

Executive Director's Report

March 2016

ADMINISTRATION

By Holly Carroll

Q14 Employee Engagement Survey

The City of Fort Collins and Campus Labs assisted the Library District with the annual Q 14 employee engagement survey by collecting the data, compiling and interpreting the results. The Q 14 is the tool the City uses to gauge employee satisfaction. It is based on the Q 12 survey developed by Gallup researchers that is recognized as one of the most effective HR tools for measuring employee satisfaction. The results show that there is a high satisfaction rate among our employees in all 14 areas and that our scores continue to climb. The overall survey results were emailed to staff and the library board. The more detailed reports by department, building, and classification has been posted on the staff Intranet. The Library Leadership Team will discuss if any of the questions require further attention or action. Sabrina Stromnes coordinated the survey.

Bike Share Program

The City of Fort Collins is launching the Bike Share (bike rental) program in Old Town and the CSU campus. The Library District was asked to provide space near the bus stop at Olive and Peterson Streets for a rack holding



six rental bikes. We found a location near the corner on the sidewalk facing Peterson Street and the rack was installed on March 29. The City also removed the six newspaper and brochure/magazine boxes at the corner so that traffic flow is not impeded. This location was selected because of its proximity to the bus stop and the Max route. Bike Share is a membership program with daily, weekly and annual rates. Bikes are available for free for a ½ hour. More information on the program can be found at <http://zagster.com/fortcollins/>.

Facilities Master Plan

Ken Draves, Jeff Barnes and I met with Gerry Paul and Ed Bonnette from the City's Purchasing Department to begin defining the scope of services needed for an RFP to hire a consultant. We are reviewing the previous RFP, documents from other libraries and organizations and gathering names of Northern Colorado consultants that might be interested in bidding. The scope of services and extent of community outreach will need to be determined before an RFP can be drafted. Jeff and Ken will be taking the lead on this project. The group will all meet again before I leave to determine next steps after initial information gathering. Our intent is to have an RFP posted within the next two months.

Larimer County TIF Study Group

The study group met on March 31 to discuss the final report. Despite some further word tweaking, the group has agreed to the final document including the direct cost fiscal model. There is still much discussion about the indirect impact of TIF with much of the discussion focusing on what to include as qualitative criteria. The core group meets for a final time on May 4.

Orientation of Library Trustees

Linda Gabel and I met with Joe Wise and Fred Colby on March 11 to review the PRPLD Trustee Manual. Jeff Barnes meets with Fred and Joe on April 1 to review the budget. Cynthia Langren is in the process of scheduling library tours for them with the building managers.

Community Broadband

Results from the residential and business survey were shared at the broadband steering committee on March 31. Ninety-nine percent of households in Fort Collins have Internet with a cable modem (Comcast) as the prevalent provider with 57% of market share followed by DSL at 37%. I also participated as part of a panel discussion for the Cable 14 TV program, City at a Glance, where I had the opportunity to explain why community broadband is important for the delivery of library services and content to our residents.

Other Activities

I attended the March meeting of the Friends of the Library, attended the monthly metro library directors meeting in Denver and presided as chair of the CDBG Commission at five meetings as part of the competitive funding/grant process for affordable housing projects and public service agencies.

Finally, I was asked to make a brief presentation and lead a small group discussion during lunch at the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Leadership Fellows Program held at CSU March 28 - April 1. I discussed our various collaborations with the CSU Morgan Library including the author series program and the RamCard dual library card initiative. There was interest in both programs. I also was brought up to date on the library community in Ohio as representatives from Kent State and Ohio University were participating in the program.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

By Tova Aragon

Fourteen interactive eBooks from the *Spotlight in Colorado* collection have been added to the catalog. This series explores how the events of the past impact the human experience of the present and develop valuable critical thinking skills for the 21st century. From the way the Rocky Mountains impacted Colorado's native peoples and early industry to a detailed look at the state's government and the civic responsibilities of being a resident of Colorado, the series provides historical perspective through a comprehensive text, full-color images, and primary source documents. Example: *Early explorers and fur traders in Colorado*

http://discover.poudrelibraries.org/iii/encore/record/C_Rb1712519_SSpotlight%20on%20Colorado_Ff%3Afacetmediatype%3Ae%3Ae%3AeBook%3A%3A_P0%2C12_Orighresult_X3?lang=eng&suite=cobalt

