

Library Director Report January 2023

Anita Marple

WLA Legislative Committee Activity Weather conditions prevented attendance at the Legislative Reception. My participation in this group includes monitoring proposed legislation, discussing impacts to libraries, and taking appropriate action. We are closely following House Bill 87 and Senate File 177 which seek changes to Wyoming statute Title 6--Crimes & Offenses: Article 3--Obscenity. There are also several bills under consideration related to property taxes that will directly impact public library funding.

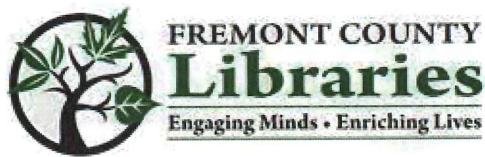
Library Support Group Summit Our second LSGS focused on developing new ways of engaging with the community to promote the FCLS mission and services. Board members representing the Lander, Riverton, and Dubois Friends of the Library groups, the Library Foundation, and the Library Board met to share ideas and think about new ways to advocate and fundraise for our libraries. Maralyne Middour of Cowboy State Marketing (and a long-term active promoter of our libraries) led brainstorming and discussion on "Our Library Journey." With a grant from the Library Foundation, we are contracting with Maralyne for marketing services. Practical takeaways from the event are to develop promotional materials to distribute both at community events and one-on-one; to create a list of talking points for communicating with stakeholders; and individually to identify the promotion and advocacy actions one is comfortable doing. Maralyne, Shari, and I will meet in February to plan for the remainder of 2023.

Our Friends and Foundation board members are true Library Champions. My appreciation for the financial support is secondary to my gratitude for the time and commitment to the mission of our libraries that these individuals give year after year after year. I love this community of people!

Marketing We began the year with a direct mail promotion to 10,480 Fremont County households. The postcard features local professional photographer Scott Copeland's image "Starry Night Red Canyon Ranch" and shares what free resources are available at the library and how to get a library card. Our next step is to order postcards for in-person distribution in various ways. The direct mail campaign was funded by the ALA Covid Library Relief Fund Grant. Additional postcards will be funded by the marketing grant from the Library Foundation.

The new website is progressing. Jason Grubb has been working on the basic structure and this week began "building out" the individual pages. Slow and steady will win this race.

Staffing We welcomed Wyatt Godinez as our new full-time custodial/maintenance position at the Riverton Branch. The basic strategy for our maintenance staff is to be familiar with the systems and equipment at each library facility. Facilities Supervisor Alex Carlson is doing a good job of cultivating this team approach for maintaining our buildings and grounds.



In February, the Lander Library will begin a year-round Library Page position funded by the Lander Library Friends Association. This position began as a summer-only option as part of our strategy to offer Saturday hours in June, July, and August. While supporting our regular staffing, this is also an excellent “first job” work opportunity for high school students. The addition of the Library Page position beyond summer is one step toward expanding public access hours at the Lander Library. Increasing open hours will not happen immediately.

Technology Upgrade In coordination with ISS manager Kevin Shultz, our planned replacement of staff computers is nearing completion. Riverton and Lander changes are done, and the Dubois changes are next.

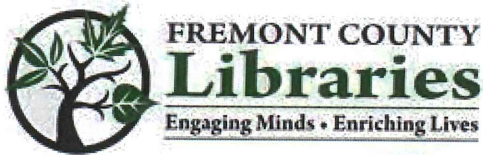
FCLS Statistics I compiled a summary of stats comparing the first six months of FY22/23 to the same time period in FY21/22. This summary is included in the board meeting packet. Highlights include significant increases in meeting room reservations, foot traffic, and participation in the summer reading program for all age groups. Circulation trends continue to show an increase in digital checkouts. Overall circulation declined a bit, and I believe the contributing factors are a combination of increased digital use and the change to Circulation Policy last year which limited patrons to 25 checkouts at a time. I will not draw any final conclusions about circulation patterns based solely on this comparison. At the end of this fiscal year we will look at the multi-year trend.

Fremont County Retreat This event for commissioners, elected officials, department heads, and offline board directors occurred at the Lander Library on January 23. I attended the afternoon session which focused on a review of certain county policies and procedures. This was not only a valuable time for discussion, questions, and clarification on procedures, but also a great time to build relationships over lunch in a setting that was informal and conversational.

