



Oh, my gosh! Summer Reading Programs are almost over and I'm so happy for and proud of my staff. They have done a wonderful job as evidenced by the numbers. Even if a child or teen does not complete the program, the kids are reaping the benefits of the exciting, fun programs and of reading for fun! Even the numbers for adults have gone up—why should kids have all the fun?

In budget news, Toni and I have been working on making it manageable and understandable. The managers are going to receive some training on this so that basic budgeting principles are on their minds.

I'm working still on visiting the townships. I'm also starting to do another round of advisory boards. I've noticed that there seems to be some confusion or maybe just a misunderstanding that advisory boards and Friends' groups are responsible for running the library. ALA's United for Libraries has great material, so I'm checking into that because I don't want to alienate a group, I just want to help them in helping the library.

I met with Keith Baker, Coldwater's City Manager, recently. He's a good manager and I invited him to take a look at the Coldwater building when he comes for his children's program on Thursday. He's not been in the building before and I want him to see what I'm talking about when we discuss the building. He is very interested in keeping the library part of the downtown area. He understands that a public library is an important anchor for the area.

I was invited by the Michigan Library Association to head a workgroup planning a program for the library community. The program is titled Having Those Difficult Conversations and will be offered in 2018 to librarians. Speaking of MLA, I hope that all of you have considered attending at least part of the upcoming Annual Conference in October. I am including the link to the conference [here](#). If money or transportation is a deciding factor for you, please contact me. I will be advocating for money in the 2018 budget for board members to travel to conferences. I think this is very important to help each one of you to be an effective advocate.

It is difficult to evaluate yourself! Try it yourself and you will see what I mean. However, I believe I have succeeded in putting together an evaluation piece that is factual and concise.

Submitted by Linda Lyshol



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT July 14, 2017

- Prep for the new phone system continues to go well. All hardware and wiring are in place. Phones are in hand and being programmed. The main switchboard system is nearly finished being programmed. Training is scheduled for Monday, July 24th.

The switchover from our old carriers to the new is scheduled for the afternoon of Tuesday, July 25. We will have a brief telephone outage as this occurs that we will inform the public about on the 24th and 25th.

- The document scanners approved at last month's meeting for staff and public use are installed and have already been appreciated by the public. Thanks!
- Desks identical to the Coldwater Adult computer lab were ordered and have arrived for the teen area. These will be installed next week and some computers from Kids' Place will be moved downstairs. (Tablets for the very young will be put in their place later this summer.) Jessica has done a great job creating a teen space in the basement, I can't wait to see the finished project in a few more weeks.
- I have installed Quincy's replacement public access server. With this, three branches now have printing available for the public's own devices. The other three will have it soon.
- Curtis is deploying Windows 10 to the public computers, and Angie has done a fantastic job staying on top of promoting our district summer events while keeping up with a busy Coldwater computer lab and patron support. So glad to have this great team!

Submitted by John Rucker

Director of Public Services Report
July 2017

- BDL is glad to welcome Kelley Schroyer to the library. Kelley will be working both as a clerk in Coldwater and as a floating clerk across the district. As time progress she will be working in all 6 locations and be a much needed relief for the staffing shortages that occur throughout the year.
- The new surveys for Summer Reading Program have been handed out to the branch managers and programmers at all locations. As the Summer Reading Programs end at each branch, patrons will be asked to provide input on the Reading Program and its impact on their lives. Surveys are being collected in both paper form and will be available on the BDL website later this month. Being that Summer Reading is the biggest event that library hosts, it is vital that we collect data that help library staff guide the development of the district wide program. Library staff will meet and discuss the surveys results and start planning for 2018 programming in September.

During this time, I attended the 2017 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in Chicago. This conference was supported with a Continuing Education grant from the Library of Michigan. For 4 amazing days, I joined 20,000 other librarians from around the world, who are dedicated to transforming libraries through the power of librarianship.



The annual conference is a flurry of activity with library related vendors from digital content providers, publishing houses, and honestly anything to do with libraries. I was able to make connections with several current BDL vendors, including Newsbank, Mango, Hoopla, Evergreen, and Overdrive. Also present in the exhibit hall are small and large publishing houses that hosted author signings through out each day. Several times, I stood in line securing FREE books to bring back to the library both to be added to the collection or handed out for Summer Reading Program Prizes. Librarians are serious about their free materials and often times

My focus for workshop selection was learning new ideas and practices that could be implemented at BDL. Overall the conference seemed to have a strong focus of providing services to Youth - specifically teens. However, even with the youth driven focus, there were a variety of workshops that were interesting and enlightening. Areas that I focused on were services, systems and technology, and community relationships.

Some of the highlights from the conference included:

- **The Internet if Your Friend: Using Online Sources to Create Programs, Raise Money, and Engage Teens:** Even though this workshop was targeted to teens, it showed creative ways to kick start program funding by turning to popular crowd sourcing campaign. The presenter also touched on ways to keep the teen population engaged in library services to create them as lifelong library supporters.
- **To Fine or Not to Fine: That is the Question:** This workshop was VERY interesting. Across the United States, all types of libraries are removing late fines that can prevent access to library materials and stop the essential need to access information. There is significant

research that shows late fines do not affect the ultimate return of an item and do little to create any sense of responsibility to bring items back. From the public libraries perspective, removing daily fines for bringing in materials late creates a sense of goodwill towards the community and strives to make the library accessible. This is a topic that will likely be touched on again and again as more libraries strive to stay relevant with their patrons.

