

CAREER PLANNING 1: WHEN YOU GROW UP!



High Plains Library District

COMMUNITY

APRIL 2024

SERIES 2024

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collaborative
summer library program™

Culver's

The Human Bean

20230104 Artwork by Frank Morrison

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What do **YOU** have to **SAY** about our newsletter?

What do you have to say about our newsletter? Think about this as our Letters to the Editor option. If you have something to say about our newsletter, head to mylibrary.us/letters to get your feedback in the right hands.



Summer Reading is Coming!

The High Plains Library District is busy creating an amazing Summer Reading Adventure to satisfy all your adventure needs.

Sneak peek? Sneak peek!

What's the Theme? Have you ever thought about going on a great adventure, traveling the world, trying new things, and making new memories? Well, buckle up because this year's summer Reading theme is Adventure Begins at the Library.

What Kind of Adventures? Adventures can be exploring, learning, and creating, and the only limit will be your imagination! Our libraries are busy planning summer programs for every kind of adventurer. Whether you like exploring the outdoors with hikes, nature, and gardening or would rather be an armchair detective with maps, spy gadgets and mystery parties, there is something here for you! And the best part? Saddle up, buckaroo because you only need to visit your local library to embark on the escapade of your choice.

Will there be Prizes? Always! Our fearless adventurers and explorers ages 0 to 18 years old will be rewarded with prizes for reading and completing summer reading adventure activities!

Who Can Participate? Although prize ages are limited to 0 to 18, The Summer Reading Adventure is open to all ages! Whether you're a hundred days or a hundred years old, we'll have something for you!

When Does the Fun Start? Everything kicks off May 20th! Go to your local library to pick up your log, or register online, grab a calendar of amazing Summer Reading Adventure events, and start reading. Don't delay taking the first step to a summer full of reading adventure!

What else is HPLD planning? You're right. How did you know there's more?! Keep an eye on the library's webpage and follow us on social media for updates on events and programs that are sure to make your summer a fun one!

The Spine-In Shelving Question

Here's another edition of our advice column, and today we're addressing a very dangerous uprising online.

Over the last few weeks on Instagram, a trend has been brewing. A trend as damaging as eating Tide Pods, as silly as sunburning artwork onto yourself, and as gross as... You know what? This isn't nearly as bad as eating laundry detergent. Or sunburning yourself. It's really not that dangerous at all.

But it's fairly annoying! And the "fairly annoying" space is where THIS librarian's advice shines.



In a whole bunch of Instagram Reels, you can see someone who has built a beautiful home library, and they've elected to shelve their books spine-in, meaning the spine is facing the wall, and what you see is the page edges.

After I flipped through a few of these and got off the phone with the FBI, who turned down my passionate request to look into these backwards-book-shelvers, I decided to consider this practice more carefully and to give some librarian-type advice on it.

Oh, if only this advice column existed when you were all eating those Tide Pods. Would have saved the world some serious heart- er, I mean, stomachache.

Let's start by hearing out a spine-in shelper.

Here's a caption under one spine-in shelving post:

"Why are your books turned the wrong way?!"

This has to be the question we get asked the most! There are many people who cannot fathom doing this. For us the color was overwhelming with all the spines faced out. It definitely makes finding a specific book more difficult but we keep the titles we are currently reading in a designated area.

For us we are torn between our love for books AND interior design. At the end of day it's all about creating a space that YOU love and feel home in.

Are you a spine in or out type of person?

To answer the first question, obviously the library is a spine-out type of person. Because we're not total monsters.

No, no, you said you'd reserve judgement. Calm down...

Libraries are always going to be spine-out because the library is a place for information storage AND retrieval. In fact, most MLIS programs will march you through a class named something exactly like "Information storage and retrieval." You'll definitely get a textbook or two with a title along those lines, and the surest sign that it's a library school textbook? The cover is BORING.

This retrieval emphasis comes because, in a library, the storage of information is important, but its retrieval is AS important, and this is made more complicated because all of the library's users have to work with the same system.

It's like...imagine you share a car with someone. The big rule when you share a car, other than NOT spilling milkshakes all over the place, which people get REALLY uptight about, is putting the keys in the same place all the time so the other driver knows where to find them.

When a set of keys is your keys and only your keys, eh, whatever, you can remember which pants you were wearing and find the keys there, or which coat, or you can just sort of start doing laundry and hear them clanging around in the dryer, boom, keys located.

When you're sharing something, it's important that it be stored so everyone can find it, even if they have no idea where the object has been up to this moment and are seeking it out for the very first time.

Which means spine-in shelving is not going to work for us.

