

John Rucker

Benjamin Jewell, President
Branch District Library Board of Trustees
10 E. Chicago St.
Coldwater, MI 49036

12 April 2019

Dear President Jewell,

I am writing to formally express my interest in the open position of Director of the Branch District Library. As you will see from my resume, and as you know from your time on the BDL Board of Trustees, my nearly 16 years of employment at BDL have given me a deep understanding of this library and our community. During this time, both have endeared themselves to me and my family. Against all initial expectations, Branch District Library and Branch County have both become my home.

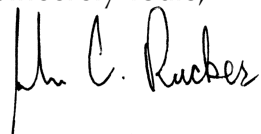
Home is something you cherish, protect, and want to see thrive. All of these wishes led me to apply for this position. While becoming a library director someday may have been a distant thought for me during most of my work here, the current situation at BDL has convinced me that the time to finally apply is now. The strong level of community support for the library is a tremendous asset, and our talented library staff have never been more focused on providing quality service and programming to our patrons. I am excited at the potential the library has yet to unleash.

If appointed by the Board of Trustees, my goal will be to leverage our strong local relationships, along with the broad talents of our library staff, to continue to increase the value to our patrons and further raise the stature of the library. While doing so, I will take none of our resources for granted: not our community support, not the relationship with the Board of Trustees, not our staff, and certainly not our financial stability. I will do all of this within the policy framework established by the BDL Board, and I will be transparent with the Board as I am working toward these stated goals.

Cultivating all of these resources and working towards our objectives will be challenging and rewarding. While it may not have been a long-term professional goal, I will put as much energy and effort into being the best Director I can be, just as I have done in my other capacities over these many years at BDL.

Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Rucker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "C".

John Rucker

John Rucker

EDUCATION

- University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky — M.S. Library and Information Science, 7/2003
- University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky — B.A. Russian and East European Studies, 12/1999 (Magna cum laude with Departmental Honors)

EXPERIENCE

- **Assistant Director, Branch District Library; Coldwater, Michigan**

8/10/2006-Present

Acts as Library Director in the Director's absence. Participates in drafting budgets and policies. Attends municipal and community meetings. Conducts initial staff training and onboarding. Depending on the director, supervises the technical services and interlibrary loan departments, and serves as the point person for Coldwater Branch Building Maintenance. Supervised the BDL portion of the building of the Lucille E. Dearth Union Twp. Library. Served as Acting Director from 12/20/2011 to 5/13/2012, from 7/28/2015 to 6/28/2016, and from 3/19/2019 to the present.

- **Technology Librarian, Branch District Library; Coldwater, Michigan**

8/4/2003-Present

Responsible for the Information Technology needs of staff and patrons. Directly manages the network infrastructure, servers, Macintosh computers, and mobile devices. Creates planning documents and budgets for continuing upgrades. Writes original software and web apps as needed. Maintains documentation. Provides desktop support and teaches classes to staff and public users. Maintains the library's web site. Assists smaller libraries in our cooperative with technology issues and upgrades. Selects books for science, technology, and other non-fiction areas. Supervises two Information Technology Department assistants who handle Windows desktop management, patron and staff support, and digital outreach and marketing.

- **Editorial Assistant, *Slavic and East European Journal*; Lexington, Kentucky**

7/2001-8/2003

Copy-edited and proofread manuscripts for publication, processed manuscript submissions, solicited referees for article evaluation, handled reprint requests, coordinated placement of advertisements.

- **Junior Library Tech., Univ. of Kentucky Medical Library; Lexington, Kentucky**

7/1999-8/2001

Processed incoming and outgoing interlibrary loan and document delivery requests for research and patient-care. Assisted in patron service as needed. Implemented a web-based document delivery service for the medical library using the open-source Prospero software package. Assisted in training student workers.

DISTINCTIONS

- Elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Chapter of Kentucky — 1999

MEMBERSHIPS

- None currently. Previously: Michigan Library Association and the Association for Information Science and Technology

SKILLS

- Excellent oral and written communications skills in English. Intermediate in Russian.
- Motivates others by expecting the same high standards exhibited personally.
- Thoughtful listener, consensus-builder management style, team leadership approach.
- Highly organized and detail-oriented.
- Long history of customer service excellence.
- Well-versed with web technologies: HTML/CSS, JavaScript, PHP, MySQL, etc.
- Knowledgeable of Windows, Linux, and Macintosh as desktop and server operating systems.
- Knowledgeable of wired/wireless networking and troubleshooting.
- Knowledgeable troubleshooting PC hardware.
- Basic knowledge of C++ and Python/wxPython.
- Knowledgeable of a wide variety of desktop applications (office, graphics, audiovisual, and more).

CLASSES TAUGHT

- For patrons: Basic Web Page Creation, Photo Editing, Microsoft Office, Intro to the Macintosh, Making Music with Garage Band, The Best of Free Software, Getting to Know Your Smartphone.
- For other libraries: Ubuntu Hardy and DansGuardian for Filtering and Public Wireless Access.
- For staff: Various classes on Evergreen, MeLCat, The Children's Internet Protection Act and Web Filtering, and other technology-related topics.

PRESENTATIONS

- Open Source Web Filtering - Michigan Library Consortium Annual Meeting - October 3, 2008

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Branch County Community Theatre: percussion, sound design, live sound, web design, publicity.
- Coldwater Community Schools Bands: percussion instructor, Band Boosters
- Tibbits Opera House (2004-2015): percussion, orchestra contractor
- Marshall Civic Players: percussion