
Patron-Driven Service Update:

Children's Services: We had special guests from the Fire Department for Fire Safety Week at the beginning of October. Our firefighters presented to lots of excited kids (and their grownups) about all of the gear they use and the training they receive in order to keep our community safe. During two of these programs a representative from New York Life volunteered to make child identification sheets that can be used in a time of crisis. Many of our patrons with young children were happy to have this service offered.

We assisted a good number of patrons looking for books to read for America Reads Day (https://unitedwayofeastcentraliowa.galaxydigital.com/event/detail/?event_id=31183). Many of them were grandparents or community members who haven't read to kids in a long time. Seeing our community get excited about reading is such a joy! Olivia, Lara, and Jackie all had the opportunity to read to classrooms across Marion and share about the work we do in the library.

Adult Services: Our new 6 Lenovo Think Pads have arrived and are in circulation! Our patrons appreciate the technology update. Many thanks to our partners at the Cedar Rapids Public Library for installing the necessary software on the new devices. Streaming services continue to be an area of growth in our collection. Our Kanopy usage is up, especially with the Great Courses collection. Our patrons logged on to the service 883 times in October. There were 410 items borrowed through Hoopla, and 43% of Hoopla users borrowed their maximum amount of titles.

Teen Services: Rachel Pollari, Teen Services Assistant, partnered with Excelsior Middle School's teacher-librarian, Kris Hart, and the Marion Police Department to host another Donut Diorama Day for iExcel students at EMS. 40 sixth graders won the chance to participate via raffle ticket drawing. Much sugar-filled, Halloween Day fun was had, and we look forward to growing our partnership with EMS and Linn-Mar district students with future programs.

Our displays this month included a space/science fiction theme for Teen Read Week. Throughout the week, teens participated by writing book and program reviews and doing a scavenger hunt. We challenged them to look outside their comfort zones and find books all throughout the library, using the catalog and librarians as a resource.

Finally, we also hosted our second annual Paranormal Lock-In. Local group "All Out Paranormal" came back to share stories, sounds, and videos of their paranormal discoveries. Teens also played spooky games, including the crowd favorite: Hide-and-Seek.

Patron & Access Services: We have been working on some new work flows with the recently returned items. By cutting out three steps with returned items we have been able to get materials back on the shelves for patrons within 24 hours of being returned.

Collection Strategies: Welcome to Collection Strategies! Sue has moved over from Circulation to a new position: Collection Strategies. What does that mean? In order to keep our collection fresh, up to date, and reflecting our community, Sue will be working on weeding our print materials as her first task. Weeding has begun in Mystery and Science Fiction; Children's easy readers and non-fiction will be coming up in the next few months. Future projects also include merchandising, looking at gaps in our collection, and working with the MLN to keep an open dialogue on our shared catalog and best practices.

Marketing & Promotion: No update

Talent-Development Update:

Children's Services: Olivia Stoner presented at the Iowa Library Association Conference "Summer VISTAS: Get Help When You (And Young Readers In Your Community) Need It Most" about the Americorps Summer VISTA program. Lara Moellers and Jackie Tracey attended the ILA Conference all day Thursday and had the opportunity to attend a variety of youth and public service sessions that build on their knowledge. Olivia was named Chair of the Youth Services Subdivision, and Jackie was named Chair of the Library Support Services Staff Subdivision. They will both be attending the ILA Conference Planning meeting this November.

Jackie is currently attending a weekly online Public Libraries Management class through the State Library of Iowa to get a better understanding of the ins and outs of library work. She has already gained insights and ideas from her peers and instructors.

Adult Services: Temporary Adult and Information Services Specialist Carl Barnhart's last day was October 9th. We wish him the best as he continues his education! Madeline presented with colleagues at Cedar Rapids Public Library at the 2018 Iowa Library Association conference, as well as the Marion Public Library's Teen Services team and with Dawn Cline.

Madeline presented on library's senior services and spaces to the Marion Chamber Winners' Circle on Wednesday, October 10th. She is also active with the 2018-2019 class of Marion Leadership in Action.

Teen Services: Rachel Pollari, Shanel Slater (Teen Services Specialist), and Madeline Jarvis (Adult and Information Services Coordinator) presented at the annual Iowa Library Association Conference this year on "Building and Sustaining After School Teen Programming." We shared our successes and provided scalable lessons, tactics and ideas any library can do, no matter their size.

Collection Strategies:

Many staff attended the Iowa Library Association Conference held in Cedar Rapids this year. This year's theme was Access, Connections, Action. Dawn Cline was awarded the ILA 2018 Distinguished Career Award. This conference is a chance for our staff to network and learn from our colleagues.

Marketing & Promotion:

Emily Moon started in the role of Content Specialist and has hit the ground running support staff with communication and promotions. We completed our search for the Marketing and Development Manager. We are excited that Norah Hammond accepted our offer and her first day was on November 5th.

Risk-Taking & Flexibility Update:

Children's Services: We are being flexible about getting our genrefication system up and running. We are still focused on switching over favorite authors and series and shifting the collection to reflect the changes.

Adult Services: Adult and Information Services Specialist Berlinda Owens has been surveying program attendees at Monday morning programs on community and recreational needs. Our patrons are taking ownership and agency over these morning social spaces.

We hosted several evening programs in October, including blues historian Joey Leone and Midwestern author Loretta Ellsworth. We continue to strive to balance library programming with our limited community space.

Collection Strategies: No update

Marketing & Promotion: No update

Marketing Communications Update:

Children's Services: No Update

Adult Services: We tried new formats of Hoopla promotion. It was a great opportunity to work with a vendor to assess our community's needs.

Collection Strategies: No update

Marketing & Promotion: No update

Building Project Campaign Update:

We held a combined board and city council meeting and gained approval from the board to enter into an agreement with Joe Huberty to update our needs assessment.

Building/Facilities Update:

We gained approval to have the HVAC control system fixed. A resolution for approval by city council will be presented on 11/8/2018. We are also working with a contractor to fix our roof leaks as well as replace several damages and/or dirty ceiling tiles. Plans be designed to rearrange furniture and free up space for teens and children's programming.

Technology Update:

Our printer contract is up and we will be receiving new printers/copiers throughout the library under a new contract with the city's preferred vendor. We are also working on standardizing all the computer equipment on the floor through an adjusted rental agreement with CRPL.

Metro Library Network Update:

The Linn Area Reads committee met and selected the 2019 title.