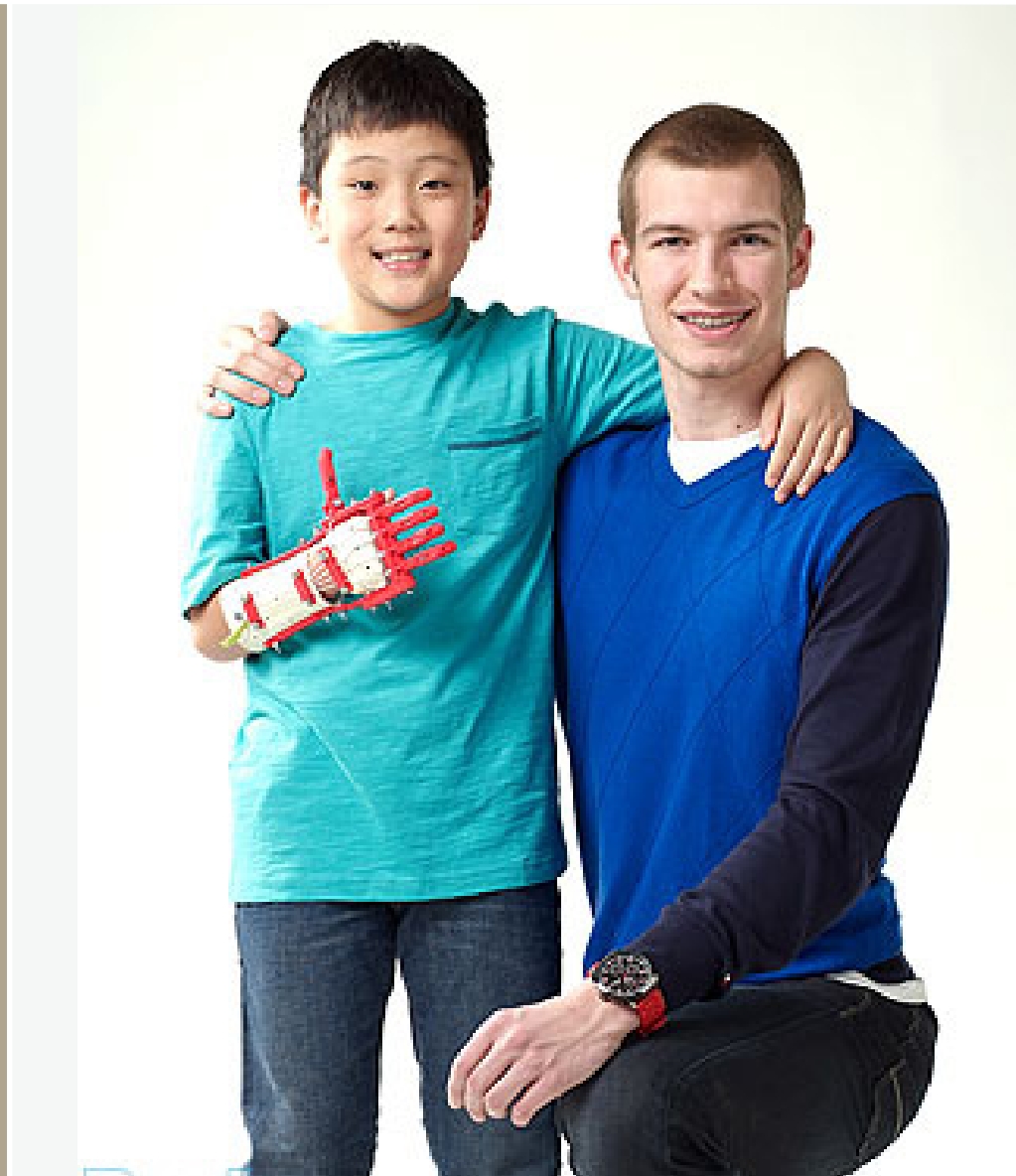




Johnson County Library

February 2014



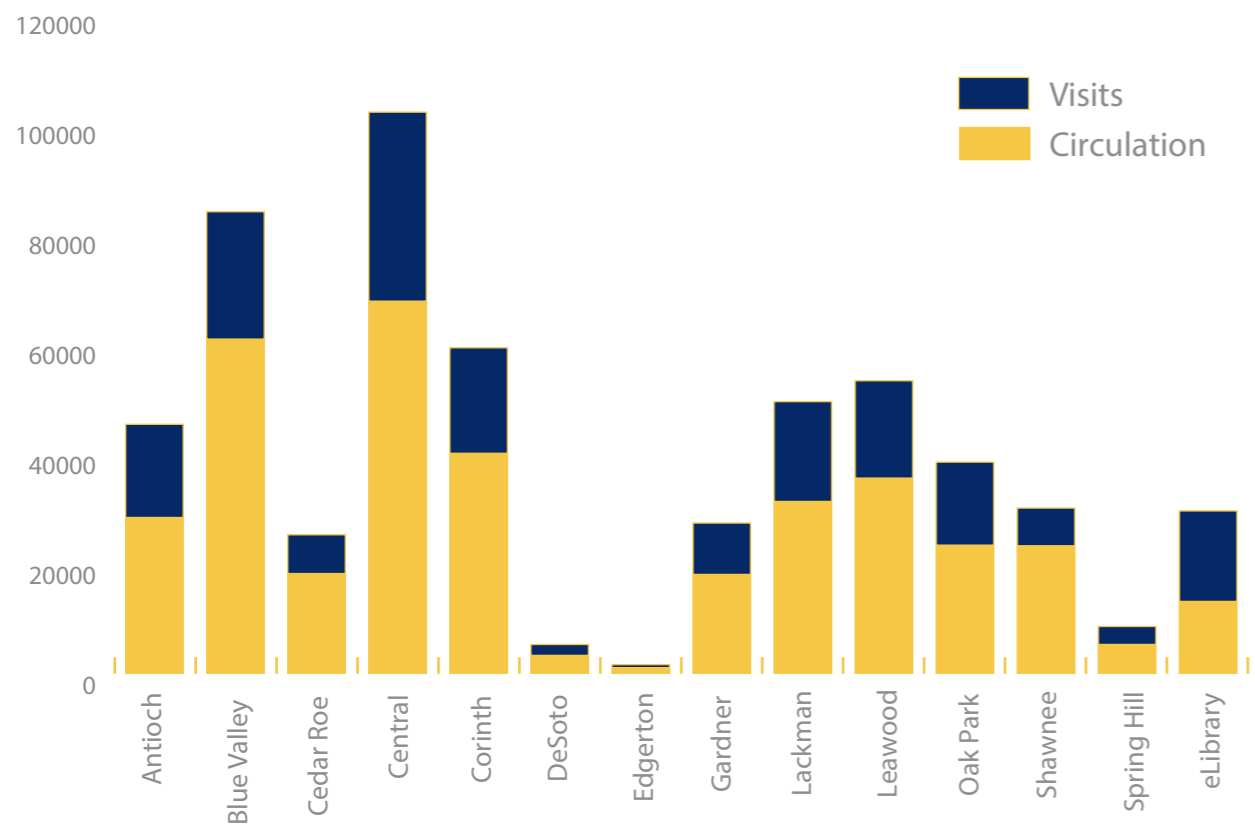
County Librarian's Report

FEBRUARY 2014 DASHBOARD

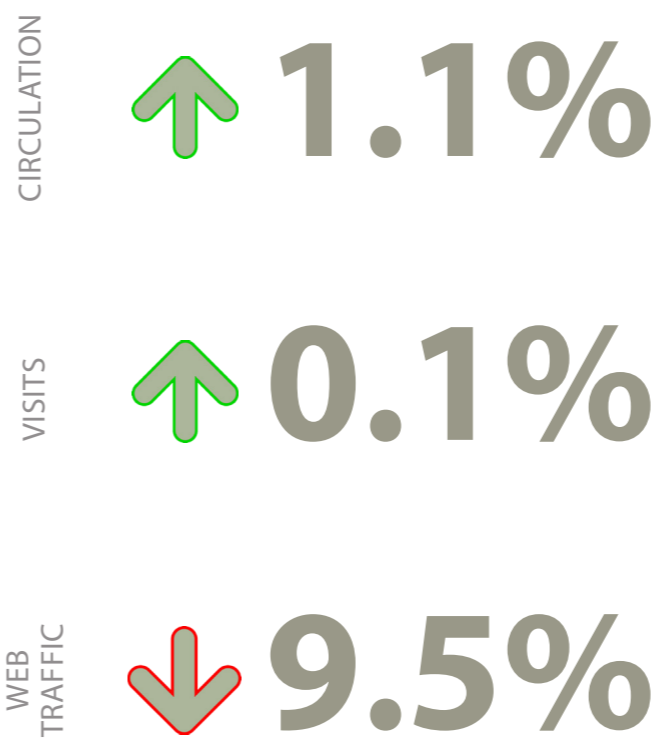


ON THE COVER

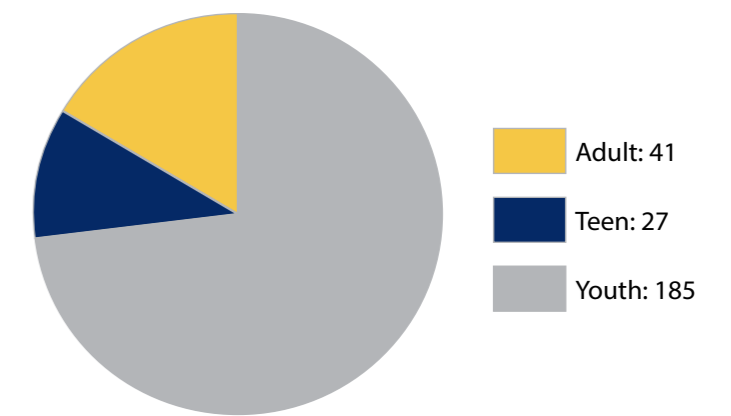
16-year-old patron Mason Wilde (right) used the 3D printer in the Central Resource Library's MakerSpace to create a prosthetic