

Staff Training Day

The library closed on Friday, December 2 for an all-staff professional development day. I took the opportunity to introduce myself to even more staff members I hadn't had the chance to meet yet and went on to enjoy the day. The staff had options to attend various sessions on the following breakout subjects:

- *Books and Movies Roundtable* led by Aggie Adkins
- *Escape Room* led by Tom McCutcheon
- *Children's Tech Petting Zoo* led by Elizabeth Essink and Hannah Olmstead
- *Augmented and Virtual Reality*, led by Katherine Huddle
- *Yoga* led by Ashley Zeller

Also, we had the opportunity to hear from both a morning and afternoon keynote speaker on the following subjects:

- "Commitment and Leadership" by Tammy Butler Robinson
- "Joy Powered" by JoDee Curtis

All in all, our 2016 Professional Development Day Planning Committee did a great job planning a successful day.

Young Adult Library Association Top Teens

CCPL's Teen Library Council was selected to be one of YALSA's next Teens Top Ten groups from around the country.

YA Manager Hope Baugh applied for this honor by submitting four sample book reviews from four different Teen Library Council members and answering several questions about our library and our teen council. This is a two-year commitment that involves the library receiving frequent free Advanced Reader Copies of YA books and then keeping track of which TLC member has borrowed which book and written a review of it yet or not. TLC members will nominate their favorites to make a list of contenders that any teen across the country may vote for later in the year to make the annual Teens Top Ten list. Our teens are officially national trendsetters for teen literature!



Programs and Services

In this space I will highlight specific programs or services that may be uniquely noteworthy or unusual, or anything I think will be of particular interest to the board. This is in no way

intended to under-value the multitude of wonderful programs happening at the library every month and often every day. I will also periodically shine the spotlight on some of the recurring programs we offer. With that in mind, we should all check with regularity the library's program schedule on our web site: <http://www.carmel.lib.in.us/attend/calendar.cfm>

Youth Services held a Nutcracker Storytime with the Central Indiana Dance Ensemble on Thursday, December 1. Our staff handled the program with grace and skill, as 160 people turned out for the event. Following the performance, kids had their picture taken with some of the



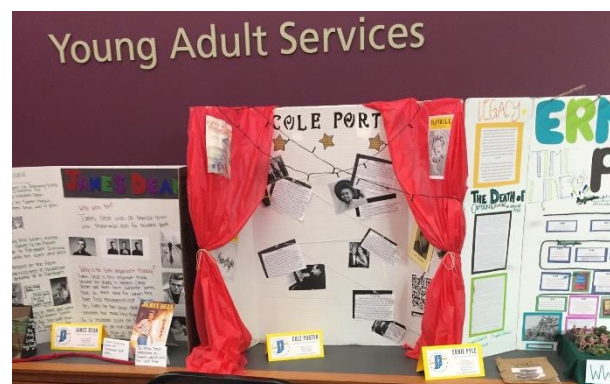
dancers. A good way to kick off December!

Another crowd-pleaser was the Santa's Elf and his reindeer programs on December 13. Cold weather and snow did not deter families from attending this fun program, at which the children had an opportunity to pet Santa's reindeer. Over 320 people attended these two back-to-back programs in total.

Famous Hoosiers

Nancy Newport, Karen Steinberger and I served as judges for the Clay Middle School Famous Hoosier Project. This was a project from Allison Martin's 8th grade class and was the result of ongoing collaboration between the schools and our staff. Here is YA Librarian Karen Steinberger's report:

Clay Middle School English teacher, Allison Martin, had reached out to me months ago, based on a suggestion from Clay Media Specialist Stephanie Swartzendruber. Allison had been looking for a community organization to help judge and showcase student research projects about Famous Hoosiers. Allison explained, "to create more authentic learning, it won't be simply a research paper. Students will create displays/exhibits like one might find at a historical society or museum. I want to



use this project to do good research but also consider the best mediums for presenting information that is engaging and relevant."

I thought the idea sounded like a perfect complement to the library's Happy Birthday Indiana Bash. Students would get an authentic audience for their work, and the library would benefit from increased attendance at our event. Afterward, the winning projects (one per Famous Hoosier) could be exhibited in the library for a few weeks to give more members of the community a chance to explore them. I brought the idea to library management, and it was whole-heartedly approved.

Five 8th grade English classes participated (165 students). When we visited Clay Middle School on November 16, I believe we judged 45 group projects: one project per Famous Hoosier per class. There were nine Famous Hoosiers: James Dean, John Dillinger, Michael Graves, Gus Grissom, Jimmy Hoffa, Michael Jackson, Cole Porter, Ernie Pyle, and John Wooden.

The unveiling at the Happy Birthday Indiana Bash on Sunday, December 11 was a huge success and included a short speech from the teacher, Allison Martin. Allison had personally invited the families of all her students. Many of the students whose projects we chose as winners were in attendance. One even wore a suit! We had 170 people attend this event which concluded our year-long bicentennial programming series.

The projects are on exhibit here in the library until the end of the year to give extended family who might be visiting from out-of-town over the holidays a chance to see them.

Special thanks to Nancy Newport for coming in on her day off to help me set up the projects for Sunday's party!

