

LibraryThing

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LibraryThing

<http://www.librarything.com>

LibraryThing is a website that allows you to create your own personal library online. It allows you to keep track of the books you have read, plan to read and even the books you swear you'll never read. The first 200 books are free. It's also a social networking tool that helps you meet fellow readers with similar interests.

I. Create Your Account

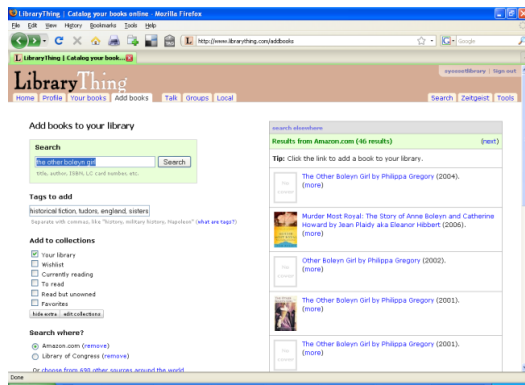
- Go to <http://www.librarything.com>
- Click *Join Now*
- Choose a username and password
- Enter your email address
- Click *Join Now*
- Should you decide to delete your LibraryThing account, you can do so by emailing LibraryThing. Send your **Username** and **Password** to info@librarything.com, and write something like "please delete my account" in the subject line of your email.

II. Build Your Library

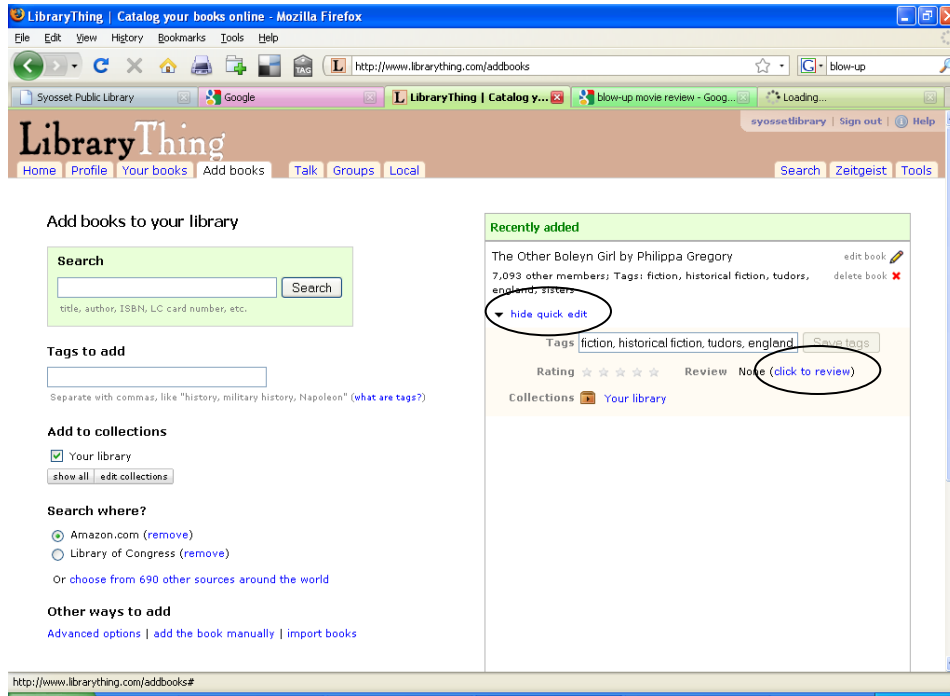
- Click the *Add Books* tab at the top of the page.



- Enter the title, author or ISBN of the book you would like to add to your library.
- Type the tags you wish to apply to the book.
 - Tags** – a descriptive word or phrase used to categorize books in a way that is meaningful to you. Assign as many tags to a book as you wish, just separate each tag with a comma.
- Select which collection(s) the book will be added to.
 - Collection** – you can separate your library into separate collections, or groups of books, for organizational purposes
 - Commonly Used/Default Collections include: your library, wishlist, currently reading, to read, read but unowned, and favorites
- Click *Search*