The juvenile collection has been rearranged at Old Town Library for better flow and use of space. When the collection was placed, it was believed the entrance would be the hallway by the storytime room and the collection flowed west and south. The main entrance into the area has become west of the stairs and the flow of the collection seemed backwards to customers. After living with it for the last few years, staff has noticed patrons are still having problems with the flow of the collection. Circulation staff and members of the Collection Advisory Team flipped the collection around so it now flows north and east. Customers seem to be able to better find materials, have shared positive comments about the change and staff report less questions about how to find the beginning of the collection. The juvenile audiobooks gained six shelves to help with materials floating into Old town and the juvenile music CDs were added to the front of the audiobooks.

Collections staff has learned a new process for loading bibliographic records into the database which allowed a batch load of 3,823 *Lynda.com* records. The records describe the courses in *Lynda.com* and link the customer directly to the course. When a patron searches a topic such as, Photoshop, a record for a course will come up in the results list.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

By Paula Watson-Lakamp

- Completed monthly/weekly goals of Communication Plan
- Organizing, managing and supervising all graphic design work for the District
- Working with OrangeBoy on dashboard and Savannah messaging system.
- Working on new social media promotions and platforms, updated “The River’s Mouth”
- Worked with local media on various stories
- Working with Library Trust PR committee and Board
- Finalizing a Crisis Communication Plan document
- Beginning work on new Strategic Plan Marketing strategies
- Finalizing work on Summer Reading “Game On!” print/web
- Beginning work on 2016 Comic Con (August 26, 27 & 28)
- Interviewing candidates for new Communications Assistant employee
- Finalized year-end information for 2015 Annual Report
- Organized the “Seed Swap” event on March 5 with over 400 in attendance
- Organizing the “Kessel Run Family Fun Run/Walk 5K” on May 4 with Comic Con committee
- Working on FoCo Book Fest committee for October Book/Lit Festival
- Presented on Library Marketing at Colorado Library Consortium Spring Workshop in Grand Junction
- Attended St. Patrick’s Day Parade with 3 mascots and 12 volunteers

HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

By Sabrina Stromnes

HR Manager:

The focus for March has been continuing with the compensation study and job descriptions.

Additional items for March:

- Quarterly Performance Alignment (QPA)
 - Set up Crucial Conversations training for managers and supervisors to begin in May.
- Took some leave time due to death in the family.

Volunteer Program Manager:

By Serena Robb

- Interviewed 12 volunteer candidates; placed 6
- Met with Zoe B. about Library Pal Bosses being volunteers, and started working on recruiting
- Recruited 1 Volunteer Program Leader from United Way, and worked with her and Paula on volunteer needs for the Kessel 5K
- Recruited 2 Volunteer Program Leaders from United Way, and worked with them and Outreach on volunteer needs for Frida’s Fashion Comes to Life
- Planned and attended DOVIA meeting: “Maximizing Your Impact with Youth”
- Worked on volunteer appreciation event for April 23rd
- Started planning volunteer schedules for the Summer Reading Challenge
- Started recruiting for all summer Teen programs
- Created name badges for all volunteers and started pushing their use

OUTREACH SERVICES

By Johanna Ulloa

The highlight of the month was the report from Trainer Evaluation on the Impact of storytimes by the Outreach Department. After almost a year of evaluation, we disseminated the draft of the report in a participatory process, with both internal and external parties. We included Bev Thurber, Executive Director of Early Childhood Council of Larimer County, Erin Zimmerman Education manager from United Way, Jean Bosch Old Town Library Manager, and Jennifer Zachman as representative of the Core Group from storytellers and Programming team at PRPLD.

The objective of providing such a participatory process was to disseminate information to internal and external audiences; allow external and internal audiences the opportunity to increase their awareness of the evaluation's results and the possible implications for the future of storytelling practice; and to increase awareness of the use of evaluation results and its implications at PRPLD.

The results of the evaluation and the participatory session were outstanding. The Outreach team will analyze further the results of the evaluation; correlate the implications to the new goals of the Library Strategic Plan, and create our three-year plan for storytimes in the community.