hand for his 9-year-old neighbor born without a fully-formed right hand. The story caught fire in February, earning media coverage locally from The Kansas City Star and KCTV-5 and numerous high-profile national outlets like People magazine, CNN.com and the popular design and technology blog, Gizmodo.



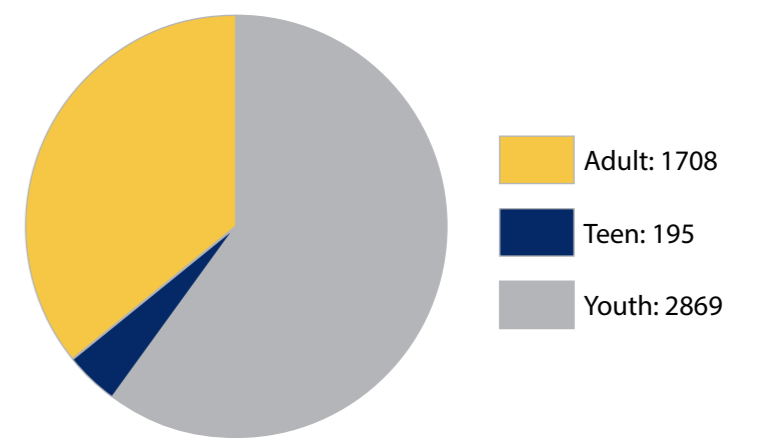
VERSUS FEBRUARY 2013



TOTAL EVENTS



TOTAL ATTENDANCE



Community



▲ Nearly 100 friends and fans of **Corinth Information Specialist Bethany Taylor** gathered at the Central Resource Library February 11 to celebrate the launch of her novel, "Landry Park." The dystopian young adult drama takes place in Kansas City 200 years from now. Bethany is currently at work on the second of the three-book series being published by Dial Books for Young Readers.

