Houston County news and notes

Karen Odom, head librarian at Centerville Branch of Houston County Public Libraries, has been invited to serve a two-year appointment to the American Library Association’s Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) Membership Promotion Committee. Odom’s term began July 1 and will run through June 30, 2009. The Committee’s charge is to develop and pursue an aggressive and continuous campaign to recruit and retain members for YALSA, and to promote the Association to professional colleagues and to key partners as defined in the organization’s strategic Plan. “We are so pleased that Karen has received this honor, and we commend her continued support of young adult services in our public libraries,” said Marsha Christy, Director of Houston County Public Libraries.

South Georgia Regional news and notes

David Charles “Chuck” Gibson has been appointed Director of the Valdosta-based South Georgia Regional Library System. In 1989, Chuck received a bachelor’s degree in History and Government with a Minor in Geology from Adams State College in Alamosa, Colorado. He received a Master of Library Science degree from Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas in 1995. Immediately after graduation, he was hired by Worthington Libraries, Worthington, Ohio to be the Technology Coordinator. In this position, Chuck created a network for the library with 150 computers and access to over 100 electronic resources; many were available to people in their homes and offices via remote web access. Chuck received the MCI Librarian of the Year for the state of Ohio for his expertise in constructing the network.

Chuck was promoted to Associate Director of Public Services in 2002 where he was responsible for Adult Services, Youth Services, and the Circulation departments for both the Old Worthington Library and the Northwest Library. His projects included redesigning the public service models, reorganization of the public service staff and reporting structures, creating a centralized materials selection system and doing design development to reorganize the physical spaces of the libraries. He served on the Minerva Park Village Council where he was responsible for Public Safety; was on the Board of the Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce; installed the first Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) T1 line and subsequently served on several OPLIN committees; and served a term as Secretary on the Ohio Library Council IT Division.