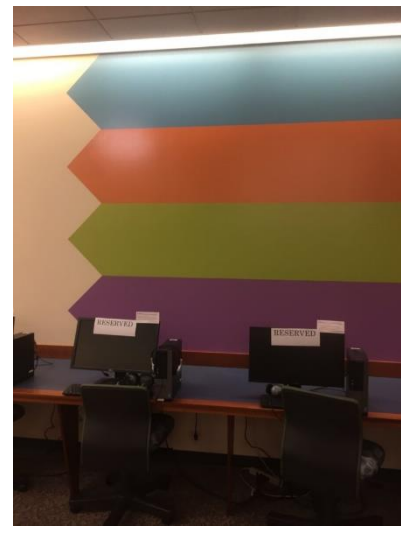
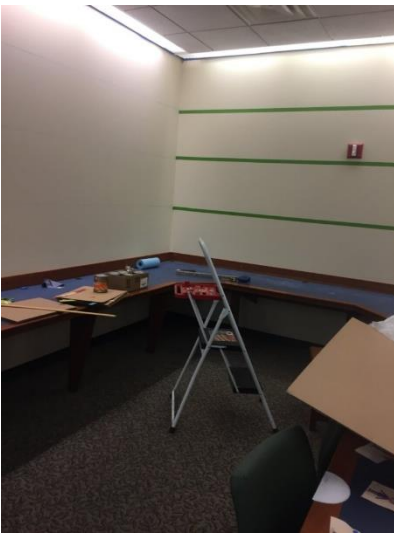


New Makerspace: Questers

Spearheaded by Elizabeth Essink, our Children's & Youth Services Program Coordinator, our new Questers makerspace has taken shape. I took a few pictures chronicling the creation of the new space, see below. Elizabeth, Hannah & staff even handled the painting of the area.

I described Questers in my last report, but I'll re-emphasize some key points. This space is dedicated to STEAM based learning. Children will be challenged to play games and solve challenges in all related STEAM areas: science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Children will create their own personal avatar and track their movement along the wall as they progress through the Questers space. Kudos to Renee', Elizabeth and the CYS team for the energy and enthusiasm they have poured into this. The official launch date for the new space is June 25.



Space Study

Our review committee will meet and interview the top three selected firms on June 15 and June 16. Following the interviews, the committee will immediately begin evaluating the prospective firms with an eye towards getting the project started as soon as possible. Prior to the interviews, I had an opportunity to tour personnel from all three firms through the library. I hope to provide an updated report on our progress at our June 19 meeting.

Collection Development

Some of the library managers and I had an interesting meeting with John Richardson on May 24 regarding the add-on service to SirsiDynix, called BLUEcloud Visibility. The general idea is that we could make the contents of our catalog discoverable on the web. Google searches could show results that point users back to content in the library's catalog system. This is generally referred to as Linked Data and is something we are considering doing in the future.

Volunteer Appreciation

We held a volunteer appreciation reception on Wednesday, May 17. Connie Dearing and Sandy Blackthorn did a great job planning the day, and I had the honor of making a few remarks, welcoming the guests and introducing the speaker, a remarkable young senior at Carmel Clay High School, Grace Zhang (pictured on the right). Grace was named one of Indiana's top two youth volunteers of 2017 by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.



In 2016, 49 adult volunteers collectively gave 6,270 hours of service to the daily operations of the library. Their contributions include mending books, processing discards, shelving materials, sorting donated books, helping with mass mailings, delivering materials to homebound individuals, and staffing the Friends Bookstore.

In addition, scores of individuals served on the Library, Foundation and Friends Boards of Directors; volunteered for the Friends semi-annual book sales; and assisted with special events such as the Foundation's book and author luncheon.

The library was also served in 2016 by 592 members of the Teen Library Council and Teen Volunteer Corps, who collectively gave 3,080 hours of service on various projects such as helping with summer reading programs, setting up for book sales, and preparing materials and mailings for special events.



