

Everyone Needs a Second Life!

CAL Annual Conference

2008

Presenters: Victoria A. Petersen, Mancos Public Library
Eileen Dumas, Aurora Public Library

Second Life is a 3-D virtual world created and owned entirely by its residents. Since its beginning in 2003, it has grown exponentially and today has over a million inhabitants from around the world. Second Life is the ultimate vehicle for social networking. <http://www.secondlife.com/>

Terminology

- Avatar: a 3-D representation of the computer users alter ego
- Linden Dollars: the currency exchange on Second Life (approximately \$300 Lindens to one US dollar)
- Prim: every virtual object from buildings to avatars is comprised of many smaller parts called prims or primitives. Primitives are basic geometric shapes and forms such as rectangles, spheres, or cylinders.
- RL: Real Life
- SL: Second Life
- VR: Virtual Reality. Technology which allows the user to interact with a simulated environment be it real or imaginary. Also can be referred to as a “sim”. (**Wikipedia**)
- TP: Teleport. The immediate movement from one place to another. The main mode of transportation between sims on Second Life.



Activities on Second Life

- **Create** buildings, **design** clothes, buildings, furniture, and more—the list of possibilities is endless and limited only by the imagination
- **Explore** 3-D recreations of familiar places such as Venice, Italy, Santa Cruz, CA, and the Nile River in Egypt



- **Travel** back in time to Versailles, France and visit the court of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, or **role play** in the Tombstone Territory of the 1800's
- **Meet** people from across the world—England, Germany, Canada, France, Brazil, and China
- **Join groups** with people who have similar interests and passions: reading, conservation, fashion, science
- **Learn** by attending conferences, workshops, or classes on a wide variety of topics from health and virtual reference to the state of the US economy
- **Shop** for clothing, a different hairstyle or completely change your entire look with a new body and face
- **Ski** down a mountain or dance to the wee hours of the morning

Libraries on Second Life

Since 2006, libraries have traversed cyber space to provide virtual reference service, conferences, and classes to the growing global community on Second Life. The Alliance Library System of Illinois became the leader of this new concept in librarianship with other libraries following suite. The growing list of libraries includes: McGill University, Harvard College Library, IBM Library of Computer Science, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Johnson and Wales University. In addition, the American Library Association has a virtual presence, as well as Library School Journal and the Public Library Association.

Colorado Libraries and Second Life

CAL Second Life Member Interest Group (CAL SL MIG): Contact Victoria Petersen

In-world: the Sustainable Living Library on the Emerald City sim is a new library created with “green technology” in mind. The CAL SL MIG, working with the Alliance Library System and TAP Information Services, will develop the Emerald City sim to showcase “green” technology through virtual exhibits, workshops, and conferences. The entire Emerald City sim will be a virtual classroom, with the Sustainable Living Library being the main focus. The emphasis on the environment will be reflected in the design of the library (based on the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED standards), and in other possible creations: organic gardens, the use of solar and wind technology to provide light and heat for the library, and an exclusive line of organic and hemp clothing sold in an adjacent store. Clicking on any one item will provide the user with an explanatory note card and links to “green” sites on the internet.



The mission statement defines the direction this new library is moving in:

The Sustainable Living Library is committed to creating better and healthier lives for ourselves and our children through sustainable living practices. By developing workshops, exhibits and other resources, we strive to educate our visitors about green practices and other ways to sustain healthy lives and a healthier planet.

Since this is an opportunity for new Second Lifers (as well as well established residents), the Sustainable Living Library is looking for volunteers to help create this exciting new enterprise. Contact Victoria Petersen or Eileen Dumas for more information and to become a member of the CAL SL MIG. You can also visit the Sustainable Living Library's blog at: <http://sustainablelivinglibrary.blogspot.com/>.

Bibliography

Percival Sean. **Second Life In-World Travel Guide**. Indianapolis, IN: 2008

Robbins, Sarah “Intellagirl Tully” and Mark “Typewriter Tackleberry” Bell. **Second Life for Dummies**. Hoboken, NJ: 2008.

Contact :

Eileen Dumas, SL: Arielle Enoch edumas8@gmail.com

Victoria Petersen, SL: Plautia Corvale petersen.victoria@gmail.com