



Library System Report September 2022
Anita Marple, Library Director

Policy & Procedure Work:

1. This month I received Memos from Jodi Darrough and Todd Shaker in the County Attorney's office regarding the Request for Opinion on the "Procedures: Disruptive Patron Behaviors" document. I have incorporated their recommendations. Reviewing the changes with staff will occur at an all-staff meeting on October 10.
2. I have submitted a Request for Opinion to Jodi Darrough for the Meeting Room Policy revisions with a request for response by Monday, November 14. Library staff have also reviewed the suggested revisions and have had the opportunity to submit comments or questions. Those comments and questions will be discussed at the all-staff meeting on October 10.
3. I am coordinating with Shari to meet and review our Materials Acquisition Policy and Challenged Materials Policy with input received from the EveryLibrary advocacy group. We have solid policies and have reviewed them in the past year. In light of the escalation of interest in these library responsibilities, however, an additional review is wise. I will provide an update at the November library board meeting. As part of this process, I am reviewing the definitions and laws in the Wyoming State Statutes related to sexual content.

Candidate Forums with Fremont County League of Women Voters: I have been working with Linda Barton of the FC LWV for three candidate forums:

October 6: Lander Library will host a House District 54 forum.

October 13: Riverton Library will host Riverton Mayor and House District 55 forums.

October 17: Lander Library will host a House District 33 forum.

All forums will be live-streamed by County10.

Wyoming Department of Audit Report: This annual report was completed by Deputy Treasurer Rewa Gaudern and submitted by the September 30 deadline. Board chair Perry Cook signed the document. The final document is included in the board meeting packet.

System Planning:

1. I have been in contact with Jason Grubb who is designing our website. He has had several personal events that have slowed progress on the website, but the project is still moving ahead.
2. I am working with Maralyne Middour of Cowboy State Marketing to develop plans for library promotion. Various media will include direct mail, radio, print, and social media.



3. In October we will have two all-staff meetings, the first will focus on policy and procedure review, and the second will be a "Library Think Tank" focusing on organization values and programming.

4. I have added an additional account to our Overdrive profile. The Advantage Plus account will provide our patrons with earlier access to the most popular title requests that are purchased through FCLS accounts. By consortium agreement, all participating libraries share digital purchases. This creates a robust collection which benefits all library users in Wyoming. The new account will be used for the digital purchasing portion of our ALA Covid Library Relief Fund grant.

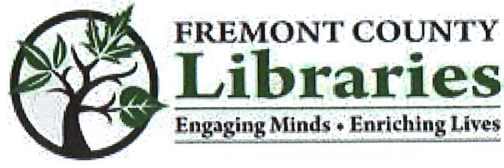
Friends of the Library: I attended both the Lander Library Friends Association and the Dubois Friends of the Library meetings. I have so much respect and appreciation for these volunteers who devote "time, talent, and treasure" for supporting our libraries. They embrace and reflect the heart of our mission in our communities. Thank you, Friends!

Wyoming Family Policy Summit (WFPS): Shari and I attended this meeting to connect with groups in our county and to hear what's on the mind of our citizens. Families in the library are a core group of our patrons, and we are committed to offering resources and programming that support literacy and growth. Topics at the WFPS included parental rights, freedom of conscience, religious freedom, and fairness in women's sports.

Wyoming Library Association Annual Conference: I accompanied four of our five lead librarians to the conference in Casper on September 29 & 30. For these staff members, this was their first time to attend the annual conference. This experience is valuable for interacting with colleagues around the state, learning new ideas and perspectives, and gaining vision for one's part in library work. Retired librarian Dr. Camila Alire and Wyoming illustrator Zach Pullen were the main speakers, and breakout sessions included a wide variety of topics from intellectual freedom to programming to health information to book repair.

One of the most meaningful conversations I had was with Dr. Alire. During her career, she worked in several extremely challenging academic library settings and is a past president of the American Library Association. She spoke about leadership and recounted situations which called for integrity and resilience. After her presentation, Dr. Alire very graciously spent time with me answering questions and providing insight on leadership from her wealth of experience.

Thank you to the Library Foundation for funding our trip. This is a staff development investment which bears long-term fruit for the individual staff and for the library system as a whole.



Lander Library Report September 2022

Anita Marple, Library Director & Lander Manager

We continue to see steady foot traffic, computer use, and meeting room use. We continue to discuss and evaluate trends in circulation and programming. We are working on spending grant money and looking for new grant opportunities.

One issue that is taking time is an equipment update need related to our presentation of the "Met Opera Live in HD" partnership. The move to 5G technology has ripple effects, one of which means a new plan for broadcasting for The Met. Kevin Shultz and I are working on the equipment side of this. Funding for new equipment will be \$620 at a minimum, depending on the ease of connecting new equipment with our current setup. The Lander Met Opera group is working on funding the technology update.

