

DIRECTOR'S REPORT November 2006

Activity Summary

In the interest of brevity, I've bulleted recent events and activities and will be glad to answer any questions board members might have. In no particular order:

- The annual evaluation process began in early November as mandated by policy. Self-evaluations have been completed and the library is on track for finishing this process on schedule by mid-December.
- Since the so-called "packet experiment" revealed fatal drawbacks, we have begun rotations of large standing collections. Troy, Juliaetta, Potlatch and Moscow are rotating Large Print and Adult Fiction. This will be followed by Bovill, Deary, Genesee and Moscow rotating JE materials.
- Pat Eck, Tim Hillebrand and I have been meeting via weekly teleconference as part of our effort to re-energize the library Foundation. We are currently working on building an active membership.
- Betsy Bybell wrote an article for the Pulse column in the Daily News discussing the Outreach Services provided by the Library District. A copy of the article is attached.
- On Tuesday, November 14th, Chris Kowrach, Jan Welles and I attended the Juliaetta City Council meeting on behalf of the library and the Juliaetta Friends group. Chris offered a four-page presentation, including photographs, outlining the many improvements that have been made to the library building this year through the efforts of the Friends. Chris requested, and the council provided, guidelines for how to access the money the city sets aside each year for library maintenance.
- The Moscow Friends of the Library book sale on November 4th was a successful and well-attended event. Proceeds from the sale were over \$1,800, not including expenses. Many hard-working volunteers helped make this event possible.
- I attended the annual Inland Northwest Council of Libraries (INCOL) director's meeting on October 20th. I was fortunate enough to be able to carpool to the meeting with both the director and business manager of the Whitman County Library. It was a very productive day.
- I submitted the final report for the Gates Internet Connectivity grant relating to a possible T-1 line in the Juliaetta library. In August 2006, the Juliaetta Library began using the TDS DSL service and currently has 1.5 M Business Single Static DSL service rather than the T-1 line.
- At the November 9th meeting of the VALNet directors, Universal Borrowing and E-Audiobooks were prime topics of conversation.
- The district's Adopt-A-Magazine campaign is still ongoing.
- The issue of cleaning in the district libraries is still being worked through. On behalf of the district, I've agreed to "grandfather" in the cleaning services currently existing in branch communities and the district will therefore be paying our independent custodial contractors in Bovill and Juliaetta in addition to in Potlatch. All seven libraries are revisiting their procedures for cleaning.
- Last month I related the news that the Ingram Book Group, one of major vendors for library materials, had changed their policy and now would be adding freight charges to our orders. At the latest meeting of VALNet directors, the possibility of negotiating a better rate with them as a consortium was raised. One of the VALNet directors will contact Ingram to see if they will offer us a better rate due to our collective purchasing power.

Upcoming for the library

- E-audiobooks are scheduled to arrive to VALNet libraries sometime around the first of December. The consortium is planning to coordinate the launch date and will offer brochures and promotional materials. Chris Sokol on our library staff is leading the effort to ensure we are prepared to assist patrons with this new service.
- Implementation of Universal Borrowing software and service is still tentatively scheduled for January 2007.
- We are also tentatively planning a staff in-service day for Tuesday, December 12th. Driving the date is the desire to allow staff to offer input on proposed revisions to the Salary and Compensation policy prior to the December board meeting, but once we are together I'd like to schedule staff sessions for training on LiLi-D changes, catalog searching, electronic timesheets, etc. It would also be a good day for finishing up any remaining evaluation sessions.

Department and Branch reports:

Adult Services – Chris Sokol

- Final Moscow Library Centennial events took place on October 5: Sarah Andrews, geologist and mystery novelist, spoke at the 1912 Building to a large crowd (She also spoke at the UI Geology seminar). Worked with the Moscow Friends to host an Open House in the library during the annual ILA conference held this year in Moscow.
- Attended ILA conference; assisted organizers by introducing some speakers and coordinating evaluation forms
- At ILA, agreed to serve on a committee to draft standards for Idaho public libraries
- Launched 2006 Adopt-a-Magazine campaign, with my own focus being on coordinating adult magazines in Moscow and branches
- Continued to research and prepare for the downloadable eaudiobooks service soon to be available to VALNet libraries, especially regarding compatible portable players and general procedures
- Met with Cindy Kirkpatrick of WIN and Randy Smith to draft procedures for making speedy improvements to the VALNet catalog; met again with Randy to follow-up and identify further problems to work on. This OPAC Committee is a new development in VALNet and we hope to do many good things! Randy and I plan to work on a Camtasia tutorial, too.
- The Moscow Library Book Club continues to meet; I send out press releases, put up posters, and respond to inquiries from potential members. This month's title: My Sister's Keeper, by Jodi Picoult
- The Moscow Community Creative Writing Workshop met twice during October, in the Moscow Library (they meet after hours and I come in to work while they meet)
- Continued to place orders for adult books, DVDs, audiobooks, and music. I've been especially trying to beef up the CD book and DVD collection the last couple of months. When the shelves groan, I try to get in some weeding to make room for new things.