But here's the thing: I don't think anyone is suggesting a public library shelve the books spine-in, so the real question for us today:

What does a librarian think of spine-in shelving in the home?

Well...

I get it, some people are very concerned with aesthetics and having a home that's matching and pleasant for them.

I'm not a very aesthetic-minded person, I'm more of a "nailed an old, cut-up boot to the side of the desk to hold a drill," kind of person. I've been called a "utilitarian" by people who are concerned with preserving my feelings, and I've been called much worse things by people who are less concerned with that and aren't being totally unfair.

That said, I can understand wanting to have your home look a certain way, and I can also understand that sometimes the writers we love put out books with jackets we DON'T love.

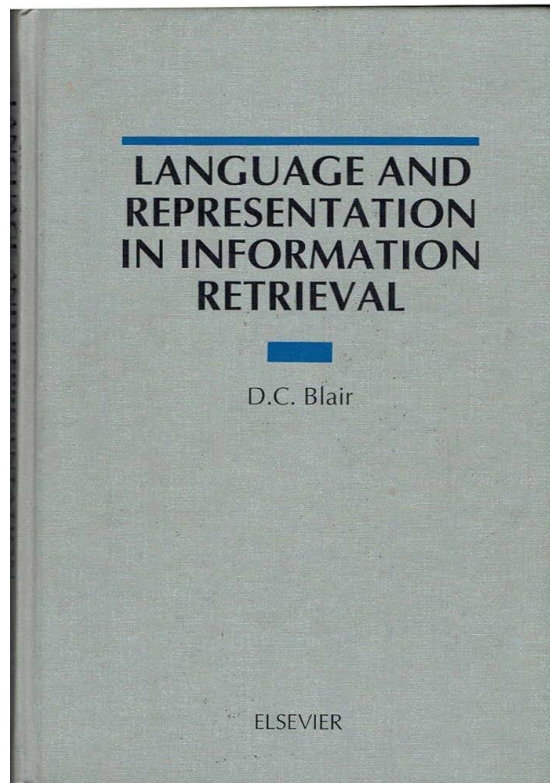
Quick aside, I've tried, I've sent emails to some authors I like, informing them of the colors of my bookshelves and home. I've included paint chips and wallpaper samples. And you may be surprised and horrified to learn they paid NO attention to my directions.

In some ways, spine-in shelving can be a design choice that lets you keep a robust, flavorful home library while not disrupting the peace you find in your space.

So I guess if that's how you find your peace, go off. They're your books, do with them as you please.

But I want to encourage you to ask yourself a question: Does this spine-in look really please me?

I understand that a spine-out bookshelf can be a little chaotic in terms of colors, fonts, general design and so on. But I think the attempt to control the chaos of life to the



degree that you're shelving books spine in is...maybe some nonsense for HGTV hosts and not something for real life.

Trying to emulate the beautifully-appointed homes you see on TV and in lifestyle social media is the path to ruin. Your house is never going to look like that, and even if it did, do you think that would make you happy?

Do you think your friends will call you more often, just to say Hi, if you shelve your books this way?

Do you think your career woes will be solved and you'll feel happy and fulfilled at work again?

Do you think spine-in shelving will make an estranged father love his son again, which I know is a fairly specific question BUT JUST ANSWER IT!?

Wow, geez. This got a little too introspective. Let's bring it back up with a suggestion.

Because if you want to create a uniform look to your books, you totally can, cheaply and easily, without sacrificing knowing what's on the shelves.



Re-cover your books. Fold paper covers. Use whatever paper you like. These new dust jackets will not only keep the colors in control, they'll protect the books at the same time. AND you can decide what you want the spines to look like. You can use one font, one color for the text, you can handwrite in a scripty style or get a stamp, you can even leave them blank. It's better than the page edges, those will yellow at different rates, it's super inexpensive while not looking tacky, and I think this is honestly the best version of having your cake and eating it too, which seems to be the whole point of having a cake you can't eat?

And the best part is that it improves your relationship with your home library.

The more you handle your books, the more you sort through them and get excited about what to read next, maybe realize you've been holding onto some items you don't need anymore, and re-experience the good times you've had with your books—the more experiences you have with your books, the better.

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LINC Library Innovation Center
501 8th Ave, Greeley

What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?

Guest Column by The Career Coach, Jim Willett

No matter our age or where we are in our personal journey, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” is probably the most common question most of us must answer. And the answer most certainly impacts our life path. Yet, often very little time is devoted to sorting it out. In many instances we “fall” into a job or career path without due consideration and end up feeling trapped and dissatisfied.

