

WELCOME TO OUR

# Newsletter

*we're so glad you're here!*

## Director's Den

As we approach the end of the first quarter of FY24/25, I'm thrilled to share some exciting updates about the Black Gold Cooperative. Most notably, we are launching our inaugural Black Gold newsletter. We hope to make this a regular feature to keep everyone informed and connected.

This year, we've restructured our committees within the Cooperative. The Youth Services Committee and the Adult Services and Reference Committee have been discontinued. In their place, we'll now have User Groups: Youth Services, Adult Services, Collection Development, and Outreach and Marketing. These User Groups are designed to foster the cooperative spirit of the Black Gold Library System, providing a space for members to exchange ideas, address concerns, and discuss the activities and challenges facing your libraries. These meetings will be open forums, intended to be both educational and collaborative. I'm eager to see how these User Groups evolve and grow.

Additionally, the Public Library Survey is coming up soon, and I'll be working on collecting the data that I provide to our members each year.

On behalf of the entire Black Gold staff, I want to express our deep commitment to supporting all our member libraries and meeting your operational needs.

## A Matt Minute

The name Cenic get's thrown around a lot at Black Gold but what does Cenic really mean? Cenic stands for Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California. Cenic was created in 1997 by several of the colleges and eventually expanded to k-12 and libraries. Cenic allows us to get cheaper Internet connections to CalREN (California research and education network) which also provides access to the broader internet. This connection allows for faster access to research networks and allows the libraries to have a faster connection and higher bandwidth to the Internet. We started working with Cenic back in 2016 to migrate as many of our libraries as possible over to the Cenic network to gain these benefits. Our connection to Cenic has helped our libraries have higher uptime and better Internet than ever before.

# Cataloger's Corner

Hello Cataloging friends-

Happy (almost) Fall! I hope everyone survived summer reading and is ready for back to school and the holidays. Here is a bit about what is happening with Black Gold Cataloging, Acquisitions, & Collections.

I usually hold 2 cataloging training sessions a year, and one is coming up in September or early October. It is time for a general cataloging session covering MARC record fields, authorizing names and subjects, authorizing series, how to use Z39.50 to import bibs, an intro to the macros in Koha, and a focus on Audiobook on CD, DVDs, and Blu-rays for beginning catalogers or staff. Contact me or your library cataloger to be included in this next training, if you are interested. I am also correcting bib records daily, cataloging as many bib records as possible, answering questions from staff at all the libraries, and loading vendor records from Ingram, B&T and Midwest in the order they arrive.

In acquisitions news, I am working with ByWater and Baker & Taylor to address the invoice issue in Koha for titles that were ordered in quantities of 2 or more. I am also working with Ingram and ByWater to get the EDI process to working for Santa Maria.

In September I'll join the Collections meeting to help any libraries who need help with accessing titles as soon as they are available to order, usually 1 to 3 months before they can ship. I have some info from B&T and Midwest regarding how to find upcoming titles, and I'll share that in the meeting. I'll also send out emails to selectors of titles that are award winners, copies in series, and other popular or upcoming titles that are not currently in the catalog or on order.

Please contact me at any time! I am always available to answer any questions about info in bib records/MARC record fields, to help with new formats of materials your library wants to add to the database, and to help with any EDI ordering, cataloging, vendor, invoice, basket questions. You folks are my eyes and ears in Aspen and in the database. I can find errors with my cataloging reports, but I need you to tell me about any oddities you or your staff run across, and any problems. My goal is to create a comprehensive database of materials that displays accurately for both patrons and staff in Aspen, while also ensuring that the cataloging and acquisitions sections function correctly in Koha.

Call me! 805-543-6082

Email me! [tvandoren@blackgold.org](mailto:tvandoren@blackgold.org)

Thank you, Teresa Van Doren

# Meetings Calendar

- Wednesday, September 4th – 10:00 a.m. – Library Operations Committee (Black Gold Office)
- Wednesday, September 11th – 10:00 a.m. – Collection Development (online)
- Wednesday, September 18th – 10:00 a.m. – Youth Services (online)
- Friday, September 20th – 10:00 a.m. – Administrative Council (Lompoc)

## Helpful Information

### Koha/Aspen URLs

Production Koha: [staff.blackgold.org](http://staff.blackgold.org)

BG Aspen: [www.blackgold.org](http://www.blackgold.org)

Paso Robles Aspen: [pr.blackgold.org](http://pr.blackgold.org)

Santa Maria Aspen: [sm.blackgold.org](http://sm.blackgold.org)

Lompoc Aspen: [lom.blackgold.org](http://lom.blackgold.org)

Goleta Aspen: [gvl.blackgold.org](http://gvl.blackgold.org)

Carpinteria Aspen: [ccl.blackgold.org](http://ccl.blackgold.org)

Santa Paula Aspen: [sp.blackgold.org](http://sp.blackgold.org)

Training Koha: [Koha Test Site](#)

BG Training Aspen: [train.blackgold.org](http://train.blackgold.org)

Paso Robles Training Aspen: [trainpr.blackgold.org](http://trainpr.blackgold.org)

Santa Maria Training Aspen: [trainsm.blackgold.org](http://trainsm.blackgold.org)

Lompoc Training Aspen: [trainlom.blackgold.org](http://trainlom.blackgold.org)

Goleta Training Aspen: [traingvl.blackgold.org](http://traingvl.blackgold.org)

Carpinteria Training Aspen: [trainccl.blackgold.org](http://trainccl.blackgold.org)

Santa Paula Training Aspen: [trainsp.blackgold.org](http://trainsp.blackgold.org)

### Important Email Addresses

**[kohateam@blackgold.org](mailto:kohateam@blackgold.org)** – Group email includes BG Staff and library staff who deal with Koha and/or Aspen on a regular basis. Use this address to ask questions, give advice and share tips and tricks.

**[blackgoldats@blackgold.org](mailto:blackgoldats@blackgold.org)** – Goes directly to BG staff. Use to communicate with Black Gold directly.

### Tips & Resources

Links to various tips and tricks to using Koha and Aspen can be found on the ATS website here: [Tips & Resources](#)