

CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT
December 11, 2009
DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CITY LIBRARIAN: The current budget shortfall and the upcoming budget cuts for next year have been the focus this month. I met with the city manager and the city finance officer November 18th and felt that while there would be some things we would have to look at, I didn't feel that there were any major problems and reported that to the board on the 19th. When I attended the city counsel meeting on the 30th, I was surprise that we were under the gun. I spoke to them about how attendance was up, circulation was up and patrons getting new cards were up, among other things. I received an email December 4th from McCrady stating "*The city council is meeting again Monday night to discuss the tax levy. There is a public hearing at the start of the meeting, and then there are levy ordinances that might be voted on after the public hearing. The levy ordinances would take the library portion of the levy to a flat \$3,000,000 which is down from the \$3,387,001 levied last year.*" The finance committee had a meeting on the 7th and it was decided that Carol Craig would speak to the city council that night, which she did, and while she did an impassioned plea for the library, it was a moot point as the vote was taken right after that and it was a "done deal". I have been meeting with division heads and others to discuss what we can do to offset the budget cuts and will present them to the board at the next meeting. There are some hard decisions ahead and the ones who are going to suffer the most are the patrons who use the library. On a happier note our Annual Holiday Open House on December 8th was a huge success. We had lots of staff, board members and friends who helped by donating cookies and lots of patrons who enjoyed them and the live music on a very dreary day.

FOUNDATION: Has not met.

FRIENDS: The Friends elected new officers, with Karen Becker remaining as president.

PNG: Finished the fall session and in the planning stages for the spring session.

STAFF: On November 23rd Ben Cason, Michael Barger, and Nelson Goforth started as ½ time custodial staff.

ADMINISTRATION: Gate count has continued to climb and was at 26,988 for November, an increase of +3.7% from November of 08 and an increase of +6.9% for the year. Library meeting rooms were used 96 times and booked 20 times earning \$790.

ADULT DIVISION: Seraphim found around 88 patrons enjoying the music on a Saturday night in the library. Overall our 6 programs had 141 attendees, and 281 people used the Database computers, +11.5% increase since November 2008. Staff assisted patrons 4,866 times and our Local History room had 84 visitors, 12 from out of town. Our Online Book Club has 1,081 members who accessed one of the 11 clubs 21,620 times.

BUILDING DIVISION: We installed a new sound system in the Madden purchased with grant money. We were having problems with the vinyl tile around the security gates. It was

stripped, cleaned and now looks as good as new. The building and vehicles were prepared for winter weather.

CHILDREN'S DIVISION: Kids reading fiction is up, while non-fiction is down. Our 28 programs had 562 attendees, 14 groups visited the library with 268 people and 3 groups who used the library. There were 343 kids who used the computers and 897 staff assists.

CIRCULATION DIVISION: Total number of checkouts during the month of November is 45,521 items, up +8% as compared to 42,751 items checked out in November 2008. There were 6,272 items checked out of the DPL by patrons from other libraries and DPL patrons checked out 3,877 items at other libraries. Of the 3,877 items checked out by our patrons at other libraries, 1961 of those items were checked out on our bookmobiles. We had 2,656 items routed into the DPL from other libraries to fill requests for pick-up at the DPL and 4,394 items were routed out of the DPL to fill requests at other RPLS libraries. When all items routed out of the DPL to fill requests at surrounding libraries is added to the total checkouts for the month of September, the combined circulation total is 49,915. We placed 5884 requests in November, up 15% from last November. We resolved 8,349 requests and of these, 4,194 items were picked up at the DPL. Overall, request volume is up +17% from last year at this time. There were 254 new accounts opened in November, +7% overall from 2008 at this time.

EXTENSION DIVISION: After the book drop at Phoenix Academy was knocked over and brought in to get repaired, we decided to evaluate all the drop boxes and developed a list of those that need repairs. We had 21 volunteers donate 144.3 hours of service.

GATES COMPUTER LAB: Our 14 computer classes had 87 students, 79 of which were Decatur residents.

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION: We have put the new website up in a beta format and are taking comments from users. We are still working on it and not all areas are functional at this time. DPL Wireless had 85 users who were connected for 204 hours and downloaded 4,266 megabytes while uploading 495 megabytes. There were 1,201 patrons logged on to CybraryN computers a total of 5,227 times and used a total of 3,072 hours.

TECHNICAL DIVISION: Acquisitions processed 245 invoices, barcoded 1,861 items, processed 532 magazines, 195 newspapers, and received 27 bins of mail, 274 bins of materials from RPLS, and 204 packages. Our patrons requested 147 items on ILL and OCLC requests to us were 858 and we were able to fill 229. Catalogers catalogued 1,258 new materials, made 1,205 database changes, imported 102 OCLC records into Horizon, and made 42 reinstatements. Item work was done on a total of 1414/1922 titles/volumes and we removed 1864 titles from our system database. Processing worked on 1,698 items.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Fisher

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City Librarian