



Johnson County Library

County Librarian's Report

January 2013



This **Shawnee Neighborhood Library** display was created by **Jenny Mendez (Information Specialist)**. She took this idea of wrapping books from the YALSA listserv. Staff took turns finding great books and little blurbs to try and grab the reader's attention while also obscuring the book titles. **Melody Kazmi (Information Specialist)** is the expert with gift wrapping. She reported that one of the books was checked out within minutes of putting the display up and the patron commented on it being such a great idea and loving it.

INFORMATION ITEM

March 14, 2013

TO: Members of Johnson County Library Board of Directors
From: Sean Casserley, County Librarian
Re: County Librarian's Report for the Month of December 2012

This Month's Highlights

Michelle Beesley (Web Content Manager) created a page for our new eMusic service Freegal, handled setting up the service with the vendor and troubleshoot issues with **Scott Sime (Technology Training Specialist)** and **Kristin Whitehair (Collections Selector)**. Implementation went smoothly and patrons are stoked about the new service.

Shawnee Neighborhood Library reports "A mom and her son have been attending a preschool storytime. Each storytime has a focus on 6 by 6 Ready to Read. There is a collection of wordless books available for patrons to check out after storytime. Staff continues to explain the virtues of wordless books, and shown examples of those that have Caldecott honors and awards. Some of these books have gone home with patrons after the storytimes. After one storytime, a mother explained how much she loves the wordless books and said she never knew such books existed. She wants to eventually check out all the library wordless books the Library owns. She went on to explain her native tongue is Spanish, and her husband's native tongue is Turkish. They also speak English at home. With each wordless book they've checked out, the child tells his story first, in English. Next, the mother tells her version of the story in Spanish, and finally the father tells his version of the story in Turkish.

Vanessa Schnieder (Youth Information Specialist) received a comment from patron that she was a hero in their household. When asked why, the patron explained that Vanessa had showed this gentleman's son the easy picture books and the child fell in love with these books.

Bethany Taylor (Information Specialist) reports that a gentleman came in to the **Corinth Neighborhood Library** and told her that a different staff member had shown him how to access the Consumer Reports online and that he has been using it frequently since. He said that he was amazed at the wealth of electronic databases, magazines and journals that he had access to through the library and was pleased with how we allocated our resources.

Blue Valley Neighborhood Library reports a patron came into the Library and asked for help with her Johnson County Library mobile app on her smartphone. At the end of the conversation she exclaimed, "I LOVE THIS NEW APP! IT'S PHENOMENAL!"

An **Antioch Neighborhood Library** patron commented, "I live off of your database Reference USA; I practically run my business with it. It's great!"

Chris Koppenhaver (Youth Services Librarian at the Lackman Neighborhood Library) reports that a few patrons have given him a new nickname. Chris overheard a grandmother say to her granddaughter: "He already has his (her grandson) books; my 'Mr. Information' helped him out.

I. Using Library Resources

Elementia final selections were made, formatted and designed. Planning for Elementia, the teen literary magazine for Johnson County Library, was completed in January.

Shawnee Neighborhood Library now has a television dedicated to playing book trailers. Booths display new YA books in a space that does not remind teens of school, but instead invites them to stick around and enjoy the library.

Patrons continue to express happiness with the automatic book returns and even more happiness with their items being taken off their account immediately.

II. Early Literacy

Bradley Debrick (Early Literacy Coordinator) reported a patron for whom he planned a "library resources for homeschoolers" visit back in 2007 tracked him down and asked him to repeat the visit for her virtual school.

Corinth Neighborhood Library reports they have taken the dinosaurs have been removed from the everyday toy assortment in the Youth Services area to allow families to focus on 6 by 6 initiatives and themed kits. Many children are asking about them. They will most likely make an appearance during summer reading.

Gloria Liposchak (Information Specialist at Lackman Neighborhood Library) spoke at length with Mary Chollet, who teaches Children's Literature at Penn Valley Community College, about 6 by 6 Ready to Read. She took some materials and said she wanted to share this information with her students. Gloria also mentioned that it was the 75th anniversary for the Caldecott Awards, which she said she would also share with her students.

III. Serving Children & Teens

Kate McNair (Young Adult Librarian) helped a teen patron get a book on Justin Bieber on her phone. We didn't own a print copy, but owned a digital one and she was amazed to see how easy it was.

To the delight of children and parents/care-givers, storytime began after the holidays.

Bethany Taylor (Information Specialist at Corinth Neighborhood Library) has been looking for more opportunities to use the playpacks, and have had parents/caregivers pleasantly surprised that we have them to offer to the public.

IV. Serving Adults

Staff has been helping patrons with iPads, smart phones and Kindles in learning how to use the new eBooks. Patrons seem genuinely excited for this addition to Library services.

- eBook stats from December 18, 2012 to January 31, 2013
 - eBook page external webpage visits: 14,573
 - eBooks checked out: 3,355

Staff continues to report a large number of patrons using public PCs to search for jobs, responding to ads and completing online applications and creating resumes and cover letters.

Leslie Nord (Lackman Neighborhood Library Branch Manager) sent a note to the new Lenexa Police Chief, Tom Honglso, congratulating him on his new position and offering the meeting room. He emailed Leslie back and said he may use it for Town Hall meetings later this year.

V. Interlibrary Loan

ILL borrowed 5,603 items in January 2013 and loaned 1,907 items.

15 new libraries requested materials from Johnson County Library in January.

VI. Early Literacy Outreach

Johnson County Library continues working with the Kansas State Library regarding the expansion of the 6 by 6 program. This month, **Bradley Debrick (Early Literacy Coordinator)** provided the State Library with 6 by 6 activity kit plans.

The **Antioch Neighborhood Library 6 by 6 Space** had 1,689 visitors. This breaks down to 84 people each day. The final numbers for 2012 showed a 12.8% increase in attendance from 2011.

Ken Werne (Antioch Neighborhood Library Branch Manager) reported meeting the new tenant for the empty building next to the library. The owner will be providing pediatric occupational therapy to children with all kinds of disabilities including autism and other spectrum disorders. The new owner explained the building's proximity to the library was a major reason she purchased the building. Ken continued by telling the owner about the 6 by 6 program and discussed a future collaboration

VII. Outreach

This month, the **Cedar Roe Neighborhood Library IS** placed 127 holds for HomeConnect patrons, while the clerks handled 491 items for 85 patrons. Systemwide, they reached 266 seniors.

Antioch Neighborhood Library reports that after months of not being able to perform as much outreach as in the past due to staff shortages, they are finally able to discuss resuming outreach efforts into the community.

VIII. Marketing and Community Engagement

Susan Mong (Volunteer Coordinator) has accepted the position of Executive Director of the Foundation position.

The Books and Butchers program, developed in conjunction with Associate Director for System-wide Services, received national media attention in January 2013. Articles ran in Wall Street Journal, The Atlantic Wire and on social media sites.