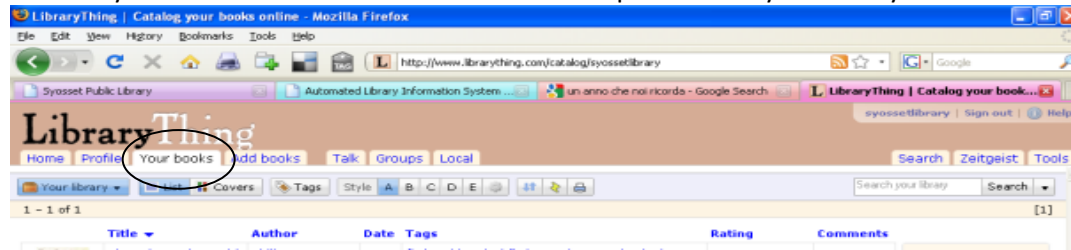


- f. A list of books matching your description will appear on the right. Click the title of the book you want to add to selected collections.
- g. To review a book, click the link for *Show quick edit* under the book information on the right side of the page.
 - i. Click where it says *Click to review*.
 - ii. Type your review
 - iii. Click *Save*.



III. Organize Your Library

- a. Once you have created your library, you can organize it in a fashion that is meaningful to you. Click on the *Your Books* tab on the top bar to see your library.



- b. Information about each book will be listed, including a picture of the book cover, title, author, publication year, any tags you have applied, your rating and any comments you have made about the book.
 - i. To edit any information, double click in the respective box.
 - ii. Edit the information.
 - iii. Click *Save*.

	Title ▼	Author	Date	Tags	Rating	Comments
	The Other Boleyn Girl	Philippa Gregory	2001	fiction, historical fiction, tudors, england, sisters	☆☆☆☆	

c. The following tools are useful for organizing your library:

Select which Collection you would like to view.

View your books and all their information in list form, or simulate a book shelf and just look at the covers.

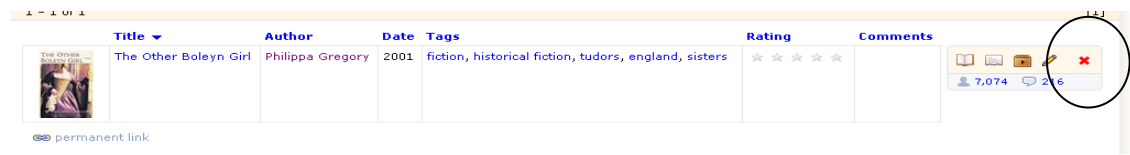
View a list of the tags you have used in your library. This list will tell you how many times you have used each tag. Click on the tag to see a list of books where it was used.

The order the information appears for each book can be changed according to your preferences by clicking any of the *Style* choices (A, B, C, D or E). Click the washer at the end to create your own style.

Search the contents of your library.

Printer friendly version of your library.

d. To remove a book from your library, click the red X at the end of the row.



IV. Find Out More About a Book

- LibraryThing draws upon the databases of Amazon.com and the Library of Congress for extensive information about every book. You can access this information too, regardless of whether or not the book is in your library.
 - Extra information available includes alternate titles, alternate editions (i.e.: hardcover, paperback, large type, etc.), publication information, subjects, MLA and APA citations, alternate covers that have been used for this book, lists of main characters, place setting(s) and series name (if applicable).
- You can also find out more information about a book from other LibraryThing users.
 - You can see what tags other users have applied to a book, read other users' reviews and comments, and get reading recommendations for similar books.
- To access detailed information about a book in your library, look for the toolbox at the end of each row.
 - Click any of the buttons labeled below to access more information.

Click either of the first two buttons to get detailed information about the book.



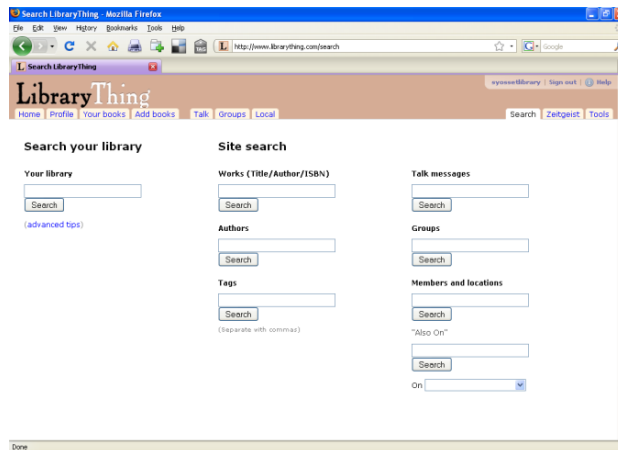
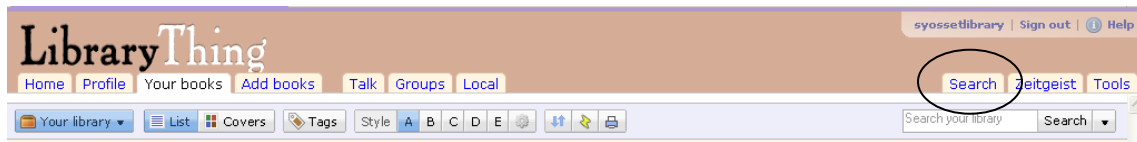
The number of LibraryThing users who have also included this book in their library. Click the number to find out who.

