

September 9, 2017

Dear Branch District Library supporters:

**COLDWATER BRANCH  
(Main Library)**  
10 E. Chicago St.  
Coldwater MI 49036  
(517) 278-2341  
Fax (517) 278-2342

**ALGANSEE BRANCH**  
580-B S. Ray-Quincy Rd.  
Quincy MI 49082  
(517) 639-9830

**BRONSON BRANCH**  
207 N. Matteson St.  
Bronson MI 49028  
(517) 369-3785

**QUINCY BRANCH**  
11 N. Main St.  
Quincy MI 49082  
(517) 639-4001

**SHERWOOD BRANCH**  
118 Sherman St.  
Sherwood MI 49089  
(517) 741-7976

**LUCILLE E. DEARTH  
UNION TWP. BRANCH**  
195 N. Broadway St.  
Union City MI 49094  
(517) 741-5061

Recently, there has been some worry that the Materials budget has been reduced. Materials are defined as books, audio-visuals (such as audio books and DVDs), and periodicals. In looking back through several years of budget vs. actual spending, one can see that actual spending has been less than budgeted; 2014 is the first time budgeted equaled actual spending.

In looking at the budget numbers for 2009-2016, it is important to remember that the Coldwater numbers are usually higher than the other branches. This is normal because funding for databases and for different programs, such as the iPod program (2008-2010), come from Coldwater's budget, and all branches benefit from this strategy.

Tracking actual spending is the best way to predict the budget for the following years. One reason we have not been spending the budgeted amount is because we cannot hold that volume of physical materials within our buildings. We have, as promised, dramatically increased spending on materials after the passage of the millage. However, there is no point in having a large materials budget if it is not going to be spent—we do not want to buy just to buy; better to budget smart and be able to create a useful budget that will meet the needs of the district library.

