



FES Library E-News

Library Activities for October

October activities in the library include:

- Library Tour or the Book Neighborhoods: Fiction, Non-fiction, Biography, Reference, Primary, Oversize
- Cat. Jr: Learning how to read the codes (Parts of the book's address) for locating a book on the shelf
- Display case outside of the library is decorated to highlight *Bats in the Library* by Brian Liese.
- We also have a campfire scene set up in our reading rug area to share many seasonal books during the month of October: *Monk Camps Out* by Emily Arnold McCully, *What Camping Can Teach Us* by Scholastic, *Scarecrow Pete* by Mark Kimball Moulton, and *When the Library Lights Go Out* by Megan McDonald.
- **Book Fair (October 10-14)**
- Kindergarten and First Graders are reading *We're Going On a Book Hunt* by Pat Miller. They are also learning to do the motions along with the story.
- Red Ribbon Week will be October 23rd–28th. Library, Computer, Art, Music and Gym will have a special theme going on this week. It's a surprise and it will be OZ-some!



Halloween Origins

"We can trace Halloween back to Celtic festivals which celebrated the new year on the 1st of November (not the 1st of January). One thread that runs through all Halloween legends is the belief that the night of October 31st was the time when ghosts of the dead returned to earth. The ancients name for this festival Samhain** and its role was to mark the boundary between the old year and new. With the spread of Christianity, the Church emphasised All Saints day on the 1st of November. This date was also known as All Hallows and gradually, the name for the night before All Hallows changed to hallow's eve, then hallow e'en and finally Halloween.

**Samhain - In medieval English 'mh' was pronounced 'w', hence: Sow-en.

Compared with our Pagan ancestors, today we trivialise Halloween. Today in the UK and USA we don't even get a holiday on the 31st of October or the 1st on November, whereas, to the ancient Celts this was one of the 4 most important dates in the year. Druids or ancient priests claimed that on this special Halloween night, they could communicate with the spirits of the departed. Furthermore, far from being threatening, the ghosts of the ancestors could assist the druids in foretelling what was going to happen in the year that was about to begin. To appease the spirits of the dead and to encourage them to appear, the Druids arranged for a communal festival on the night before Samhain. The precise details of the Halloween celebration varied from region to region, and from era to era, but a constant theme is of bonfires and animal sacrifices. Many Halloween festivals lasted for 3 days. When Christian influences curtailed pagan beliefs, Samhain was replaced with All Saints day on the 1st of November, and All Souls day on the 2nd of November. This is a classic example of an ancient, essentially pagan festival being taken over and sanitised by Christian beliefs. Yet, aspects of the ancient festival survive, for example worship of the spirits of the dead of Halloween."

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App Awareness

"With apps, it's important to keep abreast of what's available and be able to discern what makes one app a better choice than another for a particular task. While each category of apps requires its own criteria for evaluation, there are some constants to bear in mind."

Platform

"This might seem like a no-brainer, but is the app available for your operating platform? For iOS compatible devices, does it work on both the iPhone and iPad? If so, are there differences in how the app performs from device to device? For instance, sometimes an iPhone app used on an iPad doesn't convert well and the look and feel just doesn't work on a larger screen."

"Similarly, are there different versions for different operating systems, and if so, what are the distinctions between versions? For example, there might be both iOS and Android versions of an app, but a great application on the iPhone might not be so great on an Android device."

Price

"Is it worth spending \$100 on an iPad or smartphone app? Maybe, maybe not. The adage "You get what you pay for" doesn't always apply. There are a lot of different apps that do the exact same thing, but at a cost of anywhere from free to hundreds of dollars. Free apps can often be just as good as their counterparts with a price tag. The key is to evaluate the differences between the free app, the \$9.99 version, and the \$100 one."

Reviews

"The app stores (Android and Apple, for example) provide reviews by real users. Pay attention to these. Look for reviews of products that answer the kinds of questions you have about your particular needs. And, look for reviews that assess the range of capabilities of apps within a particular category (writing, media creation, and so on). See what reviewers say about the customer service of the company behind the app. If something isn't working, do the developers address problems promptly, or do they take a long time to push out a new update with a fix?"

