

## Librarian's Shelf by Jill Owens

### Library announces changes for increased patron access

As regular readers of this column know, library staff had expected to have a self-check option open for patrons before the Summer Reading Program started in June. Due to various unexpected events, some related to manufacturing and some related to software programming, this was delayed.

We're pleased to announce that the self-check opened for patron use on Monday. In addition to checking out materials, patrons can scan their cards to renew items, and to check on and print titles and due dates. Patrons may also check whether any fines are attached to their cards. Though items themselves do not need to be brought to the library to be renewed at the self-check kiosk, a library card in good standing is needed to start any process. Friends of the Library members were on hand for most of the first week to help patrons get acquainted with the self-check.

Patrons still have the option to check out any items at the circulation desk, and there are a few items, such as secured DVDs that must be checked out from the circulation desk. However, when you are picking up print items or checking your account, you may make use of the self-check.

Our second announcement is that the Kindle e-reader is now compatible with OverDrive, the library's downloadable book provider. For a list of devices and formats that are compatible with downloadable audio and e-books, please go to the library's home page at <http://www.columbuslibrary.info/> and click the OverDrive icon on the right of the screen. iProducts joined the supported devices list several months ago as did several smart phones.

A download station is available for patrons who would like to listen to audio books but do not have a computer with which to check out and transfer the audios to their portable device. The station is located on the ground floor in the east wing of the library.

Soon "you are here" type floor plan signage will be appearing in the library. We hope this helps patrons who are looking for meetings, materials, offices, or galleries find their way with greater ease.

As noted in May, library staff is constantly on the lookout for workable ways to improve patron access to materials, customer service, and ease of use of the library. Some ideas take a while to investigate and budget, and others show themselves not to be viable, but keep the ideas coming via suggestion box or staff and we'll be sure to give them due consideration.

The library staff would like to acknowledge a gift from the estate of Marvin and Shirley Kallweit. It has been decided to use this most generous gift to enhance the 2012 Summer Reading program, planning for which is already underway. The Kallweits will also be memorialized with a brass plate on the board in the memorial alcove on the second floor of the library.

Two other gifts qualified for brass plates. Craig and Lori Neid honored Jane and Carroll Novicki with a gift to the Columbus Library Foundation. A donation was also received from the generous employees of Columbus Bank and Trust.