Patron-Driven Service Update:

**Children’s Services:** In response to patron feedback anecdotally and through a recent survey, we are planning to add a few additional programs and events in the coming months. We will be introducing a regular Music & Movement program beginning in March. This will fit well into our morning schedule on Thursdays at 9:30--previously we’ve only had programs for babies on Thursday mornings, this will help us serve a variety of ages. We are also hoping to pilot using adaptive elements in our story times starting with the new Music & Movement class such as sensory fights, noise-cancelling headphones, and picture schedules that will create a more welcoming environment for patrons of all abilities.

We will also be revamping our Monday evening Programming to be more elementary-age focused, adding pop-up events on Thursday evenings for families, and hosting monthly Saturday events to welcome more children and families into our space.

**Adult Services:** Thanks in part to cold weather and holiday-gifted tablets, our ebooks and audiobooks had a great month of circulation. Overdrive usage is up 84% from December to January, and Cloud Library is up 83%!

Adult and Information Services Specialist Berlinda Owens hosted a “Coping Skills for Caregivers” event in conjunction with the Family Caregivers Center of Mercy on January 18. This program was well received, and we are developing monthly sessions for adult caregiving starting in the late spring.

**Teen Services:** We “met patrons where they are” by hosting a finals Study Space at Aurora Coffee near Linn Mar High School. We were able to meet 9 new high schoolers out in the community and share what the library has to offer. Rachel Pollari, Teen Services Assistant, led a roleplay game called Honey Heist. Four teens played bears attempting to steal a beehive owned by “Abearham Lincoln.” All who attended expressed that they would like to have another session. We will continue to foster a roleplay gaming community here at the library.

**Patron & Access Services:** We have begun to use three different checking in stations in the staff work area. This makes it much easier to get materials checked back in and returned to the shelves much faster. Circulation staff has been doing a
lot of shelf reading to get things in order and much easier for our patrons to find things they are looking for.

**Collection Strategies:** We have continued to work in the Children’s area weeding Non-Fiction. Cataloging for the Marion Library has transitioned from Dawn (now Circulation Manager) to Sue. We continue to focus on processing new materials as quickly as possible to meet patron requests.

**Marketing & Promotion:** Share the Love For the Library February Events:
For the month of February we’d like to create a share your library love theme, all month long. This is more of a fun way to frame up activities for the month, and also remind patrons how much we appreciate them, and allow them to share their love with us.

Here is a quick reminder of some of the February activities we have going on which relate to this theme:

- Kids passive program 2/04-2/15-card making, book display, etc., in children’s area
- Coloring sheet display for kids, sheets displayed in the kids section, in library signage (kids area)
- Adult heart/book craft night, 2/05, 6:30a.m.-7:30 p.m.
- Adult valentine making, cupcake decorating event 2/14, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Snapchat filter for the month
- Facebook profile frame for the month
- Teen Un-Valentine’s Day programs-High school version is 2/13 from 4-5, Middle school version is 2/14 from 5-6
- Lara’s 2/20 National Pet Day celebration and activity
- Bookmark making activity for adults, in library display and sign (by info)
- Leave a Valentine message for the library, in library display and sign (lobby)

Will you message the share the love events? Will you provide a video testimonial to Norah and Emily about why you love working at the Marion Public Library?

**Talent-Development Update:**

**Children’s Services:** Now that we are a department of four, we needed some time to focus on communication, build our team, and strategize for the future of the newly titled Children's & Family Services Department. We were able to dig in to short-term
goals, as well as more ambitious strategies for where we see our department heading in the coming months and years. Stay tuned as we move ahead.

**Adult Services:** Adult and Information Services Manager Madeline Jarvis attended the 2019 American Library Association Midwinter Conference, where she shared her research on barriers to board service and participated in focus groups with the Center for the Future of Libraries. Madeline and Berlinda toured the IowaWorks center and were trained in on their computer system. We are grateful for the resources IowaWorks provides our community and look forward to using these new skillsets to better serve our patrons.

**Teen Services:** We hosted our biannual “State of the Teens” meeting. All city staff were invited. Six library staff attended, as well as Marion Fire Chief Deb Krebill. We shared our successes, particularly regarding building relationships, using direct teen input in our work, and cultivating a sense of community and belonging.

**Patron and Access Services:** We have begun to look at a new scheduling model. This would be something that staff can have access from home. Circulation staff has taken on all shelving which results in greater ownership of our collection. Dawn Cline, Patron Services Manager, created an online questionnaire for staff on the library’s processes. This was a great tool that showed where staff training is needed.

**Collection Strategies:** We are anticipating learning the ILL Wizard in Workflows to reduce the process we currently have for inter library loans. This will take place sometime in February, followed by Acquisitions for collections budget, as well as the Serials Wizard to help maintain our magazine collection.

**Marketing & Promotion:** N/A

**Risk-Taking & Flexibility Update:**

**Children’s Services:** We are pausing our genrefication project to focus our energy on our major weeding project. We are excited to revamp our space, but we can’t do so without a significant reduction in our collection size. Thankfully, we have some
wiggle room since there are lots of books that are past their prime. We are making every effort to be efficient, yet good stewards of our resources as we cull the collection. We are learning lessons as we go through the process and we are looking at multiple options of where items will end up.

**Adult Services:** Madeline is investigating partnering agencies to create a digitized map of historic Marion. She also met with several vendors and demoed new resources at Midwinter in dreams of our soon-to-be Teen Space.

**Teen Services:** As mentioned in last month’s report, our total number of programs has seen an increase due to the popularity of Teen Pathfinder Club. To accommodate our growing wait list, we opted to split the program into two separate groups. The library is thrilled to further cultivate a strong sense of community and enjoyment through roleplay games, particularly to accommodate a growing high school audience. Despite extreme temperatures and snow days in January, teens found their way to the library to play together. The spots that were open have already been filled, so we are once again at maximum capacity.

**Collection Strategies:** Requesting a part-time cataloging position to process all incoming materials to the library. Looking at revising our Romance section—weeding, refreshing titles, and moving authors to the Romance section who are currently in Fiction.

**Marketing & Promotion:** N/A

**Marketing Communications Update:**

**Children’s Services:** No update.

**Adult Services:** Madeline and Norah are investigating cost-share models of additional staffing support through Americorps VISTA. Madeline and Dawn presented on Marion Public Library’s senior services on a National Library of Medicine webinar. Over seventy librarians across the country joined in the live stream.
Teen Services: No update.

Collection Strategies: We continue to curate our collection in order to best meet the needs of our patrons, while updating many of our worn, damaged titles and making room for new spaces and new titles (which come out every week!)

Marketing & Promotion: In the News and Outreach:

JANUARY!
1/09/2019-Friends Fundraiser at Iowa Brewing
1/17/2019-Dr. Sundberg, KCC
1/19/2019-Ethical Perspectives TV Show
1/24/2019-Lions Club Presentation
1/24/2019-Marion Times Article
1/29/2019- Marion Homelessness Services and Needs
1/31/2019-State of the City

Building Project Campaign Update: No Update.

Building/Facilities Update: HVAC Repair 98% complete.

Technology Update: Updated OPACs.

Metro Library Network Update: No Update.