Shawnee Information Specialist Melody Kazmi (back left) organized a **weekly gathering of crafting, knitting and crocheting enthusiasts**. The ladies help each other learn the finer points of knitting and how to figure out difficult patterns. ▼



▲ **The JoCoHistory Twitter account**, administered by Web Content Developer Monica Claassen, increased its audience to more than 700. The account showcases charming historical photographs of Johnson County, like one of a Shawnee Mission Rural High School snowball fight in 1940.

Artwork from 11 internationally and regionally-known artists were displayed as part of the **Papercuts art exhibit** taking place at various Art in the Stacks exhibit areas. The exhibit focused on artists working in the medium of paper or books. Artist Alicia Kelly's paper installation along the windows of the Central Resource Library was captured in a time-lapsed video. Click [here](#) to view the video. ▼

Jennifer Daniels, assistant to bestselling picture book author Eric Litwin, performed an interactive literacy and music event at the Central Resource Library. More than 150 children and parents sang, danced and soaked up the excitement of reading. Library staff used the opportunity to promote the start of Storytimes at Central as well as the 6 by 6 program in general. ►



▲ The Shawnee Neighborhood Library began collaborating with the **Shawnee Civic Centre**, providing book lists that tie in with classes offered by the centre. Shawnee's deputy parks and recreation director invited similar collaboration for the group's monthly speeches at Old Shawnee Town.



Convenience



Fabulous service. You guys went out of your way to get me this book in about two seconds. Not kidding. I called and in about two seconds was told two copies were available and one had my name on it. I appreciate the excellent service.

Corinth and Lackman Neighborhood Libraries place a cart of **DVDs between check out stations**, leading one patron to comment in February how appreciative she was of the convenient selection. She couldn't go back to the DVD section because of her little one and was glad a few were easily accessible as they checked out. ▶



◀ Exchange between a teen patron and Antioch Neighborhood Library staff:

"I'm looking for, like, vampires."

"Real ones?"

"Haha. No ... well, yes."

"Hmm."

A patron emailed a complaint to Shawnee Neighborhood Library Manager Terry Velasquez about the noise caused by another patron on the phone. Terry **promptly replied, offered potential solutions** and asked her to give the library another chance. "I'm willing to come back," she wrote, "because of the time you took to address my concerns." ▼



Education

Johnson County Library's use of the BiblioCommons catalog software continues to draw praise from the company and inquiries from library systems across the country. Library staff spoke with staff from **Tulsa Public Library** in February about best practices using BiblioCommons for the online summer reading program. Staff from **New York Public Library** also reached out, complimenting our Common Core booklists and inquiring about future collaboration using the software. ▶



New York Public Library



Photo courtesy of Michael Terry/Shawnee Dispatch

▲ Youth Information Specialist Kathleen Byrd presented the **history of sled dogs at the Shawnee Neighborhood Library**. A total of 35 adults and children attended the February event. Kathleen's two Siberian huskies, Gloria and Eddie, and an actual dog sled served as visual aids and delighted the children. Thanks to her annual presentations, Kathleen and the Library have been welcomed into local schools where she promotes library materials and services.

Are you smarter than a 5th grader? For parents who answer "no," the Johnson County Library Foundation sponsors the services of **Tutor.com**, an online homework resource available to patrons seven days a week at no cost. Youth Services Manager Barbara Brand fielded a phone call from a patron who was thrilled to know we had the service because she could no longer help her son with his Algebra II homework. ▼

HOMWORKHELP

*I've used the rhymes and fingerplays learned in **Mother Goose Rhyme time** so many times in restaurants and when in line with our kids. It's made such a difference in their ability to happily wait.*



**SEAN CASSERLY
COUNTY LIBRARIAN**