



- We received a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for library contact information for all library. This request came from the same Florida data aggregator that has been the source of many of our previous FOIA requests, SmartProcure. The information sought is not protected or privileged, so the request was promptly fulfilled.
- New testing data was released on coronavirus and library materials from the Reopening Archives, Libraries, Museums (REALM) Project. Results show that some items may need to be quarantined up to 4 days. Although the covers of these items appear to be virus-free after 3 days, the pages themselves showed continued evidence of the virus on some materials during the 3rd day, but were virus-free after 4. The specific types pages are: braille paper pages, glossy paper pages, magazine pages, and children's board books. To avoid confusion, BDL has shifted to quarantining all library materials now for 4 days.
- I am due to take the Advanced New Library Director training put on by the Library of Michigan. This is a requirement for receiving our State Aid payment, and I took the basic training last year. However, these in-person events are canceled this year. Library of Michigan will be granting waivers, so there should be no issue.
- MeLCat service has resumed this week! While our patrons love BDL, they also love MeLCat and all the extra materials it puts within reach. MeLCat's absence has been a sore spot that we are glad is back online. Ordering resumed Monday August 10, and our daily deliveries resume next week!
- I continue to be amazed at the creativity and energy on display from so many library staff as we continue to focus on digital programming. Though we are on a hiatus until after school resumes, many staff are still hard at work preparing content. Stay tuned!
- I have done some Evergreen work, tweaking rules for our quarantining and upcoming Library1 rollout with Coldwater Schools. More to come on that...
- We have finally completed our roll-out of the full SwipeClock HR suite to accompany the timekeeping we've been using from some time. This will allow library staff to have convenient online access to pay stubs, W2s, and other HR information, and allow easy updating of tax and contact information. Onboarding of new hires will be streamlined as well.
- One of our longest serving employees, Loretta Sherfield, is retiring at the end of the month. Loretta has been with the library since before BDL was even BDL! Whether her unflappable attention to detail, her fantastic arts and crafts programming, or the way her baking experiments were somehow way better than my best efforts, Loretta has kept us impressed for years. She was a kind voice to me from my first day on the job 17 years ago, and I won't be alone in missing her.

Submitted by John Rucker



This past month I worked on BDL's Request for Proposal for the Radio Frequency Identification system. By having RFID in our materials, it will help increase work productivity, improve inventory, and shelf accuracy. Staff will be placing a small RFID tag into our approximately 104,000 items. The estimate to complete this project is twenty weeks. The RFP will be due back to BDL at the beginning of September. There will be time for the Public Services Committee to review before the September board meeting.

Exciting news is that as of August 10 the statewide lending service MeLCat is back on! Patrons have been asking for this since June and we had not control over its return. Not all libraries in the state are up and running or have decided to opt out currently. We can now supplement our local collection with many great options from other libraries. We are very glad to have it back!

We have a retirement in our Interlibrary Loan (ILL) department. Loretta Sherfield will be leaving us after almost thirty-five years of service. Her expertise with the MeLCat program and positive attitude (and amazing baked goods) will be greatly missed at BDL. We had an internal candidate, who has prior work experience at a public library in ILL, apply for the position. She will start training on August 17.

Submitted,

Kimberly Feltner



- What a busy time of year! The 2020 Summer Reading Program is now officially wrapped up and prizes have been dispersed and before long, we'll be planning for the next SRP! We had a total of 153 participants this year: 91 children completed the program, as did 29 teens, and 33 adults!
- Also in programming news: looking back over the past five months, the BDL has offered a total of 275 virtual programs! That is such a testament to our incredible staff (and IT team for editing all those videos!) and I am so grateful for their willingness and hard work in an area that 6 months ago was totally foreign to them. Traditionally, the BDL takes a break from programming in August to prepare for the fall and winter months, and this year is no exception. Virtual programming will resume on September 8, 2020.
- I am absolutely thrilled to announce that the Branch District Library received a grant from the State of Michigan! I applied for the CARES Act grant in early July, and received word last week that we were one of the recipients of both the PPE grant and the Digital Inclusion grant. This grant originated as the Library of Michigan's response to the COVID-19 crisis' impact on Michigan public libraries. With this grant, the BDL will receive a total of \$5000 to split between PPE and 11 hotspots that will be catalogued and will be available to our patrons for checkout.
- Additionally, I am also excited to announce that the BDL will be partnering with Coldwater High School to launch our Library1 Card Program at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. We have a few minor issues to work out, because the opportunity for collaboration happened very quickly, but all Coldwater High School students should have a BDL library card in their hand in September and that is VERY exciting!

Submitted,

Jessica Tefft