Launching a fulfilling career begins with self-discovery. It requires that we reflect deeply on our values, interests, personality, and strengths. What activities energize us? What problems or issues do we feel strongly about solving? Your career should align with your motivations and natural talents. It is very important to take the time to identify potential paths, research roles and job outlooks as well as review the education or training required.

Unfortunately, this discovery process doesn't receive nearly enough attention in our education process, and too many times we end up taking a given path purely due to economic reasons.

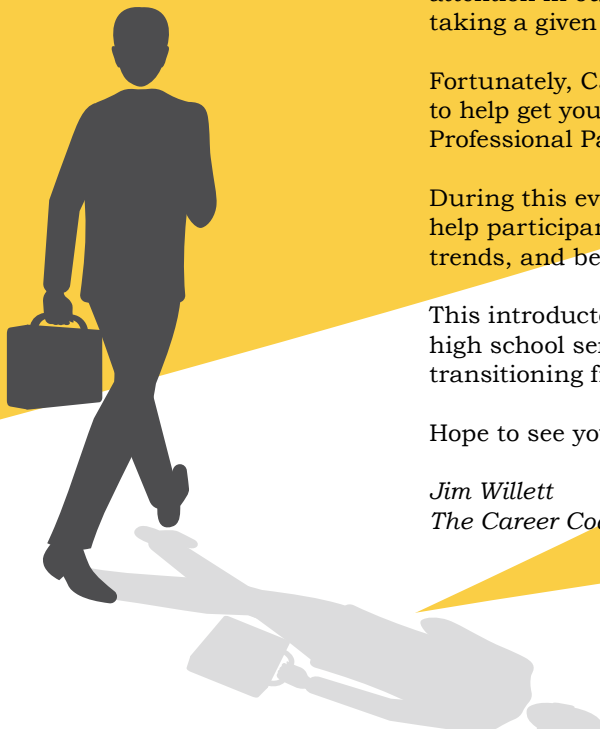
Fortunately, Carbon Valley Regional Library is hosting an event to help get you started: Career Planning 1: Navigating Your Professional Path.

During this event, we'll discuss career exploration and planning and help participants navigate self-assessment tools, emerging hiring trends, and best practices in networking and interviewing.

This introductory course will be especially beneficial to graduating high school seniors ready to enter the workforce and anyone who is transitioning from one career to another.

Hope to see you at this event on Saturday, May 18th!

Jim Willett
The Career Coach



The Cell-Phone Sized Book

Back in 2018...

Ah, let's just take a moment to remember the good old days.

Mmm, that hits the spot.

Anyway, back in 2018, Penguin, the publisher, not the animal, and also not just a guy with the unusual name Steve Penguin, and ALSO not the Batman villain, asked a question: Everyone is looking at their phones instead of at books. How can we change that?

I'd like to assume this was a goodhearted attempt to promote literacy and reading, not just a panicked start to a board meeting that featured a lot of charts and graphs with severely sloped red lines that charted how much Americans were reading. I mean, Penguin IS a publisher, so there's certainly some economic facet to this, but I'd like to imagine they care at least a tiny bit about reading and books.

To really understand Penguin's dilemma here, you have to understand that there's a rich tradition of people reading books on the subway. Penguin, being based in New York City, was painfully aware that they were seeing fewer and fewer paperbacks in the hands of commuters and seeing more and more smartphones.

In fact, here's a New York Times article from 2009:

Reading on the subway is a New York ritual, for the masters of the intricately folded newspaper like Ms. Kornhaber, who lives in Park Slope and works on the Upper East Side, as well as for teenage girls thumbing through magazines, aspiring actors memorizing lines, office workers devouring self-help inspiration, immigrants newly minted (or not) taking comfort in paragraphs in a

familiar tongue. These days, among the tattered covers may be the occasional Kindle, but since most trains are still devoid of Internet access and cellphone reception, the subway ride remains a rare low-tech interlude in a city of inveterate multitasking workaholics. And so, we read. Suffice to say, things have changed.

The iPhone launched before this article was written, but it wasn't until 2013 that smartphones became the most-common phone type among Americans, meaning you could do something other than text or talk, making the phone a useful entertainment device even if you weren't connected. Meaning you didn't need paper and ink to keep you busy on the subway.

Now, it's certainly possible that people are reading books on their phones, but let's be serious. These clans aren't going to clash themselves. These candies aren't

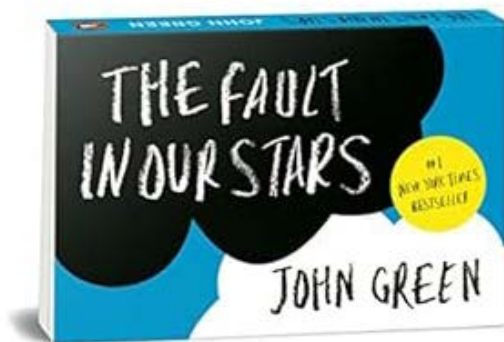
just going to self-crush. If I don't answer the Call of Duty, who will?