Outreach Core



World Language Storytime in Arabic and French took place at Council Tree Library. Both programs were well attended and we had several families coming to the library for the first time. Once again, CSU faculty, students, and community volunteers delivered a high-quality storytime. The community expressed their gratitude to volunteers and to PRPLD through the feedback forms.

We have another successful Virtual Legal Clinic at Old Town. All the spots were filled and we were even able to squeeze in an extra person. Registration for the next clinic is full as well. Ric Morgan, the lawyer, let me know that he is piloting having two lawyers providing service at each clinic in Jefferson County to accommodate more people. He will let me know how it goes.

We began the celebration of Día del Niño and Young Children's Month! Through the month of April, we hope to increase cultural awareness through literacy and art activities highlighting the work of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo.

We are partnering with many local agencies and businesses to provide engaging programming to highlight Frida Kahlo's work, life, and heritage. Exploring Frida's life and legacy will allow us to expose children and families to the perspective of a woman who contributed in such profound ways to humanity.

Our first program was an assembly for Harris Elementary School where the kids enjoyed a program that celebrated diversity in many different ways! Johanna Ulloa and Ludy Rueda delivered this program with the help of two community volunteers, who read and played the banjo for the kids. The objective of this storytime was to celebrate diversity and to raise awareness of different abilities. We brought a wheelchair to the presentation and showed the short film “The Present”. We were thrilled with the response of the kids and teachers. Around 300 students and 20 teachers attended this presentation.



FRIDA'S FASHION COMES TO LIFE **LA MODA DE FRIDA COBRA VIDA**

Frida Kahlo

6:00 - 8:00 PM 6:00-8:00 PM
 Saturday, April 30 Sábado, 30 de abril
 Lincoln Center Lincoln Center
 417 W. Magnolia St. 417 W. Magnolia St.

Celebrate Children's Day by promoting the world of books, stories and art through the eyes of Frida Kahlo. This event will feature children and models from the community dressed as Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera who will walk the runway to the live music of Raíces Latinas from CSU. There will be poetry, a read aloud, plus the Quetzalcoatl Mexican Dance Group and Mariachi Juvenil. News anchor Vanessa Bernal from Noticias Univision Colorado will be the Master of Ceremonies. This event is free and open to the community. Seating is available on a first come, first serve basis.

Ven a celebrar el Día de los Niños mediante el mundo de los libros, los cuentos y el arte a través de los ojos de Frida Kahlo. En este evento, modelos de la comunidad desfilarán en la pasarela vestidos como Frida Kahlo y Diego Rivera al ritmo de la música del grupo Raíces Latinas de CSU. Además, tendremos poesía, lectura, el grupo de baile mexicano Quetzalcoatl y la música del Mariachi Juvenil. Este evento estará bajo la conducción de Vanessa Bernal, presentadora de Noticias Univision Colorado.

Este evento es gratuito y abierto a la comunidad. El espacio es limitado, los asientos se concederán conforme llegue la gente.

www.poudrelibraries.org 221-6740

POUDRE RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY THE LINCOLN CENTER tuano hair design Closet 503, Amy Adell Photography RHP Caulking Specialist, United Way of Larimer County

A call for models is being distributed for the closing ceremony of Día del Niño in April. The poster at left was made by our super talented Laura Carter!

Johanna Ulloa Girón was selected to be a co-chair of the Education Outreach Committee for the Human Relations Commission. The next Educational Outreach Forum is June 8th at Harmony Library; the theme is Gender Identity and Roles with presenter Dr. Toni Zimmerman.

McGraw Elementary School and Colegio Britanico de Tehuacan had their first video conference together. Teachers and students were extremely excited about this cultural exchange. The students in Mexico were very well prepared and they mostly used English to communicate with the students from McGraw. They are now working on their first written assignment which will be exchanged on April. The teachers in both schools have been very involved in the program and have remarked how special this opportunity is to be part of the Pelicano Program.

Kids from San Juan del Sur were visited by Digital Media Specialist Martha Petty from Harris Elementary, as part of the Pelicano Program. The Library at San Juan del Sur and Escuela Adelante work very closely. As a result of this collaboration, a new liaison from the library has been

assigned to the school to provide support to the program. We also received great news from Escuela Adelante. They have moved to a new location! We are very happy for them. Johanna Ulloa Girón will visit the Escuela Adelante and the library in San Juan del Sur May 2016.

