

Latah County Library District

DIRECTOR'S REPORT October 2007

Activity Summary

As always, questions are welcome.

- ✓ The month went quickly, hurried along by a statewide library association conference, as well as several meetings and special events.
- ✓ The library held an all-staff meeting on Tuesday, September 25th, that gave people a chance to share information and address specific areas of concern. In addition to an all-staff session, separate meetings were held for branches and circulation staff, as well as for Summer Reading planners. Staff members were polled for their opinion on several topics, including the library's strategic plan, frequency of staff meetings, training preferences, and use of electronic resources. The half-day activity seemed to be productive and positive, and all libraries maintained their regular open hours.
- ✓ In early October, the District was offered the opportunity to receive seven new patron Internet computers via a supplemental grant through the Idaho Commission for Libraries and the Gates Foundation. We accepted the offer and expect the new computers to be in place soon, one per library. These will replace older stations.
- ✓ George Williams and I attended the annual statewide Idaho Library Association in Nampa October 3rd-5th. Several of the presentations were relevant to our district and we considered the time at the conference well spent. Presentation topics included: marketing the library and the library collection, planning for "digital natives", and supporting intellectual freedom.
- ✓ Chris Sokol and I continue to participate in the planning for the regional Everybody Reads program. Gregg Olsen, author of this year's featured book, *The Deep Dark*, will be in Moscow on November 13th.
- ✓ The Latah County Library District Foundation held their September meeting at the Troy Library. The Foundation Board welcomed Sid Eder, Moscow resident and longtime library supporter, as a new member. Next month's meeting of the Foundation board will be held at the Potlatch library.
- ✓ The Friends of the Moscow Library newsletter was distributed October 5th. Several staff members contributed to this colorful and interesting edition.
- ✓ New library trustee Bill Warren visited the Moscow library to meet the staff and continue his orientation. He plans to visit the other libraries on his travels through the county.
- ✓ Kathleen O'Connor, head of the Washington-Idaho Network (WIN) support team, drove with me on October 10th to visit each of the district libraries. (WIN is the umbrella consortium that manages and supports VALNet's Voyager software.) This was Kathleen's first visit to Latah County's six rural libraries; she tries to visit each WIN library at least once a year.
- ✓ I attended the October 11th meeting of VALNet directors. Universal Borrowing, or "WIN-Borrow" software will be activated between VALNet and the Cooperative Information Network (CIN) on November 1st. During the initial phase of WIN-Borrow, the consortium will not actively promote the service in order to give library staff members a chance to identify and solve problems.
- ✓ On September 17th, the Juliaetta City Council approved routing the balance of the 2006-2007 money budgeted for library enhancement to help cover the library utility bill.
- ✓ The new outdoor sign for the Moscow Library arrived and we are working with the city on installation.

Department and Branch reports

Adult Services – Chris Sokol

- September 10: Author Nassim Assefi (*Aria*) spoke at 1912 Center
- "Everybody Reads" picked up momentum with meetings and publicity
- Library marketing activities:
 - Website notice about UI's "Let's Talk About It" program running from September through November; LCLD received copies of all five featured books

- Graphic list of books related to Iran and Afghanistan, distributed at Nassim Assefi's talk and posted on website at the time
- Graphic bookmark and bulletin board advertising Moscow "Everybody Reads" events
- Graphic bookmark of library materials about Palouse nature for Phillips Farm Open House
- List of LCLD books and DVDs about the Iraq War, in conjunction with the Iraq War film series at the Kenworthy in October (for distribution at the Kenworthy and posted in the Moscow Library)
- Website work:
 - Collected food bank information for Latah County, added to "Community" tab
 - Added several other Community links, such as local movie theater websites
- "New at the Library" column for Co-op Newsletter
- Weeded nonfiction at Potlatch library and, as usual, in Moscow Library; purchased very little (last month of the FY!)
- Volunteered at Friends' fair booth
- Upcoming events:
 - Water-Efficient Landscaping workshops:
 - When: October 16 and 23, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
 - Where: 1912 Building, 412 East Third St.
 - Cost: Free
 - See the LCLD website for details.
 - Everybody Reads: *The Deep Dark* by Gregg Olsen. He will be in Moscow on Nov. 13th.

Outreach Services – Betsy Bybell

- ✚ Business as usual with the PIH reports and ILLs. Scheduled programs for outreach visits to daycares for coming year, which will start in October.
- ✚ Short month since I only worked first and last weeks of September. The other two weeks I was on vacation and enjoying myself in Hawaii.

Bovill Branch Report – Paula Winter

- Business has been the normal day to day usuals in Bovill
- Mondays and Thursdays are quiet now that kids are back in school but that gives the home schoolers and the adults a chance to get in and use the computers
- My home schoolers are keeping me very busy with checkouts and requests
- Storytimes are going well
- My Friends group is busy organizing some winter projects

Deary Branch Report – Debbie Fischer

- Our regular programming started for the year. Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. we have story time, and about 4:00 the after-school program kids come for a visit. Sarah Lohman is their new Leader this year. She plans to bring them once a week for "library day".
- Since school has started, our computer use has dropped. We are seeing more adults in the early afternoon.
- Gina did an excellent job working in Deary while my wrist was healing. I sprained it while working in Tech on Sept. 18, so was on light duty for one week. It is great to have our subs be so eager and willing to work!
- Our staff meeting was interesting and informative. Refreshments were appreciated. Universal Borrowing is coming fast and will be a new facet of library services.
- Our library cleaner person joined the track team and we are advertising for someone new to work one hour per week.

