



Johnson County Library

County Librarian's Report June 2013



As many as 85 people per session attended the Johnson County Library Story Times being offered at the Mill Creek Activity Center during the month of June.

INFORMATION ITEM

August 8, 2013

To: Members of Johnson County Library Board of Directors
From: Sean Casserley, County Librarian
Re: County Librarian's Report for the Month of June 2013

This Month's Highlights

Participation in **Online Summer Reading** has been growing and by the end of June we had nearly 1000 children, 500 teens and over 600 adults registered online. Bibliocommons (the library catalog) is adding features regularly and we participants now have the option of creating and taking quizzes based on books they have read. Children ages 6-11 seem to be the biggest youth users; however we have children from birth through 12 who have signed up online. Most preschoolers (and their parents) still prefer the paper logs.

The Creative Café program at **DeSoto Neighborhood Library** was designed this summer to give young patrons a chance to do storytelling with fun, exciting technology. It is a small scale MakerSpace using iPads instead of iMacs. Kids are encouraged to try their hand at creating a book trailer or video, but by far our most popular activity is creating LEGO stop motion animation movies. DeSoto staff were able to borrow supplies from the Central MakerSpace for summer sessions which included 2 iPads with the Smoovie app and a bucket of LEGOs. DeSoto staff have since added the app to the DeSoto iPad so as to continue to offer the activity after the program ends. So far 7 videos have been created ranging from 2 seconds to 42 seconds. There are still 2 more sessions coming up in July.

After attending a mother-daughter book club at the **Corinth Neighborhood Library**, a mother told Diane Haner that the book club was wonderful, that it was run the way a book club should be run. She and her daughter had been to other book clubs that were not focused. The patrons had praise for Mary Brown and her ability to facilitate a productive discussion.

A Gardner police officer conducted a walk-through of the **Gardner Neighborhood Library**. Officer Benz told Gardner Neighborhood Library staff that the police were going to walk the "beat" more, getting out and making their presence known. We're thrilled to have Gardner police officers coming by to chat with patrons and make their presence known.

Margaret Ohmes of the **Gardner Neighborhood Library** shared the following story, "An adult was helping her child with a summer reading entry form and I explained that adults were also included in the summer reading fun this year. The patron responded, "I love that I can participate too! My children learn from what they see me do just as much as from what I tell them."

I. Convenient, Delightful & Rewarding Library Service

Using Library Resources

A woman came visited the **Shawnee Neighborhood Library** with her son, who was looking for *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan. Though the title was not in the collection at Shawnee Neighborhood Library, Shawnee staffer Colleen Olinger asked them if they wanted to put it on hold. The boy looked panicked & said he couldn't wait. Colleen then asked them if it was needed for school, & the mom said he needed an Accelerated Reader book read before school session ends in a few days. Colleen looked up the Accelerated Reader level of *The Lightning Thief* on the Accelerated Reader Bookfinder website, and found a few other books on our shelf and looked up their levels. Colleen found one that had almost an identical level titled *Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix, and the son was interested and wanted to check it out. Though the mom lost her library card and hadn't been to a Johnson County Library location in years, Colleen provided her with a new library card and showed her how to use the self-checks. Mom and son left very happy.

With the help of Information Technology Manager, Matt Sapp and Information Services Operations Coordinator, Monica Duffield, Johnson County Library Web Content Team purchased *Libanswers* from Springshare for our Library knowledgebase. The Web Content team then customized it and trained extensively to learn how best to incorporate it into reference staff's workflow. Web Content customized the Libanswers product and have named it "*Answers: Library Knowledgebase*". Answers will go live to the public with the new library website in October 2013.

Johnson County Library launched eMagazines page to reflect new Zinio service (soft launch June 20 and full promotional launch in late June and early July. Web Content also customized the Zinio interface as much as possible when new look was unveiled June 3, 2013.

Early Literacy

Corinth Neighborhood Librarian, Beth Markowitz, Early Childhood Literacy Coordinator, Bradley Debrick and Corinth Neighborhood Library Branch Manager, Kinsley Riggs met to discuss outreach story times to the Paul Henson YMCA in Prairie Village. Currently Beth is presenting to the kids, but there is no real parent or care provider contact about 6by6: Ready to Read. Beth is going to meet with the directors to ask what outlets the library can use to push 6by6: Ready to Read and if there is the possibility of a 6by6: Ready to Read training session for parents and care providers.

