

Title of Session: Targeting Librarians! Funding Your Tech

Moderator: Lesley Farmer

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Room: Cybrarians Group

CarolN: Hi, here for Cybrarians. It's been a long while since I've been here.

BJB2 thinks Carol has participated in other Cybrarian discussions

LesleyF: great to have you "here." Remind me where you hale from -- I'm in southern California at CSU Long Beach

CarolN: Sounds warm. Northern Michigan.

LesleyF: The temperature is well controlled in Tapped In

LesleyF: What do you hope to learn/talk about in this session?

CarolN: Was hoping there was discussion on funding for technology

LesleyF: that's what we're here for. What level of school are you at?

CarolN: high school.

LesleyF: So what kind of funding have you been using or trying for?

CarolN: Most funding goes through our development office and tech dept. The librarian's not in the loop.

LesleyF: but CAN the librarian get involved?

CarolN: I forward information to them.

LesleyF: that's good -- have you found some good possible sources? Have you helped write the grants? Do they ignore your suggestions?

CarolN: Yes, I can get more involved.

LesleyF: So have you found grantors that focus on school libraries?

CarolN: Helped write a small grant a few years back.

CarolN: We're a parochial system. Don't always qualify.

CarolN: Helped write a small grant several years ago.

LesleyF: So what kind of help are you looking for at this point? I agree that non-public schools have fewer options. I've been there...

LesleyF: A good source, at least out west, is the Wiegand Foundation.

CarolN: Well, where to start looking. Especially for installing classroom equipment.

LesleyF: Every state has grants that are available for non-public schools; they just don't always publicize them well.

CarolN: Can you tell me a little more about the Wiegand Foundation? Would it grant to Michigan?

BJB2 wonders if Carol would be interested in the Grreat Grants group in Tapped In

LesleyF: Let me check...Rats, they are western. Here is the URL -- which links from the Grants Foundation Center. Do you know about it?

LesleyF: <http://www.tgci.com/funding/fdnresultnew.asp?thisID=6439>

LesleyF: good idea, BJ.

CarolN: Great. remind me how to follow the link for tagging w/o leaving this room.

LesleyF: Do you know about this site?

LesleyF: BJ...?

BJB2: hold down the ctrl key when you click on the url, Carol

BJB2 . o O (is that what you meant?)

CarolN: Yes, it's tagged. Thank you.

LesleyF: And the session will be archived too.

BJB2 . o O (the urls will be in your transcript, Carol)

BJB2 . o O (assuming your email is correct in the directory)

CarolN: Yes, I remember that now.

LesleyF: some of the angles you can use to find grant sources is by federal government,

ILMS, state education, tech companies, and library-related agencies

LesleyF: Here are a couple more metasites/directories of tech grants:

LesleyF: www.techlearning.com

LesleyF: www.technologygrantnews.com

CarolN: Thanks for the links. I looked at some federal gov sites, but they were quite intimidating. Besides, they looked more student oriented, less classroom equipment.

CarolN: Are you familiar with any literature which shows having the equipment increase learning, test scores, college success, etc.?

LesleyF: I agree that the federal ones are more competitive. What about your state LSTA funding (I think that's the acronym). I'll check on the equipment thing...

LesleyF: A good site for finding research about use of tech and student achievement is <http://caret.iste.org/>

LesleyF: Of course, you can read my books Digital inclusion, teens, and your library

LesleyF: and Teen Girls and Technology

CarolN: My position is awkward. The district has begun long-range tech planning. I'm supposed to be on committee, but..... I'm never invited to meetings. Then, the need is so very present, not future. Whatever happens, we'll need mounted media proj. That's my goal for the present.

CarolN: Great leads. Thanks.

LesleyF: Well, unless the meetings are closed, you can also attend on your own.

LesleyF: You can also provide info, as you have been doing.

LesleyF: If one of the people on the committee uses the library, you can work with that person on incorporating technology concretely into the curriculum.