Our theme: Volunteers are Superheroes.

The teen volunteers who gave the most hours of service to the library in 2016 are Abby Love (76 hours) and Zoe Edwards (75 hours).

The following adult volunteers each worked 200 hours or more in 2016:

- Brenda Audritsh, Bookstore
- Betty Beardsley, Bookstore
- Jay Bonnet, Bookstore and Homebound Delivery
- Sharon Morrill, Bookstore
- Kathleen Mosher, Bookstore
- Kathleen Zelner, Children's & Youth Services

Programs and Services

Summer Challenge 2017 kicked off on May 22. AS of June 24, here are our statistics on participation:

Participant Totals:

Individual Signups: 1,150
 Family Signups: 1,369
 Added Family Members: 3,290
 Group Signups: 13
 Total: 5822

Participant Ages:

Infant/Toddler: 381
 Preschooler: 521
 Elementary School: 2264
 Middle School: 580
 High School: 232
 Adult: 1844

Nancy and I participated as a judge in this year's Edible Book Contest on June 4. The turnout was great and we had over 30 entries in the categories of youth, family and adult. Over 130 people attended either as participants or to view the various works. Thanks to Brooke and Kristin for doing a great job organizing the event.

ALA Conference



The annual ALA conference will be held in Chicago on June 22 through June 27. I plan to attend the entire conference. Other staff members who plan to attend all or part of the conference are: Christine Owens, Elizabeth Essink, Mandy Kotarski, and Rebecca Kunz.

I will be looking to learn more or gain more insight into renovations projects and current trends in library services. I am hopeful to find vendors that may have management solutions to study rooms. If so, I'll be interested in learning more about that.

Electrical Upgrade

On Saturday, June 10, access to the library's website, including the online catalog and other internet-based services, and the library's telephone/voicemail system, was temporarily interrupted due to an electrical upgrade. We took steps to let patrons know about the temporary outage on our web site preceding the outage and on social media. The down time was scheduled to occur from 5:00 p.m. until midnight, though it actually took longer, as our Internet router had to be replaced following the procedure. Our new UPS battery replacement was scheduled to occur on June 17 but has now been delayed a few weeks.

Items of note about the Digital Media Lab

DML staff have partnered with Children's department staff to offer summer 3D printing camps for 10 to 12 year olds. These have proven to be extremely popular with each session filling quickly. Students are taught the basics of Tinkercad and given one free print. The first class was held on June 8, two more sessions are scheduled for June and two for July.



DML staffer Kristy Leverock-Thompson demonstrates features of a 3D Printer

Whisper Room utilization continues to be high. One of our frequent visitors is local musician Michelle Qureshi. Her new album, *Seventh Wave*, will be released on July 21 and contains music recorded in the Whisper Room.

We continue to stay open late during Arts and Design District Second Saturday Gallery walks. The last two events have averaged around 150 visitors during the 5:00-8:00 p.m. timeframe. Leveraging the events in the Arts & Design district has proven to be an effective way of bringing new faces into the Digital Media Lab.

One-on-one classes have proven to be extremely popular. Staff members are currently teaching an average of one class per day, usually in Photoshop, Illustrator, or Adobe Lightroom. Demand for these sessions is high.

Planning is underway for a series of workshops in September on filmmaking. Local filmmaker James Moriarty will be teaching four classes. The Foundation has secured sponsorship from Roberts camera, who will loan equipment and help with promotion.

Patrons continue to give high marks to the Digital Media Lab. We continue to have over 96% rate their visit as five stars. When asked what they liked about the DML, comments include:

"The instructor was excellent!!! She explained things, got my son to ask questions and made him think through the process and figure out the why. Most instructors don't take the time to teach the why behind things and just teach the how. I was so impressed and hope she gets recognized. I believe her name started with an L. My apologies for not remembering her name."

"Excellent help from the staff, cool equipment."

"The expertise of the instructor and her patience in explaining the operation of my grand niece's camera."

"Thank you for offering these services to the community!"