- **Counter Islamophobia Through Stories:** Demonstrated ways for librarians to provide access points for facilitate a positive representation of Muslims specifically targeted to children. As libraries stand to be a beacon for everyone, teaching children early on about cultural and religious diversity creates a library environment where all can be welcomed.
- **Patron-Centric Library Marketing: Opportunities and Rewards:** As libraries still focus on how to attract and engage patrons, this provided commercially available programs that can help libraries target and drive consumer marketing.

The conference information will be shared with staff at the next staff meeting and I look forward to seeing how this information can be translated this into action!

Submitted,
Kimberly Feltner

Teen Services Librarian Branch Report

June began with a kickoff to Summer Reading, a plethora of Teen programs every week, and ended with the ALA conference in Chicago. It was a whirlwind of a month and many exciting things happened. To date, the Teen Summer Reading Program has over 100 more registrations than last year and we continue to add to that number daily. Teen program attendance is consistently on the rise, with near daily pleading from Teens for weekly programs. Our Teen Space downstairs is nearly completed. The flooring was completed on Friday, July 14 and the trim will be added once it arrives to Shemel's. Additionally, I was able to procure a grant from the Library of Michigan for \$1500 in supplies for our Crafternoon program.

The ALA Conference was an incredible experience for a variety of reasons. I was able to attend thanks to a generous grant provided by the Library of Michigan. During the numerous sessions I attended I learned how Teen Services can be improved and I look forward to sharing that information with the board and the rest of the BDL staff. During my numerous strolls through the exhibits and standing in line waiting for author signings, I was able to collect a total of 47 free books. Twenty of these books were able to be added into our YA collection, another 15 were signed by authors and are on our prize cart for Summer Reading and the rest will be worked into programming prizes when appropriate. The most exciting connection I made in Chicago was with a Publicity Manager from Harlequin Teen, a subset of HarperCollins. While walking through the exhibits, I spotted three staffers from HQT holding a newly released book that has been garnering a lot of negative attention. I approached the women and asked them about the book and all the bad press and told them about my experience with the book and how while doing my due diligence before ordering, I read up on the YA fantasy novel and decided to order it despite the controversy surrounding it. Not only did I order it, but I couldn't keep it on my shelf. My YA readers were devouring it. They were thrilled with this news and offered to send me a second copy. They also gave me a catalog of their 2017 Fall releases and told me to email them a list of all the ones that I wanted and they'd send them to me, free of charge. While that was incredibly gracious of them, when I returned to the library and emailed them my list of books I received a reply back stating that the author may be doing a book tour in Michigan and wondered if I would be interested in hosting a meet and greet with her at BDL. It is all still in the works with nothing definitive yet.

A snapshot of what I learned at ALA:

- 1.) Gamification – BDL does a great job at reaching mainstream teens. However, there's an underutilized way to incentivize the teens that I'd like to try. Essentially, it's using elements from games (points, competition, "squad") to incentivize the teens that need more than the typical "Reading a lot = really cool prizes like an xbox one" to get them to open a book and engage their imagination.
- 2.) The difference between YA fiction and Adult fiction is the amount of context brought to the story by the author. The measure of a good book is this: if at the end of it the author has made you care about characters that will never exist.
- 3.) Being able to recognize that we live in a world where teens are constantly bombarded with 2 choices: escapism vs immediate gratification makes us realize that teens are searching for an authentic connection. They will never respond to be talked at, but being talked to.
- 4.) Life skills programs are popping up all over the country and are a massive hit:
 - a. Life hacks: How to open a savings/checking account, how to make dinner in the oven, how to not be 25 and living in your parent's basement, how to combat media inundation, Why you shouldn't have 37 credit cards, etc.
 - b. Talk to other adults: What do you wish you would have known when you were a young adult?

- 5.) There are also “Boot Camp” classes that are wildly popular:
 - a. Etiquette
 - b. Public Speaking
 - c. Time Management
 - d. Wealth and Wellness
 - e. Basic Car Maintenance
- 6.) Stress and Self Care Programs
 - a. You do not need to be an expert and you do not need to spend a lot of money.
 - b. Find the right time/space/location – you want mindful not mind full.
- 7.) Programming:
 - a. Look to your community to see what others are doing...and then DO SOMETHING ELSE.
 - b. Common Challenges:
 - i. Marketing
 - ii. Pace yourself- less quantity more quality
 - iii. Make it fun
 - iv. Listen to your teens
 - c. Know your teens.
 - i. When are they here?
- 8.) 50+ Fandom Programs:
 - a. Nerd Culture is in the forefront
 - b. Button making is the hottest thing in fandoms currently
 - c. Get Walkie Talkies.
 - d. Throwback fandoms are popular
 - i. TMNT, Ghostbusters, etc

July 6, 2017

TO: City Councilmembers

FROM: Mayor Tom Kramer

RE: **Appointment to Downtown Development Authority**

I would like to make the following appointment to the Downtown Development Authority, which I am submitting for your consideration:

Downtown Development Authority

- Linda Lyshol, MLIS, MPA – term expires September, 2020. Linda is the Director at the Branch District Library in downtown Coldwater.

TK/js

Certificate of Completion

2017 Beginning Workshop

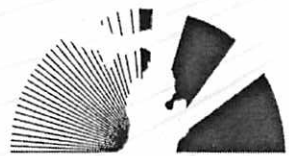
Jessica Clark

May 19, 2017

Date

Evette M. Atkin

Evette M. Atkin



**Library of
Michigan**



INSTITUTE of
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MICHIGAN
Department of
Education

Certificate of Library Development

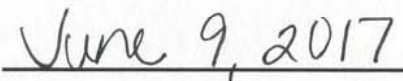
I hereby certify that

Lisa L. Wood

has satisfactorily completed all required classes to achieve the
Midwest Collaborative for Library Services Basic Cataloging Certificate.



Jan Davidson, Training Department



Date