LLFA wrote a \$20,000 check to the Lander Library; this represents the \$19,917 raised through the Lander Community Foundation's Challenge for Charities program. This money will be used for collection development, programming, and the Library Page program. LLFA has provided \$6,000 to fund a year-round Library Page. During the summer, this will continue to be an 18-hour/week position. For fall, winter, and spring timeframes, the position will be a 10-hour/week addition to the Lander staff team. Expanding this program is part of long-term effort to increase staffing so that we might increase public access hours.

Adult Services Department

September is almost ending already!?! Where has the time gone?

Bookmarked Literary Arts Festival: This was the center focus for the month. Thanks to former library staff member Ami Vincent and staff members Tanner Miller and Julie Baehr for all their hard work to make it so successful. The event featured author Percival Everett who read passages from one of his novels, answered audience questions, and attended a ticketed dinner in his honor at the Cowfish restaurant. Other events were the awards celebration for the Youth Flash Fiction contest, readings by local authors (including a few from other Wyoming counties), and a Book Fair for participating authors. Altogether the event included around 80-100 participants.

Wyoming Library Association Conference: A few members of the Lander and Riverton staff will be attending the WLA Annual Conference September 29th & 30th in Casper. For some of us this will be the first time. The theme is "Stronger Together."

Book Displays: We have a few new book displays to possibly introduce our patrons to a new and interesting read. We have Local Authors Display that has seen a lot of traffic. What a wonderful way to spotlight some of our own Wyomingites. Another display highlights "10 years of Nonfiction." Our newest display is a segue into the fall season with books that make us feel alive. These are staff picks that has left us feeling happy and wanting more. We invite you to check them out.



Shelf Moving: We have been making changes on the floor by relocating and shifting shelves around. We are definitely getting our exercise! Biographies have a new home all to themselves. It is a wonderful addition to the center of the library. There have been a few extra shelves added to the fiction department that are much needed. We are going to have another quiet study area in the near future. I am certain that it will be well used.

The beginning of October brings preparation for Fall and Halloween displays. We have already started with plans for unique decorations and ideas for highlighting areas that need to be showcased in a new light.

Our attendance has been steady. Many people every day using the computers and wireless internet.

Thank you for all you do!
Submitted by Rachel Arnold, Adult Services Lead Librarian

Youth Services Department

Youth Services is working on rearranging some of the space in the Children's area. The juvenile biographies have been moved to make room for a new Tween space. Soon we will have a new hangout area for 4th through 6th graders.

In regular activities:

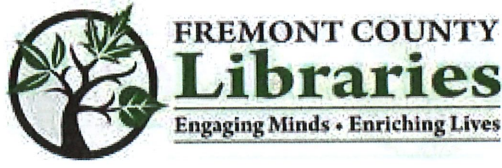
Canteen: This area continues to host teens for activities on Wednesday afternoons. So far this month they have made scratch art, yarn rainbows, and had a scavenger hunt. A total of 28 teens have attended. Another event will be held later today.

Preschools: Three preschools visited the library for Storytimes this month: Apple Valley, Learning Express, and Little Children's Preschool. A total of 57 kids and teachers attended. On another day, one of the preschools returned with 18 children for a Lego Playtime.

LEGO Club: Speaking of Legos, Dianne Perez resumed hosting our monthly LEGO Club. This year we are running it on the first Thursday of the month. Nine builders attended the first session.

Public Storytime and Toddler Time: Our weekly Storytimes have resumed the fall schedule of Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am. Four sessions were held this month with a total of 34 participants.

Submitted by Tamara Anderson, Youth Services Lead Librarian



Assistant Director Report September 2022
Shari Haskins

Staffing: September was a month for hiring and training. We welcomed our new part-time Adult Library Assistant II Tracy Goheen. Due to a resignation, we now have an open 30-hour Youth Services position. After receiving Commissioner approval, we will begin the application process.

Homestead Readers: On April 20, 2022, Friends of the Riverton Library began "Homestead Readers." This service had been active prior to COVID and was conducted by the Library. Currently three Friend members are responsible for the services at Homestead Living Center. They created a "Fact Sheet" to collect reader preferences for books and audio and visual material. They have nine readers from thirty residents. Since April through August 2022, the participants have read seventy-four books.

Facebook Correspondence: Please see the attached message we received on our Facebook page that was written in response to the on-going emails that are distributed by a group of citizens whose mission is to challenge and ban certain library materials. The emails have expanded to private community members and social media. It is validating to hear from the other side.

Dubois Library

Tourist season is officially done. We submitted our second "Swing By" ad series for the Dubois Roundup. Here are the three ads:

Looking to find a new book? Instead of spending \$30 on a book, you may not even like, swing by the Dubois Branch Library and check it out instead!

