

DIRECTOR'S REPORT **December 2005**

Automation Project – Staff training took place Jan. 5 & 6. All libraries closed these two days. The training was held in the UofI Library classroom and was facilitated by Connie Pentzer, Director of the Prairie-River Library District. Cindy Kirkpatrick, WIN (Washington Idaho Network) Applications Specialist, was also on hand.

The test database was available for staff to begin review on Monday, Jan. 9. We will review how well the data migrated to the Endeavor software, identify problems and report them back to Endeavor. The Go Live! date is still set for mid to late February.

Requests for information – I received another request for information from Dr. Chris Kowrach, Kendrick. Attached is all the correspondence to and from Dr. Kowrach.

Branch Information

Bovill – Things were a quiet the first two weeks of December in Bovill. The preschool children were busy preparing for their holiday program and keeping themselves busy at school with arts and crafts that we didn't have a story time during the month. They were missed on Thursdays but will be returning after school starts again. The last two weeks of the month were not so quiet however with all the kids out of school and using the computers from opening to closing. The Bovill Fire Dept has generously offered us a table they are not using, for the library to put two public computers on; replacing the unstable and larger table they are now on. I need to take a look at the table and decide if it is something that we would like to have in our library. The friends group has also offered to purchase a round table for the center of the room and we will be looking into prices and finding someone to pick it up and deliver it for us. I have also been on the phone with Judy Sobeloff and she will be here in Bovill in April to offer a creative writing workshop. So far I have 3 people that said they would be interested in attending this workshop and I am hoping for some more interest as spring approaches.

Deary – December was an exciting holiday month in Deary! Our Friends of the Library decorated with lights, trees, snowmen, etc., and the library was festive inside and out! Open House was held on Dec. 1, with hot drinks and a variety of treats that kept everyone warm and happy! The Deary High School Choir gave a concert, there was an original poetry reading by Patty McDonald, Wayne Schmidt played a medley of tunes on his accordion and our own Olivia and Fiona O'Murphy gave an excellent impromptu demonstration of Celtic dance. The first blizzard of the season started around noon, and the library was lively and cozy!

The bulletin board is up and handouts and green library applications are ready to help with the migration to VALNet. There has been some interest expressed in what the new computer program will look like and excitement about what will be available from the new libraries. Thanks to Anne for all her hard work and keeping us informed about the upcoming changes.

Genesee –

Juliaetta – The month of December was pretty slow for Juliaetta. Story times concentrated on Christmas and the kids loved having four "Christmas" story days with a different craft for each week. Only one class made the trek down for the monthly class visits as everyone was busy doing other holiday things. I took two weeks off for physical therapy to try to get the ruptured disk in my back to quit putting pressure on my sciatic nerve. The therapy will continue for twice weekly sessions through January in the hope that I will be able to avoid surgery. Cynthia filled in for me on the days that the library was open. Juliaetta is excited about joining VALNet and the patrons are filling out new applications in anticipation of receiving their new cards.

I hope everyone else had a wonderful Holiday Season and 2006 brings many good and exciting things your way.

Moscow –

Access Services – December passed in a blur of staff evaluations and holiday closures. The evaluation process reminded me what a committed and hard-working staff the district has and how much I appreciate them. As did the closures, when everyone worked together to keep the workflow moving smoothly. John Pool brought in the bookdrops over both of our four day closures and on January 2nd alone checked in 500 items. When we reopened on Tuesday, Moscow staff checked in nearly 1100 more.

December was also a time to thank our department volunteers, begin collecting new patron application forms in anticipation of VALNet, reflect on the district's patron conduct code, and to transmit our bibliographic database to Endeavor for the test load with VALNet. Busy days!

Adult Services –

Programs:

Jack Nisbet, award-winning author, whose most recent book is "The Mapmaker's Eye: David Thompson on the Columbia Plateau", presented a slideshow and talk on December 8 in the Moscow Library. He also signed copies of his books. The Moscow Friends provided the seed money for a grant from the Idaho Humanities Council. About 50 people attended.

Display:

4-H

Special Activities:

Working on list of web resources for the Adult portal of the redesigned LCLD web site.

Business Office -

Outreach Services -

Tech Services -

Youth Services –

Potlatch – We had our annual Christmas Open House after the lighted parade. The Junior Jammers played and we served 108 cups of cocoa and numerous plates of cookies were consumed. We also had crafts for the kids. Admission to the event was a new or "gently" used book, and we sent those to the food bank with the food we collected in the canned food drive. Combining with what the Junior Miss Committee collected in their book drive, a book went to every child where a holiday food basket was delivered. We also had a name the library dragon (a latex dragon bursting out of the wall) contest and his new name, thanks to Oceana Chamberlin, is "Miandreo". I estimate that we had around 120 people in the library. We also had two kindergarten classes come for a tour of the library. I heard from one Mother how much her kindergartner learned during his visit to the library. Diane has been busy re-barcoding all the "T" barcodes in Potlatch and she is putting quite a dent in them. The chore that seems to keep getting put at the end of list is taking down the Christmas decorations! Maybe it will be done by Valentines day!

Troy – It is December and everyone must be out shopping. Business always slows down during the Holidays. One our patrons, Jean Knierim, has her beautiful handmade Santas in our display case. It certainly makes the library look festive. The Library is still getting a generous supply of new paperback books donated by a very generous patron. It helps fill our shelves with new books. December 13th we had our staff/branch meeting at the Moscow Library. The migration to VALNet was discussed; the Summer Reading Program was on the agenda too. We also enjoyed good snacks and good friends. The libraries all have bulletin boards up informing the patrons about the migration to VALNet. Anne has done

a terrific job keeping us informed. It was a pleasant surprise seeing her in the branches. By this time, the staff of LCLD should have had their yearly evaluations. I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season.