

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
March 19, 2018

Branch visits continue with John, Kimberly, Jessica, and me sharing the visits on Wednesdays. It is a good time to see the physical building and to talk with staff. Depending on the person visiting, staff will usually have a list of things to talk about or to do. Overall, it is important for staff to see us and have the chance to sit and talk.

Jessica Clark is now the clerk for Bronson, which means that Jan Clark at Alganssee is by herself. We are working on finding her a clerk.

I have been making the Board's requested changes to the Strategic Plan document. Management will meet with MCLS staff on March 26th to work on the timing for implementation of the plan and evaluation measures. After that, the document should be ready to formally present to the Board in the April Board meeting.

We have a membership to Grant Station, which is a website designed to help different organizations find grants and/or loans available to them in the states, whether federal, state, or entity. This has proven to be a goldmine of information and I will keep digging away.

I secured a place at the ALA conference session, "Libraries Transforming Communities: Models for Change." The session will be a full day of learning and I'm pretty excited about it. The ALA Conference will be in New Orleans, a place I have visited several times (including the ALA Conference right after Hurricane Katrina and the aftermath), in late June.



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT
March 16, 2018

- On February 22, we had a facilities inspection of the Coldwater Branch with our building insurance carrier, Cincinnati Insurance Co. No concerns were mentioned during the inspection.
- Progress on our various digitization projects is continuing well. We recently made public the 1879 edition of our Branch County History book (<https://www.branchdistrictlibrary.org/branch/items/show/7169>), and have digitized prepped for searching over 200 Branch County Yearbooks. The yearbook collection will be made public once all yearbooks in our possession have been scanned. We are currently working on finishing Quincy and will start on Union City soon. These digitization projects are a large collaborative effort between the Heritage Room staff, cataloging staff, and IT department staff.
- Along with our Technical Services Manager, Laura Sachjen, I attended an online workshop about the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). The idea behind DPLA is to get locally history materials, like those mentioned above, into the DPLA database so that our materials find a wider audience. Getting onboard with DPLA will be one of our goals as we have more materials digitized. The actual records would stay on our system, DPLA search results will simply point people to us.
- With authorization from the director I purchased materials out of the capital funds for two branches. First, an audiovisual cart for Quincy Branch equivalent to that at the other 5 branches, so now all six branches have A/V gear. The cost was a little over \$1600. Alganssee Branch requested a laptop to use for staff purposes, since there is no room to put up a second desktop there. I got a gently used model identical to the most recent batch of laptops we purchased, to keep models the same. The cost was \$400.
- During the last round of snow melt and heavy rains, there was increased water penetration into the 4th floor of the Coldwater Branch. The leaking on the west side was not coming from areas of past leaks, which is good. I got in the attic during the rain and took pictures of where it looks like the leak is. Hoekstra roofing who has successfully deal with other repairs from the Chenoweth roofing debacle visited to inspect things and made a proposal to repair shingles and flashing where the 1886 portion of the building meets the 1979 portion. Estimate and photos in the discussion section.

Submitted by John Rucker



Branch District
Library

www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES
MARCH 2018**

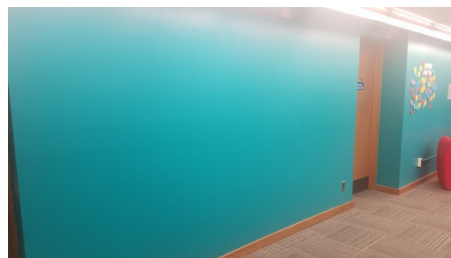
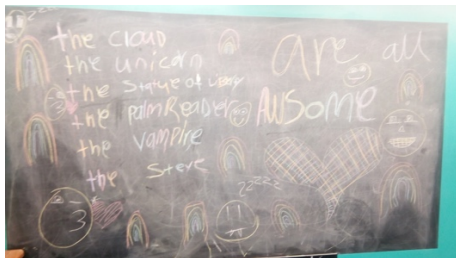
- Coming up is BDL's One Book One County! For the county wide reading program, the 2018 Selection is *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. The title was selected by the staff of BDL. During March is Reading Month, we are asking our communities to come together and read the same book. In April we will bring all of those readers together and host 6 book discussions at all Branches. The book highlights Ove – a curmudgeon who likes the rules, structure, and not people. Readers will encounter topics such as aging, community, immigrants, grief, and friendship which should stimulate great discussions!
- National Library Week: This year National Library Week will be April 8-14 with the theme Libraries Lead. I am working on getting some giveaway items to entice people to visit BDL Branches and learn about our libraries.

Submitted:
Kimberly Feltner



Spring is here and the Teen Services Department is excited! As is the norm, Teen Services has been busy busy busy with reoccurring programs, the March Writing Contest, Community Service with TAC, and due to the abundant sunshine lately, we have been in full Spring Cleaning mode!

In the past few weeks, the Teen Space received a face lift via touch up paint and new decorations. Most notably different is that the chalkboard wall has been painted over, and the Teen Space will instead have a black dry erase board (with neon markers) to be delivered at the end of the month. The decision to paint over the chalkboard occurred after several months of intense use and realizing that upkeep was unattainable. Teens play hard and the chalkboard had the gouges and scratches to prove it, and painting over it on a monthly basis was unrealistic.



The Teen Services Department added in a March's Reading Month program: Weekend Book Club. The program consists of snacks and enjoying a community of fellow book lovers that give a short synopsis of what they're currently reading, and whether they'd recommend it. It also includes an element of letting the teens know what new books have come in that week and giving short summaries of said books. It has only occurred for the past two weekends, but it has been well attended.

In other exciting news, Legg Middle School contacted the Teen Services Department last October to set up an English Curriculum Night for March's Reading Month in the Teen Space at BDL. We were able to provide the space for the English Department and it was a success!

Lastly, the Teen Advisory Council hosted a St. Patrick's Day bake sale for Erin's Angels Rescue on March 3. It was our most successful fund raiser to date, bringing in \$380 for the animal rescue. Our Community Service for April will be held at the Humane Society of Branch County in Quincy.

