

# Knot Notes...



QUIPU GROUP LLC  
services, products and consulting

## KNOT NOTES November 2015

The snow is flying in the Rocky Mountains and days are getting shorter, making it the perfect time to hunker down and do some serious crystalball gazing - are you ready to take on those big and little projects slated for 2016? Quipu Group is already getting busy on a new platform, STEAMBank, which select California school districts, libraries, and cultural venues will be using to pull STEAM credits together for students. Pretty cool stuff! You imagine it, and we'll build it.—*The Partners of Quipu Group*

### Introducing STEAMBank!

Quipu Group is working in collaboration with [Contra Costa County Library](#) and California State University East Bay [Institute for STEM Education](#) to create a new system that allows students to find outside-of-schooltime events that will further their STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) education, and earn educational credits for participation. The system will be known as STEAMBank.

For the first time, student participation in these outside-of-school time events will be tracked and made available to both the student and the student's teachers. This will allow teachers to give class credit to students who participate in these exciting events. It will also allow participants to provide a "portfolio" of STEAM events they have attended when applying for internships, jobs, or further education.



The initial STEAMBank pilot project includes high school students and teachers from the following California school districts:

Berkeley Unified School District  
Dublin Unified School District  
Emery Unified School District  
Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District  
Mt. Diablo Unified School District  
Oakland Unified School District  
Pleasanton Unified School District  
San Ramon Unified School District

The pilot project will run through the 2016 spring semester and summer sessions for the participating high schools.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

January 8-12, 2016 - Boston MA, [2016 American Library Association Midwinter Meeting](#)

February 15, 2016 - IMLS Sparks! Ignition Grants [application](#) deadline

March 6-12, 2016 - Teen Tech Week, [Create It at Your Library](#)

March 15-18, 2016 - San Francisco, CA, [IUG 2016 Conference](#)



April 5-9, 2016 - Denver CO, [Public Library Association 2016 Conference](#), Quipu Group, booth 959 (PLA Silver Partner)

## THINGS WE LIKE

The [Show Me Librarian](#) Blog and [All Things STEAM](#)

[The National Digital Platform for Libraries and](#)

In the first phase of STEAMBank implementation, a number of organizations will be providing events, as well as input on the attendance tracking and reporting functions and features of the system. These include:

Contra Costa County Library  
Livermore Public Library  
California State University East Bay Institute for STEM Education  
CIRCLE Labs

[STEAMBank](#) is funded by a grant from the California State Library with funds provided by the Library Services and Technology Act.

Upon completion of the pilot project, STEAMbank will be reviewed to determine its success in being able to supply students, schools and STEAM program providers something that has never been tracked before, and to provide new statistics that can help students and teachers further their STEAM education and career opportunities.

### **eCARD - Get New Patrons Registered**

Do you want members of your community to be able to get a library card in the middle of the night? And how about allowing easy access to your online resources, while doing due-diligence to stay in compliance with database agreements? Did we mention staff time gained by having new library patrons fill out their own registrations?

Let [eCARD](#) handle the registration process online and in your branches. eCARD will standardize addresses, apply your library's service area policies, and get your patron registered in your ILS. Staff are freed to focus on other library services, and your patron records stay clean!

### **Englewood Public Library Implements PITS (Patron Incident Tracking System)**

Welcome to Englewood (CO) Public Library as the fourth institution on board with [PITS](#). PITS, which affords libraries the opportunity to share incident tracking with local law enforcement, is uniquely suited for [Englewood Public Library](#), which is physically situated in City Hall. Implementation is in process.

Beside the clean air and mountain sunshine, another good reason to be part of the Colorado library community is [CLiC](#), the Colorado Library Consortium. These are the folks behind the statewide library courier service, AspenCat catalog, and now, CLiC has asked Quipu Group to add PITS to its members at a discounted rate in 2016. Watch for an official announcement on this soon!

### **When Collaboration is Needed More Than Ever - ePASS**

Libraries are asserting themselves into the cultural institution landscape more than ever, hoping to expand services. Quipu Group has had a flurry of inquiries in the last few months, so these connections must be more on top of mind than ever.

To make it easy for your library to envision how ePASS can help forge and sustain partnerships with cultural institutions, a ["how-to" guide](#) is readily available on the Quipu Group website. This is

[Museums](#), *American Libraries*, June 2015

[Star Wars Reads Day at the Public Library of Mt. Vernon and Knox County](#), *School Library Journal*, October 2015



perfect project for a [Sparks! Ignition Grant](#), deadline Feb. 1, 2016.

#### CONSULTANT'S CORNER

A steady stream of interesting projects have come Quipu Group's way! Melissa is working with Carson Block to assist Boulder (CO) Public Library, Carnegie Branch on policies and procedures and workflows for this special collection branch, and are now moving into a digital system selection phase. Work has also started on a migration project with the Tacoma (WA) Public Library to move the data for their [NorthWest Room](#), which houses genealogical special collections, from legacy, home-grown software to ContentDM. Consulting for ILS projects include a Marketplace survey and a contract negotiation for a consortium purchasing a new system.

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