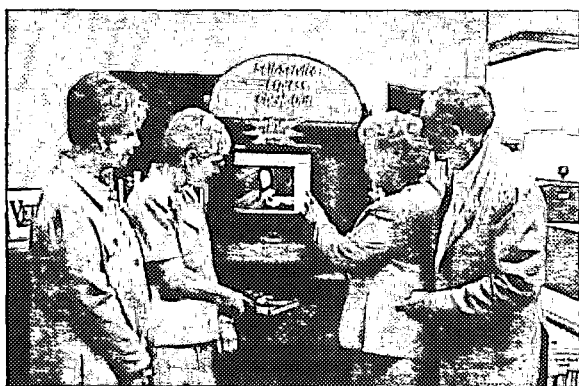


individually, materials are simply stacked on the counter and identified simultaneously by the built-in RFID reader.

Vernon president Shai Robkin says, "Our work in the field of RFID technology is a natural extension of the work we've done for well over a decade in bar-coding, security, inventory management and patron self-service."

The Rose Creek staff is looking forward to the book drop inventory feature which has not been activated yet. As library items pass over the RFID check-in antenna in the book drop, they are automatically logged into the central ILS database and their labels' security devices are turned back on. "When we hear 'I just put my returns in the book drop', we'll be able to check instantly whether those books are there and whether they're overdue," said Mrs. Fogarty

Residents and local library patrons were joined by community leaders including State Representative Calvin Hill, Cherokee County Commissioner Derick Good, and Linda Stetson, Coordinator of the Georgia Library for Accessible Services at the dedication and demonstration of the system on July 14th.



Assistant Library System Director Nanette Kicker, Rose Creek Library Manager Jan Fogarty, Library System Director Joan Adam and State Representative Calvin Hill check out the new RFID equipment.

R.T. Jones Memorial Library

Nearly one hundred parents who currently homeschool their children as well as those who were interested in learning more about homeschool options attended the Homeschool Fair sponsored by the R.T. Jones Memorial Library, headquarters of the Sequoyah Regional Library System in Canton, GA. The fair was held on Saturday, August 16 and featured speakers as well as 20 exhibitors.

Former homeschool mom Deborah Corrao is a Children's Coordinator at R.T. Jones Memorial Library. She says the homeschool way of life requires much more than just ABC's and 123's. "It includes a lifestyle that encourages learning all the time, including parent and child learning together."

Parents who are looking at homeschooling as an option for their children had an opportunity to find a variety of organizations represented at the Homeschool Fair. The event hosted exhibitors from a variety of homeschool groups in the Cherokee and North Fulton County areas. Representatives from support groups and enrichment programs provided literature available about their particular organizations, and answered questions. "Although the fair was not designed to promote curriculum related materials, there were groups that offer educational support with classes in specific subject areas as well as tutors who can provide additional assistance. Speaking with representatives from these organizations went a long way to take the mystery out of homeschooling," said Mrs. Corrao.

Two keynote speakers were featured at the fair. At noon, Lara Kimber, founder of Lifetime Learners of Georgia (LLG) made a presentation. Later in the afternoon, homeschool mom Beth Miller discussed her experience with homeschooling and provided information on group classes she offers to other homeschooled children. Both speakers shared their wit and wisdom.

The public library is a valuable resource for

all students, but it has an added dimension for homeschool students and parents. "The public library can strengthen an individual family's program with learning sources not available in the home. Families can also take advantage of the storytimes and special programs offered in each branch library," says Ms. Corrao. "If parents are not familiar with the library, they shouldn't hesitate to ask for help from the library staff."

The library system provides print resources as well as access to the Internet and GALILEO databases. Live Homework Help, a product of Tutor.Com is available from 2:00 PM until ½ hour before closing. Live Homework Help provides one-on-one tutor help for students in grades 4-12 in math, English, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Languages. Although not designed exclusively for homeschoolers, it can be a valuable resource, particularly in subject areas where the student needs extra help or for students with special needs. Staff members are available to assist students logging into this system. "Live Homework Help can be a great resource for homeschoolers as well as students attending public and private schools. It can help with some of the tough homework problems students have, or can be used to review the lessons learned in class," says Assistant Library Director Nick Fogarty. Live Homework Help in the Sequoyah Regional Library System was funded by a Library Services and Technology Act grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and awarded by the Georgia Office of Public Library Services.



R.T. Jones Memorial Library's Childrens Coordinator Deborah Corrao helps homeschoolers.

Hall County Library System

Hall County Library System started a book wish list of titles that the library would like to have, but due to budget cuts could not afford. The books were listed on the amazon.com website and also lists were given to two of the local bookstores. To date over 40 new books have been donated to the library. A link to the list is available on the homepage of the library system and books are shipped directly from Amazon to the library making donations very easy for patrons. The books can also be donated in honor or in memory of someone. While this is not a replacement for collection development, this has been a great supplement to it and a wonderful public relations tool.



Participants at the Hall County Library Systems bi-monthly Gardening Lunch and Learn series.

The Hall County Library System hosted a Lunch and Learn about Gardening series in cooperation with the Hall County Extension Service and the Master Gardeners of Hall County. The 3 month bi-monthly series has been very popular. Topics range from Salad Gardening to Wildflowers to Turf. Patrons are encouraged to bring a sack lunch and an eagerness to learn. When this series ends in September a new Lunch and Learn called "Brown Bags & Books" will begin. "Brown Bags and books" will be an informal book discussion group where patrons will share titles of books they would like to recommend to other.

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