Open Hours:

Wed. 11-7 pm.

Thur-Fri 11-6 pm.

2nd Saturday of every month, 11-2 pm.

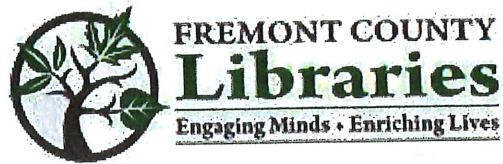
Starting your fall DIY and you're scratching your head? Stop scratching, and swing by the Dubois Branch Library for the best in DIY books and how-to manuals!

Open Hours:

Wed. 11-7 pm.

Thur-Fri 11-6 pm.

2nd Saturday of every month, 11-2 pm.



October! It's Stephen King's favorite month! At least we think it is...either way, swing by the Dubois Branch Library this October for the best, and the worst, horror novels have to offer!

Open Hours:

Wed. 11-7 pm.

Thur-Fri 11-6 pm.

2nd Saturday of every month, 11-2 pm.

The Dubois Branch Library received a \$2,000.00 donation from the Dubois Quilters Guild and \$2,000.00 from the Friends of the Dubois Library. The majority of this money will be dedicated for collection development and some for programming.

Riverton Branch Library

Adult Department

The Riverton Branch Library Adult Department enjoyed a quiet September. The majority of our focus was dedicated to organizing and running the Bookmarked Literary Arts Festival.

The Bookmarked Literary Arts Festival was a great success. We welcomed more than a hundred people over the course of its three days of events, including many new faces, new patrons, and many Facebook views.

The Houlihan Narratives were a hit, with their down to earth, oral stories about personal Origins. Many amazing Wyoming writers presented their work throughout the weekend and we are proud to have showcased such amazing local work. The Local Author Book Fair drew a lot of interest and many of the participating writers regarded it as a success.

Our Keynote Speaker Percival Everett was incredibly insightful and a joy to have. He participated in several events, and really enjoyed his time in Fremont County, he even offered to possibly come back in the future.

Submitted by: Tannar Miller, Riverton Adult Lead Librarian

Riverton Youth Services Department

September has been bustling in the Youth Service Dept... Our story times are completely booked on both Wednesday and Thursday plus we offer an evening story-time. We have over 70 parents and kids who attend these story times. The story times are heavily concentrated on early literacy.



Our September has also consisted of some changes to the YS Dept. We have implemented a 14-day checkout on new materials and have seen a higher checkout on those items. We have a lot of fun and exciting events coming up in October beginning with our Mario Putt Putt Golf fundraiser sponsored by the Friends of the Riverton Branch Library. All proceeds will go toward new gaming systems. The golf course will take up most of square footage in the Library.

Submitted by Kirbie Despain

RBL Teen Scene:

We are consistently busy with teen and tween activity most days after school, whether they are inside gaming, doing homework or hanging outside enjoying this nice fall weather.

Dungeons & Dragons also continues to be a weekly gathering of teens. We are gearing up for a Super Mario Themed putt-putt fundraiser geared towards families, teens and kids!

Our 2nd annual Trunk-or-Treat should also be a big draw for kids of all ages and will take place before dark on Halloween.

We can also begin piecing together our "Creation Station" project in the teen scene area with the help of a \$400 honorarium earned through participation in a media literacy professional development pilot program. We can almost afford both moveable industrial work tables.

Submitted by Aubry Ellis



Message from Riverton Facebook page:

Facebook comments Instagram comments Chat Plugin



Katie Mae Ormond



Hello,

I'm writing to let you know that I have recently come across/been informed of an email circulating in outrage of certain books being available in our public library. The complaint is that there are a handful of LGBTQ+ books, as well as other human sexuality books available for checkout at the library here in Riverton. You may receive complaints about these books.

I was personally bothered that there was no recognition of Pride month at the library, and the only book I found recognizing it was, perhaps stealthily, set as one of the books on top of the family section in the children's picture books titled "Worm Loves Worm". As that was the only book I could find, we checked it out to read and discuss in our family, though I wished there were more, and that they were more easily visible during Pride in June. We loved that book as it was a gentle reminder that love and kindness is what matters most.

Please don't back down in maintaining, and continuing to purchase and keep books about all marginalized populations including the LGBTQ+ community, Hispanics, African Americans, Native Americans, and other world religious followings, as well as controversial topics such as mental health and healthy sexuality. I understand that some may not appreciate a Sex Ed book in an elementary school, because that isn't the most appropriate place for it, but a public library serves a very diverse community and should reflect that without banning books in their walls. If parents are concerned about what their kids are reading, they need to monitor their children themselves and not remove books for everyone from public spaces.

I may be only one voice, but there are many more who disagree just as much as I with banning books in public libraries.

Thank you,
 Katie Ormond



*facebook Message
 dated 9-24-22*