

Library System Report August 2022

Anita Marple, Library Director

1) Annual Report Presenting the FCLS Annual Report for FY21-22 at the FC Commissioners' meeting was enjoyable and an opportunity to share not only the Library's status in terms of statistics, but also our impact within the community through partnerships and examples of meeting residents' needs. I emphasized to the Commissioners that they are an important part of the Library's service to the citizens of Fremont County. Attached is the "Stories from Our Libraries" document, from which I shared some examples of how we help people.

2) ALA Library Covid Relief Grant I met with Shari and the lead librarians to map out spending our \$20,000 grant. The particular initiatives funded by this grant are:

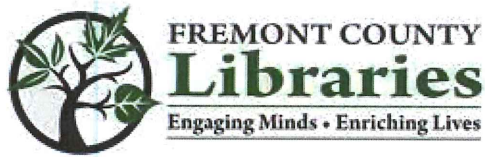
- \$5,000 Digital collection purchasing on Overdrive platform
- \$2,500 Classroom book kits to support struggling readers
- \$2,000 Fiction print collection
- \$2,000 Non-fiction print collection
- \$3,500 Early literacy materials
- \$5,000 Marketing & promotion to FC residents

3) Marketing Planning I am working with Maralyne Middour of Cowboy State Marketing to develop a plan for utilizing the ALA Library Covid Relief funding for marketing. Direct mail, radio, and social media are the top three avenues we will utilize this year. The Library Foundation has awarded us marketing grant funds also, some of which will supplement the ALA grant funding. As we aim to reach our county neighbors who are not yet library users, the central plan is to share specific ways the Library meets needs through the wide range of resources we provide.

4) Website The website is still under construction. Once our web designer Jason Grubb has a "draft" ready to go, library staff will interact with the site and make suggestions. Jason and I will also work with Kevin Shultz on the necessary technical back-end actions. The Library will maintain our page on the FC website with our basic information and a link to the new website. This process is slow but steady to get the best results.

5) FCLS Policy Work The Exit Interview Policy recommendation for discussion will be included in board meeting documents. The Meeting Room Policy recommendations for amendment are slowly coming together. The central issue is when and how much to charge non-profit entities for meeting room use. This needs thoughtful discussion with the Library Board. A separate document addressing this topic will be included with board meeting documents.

6) Wyoming Directors Meeting with EveryLibrary At the monthly Directors meeting, Peter Bromberg from EveryLibrary, a pro-bono Political Action Committee for Libraries, spoke about the current climate of challenges to library materials around the nation, political activity



related to the issues, and suggestions for examining policy and procedure for Requests for Reconsideration of Library Materials. On our September meeting agenda, Unfinished Business items C. and D. relate to our form and procedure for challenged materials. I would like to table those two items until the October meeting so that I may have additional time to evaluate our current documents in light of the suggestions from EveryLibrary.

7) Baker & Taylor Ransomware Attack Our primary source for book ordering is Baker & Taylor (BT), a book “jobber” that sells books from multiple publishers. Two weeks ago, BT was the victim of a ransomware attack. This obviously inhibits our ability to order books, so we are temporarily ordering from other sources until BT resolves the issue.

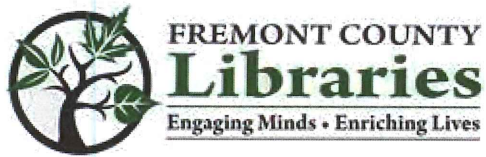
8) Election Judge Every election, county employees are asked to participate as election judges, and I worked the polls in Lander for the August 16 primary. I have participated in this capacity for the past three or four primary and general elections and have enjoyed assisting the Elections office, getting to know other county employees, and particularly being part of our election process.