Sylvia Garcia and Brendan Haggerty, MSW Intern, met with Mary Ellen Keen, McKinney-Vento Program Specialist for Homeless Education with the Poudre School District. They brainstormed different ways that the library can provide services to families experiencing homelessness.

Karol de Rueda and Ludy Rueda attended Dr. Kim Kiehl's talk, the Director of the Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center, at the Children's Museum. They received a lot of information regarding brain development and engaging all five senses during storytimes. While at the museum, Ludy Rueda had an opportunity to meet artist Jaime Molina, who is based in Denver and has several years of experience working with teens. We will explore the possibility of working with Mr. Molina for Imaginantes 2016.

Kathie Young de Herrera and Karol de Rueda presented the services PRPLD offers in the community to PSDs Cultural Mediator. They expressed high interest in computer classes, World Language storytimes, and maker spaces. Currently, we have a waiting list for computer classes with Laurel, Timnath, Lincoln Middle School, Johnson Elementary, Irish Elementary and more.

Johanna Ulloa Girón continues to provide clinical supervision to Brendan Haggerty, MSW Intern at Old Town.

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION

By Carol Gyger

Updated Software on Public Internet Stations

All District public internet stations were updated in March – updated Windows, browsers, browser plugins, etc. It was also an opportunity to fix various bugs on the PCs. This process is usually performed twice a year. *Lingzhen Zhao*

Help Desk System Replacement

The replacement system for our internal help desk system is getting very close to launch – early May. The Implementation Team (Tova Aragon, Kristen Draper, Holly Bucks, Gabe Johnson, and Peggy Shaughnessy, Carol Gyger and Victor Zuniga) have been testing the system and getting ready to train staff. However, the system is pretty intuitive so training will not be an arduous task. Everyone on the team is excited about THAT! *Carol, Peggy, Victor*

Impact Team (Carol, Tova and Johanna)

March activities included some small and large projects. The largest current project is working with the Summer Reading Challenge (SRC) Evaluation Team on developing a logic model(s) for the SRC. Team members for this project are Jennifer Zachman, Jenny Thurman, Johanna Ulloa, Nicole Burchfield, Tova Aragon and Carol Gyger. The Impact Team also attended the Denver Evaluation Network (DEN) workshop in, where else, Denver! The group discussed methods of engaging stakeholders in data analysis. Carol, Tova and Johanna will take what they learned and start using it with Impact Team projects.

Various Hardware and Software Changes

Several members of the IT Team were involved with fixing and replacing, adding and subtracting hardware, software, and website stuff. This is typical of the behind the scenes troubleshooting and assistance performed by this awesome team every month. A snapshot of March:

- Upgrade of hardware and software for Rosie's controller (automated materials handler at Old Town Library) – *Chris and Victor working closely with vendor technician and Circ supervisors*
- Improvements to Otto (AMH at Council Tree Library) – more work with vendor!
- Fix Career Cruising database so it works offsite – a “seemingly simple but turned out to be complex” – *Ling, Victor, Peggy*
- Upgrades to laptops used for Genealogy Help sessions and Law Clinics – *Chris Bauman*
- Additions to website on the “spur of the moment” – *Peggy*

Learning and Sharing

Victor and Peggy attended the annual Innovative Users Group (IUG) Conference in San Francisco. For the first time in quite a while they were able to attend without giving presentations! What a treat it was for them to be able to spend all their time absorbing information and networking with other Innovative users.

COUNCIL TREE LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By Currie Meyer

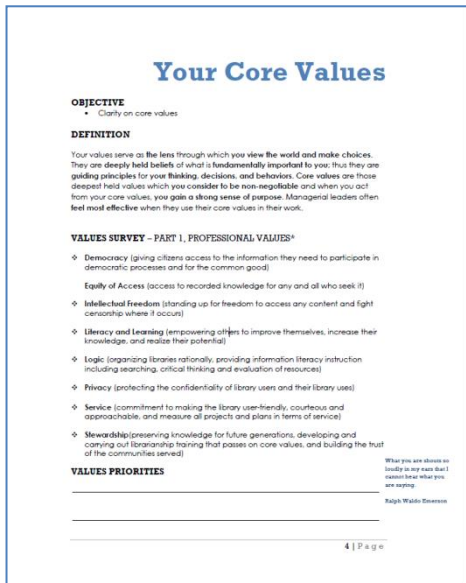
“Libraries Transform” bookmark for National Library Week created

In March, the Programming Team created an informative bookmark for National Library Week, coming up April 10-16. Jennifer Zachman wrote content for the front of the bookmark, featuring the array of free resources available at PRPLD. I researched and wrote content for the flip side, which highlighted service and organizational accomplishments from last year. Graphic artist Laura Carter formatted the content.

