



- From April 23 to April 27, I was away for the annual Evergreen International Conference, in Valley Forge, PA. Evergreen is the name of the open-source library automation system that we have used at BDL since August of 2008. As a non-profit, open source product, the software is freely available, and you pay for support and possibly for hosting if you don't self-host. Conferences like these have been great opportunities to make sure we're getting the most out of Evergreen, since there is not a big budget for training and promotion. Libraries from all over the world are represented, with presentations ranging from 5-minute lightning talks to 4-hour in-depth sessions.

This year's focus and theme was accessibility, with the inspiring keynote on that topic given by software developer and accessibility activist Ather Sharif. I also attended sessions on getting the most out of our receipt and label templates, getting the most from reports, having digital resources appear in our catalog without library staff needing to load bibliographic records (yes!), tweaking how holds on library materials are filled, purchasing items from vendors directly from within Evergreen to save time, and getting started with developing new Evergreen features. Lightning talks covered a wide variety of topics, as usual, including interlibrary loan integrations, data cleanup, remembering the history of Evergreen, end-user documentation, integrating Evergreen with digital assistants like Alexa and Google Home, several on accessibility issues, and more.

I received a stipend from the Library of Michigan to reimburse BDL for the cost of me attending this year's conference.

- The library is now using Infinisource to handle COBRA compliance for our health insurance plans.
- After the vacancy in our bookkeeping department, Kimberly, Angie Clark, and I have all spent a lot of time in the bookkeeping office documenting procedures and cross-training on as many different aspects of the office as possible. We have met with our accountants—Taylor, Plant, and Watkins—as well, to discuss any possible ways we each can make improvements and to just ask general best-practice type questions. We seem to be on a solid footing there.
- The library is preparing to the max to begin our annual Summer Reading Program time. Staff across the district have been working like crazy to have special events lined up, prizes secured, and materials ready. A special shout out to Kimberly for taking a lot of time to make sure that staff are as comfortable as possible with the online Wandoo Reader

component of SRP that all participating Michigan libraries are using again this year.

- Committees have been hard at work this month working on issues as diverse as Board bylaws, support for an LSTA Early Literacy grant, and further personnel/structural changes. Thanks to all for their enthusiasm and hard work; there will reports on all in the discussion section of the agenda.
- I have joined a task force started by the Library of Michigan to examine how they collect and report on library data. Our first virtual meeting is next week.

Unrelated to this, yet still in the realm of stats, I was able to get one of only 50 seats available for the Michigan regional Research Institute for Public Libraries event in Lansing this coming August.

The Regional Research Institute for Public Libraries is an intensive 2-day workshop focused on gathering, analyzing and using data for decision making, strategic planning, and demonstrating impact. Attendees will learn evaluation and data use techniques and how to apply these skills to promote their libraries and improve library services to their communities.

Cost for attending RIPL national events is usually in the \$1,200 range, but thanks to a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, this will cost us only \$50, plus mileage to Lansing.

- I will be attending the next available New Director's Workshop, September 12, 2019, in Lansing.

Submitted by John Rucker



- A majority of my last month has been spent finalizing summer reading. The 2019 theme is a Universe of Stories. This out of the world adventure will encourage children, teens, and adults to read for the chance to earn prizes. In conjunction with the reading portion, programming will ramp up with space, aliens, and the moon all on the schedule for the summer months.

Training documents for the staff have been created to provide guidelines on the reading software and Q&A that we typically get from patrons. Additional time will be spent working with the staff who request additional assistance. A patron FAQ about the reading software, Wandoo Reader, was also created and put on the website with all other summer reading information.

Registration is now open ([www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/SRP](http://www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/SRP)) and patrons can start their logging their reading on Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. For the first time, all 6 branches are starting and stopping the summer reading program at the same time and as a district we are offering the same grand prizes at all of our branches. Several local sponsors for the program will assist in providing milestone prizes throughout the eight weeks and grand prizes. This allowed the branch managers and department managers to solicit sponsors for some of the larger programming they hold during the summer months.

#### **Community Events:**

- Attend Coldwater schools Kindergarten registration to offer library card sign up.
- Presented to the Branch County Herb Quester club on the Seed Library at the Coldwater branch.
- For the first time BDL was present as a community partner at the Walk a Mile Event sponsored by BACCDV. We were able to test out our new prize wheel and hand out information about BDL and our services.
- Coordinated (and represented at one) a library booth at 2 Coldwater elementary schools during a celebration of literacy event. This was in part to connect the elementary schools summer reading program, Kids Read Now, to the summer reading program the library offers. Parents were able to get information on how to sign children up with the library and told that participation in both programs is encouraged!

#### **Training:**

- Traveled to Lansing for a training on our summer reading program software, Wandoo Reader. Even though I have been taking monthly webinars to prepare for 2019, this was a chance to meet with other libraries in Michigan who are also using the software and have some questions answered from Demco who supplies the software. This is the second year that the Library of Michigan had provided the software for free to public libraries.

Submitted,

Kimberly Feltner



**TEEN SERVICES LIBRARIAN REPORT  
May 2019**

The Teen Services Department hosted “THE BEST LIBRARY PROGRAM EVER” on Saturday, May 11. We were so excited to partner with the Humane Society of Branch County to host a “De-stress with puppies” event for finals week for the teens. Five puppies were the lucky recipients of all the love they could handle for a little over an hour.

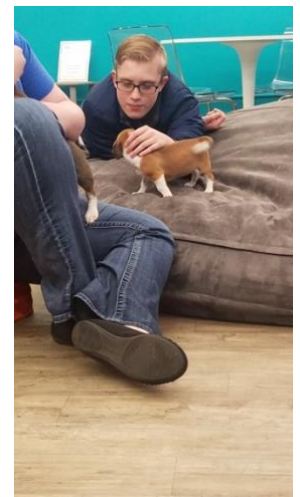
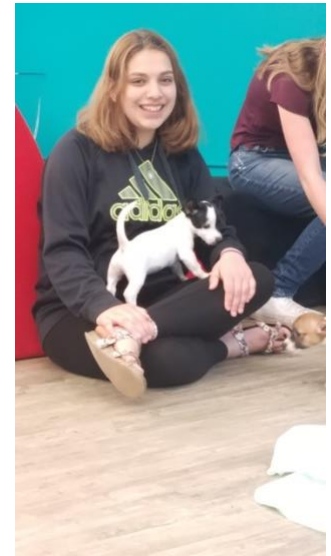


This month, Teen Services is implementing two original programs in all 6 of our locations: “STEAM: Catapult Building” and in honor of the upcoming Summer Reading Program (theme being “A Universe of Stories”) “Galactic Tote Bags”. We will also host an additional “de-stress” program on May 24. Sadly, this one will not include puppies.

Summer Reading will be here before we know it! We are thrilled with prizes that we’ll be offering this year to the Teens that participate in SRP. Each branch will be receiving 3 grand prizes: An Instax Camera, an Amazon Echo and an NCG Cinema package. Teens will be logging their hours online using Wandoo Reader.

Additionally, in an effort to create lasting relationships with Branch County schools, I have met with the Superintendents of Quincy, Bronson and Coldwater to discuss a library/school collaboration. I am encouraged by the conversations that I’ve had with each Superintendent and I’m excited about the partnership that we’re about to embark on.

Lastly, Teen Space just concluded their annual weeding of materials, and those books will be given to the Friends of the Library book sale.



Submitted by Jessica Tefft