CarolN: Gained a little credibility with notice of receipt of picturing America grant. School doesn't know how easy that one was. :)

LesleyF: You don't need a committee to model good practice. --- and yes, go ahead and show that you do know how to get grants (I won't tell...)

CarolN: At the school level I have great credibility. I'm the go to for tech and curriculum issues. It's the district level that's the stopper.

LesleyF: is that where the grantsmanship happens?

CarolN: Absolutely.

CarolN: I need to have all ducks in a row before they're approached.

LesleyF: So play 6 degrees of separation -- who has the ear of that devt. or grant person whom you know and trust to be an introducer for you?

LesleyF: and how large is the system?

CarolN: I can approach him directly. There's just the conflict of this developing master plan.

CarolN: We're very small. a little over 1000 kids in preK-12.

LesleyF: Who's getting the grants? And what is the conflict -- other priorities than tech?

CarolN: Not sure where money is going. We've just begun a Healthy life balance initiative. \$250,000 grant. It's been great, but maybe at the expense of attention to other needs.

CarolN: Suspect a long term plan is necessary to get big bucks. So the grant writing isn't a priority for development. But in the meantime..... the teachers are desperate.

LesleyF: has that money been spent? Did technology get included? (e.g., making spreadsheets about time management? web tutorials on healthy living?

LesleyF: What if you were to find a grant, write the skeleton of the content, pass it by your principal/headmaster, who could pass it onto the devt. person?

LesleyF: I've coauthored grants with others in order to get the equipment I want for the library (e.g., science initiative)

CarolN: That's the plan. I just need to find some good possibilities.

LesleyF: What about parents? IBM used to have a program whereby a parent who was an IBM employee could pay half of the station, and IBM would pay the other half.

LesleyF: I also got OK computers from local computer user groups who rebuilt computers and then gave them to non-profits such as schools (I paid \$10 per system if I talked with the fixer-upper for an hour).

BJB2 smiles...great investment!

LesleyF: In the Cybrarian "room" I have uploaded a file of grant sources and guides. It's featured. You can download it. A couple of URLs may have changed, but it's a start.

CarolN: Well, parents are about the only source used so far. One classroom teacher got some equip. installed that way. But, we're a very small town in economically depressed MI.

LesleyF: This is not a great \$\$ time.

JennyEB joined the room.

LesleyF: Hi, Jenny. We're talking about funds for tech.

JennyEB: evening

CarolN: Parents and local businesses aren't on my radar right now. The school's always begging from them.

CarolN: Hi Jenny. Have you some great funding sources to share?

LesleyF: The new mini-notebooks run about \$250, and are fully functional. I wonder if you can get parents to pay for them, and use fewer print textbooks?

JennyEB: I'm always looking

JennyEB: \$250?

LesleyF: Yep. There's a Taiwan distributor, among others.

JennyEB: We have a local bank that offers \$300 grants every year

JennyEB: We're very lucky

CarolN: The strategic planning committee is considering either notebooks, or maybe skipping to the new cell phone, iphone, etc.

LesleyF: well, that gets you 1 notebook. The desktop systems are actually cheaper sometimes. Remember that iphones can be \$250+

JennyEB: I'm sure you've already talked about donors choose

LesleyF: Sometimes businesses upgrade, and donate their systems to schools.

LesleyF: Tell us more about that, Jenny

JennyEB: Donors choose posts your plan

JennyEB: and people just donate money as they wish

LesleyF: Note that I have some useful grant URLs listed in my grants document file featured in the cybrarian list.

JennyEB: I haven't posted myself, but I know plenty who have

JennyEB: and they've been very successful over and over again

LesleyF: and there's Craigslist, although you need to be pretty tech savvy so that you don't get a lemon machine or get lots of repairs to do.

LesleyF: it's much easier to get a lab's worth of equipment at once that's all the same -- much better for maintenance.

