

## Consult the Cat

by Shannon Roy, Editor

*Information on a fascinating website of special interest to public librarians recently turned up in a listserv discussion thread.*



Many librarians are interested in history. The Cat, bored to tears by wars and treaties, adores any title that starts with “Daily Life in....” or “Everyday Life in....” The Cat, like most cats, considers the social activities of human beings to be endlessly fascinating, if frequently nuts. The Cat, like many other cats, has discovered librarians to be attractive and relatively sane human beings and frequently very good cat people.

Many librarians may not be aware that there is a website devoted to the history of libraries. It was put together by Larry Nix, a librarian who is retired from the State Library of Wisconsin. Larry explains that his flagging interest in his profession was completely revitalized by his growing fascination with the history of libraries. He says, “Okay, saved my life is a little overdramatic but it certainly changed my life for the better.”

The website has an international flavor. There are a number of hotlinks to various aspects of both American and international library history. There is a section on Carnegie libraries that includes information on Carnegie libraries in a number of states. The Kansas link includes Allen Gardiner’s Book on *The Carnegie Legacy in Kansas*, a remarkable resource on Kansas Carnegies.

There is a lot of information on famous libraries in American history, as well as libraries in Europe. There are biographies of people who have been important to the library field. Benjamin Franklin, who could certainly be considered the patron saint of American libraries, has his own page and it is very interesting.

Among the most practical information is a page that gives good advice on planning for library anniversaries. Mr. Nix believes that it is very beneficial for libraries to actively celebrate major milestones with their communities. But such merry festivals require careful planning to make them successful.

The library history website may be found at:

<http://www.libraryhistorybuff.org/history.htm>

For developing and maintaining this fascinating website, Larry Nix certainly deserves a purr from the

Cat.