9) FC Library Foundation Meeting Shari and I attended the August Foundation meeting and provided updates on the Library System. One highlight was sharing the success of our Summer Intern program this year. Our two interns contributed significantly to the Lander and Riverton libraries in serving the public, leading a program, and providing additional staffing for extended open hours. This was the second year of the Summer Intern Program, and I am pleased with how it continues to develop. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of the Foundation’s support of the Library System, and they have committed to providing 56% of our collection development budget for this fiscal year. When you have the opportunity, please thank our Foundation board members: Cody Beers, Ernie Over, Alex Wolfer, Michele Burdick, Barbara Oakleaf, Mary Lynn Pilant, and out-going board member Perry Kaufman.

10) Training with Wyoming State Library Staff We were excited for the opportunity to have in-person training with three staff from WSL who provided training support in Cataloging, Inter-Library Loans, Serials, Blue Cloud Analytics. I also talked with them about a couple issues related to our “Circulation Map,” which controls the function of checkout timeframes, overdue items, etc. This was valuable time for our staff to get to know the specialists from WSL and to ask particular questions about issues they encounter in the course of their work.

11) Wyoming Library Association Conference With funding from the Library Foundation and a grant received from Morgan Stanley/Falco Charitable Trust, I and four of our five lead librarians (the fifth is unable to attend) will attend the annual WLA Conference in Casper on September 29 & 30. The conference theme is “Stronger Together.” Attending this conference is the best way for our library staff to meet and network with other Wyoming librarians. New connections, new ideas, and renewed motivation are regular outcomes of attending WLA. We will provide a summary of the experience next month.

12) Riverton Security Cameras Update Kevin has given me an update on this project. He is waiting for the hardware that has been ordered. The big words are DELAY and SUPPLY LINE

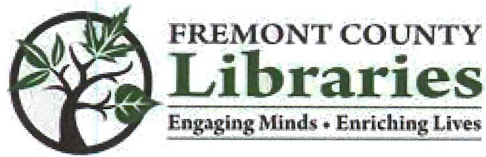


and MICROCHIP SHORTAGE. All we can do is wait patiently. Kevin also has some ideas for updating the Lander security camera system, and we'll tackle this hopefully in this fiscal year.

13) Administrative Tasks The start of a new fiscal year involves completing audit documents for the previous fiscal year, and I have been working with the county on the financial audit, a payroll audit, and the library collection information for our Capital Asset Inventory. The Wyoming State Library also requires (for federal funding purposes) that I complete a budget survey for the new fiscal year, which I have submitted. I have been continuing to plug away at sorting through admin files for retention, shredding, or recycling. Much of this now pertains to files from previous directors, files from the former Technology Manager office, and files from the former Business Manager office.

14) Library Advocacy As the learning curve of the Director positions has flattened out, I am making time to connect with community leaders and to attend political events where candidates are speaking or policy is being discussed. I next plan to attend the Wyoming Family Policy Summit after the library board meeting on September 7 in Riverton. As candidate forums occur ahead of the General Election, I plan to attend those also.

15) Personal Notes I am in the midst of another class in my Master's program. The content of each class has been beneficial to my director role. The current class is Leadership & Innovation, and I am using the content to evaluate and plan for our library system in purposeful development of services. One of the main principles of library world is to grow and change in response to your community's needs and uses of library resources. On another note, I am planning to travel to see my daughter in North Carolina in October or November. I will update the board when the plan comes together.



Stories from Our Libraries

Presented to County Commission with the FY21-22 FCLS Annual Report on August 16, 2022

Library work at its core is relational. Every hour that we are open, library staff are available to assist whoever comes through our doors with a wide variety of resource needs. This handful of stories provides some snapshots of the many ways the Fremont County libraries are benefitting people.