Vehicle Accident The most challenging event of January was the vehicle accident on January 11 which involved one of our staff traveling back from the Riverton Branch to the Lander Library. Our staff member was not at fault, and we are so grateful that his injuries were not serious. He is recovering well and was cleared for light duty about 10 days following the accident.

Events like this are a reality check for what is important. So, I want to acknowledge the FCLS staff team and their team mindset, their support of each other, and their commitment to serving the people of Fremont County through our libraries. Everyone pitched in to assist with snow removal, custodial tasks, and offering assistance to our injured staff member. My heartfelt thanks to our team!

I am working on the administrative tasks related to the accident, and I appreciate the assistance of Becky Enos, Julie Freese, Brad Meredith, Larry Allen, Jared Hall, and Jeanine Parrill from the County in navigating the process for Worker’s Compensation and the property claim with WARM for replacing the library vehicle.



Lander Library Report January 2023

Anita Marple, Library Director & Lander Manager

We are off and running in 2023! In general, I believe we are finding a new groove post-pandemic. In addition to system-wide staff discussions, the Lander staff are having many conversations about new programming ideas, collection development strategy, and library promotion. We have a new partnership developing with Sinks Canyon State Park and are constantly looking for new ways to work with community entities. With digital circulation continuing to grow, we're looking at the smartest way to invest our digital collection development budget.

As Rachel mentions in her report below, our presentation to the Lander District Recreation Board for grant funding happened recently. Tamara Anderson led our presentation and did a great job of sharing our proposal. The LDRB grant is a fundamental part of our programming budget each year, and Tamara and Rachel put together a well-constructed grant application.

In February we will hire a Library Page who will work 10 hours per week. This is possible through funding from the Lander Library Friends Association. They have committed \$6,000 for the year toward this position. Based on LLFA's fundraising history, this should be sustainable until we gain an increase to our General Fund budget for staffing.

Adult Services Department

The new year has brought more visitors to our facilities. There have been new cards issued as well as an increase in meeting room usage. Our regular patrons are still venturing out to use the computers and find more books to get through the long winter days.

Book Displays: We have a few displays that have proven very popular. "Things to do when it's cold outside!" was a display that we had a difficult time keeping stocked. Julie chose to exhibit our collection of classics on another display. What an awesome way to get through dark gray days. Our other display was "Love your Pets? You'll love these books" and it was appropriate for our community. We have a lot of pet lovers!

Community Yoga: This free opportunity started up again after a holiday break. Coordinated by library patron Tiffanie Zimmer, the sessions average 10-12 ladies and gentlemen each Tuesday evening.

Bookies Book Club: This month at the Lander Senior Center the group discussed *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles. Next month's selection is *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel. Other book clubs have been checking out some of our collection. It's nice to see that people are getting together again.

New partnership: We are super excited to begin a partnership with Sinks Canyon State Park. The first program was held on January 13, 2023 in the Carnegie Room. There were about 18 people in attendance that evening with Lane Bushmeyer being our representative. They learned all about succulents and came away with either a terrarium or a pot full of succulents. What a



great evening! We look forward to the places this partnership takes us in the future. We are really excited for this opportunity with them.

Metropolitan Opera Live in HD: On January 14, sixteen people enjoyed the Met Opera production of *Fedora*. This broadcast opportunity is a unique offering, and an excellent example of rural libraries connecting people to world-class performances.

Lander District Recreation Board: On the 24th of this month, Tamara Anderson, Anita and I went before the Rec Board to present our application for their grant. It was my first time to do anything like this, and I was excited to share with them our adult programming ideas. I look forward to sharing them with you also throughout this year.

Thank you for all that you do for FCLS.
Submitted by Rachel Arnold, Adult Services Lead Librarian

Youth Services Department

New program: We started the new year with a new program, StoryTime Dance Party. Active times for toddlers and preschoolers are popular at other libraries and are geared for kids who have difficulty sitting still for a more typical story time setting. We will test this program for the next few months with a dance party once a month on a Friday morning.

Dragons!: We are also celebrating Dragons this month with a dragon bulletin board and book displays. Kids can write a note to our Library Dragon and put it in the dragon's mailbox in the Children's Department.