JennyEB: Every year I create a video with my students to apply for a \$25,000 interactive classroom makeover from e-instruction

JennyEB: haven't won yet, but we've enjoyed making the video

JennyEB: A librarian made the finals this year - don't know if she won

LesleyF: good suggestion! I did a 3-minute video about the library, and received a \$1 million donation.

JennyEB: where did THAT come from?

BJB2: whoa! That must have been SOME video!

CarolN: Was that from e-instruction ?

LesleyF: an elderly alumna; the benefits of estate planning -- which is common in private schools

JennyEB: sigh

LesleyF: we showed it on her hospital TV

JennyEB: I'll bet she enjoyed that

LesleyF: Maybe she paid to have them stop viewing it...

BJB2 chuckles

JennyEB: Doesn't Toyota have some big grant money? \$20000?

JennyEB: Here's a doable suggestion, that I've been successful with

LesleyF: yes, indeed, and so do several other companies -- find out the locals.

JennyEB: About 5 years ago I received \$2000 from Michael Jordan

JennyEB: the Jordan Foundation

JennyEB: They make grants annually to different grade levels throughout the country

JennyEB: I used it for a school garden (not tech)

CarolN: Great idea. Tiger Woods has a foundation too, but I think it targets inner city schools.

LesleyF: so you can see that there are many avenues for grants funding

JennyEB: people ask where I find mine

JennyEB: I found the Jordan Foundation grant in the back of the TEA magazine

LesleyF: Is your school Catholic, Carol? You might be able to tie in the equipment to family tech literacy.

JennyEB: Tennessee Ed. Association - NEA for TN

LesleyF: Yes, Jenny is right to look at the professional journals for grant announcements. E Week does that in each issue

LesleyF: The Catholic Library Assn. might too -- or their local chapter (I used to belong).

CarolN: E week is where I get the info to forward to superintendent and devt dept

JennyEB: A friend of mine teaches at a Catholic school in Memphis which was adopted by Fred Smith of Fed Ex -- He rigged up the whole school

JennyEB: awesome

JennyEB: I have a lot mags I read ONLY for grants and tech stuff

JennyEB: they are NOT tech mags

LesleyF: Our school had a Net Day (that's a national initiative) where families cabled the school

CarolN: Our state Catholic Lib. Assoc. is not in the fund granting business.

LesleyF: but do they locate grant sources?

JennyEB: Carol, since I came in late, what kind of money are you looking for (amount)?

CarolN: They're just struggling along. I'm in contact with them.

CarolN: My initial goal would be around 35,000

LesleyF: Are there any consortia that you're a part of?

CarolN: Of course, even 5,000 would be a good start.

LesleyF: sometimes you can get matching funds

CarolN: Mich. has intermediate school districts that get state-wide education bids. That's how we can get super good prices on equip.

LesleyF: I've gotten computers as class gifts when students graduate.

JennyEB: I'm in rural W. TN - it's not what you want, but WalMart does \$1000 grants ALL THE TIME

LesleyF: mso does Target and Best Buy

JennyEB: Wal Marts in Michigan? not so much

LesleyF: and Sears

JennyEB: BEST BUY has a GOOD grant program, you have to be within 50 miles of a store and I don't qualify

CarolN: Does anyone not have Walmarts? Thanks, I'll add them to the list. Target does very small grants here in Traverse City. Oh, and we have a Best Buy. Are they still going to be in business?

LesleyF: more than Circuit City (who might have some good deals now that they're going bankrupt)

JennyEB: http://www.bestbuyinc.com/community_relations/teach_awards.htm

JennyEB: just google it

JennyEB: they have a bunch of different ones - one was listed at \$17000

LesleyF: Theoretically, if every class donated \$20 a person, you'd get several computers.

LesleyF: A computer per class.

CarolN: I'm going to check that one. Maybe I can find out more from the store manager. We're a fairly small town, and lots of people are interconnected.

LesleyF: You might even be able to brainstorm ideas at a PTA meeting.

CarolN: Actually, I just begged our elementary PTA president to adopt the high school. They raise money for the other schools and give each teacher a sum of money in Dec. just for the individual classroom.