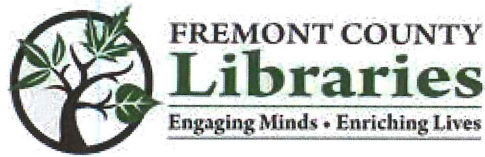
1) Thank you note received by Anita from R-A: “Please pass my gratitude on to your staff—thank you all for allowing me to borrow materials for my course through ILL as well as reserve space at the Lander Library for 2 ½ days to submit videos for my test. I passed! I begin my bachelor’s program on the 22nd for the ASL-English Interpretation program at the University of Northern Colorado. I could not have done it without the library’s support! Best, R-A. R.” (8/11/22)

2) Recently we helped a young man who had just been released from the county jail. He had no money, no phone, no vehicle. Library staff helped him get in touch with his family via his email on a public computer. Staff also helped him figure out how to get funds from his family through Western Union. He was humble, remorseful, and very thankful. He wanted the staff to know how much our kindness and willingness to help him in his time of need was a real boost to help him back to normalcy. (8/19/22)

3) Recently I worked at the Riverton Library to cover the circulation desk on a short-staffed day. I met Karen who brought in some book donations for the library. In our conversation, she mentioned that she hadn’t been to the library in a long time, because she can only read on her iPad now due to an issue with her eyes. She said she was buying e-books to read and that it was kind of pricey. I asked her if she was familiar with the Overdrive platform that she can access for free with her library card. She literally had a jaw-drop moment, and said, “Really? You just made my day!” We updated her library account and got her squared away with the Libby app to access e-books and audiobooks on Overdrive. (8/12/22)

4) A couple Saturdays ago I was working the main desk in Lander and met a homeschool mom and her three kids. She said they usually buy their own books, but now it was too expensive. So, they were coming back to the library. (8/6/22)

5) Recently one of our staff in Riverton assisted a lady whose Facebook account had been hacked and she didn’t know what to do. The library staff person helped the lady to delete her



account and create a new one. It was a very stressful situation for this woman, and she appreciated that someone was there who knew how to help her. (8/12/22)

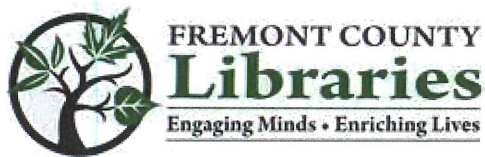
6) In Dubois, a couple of summer campground hosts have mentioned on more than one occasion that they are thankful for the services at the library, especially the internet access and a nice air-conditioned space to work in.

7) A regular Dubois patron named John filled out a comment card thanking the staff for their help with computer problems. He also said, "I have especially noted how kind the staff are to the elderly and the young children who come here for story time. It is wonderful to hear the children enjoying themselves. I sincerely thank everyone for their help, and find our library very relaxing and refreshing."

8) A lady named Sue came looking for information on how to operate a 1950's Singer sewing machine that she inherited from her mother. Although we didn't have a manual, one of our library staff detectives searched on the internet and found the website for the International Sewing Machine Collectors' Society. It had a huge collection of digitized manuals for vintage sewing machines, and the staff member found and printed the manual Sue needed. She was very grateful that the library helped her find exactly what she needed.

These stories are just a small representation of how the Fremont County libraries serve the community. More of what we do:

- We offer space to work, do homework, research the gamut of needs and interests.
- We offer meeting room space.
- We offer technical help to folks who are not computer savvy.
- We assist with navigating government websites and finding government forms.
- We provide computer access, printing and copying service, and scanning to email.
- We provide books for increasing knowledge and skills.
- We provide books for recreation and to feed the imagination.
- We offer programs that encourage literacy, educate on local history, facilitate health and well-being, and that are fun and uplifting.
- We are a non-political place where everyone who enters is valued and respected because they are a fellow human being.



Assistant Director Report August 2022

Shari Haskins

Sandi Hussa, retired Youth Services Lead Librarian, has been by to visit and answer questions regarding the intricacies of the department. We filled this position in-house. Energetic Kirbie Despain is the new YS Lead Librarian. She has added a story time and is getting ready to film an on-line story time.

I traveled to seven Fremont Co. High Schools: Shoshoni, LVHS, RHS, Dubois, Arapaho, Wind River, and Wyoming Indian High. The visits were planned for introductions and disseminating information about Bookmarked Literary Arts Festival and the ALA grant funding for "classroom support/reading recovery".

This year from donations and grants for the Bookmarked Festival, FCLS was able to purchase each County High School two novels by keynote speaker Percival Everett, *Half Inch of Water* and *Wounded*. This included promotional material about the Festival. Percival Everett was recently long-listed for the 2022 Man Booker Award for his novel, *The Trees*.