Click the pencil to edit any information about the book. You can change anything from the title of the book, language you read it in, to adding the dates when you read the book.

The number of reviews LibraryThing users have submitted about this book. Click the number to read them.



- d. To access detailed information about a book that's not in your library, click the *Search* tab at the top of the screen.
- i. Type any information you would like to search by into the labeled box and click *Search*.



- ii. A list of possible matches will appear. Click on the book you would like to find out more about. This will take you to the detailed information page.

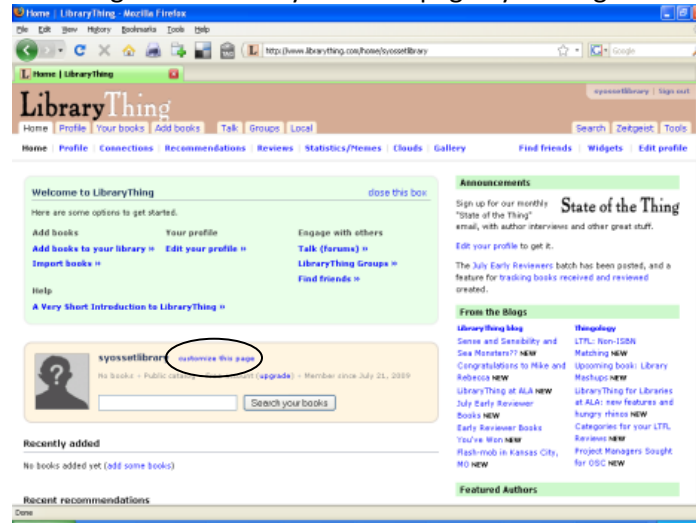
Make Friends

Now that you have built your library and know how to find books, it's time to meet other LibraryThing users. Networking with other book lovers is a great way to meet people with similar interests and join book discussions and groups.

