



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT February 18, 2019

Well, this has been quite a winter so far! The library branches have all withstood the weather well; I'm hoping this will be the trend for the remainder of winter.

- Our "Opportunity for Giving" letter, which was sent to over 700 people in December has so far only brought in \$1,000. I'm wondering about doing another letter mid-summer. Some libraries have done this and had success with it. ***I'd like to know your feelings about this.***
- I thought I'd run this by you once more. For Summer Reading Program: *There are cool t-shirts to wear; if you would like to order one, let me know.*



T-shirts are adult sizes, S to 3XL, running from \$7.75 to \$10

- The Teen Winter Read Challenge was great! The teen Kindle winners were very pleased after the completion of the Winter Read Challenge. Of the thirteen system-wide, one Quincy teen read the most minutes overall. He recorded 1,560 minutes—of the 31 days in the Challenge, almost an hour each day!
- I attended Webby training with John Rucker. Webby is the online version of Evergreen and John set up several days to train all staff. The information was very helpful.
- BDL will have a vendor spot (for the first time!) at the 52nd Annual Farmers Day at the Branch Area Career Center. It will be held from 9-3 on Monday, February 18. Kudos to Kimberly Feltner for her persistence in obtaining a spot!
- I have started listening to the book for our One Book, One County. The title is "Radium Girls" by Kate Moore. Besides feeling slightly nauseated at what these women suffered, I'm feeling pretty good about the regulations we have in place now to keep things like this from happening. And I know that there will be other substances of great harm to people but, after reading/listening to this book, yeah for governmental regulations.

Linda Lyshol



## **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT February 15, 2019**

- **Evergreen Staff Training:** Over the last two weeks I've conducted training for all staff on the Evergreen circulation software we use at BDL. We covered best practices, how to troubleshoot problems, changes happening right now with the software, and what we can expect from our next upgrade coming this summer.
- **After the computer hardware rotation from last autumn's purchases, we conducted a sale of used equipment.** We donated equipment to the Shelter House, The Children's Museum of Branch County, and The Arab American Society. Staff were given an opportunity to bid on items, per policy ([https://www.branchdistrictlibrary.org/equipment\\_sale\\_policy](https://www.branchdistrictlibrary.org/equipment_sale_policy)), and the rest went out to a public sale on February 1. After the donations, we took in about \$1,700.
- **Statistical Report Update:** The December 2018 report is the same as the last several months, but I made some fairly major changes to the statistical report starting with January 2019.

The most noticeable change is that branch data is hidden. By default, you will see the aggregate BDL numbers only. On the online stats report at <https://www.branchdistrictlibrary.org/stats>, you can select an option to see the individual branch data. Removing the branch data by default makes the display a little bit less overwhelming and cuts the number of pages in the printout by quite a lot. If you toggle on the branch data before printing, you can still print it, however.

In addition to the above, I've added a summer reading summary table, started tracking the hours we're scheduled open, the number of hours staff receive formal training, time spent using library computers, and tracking many more categories of value to the community through our services.

Our methodology for determining the value is explained at <https://www.branchdistrictlibrary.org/value>. Tracking these services adds another approximately \$20,000 - \$30,000 a month to our value to the community, or an additional 5% or so over the course of a year. Just one more way to show how good of an investment our public library is!

Submitted by John Rucker



- One Book, One County 2019:** This is the 13<sup>th</sup> year for our county-wide reading program. New this year was our selection process for the book. Staff nominated 15 titles and a list of 3 were picked by the One Book One Title Selection Committee. Those 3 titles were then presented to Branch County for a public vote online. We had 144 people vote and the non-fiction title "The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women" by Kate Moore was selected! This book recounts the struggles of hundreds of women who were exposed to radium while working factory jobs during World War I, describing how they were misled by their employers and became embroiled in a battle for workers' rights. Copies of the book and audiobook are available at BDL and also on digital library provider Hoopla (with no waiting).

**BRANCH DISTRICT LIBRARY**

*Dial - Painting Studio  
Orange, New Jersey*

*presents*  
**ONE BOOK, ONE COUNTY 2019**

Book Discussions are being held at all 6 of our branches! Join BDL and your neighbors as we discuss this fascinating and terrifying chapter of American history.

Copies are available now at BDL or on digital library provider **hoopla** with no waiting!

**JOIN THE CONVERSATION**

<b>Saturday, March 16, 10am</b> Union Twp. Branch	<b>Saturday, March 30, 1pm</b> Coldwater Branch
<b>Friday, March 22, 4pm</b> Sherwood Branch	<b>Wednesday, April 3, 7pm</b> Coldwater Branch
<b>Saturday, March 23, 10am</b> Quincy Branch	<b>Friday, April 5, 12pm</b> Algansee Branch
<b>Wednesday, March 27, 5:30pm</b> Bronson Branch	

*In partnership with the Coldwater Friends of the Branch District Library*

More information visit [BranchDistrictLibrary.org/one\\_book](http://BranchDistrictLibrary.org/one_book)

**Community Events:**

- For the first time BDL will sponsor and have a booth at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Farmers Days held at the Branch Area Career Center. This long running event occurs every year on Presidents Day and I am very excited to be able to have the library participate. BDL will be offering information about the library, signing people up for library cards, and giving out library swag!

**Webinars:**

- Wandoo Reader Boot Camp:** This is the online reading tracking software that we will be using for the 2019 Summer Reading Program. This was provided to libraries in Michigan for free by the Library of Michigan for 3 years. This will be the second year that BDL will be using it and I am looking forward to the enhancements and new options for our staff and patrons!

Submitted,

Kimberly Feltner



Branch District  
Library

## **TEEN SERVICES LIBRARIAN REPORT February 2019**

The Teen Services Department has been so busy this past month! We have had lots of fun-filled programming, an ending to a Reading Challenge, and are planning for our "Harry Potter" themed March-is-Reading-Month!

Our Winter Reading Challenge ended on January 31, and while numbers were lower than last year, we had an astonishing completion rate of 92%! We had one winner from each of the branches, with the prize being a Kindle Fire.

This month we decided to get outdoors and look at the constellations while drinking some Cocoa. Unfortunately, with the Polar Vortex, we've had cloudy skies and little participation. We have three more on the calendar for this month, and we're hoping that the weather cooperates! We've also started our "Are you smarter than a Librarian" series...which has been cancelled twice due to weather.

The Teen Services Department is having a blast planning for all the fun activities for the Harry Potter Lock-in. We will have games, the movies, and of course, lots of food and snacks. Registration and parent permission will be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Tefft