Core Values Workshop at Arapahoe Library District, March 11

Currie and Jean attended an all-day workshop presented by Sharon Morris, Ph.D., Development Director at the Colorado State Library, about core values at work. The workshop featured discussions and activities that defined our professional values, such as intellectual freedom, democracy, literacy, and service. We learned how our personal values such as trustworthiness, compassion and excellence align with our professional values to make us effective library leaders.

Visit BASE Camp Spring Break Program



Your Core Values

OBJECTIVE
• Clarify on core values

DEFINITION
Your values serve as the lens through which you view the world and make choices. They are deeply held beliefs of what is fundamentally important to you; thus they are guiding principles for your thinking, decisions, and behaviors. Core values are those deepest held values which you consider to be non-negotiable and when you act from your core values, you gain a strong sense of purpose. Managerial leaders often feel most effective when they use their core values in their work.

VALUES SURVEY – PART 1, PROFESSIONAL VALUES*

- Democracy (giving citizens access to the information they need to participate in democratic processes and for the common good)
- Equality of Access (access to recorded knowledge for any and all who seek it)
- Intellectual Freedom (standing up for freedom to access any content and fight censorship where it occurs)
- Literacy and Learning (empowering others to improve themselves, increase their knowledge, and realize their potential)
- Logic (organizing libraries rationally, providing information literacy instruction including searching, critical thinking and evaluation of resources)
- Privacy (protecting the confidentiality of library users and their library uses)
- Service (commitment to making the library user-friendly, courteous and approachable, and measure all projects and plans in terms of service)
- Stewardship (preserving knowledge for future generations, developing and carrying out leadership training that passes on core values, and building the trust of the communities served)

VALUES PRIORITIES

What you see above is listed in my own list. Please let me know what yours are saying.
Ralph Wadlin-Steinman

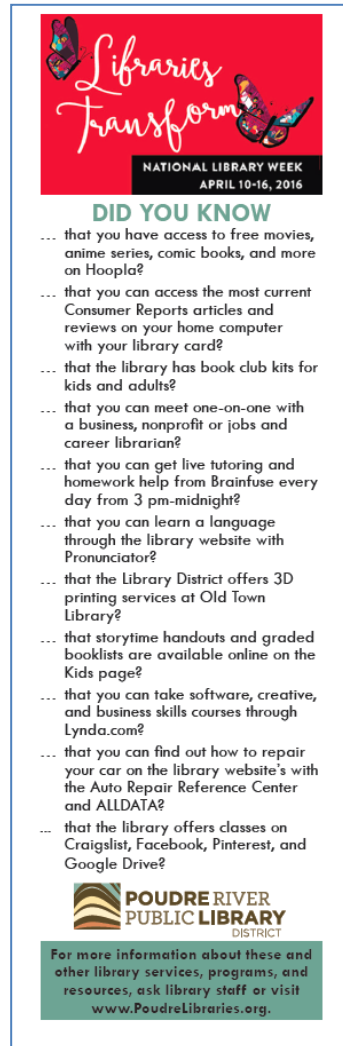
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Local child care and enrichment nonprofit BASE Camp invited me to their spring break program for school-age kids at Lopez Elementary on March 15. To fit their theme “Around the World”, I shared interactive folktales from Panamanian, Russian and Creole cultures.

Yoga Storytime

As a part of special spring break programming for children, Clearview Library Early Literacy Specialist and certified Yoga Instructor Andrea Cleland presented a fun yoga storytime at CTL on March 19. Over 40 children and adults attended the program, which featured developmentally appropriate yoga concepts including breath,

movement, music, and images.



