



Northfield Public Library Director's Report July 2017

Director's Report

Submitted by Teresa Jensen, Director of Library and IT Services

Working at the RiverWalk Market Fair on Saturday mornings has been a wonderful experience for me, and has definitely caused me to break out of my comfort zone. From my experience it seems like half of the RWMF-goers are visitors, and depending on what I can ascertain from our conversation, I either promote the library or promote Northfield as a great place to visit and live. Bike enthusiasts want to talk about the construction of the BookBike; others want to talk about the idea behind it. I've found that checkouts overwhelmingly come from children seeing the attractive kid's books on the shelves, and so have switched the BookBike collection entirely over to children's material. BookBike designer Eric Johnson rides with me down and back, and sometimes he is the rider. He is still tweaking bits of the design, depending on feedback and performance of the BB that day. We're in contact with people who never visit the library, and the fact that we have this vehicle where they are on a Saturday morning raises the visibility of the library, especially to non-users, which is exactly what we wanted to do. We are still figuring out the role of our Board and Friends members at RWMF; staffing the BB is pretty-much a one-person operation, but it is great to have the opportunity to get to know Library Board and Friend's members better.

Adult Services

Submitted by Debby Nitz

The reference desk has been a busy place in June with lots of out of towners using our computers and enjoying the space. I have spent the quieter moments continuing to weed the nonfiction collection. I'm also continuing fall programming planning. We have booked a band called "Relativity" to play on Friday Oct. 20, 7-9 pm. (this band features local musician Mike Hildebrandt, a MN Rock and Country Music Hall of Fame fiddle player). We had over 100 attend the Jivin' Ivan and the Kings of Swing concert last Oct. so we hope for good numbers again this

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fall. Jamie Stanley and I are working on a marketing plan for our collection. We are trying to come up with ideas for increasing our circulation for the adult collections. We want our collections to be relevant to our patrons but it takes some intentional marketing strategies to actually get the items checked out. We will share more of our ideas as they develop.

Submitted by Jamie Stanley

In the month of May, I re-assumed responsibility for managing the Romance Fiction collection. In the past, the Northfield Library shelved the paperback mysteries, science fiction/fantasy titles and romance books separately from the hardcover books. I have integrated the paperback and hardcover books in the mystery and science fiction collections and the romance collection books are now following suit. An additional element in this integration process for paperback and hardcover romance titles is that in the past hardcover books were cataloged as part of the “fiction” collection and paperbacks were cataloged as part of the “romance” collection effectively bifurcating this collection in our library.

The goal in integrating the paperback and hardcover collections is to provide readers of romance novels one location to find authors and titles without regard for format or different collection codes. I am also working with the technical services department to add series entries for each book title as needed in the library catalog as the hardcover/paperback books are integrated and new titles acquired. The reason for this is that romance authors often write books as part of an extended series. Some authors write many series concurrently. Series entries are a big help to both librarians and romance readers for acquisitions and for readers advisory purposes.

Submitted by Joan Ennis

Next week begins the Jane Austen Book Club, presented by Bridget Draxler of St. Olaf College, and several of her students. The college approached the library in the spring, asking if we would be interested in partnering with the college. The group has eleven participants. The college is providing free copies of *Northanger Abbey* for participants, and the students will lead the discussions. The club will meet July 10, 17, and 24.

In June, Jamie and I spoke to residents at Three Links Care Center and discussed books for summer reads. We selected titles that are quick reads, or easy to pick up and put down, since people are often busier in the summer. The residents really enjoy our talks.

I am organizing some fall programs, including some writing workshops to be given by Kevin Strauss through a SELCO grant from another SELCO library. We will have a two-part memoir writing class in September, and a two-part children’s writing class in October.

I will also begin an open writing group this fall. We have had people ask if we have any writing groups that meet in the library, and someone from Content Bookstore recently asked if we had a writing group. People are often looking for an open book group or writing group when they are new to town, or decide they want to be in a group. Many book groups and writing groups are closed. I think this will fill a need in our community.