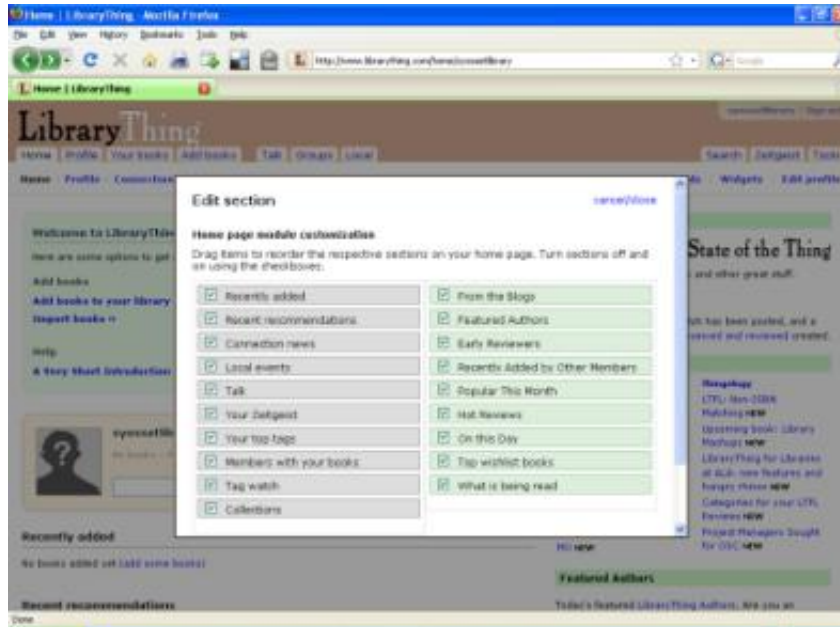
V. Customize Your Homepage

- a. Click the *Home* tab at the top of the page to go to your LibraryThing homepage. Your homepage is the easiest place to keep track of what's going on in the LibraryThing Community. This page is comprised of many different widgets, or sections, of things you can do on LibraryThing, including:
 - **Recently Added** – books you have recently added to your library
 - **Recent Recommendations** – books in your library that you have recently recommended
 - **Connection News** – reports the activities (such as adding books or reviews to libraries) of your friends on LibraryThing
 - **Local Events** – alerts for events happening in your local bookstores
 - **Talk** – join and keep track of forums/book discussions
 - **Zeitgeist** – personal statistics based on your library
 - **Your Top Tags** – a list of the tags you most commonly assign books in your library
 - **Members With Your Books** – a list of LibraryThing members who include the same books as you in their libraries
 - **Tag Watch** – watch for books to be tagged with your favorite tags
 - **Collections** – a counter for how many books are in your library
 - **Announcements** – LibraryThing's news post
 - **From the Blogs** – read the official LibraryThing staff's blog
 - This generally contains more detailed information about LibraryThing's announcements and musings.
 - **Featured Authors** – spotlight on an author who also uses LibraryThing.
 - Click on the author's name to see their library.
 - **Early Reviewers** – read reviews of books that have not yet been published
 - **Member Giveaway** – members can give away their books in exchange for reviews
 - **Recently Added By Other Members** – books recently added to other members' libraries
 - **Popular This Month** – the most popular books on LibraryThing
 - **Hot Reviews** – books that have recently received a great review
 - **On This Day** – interesting things that happened on this day (any year) in history, pertaining to books, authors, libraries, etc.
 - **Top Wishlisted Books** – most common books added to Wishlists
 - **What Members Are Reading** – most common books checked as "currently reading"

- b. Choose the widgets shown on your homepage by clicking *customize this page*.



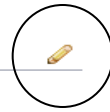
- c. Select the widgets you would like to appear on your page by using the checkboxes. There are no minimums or maximums; widgets can be customized over and over at any time.
- d. Drag the widgets around the list to change the order in which widgets appear on your page.
- e. Hit *Save* or *Cancel*.



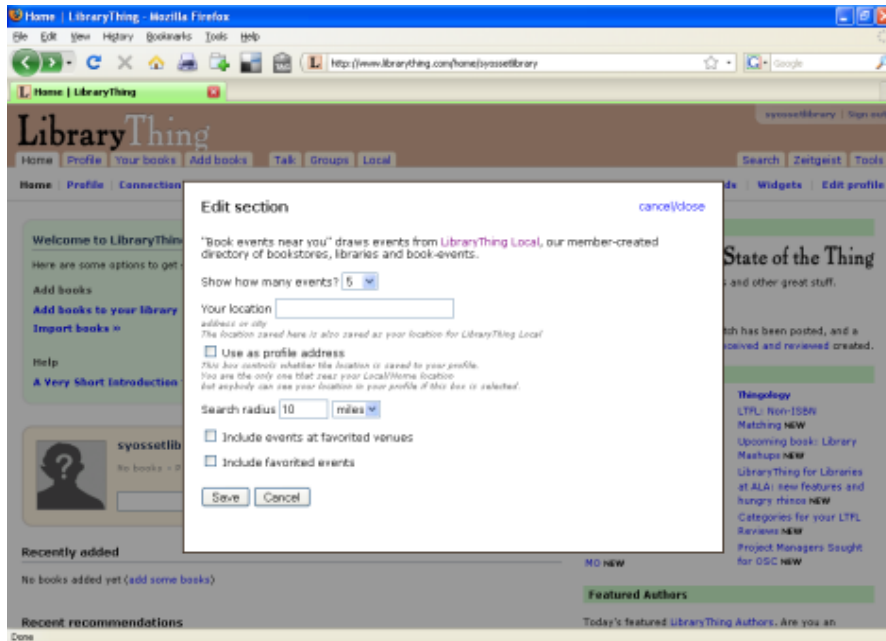
- f. Personalize the widgets:
- i. Some widgets require additional personal information. For example, to use *Local Events*, LibraryThing must know your zip code to find events in your area.
 - ii. Hover the cursor over widget name on homepage
 - iii. Click on the pencil that appears on the right

Connection news

No connection news.



- iv. Enter information in lightbox
- v. Click Save



VI. Book Groups

- a. Join one of the many existing book groups by clicking the *Groups* tab at the top of the screen. These groups hold many book discussions based on a favorite subject/genre. Communication is not just limited to books – talk about any popular topics in the field.

