

The Books

## Got Fandom?: How Mini-Cons Can Transform Libraries and Communities

Presented by Megan Aarant and Natalie Couch, Chattahoochee Valley Libraries

The Fandom

# So...what's Fandom?

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines FANDOM as

- 1: all the fans (as of a sport)
- 2: the state or attitude of being a fan

with the first known use of FANDOM being in 1903!



Photo Credit: Library Staff



## Pop Quiz!

Whovians  
Twiards  
Potterheads  
Trekkies  
Beliebers  
Sherlockians  
Nerdfighters  
Tributes  
Bronies  
Universe  
Directioners  
Hunters  
Ringers  
Truebies  
Whedonites  
Gaimanites

# The Perks of Hosting a Mini-Con

- Changes perceptions of libraries
- Big event pulling in a wide audience, including non-library users
- Promotes:
  - Library materials
  - Multiple literacies
  - Creativity
  - Community engagement
  - Sense of belonging
- FUN!





# 2013: From Humble Beginnings...



- Small budget
- Geared toward active Manga Club members
- Teen focused event but attracted all ages
- Newly published YA author Skyped for \$50!
- Galactic Quest Comics "How to Draw Comics" presentation
- Cosplay Costume Contest
- Crafts, games, vendors, panels, and more!
- 250 participants

# 2014: ...Come Great Things

- Larger budget
- Kicked off SRP for teens & children
- Programs/crafts/activities for children, teens, & families
- More
  - Community involvement
  - Media coverage
  - Advertising
- Added
  - Official "logo"
  - Food vendors
  - Bigger name Skype visits (author and actor)
  - Maker/digital media component
- 1,000 participants



# 2015: To Infinity & Beyond



Photo Credits: Library Staff

- Incorporate activities & fandoms with adult appeal
- Repeat popular programs throughout the day
- Outdoor, physical, & sports activities
- FanArt/FanFic submissions in library teen lit magazine
- Out-of-state vendor & performers
- Fewer crafts at scheduled times
- Fandom "meet-ups"



# All Sizes & Shapes

- Nerdacon @ Columbus State University  
Columbus, GA
- Wrath of Cons @ Austin Public Library  
Austin, TX
- Camden Comic-Con @ Rutgers University-Camden  
Camden, NJ
- Librari-Con @ Cumberland County Public Library  
Fayetteville, NC
- Comic New York Symposium @ Columbia University  
New York, NY



# Best Practices

- Get ALL vendors & content providers to sign contracts
- Create a back-up plan
- Have food (lots!) or schedule around mealtimes
- Print schedules
- Partner with local schools & organizations to advertise
- Get community involvement/input
- Reach out to community organizations & local personalities
- Ask for feedback



**Questions?**

**Your experience or suggestions?**



*Photo Credits: Library Staff*

# Contact us!

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Pinterest Idea Board:

[http://www.pinterest.com/megs\\_a/cvl-fanfest-mini-convention-ideas/](http://www.pinterest.com/megs_a/cvl-fanfest-mini-convention-ideas/)