Collection Development

INSPIRE is a valued and important resource for our library and throughout our state. INSPIRE is billed as Indiana's Virtual Online Library. INSPIRE is a collection of online resources that is accessible to all within the state and is particularly useful to students. INSPIRE is supported by the Indiana General Assembly through Build Indiana Funds and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), and through a partnership with the Academic Libraries of Indiana (ALI).

INSPIRE includes full-text magazine and journal articles, websites, pamphlets, images, almanacs, full-text historic newspapers, multimedia, library catalogs, and much more. Our web site has many links to INSPIRE resources in the Research portion of our site.

INSPIRE is a free resource available to all Indiana residents who have Internet access. Tennessee is a state that offers a very similar services, thanks in large part to LSTA funding. The White House proposed to eliminate IMLS from the federal budget and cut $187 million for LSTA. Fortunately an omnibus spending bill released by both houses of the U.S. Congress maintained funding for IMLS at $184 million, which represented a $1 million increase over 2016 levels. While that is a good turn of events, we need to be prepared to advocate how important these resources are, as well as the direct grants provided by IMLS.

Programs and Services

Our Teen Library Council held their 2nd Annual PopFest, which happened on Saturday, March 25. PopFest was open to families with children of all ages. The theme this year was "Musicals on Stage and Screen." A cake walk used show tunes, and the craft was making musical notes out of Perler beads. In addition to the traditional popcorn tasting/voting, people could drink Shirley Temples complete with little paper umbrellas. 14 teens and 3 YA staff members ran the event which was attended by 227 people.

Space Study

Following the Space Study RFQ's submission deadline of Friday, May 5, the Building & Grounds Committee met to evaluate the submissions on Tuesday, May 16. We received a total of six submissions. Our Qualifications Review Committee met on May 16 to review the submissions. We selected a top three firms to schedule for interviews. I am working to schedule these interviews in the mid-June timeframe. The committee feels good about all three candidates and looks forward to hearing more from them in order to make our final recommendation to the board.

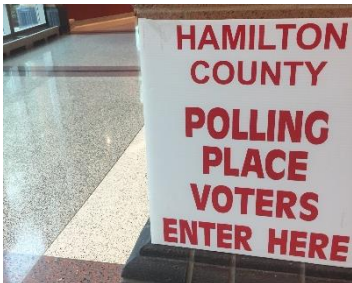## Spotlight on the Children's Youth Services Department

Led by CYS Manager Renee' Kilpatrick and CYS Program Coordinator Elizabeth Essink, the CYS department has been taking steps to ready and launch a new makerspace in the library: Questers.

The goal of the Questers space is to introduce our young patrons to the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math). We became aware of Muncie Public Library's Digital Climber's makerspace program when Elizabeth attended a makerspace workshop in Indianapolis and met staff at Muncie engaged in this program. Muncie Public Library shared information on how their program worked with us and ultimately we arrived at a memorandum of understanding, which allows us to take and adapt what they have done.

Our Questers program will introduce our patrons to the STEAM and technology-related concepts and tools that are increasingly used in our world, providing them the opportunity to explore, experiment, and learn while also encouraging them to dig deeper into concepts and develop knowledge that can be transferred to real world applications and continued learning.

Our vision is to develop an engaging, patron-driven flexible, on-demand program that encourages children to explore a wide variety of STEAM and educational technology related concepts independently, fosters a sense of experimentation, resiliency, and accomplishment, and encourages a continued connection to the library and library resources.

Our current focus involves a reworking of the CYS Tech Lab to accommodate the maker space. The space will have a large monitor to be used for instructional purposes, sound mitigating panels, other equipment and décor as needed.

Election Day

The library served as a voting site on May 2. Two voting machines were set up in the Program Room. Voting began at 6:00 a.m. While we did not see long lines as in the early voting for the presidential election, voters steadily appeared throughout the day.

Mobile Library

Our Mobile Library got a bit of a facelift. We have placed new signage on the Mobile Library, designating it as such on the front, sides and back. Staff have reported occasional confusion from patrons about the Mobil Library and we hope this new signage helps bring clarity.

Items of note about the Digital Media Lab

3D printing continues extremely popular. The purchase of a second printer allowed staff to catch up on a backlog of projects, and use of this service has increased. May has seen 33 print jobs scheduled by patrons in just the first fifteen days of the month. That exceeds the entire total of our previous highest month, March (29 jobs).

The DML staff continues to experiment with new styles and colors of filament including translucent pink, blue, and orange.
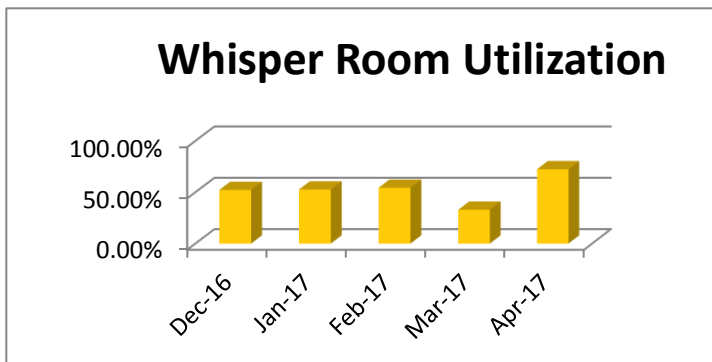

Whisper Room utilization reached an all-time high of 73% in April, meaning that for any given day, three of four slots were filled. The previous high was 54%. We expect a drop in May due to students studying for exams, and it will be interesting to see how the Whisper Room is used during summer months.

Patrons continue to give high marks to the Digital Media Lab. We continue to have over 95% rate their visit as five stars, and recent comments include:

"The staff is very helpful with amateurs learning how to use the technology, and the facilities are great."

"Extremely fast and cheap 3D printing. Great for rapid prototyping!"

"The availability of a variety of programs & ease of use. There are a lot of things I can do, but I can't afford the high level computers & software to do them. This place is a fantastic opportunity for me to do that. I am very thankful for this new availability."

DML and Children's staff have finished planning for a series of 3D printing camps to be held during the summer. Five camps will be held for ten students each. The camps will target children ages 10-12, and they will learn how to design a 3D object using Tinker CAD. Staff will print their objects and students will be able to pick them up.

My thanks to Peter Konshak for the above DML report.