

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

May 10, 2016

Building

The new restroom partitions are on order. I did have Mosaic order a larger privacy partition for the men's room. Other than the privacy complaint, I have heard only positive comments about the facilities.

Contacted Luther again, but have had no response. Hopefully, Glenn has been more fortunate.

I had a rather unusual request from the Department of Local Government Finance. They recently hired a Bluffton resident, Beth Singleton, as an area field representative in the assessment division. Rather than force them to work out of the Indianapolis office, they try to find office space for them in local area governmental offices. It is my take that with the huge emphasis on internal control, the department does not want field reps working out of their homes. Both Beth and her supervisor, Barry Wood approached me about a space for Beth to work. All she needs is a work space to do computer work and take phone calls. She brings whatever she needs.

We do have a desk space in the Indiana Room office that is not presently used. I am acquainted with Beth as she formerly worked for our local assessor's office. I am willing to cooperate with the DLGF, but I did tell them that I would need board approval. I asked if they would provide a memorandum of understanding stating the situation and giving both parties equal right to end the agreement with a 30-day notice.

The office knows we are meeting Tuesday, but I have not yet heard back from them about the memorandum. I may or may not be bringing that before you this month.

IN Public Trust

This month we are reviewing Chapter 8 "Library Budget and Finance."

The staff committee is reviewing the Staff Handbook and will soon be submitting their recommendations. I will then email those suggested changes to the Policy committee – chair Steve, Robin and Graig.

Public Awareness / Outreach

Due to the early end of school, summer reading registration will begin May 23rd. An opening torch ceremony will kick-off all our summer activities on Wednesday evening, June 1st. After passing the torch in a parade around the library, participants will come back to the library for a Jim Baron Magic Show.

Bluffton schools notified us that they have sold around 800 used iPads to the general public. They wanted us to be aware that there may be a demand for more iPad training. Emily has scheduled some classes and drop-in days to help meet this need. The school will distribute the training information to buyers picking up their devices.

The two StoryWalks are in and the dedications are set. Eagle Scout Bailey Ulfing's StoryWalk in Ossian's Archbold Park will be dedicated Saturday, May 7th at 9:30 a.m. The dedication for Eagle Scout Conor Gilliom's Pickett's Run StoryWalk is tentatively set for Thursday, May 26th at 8 a.m. These unique walks have very much been a collaborative effort and we are excited to see the community's reaction to them.

Leavings / Hires

Due to a great job opportunity for his wife, children's librarian Craig Brown is leaving us for a life in Arizona. We are all sad to see him go as he has been a great asset to the library.

We advertised and filled his position with a new Huntington College graduate, Alyssa Plisco. Alyssa is a vocal performance/theater major and she is the musical director at her husband's church in Bluffton. Alyssa will be working 20 hrs/wk at a starting wage of \$11.12/hr.

Veronica Runyon is returning one more time as a summer intern. Her internship at Disney this past year has postponed her graduation from Ball State until December. She will be working 36 hours a week primarily in the children's room. Her wage is \$9.79 per hour. There is a possibility that Veronica may be able to continue to work for us part-time next semester through the EARN Indiana Intern program. Indiana will pay ½ of her wages both this summer and through the fall. Stef Kipfer is expecting a baby in August, so if Veronica can stay on to cover her maternity leave, it will be extremely helpful.

We are excited to have 4 wonderful applicants for our second summer intern position. Teresa has interviews set up for Monday, so I may have another hiring approval to bring to you on Tuesday. This intern is also part of the EARN Indiana Intern program and the student will assist at the circulation desk covering for summer vacations. We also hope to have the intern help with computer clean up and device instruction this summer.

Miscellaneous

Graduation for Leadership Academy participants Cindy Burchell and Susan Batdorff is Wednesday, May 11th. I will attend in support of our library graduates and as an Academy instructor.

Four staff attended our district meeting last month. I presented a session on our re-classification system to a standing room only crowd.

Next week I will be presenting a webinar for the State Library on the same topic. I hear that over 105 librarians are signed up. This will be my first experience presenting to people I cannot see!

Judy, Travis and I will be attending the SirsiDynix users' conference in Indianapolis later this month.

Last week our Northeast Indiana Digital Library consortium met to review this past year of econtent service, make allocation decisions for this year, and determine our content budget for 2017. This past year our consortium circulations increased by 33,000. We now completing our fifth year with over 10,000 titles and 6800 users. Since WCPL is the largest of the 8 participating libraries, we have 1/3 of the patrons and circulations. This year the group will have a budget of \$76,000 for new and renewed content. I am quite proud of this group and the service we have been able to provide.

I have been traveling a good deal this spring. Several trips have been to review resumes and select candidates to interview for the Indiana Library Federation executive director.