What could compete with the mighty smartphone?

What about a book shaped like one?

Penguin says they got the idea to publish cell-phone-sized books when one arrived, fully-formed, on the desk of one of their employees. It was a Dutch version of a John Green book. A staff member picked it up and immediately said, "Wait, what? Why don't we have these?! Why do the Dutch get everything? This is !@^&%&#\$!" Okay, that's not EXACTLY what she said, but I have to assume that was the vibe.

Apparently, these books are pretty common in The Netherlands, and they're called "Dwarsliggers," which can be translated to mean "crossbeams" or "sleeper" or, in a very literal way, "lay across-ers." These names all refer to



the way the books are laid out, the text turned 90-degrees from the way we usually see it, so you hold the book in widescreen (I'm trying to use movie lingo for books, and it's not going well).

I'm a dabbler in unusual book formats. Whenever someone does something new with a book, I'm there. Because, let's face it, paper and ink books aren't exactly the most innovative market. They mostly rely on the writer to be the innovative with the story, but the delivery mechanism stays pretty much the same, sort of like the way restaurants try to innovate with their food, not their plates, which is why Pete's Spiral-y Plates That Look Like Volcanoes never panned out as a business. That and the impracticality of eating off of a volcano-shaped plate with an opening 3 feet above your head, sides that slope straight into your lap, and that is INCREDIBLY hot.

I make this argument about lack of innovation in books all the time. And whenever I do, someone will say, "What about ebooks, Pete!? Gotcha now, smart guy! WHAT ABOUT EBOOKS!?"

Which, first of all, aggressive. You don't need to come at me that hard.

eBooks are a big revolution in book delivery, and they DO provide an awesome, awesome service to those who need larger print as you can now make any book large print with the push of a button.

Can you even imagine? In The Before Times, the only books you could read, if you had trouble with smaller print, were books that publishers decided to throw into large print. You were at the mercy of people at publishing houses who based large print options on what they thought their grandmas liked to read.

However, as much as eBooks changed the book delivery and re-sizing game, once you're 5 pages in, the reading experience of an eBook is pretty much the same as it is in print. eBooks didn't revolutionize large print reading, they just made it possible, on a large scale, to read large print and read as widely as someone who reads tiny print. It's the equivalent of someone just deciding to start printing everything in large print.

Wait...why don't they...? Why can't everything be in 14-point font? What are we even doing...?

Anyway, I got The Fault in Our Stars by John Green in this dwarsligger format. It's super cool. The binding is unique, letting you hold it pretty easily, and the paper is apparently a special paper type usually used for Bibles that keeps the book very lightweight, but also doesn't let the ink bleed through to the other side. If you were raised in a church, your fingers will recognize it instantly.

It is pretty easy to read. It's easy to read only using one hand, too. I eat my lunch while I read, which you would know if you looked at how stained all my shirts are, I am a great candidate for a Tide commercial. But it's super cool to be able to read like this while I eat and not have so much trouble. There's still trouble, just, you know, less "I need to go home and change this shirt" degree of trouble.

So what happened with the dwarsligger in America?

Well, not much. Penguin published a handful, and it doesn't look like anyone is doing them anymore.

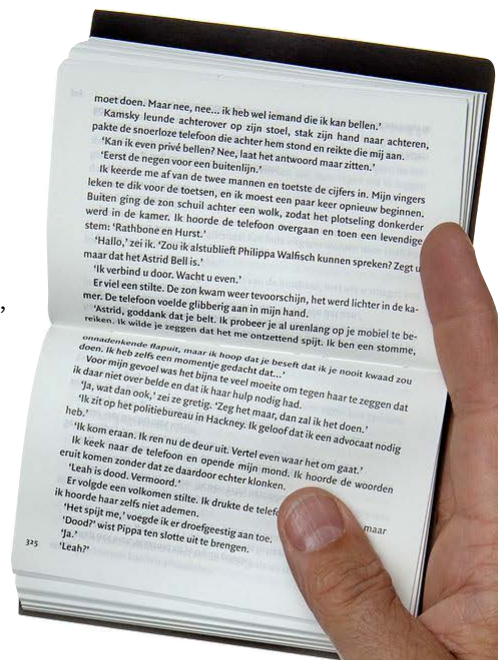
My best guess is that while the dwarsliggers were a cool novelty, the market was kind of limited, and the smartphone ship had already sailed, circumnavigated the globe, then circumnavigated it the other way, then traveled to space, then the depths of the Mariana Trench—lots of victory laps by now is what I'm getting at.

