



monthly report

March 2016

Adult Services: Our study room policy is working well. We now check a room out to a patron for their use and then unlock the room for them. Patrons seem to be able to get a room when they want one and at least some of them appreciate the system we have in place. We have not had tax forms this year as we have had in past years and we have managed the demand by printing forms as needed for patrons for \$.10 a page. This seems to be working okay for most people needing the forms.

Children's Services: In like a lion, out like a lamb! Spring has been a busy time in the children's area with the beginning of nicer weather and some fun programming options. Beginning in September 2015, we started doing month-long passive program scavenger hunts in the children's area, which have become increasingly popular. This month, we decided to track how many children were hunting our tricky leprechauns and had over 350 participate! We also had a popular Elephant & Piggie Party at the library and a seasonal story time for kids and seniors at The Villages in Marion. Summer Reading planning is in full swing and our programming schedule is filling up for June and July. We're also ordering and cataloging lots of exciting new children's materials to get ready for all those young readers who will be coming in this summer!

Young Adult Services: March 6-12th was Teen Tech Week. We celebrated by having two Hour of Code programming sessions where kids and teens could come in and learn computer coding in a fun way. We put up a Books For Gamers book display in the Young Adult area to go along with Teen Tech Week. There was also a Game Day this March along with the monthly Anime Club program.

Outreach Services: A first of the four monthly training sessions for the Marion Home School Assistance Program was well-attended. This month we focused on the online resource Learning Express. Dawn met with Jo Ellen Haddad, the Witwer Healthy Aging Program Coordinator, to discuss bringing additional older adult programs to the library. This includes weekly programming Monday mornings and a senior health fair. Another month of extremely well-attended coloring programs were held at Ramsey's Wine Bistro and the American Legion Post 298.

Circulation Services: Circulation was down 1,793 when compared with the March 2015 circulation statistics. It is significant to note that the Easter holiday was celebrated in March



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this year so were closed two days in March this year while we were open two more days in March 2015. March Metro library circulation statistics include Marion Public Library-59,702/Cedar Rapids Main-57,626/Cedar Rapids West-24,244/Hiawatha Public Library-19,644.

Library Programming: The Linn County Master Gardeners presented their weekly spring series on Wednesdays throughout March and all programs had good attendance. This month was our annual history series, a collaboration with the Hiawatha Public Library, the African American Museum of Iowa, and local historian Kathy Wilson. Attendance was low, ranging from a high of 34 at the first program to about 16 – but the programs were excellent. The series was called New Candidates Old Debates and focused on contemporary issues and how they have been with us for many years. The Urban Farming series we are offering this spring continued throughout March with good attendance; this is a partnership with Marion’s Sustainable Couple, John and Kelli Lane. Our monthly Monday movie continues to draw in a crowd. Many disabled adults from the local REM program are attending each month and really enjoying the shows. We offered a program on Beer: The Basics of Homebrewing at the end of the month; attendance was low (nine), but the presenter (proprietor of BIY Homebrew Supplies here in Marion) was pleased with the audience. Our Sustainable Couple is now providing an Urban Chicken series – the first meeting was March 29 and attendance is required at all six sessions, which run through May.

Building/Facilities Update: Our HVAC system continues to deteriorate. We have two quotes for the VFDs that failed last month and may need to get those repaired; quotes range from \$7000+ to nearly \$12,000. We are mostly keeping the air handlers shut off unless the building gets too warm, and we are assisted right now by moderate outdoor temperatures. If the air handlers run, they are blowing full-force through the ductwork, which is destroying the ducts. Related to this, we will be having some air quality testing done. Public Services has come to evaluate our outdoor retaining wall. Given the status of the building project, they do not want to remove and reinstall the entire wall, but they will be resetting the top row of stones which should keep teens from moving them to use as seats or simply removing them, and also keep them from toppling over onto the sidewalk. We had some masonry repair work done at the end of the month. One of the brick and concrete pillars in the lobby had cracked and broken. While the mason was here to repair that column, he also did some tuck-pointing on several of the outdoor columns.

Technology Update: A server software upgrade was applied to the server that manages our public PCs and catalog access computers. We are in the process of doing an asset inventory, so



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that we can recycle unusable or obsolete equipment before we relocate. Wherever possible, we are rebuilding and repurposing existing equipment to be used for existing library needs. Malware has become an inescapable part of the technology landscape. Security measures to address malware attacks on our technology assets are being studied and tested. Jo Kinnard attended the Eastern Iowa Security conference where a lot of vital and useful information regarding malware was provided and discussed.

Personnel: Two of our pages have been promoted to positions of part-time library assistants (Brian Czernik and Janet Peck); we have hired two new pages (Kayla Hamous and Ashley Heim). Youth Services Coordinator Olivia Stoner and Graphic Designer Aubree Pinckney have both been off all this month on maternity leave.

Metro Library Network Update: The Cedar Rapids Library is providing training on the BLUECloud Analytics service in the coming month. This will allow us to manage our collection more efficiently and to run specific usage reports. At the March meeting of the Linn County Library Association, Hollie Trenary, who is the manager of the IT Department at the Cedar Rapids Library, made a presentation to those smaller libraries attending about possible advantages of them joining our network.

Out Loud! Update: March saw an extremely successful Linn Area Reads program. The book chosen for 2016 was *The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak, and programming included a presentation and reading by local author Anneliese Tisdale (who wrote a book about growing up during WWII in Germany) here at the Marion Library, a series of three book discussions held at Barnes & Noble, and a movie screening held in the auditorium at the Cedar Rapids library. The grand finale was a program by author Zusak which was held at the Hotel at Kirkwood Center and attended by over 500 people. Authors for the summer Out Loud! Series were announced at that program.