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patron inquiries

Kristin Pekoll

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From Kristin Pekoll <kpekoll@west-bendlibrary.org>
Sent Friday, March 27, 2009 3:19 pm
To Nan Chase <nchase@west-bendlibrary.org>, Caroline Schiller <cschiller@west-bendlibrary.org>, Michael Tyree <mtyree@west-bendlibrary.org>, Nancy Bauer <nbauer@west-bendlibrary.org>, Nancy Larson <nl Larson@west-bendlibrary.org>, Niki Maher <nmaher@west-bendlibrary.org>, Sara Davister <sdavister@west-bendlibrary.org>, Sue Cantrell <scantrell@west-bendlibrary.org>, Susan Robbins <srobbins@west-bendlibrary.org>
Cc jmatko@west-bendlibrary.org
Subject Re: patron inquiries

Nan, I'll forward your request on to Jane.
The website is <http://www.commonsonsemedia.org/>
Also if you google Christian book reviews or family book reviews there are other sites. But I use commonsonsemedia a lot. Especially when investigating a movie to show for the library.

Kristin Pekoll
Young Adult/Reference Librarian
West Bend Community Memorial Library
630 Poplar Street
West Bend, WI 53095
262-335-5151 x128
kpekoll@west-bendlibrary.org
www.west-bendlibrary.org

----- Original Message -----
From: Nan Chase <nchase@west-bendlibrary.org>
Date: Friday, March 27, 2009 11:51 am
Subject: Re: patron inquiries
To: Kristin Pekoll <kpekoll@west-bendlibrary.org>

> Thanks, Kristin. Are the websites you mentioned bookmarked on both
> computers? That would be very helpful. I also think it would help if
> circ people were informed to direct phone calls or inquiries to a
> librarian, rather than trying to field them at the circ desk. Maybe
> we should discuss this at the next reference meeting.
>

> Nan Chase
> Cataloger/Head of Technical Services
> West Bend Community Memorial Library
> 630 Poplar St.
> West Bend, WI 53095
> nchase@west-bendlibrary.org
> Phone: 262-335-5151 ext.131
>

> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Kristin Pekoll <kpekoll@west-bendlibrary.org>
> Date: Friday, March 27, 2009 11:24 am
> Subject: patron inquiries
> To: Caroline Schiller <cschiller@west-bendlibrary.org>, Michael Tyree
> <mtyree@west-bendlibrary.org>, Nan Chase
> <nchase@west-bendlibrary.org>, Nancy Bauer
> <nbauer@west-bendlibrary.org>, Nancy Larson
> <nl Larson@west-bendlibrary.org>, Niki Maher
> <nmaher@west-bendlibrary.org>, Sara Davister
> <sdavister@west-bendlibrary.org>, Sue Cantrell
> <scantrell@west-bendlibrary.org>, Susan Robbins
> <srobbins@west-bendlibrary.org>, jmatko@west-bendlibrary.org
>

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>
> > Hi Everyone,
> >
> > I realize that our patrons are and will continue to ask questions
>
> > about the books that they are hearing about in the news and the
> > newspaper. I don't think it is a good idea to associate or
> volunteer
> > titles that other patrons might label as porn. We are more than
> happy
> > to help them locate specific titles they want to look at or
> evaluate
> > themselves, but... I don't want to put titles in their hands and
> > essentially say, "this is what everyone is labeling as porn". If
> > patrons are curious what books other people have concerns about
> then
> > they need to speak to those other people.
> >
> > But I also want to help our patrons understand the situation. I am
>
> > more than happy to speak with anyone who has a question or concern.
>
> > Please feel free to call or IM me to the desk to talk with someone,
>
> > I've had some very fruitful conversations with patrons that have
> > concerns and I was able to answer some questions about the YA
> section
> > and our purpose as a library. Don't hesitate to call me.
> >
> > A major issue in what's been going on is "11 year olds have access
> to
> > these books". I really try to remind patrons that as a public
> library
> > every patron has access to all the books. That while we have
> specific
> > areas for different audiences they are in no way restrictions. The
> YA
> > fiction books have audiences anywhere from 6th grade-12th grade.
> But
> > what I always tell parents. "WHATS APPROPRIATE FOR A 12TH GRADER IS
>
> > NOT ALWAYS APPROPRIATE FOR A 6TH GRADER". Many of the books in this
>
> > area have a smaller and older age bracket for appropriateness and
> if
> > parents are concerned with a specific title and whether it's
> > appropriate for their family, we are happy as librarians, to look
> up
> > reviews and provide objective professional age guidelines that
> might
> > help them make informed decisions. There are even christian
> websites
> > that give faith based reviews on books to help inform patrons. Or
> if
> > they are looking for titles specifically for 6th graders, lists of
>
> > titles can be provided. Or book
> > s with no sexual content, violence etc. All services we provide as
>
> > librarians to help EMPOWER parents to make an informed decision.
> >
> > I hope this helps some and I'm happy to talk with patrons who have

> questions.
> >
> > ~Kristin
> >
> >
> > _____
> > Kristin Pekoll
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