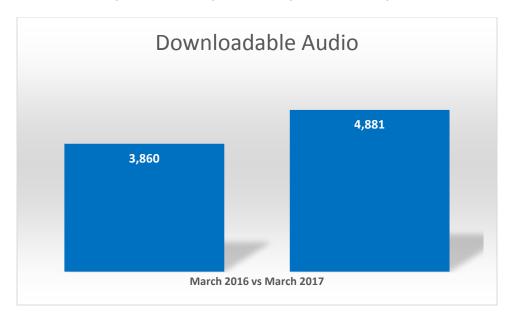


Collection Development

Total circulation was up by 4.6% compared to the previous March, with an increase in holds placed by 2.6%. Traffic/visits to the library were also up by 4.9% over the previous March. We closed our first quarter of the year on a strong note. An area of the collection seeing sizable growth in use is the downloadable audiobooks, which grew in circulation by 26.5%, from a circulation rate of 3,860 in March, 2016 to 4,881 in March, 2017.



Programs and Services



National Library Week was designated April 9-15, 2017 with the theme, "Libraries Transform." I happened to have been out of town that week, but the library celebrated in various ways. We celebrated National

Bookmobile Day on Wednesday, April 12. Nancy Newport reports that we had 169 visitors aboard the mobile library. Sharon Newill (CYS) had story times about 4 times during our three hours at West Park and used her portable bubble maker. We demonstrated the Google Glasses, which patrons enjoyed. We issued six library cards and had about 250 checkouts. To more clearly promote our mobile resources, we are currently taking steps to designate "Mobile Library" on the front and sides of the vehicle. We want patrons to be absolutely sure that this is indeed a mobile library.

A Fake News panel was held at the library on April 19. The panel included Bill Neher, professor emeritus of communication studies at Butler University, Gerry Lanosga, assistant professor at IU Media School and president of the Indiana Coalition for Open Government, and Jeff Rosetti, assistant news editor at WTHR. Andy Ober of Inside Indiana Business moderated. 32 people attended.



We are preparing for our annual Summer Challenge program for all ages! Starting May 22, patrons can register online at www.carmel.lib.in.us/challenge and get started on summer challenge activities and reading. Participants will earn points and receive prizes

as they accrue points. This is a new approach to the more traditional summer reading model. I appreciate how summer challenge involves all service areas of the library in a unified way.

West Side Survey and Space Study

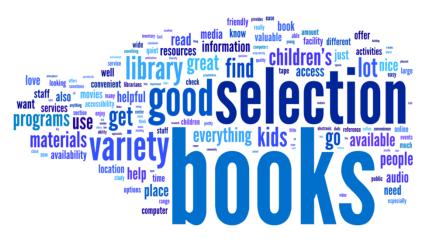
The Space Study RFQ was issued on Tuesday, April 18. The submission deadline is Friday, May 5. As indicated in the RFQ, the Building & Grounds Committee will evaluate the submissions, along with the following staff members in addition to myself:

- Nancy Newport
- Peter Konshak
- Christy Walker

Our goal will be to narrow submissions down to the top finalists for consideration. This group will also begin initial explorations into potential services responses stemming from the west side survey.

Staff meeting

We had an all-staff meeting on Wednesday, April 19. I took the opportunity to share some of the same information I have shared with other groups, including the City Council and Leadership Academy. I also discussed the recent survey conducted and shared some of our preliminary conclusions from the survey. I brought the staff up to date on where we are on the space



study process and took the opportunity to invite everyone to think about how we can reapproach our space to better meet our mission and realize our vision. Rounding out the meeting, Christy Walker gave a more in-depth summary of our progress with our strategic planning goals and objectives. Peter Konshak updated the staff on the happenings of the Digital Media Lab. Liz Hamilton talked about our Foundation and some of its goals and recent activities. Overall I thought we had a productive meeting.



Ella Fitzgerald

You may have noticed the Ella Fitzgerald exhibit on display in our lobby. We were contacted by The Great American Songbook Foundation at the Palladium and asked if we would participate in displaying this exhibit in honor of Fitzgerald's 100th birthday, which is Tuesday, April 25. I thought this was a good community partnership opportunity for us and is a mere taste of what we might be able to do with exhibit space. Thanks to our Foundation Director Liz Hamilton for discovering the opportunity and hastily retrieving the pieces for us. The exhibit will remain in our lobby through the week.



ADOLPLI Meeting



I attended an ADOLPLI meeting at the Monroe County Public Library in Bloomington, Indiana on April 6-7. ADOLPLI is a group of Directors of Large Public Libraries in Indiana. This was a good opportunity for me to network with other directors across the state and compare notes on the various contemporary issues of the day facing our libraries.

Spotlight on the Teen Department

Our Teen Department will begin accepting applications for membership on the Teen Library Council soon. Teens interested in applying for the TLC must be going into grades 7-12. The application window is May 1-31.

In the summer of 2016, Young Adult Services Manager Hope Baugh conducted 36 interviews of teens that wanted to become new members of the Teen Library Council. Most applicants successfully became members. Hope also holds individual "end-of-year reflection meetings" with teens that want to return as members of the Teen Library Council for another year. This is good practice for job performance reviews in the post-high school world and hopefully helps teens notice and feel good about their contributions in the here-and-now.

All together we had 84 TLC members for the 2016-2017 school year. For 2017-2018 we are now requiring two written book reviews on top of the other requirements. Our robust Teen Library Council is a particular point of pride for our library.