Libraries Transform

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK
APRIL 10-16, 2016

DID YOU KNOW

- ... that you have access to free movies, anime series, comic books, and more on Hoopla?
- ... that you can access the most current Consumer Reports articles and reviews on your home computer with your library card?
- ... that the library has book club kits for kids and adults?
- ... that you can meet one-on-one with a business, nonprofit or jobs and career librarian?
- ... that you can get live tutoring and homework help from Brainfuse every day from 3 pm-midnight?
- ... that you can learn a language through the library website with Pronunciator?
- ... that the Library District offers 3D printing services at Old Town Library?
- ... that storytime handouts and graded booklists are available online on the Kids page?
- ... that you can take software, creative, and business skills courses through Lynda.com?
- ... that you can find out how to repair your car on the library website's with the Auto Repair Reference Center and ALLDATA?
- ... that the library offers classes on Craigslist, Facebook, Pinterest, and Google Drive?

POUDRE RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

For more information about these and other library services, programs, and resources, ask library staff or visit www.PoudreLibraries.org.

DID YOU KNOW:

In 2015, Poudre Libraries at Council Tree, Harmony and Old Town...

- ... loaned over 3 million books, CDs, DVDs, e-media and other materials?
- ... purchased more than 50,000 new books, DVDs, and other non-digital materials?
- ... employed 173 people, including more than 60 staff dedicated to returning, sorting and shelving an average of 750 items, every day, seven days a week?
- ... answered more than 5,500 questions on average, every week?
- ... welcomed, on average, 1,000 people to each of our three libraries every day, seven days per week?
- ... provided over 1,700 programs for babies, children and teens?
- ... diverted over 40,000 pounds of recyclable materials from landfills?
- ... provided over 500 programs, including storytimes, technology demonstrations and book promotions, to local schools and community groups outside of our library buildings?
- ... provided just under 200,000 free WiFi sessions and more than 125,000 hours of free public computer/Internet to our community?
- ... provided more than 160 storytimes in Spanish, Russian, Mandarin, French, and Arabic?

Thank you for supporting Poudre Libraries! We love serving our community!

POUDRE RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
www.poudrelibraries.org

Rekindle the Classics

A lively group of 17 adults shared thoughts and responses to Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse* during Rekindle the Classics book discussion program on March 16. Adults ranging in age from their 20s to their 80s enjoyed another engaging discussion, facilitated by CSU English Literature graduate students. This was the third of five in the series, presented cooperatively by PRPLD, CSU, and Wolverine Farm Public House. Eight out of ten survey respondents said the program and its presenter was excellent. A few comments on the surveys included:

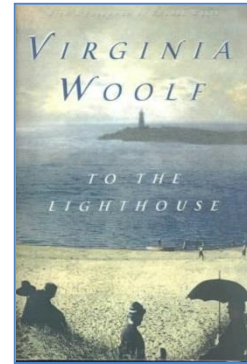
Include works in other languages.

Useful to better enjoy the classics!

Useful to help me become a better reader.

Make sure the program continues!

The program continues April 14th with *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift.



It's a GIRL Thing, mom-daughter book discussion program, March 25



For the third year, I coordinated the It's a GIRL Thing mom-daughter book discussion program. This year's title was the 1992 Newbery award-winning *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry. Twenty-one girls and women attended the program, which featured free paperback copies of the book for mom-daughter pairs, free pizza dinner, discussion, and book-related activities. The program is limited to girls in grades four, five or six, and 10 mom-daughter pairs. Registration began in January and filled in less than two days. I am processing feedback gathered during the program, and formatting follow-up surveys for program participants to capture a clearer understanding of customer needs in this area.

HARMONY LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By Ken Draves

FRCC News shared by Annie Fox

- FRCC and Harmony Library staff have been coordinating on a lock down drill with the rest of campus on April 6th. Information will be posted in the library and on the library website.
- Mount Antero remodel is expected to be completed by August 2016. The Library Board may want to plan a walking tour of campus to see the new and remodeled building on campus in the fall of 2016.

- The Facilities staff completed a minor remodel in the staff area to allow room for crates coming from other buildings to be stored. 30 to 35 crates are now stored efficiently in the remodel space and no longer impede door traffic – see picture at right. It may not look super exciting, but it really improves workflow!