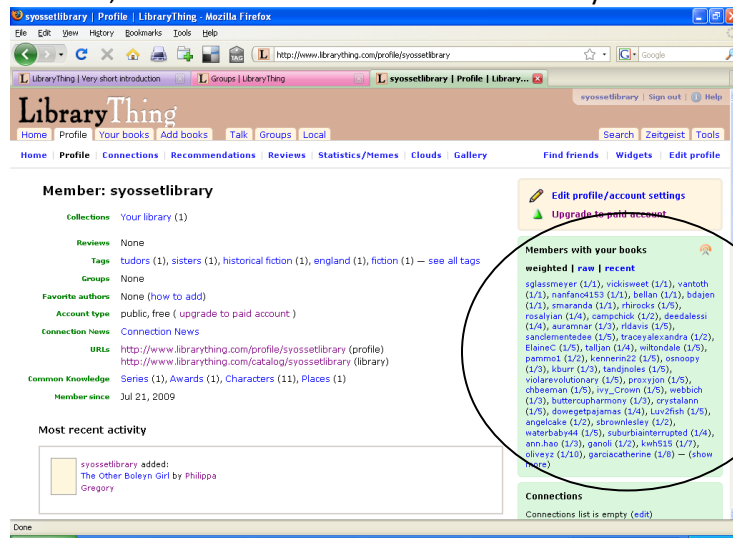


- b. If you decide you like a group, you have two options for keeping track of it.
 - i. **Join This Group** – see any updates on your LibraryThing homepage, and be able to post any of your new thoughts, comments and ideas to the group.
 - ii. **Watch This Group** – see any updates on your LibraryThing homepage, but don't plan on posting any new material.

VII. Meet Users with Similar Interests

- a. You can keep track of users who have similar interests in books. There are several ways to find them.
- b. The easiest way is to go to your profile; do this by clicking the *Profile* tab at the top of the page.

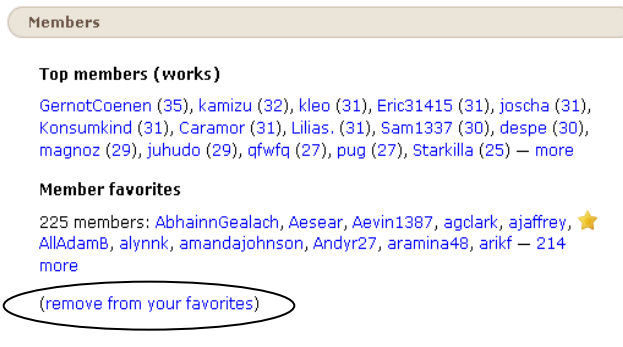
- c. On the right side of the page will be a box titled “Members with your books.” This compares the entire contents of your library with other users’ libraries to find the greatest overall common interests.
 - i. The numbers next to each name represent how many books in each of your libraries match. For example, 2/3 means if you have a library containing three books, this user has two of them in their library.



- ii. Click on any user to see their profile page. From there, you can click on any of three options to keep track of this user.
 1. **Add to interesting libraries** - this allows you to call out users and their libraries you find interesting. These users will appear in the *Member Connections* box on your profile page, and will be visible to others who visit your profile. The member will also receive a notice that you've added them to your Interesting Libraries list.
 2. **Add as a friend** - Friending is mutual; clicking this link will send the other user a friend request, which they must accept before they show up in your "Member Connections" box. Your list of friends is also viewable to others on your profile page.
 3. **Add to private watch list** - If you want to make a note of someone's profile/library without sending them a notification or having the connection be publicly viewable on your profile page, this is the way to do it.
- d. You can also find users with similar interests one book at a time. Go to the tab *Your Books* at the top of the page. As you saw when you learned to **Organize Your Library**, you can see the number of users who have included the same book as you in there library; click on that number to see the list of users. You can then go to their profile pages and select any of the three options listed above.