Genesee Branch Report – Sharon Steiger

- ✓ With school starting the day time student visits have slowed down. The kids do get here after school though to do their computer stuff. This is either game playing or MySpace usage. Once in a while there's a bit of academic work done.
- ✓ There are several students that are being home schooled this year and they are using the library. Some bring their laptops and do their lessons. Some bring their laptops and play their games. The wireless hotspot is getting used from within as well as the street. Home schooling is still quite rare here.
- ✓ It was good to see all the library folks and catch up on news at the staff-branch meeting. Talking about next years summer reading program made me realize how much time we give to this activity and how important it is to our communities. The theme of bugs/insects will be fun to work with.
- ✓ Many people are dropping off their old magazines and I have a little exchange area set up. I'll have to see how this works as I don't want to be the town magazine recycling person.
- ✓ I was in California for a short family visit. Betty Leslie came to sub one day and Corlene worked the balance of the week. I appreciate having them available.

Juliaetta Branch Report – Jan Welles

- ❖ Story times started on September 6. There were 33 children and parents at the four programs this month
- ❖ Class visits started again on Sept. 6 also. This year I will have Kindergarten through sixth grade visiting once a month. Every class made a visit this month with the exception of Kindergarten. That class visit was rained out. A total of 112 students and teachers visited the library this month.
- ❖ I took the second week of September off so that my husband and I could get out of town. We had a great time and Anna Bruce and Cynthia Nye and Betty Leslie held down the fort for me. They did a fine job of keeping things running smoothly.
- ❖ The book discussion group met with 8 members in attendance. They chose the name of the "Book Prowlers" for the group and selected the books to be read for the next 9 months. They will meet every second Tuesday of the month at 4 pm.
- ❖ The storage cupboard for our back room has been made and delivered, painted and is now full of items that were just sitting around on the counter tops and the floor. Once the old pink cupboards are painted and more things moved around, it will actually look organized back there. Thank you to Larry Haylett for building the cupboard and to Chris Kowrach and Ken Waide for painting!
- ❖ The Friends met on Sept. 18 after taking the summer off. They had a lot to catch up on and are planning to do a year's worth of project plans at the next meeting.
- ❖ The Friends assisted ACTION with the youth/family activities at the Juliaetta Blackberry Festival. One hundred and forty-two people came through the gates and 65 youths received food coupons which were donated in part by the Friends.
- ❖ Scrapbook-making class will resume in October with the first class to be held on Saturday, October 6 at the Juliaetta Community Church. If enough people are interested, we will ask to borrow the Accucut for one class in the future.
- ❖ I had a good time at the staff meeting on Sept. 25. It is always fun to see everyone and catch up on what is happening as well as to talk shop.

Potlatch Branch Report – Donna Quiring

- I only have 2 tickets left for the Mystery Dinner Theatre! They sold like hotcakes!
- Storytime has started and I had only 4 the first week (fair week) and 14 kids at each of the following weeks.
- Started rearranging some areas in the library and people have had positive comments. Unfortunately, this made extra work for Chris, as I sent quite a few books back to Moscow for weeding. We will be getting the carpets cleaned, the foyer and bathroom painted and I am getting a bright carpet for the children's area. We will also get some deep cleaning done. The new Local Interest section has been popular!
- I am really hoping George has good news about automated computer sign-up when he gets back from ILA. I would really like to see that happen in our libraries.
- The new Gates computer is installed and everyone likes the big flat screen.

Troy Branch Report – Margie Fitzmorris

- ♣ Story Time started the 13th of September. 9-14 kids per program this month.
- ♣ The Story Time table is getting refinished so we are making do with a small table. Can't wait to get the big one back.
- ♣ Angela Rich, Troy Friend and patron, was nice enough to help out at the Friends Booth at the Latah County Fair.
- ♣ The September Board Meeting was held at Troy this month. The board swore in the new board member, Bill Warren.
- ♣ The Troy Horizon Group had a display of free bottles of water at the Library to promote their Vision Rally. They are creating a vision statement of how they want the community to be 10-15 years from now. The Troy Library donated a Friends of the Troy Library book bag to their door prizes at their Vision Rally.
- ♣ Sara Varner, Area Specialist with the USDA Rural Development had her first meeting at the Library on the 20th. She will have one here monthly to answer questions regarding housing programs available.
- ♣ The Library Foundation had a meeting in the Reading Room on the 20th.
- ♣ We had a staff/branch meeting on the 25th at the Moscow Library. It was very nice to talk to the staff face to face. It was very informative and enjoyable.