

January 2016 Narrative - All Departments

Administration – Marcia Lewis

Even with an extra day, February seemed like a very short month. Marcia Lewis was off for two weeks to celebrate her daughter's wedding. Meetings she did attend include one with the NoCo Municipal Librarians, a follow-up to the library rebranding launch and one related to a long-term hazard mitigation study the City is developing. She also prepared a presentation and report for the City Boards and Commissions Summit.

Adult Programming & Volunteer Coordination – Bobbi Benesh (report yet to be submitted)

Adult Services – Caroline Hilligoss

On Saturday, February 13th, the Adult Services team traveled south to visit three unique libraries –21C Library in the Pikes Peak Library District, the Philip S. Miller Library in the Douglas County Library System and the Huron Street Library, one of the Anythink/Rangeview Libraries. Each of these libraries demonstrated differing levels of integrated technology, with obvious differences in their goals for what they chose to emphasize in their services. The 21C Library emphasizes emerging technologies, extensive maker spaces, and abundant community meeting areas while maintaining a modest number of print materials on site. Both Miller and Huron St. were more similar to LPL, with all staff commenting favorably on the signage and publicity postings, as well as numerous study rooms, in the Philip S. Miller Library. After on-site discussion of the different libraries and continued brain-storming, the trip resulted in an Adult Services Strategic Planning Session on Sunday, February 28th to integrate what we saw, liked, etc. with what we see as priorities for the Adult Services Department at our library in the near future. More sessions to come – stay tuned!

Business Library Amanda Armstrong toured *Desk Chair*, the new co-working space in Loveland, where she connected with Justin Erion. Amanda then proposed to *Desk Chair* staff that they have an embedded librarian at their site for a few hours each week to answer quick questions and do in-depth business reference consultations. She completed a complex business reference request for Jay Dokter, founder of *The Warehouse Business Accelerator*, who responded that what Amanda provided was the exact information they were seeking.

Amanda attended and assisted with the “AWE Connect” Event in Fort Collins on Tuesday, 2/16. There were approximately 25 women in attendance, several of whom expressed interest in working with a business librarian. She also attended the STIR networking event on Thursday, 2/18, and met several new business people. Amanda used ArcGIS to help a consultant from the Loveland Downtown Partnership access data that the organization needs for the next election. (Note from Amanda: “I really appreciate that we were able to get this software from the GIS Department and it’s good to see that my training on Lynda.com is turning out to be useful.”)

The Money Matters presentation on Social Security went well on Thursday, 2/18 and there were 32 attendees.

You may recall that Tuesday, February 2nd brought a giant snowstorm to Loveland along with a delayed start for the City of Loveland of 10:00 am. Despite this, four determined readers came for the Tuesday morning to the ReadMore! Adult Book Discussion of Toni Morrison's *Beloved*. Three people attended the Tuesday evening session, and 15 people came out on Wednesday morning. Those in attendance were rewarded with an excellent exchange of ideas about a very challenging book. Adult Services Librarian Caroline Hilligoss facilitated the discussions.

Children's Department – Beth Gudmestad

In February we had Brad Sneed, an illustrator of children's books, visit our library and meet with 2nd grade students from Mary Blair Elementary School. Author visits are always a great way to excite and inspire children to want to read great books and possibly even take a stab at writing themselves. Brad took time to share his process for illustrating children's books with the students. After the program, Cindi and Haley took the teachers and children on a tour of the library and did a fun activity related to one of his books. Amber, Lolly, and Cynthia took Brad and his wife to lunch. We've already begun brainstorming possible authors for our 2017 author visit.

The library hosted the 8th Battle of the Books Final. Battle of the Books starts in January and runs through the beginning of February. Cindi organizes this event along with assistance from the librarian at St. John's Catholic School. Over the month teams competed weekly. Approximately 1,200 people participated in the battles or came to support someone who was competing for the highly coveted "Book Trophy."

Along with Linda Leon from UNC, Jane presented at the Colorado Council of the International Reading Association in Denver. She shared with approximately 100 conference attendees about the possibilities of forming community partnerships that enhance reading success with elementary school aged children. They received lots of positive feedback and several teachers and librarians have requested the Kids Read game through Prospector and ILL. Way to Go!

We're continuing to plug along with planning for the 2016 Summer Reading Program. Department Staff signed up for different activities for the June 1st Kick-Off program. Jane created a plan for weekly iMake activities for the summer and Cindi started preparing for Storyteller in the Park.

Lolly will be attending the 2016 Be Ready Fair. She'll be hosting a Baby Yoga storytime and participants will be encouraged to create "Baby iPads" to use with their infants/toddlers. Cynthia provided technology programs for kids at Corner2Corner and continued to communicate with Robert Ayala about a possible LULAC connection. Sabrina attended another Colorado Children's Day planning meeting. She's arranged for the Youth Advisory Commission to receive the Mayor's Proclamation at the April 5, 2016 City Council meeting that will proclaim April 18 Children's Day in Loveland. Kris finished up weeding the junior picture books and made sure to advertise her "More Than Storytime" program on two web sites that feature events that are happening in the surrounding areas. We hope to reach people who don't normally come to the library.

Dobby was dressed for Valentine's Day!