Michelle Krooswyk, Youth Services Librarian at Antioch Neighborhood Library, provided the 6 by 6: Ready to Read overview to Johnson County Library staff this month stepping in at the last minute trip to assist Early Childhood Literacy Librarian,

Bradley Debrick who went to Washington D.C. She received very high marks from participants.

Nancy Birmingham of the Blue Valley Neighborhood Library and Caitlin Taggart (also of Blue Valley Neighborhood Library) have created a display of fun things to do in summer. The resulting display has included balloons, airplanes, origami, etc. It has been very popular and provided a good work station for kids while their caretakers talked with Information Services staff about research or Reader's Advisory.

The highly successful "Read to a Dog" program at Gardner Neighborhood Library was held with two Delta certified dogs, a Lab and a Westie. Fifteen children had fun reading to the dogs.

Staff at the **Shawnee Neighborhood Library** had a suggestion to use Tumblebooks in story time. **Youth Services Manager, Barbara Brand**, did some checking around and asked if the State Library would consider purchasing them for all our libraries to use and it looks like the State Library of Kansas will be purchasing them in the future!

A grandmother and granddaughter were using the **6by6: Ready to Read area at the DeSoto Neighborhood Library**. The grandmother was singing several counting and rhyming songs to the girl and going through the activities with her. Luckily for other patrons, she had a good singing voice.

Serving Children & Teens

Antioch Neighborhood Library staff served 167 youth in the month of June. 3,205 people visited the 6 by 6 area (a slight decrease of 3.2% from May). Antioch Youth Services staff members continued to provide story times (in tandem!) this summer gearing them toward children of all ages by using their large-group format with lots of music and audience participation.

Youth Services Information Specialist, Dorian Assenmacher, Youth Services Librarian, Michelle Krooswyk and Branch Manager, Ken Werne of Antioch Neighborhood Library attended PossAbilities Pediatric Therapy's open house. PossAbilities is located next door to the Antioch Neighborhood Library and the intention is to build a strong relationship with the organization and their staff so as to effectively explore partnership possibilities.

At the **DeSoto Neighborhood Library**, a mother came in with her preschool son and said they had found a *SpongeBob* disc in player and her son said it was from the library. It had no markings on it and nothing in the account comments. But the boy was quite emphatic that it had come from the library and wasn't their personal DVD so DeSoto staffer, Janine Myers kept looking. Then the mother said she had the checkout receipt in the car and asked if that would help. She got it from the car and, with the item number, I was able to locate the DVD by title and item number as a 3-part set. It was on a cart (E card, not the DVD cart) awaiting reshelving. The boy was quite happy about being able to return the item to the library where it belongs.

A mother let **Katy Whim of the DeSoto Neighborhood Library** know that she really enjoyed Katy's Desoto Parents as Teachers program. The mother said her son really enjoyed the stories that Katy shared.

Another local mother was emphatic in letting DeSoto staff know that the library is her daughter's favorite place to go.

Adult Programming and Outreach

Kathleen Byrd at the Shawnee Neighborhood Library shared the story of a senior patron who came in to pick up a book on hold. Kathleen told her all about the new adult summer reading program and how she could participate. She was so excited about being in libraries again. Kathleen received a very nice card from her thanking her for getting encouraging her interest in visiting libraries again.

Corinth Neighborhood Library Information Specialist, Diane Haner, helped host the KC Noir panel at the Jewish Community Center. She felt that she best served the library at the June 9th author panel by making connections with one of the authors and with staff from the Mysteryscape bookstore. They discussed the library partnering with Sisters in Crime (the author's group) and with the bookstore for future events.

DeSoto and Lackman Branch Manager, Leslie Nord gave a short "commercial" about Johnson County Library and how the library can help businesses at a Chamber Breakfast. Afterward a local small business person came up and asked for more information about reserving our study rooms. She said, "that is sweet to know, thanks!" **Leslie also had two different people ask for help learning how to use Reference USA and made arrangements for them to come in for a training session with staff.**

Teen Librarian, Kate McNair, had the first 3 sessions of *Changing Lives Through Literature* for eight participants at Central. **Catherine Groth, new Youth Services staff member from the Gardner Neighborhood Library**, is sitting in to get a feel for the program. They have also had an intern from field services join them.

Teen Librarian, Kate McNair has been taking a fresh look at the *Read to Succeed* program. Kate is working with Youth Services staff to try a new program at the Juvenile Detention Center this summer. **Youth Information Specialist, Debbie Frizzell, and Teen Librarian Kate McNair** are doing a book-to-movie club. They bring copies of the books (for residents of JDC to keep). They have 4 days to read then they come back to discuss and watch the movie with snacks. So far it has been very well received and residents seem to really enjoy it.

