Shibani Mitra is our magazine Maven. You will see her as she makes her rounds, replacing the magazines in their plastic folders, sorting out and putting the older issues in order on the shelves underneath. Of course, she does so much more that you can’t see, including processing purchase orders, linking serial records, and preparing all the legal, medical and financial newsletters that we carry.

Shibani was born and raised in Calcutta, India. She comfortably speaks three languages, Bengali, Hindi and English. Her father worked for India Railway which meant her family got to ride first class all over the country. As a child, she saw most of India from cooling river cruises in Kerala, and the amazing architecture and ancient temples of Madras in the south, to Darjeeling in the Himalayan north.

In India, Shibani got a degree in science, before immigrating to the United States with her husband, who got his MBA here. Before her children were born, she worked in the Herbarium at the Academy of Natural Sciences, which is a library of plants. She also worked on early digitization projects at the Morris Arboretum.

When her daughter was born, Shibani became a full-time mother and a full-time library mom. She brought her daughter to all the storytimes and children’s programs that Abington Library offered, especially Science in the Summertime. Her daughter, an engineer, worked on early digitization and her as she makes her rounds, preparing all the legal, medical and financial newsletters that we carry.

Shibani also volunteered at the library at Rydal Elementary, which made for a logical launchpad to working in a public library. Shibani started volunteering at the Library in 1998, a position she still holds. She added Abington Library to her résumé in 2005.

Ruth and Robert Abel Memorial Book and Film Discussion Group

Abington Township Public Library Newsletter

Fall 2018 Vol. 17, No. 2

abingtonfreelibrary.org

From the Director’s Desk

I write this from the tiny Cape May (City) Public Library. It is small, but mighty. Their library system uses the same ILS (Integrated Library System, similar to inventory control) as Abington’s; the staff is helpful and tech-savvy; and, as of 9:15 a.m., there are at least 20 people in here.

Why not write this at home? Because I love a buxom’s holiday. When traveling, I visit libraries. Up and down 7-Mile Beach, one can find some of the newest libraries out there. Stone Harbor Public Library has a fireplace (I wouldn’t sleep nights); Wildwood Crest has a green roof, from where one can sit and see and hear the surf. Heaven. This fall I’ll be in Mountain Grove, MO. One of my first stops will be the library.

Most of our staff and Board of Trustees do the same thing. We have dozens and dozens of photos of us posing in front of library signs around the world. My neighbor, a pharmacist, visits local pharmacies. Another visits hardware stores. I think we all do this for one reason: to bring home ideas we can put into motion, to learn best practices, and to connect with colleagues from around the world.

Abington Libraries staff encourage you to do the same and to share your discoveries with us.

Who knows what we might “borrow” from a library halfway around the world?

-Nancy Hammke Marshall
Executive Director of Abington Libraries
To access these resources in the library e-resources – Academic OneFile, General Reference Center and Gale Virtual Reference Library (GVRL), A few resources of note are:

- Gale Virtual Reference Library (GVRL), which offers encyclopedias and specialized reference sources on a variety of topics from history, government, environment and math.
- Informe Académico, which supports Spanish-speaking researchers with a wide range of full-text articles from scholarly journals and magazines both from and about Latin America, written in Spanish and Portuguese.
- Informe Académico proporciona acceso a periódicos y revistas especializadas de literatura, economía, política y cultura de los países de habla hispana.

More children’s programs (including Doggie Good Readers) are in the works. Please visit our website to check for or notify this fall.

For more information or instruction, Many branch websites remain the same, but you’ll find them in new places. For example, the drop-down menu to switch between library branches is now in the top left, instead of the top right. You can use this menu to find out more quickly if a specific library has the item you want. To access the library remotely (requires a library card), go to: http://www.abingtonfreelibrary.org/ or remotely (requires a library card), go to: http://www.abingtonfreelibrary.org/