who you can blackmail into participating?
- Beg and cajole
Brute force and violence can also work
Humiliation can be a motivator

And Finally a special random drawing was held for those of you who were kind enough to sign up for the Book Challenge, but do not post to the blog. Who says you don’t get anything for doing nothing?! :)

Congratulations Sue C. for your lack of participation you win a Tote Bag from Springfield-Greene County. ;(

Lucky Girl! I hope you set it on fire at tomorrow’s BBQ.
Hire for your team

• Ask interview questions about prior competitive experiences.
• Offer to arm wrestle them for the job.
• Make “provide reading history” a part of the application process.
We know this isn’t for everyone

- You might be too weak
Too sick
Too scared
We are recruiting teams NOW

• Join us for the 2012 Missouri Book Challenge season.
More teams = More fun

• 11 teams in 2011
• Goal – MORE teams in 2012 and then...
  • Bi state Book Challenge?
  • Midwest Book Challenge?
  • Middle America Book Challenge?
  • USA Book Challenge?
  • World Book Challenge?
  • Milky Way Book Challenge?
Find out more

• Missouri Book Challenge - http://mobookchallenge.blogspot.com/

• Christa Van Herreweghe – christa@ucpl.lib.mo.us

• Annie Fuller – afuller@ucpl.lib.mo.us

• Join us for a drink after this presentation.
Many thanks to Patrick Wall, our new director and extraordinary competitive reader. To the 2011 MO Book Challenge Teams – you have made this all worthwhile with your wonderful blogs and participation.
Lucy and Heather
YOU ARE THE BEST!
JP, you are a real diplomat