Collection Development

Robin Davin, Christian Madrigal (of the Library Leadership Program) are working with **Collections Manager, Adam Wathen, Fiction Selector, Julie Connoley, and Associate**

Director for Central Services, Carolyn Weeks to develop an Intellectual Freedom Workshop for Library staff in the metropolitan area.

Collections Manager Adam Wathen and Econtent Librarian Kristin Whitehair are working on taking numerous federal publications and making them more accessible electronically.

Adam and the Collections team (with help from training, Web, and Marketing) launched Zinio (an eMagazine) product in the month of June.

Econtent Librarian, Kristin Whitehair, has assumed the responsibility for the reference collection with a goal of making reference materials accessible electronically.

Collections Manager, Adam Wathen attended ALA and presented on the interpretation of eBook stats to a robust and inquisitive group of attendees at the conference. **Adam also met with the Recorded Books Advisory Board** to discuss the future of the services Recorded Books and provide feedback on what libraries would like to see Recorded Books offer in the near and distant future.

Interlibrary Loan

ILL borrowed approximately 2,450 items in June 2013 and loaned approximately 1,700 items.

Approximately 7 new libraries requested materials from Johnson County Library in January.

III. *Serving Underserved Populations*

Early Literacy - Outreach

Early Childhood Literacy Coordinator, Bradley Debrick, along with staff from Shawnee Neighborhood Library and Cedar Roe Neighborhood Library offered four story times at Mill Creek Activity Center in June. Weekly attendance ranges from 54 to 85 people with lots of returning satisfied customers!

Hispanic and Immigrant Populations

Oak Park Neighborhood Library Branch Manager, Maggie Vallazza and German Perilla represented Johnson County Library with a library booth at Latino Art Bravisimo event at Lenexa City Hall and reached 68 people with information about JCL Latino services as well as made some connections with local Latino artists.

Oak Park Neighborhood Library staffer, Christine Peterson, contacted Aspen Lodge, Quivira place apartments to initiate the 6by6: Ready to Read in Spanish program in the apartment complex next Fall.

Maggie Vallazza and Christine Peterson provided an overview of Oak Park Neighborhood Library's Services to Latinos initiative and the implementation of the **6by6: Ready to Read en Español program** to a Johnson County Community College "Promotores" taskforce interested in reaching out to Latinos.

IV. *Marketing & Community Engagement*

In Johnson County

Patron Deborah Benton called telephone reference wanting to thank Johnson County Library for putting such a lovely article in KC Studio Magazine (magazine dropped at the end of June). She talked to **Director of Communications, Kasey Riley**, to express her gratitude and to encourage further articles of this type.

Director of Communications, Kasey Riley worked with County Librarian, Sean Casserley to prepare for the Roeland Park Citizen's Town Hall Meeting that took place on June 13, 2013. The topic of discussion was the Cedar Roe Neighborhood Library and County Librarian, Sean Casserley, was clear that this was the first of many conversations he plans to have with the Roeland Park community regarding the **Cedar Roe Neighborhood Library**.

Several Johnson County Library employees that attended the presentation, "Suburban Poverty: Meeting the Challenge with Effective Strategies", on Tuesday, June 18, offered through United Community Services of Johnson County, with Erik Stegman of Half in Ten at American Progress as guest speaker. It covered the current state of Johnson County poverty, and how the numbers effected might be cut in half in just 10 years with by creating good jobs in the community to help build stronger families.

Community Relations Coordinator, Marsha Bennett, presented at ALA conference on Fiduciary Responsibilities of Friends Boards and conducted three roundtables related to online book selling. As a *United for Libraries* Board member, met with board and committees. Marsha also coordinated the attendance of three Friends board members at the ALA Conference.

Meredith Nelson of the Central Resource Library is playing a role as 'consultant' to many area libraries that sought me out at Maker Faire to talk about how to build their own library maker space. At Maker Faire alone, Meredith connected with six librarians from four library systems (KCMO, KCK, Cass County, and Pikes Peak District) all wanting to know details of how the space was created and how to contact Meredith for future reference. Of particular note, a library student doing research on maker spaces in libraries informed Meredith that Johnson County Library has the **best maker space website** of all the libraries he has examined. Another librarian

(from Cass County) has told shared that she's currently using Meredith's booklists as her collection development plan for her own space.
