

Below is the letter that was sent to the Boulder Library, Friend of the Library, as well as some additional community members to assess potential volunteers and enthusiasm towards our second goal on the Land Trust Plan for 2015-2016.

It was well received by the library and other community members with people committing to volunteer and help implement a cataloging system both for functional browsing and searching using software.

Hi Friends of the Library Librarians and others!

I wanted to write you to inform you on a potential happening this summer at the Boulder Elementary School library to gain some feedback, suggestions, encouragement, interest, and more!

Last Fall at the beginning of the year, I began to tackle organizing and sorting through the many books and materials that we had in the school with the help of MANY.. one of the major projects was the library. I was amazed at the quality and quantity.

Since then, I have been researching and brainstorming how to make the books more available to both the students in school and the students who are homeschooled in Boulder. I have also wanted to figure out a way to catalog the books we have so that we know what areas and subjects are lacking, what books need to be replaced, and which we don't have but really should.

Finally, I would like to create a system that not only encourages students to take them off the shelves, but to check them out and to return them! We don't even have cards in the front let alone the many, many books that have never been given identification to belonging to Boulder Elementary School Library or belonging to a shelf within in library.

With all of this said, I am about to submit a proposal as part of the Land Trust Plan for the 2015-2016 school year budget to revamp the library at the school. It is my intention to adapt the Metis system and hire one or two people to work this summer to implement the system as well as organize volunteers to make it all happen.

Metis, is a Dewey-free library classification.. I know this is a big jump.. that was developed by the Ethical Culture School in New York. It was designed to encourage productive independent browsing by children, as well as allowing for successful catalog searching by elementary students.

I first discovered it when reading an article from the school library journal, *Are Dewy's Days Numbered?: Libraries Nationwide Are Ditching the Old Classification System.* After reading the article, I began researching and learning as much as possible about the system, including emailing with the librarians at ECS and reading blogs of other schools that have implemented Metis.

If you are interested, I have other links I could share, just let me know or browse around and see what you can find about Metis.

So back to why I am sending out this mass email..

The school has a fantastic selection of books and we are about to receive a large donation from the Libri Foundation in memory of John Austin. When cleaning the school I found a barcode scanner and possible software that goes with it, although it will need to be tested. We would need stickers, tape, and other miscellaneous supplies, most of all, we would need lots of volunteer hours!

We need volunteers to help sort books, volunteers to help label books, and volunteers to catalog books into a computer system.

What do you think? Do you think there is enough volunteer interest to organize & label the books in Boulder Elementary School Library, either using Dewey or Metis, this summer? Do you think we could also create a computerized catalog for reference as well as checking books in and out of the library?

If you have any feedback it would be greatly appreciated! If you want to pass this along to someone you think might be interested feel free. If want to read it and be done that works too.

Thanks you,
Elizabeth