

Librarian's Shelf by Jill Owens

Your two cents could be worth a Kindle Fire or Columbus Bucks

The American Library Association lists service roles commonly filled by public libraries. It is rare that one library can fulfill all of these roles, and so libraries must choose to focus their resources of space, personnel, and budget on the roles that will most benefit their communities.

Service roles for public libraries, in addition to offering print materials, include access to the internet (including Wi-Fi), programming for all age groups, research and information, homework help, reading for fun, education, access to new technology, gaming, a place to hold meetings, a place to relax and gather, providing community information, providing help to new residents of a community, supporting small business, providing career and job help, and holding cultural events.

Columbus Public Library started a strategic planning process in June to identify the roles on which we should focus. We would like to hear from the people we serve what you want your library to offer. This strategic plan should not be the Consultant's plan, or the Board of Trustees' plan, or the Library Director's plan ....this should be the community's plan.

There is more than one way for the public to give input. You can take the survey either in English or Spanish, either online or on paper.

The online survey can be found at <http://www.columbusne.us/library> or at <http://columbustelegram.com/>.

There are three ways to get a paper survey: pick up one at the library, pick up one at the bookmobile, or print one off the library website. All paper surveys must be turned in at the library or the bookmobile. The surveys will be available through the 19th of September. Don't procrastinate and forget - do your survey now.

You may also show up at either of two public input meetings in the library's auditorium on Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM and 6:30 PM.

Drawing prizes supplied by The Friends of the Library are a Kindle Fire and Columbus Bucks for people who share their opinions. There will be a drawing for Columbus Bucks at each of the focus group meetings, and those attendees will also be eligible for the drawing for a Kindle Fire from among the survey respondents. Your contact information will not be shared, and if you choose not to share this information, your input will still be counted.

Once we have identified what the community would like us to do, we will then set forth the plan for how to get there. The plan will include measurable goals, a timeline, and identify resources needed to accomplish the plan.

The steering committee anticipates the plan will be ready for unveiling in October. Please help us to make this the library the community wants.

Recent donations to the Columbus Library Foundation include a memorial to Virginia Paczosa from her family; a memorial to Gene Beck from John and Linda McPhail; memorials to Olin Barjenbruch and Esther Barjenbruch from Willis and Irene Chesnut; and a memorial for Dr. Ervin Heiser from Roberta Saalfeld.