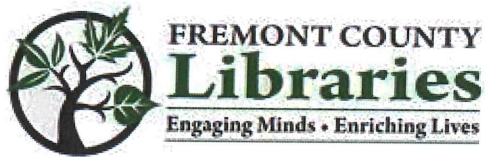
Wintry weather impact: The weather has had a negative effect on program attendance this month. We scheduled 15 storytime/toddler time sessions this month for both planned preschool visits and public events. Five were cancelled altogether due to weather, including all but one preschool visit. So, the program attendance reflects that.

Summer planning: To counter the cold temperatures, we are beginning to plan summer events. Some of the special events include a foam party to kick off summer, a field day of relay races, a StoryWalk, and a cooperative outdoor art project. Daydreaming about enjoying these activities in the warmth of summer...aahhh...

YS statistics: Okay, back to the here and now, here is a run-down of the numbers this month:
Born to Read 25 kits prepared, 10 to public health and 15 to the hospital

Preschool Visits Apple Valley came on January 6th with 16 people enjoying a StoryTime.

Public StoryTime/Toddler Time Seventy-eight patrons attended StoryTime and Toddler Time sessions this month. This is a pretty good turnout considering the weather. We are starting to



see a more consistent core group of patrons turning up weekly for these sessions, which is great!

StoryTime Dance Party Five patrons attended our first dance party this month.

CanTeen Create It Session Three sessions were held this month with 14 in attendance.

LEGO Club Nine builders came this month and created some great builds from the Titanic to the Lander football field to a re-creation of a swim meet in LEGO. Can't wait to see what they come up with next month!

Submitted by Tamara Anderson, Youth Services Lead Librarian



Assistant Director Board Report January 2023
Shari Haskins

Anita and I have been closely working, planning, and attending meetings together. I will orally continue the Assistant Director report at the Feb. 1st, 2023 Board Meeting.

Thank you.

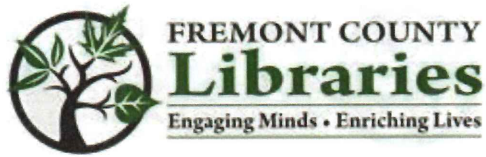
Riverton Branch Library
Adult Department:

- The Riverton Branch Library Adult Department started a brand new book club. The "RBL 'Generally Cool' Book Club" has had a lot of interest, 16 people joined the discussion and introductions. It has been several years since the Library has hosted its own book club. We are excited to be able to fill this void.
- January, "Everybody Walks". We average eight walkers a day (Tuesday through Thursday). This is the sixth year and community members greatly appreciate having a space to keep healthy and warm.
- Finally, we partnered with Andrea Rodriguez from CWC, she has a table every other Wednesday, and offers information and guidance on CWC and its programs. Many of our patrons stop by her table and we are happy to be working with her and CWC.

Submitted by: Tracy Goheen, Adult Services Library Assistant

Youth Services Department:

- Our spring story time sessions began January 11th and our numbers continue to grow in Pre-K Tales and Tunes, Starlight Storytime, and Toddler Move and Groove.
- The month kicked off with a "Welcome Back" theme and continued with arctic animals and even a dance theme week which was the best so far!
- LEGO Club continues to be a favorite, especially now that we've opened it up to a wider age range. We have also started offering a monthly craft for children, tweens, and teens and it has been very popular so far. Tweens and teens created vision boards for their 2023 goals and resolutions, and children created colorful yarn snowflakes.



- Wednesday has become "Board Game Day" in the teen department with a cart full of games available as well as staff joining in the fun! The Creation Station in the Teen Scene is coming together as well, with our mobile industrial art tables and some fun colorful stools on the way. All that's left to do is to stock up on supplies and let the creating begin!
- We are excited to host library art parties on the mezzanine for all ages during summer reading. Kirbie went to the Riverton Recreation Board annual meeting to request funding for all of our fun yearly events. We wait in high anticipation to see if our application is approved.

Submitted by: Aubry Ellis, Youth Services Library Assistant

Dubois Branch Library

- Mark your planner/phone/favorite device to remember "Destination Dubois Branch Library: Reading and Eating," Wednesday Feb. 8th from 5:00-7:00 pm.
- Ongoing outreach with Crowheart Elementary and adult book delivery.
- I always need to add pluses for our Story Time, PreK Lego Club and Juv. Lego Club.
- The Neversweat Readers has ten participants. It's the best turn out for our book club that we've had in years.

Submitted by: Kathy Gettelman, Dubois Lead Librarian