Staff reports:

From Kristen Draper, Digital Literacy Librarian

- Beattie Preschool storytime
- New “Bugzilla” software implementation team – rollout in early May
- Coding for kids class – Thirteen 8-13 year-olds learned the basics of coding
- iPad 101 class – 10
- On hiring committee for new communications assistant – interviews in late April
- Preparing computer class schedule for May-August
- Met with Barnes and Noble - got SRC prize donations and helped them kick off their SRP in combination with ours
- Tips and Twips – asked for donations from Otterbox for 5 iPad Pro cases and 5 iPad Air 2 cases for the tips and twips, teen and tween iPads that will be placed in the 3 libraries hopefully by June
- Attended the PSD Diversity council – inequities in health access
- PSD – reviewing end user devices and RFP proposals for PSD

From Elaine Burritt, Adult Librarian

- Attended Museum of Discovery Local History tour on March 2
- Trained Kwabena Pepra as a public desk sub at Harmony
- Hosted “Harmony in the Round” on March 11, “The Unfortunate Rakes”, a Celtic acoustic trio
- Selected romance paperbacks, including customer suggestions for purchase
- Attended focus group for Executive Director search

From Molly Thompson, Jobs and Careers Librarian

- Organized tour of the Discovery Museum and Archive for staff
- Taught beginning and beyond basic Excel classes to patrons
- Taught LinkedIn class for job seekers
- Worked on staff day registration
- Coordinated Cover Letter and Resume 201 workshop at the Harmony Library

From Diane Tuccillo, Teen Services Librarian

- Battle of the Bards judging (both Adult and Teen segments) took place March 2-22. Finalists and Honorable Mentions (and non-winning poets) have been notified and we are now awaiting RSVPs for the BoB Poetry Reading Program on April 29th.
- HRC Diversity Forum on Ethnicity in the Media, for which Teen IRS volunteers created PowerPoints and a skit to support the discussion, was held on March 9th in the evening. There were 47 in attendance. Credit for working with the teens to prepare their parts goes to MLS candidate and library volunteer, Rebecca Strein.
- Teen IRS met on Saturday, March 12 at Old Town Library. There were 16 teens who attended.

OLD TOWN LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By Jean Bosch

Programs and Events

The STREAM Lab @ Old Town Library was very active. Participants made their own pot o' gold scheduled around the Sharin' of the Green 5K/St. Patrick's Parade week.



A big thanks to Hourly Librarian Gale Criswell for organizing this STREAM Lab activity; the kids loved it! (And one mom even stopped by the desk to specifically say how glad she was that the library had provided the activity.) Our picture is from two sisters who created lots of good-luck strands to decorate their room.



During Spring Break, flying saucers were in the air at the STREAM Lab! Technology was the focus with students learning about electronic circuits using a Snap Circuits set and experimenting with circuit connections to see how high they could launch the propeller.



To celebrate Spring Break, Harmony, Old Town, and Council Tree Libraries all hosted a passive program. Kids participated in a rainbow-themed scavenger hunt around the Children's area with a "Books Bring Good Luck" bookmark as a prize for all participants. It was a good way to encourage kids to explore the library and discover new areas.

Early Literacy Librarian Vicky Hays hosted World Games for Kids at Harmony and Old Town Libraries with the assistance of some great volunteers. Kids and grown-ups could play Noughts and Crosses (the British version of Tic Tac Toe), Potsie (Hopscotch), and several other games that originated in countries such as Ireland, China, and Africa.



Public Services Librarian Nicole Burchfield had about 15 teens at both Anime Club meetings at Council Tree and Harmony Libraries. At the Harmony meeting, they made Kuroneko-sama origami figures (that means we made Lord Black Cat from the classic show *Trigun*.)



One Book 4 Colorado is happening again in April. The books for free distribution have arrived (all 1,500 of them) and are being sorted and stickered with our logo for distribution by Outreach, library liaisons, and within the libraries. A special program for four-year-olds and their families will happen on April 16th at Old Town Library at 2 p.m. - come join us!

Teen Services Librarian Sue-Ellen Jones hosted an IRS meeting at Old Town Library. Despite the fact that the meeting was the same date as the St. Patrick's Day parade, sixteen teens attended.

