

DIRECTORS REPORT
March 28, 2016

Notes on Library Services, Programs, and Staff:

- February circulation statistics show some individual ups and downs but with an overall increase of 6% for the month and back on track for the year.
- Adult Winter Reading ending on March 6 – This year saw an all-time record number of participants – 673, up from 609 last year. This year, in honor of the bicentennial, we offered a bonus prize for readers who completed a book by an Indiana author. 1 out of 4 of participants claimed their prize!
- Hoopla continues to gather steam and perform well. Hoopla is funded on a per-circulation basis – as the service becomes more popular, we will see an increase in costs. We are monitoring this carefully, and have no concerns about relative costs to benefit. As a matter of interest, the most popular titles this month were:
 - *A Walk in the Woods* (movie) – 23 circs (\$3.99/circ)
 - *2016 Grammy Nominees* (music album) – 12 circs (\$1.49/circ)
 - *August: Osage County* (movie) – 10 circs (\$2.99/circ)
- Speaking of movies, our monthly movie for February set another all-time record for attendance. *The Martian* saw 132 attendees. We have recently had discussions about ensuring enough chairs in our program room – what a wonderful problem to have!
- Some of you may remember the beloved pets of our Children’s Department, Bert and Ernie, who were the stars of Gerbil Cam. After their untimely demise, the Children’s Department began to consider other options for a more long-lived pet. I am happy to report that our new addition is now in his enclosure on the Children’s Desk. We cordially invite you to come meet **Arlo the Crested Gecko**! Arlo was named through a vote from our children here in the Library, and is settling in very well. Great thanks to Renee’ Kilpatrick and her staff for seeing to his every need during his period of adjustment.
- Library programs continue to be strong, with new ideas coming from all departments engaged in programming (i.e., Children’s, Reference, YA, and AV). Adult, YA and Children’s are all running Book Brackets this year, where users can vote on their favorite books during March Madness.
- Summer Reading is fast approaching and all our departments are already gearing up! The library wide program will begin May 16 and extend through August 15. Children’s is changing their format this year and experimenting with something new – we will be running a series of 3-week long “camp”-style programming series for kids throughout

the summer. Topics will include coding, Olympics, and paleontology. In addition, Children's has 10 of the 11 Carmel Clay Schools elementary schools lined up for Summer Challenge visits, as well as Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

- The Carmel Green Initiative held a wonderful program in the Library on February 18 featuring the film *The Burden* with comments by Mayor Brainard, and veterans former Indianapolis mayor Greg Ballard and Dan Martin. The program drew a crowd of 120 – we have a great partnership with them, and are always happy to host.
- The Carmel Green Initiative also helped to advertise eco-adventure traveler Bryan Brown's presentation on March 6 we had 55 individuals attend, including kayakers and mountaineers
- Historian Glory-June Greiff's program, "A visit from Gene Stratton-Porter" had 65 attendees and was very well-received.
- All of our book groups continue to do well – of special interest is our relatively new Spanish Language book group which started last fall. This group now averages between 12-16 attendees from a variety of Spanish-speaking countries.
- Sixteen families (!) participated in Reference/Children's first Family Trivia Night geared to 3rd and 4th readers and their parents. Everyone had a great time! This success is leading Adult Reference and Children's and Youth Services to look at other programs that the two departments could collaborate on.
- We are currently working on the Board's idea of a program on ISIS and Islam – Adult Reference Manager Christine Owens is reaching to to our contacts and we will be putting together a program as soon as we can form a quality offering. Our idea is to use the program on Islam as a springboard to perhaps offer a series on non-Western religions. We will see if this idea is feasible over time.
- "Operation Re-arrange YA" was completed this month – YA staff, Nancy Newport, Mike Thorburn, and all three groups of the Teen Library Council in March moved YA furniture around per a plan discussed with me in February. It looks and feels great! The idea was to improve traffic flow in the area and create a more efficient yet welcoming space, without making major alterations in advance of the formal space evaluation process. We improved wheelchair access and electronics access and made more room for books. We have had positive feedback already, and the space looks much more open and inviting! Kudos to Chase and Hope for their great ideas!
- The DABBLE committee visited maker spaces at Bartholomew County Public Library and Monroe County Public Library on March 23. We took many pictures and copious notes – it was an interesting juxtaposition of two very different spaces doing the same things – one very "shoestring", and one very "high end". While we took a great deal away from the experience, we had the initial idea of a more broad-based concept for our space. Of course, our community will drive the service design as we move forward.

- A glance through the monthly newsletter *Happenings* will give you an even better idea than I can offer of the variety, depth, breadth, and creativity of CCPL's program offerings. I will have copies available at the Board Meeting.

Budget/Finance:

- The Library will be receiving a special COIT Distribution of approximately \$1,750,000.00 sometime later this year. This is earmarked to be placed in the Rainy Day Fund.

Building and Grounds:

- We had a few minor roof leaks this month, which we consider normal, considering the high winds of late.
- Our drains have had ongoing issues with clogging – at the advice of Irish Mechanical we have changed the aerators on the faucets to allow a higher rate of flow and are testing a different soap.
- We had a leak in the foyer ceiling that was traced back to a faulty valve – this has been repaired.
- Conzer Security installed a new security camera on the second floor and an additional door counter as patrons enter into the library proper

Foundation Report from Director Liz Hamilton:

- The report from the Foundation will be provided separately.

Friends:

- The Friends Board met March 17. Their next big event is the spring book sale, which takes place April 21 through April 24.
- This year, the Friends have opened a new eBay storefront to sell the higher value items they receive in donations. The items can sell for hundreds of dollars if not more. The project is in its infancy, but Krista Arland is already reporting a very high success rate.
- Another special project of Friends is awarding an annual \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior. The Scholarship Committee has sent letters to this year's eligible candidates, including students who work for CCPL or who serve as members of the Teen Library Council or Teen Volunteer Corps. The scholarship winner is selected in late April and invited, along with family members, to be formally acknowledged at the May Friends Board meeting. The committee members are always greatly impressed with the quality of the applicants, not only for their academic achievements but also for their

volunteer and other extracurricular activities. Be sure to look for the names of all of our scholarship winners which can be found on plaques posted in the main lobby.

Strategic Planning

- Thank you to all of you for the lively and engaging discussion at the Board Strategic Planning retreat on February 27. The final draft of the Strategic Goals are in Board Book. Also included is the quarterly report from Christy Walker on strategic plan progress. I think this will perhaps help to clarify areas where the Library has made progress in all four of the concepts – Opportunity, Presence, Voice and Leverage.

Other

- Several managers and I attended a webinar, “Recipe for Redesign”, on March 24, in preparation for space re-evaluation in the future.
- Several of us will be attending a webinar “Tiny questions, big results: how to create rich assessment tools” on April 14, in preparation for setting performance measures in the new Strategic Planning process.
- I have been asked to be the keynote speaker at the Carmel Clay Historical Society Spring Luncheon on April 28. I have been asked to speak on the topic, “Not Your Grandmother’s Library”.
- I will be out of the office April 4-9 at the Public Library Association Conference in Denver.
- Mike Reuter will be joining us at the May Board Meeting. Usually, the Board votes a 5:00 start time to allow for his 5-Year Fiscal Plan Update.