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Beloit Daily News

I stopped by a local big-retail clothing store this past week because I needed a pair of tan pants. That's it. One pair of pants. I thought I would be in and out in less than 15 minutes. I mean, really, how difficult is it to buy a pair of pants? And tan at that. Don't all clothing stores sell basics like tan pants? Well, they do but I spent over 30 minutes wandering the store looking for what I needed. Don't get me wrong. They had plenty of tan pants. But some of them were on this rack. Some of them were on that rack over there. And some of them were on the sales rack way in the back of the store. Why can't stores just put all of their tan pants in one spot so I don't have to search high and low to find the one pair that I want? Oh, I know why they do it. The more I meander, the more I spend, right? Not this frugal minimalist, but that's a topic for another column.

There is national thrift store that has the right idea when it comes to giving customers what they want. They have all of their tan pants together, arranged by size. Then on the next rack they have all of their blue pants together. And then believe it or not, on the next rack all of the black pants are together. Genius. I'm in. I find what I need. I'm happy.

The Picture Book collection at the Beloit Public Library is about to make a lot of our customers very happy. We often have kids, parents and teachers ask us for specific types of picture books. Where are your pirate books? Where are the princess books? And right now we have to tell them all of the books are arranged alphabetically by author. So although we have lots of pirate and princess books, they are scattered among the collection.

Over the next couple of months we are going to be rearranging the picture books into categories. There will be 11 new categories of books including Transportation, Concepts, Animal Friends, Natural World, Community and All About Me. The books will still be arranged alphabetically within the categories. Finally, no more searching through the entire collection just to find the dinosaur and super hero books. You're in. You find what you need. You're happy.

Visit us online at www.beloitlibrary.org or "like" us on Facebook. In the meantime, be sure to check out these great picture books coming soon to your Beloit Public Library.

Are We There Yet? by Dan Santat. "Are we there yet?" Every parent has heard this classic kid question on a long car ride--and after reading this astonishingly inventive new book (that even turns upside down for several pages!), you'll never look at being bored the same way again. (Book Description)

A Friend for Mole by Nancy Armo. Struggling with his overwhelming fear of the unknown, Mole stumbles across a friendly Wolf who is trying to conquer fears of his own. As they keep each other company and learn from one another, the two discover that friendship can be one of the strongest shields against fear. (Book Description)