



## Director's Report

**DATE:** January 27, 2020

### Administrative

The majority of this quarter was occupied with budget matters, new hires, and laying new flooring. We had projections from 3 of our counties for our first budget draft and we able to send our budget requests for the county's budget meetings. I will give an updated report during Old Business.

Our new Chicot County Board Member, Kim Reese, did not get to serve very long on the board, as we hired her as the new Eudora Branch Manager! Ms Reeves trained with Mary Bates in December and took over as manager January 1. Ms. Jada Kirtley has taken the role of Library Assistant in Dumas.

The Arkansas Digital Library Consortium selected me to be one of the Collection Selectors for the year. I will be purchasing nonfiction material for the Consortium. Our regional Collection Developer and Cataloger will be assisting me as well as we prepare to take a more active purchasing role.

### Technology

With Microsoft ending its support of Windows 7, I have begun looking into upgrading public and office computers with Windows 10 and what that will involve. In other tech news, we have experience some data server issues and so we are keeping an eye on that. I believe at some point we will move our circulation software to cloud servers and that will eliminate of our issues but it will come at a cost. We also lost our remote access IP address which cause major headaches for about 3 or 4 days but we have resolved those problems as well.

### Branch Updates

The headquarters crew and I have been working in Eudora this month putting down the rest of the flooring. We have installed interlocking foam tiles that can be removed quickly if the building floods. We are still hesitate to reinstall carpet until we see if the flooding issues have been resolved.

All nine of our branches received a gift of 100 new children's books, ranging from pre-kindergarten through early readers. The books were a donation from the Brownstone Book Fund, a private foundation in New York City, interested in fostering early reading and a love of books and encouraging parents and children to read together. We are very excited to receive these wonder new books.

Branch Managers, Simone Kirk, Sarah Hardin, and Hunter Bennett and I held a brainstorming session to discuss best practices for our story time kits. As earlier reported, we received a total of \$4500 to create early literacy kits that will be utilized by all branches and daycares. We have outlined a plan of action and have begun working on the details. We have

ordered our Summer Reading Program material and will be sharing ideas at our February workshop.

In October I attended the Arkansas Correctional Industries Showcase at the Arkansas Fairgrounds and was able to meet with their furniture division about designing a new movable book display for Monticello and a bench with storage for Star City's children section. I was very impressed with all the products and services offered by the Correctional Facilities in Arkansas.

### **Community Engagement**

In order to help people in our communities respond to the 2020 Census, the Arkansas State Library is using grant funds from the Arkansas Impact Philantropy to provide an ipad and kiosk stand for public libraries in the Delta area. People in the Arkansas Delta area have been historically undercounted. During our February workshop, Jennifer Wann, Library Development Coodinator with the State Library, will be conducting a training session to help prepare library staff members to assist patrons complete their Census Questionnaire online. This training will allow participants to:

- Become familiar with the Census Questionnaire;
- Learn how to answer questions about non-traditional living arrangements like couch surfing, children living with grandparents, and children away at college; and
- Learn about privacy issues and how the reported information will be used and how it will NOT be used. Please note that these training sessions are open to anyone (particularly business owners, local officials, and influencers) who is interested in promoting the Census and being able to explain why Arkansans should complete the Census. Please feel free to share this information with anyone in your local community.

### **Meetings & Workshops Attended**

- SEARL Fall Workshop – Monticello, AR
- Arkansas State Library Board meeting – Little Rock, AR
- Association for Rural & Small Libraries Board meeting – Online
- Lincoln County Budget Committee meeting – Star City, AR
- Outside the Box Webinar – Online
- All-In Leadership Institute – Little Rock, AR
- Arkansas Digital Library Consortium meeting – Little Rock,AR
- Arkansas Library Association Conference – Hot Springs, AR