Several weeks ago I went to Suson County Park to drown some worms in the concrete lakes there. While I sat watching my bobber, I noticed people walking around staring at their cell phones or their iPads. They spoke excitedly to one another, calling out names of things they could see, and more than once came dangerously close to plunging into a lake.

I was to learn later that this was my first experience of the new craze that’s sweeping the nation (the world, I guess), Pokémon Go! As I understand it, to play, one has to walk around looking at a phone or some other device, and . . . Okay, let’s face it: I don’t understand it. Here are some things I do know:

Different buildings are designated differently in the worldwide hegemony of Pokémon. While Webster Groves Public Library is a PokéStop, Maplewood Public Library is a PokéGym. A Gym is better, so how do we get to be a Gym? If I check the Pokémon Website, I find they are no longer accepting applications for either Stops or Gyms. Drat! How come Maplewood, a much smaller community, gets a Gym and we only get a Stop? More to the point, don’t I have anything more important to worry about?

The Children’s Room staff tells me they are regularly sending out ‘lures,’ which, you guessed it, lure game players to our building. On your phone you see a kind of pink confetti floating around us. That’s cool, but it only lures them to the outside and the point is to get them inside.

Except of course in the case of the YMCA across the street, which has been closed a long time and is also a Pokéstop with lures floating magically around it from time to time. Am I alone in doubting the wisdom of a game that lures children to abandoned buildings?

In September the Children’s Room is having a Library Lure as a Saturday afternoon program. Michelle, the Children’s Librarian, spent a while this morning trying to explain to me what that entails, and though I listened for a while my mind soon wandered to subjects more interesting and easier to understand, like municipal tax structure and bonded debt amortization.

Still, I’m glad we’re on the Pokémon Go! bandwagon, as long as it lasts. Either that or I’m not glad. I just don’t understand it well enough to know.

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POKÉMON GO!

Thursday evening, September 8 at 7 p.m., we will feature three authors of adult and young adult novels, who all set their stories in distant locales.

Mystery writer Jo Hiestand, who is known for her Taylor & Graham and McLaren series, sets all her whodunits in England.

P. A. DeVoe—an anthropologist and expert on Asia as well as a novelist—sets her young adult Mei-hua Adventure Trilogy Hidden, Warned, and Trapped in China in 1380. T.W. Fendley is a journalist and award-winning science fiction and fantasy author whose adult novel Zero Time and young adult novel Labyrinth are both set in Peru.

All three authors will have copies of their books to purchase at the event.
Look for the Friends’ fall Book Blitz on Friday evening, October 14 and all day on Saturday, October 15. From 3 – 5 p.m. on Saturday, books will be priced at $5.00 a bag, or come at 5 p.m. on Friday for the best selection of titles! Maybe you’ll find the title you’ve been looking for for years or the perfect book for a gift.

GALLERY SPACE GETS NEW LIGHTING
A few years ago we began using the hallway that leads to our Meeting Room as an art gallery. We have had displays of paintings by Webster Arts, of photography by Women in Focus–St. Louis, and an array of art by individual artists. We have also held two displays of historical photographs of Webster Groves. All of these displays have been well-received, and there are often people in the gallery area viewing a display.

One of the only drawbacks to our gallery has been the lighting. The lighting in the hallway was excellent for a hallway, but not so good for a gallery. Using money from recent patron donations to the Library, we have installed gallery-style lighting, which lights the walls brilliantly, can be adjusted many ways, and dimmed or brightened to suit the works on display. Check out our current display of photographs, and see how well it turned out.

If you are an artist or photographer who would like to display your work at the Library, ask for an Art Gallery Application at the Circulation Desk.

FRIENDS NEWS
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