Outreach Services – Betsy Bybell

October in Outreach Services stayed busy. The regular routine of PIH reports averaged 35 requests each day – books that have to be found and routed to the appropriate library for the patron to pick up. Inter-library loans for the month were high, mainly due to one patron who is writing a non-fiction book on utopian communities. She needed to read many books for her research and came to me with a long list, hoping to borrow most for free. By checking library policies online through OCLC, I was able to furnish all but one with no charge and route many of them through the ORBIS shuttle. She was so pleased with our service that I wonder if our library will be listed in her thanks when the book is finally published.

Cathy and I co-hosted a Halloween party for families in Moscow on a Monday evening. Attendance was fantastic with 35 adults and 20 children. Many children had both mothers and fathers here. Patrons thanked us for a fun evening for the entire family. Doughnut bobbing, a Tootsie pop spider craft, and funny stories filled out the program. If you missed the Daily News on Halloween, we made the front page in living color -- long green hair and orange glowing lights.



Bovill Branch Report – Paula Winter

The month of October has seen everything from warm, sometimes spring like days to very chilly and freezing temperatures. We've even had a slight dusting of snow, which is never good news if you ask the local librarian. The beauty of North Idaho!! We seem to stay busy in Bovill with kids, computers, friends groups and keeping volunteers busy. My Friends group is busy taking orders for sweatshirts. We decided to order the blue Seasons Readings sweatshirts and so far we have 29 orders. I am very happy to have a good show of support for the library, this will be great advertisement for us. I started storytime this month and its starting out a little slow but I think things will pick up. We are ending our month with Halloween treats for the kids, decorations, scary music and warm drinks. It is very very chilly outside so the kids that are coming in are appreciating the warmth of the library. In November we will be having an evening of making wrapping paper stars, something we have done in the past. I'll let you know how this turns out next month.

Deary Branch Report – Debbie Fischer

October has been a quiet month. Gina did an excellent job working for me when I took time off to see my first granddaughter. It is so nice to have a great sub! The City of Deary was very cooperative when I went to the City Council Meeting and asked them for an outside trash can, informed them of a crack in the window, and gathered information about new carpet needs. There appear to be several options for carpet, and the Deary Friends of the Library are looking into them. We are trying to find out if the cracked window is shatter-resistant. It was a donated second-hand window when our building was built, and it makes a difference in how the crack is dealt with. We now have a trash can outside the Library side door, instead of taking the trash to the dumpster on the other side of the gas station next door. The City empties it each Tuesday with their trash pickup. A much safer solution for me! More next month!

Genesee Branch Report – Sharon Steiger

October has been a business as usual kind of month. My small story time group has been pretty regular, the after school computer users are a constant presence in the library and a small number of adult computer users come to the library on a regular basis. We had a video rotation, much to the pleasure of the movie watchers. System books as well as Valnet materials are on the move constantly and patrons continue to be pleased with the convenience of placing holds from the comfort of their own homes. The Friends Group met on the nineteenth and are planning a winter book with activities for December. This is a new and different plan for community involvement and we're all looking forward to it.

Juliaetta Branch Report – Jan Welles

The month of October went by in a flash in Juliaetta. The Friends met on Oct. 18 and decided to try selling walnuts as a fund raiser. Boxes and bags of nuts started to appear at the door. Now they are looking for "crackers". A few brave souls have stepped forward to volunteer but the nuts outnumber the crackers down here! (No smart remarks necessary.)The insulating that was planned for the front hallway and the back kitchen area of the library has been completed. Now we need some nice days so we can paint over the "spackled holes". Right now it looks like the building has a rare white-spot disease. The Friends received some grant money to pay for this project as well as the installation of new windows and an interior door. We hope to have that completed by the end of Nov.

All story times have been very busy and I sometimes wonder where all the little ones are coming from- actually, I do know where they come from but there seems to be a lot more pre-school age children in our area these days. Class visits went as scheduled except for second grade when the teacher called and said it looked too much like rain to walk down. Of course it never did rain that day but they will come in Nov. weather providing!

Potlatch Branch Report – Donna Quiring

The Friends are planning the December Open House after the Christmas Parade and will also be hosting author Kim Barnes in January as a kick off to the Winter Reading program. We have had seven magazines adopted and hope to have more come in later. It was nice to welcome Diane back from her leave of absence and have my full Monday back in Moscow. Anne and I have been talking about shifting some mine and Diane's hours. More on that next month.

Troy Branch Report – Margie Fitzmorris

October has been a busy month. I am weeding Adult Paperbacks to make room for new ones coming in. Sheila has been nice enough to send the discarded ones back from Tech. Services, so I can put them in my Book Sale. I have been proctoring a student from LCSC. She is very excited not to have to drive to Lewiston to take her tests. The Library Board had their monthly meeting at the Troy Library this month. I was unable to attend, but was informed the meeting went well. Storytimes are going well. I am having 11-13 kids each week. One of the older kids decided he wanted to read the books for "Pumpkin Day". He did a great job. The Troy Friends had a meeting on October 25th. They decided to adopt 7 magazines for the "Adopt a Magazine" program. The "shopping committee", from the Friends Group, is looking for a Storytime chair for my Storytime Corner. I am looking forward to that! The Troy Library is so very fortunate to have a Friends Group that is so supportive of the Library.