



Director's Report

DATE: July 15, 2019

Administrative

Working with Bookkeeper, Stacey McKeown, we prepared items requested by auditor, Shawn Hickman from Hamburg. I have the 2018 audit report to share and discuss with you today. We were informed of two new board members to the Regional Library Board, one in Lincoln County and one in Chicot County. New Board Member Binders were prepared and sent out to the Libraries for pickup.

I attended the Lincoln County Quorum Court meeting in July. The court agree to accept our terms of including a line item in County General for Library utilities and any excess amount would be returned back to the library fund for funds spent in error for 2017 & 2018. The ordinance was passed in August and has also been requested for the budget next year.

This has been an AMAZING month for Arkansas Digital Library Consortium (ADLC). We introduced simultaneous use magazines and had 1,656 checkouts in the first 2 weeks. We surpassed our 50,000 title mark thanks to Craighead County Jonesboro sharing their titles with a whopping 57,560 titles now in the shared collection (45,368 eBooks and 12,116 audiobooks). And we had an incredible 53,513 checkouts last month. There is a lot of love for ADLC in Arkansas and it feels good to know that we have created a sharing model that others can look to as an example. The Consortium met during the Arkansas Library Association conference and decided to boycott all digital resources published by Macmillan Publishing. Macmillan recently moved to a pricing model that would only allow us to purchase one copy of a title during the first 8 weeks. This copy would be one copy/one user. After 8 weeks, libraries could purchase additional copies but these will be metered access copies. A letter signed by the consortium members will be sent to Macmillan.

Technology

We have purchased 4 new computers for the Dumas Branch Library. Once our Tech Company installs security software, they will be delivered to Dumas. Warren was the recipient of 10 Chromebooks donated from the Warren School. These have been made available for public checkouts by adults only.

We have added a new feature to our webpage and our Public Access Catalog (PAC). The new "Suggest a title" allows patrons to request a book from their devices anytime.

Branch Updates

In July, Hunter Bennett was named Branch Manager for the Dumas Library. The Dumas Friends of the Library held a soiree at the library to welcome her to the community. Ms. Bennett has settled in and has begun planning programs for the branch. We are very excited to announce we were awarded Delta Area Community Foundation grants for Dumas & Star City for \$1500 each to create literacy themed storytime boxes.

Eudora Branch received an outside facelift thanks to the generosity of the Bob White Grant, which provided for new landscaping. Lake Village also benefited from a grant to purchase a “New Book” movable display. The display was purchased from the Arkansas Correctional Industries. Over the last twenty years we have purchased many pieces of furniture from the facility. They are very easy to work with, reasonably priced and are open to custom designing some pieces. I will be attending their 2019 Showcase event at the end of October to see their newest products and services.

Managers of the Primary Branches attended the Arkansas Library Association Conference in Hot Springs. Star City Branch Manager, Simone Kirk, won the Paraprofessional Award this year. It was a very engaging and informative conference. The managers will be sharing what they learned at our annual fall workshop on October 23rd. Board Member, Cindy Smith, will be conducting part of our workshop this year. She is sharing the “Welcome to Arkansas” program. The program seeks to increase visitors’ satisfaction with Arkansas towns and improve customer service by arming frontline Library personnel with messages about their local community, region, and state. This casual class will cover how to present their community in a positive light and improve customer service that will help increase library visitation. All participants will receive a workbook, a certificate of completion, and a sticker for their library door.

Community Engagement

We have purchased two new bookshelves for our Nursing Home/Assisted Living rotations. We have added the Drew Memorial Hospital to our rotations of Large Print items. This brings us to a total of

Desha & Chicot County Libraries have been added to the Dolly Parton Imagination Station program. Each month, Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library mails a high quality, age appropriate book to all registered children, addressed to them, at no cost to the child’s family.

Meetings & Workshops Attended

- Lincoln County Quorum Court – Star City, AR
- Arkansas State Library Board meeting – Little Rock, AR
- Arkansas Digital Library Consortium meeting – Hot Springs, AR
- Association for Rural & Small Libraries Conference Committee Meeting – online
- Association for Rural & Small Libraries Board meeting – online
- Association for Rural & Small Libraries Conference – Burlington, VT
- Arkansas Library Association Conference – Hot Springs, AR