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Children's Services

Emily Lloyd, Children's Programming Librarian

Between Worm Races in Bridge Square, YMCA visits, Summer PLUS visits, Books & Stars, and 500+ youth signed up for the Summer Reading Program, June has been busy and exciting in Youth Services! Leesa and I were especially pleased to work out regular library visits from Summer PLUS students, a group of youth who, given their long days in the PLUS program, might not otherwise have the opportunity to visit the library during summer activities. Each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday a different class visits from 1-2:30, with 17



classrooms visiting over the course of the summer. We hope these visits will become an annual part of the PLUS program. Statistics-wise, our in-library youth programs (including storytimes, summer afternoon activities, and groups like the Y and PLUS) had an attendance of 1403 in June--with storytime alone at 707. Afternoon activities ran the gamut from LEGO, origami, and paper airplane obstacle courses to augmented reality apps and engineering with cardboard. On June 28, I had to make my first "bad weather call" for Books and Stars, so The Everett Smithson Band performed for us in the Northfield High School auditorium, but attendance was robust for a weather cancellation: 108. The band was fantastic--see

the picture of Everett giving a group harmonica lesson (with free harmonicas for all!) on the auditorium steps. Finally, the hiring and good work of our summer intern, Brynn Artley, who works on a variety of things from videography to managing Pages in my absence, has helped in Youth Services immeasurably. We are lucky to have her!

Web Services

Submitted by Ian Holms, Reference and Web Services

Things are rolling along pretty smoothly right now. The website has remained mostly static with the exception of the wonderful blog posts that we add each week (which you should subscribe to if you haven't already). Our tech tutorials remain steady. Along with giving us the opportunity

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to help out our patrons and community members, the program gives us the opportunity to better know them. Among the, now four of us (welcome Layna!), it's probably one of the best parts of our weeks.

I've been flexing my programming chops this month. There have been a couple of small issues that have given me reason to brush up on my Python. First, I have written the skeleton of a program that allows staff to more easily book rooms. The program runs the user through a series of prompts, asking for information like barcode, date/time needed, room, etc., and then automatically enters that information into a spreadsheet for statistics and onto our meeting room calendar. It's currently 90% functional but we're also exploring a couple other avenues for booking the rooms. I've also automated a couple of things on the back end of the website that will keep it more current and make it easier to change information. The book scroll at the bottom of the page will be changed out weekly rather than bi-weekly or monthly.

The ref staff will also be piloting a program to add popular DVD's to the "Lucky You" browsing collection. You may know the agony of having to wait weeks, and sometimes months, for a new DVD to get to your spot on the holds list, and you definitely still are able to get into the queue for these popular DVDs. But you now have the option of coming into the library to find browsing copies of popular DVD's that are un-requestable, un-renewable, and only able for checkout if you happen to be here when they are. We're hoping that this will give patrons an extra reason to come check in at the library and maybe walk away with a new movie or book.

Shelving and Volunteer Services

Laurie Kodet, Technology/Circulation Supervisor

July 2017- Laurie Kodet

The library currently has a student with us from the St. Olaf TRIO Upward Bound Program. The program is a federally funded TRIO program designed to help high school students reach their goal of going to college by providing academic support and guidance. St. Olaf TRIO Upward Bound is sponsored by and located at St. Olaf College. The program works with 9th through 12th graders at St. Paul Central High School and St. Paul Humboldt Secondary School.

Our TRIO student's name is Victoria, who has just graduated from high school and will be attending college in the fall. The job-shadowing experience is designed to provide the student with an opportunity to explore career fields. She will be here for four afternoons from 1:00-4:00. I have set up a schedule for her that has her shadowing many different staff members, which will give her an overview of the library and its operations.

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Tuesday, June 27:

1:00-3:00 Tour, (Invoicing, scheduling) - **Laurie**

3:00-4:00 Acquisitions, Cataloging - **Kathy**

Thursday, July 6:

1:00-2:30 ILL, Processing, Lost Letters- **David**

2:30-4:00 Reference Desk - **Joan**

Tuesday, July 11:

1:00-2:30 Children's - **Leesa**

2:30-4:00 CKI, Repairs- **Becky**

Tuesday, July 18:

1:00-2:30 Circulation Desk- **Steve**

2:30-4:00 Shelving- **Paula**

Circulation Services

Submitted by Kathy Rush, Technology Circulation Services Manager



I want to introduce you to our new Circulation Clerk I - Layna Mestad. Layna started working at the library about two weeks ago and you will see her at the circulation desk. Layna graduated from Rosemount High School and took a year off. She started volunteering in the library about 6 months ago, shadowing different members of the staff and decided that working in a library is what she wants to do. She just started Library Schol at St. Catherine's and is saving money by living with her parents in Northfield. You might have seen her working at the Yarn Store. When she is not at the library, you will find her Knitting or studying! WELCOME LAYNA!

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Poet Laureate

Rob Hardy, Northfield Poet Laureate

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