I took advantage of these trips to include visiting with Principals, English, and Special Education teachers. We visited about the ALA funding to help with reading recovery and what that may look like for them and the Library System.

Tannar and I interviewed four people for the 34 hour a week Adult Library Assistant II position. All four applicants were very strong. We offered the position to Tracy Goheen, and she excitedly accepted.

Being short staffed, I have been assisting at the Adult Circ Desk. I love this opportunity to directly work with the public; it's never dull.

In August, I traveled to Dubois twice. Foot traffic has slowed down with tourists slowly leaving the area. On a few occasions, Kathy, Becky, and Don had fed different hiking groups that got stranded due to storms. They are always gracious!

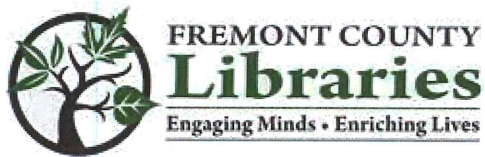
Dubois Library Report

Summer Reading Report

Children's Library: 35 signups for the reading challenge. PreK programs for ages 0-5, Fridays 11:30 included stretches, songs, stories, and crafts with an ocean animal theme. Kindergarten-6th grade, Thursdays 2:30 included dolphin coloring page wall, Lego Clubs, Coral Cities documentary, and the movies *Finding Nemo* and *Finding Dory*.

Teen: 2 signups for the Bingo challenge &/or Punch card challenge

Adult: 35 adults signed up for the reading challenge, Bingo challenge, Punch card challenge, Teen/Adult documentary *The Loneliest Whale*, *Okavango River of Dreams*, movie *In the Heart of the Sea*, and the Teen/Adult crafts included shell-themed projects.



Summer Reading Program attendance:

Adult/Teen = 22 K-6th = 212 PreK = 62

Dubois Facebook hits as of August 31 = 1,390

The Kiwanis of Dubois donated funds to sponsor the children's summer reading programs! Our End of Summer Reading Picnic saw 154 people! Lots of laughs, new friends being made, kid's games, book fair and lots of yummy food! This event was sponsored by the Dubois Friends of the Library. Speaking of the Friends of the Library...they purchased a new full-sized refrigerator for the library!!

Some of our Summer Reading Program attendees colored dolphins for our Dolphin Wall!



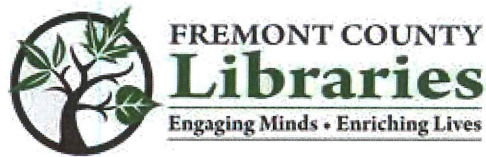
Art Donation This painting by artist Les LeFevre was donated by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. The painting is to be raffled and all proceeds go to the Dubois Library for collection development. We plan to sell 200 tickets at \$20 each.

The raffle will be held once all 200 tickets are sold.

"The Story Teller" 30"x 40" oil on canvas. C.M. Russell in his studio.



Submitted by Kathy Gettelman, Dubois Lead Librarian

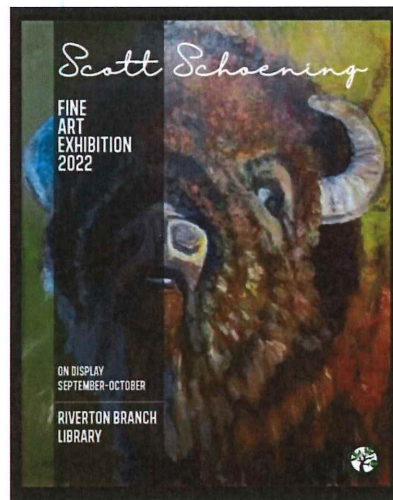


Riverton Branch Library

Adult Department

The Riverton Branch Library Adult Department is sad to see the end of summer. Our summer reading program ended with over 100 sign ups, and more than 700 books read. Many of our patrons were looking forward to possibly winning one of our summer reading giveaways.

