

RE:refresh!

Updates & Highlights from the Reference Department at Middletown Thrall Library

ISSUE # 1

September 2008

"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles at it." Margaret Fuller

Welcome!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *RE:refresh!*

This publication highlights Middletown Thrall Library's Reference Department updates, including recent additions to our web guides, blogs, electronic resources, and print collections and Reference services.

We realize many of our patrons live extremely busy lives -- commuting, raising families, working around the clock, tending to life's daily demands, especially during these economically difficult times.

We can help you keep up with some of our most notable and recent Reference service developments with this convenient newsletter.

A growing number of you continue to discover the many services we offer at the library and at our website (www.thrall.org), but, at the rate information changes, we certainly don't expect anyone to keep up.

Let us worry about that, and simply enjoy the fruits of our labor as we work to bring you some of the best information sources available!

In this issue (and future issues to come), you'll find web links and print titles we think you might like to check out. Current and past online editions of *Re:refresh!* can be downloaded at www.thrall.org/docs

We truly appreciate the honor of being able to serve your information needs, and we wish you well in all your pursuits!

- Thrall Reference Department

Updates from Our Blogs...

Web address: <http://www.thrall.org/blogs>

From our **Booklovers** blog:

A New Poet Laureate: Kay Ryan is the latest person to be granted the title of Poet Laureate by the Library of Congress for 2008-2009.

You can read more about this in the press release at: <http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2008/08-127.html>

What does it mean to be Poet Laureate? The Library of Congress explains what it means and entails: http://www.loc.gov/poetry/about_laureate.html

You can continue reading about Kay Ryan at: <http://www.thrall.org/blogs/booklovers.html#49>

From our **Consumer Information** blog:

Debt, Credit, and Loans: The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) offers consumer information documents on the topics of credit, loans, and debt: <http://ftc.gov/bcp/menus/consumer/credit/debt.shtm>

From our **Government Information** blog:

Homelessness Resource Center: A new website from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): <http://www.homeless.samhsa.gov>

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

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(845) 341-5461 or (845) 341-5462

or online at www.thrall.org/ask

("From Our Blogs" continued)

From our **Health/Food/Nutrition** blog:
Smokefree.gov - A Quit Smoking Guide: The Tobacco Control Research Branch of the U.S. National Cancer Institute has created an educational resource to help you or someone you know quit smoking: <http://www.smokefree.gov>

From our **Science & Technology** blog:
GLAST - Follow NASA's new Gamma Ray Large Area Space Telescope: <http://glast.gsfc.nasa.gov>

Some Updates from Our Web Guides...

<http://www.thrall.org/guides>

Our web guides are constantly updated. Here are recent changes you might want to know about:

New York State Board of Elections has a new link:
<http://www.elections.state.ny.us/Voting.html>

This has been updated in our *Elections 2008* guide at <http://www.thrall.org/election2008>

We have also added a new category listing individual websites for the presidential candidates.

Our **Current Interests and Events** web guide at <http://www.thrall.org/current> now has categories listing major sources of RSS feeds (headlines you can subscribe to) and "podcasts" (brief, sometimes serialized audio and/or video broadcasts online).

"Major sources" linked to include such sites as: BBC News, Business Week, CNN, the Discovery Channel, EurekaAlert, MSNBC, MTV, NASA, National Library of Medicine, New York Times, Newsweek, NPR, PBS, the Times Herald-Record, the U.S. Government, and the Weather Channel.

Our **Consumer Information web guide** (found at <http://www.thrall.org/consumer>) has a new site from the U.S. Federal Reserve Board:

Looking for the Best Mortgage (located in our "Money and Investing" section):
<http://thrall.org/consumer/#Money>

("From Our Web Guides" continued)

Our comprehensive **Ready Reference guide** (located at <http://www.thrall.org/readyref>) continues to grow as we evaluate and index new sites (and remove old ones either no longer meeting our criteria or no longer in existence).

Our "Animals" category (located at <http://thrall.org/readyref/#Animals>) now has an "Organizations - Animal Welfare and Protection" subcategory.

There you will find links to sites such as The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), The Humane Society of the United States, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), USDA Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC), and World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

New Publications at Thrall...

Two free booklets are available by the Reference Department and around the library:

- *Reader's Choice*
- *Better Research through Databases*

Reader's Choice offers an up-to-date tour of our most popular reader's advisory services.

A "reader's advisory service" provides suggestions of books to help you achieve the reading experiences you desire.

Better Research describes databases available to Thrall Patrons as well as "virtual reference" titles.

We encourage you to take a look at them when you get a chance, as our electronic resource offerings have changed/expanded in recent months.

A New Web Service:

"Random Reads!"

<http://www.thrall.org/randomreads>

Fast, fun, and totally random, this is a place you can go to get ideas on what you might like to read next. All on one screen you get: a randomly selected title (and usually a description) of a book, as well as random subjects and writers. Click a random topic or author link and you'll be taken into the library catalog, where you can browse and request items! There's also a link to "Random Reads" right on our home page. Enjoy!