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Bartram Trail Regional News and Notes

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Bartram Trail Regional news and notes **Cobb County news and notes**

Sisters in Crime Inc. has announced that the Bartram Trail Regional Library, headquartered in Washington, Ga., has won a "We Love Libraries" \$1,000 grant award for 2010. Sisters in Crime consists of 3,600 members in 48 chapters worldwide, offering

networking, advice and support to mystery authors. From the group's website: "We are authors, readers, publishers, agents, booksellers and librarians bound by our affection for the mystery genre and

our support of women who write mysteries. Sisters in Crime was founded by Sara Paretsky and a group of women at the 1986 Bouchercon in Baltimore." Jim Veatch, Bartram Trail Regional Library technical services manager, traveled to Atlanta for the presentation of the check.



From left: Karen Kennedy, Jim Veatch, Sharon Marchisello (program chair for the Atlanta Chapter) and Celia Coker. (Photo by Justine Veatch)

Even though it was not a requirement for the award, Bartram Trail has used the funds to purchase books by Sisters in Crime authors. "We first concentrated on Georgia and South Carolina authors," said Lillie Crowe, director of the Bartram Trail Regional Library System, "and then we added books by other 'S in C' members who have been especially supportive of libraries." Sisters in Crime authors consistently make appearances at both annual and midwinter meetings of the American Library Association. ►►



Dan Crawford of Marietta (left) and Larry Brydon of Austell view military artifacts in a display at the Cobb County Central Library in Marietta on Nov. 9. The event was part of "Let's Read Cobb," a community campaign held to promote books and encourage literacy. The mini-museum was sponsored by Preserving U.S. Military History for the Future. (Photo by Erika Ruthman/CCPLS)

International students from the ELS Language Centers at Southern Polytechnic State University visited the Cobb County Public Library System on Oct. 7, during a research workshop that took place at the Central Library in Marietta.

"Coming here opens a window for the students," said Ann Willis, director of ELS Language Center Atlanta. "Even someone in the local community [would] be surprised by how much is here at the library."

English as a Second Language (ESL) courses range from the beginner's level of English for travelers to the master's level for college-bound students and executives. The students received a tutorial on several computer-based research tools including ProQuest, EBSCOhost and NetLibrary databases. They also received a preview on the Gale Virtual Reference Library, a collection that has thousands of online reference books.

The information is vital, according to Suzanne Kincer-Weaver, head of adult services at the Cobb Central Library, because these tools are key to a starting point for researchers. "Library staff lay the foundation on which the patrons gather information," she said.

Kincer-Weaver added that, once staff show people the tools available at the library and how to get started, the library patrons can build on that base.

Outside of her school, Cobb Central Library is the first public library in the United States that Isabel Lameda, an ELS student from Venezuela, has visited. "It's very good because we have a lot of options for research and because the people here want to help us," Lameda said. "I like the



An ELS/Southern Polytechnic State University student from Saudi Arabia, Saleh Alqahtani, (front, right) participated in a virtual tour at the Central Library in Marietta, Oct. 7. He and a group of about 15 students received an overview of free library research tools. Reference librarian Suzanne Kincer-Weaver (left) guided the group through computer databases available through the Cobb County Public Library System. (Article and photo by Erika Ruthman)