

[News](#) | [Top News](#)

# Catbot Creator for Mentor Public Library Receives Award for his Work

David Newyear, the maker of Emma, won the American Library Association Polaris Innovation in Technology John Iliff Award

Posted by [Jason Lea](#) (Editor) , February 14, 2011 at 08:45 PM



Like  Tweet

David Newyear, the maker of , won an award and \$1,000 prize for his work at Mentor Public Library.

The American Library Association gave Newyear the [Polaris Innovation in Technology John Iliff Award](#) for using technology as a tool to improve library services.

He was selected over other nominations from across the country.

Newyear created Emma, a chatbot, which is a computer program designed to imitate intelligent conversation. In this case,

Newyear made Emma so she could answer the frequently asked questions that librarians receive.

Newyear has worked on Emma for the last 18 months, almost all of it in his free time. Newyear is the Adult Information Services Manager for Mentor Public Library. His work on Emma is financed by the Friends of the Mentor Public Library.

Because of Newyear's diligent work, Emma's repertoire has grown from answering a dozen or so FAQs to more than 70,000 questions.

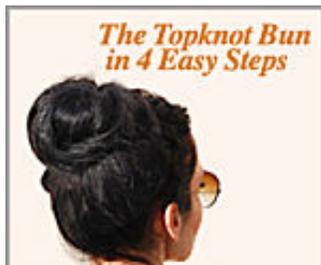
Newyear patterned Emma's appearance and personality on that of a cat, so he refers to her as a catbot.

David Newyear [announced on Emma's blog](#) that, after talking with his wife Kristina, they would donate the \$1,000 to [One of a Kind Pets](#) in Akron.

One of a Kind Pets is a rescue clinic that saves about 1,200 orphaned pets each year. In his brief statement, Newyear called it "a worthy cause."

## From the Web

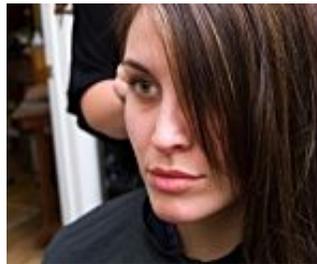
Sponsored Content by Taboola



1 Look, 2 Ways: The TopKnot Bun  
SearsStyle



How to identify cancer in dogs  
PetMD



The Latest In Gray Hair Solutions  
Hair Color For Women

## More from Patch

- What You Need to Know About Marijuana 'Dabbing'
- Mentor Wrestling Team Competes at Solon Comet Clas...
- Have Yourself a very Freegal Christmas
- Across the Country, Police Use Cell Phone Data to Snoop

## More from the Web

- Why Stylists Hate Boxed Haircolor (Hair Color For Women)
- See How to Plant 3,000 Daffodils in On... (Martha Stewart)
- The Book Secret Publishers WANT You to K... (Bookworm Tips)
- The 6 Worst Cities for \$ Savers (Bankrate)

Promoted Content by Taboola

## Comments

[+ Leave a Comment](#)

Leave a comment

Post comment

[Find your Patch](#)

[Start a Blog](#)

[Home](#)

[News](#)

[Blogs](#)

[Conversations](#)

[Events](#)

[Real Estate](#)

[Buy/Sell/Trade](#)

[Weekender](#)

[Business Listings](#)

**Connect with Patch**

[Get the newsletter](#)

[Follow us on Twitter](#)

[Like us on Facebook](#)

**Post Something**

[Post on the Boards](#)

[Post an Event](#)

[Write a Review](#)

[Start a Blog](#)

**Patch Info**

[Your Account](#)

[Help](#)

[About Patch](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

Copyright ©2013 Patch. All rights reserved.