We had compliments throughout the summer about what we were able to offer for Summer Reading this year. August also brought the final Book Bag Riddles. They continued to have a great amount of interest, and we look forward to doing similar passive programming in the future. As August comes to an end we are looking forward to fall and the Bookmarked Literary Arts Festival in September, as well as the Buffalo art exhibit.



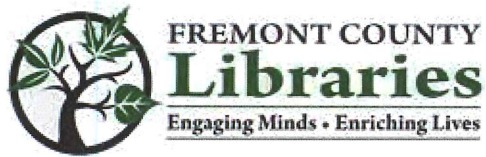
Submitted by Tannar Miller, Adult Services Lead Librarian

Riverton Youth Services Department

August for the Children's Dept. was much quieter after the rush of Summer Reading. The Youth Services Department used this down time to prepare for the fall Storytimes which start September 7th. I am getting ready to film an on-line story time that will be on YouTube and Facebook.

I emailed a letter about the ALA grant for print collection/classroom support to all School District #25 elementary educators. I have received a few responses and need to further explore how we can assist the schools.

We made our first purchase for the ALA funding for early literacy. This includes book kits and early literacy STEM kits.



Also, will be starting Lego Club back up at the end of September which we are very excited about because the club stopped during COVID. Many parents and kids have been asking us to bring it back.

Submitted by Kirbie Despain, Youth Services Lead Librarian

RBL Teen Scene August 2022 Board Report

We wrapped up our summer reading program with outstanding participation this year for both teens and tweens! With over 100 registered participants, 475+ books read, and wall full of Art created by our young artists it can definitely be called a success.

We plan to keep the art show perpetually on the mezzanine and support it with the soon to be TEEN SCENE CREATION STATION.

The initial set-up for this multi-function art platform will be funded by a \$500.00 grant earned by me participating in and completing a pilot program for a graduate level course in Media Literacy from the Erikson Institute in Chicago.

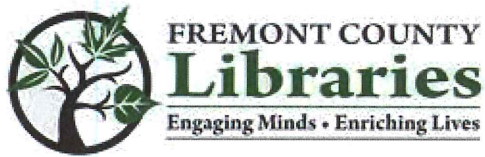
Lastly, we are already feeling the school year shifting into full gear with our numbers in the youth services, teen and tween areas jumping significantly every day.

Submitted by Aubry Ellis, Library Assistant for Young Adult Services

Social Media Statistics

For August, our social media stats were up 25% in views. We had over 200 shares on our social media, meaning people took our posts and put them onto their pages on Facebook.

Instagram: This has been slow to catch on. We designed the site for teen related information and we have had just a handful of responses.



Lander Library Report August 2022

Anita Marple, Library Director

LLFA C4C Total A huge event for August was the Lander Community Foundation's Challenge for Charities celebration event. This is the event where the fundraising totals are revealed and checks distributed to the participating non-profits. The Lander Library Friends Association has participated in C4C many years, and the money they raise is critical support for the Lander Library's programming and collection development budgets. Drum roll, please: \$19,917.15! I attended the celebration with several LLFA board members, and we all were blown away and so grateful for the financial support of our donors and the corporate sponsors and individuals who contribute to the matching fund. Please extend thanks to the LLFA board members for their dedication to the Lander Library: Becky Packer, Jeannette Woodward, Mary Wendel, Marty Brace, Marge Patton, Suzanne Crofts, Carol Steidley, Cora Lee Reynolds, and Ami Vincent.

Met Opera Technology Updates I am working with Rick Caylor in Blue Springs, Missouri, and Kevin Shultz to make a plan for necessary updates to satellite equipment for our Live in HD screenings of Metropolitan Opera events. The notification to make changes came up suddenly, and I am working on funding for the \$650-\$800 cost of purchasing the equipment.

Bookmarked Literary Arts Festival (BLAF) The third annual BLAF is September 16-18 at the Lander Library. In addition to notable keynote speaker Percival Everett, the event includes a Book Fair with local authors, readings, and a performance by the Houlihan Narratives group. We are promoting BLAF on social media, radio, and through news outlets. For complete information please call the Lander Library 332-5194.