VIII. Edit Your Profile

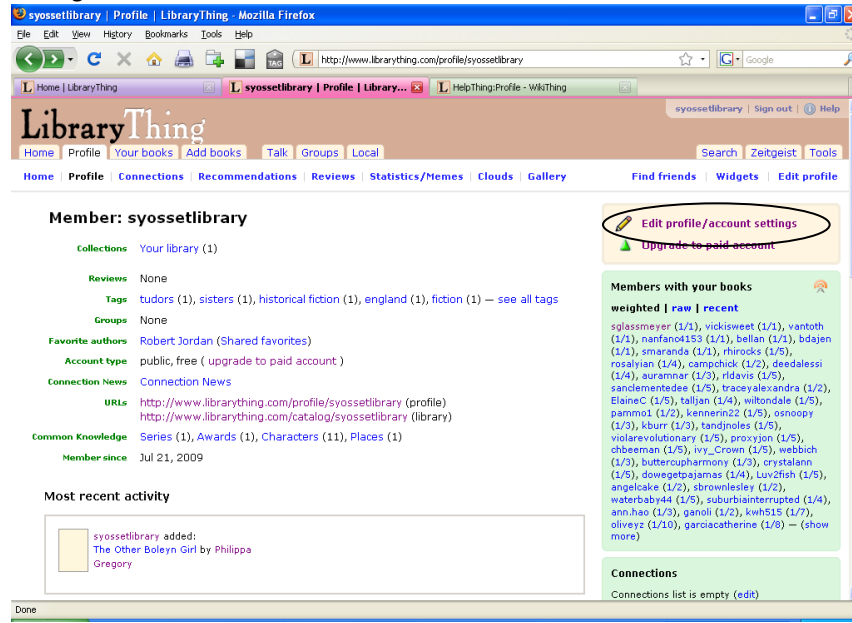
- a. Now that you've learned more about other LibraryThing users, let them learn more about you. This will increase your chances of other members reaching out to you for conversations. Several things are listed at the beginning of every member's profile; any information not filled in will just be marked as "none."
 - i. **Collections** – if you have created multiple libraries, this will list their names and how many books are in each one.
 - ii. **Reviews** – a count of all the reviews you've written, plus a link to your reviews page.
 - iii. **Tags** – a list of the top tags you've used and their frequency. Clicking on a tag takes you to a catalog page showing your books with that tag. The "see all tags" link takes you to your *Tags* page.
 - iv. **Groups** - Shows groups of which you are a member, sorted alphabetically. Clicking on a group will take you to that group's page. The "see all groups" link expands the list on the profile page.
 - v. **Favorite Authors** - List of authors that you have designated as favorites.
 1. To add a favorite author, go to the *Search* tab at the top of the screen.
 2. Search for your favorite author.
 3. Click on the author's name from the list of matches.
 4. This will take you to a detailed page about the author, including books (s)he has written, alternate pen names, awards won, some biographical information, tags commonly used for his/her books and other users who have added this author to their favorites and/or included her/his books in their library.
 5. Halfway down the page will be a section called *Members*. At the bottom of members is a link to *add author to favorites*. Click this link to add the author to your favorite authors.
 6. If you change your mind and do not wish to include this author in your favorites, the link will now read *remove author from favorites*. Click this link to remove the author from your list.



- vi. **Account Type** – Do you have a free or paid account? Anyone can have a free account; free accounts are limited to a library of 200 books. If you want to have a larger library, there is a required donation.
- vii. **Connection News** - links to your Connection News page, where you can see the books added, rated, and/or reviewed by other members with similar libraries or that you've designated as friends, interesting libraries, or watchlist.

- viii. **URLs** - permanent links to your profile and your library catalog.
- ix. **Common Knowledge** – information about the books in your library, drawn from common knowledge of the book.
- x. **Member Since** – when did you join LibraryThing?

b. More personal information can be edited by clicking the link labeled *Edit Profile/Account Settings*.



- i. There are many options for what you can personalize in these settings.
 1. Change your user name and/or email.
 2. Upgrade to a paid account – not needed for libraries with 200 books or less
 3. Upload an image to represent you in conversations/to be seen on your profile page
 - a. This image does not have to be a real picture of you; it can just be an icon that you like. This is entirely optional.
 4. **About Me** – if you want to include some information about yourself to help other people know who you are
 5. **About My Library** – if there’s something special about your library that you want other people to know, write it!
 6. **Website** – do you have a personal website you’d like people to visit?
 7. **Real Name** – what is your real name? Remember, this is entirely optional. You **do not** have to include any personal information.
 8. **Location** – where do you live? Remember, **optional**!
 9. **Also On** – do you Twitter or Facebook? Let people find you on other websites. (I’ll say it again - **optional**)
 10. **BE SURE TO CLICK SAVE CHANGES WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED.**