LesleyF: Perhaps a Boy Scout troop could get computers to fix, and then donate them to your school.

JennyEB: My children all attended/attend Christian Brothers University (they're lasallians) Is your school a particular variety of Catholic?

CarolN: Nope, just Roman Catholic.

JennyEB: JUST Roman Catholic

CarolN: There's a consortium of 5 local parishes.

LesleyF: you know, straight to the boss.

CarolN: As opposed to a special group.

JennyEB: To me, the best place to look for grants is in publications. The internet gets clogged up with old information.

LesleyF: So did these suggestions give you ladies some more approaches?

CarolN: Well, ok, you guys have been great. I've got lots of ideas to pursue.

LesleyF: or state-related tech agencies.

JennyEB: I feel like I need to look for money in the seat cushions!

CarolN: funny, I've been known to stop for a penny on the hall floor.

LesleyF: there are always soda cans (if I were to scoop up all the cans of techies...)

JennyEB: Where are the links you were speaking of Lesley

LesleyF: and get them reimbursed from recycling...

JennyEB: link section?

LesleyF: Go the Cybrarian site here, and click on FILES. You'll see the grantsmanship doc featured.

JennyEB: I see, thanks

LesleyF: I always ask the session participants what they want to talk about the following month. Any thoughts?

JennyEB: zero thoughts, sorry

LesleyF: what about finding research that links the use of tech and student achievement?

LesleyF: that came up for Carol.

JennyEB: now THAT's how to get grants! great idea

CarolN: I need to start doing book talks. Have little experience. Would like to get some tips about what, how, when,

BJB2: or funding tech to promote the Library

CarolN: Sorry, mine's not tech related.

BJB2 loves book talks....and they could be tech related...if you had a library blog

LesleyF: well, there are some great sites about booktalking -- and good ideas about digital storytelling and book podcasts.

JennyEB: Videotape your booktalks or make them into a podcast - they are now technofied!

LesleyF: as well as book blogs, as BJ mentioned -- including by students

LesleyF: How about "eBooktalks"?

BJB2: worth a try, Lesley!

JennyEB: I've seen some examples of video booktalks - the kids really seem professional and take them seriously

CarolN: sounds interesting.

LesleyF: even 6 year olds do great projects

BJB2 . o O (you can always include funding resources as part of the discussion)

LesleyF: it would certainly show that tech impacts student learning!

CarolN: I don't even have a digital video camera

LesleyF: OK -- well, I hope to see you the 3rd wed. in Feb. at 4:30pm.

JennyEB: sounds great - keep me posted! TTFN

LesleyF: Oh, I can show you how to do video with stills.

LesleyF: If you can afford a \$50 webcam, you're in.

CarolN: My still camera's only storage device is a floppy disk :)

LesleyF: just as long as you can get it onto the computer...

CarolN: That equipment is next on my list. I really want to help the teacher's first, then,...the library will leap into the digital equipment age.

LesleyF: you can even do it by finding images online

LesleyF: Do you check out tech equipment to the teachers? That's what I did.

LesleyF: More cost-effective that way

CarolN: yes, I'm their major source of info, equip and trouble-shooting.

LesleyF: good!

LesleyF: well, we'll talk more next month, OK?

CarolN: The problem is that some equip just needs to be standard in their rooms. So much less hassle, much safer.

LesleyF: I hear you...

BJB2 waves goodnight. See you Feb 18

CarolN: Thank you. I've already put the meeting on all my calendars. Thanks again. Looking forward to the transcript and writing some grants.

BJB2 hopes Lesley remembers to send out a reminder

LesleyF: yes, ma'm!

BJB2 winks and hugs. Take care

LesleyF: at least we got some good conversation

LesleyF: mutual support and options

BJB2 nods. Don't need a lot of people to do that either

BJB2 . o O (sometimes it's better with a small group)

LesleyF: where two or more are gathered...

BJB2 nods solemnly