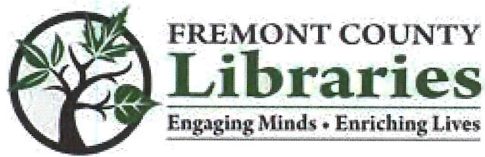
Adult Services Department

August has passed by with a flurry of business. At the beginning of the month we said goodbye to our favorite summer travelers and had a lot of last minute book donations. School has begun and the after school traffic has picked up.

Bookmarked Literary Arts Festival This is quickly approaching, and the Writer's Workshop has been well attended. There has been an average of 10-11 aspiring writers attending each Tuesday evening. Tickets for dinner with Bookmarked's keynote speaker, Percival Everett, went on sale, and we are busily getting the word out. We have sold all but two tickets as of the time of this report.

Training The Wyoming State Library sent three representatives this month to help in Catalog, ILL, Serials and Blue Cloud Analytics training. The sessions were very informative and will help us maintain our records and do our jobs more efficiently.

Wyoming State Quilt Guild This group presented us two books to add to our collection. *Simple Whatnots III* by Kim Diehl and *The Little Ghost Who Was a Quilt* by Reil Nason are welcome additions. Thanks to Terry Dunn, former Lander librarian and current Chairman of Books for County Libraries for the guild.



Quilt Display The Popo Agie Quilters have an array of beautiful quilts on display throughout the library. Our patrons will be able to enjoy them until late September. Thanks to staff member Julie for setting this up.

Adult Collection Changes We have done a little rearranging of the display furniture to shake things up a bit. The displays seem to be catching the eyes of our patrons again. It only takes a little drop to change the surface. We are also in the midst of changes for the fiction and nonfiction areas. Stacks are being moved, shortened and/or lengthened. These changes will make it easier for the patrons to find the book that is just right for them, expand our fiction collection space, and open up some more study areas.

Life is great in LibraryLand. Thank you all for your support. You are appreciated!
Rachel Arnold, Adult Services Lead Librarian

Youth Services Department

This month started with the last few Summer Reading Program activities and then we spent the remainder of the month gearing up for fall.

Teen Summer Reading Final Wrap-Up Twenty-seven teens attended the CanTeen events on the three Wednesdays they were held this month. One of these events was a pizza party that allowed teens to give feedback on the SRP events. We hope to continue to encourage teen input through a Teen Advisory Board.

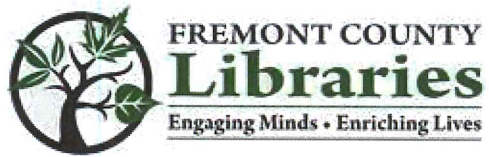
Participation in the teen summer reading program was fantastic this summer. A total of 60 teens signed up for the program with 25 completing at least one punch card. For each punch card completed, teens earned a small prize and had their card entered into a drawing. The drawing was held at the pizza party and the winner earned an Amazon gift card.

Children's Summer Reading Final Wrap-Up A total of 39 patrons attended the final two Oceans of Possibilities programs in August. Within children age 9 to 6th grade, we had 294 sign-ups for the summer reading program. Of these, 126 turned in completed reading logs to earn prizes.

Born to Read Becky Packer prepared 12 Born to Read kits and took them to the hospital to be distributed to the parents of newborn babies.

Preschool Visits Apple Valley Preschool was in session over the summer, so their visits continued. Ten visited the library on August 5th for a StoryTime.

LEGO Exhibition The annual LEGO Exhibition was held August 4th. Sixty-three attended this event. Everyone enjoyed seeing the kids' builds, playing some LEGO games, and eating snacks.



Fall Programming With summer events completed, we are now preparing for Fall. Our regular lineup of StoryTime, Toddler Time, LEGO club, School Visits, and CanTeen Create times begins right away in September.

Submitted by Tamara Anderson, Youth Services Lead Librarian