Coordinator’s Corner
Reading in the Digital Age

There is little doubt that we live in a digital world. Computers, tablets, iPads, E-readers, smartphones, smart cars and even smart homes are no longer the exception, they have become the norm. Through the internet, we have immediate access to knowledge and information and have the ability to step outside our own neighborhood and experience life in other places. Technology is constantly improving and there is often talk of new products or trends “replacing” other things. The “hybrid” car was supposed to replace the standard gas engine, satellite radio was going to replace AM/FM and E-readers were supposed to put print books out to pasture. Obviously, none of those things have happened and when it comes to electronic reading although E-readers are popular, in a survey conducted in August of this year, only 8% of those who own one say they use it exclusively for all their reading.

When I received my first E-reader in 2010, I was so excited. I thought that I would download all the best sellers and carry it with me everywhere—just like I did my trusty paperbacks. I could access the online book shop and would never have to darken the door of a library again. At first, I did use it exclusively, but as time went on I found that not only was buying electronic books costly, there were certain genres and books that didn’t lend themselves well to an electronic format. For example, I read a lot of non-fiction and like to highlight passages for later review. Yes, you can highlight in an E-reader, but for me, it just wasn’t the same as “flipping through” the pages to find that one sentence I loved. For me, physical, print books were better and back to the library I went.

Regardless of technological advances, the reasons people read remain consistent. In the aforementioned survey, most people (80%) report reading for the joy of it. Keeping pace with current events and conducting research were also highly rated reasons for reading. Interestingly enough, the preference for print over digital reading is consistent across the generations. Millennials are the most technologically savvy group to ever enter higher education, but studies show that students do not prefer digital reading over their physical textbooks.

The good news in all of this is that the love of reading still abounds and our libraries are as relevant as ever. But no matter the format or genre, it seems as though there is nothing like a good, old-fashioned physical book in your hands where turning the page is as comfortable as visiting an old friend.
Welcome New Volunteers

Julie Gilsdorf (Gold Hill)
Hannah Gilsdorf (Gold Hill)
Sakura Higashi (Eagle Point)
Marybeth Gresham (White City)
Michael Gresham (White City)
Patricia Thompstone (Medford)

November Anniversaries

One Year
Lyndall Sellens (Phoenix)

Two Years
Teresa Sinderson (Eagle Point)
Pauline Washburn (Rogue River)
Barbara Duncan (Central Point)

Four Years
Jeanne Lee (Ashland)

Six Years
Sandra Surber (Prospect)
Dean Silver (Ashland)

Seven Years
James Witt (Central Point)

Nine Years
Paula Hoffman (Medford)
Dale Everson (Medford)

Ten Years
Marlene Warneke (Ashland)

Our generous volunteers donated over 1,160 hours of their time in the month of September!

Over the river, and through the wood,
To grandfather's house we go;
The horse knows the way,
To carry the sleigh,
Through the white and drifted snow.

Over the river, and through the wood,
To grandfather's house away!
We would not stop
For doll or top,
For 't is Thanksgiving day.
Staff Spotlight

Name: Wendy Harrop
Position: Library Associate 2, Rogue River Branch
How long have you worked with JCLS? 18 years
Describe yourself in five words: Helpful, friendly, productive, understanding, balanced.
Name of a book you have read more than once? The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien. I like reading what authors like to read, and one in particular said he read The Hobbit every year so I thought I need to read that again. And I will probably read it again sometime soon.
Who or what inspires you? The ocean inspires me because of the sense of well being I get just being near and looking at the horizon. The vastness is so great.
Best present you ever received as a child? My grandmother gave me a huge book. I can't remember the name of it, but it had every nursery rhyme and fairy tale in it—I loved that book.
What is the most useful advice you were ever given? Things are never as bad as you think they are!
What is an interesting fact about yourself that someone might not know? I love to swim! I swim one mile three times a week!
What title would you give your autobiography? In Search of Water
One thing you wish people knew about the library? Hot off the Press is fantastic! Come see all the new BOOKS!

Fast Facts: America’s Favorite Day to Eat!

- There is no definitive evidence that turkey was eaten at the first Thanksgiving. Swans however, were the big bird of choice.
- Only male turkeys gobble.
- Butterball Turkeys offers a “cooking crisis line” to assist with Thanksgiving Day disasters. Last year, they received over 100,000 calls.
- According to a 2015 poll, 8 out of 10 Americans say they prefer the leftovers to the actual Thanksgiving meal. (As far as I am concerned, Thanksgiving is the gift that keeps on giving.)
- According to the National Turkey Federation, only 88% of Americans report cooking turkey for their meal.
- In 1941 President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill officially establishing the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.
I am thankful for my doggie children, Mimi and Sonja!
— Rebekah DiBianco, Medford Children’s

I'm thankful for how it's not too cold or too hot. Perfect weather!!
— Amanda Kuhs, Medford Circulation

I am grateful for my mom- she thinks I am amazing even when I am being a complete loser.
— Angela Stephens, Outreach

I am so thankful for my wonderful family and so many friends here in Oregon and all my faraway friends.
— Patricia Cox, OCC Volunteer

I am grateful to be living in Oregon!
— Wendy Harrop

I am grateful for sunny and warm(ish) fall weather.
— Brystan Strong, Talent Branch

I am grateful for this earth that gives us all the things that sustain our lives.
— Holly Hertel, Medford Reference

I am grateful for the changing leaves which signal the beginning of Autumn - my favorite season.
— Patrick Mathewes, Talent Branch Lead

There are so many things I am grateful for, but the top of the list is my wife.
— Russ Harrop, Rogue River Volunteer

I am grateful for the people who select the children’s books every week for me to read to the SOU preschool kids.
— Leigh Hood, OCC Volunteer

I am thankful for my family and my faith. They are my anchor.
— Jessica Arenas, Volunteer Coordinator

I am grateful for libraries, and that I am able to work in such a beautiful building, filled with so many wonderful things.
— Marion Mensing, Shady Cove Branch Lead

So very grateful for my dog Wyatt. He makes me feel loved and wanted. His metronomic tail wagging, twirling body, and uncontrollable excitement makes coming home so sweet. I have always wondered if he counts our separation of time in dog years.
— Lori Wilson, Phoenix Branch

I am grateful for all the laughter I get to share with my wonderful teens in our TAG (Teen Advisory Group).
— Debbie Janes, Medford Branch

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