



# Johnson County Library

## County Librarian's Report March 2014



White Lions, a two-piece Kansas City blues band, performs at the 2014 elementia reception held at the Central Resource Library on Tuesday, March 11.

## INFORMATION ITEM

May 8, 2014

To: Members of Johnson County Library Board of Directors

From: County Librarian Sean Casserley

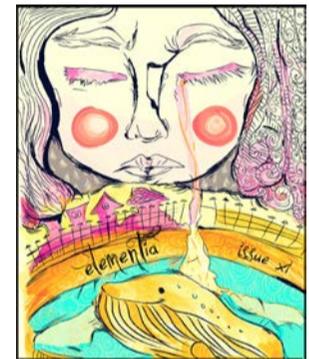
Re: County Librarian's Report for March 2014

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*COMMUNITY*

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More than 200 kids, teens and adults attended a March reception at the Central Resource Library celebrating the **11th issue of "elementia,"** the Johnson County teen art and literature magazine. Poet Naomi Shihab Nye has been confirmed as the 2015's featured author. The publication's committee will also approach area teachers in April about working the magazine into fall curriculum.



The Brooklyn Public Library and BiblioCommons, Inc., through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), will create and pilot a **library-based and open sourced digital badging system**. Johnson County Library will contribute to the project by experimenting with a variety of programming and badge promotion opportunities in our existing BiblioCommons Summer Reading sites. Click [here](#) to read the full press release.

In March, **Johnson County Library joined Pinterest**, a social network of individuals and groups who share and organize creative visuals via virtual pin boards. The Library profile gained 103 followers in its first month. Click [here](#) to see the Library's collection of fun visuals including displays at our neighborhood libraries.



Director of Communication Kasey Riley hosted the **2014 Leadership Northeast class** at the Central Resource Library. Kasey spoke about the Library and foundation and fielded questions from the class, part of the Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce.

Communication staff from **Johnson County Library and Mid-Continent Public Library** further planned co-promotion of the systems' Summer Reading programs. The systems along with television media partner KMBC-9 will promote summer reading across the metro under the name of "Read Together."



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## CONVENIENCE

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In working toward a more convenient and consistent Library system, the **Leawood Pioneer Neighborhood Library's** adult collection is now organized similar to other neighborhood libraries. Patrons will find the Science Fiction, Graphic Fiction and Westerns following the Mysteries and before the Non Fiction.

*I really **love the service the library gives to the public.**  
I get the type of books I need for my school assignment.  
Keep up the good work you are doing.*

- Erjabo, Library patron

Information Specialist Colleen Olinger talked to a gentleman about Library offerings during a weekly **Shawnee Chamber of Commerce networking event**. He was fascinated about the eLibrary and had no idea Johnson County Library offered anything like it. He works at an Edward Jones office and planned to go back to his office to spread the word.

Attendance continues to increase at **Mill Creek Storytimes**. Early Literacy Coordinating Librarian Bradley Debrick presented four Storytimes in March attracting more than 200 adults and children. The audience for one Storytime numbered 17 kids and 13 adults in spite of sub-zero temperatures and snow.

*The ease in using **Acoustic and Blio** (apps) is wonderful and **Mango** (online language learning) is amazing. My one grandson is Hispanic and my other is Korean. I have a great tool for learning both. Thank you, thank you, thank you.*

- Maria, Library patron

Johnson County is currently conducting an **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) assessment** of all county facilities and will be assessing all Library locations to ensure our buildings are ADA compliant.

The Web Content team rolled out two new features to the web catalog in March that boost its convenience and browsability. Patrons can now **place holds with one click** of the mouse. Also, a new **"From the critics"** service pulls in reviews from more than 500 newspapers and other sources including The New York Times and Wall Street Journal.

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## EDUCATION

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The Warden at the Lansing Correctional Facility provided videography services to the Library at no charge for a new series of **6 by 6 finger play videos**, making it possible to produce more than 1,000 additional DVDs to distribute to new parents at Shawnee Mission Medical Center.



An 86-year-old patron visited the **Leawood Pioneer Neighborhood Library** in search of Daniel Silva books but also with a curiosity for the iPad. Youth Information Specialist Vanessa Schneider sat down with her and taught her how to use an iPad to access the Library's eBook application. The patron thanked Vanessa and the Library for being so wonderful to her.

Staff from the Shawnee and Lackman Neighborhood Libraries partnered to host a booth at the March 29 **Shawnee Healthy Lawn and Garden Expo**. Information Specialist Melody Kazmi (right) prepared plastic Easter eggs filled with Jolly Ranchers and messages promoting the Library's eBook offerings for the more than 600 in attendance. The Friends of the Johnson County Library provided Garden-related books as prizes as well.



An **Overland Christian School** instructor and three of her students from a Children's Literature class observed Youth Information Specialist Dorian Assenmacher's preschool Storytime at the Antioch Neighborhood Library. The group sat down afterwards to discuss strategies for incorporating early literacy skills and engage students through stories. They also toured the 6by6 space and learned about the concepts behind the activities.

Information Specialist Carol Cichelli helped a regular patron of the **Antioch Neighborhood Library** learn the meaning of a Buddhist term. Carol later discovered the patron needed it for a job interview, one that led to a job as a therapist. The patron, who had been unemployed for a long period of time, expressed her appreciation for the connection and help provided by Library staff during her difficult time. The term? Bodhisattva, a person who is able to reach nirvana but delays doing so out of compassion in order to save suffering beings.

According to the soon-to-be-released Annual Kansas Public Libraries Survey, **58% of libraries in the state are using Johnson County Library's 6 by 6 program.**

The Library communication team continued planning for an **integrated communication campaign taking place this summer.** The campaign will communicate library services, materials and events using a prompt of "What if?" and through a variety of channels including billboards located at southbound I-35 near Shawnee Mission Parkway and 79th & Metcalf.



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