Customer Service – Joanna McNeal

We have begun a campaign encouraging patrons to make more use of the outside book returns. Many of them do not realize that they can return books outside and moreover, that any items returned outside check in immediately. When patrons return their items to the desk, it slows down service to patrons waiting to pay fines or ask questions. For the same reason we have also been spending more time showing patrons how to use the express checks.

We requested and received (thanks Kevin from LTI) more training on how to use the AV systems in the Erion and Gertrude Scott meeting rooms so that we can provide more help when presenters have problems with the system.

Holly wrote a nice Shelf Life article for the Reporter Herald, "Library Resources Stretch a Yoga Budget". Darlene put the finishing touches on the drill we are to follow in the event of an active shooter situation in the library. Cindi and Darlene have been learning more about how to use our new marketing tool, 'Library Aware' and Cindi has produced new Readers Advisory bookmarks from this software.

Displays - In the galleria display case the Girl Scouts of America displayed memorabilia from over the years. The small wedding cake display theme was first, "Blind date with some new characters". Cindi and Darlene came up with the idea and Kathleen helped wrap books in red paper covered with white hearts saying a variety of phrases such as "All the write moves", "check me out", and "I love the Loveland Public Library" Holly also created a display for read aloud day, where she displayed books on CD and images of audiobooks from the downloadable page.

Library Subs – Beth Gudmestad

The subs did a wonderful job assisting in the various departments in February. Kathryn updated the cubelets operating system which meant updating each cubelet individually. Maribeth shelf read the reference materials in the Children's Department and deep cleaned the computers in the computer lab. Sue trained two new hires showing them the on-line scheduler, walking them through some basic information on Millennium, and introducing them to other administrative procedures.

Both Kathryn and Sue signed up to assist with the 2016 Author Showcase. It will be fun to hear updates from them as the committee makes progress in organizing this fun community event. Maribeth suggested developing and implementing a weekly Music and Motion class for preschoolers. We're definitely interested in jumping on this opportunity and possibly offering it as an Outreach option at the Loveland Outlet Mall.

Library Technology and Innovation (LTI) – Marcia Lewis

Natalya Stanko was hired as the newest 20 hour/week Library Aide in LTI. She does read, speak and write Spanish and Ukrainian. Since the launch of the library's new website, Tyera Eulberg has been adding more content with assistance from the other divisions. Kevin Briggs has been preparing for major equipment and software changes including Windows 10 and in the tech labs. Christina Kennedy is also training him as a backup for broadcasting City Council and Planning Commission meetings. The Very Large Printer had major repairs and maintenance that should allow us to defer its replacement.

Technical Services – Marcia Lewis

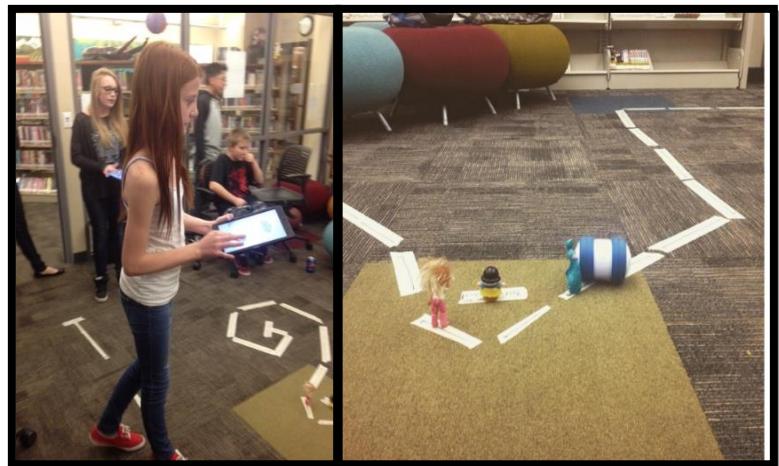
The new processes for recording Purchasing Card invoices in the City's online accounting system by scanning all invoices with a desktop scanner has been working smoothly. That cataloging production was down slightly is understandable since Amy Fillinger's mother passed away. Jean Axelson had been a library volunteer and an active Friend of the Library.

Teenseen – Amber Holmes

This month, the Teen Department offered 8 onsite and 2 outreach programs for a total of 268 participants. We had 757 teens come in afterschool between the hours of 3-4pm with an average of 45 teens per day. An incredible 64 teens played chess throughout the month of February and Summer hosted a very successful robotics obstacle course with our newest robots, the Ollie (see pic below). Becca created a popular "Blind Date with a Book" display in celebration of Valentine's Day as well as a display to celebrate YA novels set in Colorado.

Staff began planning for this year's Summer Reading Program, *Get in the Game: Read!* by organizing programming, presenters and key pieces of the digital platform. We have some exciting events lined up including a group hike, squirt gun art, minute-to-win-it Olympics and circus workshop.

Teen and sub staff trained on how to manually lower the storm walls in the teenseen in case of a power outage. We updated policy so that staff close the doors as soon as a tornado watch occurs. Amber is currently working with Dickenson Electric for a permanent solution to lower the doors electronically. Summer stepped up as Chair of the Safety Committee and we're excited to have her considerable background



knowledge and passion in this area as both a representative of the teen department and an advocate for the library as a whole.

Finally, Becca created our first ever [#bookstagram](#) challenge for the month of March. Each day, our Instagram account will feature new book images to highlight our collection and provide reading recommendations. To the left is our first, showcasing TBR (To Be Read) titles.