User interface

"We're getting better and better at understanding what makes a good user interface for apps. Tools such as the recent Nielsen Norman group report on iPad usability help define what makes for a good experience. As you look for apps in a particular category, think about your own needs. Would you prefer opening a menu by swiping across the screen or scrolling horizontally or vertically to access content? Can you easily adjust the font size?"

Updates

"How often is the app updated? Does it matter if that's not very often? In the life of apps that have a social component, such as uploading to YouTube, it's important that they be updated regularly in order to take advantage of new methods users have to interact in mobile environments. Sometimes updates are required to maintain interest, as with game apps, for example, which commonly add new "levels." Look at the list of features added, changed, and refined in a recent update to get a sense of how the app developers respond to user needs and the ever-changing digital environment."

"There are a lot of apps available for carrying out a variety of tasks, from media creation to productivity. A great way to keep up with what's new is to read technology blogs such as [Mashable](#), [ReadWriteWeb](#), and *School Library Journal's* own app review blog, [Touch and Go](#). (Why not subscribe to one or all of these by using one of the personalized magazine apps? By reading just one of these on a regular basis, you'll learn about apps that aren't always specifically geared toward librarians, educators, or students, but might have a lot of potential for supporting the needs of children and teens in your greater community.")

"Keeping up with a wide variety of apps will also give you the chance to provide reviews and recommendations to the children, teens, and adults with whom you work. So when someone's in search of an app for note taking, photo editing, or blogging, you'll have just the right information to provide them. And that user will be a bit happier and better able to function in her digital environment."

From: "*The Enablers*" by Linda W. Braun, in [The School Library Journal](#) September 2011

Writing & Research Apps

"From doing research and taking notes to crafting a blog post and sharing photos, apps help you get the job done no matter where you are. These handy tools serve double duty in supporting the day-to-day work of educators as well as the activities of students, both in and out of school. The best part - there are a lot of choices out there." From: *"The Enablers"* by Linda W. Braun, in [The School Library Journal](#) September 2011

Blogging with WordPress <http://wordpress.org/>



"Anyone with a WordPress blog will appreciate the companion app, which lets you write and update posts, and check in on comments and stats remotely. While the app (available for iOS, Android, and Blackberry devices) doesn't offer every feature of the Web-based WordPress dashboard, the iOS and Android versions include a number of functions that make it easy to post and maintain your blog wherever you are. These include drafting, publishing, adding media, reviewing and moderating comments, and viewing stats."

"It's easy to link the app to one or more WordPress blog accounts—whether or not its hosted on the WordPress.com site or on one's own server. Any activity that you do within the app is immediately available in the software's Web-based dashboard. This ease of access makes the WordPress app a great tool for bloggers who, let's say, draft a post at home and want to revisit it once they get to work. Or perhaps a brilliant idea pops into your head while you're away from your desk—simply enter the notes on your smartphone using the WordPress app and refine the post later via the full site on the web or within the app."

Journaling with Memento <http://www.momentoapp.com/>



"Imagine having a diary accessible 24/7, yet completely secure from prying eyes. That would be tween bliss, wouldn't it? The Memento journaling app makes it all possible. No need to hide the diary and key under a mattress or in a far corner of a closet. Memento (iOS only; \$2.99) safeguards your content with a digital pass code and makes it easy to add photos as well as social network posts to chronicle every significant event."

"A snap to set up, Memento includes a variety of ways to view and add content. The interface is fairly intuitive, using many of the same conventions found in other apps. In calendar mode, you can click on a date to see all of the day's posts. Or scroll day by day through journal entries in the agenda view. Add a Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Flickr, Foursquare, or blog feed to the app, and any time you post on one of those social sites it will automatically appear as an entry in Memento. You can also add tags for events, people, places, and images by clicking the tag icon in the bottom button bar. Click on the paper and pencil in the top right corner to start a new entry."

While Memento is designed for the iPhone, it scales well on an iPad. There's a flaw, however: you can't sync a Memento diary between devices. So you can't, for example, record your thoughts at an event on an iPhone and be able to access that entry on an iPad when you return home so you can revise and add content. It's possible, however, to export and import content from one device to another, but that's a lot of extra steps in order to keep copies of the same journal on two devices."