Community Survey

As the potential to expand library services to the residents on the west side of Carmel is referenced in our new strategic plan, the time is right to take the action step of determining the needs of this area of Carmel by conducting a community survey. Nancy, Christy and I met with Dr. Rachel Applegate from IUPUI and discussed partnering to conduct a citizen survey of the west side of Carmel. Our goal is to use the information gathered in this survey to assess the level of interest in the kinds of library services that are desired there. This is a critical step to take before we take any further action, and this partnership will give us confidence in the methodology used and validity of the results gathered. We will endeavor to

conduct our survey(s) and assess the results as quickly as possible. I appreciate the partnership opportunity and Dr. Applegate's willingness to take this one with her class at IUPUI.

Facility Update

As mentioned in the November meeting, a minor leak occurred in the first floor public women's restroom. Repairs were promptly made, but this does serve as a reminder of the age of the roof and the imminent end of its natural lifespan. Having said that, we should note that Carlisle conducted a roof inspection last year and found no major problems.

Following a day of sustained rain on Tuesday, November 28, the manual book drop sustained a serious leak and is was repaired.

Beyond general maintenance issues, I am beginning to engage in conversations with the staff about current challenges we are having with our facility space and goals relating to space usage we would like to achieve in the coming years. This is a precursor to launching a formal space usage study in 2017.

Digital Media Lab Report



The Digital Media Lab's ribbon cutting was held on Wednesday, November 16 at 1:00 p.m. and was followed by a reception later in the afternoon. Many prominent members of the community were in attendance including the mayor. The lab opened to the public the following day on Thursday, November 17. The lab includes iMac computers with video, audio and graphic design software, a WhisperRoom audio recording suite, equipment for podcasting, a 3D printer and a staff help desk.

Initial Report from Peter Konshak:

The first few days the Digital Media Lab was open were pretty slow -- a few people coming in and checking things out, but not too many people actually staying to work. Wednesday, we were actually somewhat busy. I thought you might like an idea of what went on.

- We had two WhisperRoom reservations, both musicians, who wanted to try the space out. One of them is reserved again for today.*
- We had a CHS student/photographer who came in (his second visit already), he was working on some portrait photography. It turns out he has his own*

photography business, and over 16,000 followers on Instagram. The young man he was photographing came in later, and they worked together to tweak the portrait in Adobe Lightroom.

- *We had a mother/son team in -- the mother was working in Photoshop, and the son was interested in 3D printing. They ended up doing two 3D prints.*
- *Overall, we had seven computer uses, two WhisperRoom reservations, with a door count of 36, during the 12-5 hours.*

Other related events

The Digital Media Lab is typically open from noon to 5 on Saturdays. The lab was open during the Holiday in the Arts District event on Saturday, December 3, which was mostly concentrated across the street in the PNC lot but generally spread through downtown. Here is another report from Peter Konshak:

Lorena was working, and I joined her at 1:30. We placed a large sign outside, and also had noted on social media that we'd have refreshments and the chance to win a free 3D print. After a slow start, we were swamped with people -- our door count for the day was 144. We ran out of cookies, unfortunately. Everyone we spoke to was really excited about the Digital Media Lab, and we heard comments like "we have the best library." I spoke at length with one patron from Westfield, and he decided to buy a PLAC just to use the Digital Media Lab -- he was back yesterday working on Photoshop.

Thank you to the Mobile Library staff, who were sending patrons our way (they were parked across the street).

The lab was also open an additional three hours to 8 p.m. on Saturday, December 10 to capitalize on the planned IU Health North Hospital Gallery Walk. Our DLM staff prepared a fun demonstration involving digital photography. I managed to stop in with my family for a picture myself. Here's more on this event from Peter Konshak:

We participated in the district-wide scavenger hunt, had light refreshments available, and had a photography activity for visitors to participate in. After explaining the Digital Media Lab, we asked if they wanted their photo taken with a fun background. The backgrounds they could choose from included a couple of holiday scenes, the Eiffel tower, a beach scene, a Jurassic theme with a T-Rex, or a space-themed photo. We took about 20



photos during the three hours, and the visitors got to watch Kristy from the DML staff Photoshop their photos with the background. We posted them on social media, or e-mailed them to those who weren't on social media. This was a very fun way for visitors to see the actual software in use. Our door count for that day was 153.

User Survey



We think the word is getting out about the new space and that interest and foot traffic will continue to grow. To help us understand how the lab is being used and how it is being received by the community, we are asking patrons to complete a brief survey after using the equipment. The survey asks these four questions:

- 1. How would you rate your visit to the Digital Media Lab?*
- 2. Why did you visit the Digital Media Lab today?*
- 3. What did you like about the Digital Media Lab?*
- 4. What suggestions do you have for Digital Media Lab?*

Initially we're seeing a mix of use in the Whisper Room between musicians and podcasters. The graphic design software and 3D printer is proving to be popular as well. As time goes on, we'll be able to get a greater sense the trends of usage. We'll watch with great interest on how usage of the space will evolve.

Return on Investment

I anticipate that the investment the library is making in this new space will yield exiting returns in the community as a whole. The space is new, but it isn't far-fetched to think we may be helping the next successful podcaster launch his/her career, helping musicians

develop their signature sound, or helping local businesses and start-ups do more with graphic design and marketing.

This is very exciting but in a way remains completely in line with what the library has always done: give people the tools and support they need to be innovative, creative, and empowered. In this context, it is exciting because the tools we are providing are sophisticated and not so many years ago were beyond the reach of the average person or capacity of a library to provide.

The availability of the CCPL Digital Media Lab is a dramatic example of the adaptability of the library to meet community needs in whatever form it takes. The community need being met by the Digital Media Lab in large part is a reflection of the emerging DIY economy. The ripples made from our lab now may become tidal waves ten years out.