The technology of dwarsliggers is clever, but it's much subtler than ChatGPT. It didn't exactly warrant a Silicon Valley type throwing on a turtleneck and talking to a room full of people. "Check it out, the paper is thinner!"

I guess this is a place where I could rant awhile about how addicted everyone is to their phone, but I like to save that for my friends and family, a treat for them when we're trapped in the car for 4 hours. They love it.

I could also talk about how reading is a dying activity in America, maybe elsewhere in the world, I'm not sure, and how when you watch movies from the 80's and before, characters are always reading in bed right before they turn the lights off. I could do that, but I won't.

Because I don't think you need to hear that. You're subscribed to a library newsletter. You're a couple thousand words deep into it. I don't think you are likely to need much info on reading.



Here's what I'm going to do instead:

I'm going to encourage you, for the next week, to carry a book around like it was your phone. You can still carry your phone, you don't have to read the book instead of using your phone. Just, for the next week, treat the book you're reading as though it were as important as your phone.

If you take your phone into the grocery store with you, take your book as well.

If you are going to take your phone into the bathroom, take your book as well.

If you have your phone out on the tabletop all day at work,

your book should be right there with it.

If you're usually on your phone right before bed, your book needs to be on the nightstand.

Do this for a week and you'll notice two things:

One is that you'll notice how tethered you are to your phone. How you hardly do ANYTHING without your phone. When you also have to carry a book with you, it starts to make your phone feel like a burden.

Two is that you'll notice how nice it is to have a book with you all the time, and if you read instead of doomscrolling, even just now and then, you'll get to like it.

Wonder
Socialize
Imagine
Experience
Bibliotecas
Laugh
Dream
Explore
Connect
Experience
Build
Maktabaduhu
Create
Share
Games
Read
Make

**Did YOU have a
great
library
experience?
Like, ever?**

If you're reading HPLD's newsletter, we're betting the answer is "Yes." Or possibly even "YES!"

To let our staff know that they're having an impact in your community, we're proposing a quick letter writing campaign. Write your favorite HPLD staff member a letter, and if they're up for it, we'll ask them to read it out loud for the first time on video. That way, they can see how much you appreciate them, and you can see how much your words mean to them!

LOCATIONS

LIBRARIES [Visit www.MyLibrary.us/locations-and-hours](http://www.MyLibrary.us/locations-and-hours) for library hours

Administration & Support Services

2650 West 29th Street
Greeley, CO 80631
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Carbon Valley Regional Library

7 Park Avenue
Firestone, CO 80504
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Centennial Park Library

2227 23rd Avenue
Greeley, CO 80634
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Eaton Public Library

132 Maple Avenue
Eaton, CO 80615
(970) 454-2189

Erie Community Library

400 Powers Street
Erie, CO 80516
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Farr Regional Library

1939 61st Avenue
Greeley, CO 80634
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Fort Lupton Public & School Library

370 S. Rollie Avenue
Fort Lupton, CO 80621
(303) 339-4089

Glenn A. Jones, M.D. Memorial Library

400 S. Parish Avenue
Johnstown, CO 80534
(970) 587-2459

Milliken Location of the Glenn A. Jones, M.D. Memorial Library

1109 Broad Street
Milliken, CO 80543
(970) 660-5039

Hudson Public Library

100 S. Beech Street
Hudson, CO 80642
(303) 536-4550

Kersey Library

332 3rd Street
Kersey, CO 80644
1-888-861-READ(7323)

LINC Library Innovation Center

501 8th Avenue
Greeley, CO 80631
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Nantes Library

703 Birch Street
Gilcrest, CO 80623
(970) 737-1035

Northern Plains Public Library

216 2nd Street
Ault, CO 80610
(970) 834-1259

Outreach

2650 W. 29th Street
Greeley, CO 80631
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Platteville Public Library

504 Marion Avenue
Platteville, CO 80651
(970) 785-2231

Riverside Library & Cultural Center

3700 Golden Street
Evans, CO 80620
1-888-861-READ(7323)

AFFILIATED LOCATIONS

Hazel E. Johnson Research Center at the City of Greeley Museum

714 8th Street, Greeley, CO 80631
(970) 350-9220

Poudre Learning Center

8313 West F Street, Greeley, CO 80631
(970) 352-1267

PUBLIC COMPUTER CENTERS

Briggsdale Community Library

210 Main Street, Briggsdale, CO 80611

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