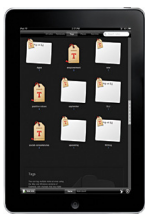
Citing with EasyBib and QuickCite <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/easybib/id436768184?mt=8>



Scan a book's barcode using a mobile device camera with either EasyBib or QuickCite and voilà, a citation is created in the format of your choosing. EasyBib uses the OCLC database to retrieve citations, while QuickCite uses a selection of online databases to build a citation. Both apps generate citations in MLA, APA, and Chicago formats. EasyBib is only available for Apple devices, QuickCite for both Apple and Android platforms.

There are other important differences. With EasyBib (compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad, requires iOS 4.0 or later) you can scan barcodes one after another in order to build a bibliography. Once the list is complete, you can email it to yourself or share it with others. On QuickCite (Android (\$1.01) and iOS (99 cents) devices running version 4.0 or later), you can't build a citation list within the app, and each scan is emailed individually to the address set in the app settings. With EasyBib, it's possible to change the citation format after a scan is made—not so with QuickCite. The EasyBib app also enables you to upload the bibliographic information to an EasyBib account once the citations are received in email.

Notetaking with Evernote <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/evernote/id281796108?mt=8>



For many digital workers, the note-taking platform of choice is Evernote (the app works with Android, Blackberry, and devices running iOS 3 and higher). It's used for a wide variety of purposes, from taking photos of business cards to create a digital rolodex, to recording notes for a research project while reading articles and books. Entries are tagged and saved in "notebooks" (Evernote's term for folders). An added advantage is that the app allows for syncing between platforms and devices.

Offering many of the same features as Memento (reviewed previously), Evernote could even be used to keep a journal. But the app is capable of much more. One parent volunteer in Oklahoma City, for example, is using Evernote to create a database of evidence for the school debate team. Evernote can also be used collaboratively, as notebooks can be shared. Students working together can add and revise notes related to research and project planning and organize them without having to meet face to face outside of school.

Evernote's abundance of features might make it a bit less intuitive; it takes reading the instructions and some practice to get the most out of the utility. The onscreen instruction, predicting user questions during the notetaking process, is a helpful feature. Looking for how to add a notebook? Simply tap on that feature and an on-screen instruction appears.

Either new images or ones stored on the device can be included during notetaking. You can also incorporate audio, such as an interview or clip of a discussion. But you'll need to mind the size of attachments. Adding audio or image files may quickly put you over your storage limit in both free and premium accounts.

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The purpose of our Library Newsletter is to further the mission and goals of the library which are to:

- ☺ Cultivate a Love of Reading
- ☺ Provide for students and faculty a broad range of quality and reliable resources
- ☺ Ensure that all students become effective users of information
- ☺ Encourage all students to become lifelong learners.

If you have any suggestions for the library staff please let me know. Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. I hope you will find this issue helpful.

Cathy Ruple

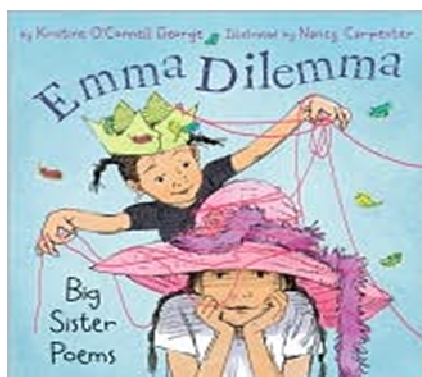
Julie Schneider

District Librarian

Library Tech

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Book Review



Synopsis

Emma is Jess's little sister . . . and her dilemma. How can one small girl be sweet, funny, imaginative, playful, and affectionate as well as a clinging vine, brat, tattletale, and nuisance—all at the same time? Why is Jess supposed to be a good big sister while Emma doesn't have to be a good little sister? The highlights and low points of this sibling relationship are insightfully evoked in short and simple poems, some funny, some touching, and all resonant with emotional truth. Every child with a younger sibling will recognize Jess's dilemma and the combination of ambivalence and deep loyalty that is built into the sibling relationship. Nancy Carpenter's graceful illustrations perceptively complement Kristine O'Connell George's agile poems.

Publishers Weekly

AR

Emma Dilemma, Big Sister Poems
By
Kristine O'Connell George

Interest Level
Reading Level
Points

LG
3.3
0.5