Vicky conducted a behind-the-scenes tour for Rivendell 4th and 5th graders. Alice Jorgensen from the Collections staff did a great job in showing how we order and process books during a brief first-floor tour at Webster House. The students also got to see our work areas, 3D printer, Rosie the automated materials handling unit, and what is stored in the troll room (under the main staircase). Library Manager Jean Bosch also talked with the kids about what she does in her position.

Outreach and Embedded Staff

Sue-Ellen taught database usage and delivered cards to six classes (86 students) at Lincoln Middle School.

Nicole had twenty participants at Ugly Craft Night at Dungeons and Drafts where they made Dr. Seuss-themed Sharpie mugs. It was another great time!



Outreach Librarian Sylvia Garcia and Jean coordinated with Vicky to create two cardboard dolls for the Colorado Children's Campaign. Doll Day is a statewide advocacy effort to educate lawmakers and other leaders about the importance of investing in and supporting services for children. The event coincides with the release of the *Kids Count in Colorado!* data which measures and tracks the education, health, and well-being of Colorado children. Dolls named Armando and Tina were sent to state senators and representatives along with a short story about their little lives (which represent "real" children in Larimer County).



Continuing Education and Learning Opportunities

Jean and Council Tree Library Manager Currie Meyer attended an all-day workshop at the Arapahoe Library District Administrative Building led by Sharon Morris with the Colorado State Library called *Stepping Up to Extraordinary: Using Core Values to Inform Public Library Leadership*. It was a very useful and introspective day designed to help librarians have a stronger understanding of and commitment to core values. The workshop would be very useful for library district leadership to experience.

Jean and Currie also attended a webinar called *How to Get a Yes Vote for Your Library Mill Levy*, sponsored by the Colorado State Library. Nicolle Davies, Executive Director of the Arapahoe Library District was the speaker, sharing experiences from their successful mill levy election and providing concrete information and tips for activating library voters.

Jean and Library Services Representative Brenda Blake attended a webinar called *Leading Doesn't Have to Be Loud*, sponsored by the Colorado State Library and featuring speaker Amy Hitchner, CSL Collaborative Programming Coordinator. This session provided practical strategies for turning the strengths of an introverted personality into leadership potential.

Jean and several LLT members attended *Recipe for Redesign*, a webinar sponsored by the Urban Library Council. It featured the Richland (SC) Library and DoSpace in Omaha, NE, to give ideas on how to think about providing library services in unique ways.

Nicole also attended a webinar called *Using Pop Culture to Create Great Library Programs* which included ideas for pop culture-based programs for both teens and young adults.

Miscellaneous

The Kid iPad Stations are very popular in the libraries and we will be expanding to have iPad stations for Tweens and Teens. Council Tree Children's and Teen Librarian Jenny Thurman developed a March Madness game for teens to vote on apps that they play and like. We are in the last week of voting at the three library branches. We used our new bulletin board in the Teen area at OTL to publicize the March App Madness voting as well as other promotions.

Jean and Circulation Supervisor Holly Bucks had some new signage ordered and installed near the 1st floor Adult Fiction jump station and the 2nd floor Reference jump stations. The large hanging letters simply state "Ask".

Our amazing Circulation staff, in conjunction with the Collections staff and Library Assistant Erin Senseman, "flipped" the juvenile collection to provide a much easier flow to the collection. The architects designed the flow of the collection to go in one direction during the remodel/expansion, but it became apparent from user traffic patterns that the collection hadn't been placed correctly. It looks great and makes sense now.

The Larimer County Genealogical Society donated \$400 recently for genealogy and family history items to be purchased for the collection. Hourly Librarian Wanda Colbert has identified several items to add to the collection using those funds.

Nonprofit Services Librarian Sarah Scobey gave support to numerous groups and organizations for the SBDC as well as the library's nonprofit clients. She also met with the staff of the Murphy Center/Homeless Gear to demonstrate how to use our databases.

Sarah is also serving on the FoCo Brews and Book Fest working team. She has been researching and compiling a list of possible authors and has ten confirmed authors/poets for the event.

Executive Director Holly Carroll, Deputy Director Ken Draves, and Jean worked with the FC Bikes staff to find the ideal location in Library Park for one of the new FC Bike Share stations. Six bikes are available at this station which is located at the corner of Peterson and Olive Streets near the bus stop.

