



# Johnson County Library

## County Librarian's Report

January 2014



Artwork from five Library employees, including the above photography from Antioch Neighborhood Library Clerk Karyn Henry, were included in the county employee ArtsKC exhibit. County employees voted online for their favorites in February, with the winning entries to be recognized at the March 13 Board of County Commissioners meeting.

INFORMATION ITEM

January 13, 2013

To: Members of Johnson County Library Board of Directors  
From: County Librarian Sean Casserley  
Re: County Librarian's Report for January 2013

---

**COMMUNITY**

---

**Storytimes at the Gardner Neighborhood Library** premiered in January. Youth Services Librarian Melissa Wolters and Youth Information Specialists Catherine Groth and Cassie Coles led a variety of storytimes catering to babies, toddlers and preschoolers. January's preschool Storytime featured a winter theme, with attendees "ice skating" on wax paper and starting a "snowball" fight with sponges.

*This library is a lifeline for my husband who has Parkinson's disease. We are grateful for everything you do ... we don't even know how to thank you. **The library is beautiful and always stimulating our interests with exciting new displays.** We have high praise for the staff who are helpful and knowledgeable. Thank you.*

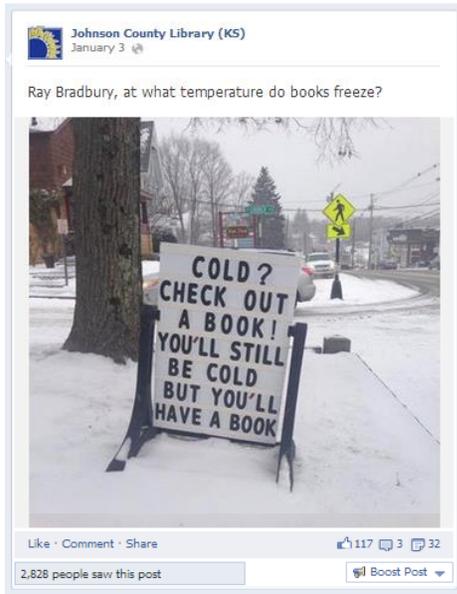
- Joyce, Library patron

Snowy conditions inspired one patron to visit the **Shawnee Neighborhood library** looking for a Country Living Magazine article on sleds. A sled made in 1905 sat in her basement, its value a mystery. Library staff helped her locate the article and, in true Antiques Roadshow fashion, discovered similar sleds are valued at \$1,500. The patron wondered what other treasures were hiding in her basement, so staff located and placed a hold on her behalf for an antiques price guide.

Library staff produced two videos for the **re-launch of the Library's YouTube channel**. The videos have been watched more than 1,000 times combined and are the beginning of a new emphasis on creating video content that engages and excites the Library's online community.



A photo shared with the **Library's Facebook community** made light of low temps and reached more than 2,800.

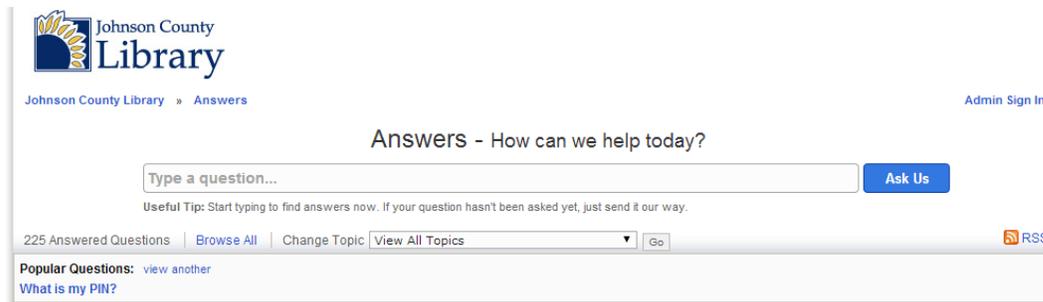


---

## CONVENIENCE

---

The Library debuted **answers.jocolibrary.org**, a 24/7 online resource for patrons with library-related questions. Patrons can now ask questions and receive answers by text.



Johnson County Library representatives met with representatives from **Kansas City Public Library, Mid-Continent Public Library and Olathe Public Library** to move forward the idea of a shared catalog that enriches the Kansas City community as a whole. The regional cooperation group selected Johnson County Library's Michelle Beesley as project manager for the initiative.

*Every time my husband and I are on your site or mobile app we talk about how exceptional it is. In his words, 'It's off the charts!' In other words, **best site and mobile app in any market, by far!***

- Robin, Library patron

### Interlibrary Loan

Items Johnson County Library loaned to other libraries:

**2,243 (48% of requests)**

Items Johnson County Library borrowed from other libraries:

**1,601 (62% of requests)**

---

### EDUCATION

---

**Special education teachers and students from Shawnee Mission Northwest High School** visited the Shawnee Neighborhood Library to learn Library usage and career tips. Library staff demonstrated how to search the catalog, use the Library's eBooks and eAudiobook products as well as the Learning Express Library. Staff later received an email from the teachers thanking them and describing how much the students enjoyed the class.

Nearly 50 parents and children visited the Lackman Neighborhood Library on January 21 to experience a **new discovery center** highlighting the STEM areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The elementary-aged kids, with moms and dads in tow, had fun exploring the seven stations.

School Library Journal, the leading print magazine serving librarians who work with young people, selected the work of a student reviewer from Johnson County Library's **Read and Review program**. The

**School Library Journal**

program, facilitated by Youth Information Specialist Jenny Mendez and hosted at Mill Valley High School, welcomed 23 teens and one adult in January.

A college-aged patron walked into the Gardner Neighborhood Library with a question: Should he cite sources in a scholarship application essay or not? Information Specialist Debbie

Frizzell referred him to a tutor through **Johnson County Library's Homework Help** service, who gave it the old college try in advising the patron to cite his sources and get in touch with a University of Kansas counselor.

Gardner Neighborhood Library Branch Manager Roxanne Belcher met with Judge Stephen Tatum, diversion-related public servants Letitia Ferwalt and Jason Covington, and others to talk about the benefits of the **Changing Lives through Literature** program. Jason and Letitia will be talking with Johnson County District Attorney Steve Howe with the aim of making the program a viable option for those on diversion.

Maker Librarian Meredith Nelson accompanied Teen Services Coordinating Librarian Kate McNair to the **Juvenile Detention Center** with 3D printer in tow. The tandem talked about the MakerSpace and making in general with 33 teens. Attendees printed nuts and bolts, 10-sided dice and other 3D knick knacks. One teen shared his excitement for electronics and plan to build from scratch a controller for a game he designed.



###