

Citrus County Library system celebrates Ask a Librarian Day



Teen patrons access Ask a Librarian on their laptops using wireless service at the Homosassa Public Library. Pictured left to right: Jillian Reid; Kelli May; Reference Librarian, Marcia Stepanek; Karleen Papineau



CCLS staff Erica Hulbert and patron Cedric Lenox search for answers at Citrus County's Coastal Regional Library during Ask a Librarian day.

On February 20th, the Citrus County Library System (CCLS) joined other libraries statewide to celebrate the first annual Ask a Librarian Day. The Citrus County Library System has participated in offering this free online service for more than five years. Since that time Citrus County Reference Librarians have answered thousands of questions from all over the county, the state, and as far a way as Costa Rica and Bulgaria.

To celebrate Ask a Librarian Day and promote this user-friendly service, librarians wore t-shirts boasting the message "Ask me about askalibrarian.org". They also handed out stickers and bookmarks to mark the occasion. Library staff and patrons had fun posing for imaginative pictures.

Do you need help with a question? Just can't find that elusive piece of information? Whether it is a book you want to read, a phone number for a business in Tampa, or help with a report on the Vietnam War, you can find all the answers at this one website. Ask a Librarian is a free online reference service that allows Floridians to chat with a librarian for help with homework or any general question.

You can access Ask a Librarian from the Citrus County Library System home page at www.citruslibraries.org and click on the Ask a Librarian link. Live online help is available from from 10 a.m. to midnight Sunday through Thursday (EST), and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday (EST).

More than 100 libraries statewide collaborate to provide this service to their patrons and the patrons of other participating libraries. Ask a Librarian is a joint project of the College Center for Library Automation and the Tampa Bay Library Consortium. Ask a Librarian is funded as part of the Florida Electronic Library by a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant.