



monthly report

August 2016

Adult Services: The committee interviewing for a new Adult Services Librarian made an offer this month to Madeline Jarvis, currently the Youth Services Librarian at the Ely Public Library; Madeline has accepted and will start on Monday, September 12. We'll be excited to introduce her! Reference Assistant Rachel Pollari continues to create attention-grabbing displays in the area around the Information Desk; these really increase circulation for the books in the displays. She has recently created a display acknowledging the centennial anniversary of WWI at the request of a patron.

Children's Services: We finished up Summer Reading with a Kid's Pool Party at the Marion Pool that over 150 children and their families attended. We took a break from story times to regroup and plan for the coming year. Olivia hosted a group of fellow children's librarians from across the state in a roundtable discussion about how we can improve summer reading, potential performers we'd like to bring to the state, etc. Lara and Olivia attended the selection meeting for the 3rd round of Iowa's Bridge to Reading Award and assisted in choosing the top 10 nominees. We hired a new Part-Time Youth Services Assistant to replace Janet Peck. Jackie Tracey will be starting on September 12th.

Young Adult Services: In August we had our Final Party for the Teen Summer Reading Program at the Marion Pool, which had a nice turnout. We had outdoor games for them to do, besides swimming at the pool, as well as providing snacks. We also announced the winners of the grand prizes at the party and if any of the winners were present they could take the prizes with them at the time, otherwise we contacted them and they could pick them up at the library. We also had a Game Day and a Movie Day in August, showing the movie *Allegiant Part 1*. Our big program in August was Bad Art Night, which went very well and was very popular with the teens. They got to use their creative sides and paint in this artistic program.

Outreach Services: August has been a busy month. We celebrated National Coloring Day on August 2nd with a program called "Get Out and Color!" This gets us warmed up for our two very successful coloring programs which will resume in September. A home school group came to the library for a library tour for students and learned how to use the card catalog and find a book with the information they gathered. We have made another connection with an assisted living community this month. Dawn visited with the activities director at Bickford Cottage. They are very excited to have library services coming to them monthly.



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Circulation Services: August circulation statistics, which do not include online circulation are: Marion Public Library 62,122 – Cedar Rapids Public Library 61,942 – Ladd Library 27,139 – Hiawatha Public Library 20,777.

Library Programming: It was a relatively quiet month for programming as summer winds down. Our Genealogy and Scrabble programs continue to be popular. There was some confusion about dates for our August Chicken Certification class, so there ended up being no class this month. The Movie Monday show, “12 Angry Men,” drew in a capacity crowd! We hosted very popular programs on Monarchs in the Midwest, and on Tiny Houses (a reprise of our January program). SCORE started up its fall series a little early with a workshop this month on Digital Marketing Basics. And we wrapped up the month with a program by local historian Kathy Wilson, Downstairs at Downton, which drew in a full-house of appreciative fans of the series.

Building/Facilities Update: The HVAC bid process is in progress. Interested vendors have until September 16 to submit bids. The RFP stated the preferred completion date to be before October 31. We have requested an estimate for replacing the building alarms and security cameras through ADT. More details will come as this process moves forward. We are also sending out a brief RFP for janitorial services in an effort to improve upon the inadequate services currently provided.

Technology Update: We are glad to have James Hamous spending two mornings a week with us working on technology issues. The IT team from the Cedar Rapids Library (with whom we contract for services) spent on late evening and a bit of time on other days working to get our public computers updated.

Personnel: We are experiencing a lot of personnel changes this month. Page Kelsey Rhodes will be leaving early in September for a new job. We’ll be splitting up her job responsibilities, giving a few duties to Clerk Miranda Vollmer (mending books and pulling afternoon holds); Miranda’s tote responsibilities will go to new Clerk Luke Johnson beginning in early September. Luke has been a long-time volunteer and we’re excited to welcome him to the staff. Page Sarah Flanders has accepted a position as Part-time Library Assistant after Celeste Gerald’s resignation. Page Kayla Hamous (wife of our IT specialist James Hamous) is now out on maternity leave after giving birth to baby boy Aiden at the end of the month. Congratulations also to Part-time Library Assistant Brian Czernik, whose partner Heather gave birth to baby girl Emma in August!



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Youth Services Assistant Jackie Tracey has been hired and will begin work on September 12. And Adult Services Coordinator Madeline Jarvis begins her duties on September 12, as well. We have open positions posted for a Library Page and for a Part-time Library Assistant.

Metro Library Network Update: The MLN directors met with the Mayor and City Clerk from the City of Robins on August 29. We had a really positive discussion about the services provided through the Library Services Contract between MLN and Robins and talked a lot about how fees and costs are established. It was interesting to hear their questions and I look forward to working with them as they explore options for meeting the library needs of their residents. MLN will be combining part of the November staff training day this year. All library staff will start the day at CRPL for a shared training on library advocacy, then Marion and Hiawatha staff will return to their home libraries for individual sessions. MPL will be focusing on mental health first aid in the afternoon.

Out Loud! Update: No news to report.

Librarian's Report:

Two MPL babies were born since we last got together. Brian Czernik and his partner Heather welcomed Emma on August 25 and Kayla and James Hamous welcomed Aiden on August 30. Everyone is reportedly healthy and happy (though probably very tired!). I know you share my joy in celebrating these new additions to the world.

I had the opportunity to present to three community groups about the library and our building project since our last meeting: the Monday League of Cedar Rapids (August 8), Marion Sorosis (September 1), and the Marion Sunrisers Kiwanis Club (September 6). All three groups had great questions and wise input.

The Ward 1 "Wednesdays in the Ward" event was at the library on August 10, and it drew a good-sized crowd. There was quite a bit of dialog about the library project, as well as conversation about roundabouts, 7th Avenue construction, and other Marion projects. I am appreciative that the Mayor and our council members make this effort to reach the community, and was pleased to have the chance to host the Ward 1 meeting in our facility.

I staffed the Uptown Market on August 13, and heard from several community members with feedback about the library and our building project. I appreciate the candor the Market environment brings; people seem to speak very freely in the park! I answered



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several questions about our project and heard a number of positive comments about the library staff.

The Coordinators and I selected our top candidate for the Adult Services Coordinator position, and we look forward to welcoming Madeline Jarvis on September 12. Madeline currently works at the Ely Public Library and also serves as a Substitute Librarian for the Iowa City Public Library. We had an impressive pool of applicants, and Madeline stood out to us because of her passion for public library service and commitment to building community. I'm confident Madeline will be a great fit with our staff and patrons.

A group of local senior citizens and service providers met with the Mayor on August 31 to talk about how seniors are served in Marion and ways we could improve communication and create a continuum of care model. We'll be meeting again next month; I can't wait to find opportunities for the library to contribute to better and more complete services for Marion seniors.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsworth Carman